



## **MRI (MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING) SCAN**

*Information sheet*

LivingCare works in partnership with Leeds Teaching Hospitals. This may mean that there are trainees involved in your care. All trainees have the appropriate level of training and will always supervised by a trainer. You will be informed of their involvement (if applicable) on arrival to the department where further information will be provided. You have the right to decline care from a trainee and this will also be discussed with you on arrival.

## ■ Introduction

**This procedure requires your formal consent.**

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please notify the booking office on 0113 249 4655 as soon as possible. This will enable the staff to give your appointment to someone else and they will be able to arrange another date and time for you.

This booklet has been written to enable you to make an informed decision in relation to agreeing to any investigations. The consent form is a legal document therefore please read it carefully. Once you have read and understood all the information, including the possibility of complications, and you agree to undergo the investigation.

## ■ MRI Patient Information

This leaflet tells you about having a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) Scan. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace any informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such a discussion.

Whether you are having an MRI scan as a planned or an emergency procedure, you should have a sufficient explanation before you sign the patient questionnaire and consent form.

## ■ What is an MRI?

MRI (Magnetic resonance imaging) is the name given to a technique which builds up pictures of an internal cross-section of any part of the body under investigation. The machine is about four feet long and is open at both ends. The body part being scanned is positioned in the centre. The machine uses a magnetic field and radio waves, together with an advanced computer system to build up a series of images, each one showing a thin slice of the area being examined. These images are very detailed and can show both bones and soft tissue in the body and can provide a great deal of information. Using the computer system the 'slices' can be obtained in any direction.

MRI images allow doctors to evaluate parts of the body and certain diseases that may not be assessed adequately with other imaging methods such as x-ray, ultrasound (computed tomography) scanning.

## ■ Are there any risks?

As far as is known at present, this is an extremely safe procedure. It does not involve the use of x-rays. You are placed in a very powerful magnetic field. If you have any small piece of metal inside your body, you should inform the radiographer as in some cases you may not be able to have the examination.

For female patients, if you are or might be pregnant, you must make sure the doctor referring you or a member of staff in the radiology department knows as soon as possible. MRI scans are not advisable in early pregnancy unless there are special circumstances.

## ■ What happens during the MRI?

You will be taken into the MRI scan room and asked to lay on the couch. Pads and pillows may be used to help you stay still and maintain your position during imaging. You may be given a contrast medium (a dye), which helps to produce more detailed images. The contrast medium will be injected into the vein in your arm, which occasionally causes a warm feeling for a short while. If this is required you may need to have a blood test prior to your scan. The couch will be moved slowly to position the part of your body being scanned in the centre of the scanner,

The radiographers will retire to the control room but you will be able to talk to them via an intercom and they will be watching you all the time.

It is important that you remain completely still while the images are being recorded.

During the scan, you may well find the machine very noisy and you will be given headphones or earplugs to use. If you feel uncomfortable or worried, do mention it immediately to the radiographer.

## ■ How long will it take?

This will depend on how many areas are scanned, please contact us for more information on this.

## ■ Are there any side effects?

No. You can drive home afterwards and return to work as necessary.

## ■ Is there any special preparation required?

You don't need to have any special preparation for a routine MRI Scan. Unless you have been told otherwise, you may eat and drink normally before and after the scan.

## ■ Can I bring a friend/relative?

Yes, but for safety reasons they may not be able to accompany you into the scan room, unless there are special circumstances.

## ■ When you arrive.

Please go to the reception desk detailed in your appointment letter. After this you will be shown where to wait until collected by a radiographer or another member of staff.

Your safety questionnaire will be checked and you will be asked to sign it. You may be asked to remove your outer garments. You will be asked to remove jewellery (except your wedding ring), cash, keys, credit cards and watches etc and place them in a secure locker.

You will be cared for by a small team, including a radiographer who will perform the examination.

## ■ When will I get my results?

After the scan the radiologist will examine the images. A report on their findings will be prepared and sent to your referring clinician.



The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals  
NHS Trust



The Leeds  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Trust



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