Prostate MRI

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET MR04

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

40 minutes in MRI scanner

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 scan?

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).

Prostate MRI and its uses

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer affecting males. MRI provides detailed information that can help guide management decisions after a diagnosis.

A prostate MRI may be recommended to:

- assess the prostate gland, particularly when digital rectal examination findings and/or blood test results require further evaluation
- help evaluate the location, volume and grade of cancer when disease has been confirmed by biopsy, in order to assist treatment planning
- identify local cancer recurrence following previous treatment
- look for possible spread of disease to lymph glands (nodes), bones and other areas.

Patient preparation

We recommend eating a light diet 24 hours prior to your appointment. Avoid heavy or highly spiced foods, as these can cause digestive disturbances.

Please do not eat for four (4) hours before your appointment. You may continue to drink clear fluids.

Pre-scan procedure

On arrival for your appointment, you will be asked to complete an MRI safety questionnaire as well as a prostate 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. Underwear and socks may be worn. All valuables will be securely stored in your private change room during the examination.

Emptying of the bowel and bladder

The quality of prostate MRI images depends on patients having both an empty bowel and bladder at the time of examination. Our staff will ask you to empty your bowel and bladder, prior to commencing the examination.

If your appointment is at one of our dedicated MRI prostate clinics, an additional bowel-emptying process may be required prior to the examination. If this applies to you, our staff will provide *Patient information sheet MRI 04a* which explains the process in detail.

What will happen during the examination?

The MRI radiographer will position you on the MRI table, lying on your back.

A prostate MRI requires an injection of a contrast agent called Gadolinium and a muscle relaxant (Buscopan). The muscle relaxant helps reduce movement of the small bowel for approximately 15 minutes, allowing high resolution images of the prostate to be captured.

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These medications are administered through an intravenous (IV) cannula inserted into your arm.

Once the cannula is in place, the radiographer position coils over your abdomen and pelvis. These coils work with the MRI system to obtain detailed images.

Towards the end of the examination the contrast agent will be administered.

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.

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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