

Bladder MRI

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET MR25



Your appointment:

Date:

Arrival:

Appointment:

Location:

Please see our website for more branch details.

Patient preparation:

You will need to fast for four hours prior to your examination.

What is an MRI scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a method of imaging which utilises a strong magnetic field to generate images of any region of the human body. MRI does not use ionising radiation (x-rays).

Bladder MRI and its uses

MRI of the bladder is performed to evaluate bladder pathology using high soft-tissue contrast. It provides a detailed assessment of the bladder wall, surrounding tissues and adjacent organs.

A bladder MRI may be performed to:

- › assess the bladder wall, particularly following abnormal urine test results or ultrasound findings
- › evaluate the size, location and extent of bladder lesions or tumours to assist with treatment planning
- › identify recurrence of disease following treatment
- › assess for spread to surrounding organs, lymph nodes or other tissues.

Patient preparation

Bladder MRI image quality is highly dependent on the bladder being moderately filled at the time of scanning.

To help achieve this, please follow the below instructions:

- › please attempt to empty your bladder two (2) hours before your scheduled scan time.
- › in the 60 minutes prior to your appointment, drink 500–1000 mL of water to fill the bladder adequately.

Before formal imaging begins, our MRI staff will perform a series of quick localiser images to assess bladder filling.

You may be asked to:

- › proceed directly to the scan
- › drink additional water and wait for further bladder filling
- › use the bathroom to partially empty your bladder

Other than water, we ask that you consume nil by mouth for four (4) hours prior to your examination.

Pre-scan procedure

Safety questionnaire

At the time of booking, you will be asked to fill in the online MRI Safety Questionnaire, to ensure it is safe for you to have the scan.

What will happen during the examination?

One of our staff will review your answers to the MRI Safety questionnaire with you.

You will be asked to change into a gown and remove any electronic devices including watches, hearing aids and may be asked to remove certain jewellery.

All valuables will be safely stored in a locker which is provided to you. The MRI technologist will then position you on the MRI table (lying on your back).

MRI of the bladder requires the use of a muscle relaxant which stops the small bowel moving for approximately 15 minutes during which high resolution images of the bladder are captured

This agent is administered via an intravenous cannula inserted into your arm.

Once the cannula is in place, the radiographer will place an RF coil (camera) over your pelvis to help acquire the images.

Due to the noise of the MRI scanner during

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the imaging process, you will be given headphones to wear during the scan. You may bring a CD or alternatively you may listen to a radio station of your choice. You will also be given a call buzzer which may be used to gain the attention of the radiographer at any time during the scan.

After the examination

Reporting for this specialised scan can take up to 3-5 days, however please let us know if you are having a follow up appointment with your Specialist sooner.