Introduction

If you are an outpatient please read your appointment letter carefully to check which hospital you must attend for your appointment. Your doctor has requested that you have a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scan.

What is an MRI Scan?

MRI is a test which uses a powerful magnet and a computer to produce detailed images of any part of the body. The MRI scanner does not use x-rays.

Important safety information

Before you have an MRI scan it is essential that we are 100% certain that you do not have a pacemaker.

You must tell us, by phoning the number on your appointment letter if you have any of the following:

• If you have a pacemaker or defibrillator.
• If you have ever had any metal fragments in your eyes.
• If you have any implants or surgical clips in your body or head.
• If you have a cochlear implant.
• If you have ever had an operation on your head, eyes, ears, heart or chest.
• If there is any chance of you being pregnant.
• If you have had an operation in the last six weeks.

If you have been sent a safety questionnaire with your appointment letter please fill it in and follow the instructions in the appointment letter and questionnaire.
How to prepare for the MRI scan

Prostate MRI is a very detailed examination of a relatively small part of the body.
You can help to get the best images possible by:
- Avoiding sexual activity for 2 days before the scan.
- Trying to empty your bladder approximately 1 hour before the scan.
- Wearing clothes that have no metal clips or zips. (We can give you a gown if you do not have these).
You can eat and drink normally before and after the scan.
You can continue to take any prescription medicine normally.

What happens during the MRI scan?

We will explain the procedure carefully on the day and you will have an opportunity to ask any questions. You may read about the use of internal coils to perform some MRI scans. We do not use these routinely and would tell you if this was planned.

We will ask about things that may affect the safety or quality of your scan, including:
• Allergies.
• Serious health problems, including kidney disease.
• Recent operations.
• Any body piercings or removable dental work.
• Any metallic implants or devices.
• Any metal or shrapnel in the body due to accidents especially in or around the eye.
What happens during the MRI scan? (continued)

You will then be asked to lie down on the scanner table which is moved into the magnet. During the scanning you will hear a rhythmic tapping sound which may become quite loud. This is normal. You will be given headphones or earplugs to protect your ears from the noise.

The radiographer operating the scanner can see you throughout the scan. You will be given a call button to alert the staff if you need to speak to them during the scan.

You may be given a small injection of a liquid that will show up on the scan. This is called contrast and is used to assess the blood flow in the prostate.

You might also be given a small injection to relax the bowel.

How long will it take?

The normal prostate scan takes about 40 minutes.

What happens after the examination?

You should have no after effects from this examination. You may eat and drink normally after the examination and you should then be free to return to work / normal daily life.
How do I get the results?

The results will not be given to you immediately. Your MRI scan pictures will be looked at by a radiologist and the results will be sent to the consultant or GP who referred you for this examination. If you are an inpatient when you come for the scan the results will be given to the doctors looking after you on the ward.

An explanation of how to get your results will be given to you after your examination.

Risks and benefits

No short term harmful effects have been found from MRI scans. The use of magnetic fields is not thought to be harmful, however long term side effects are unknown.

There is a very small risk of side effects from the injection but this is extremely rare. These are usually mild and may include a metallic taste, itchy skin, pain at the injection site and feeling light headed. Headache and chest pain are rare.

If you do experience any side effects please tell the MRI staff immediately.

Support for people with learning disabilities

There is support available in our hospitals for patients with learning disabilities. Please contact the learning disability specialist nursing team on (0116) 258 4382 telling them when the appointment is and what examination has been booked.
Other sources of information

Websites
For general information about radiology departments visit the Royal College of Radiologists website: www.goingfora.com

Please note that the views expressed in this website, do not necessarily reflect the views of UHL or the NHS.

University Hospitals of Leicester website:
www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk

NHS Direct:
For health advice or information you can call NHS on: 111.

Additional hospital information

How was it for you?
If you wish to make any comments or suggestions regarding your visit to the Radiology Department please fill in a suggestion form or speak to a member of staff. Suggestion forms are located in all waiting areas within the department.

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust also has a Patient Information and Liaison Service (PILS), and you are welcome to contact them on:

Freephone: 08081 788337
email: pils.complaints.compliments@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

We review our information leaflets on a regular basis. If you have any comments about how we can improve these leaflets please speak to a member of staff.
Directions and car parking

Hospital car parking is available to all hospital patients and visitors. Spaces are limited so please allow plenty of time to find a car parking space. Parking charges are payable, please check tariff boards or the hospital website for full details. As well as the hourly rates there are a range of saver tickets available for patients and prime carers. Dedicated disabled parking bays are also available.

Marked disabled bays exist outside of the public car parks for which there is no charge. If you park in the car parks the fee will apply.

Drop off bays exist at the main entrances, these bays have a 20 minutes maximum stay.

Certain qualifying benefits as notified by the Department of Social Security entitle the patient to free or reduced parking. For more information contact the Cashiers office.

Bus services to the hospital

Our aim is to ensure that there are car parking spaces available for those who really need to use them. We encourage you to use public transport or walk to the hospital if you are fit and well.

For information on bus routes and times contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233. Our Hospital Hopper shuttle bus service links our three hospitals with Beaumont Leys Centre, Hamilton Centre, the Railway station and St Nicolas Place (Park and Ride hub). The buses run from 6:30am until 7pm every 30 minutes from Monday to Friday. The nationally recognised concessions are valid on buses in Leicester including the Hospital Hopper. Contact the UHL Travelwise Manager on 0116 258 3796 for more information on the Hospital Hopper.
Relatives and escorts

You may wish to bring a friend or relative to accompany you to and from the Radiology Department when you have your examination although they may not always be allowed into the examination room. This may be useful if you do not understand English very well or if you have any special needs.

Children

Baby changing facilities are available. Please ask to be shown to them if you wish to use them.

We are unable to offer childcare facilities. If you need to bring your children with you, please bring along an adult who can supervise them whilst your examination is being carried out. Radiology staff are not able to supervise your children.

Facilities available

Refreshments:
Refreshments including hot and cold drinks are available in the hospital. Please ask a member of staff for directions.

Shops:
Each hospital contains a shop selling magazines, newspapers, sweets and drinks. Please ask a member of staff for directions.
Any questions?

If you have any questions write them down here to remind you what to ask when you speak to your consultant or radiologist.

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Today’s research is tomorrow’s care

We all benefit from research. Leicester’s Hospitals is a research active Trust so you may find that research is happening when you visit the hospital or your clinic.

If you are interested in finding out how you can become involved in a clinical trial or to find out more about taking part in research, please speak to your clinician or GP.

If you would like this information in another language or format, please contact the service equality manager on 0116 250 2959