Breast MRI

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET MRI02

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

30—40 minutes

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- Medicare and any
- Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

What is an MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an imaging method that uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed images of different parts of the body. MRI does not involve exposure to ionising radiation (X-rays).

Purpose of the examination

An MRI of the breasts provides valuable information about many breast conditions. It does not replace a mammogram or ultrasound. Instead, it is used as a supplemental tool.

A breast MRI may be recommended to:

- assess size and location of tumour(s), especially prior to conservation surgery
- detect early breast cancer that may not be visible on other imaging, especially in women with dense breast tissue or those at high risk
- evaluate abnormalities detected by mammography or ultrasound
- distinguish between scar tissue and recurrent tumour
- assess the effect of chemotherapy determine the integrity of breast implants.

Patient preparation

Please do not eat for two (2) hours before your appointment. You may continue to drink clear fluids.

If you have a menstrual cycle, it is recommended your appointment is booked between day 7 and 15 to ensure optimal images can be obtained.

For the most accurate results, it is ideal to stop menopausal hormone therapy (MHT) for six (6) weeks prior to your MRI. We understand this may not always be possible. If you continue MHT, please be aware that the examination occasionally is inconclusive, and a repeat MRI or contrast-enhanced mammogram may be recommended in 6 months.

Pre-scan procedure

On arrival for your appointment, you will be asked to complete an MRI safety questionnaire as well as a breast related questionnaire. If you prefer, you may complete the safety questionnaire online before your appointment via

bensonradiology.com.au/mrisafety

Due to the strong magnetic fields used in MRI, you will be asked to change into a gown and remove your watch and certain jewellery. Underwear and socks may be worn. All valuables will be securely stored in your private change room during the examination.

What will happen during the examination

A breast MRI requires an injection of a contrast agent called Gadolinium. Before you are positioned on the MRI table an intravenous (IV) line will be inserted into a vein in your arm or hand.

For the examination, you will be positioned on your stomach with your breasts positioned into the breast coil. This coil helps the MRI system capture detailed images.

The MRI scanner produces loud noises during scanning. You will be provided with headphones, and additional hearing protection such as earplugs are available on request. You will also be given a call buzzer, which you can press at any time to alert the MRI radiographer if you need assistance.

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Other considerations

MRI is highly sensitive to movement, you will be asked to remain as still as possible throughout the examination. The images obtained before the contrast injection are compared with the images obtained after the injection. Any movement between these two sets of images can affect how well they align, which may reduce image quality.

After the examination

The images will be reviewed and reported by our radiologist. These will then be sent to your referring clinician.

For details on reporting timeframes, please speak with our reception staff.

It is important that you follow up the results of your examination with your referring clinician.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our clinics or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.

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