

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)



This leaflet answers some questions you're likely to have if you are having an MRI.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a painless diagnostic imaging test. MRI uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to produce pictures of your body's internal structures.

Scans are typically completed within 20 to 60 minutes. There is no ionizing radiation involved, and there are no known side effects.

This document should not replace the advice of your relevant health care professional.

Preparation for an MRI

Most MRI examinations require no special preparation, unless your appointment letter tells you otherwise.

Your Safety and MRI

Due to the strong magnetic field used, we require you to complete an MRI safety checklist. This will be enclosed with your appointment details.

The checklist assists us in identifying if you have any metal, surgical implants or electrical devices that may not be safe to go inside the scanner's strong magnetic field.

There are certain conditions or implants that may exclude you from being able to have an MRI, due to safety concerns. They include but are not limited to:

- Some pacemakers.
- Cochlear implant.
- Some brain aneurysm clips.
- Tell us if you are breastfeeding, **or** are, or could be, pregnant

Your appointment may be scheduled from 700am to 9.30pm on a weekday

We also may give you an appointment on a weekend, if you do not require an injection.

Our Office is not staffed out of Business hours – so on arrival please press the doorbell in the reception area and take a seat; our staff will attend to you when they are available to do so.



Austin Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Austin Health celebrates, values and includes people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.

✓ Do's
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bring your completed checklist2. Bring any previous imaging with you from the last 6 months.3. Take any prescribed medications.4. Wear loose, comfortable clothing with no metal.
✗ Don'ts
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Do not bring any jewellery or valuables. Austin Health does not take responsibility for your personal possessions.2. Do not wear eye makeup or hairpins.3. Do not bring babies, or young children to your appointment.

What to expect

- The MRI Scanner is a cylinder open at both ends and is equipped with lights and a fan blowing fresh air. The area to be examined is required to be in the middle of the scanner.
- You will hear a variety of thumping, whirring and loud knocking noises while you are in the scanner. This is normal and nothing to worry about.
- We will talk with you periodically during the scan via the intercom, and will let you know how long each part of your scan will take.
- You will need to lie still during the exam to allow the technologist to get the best pictures. If this will be difficult, please tell your doctor before your appointment. If you feel the need to move during your scan, please check with us before you move.
- Some MRI examinations require an injection of a special intravenous contrast or dye (called Gadolinium which does not contain Iodine). This can provide additional detail on the MRI images and is injected into a vein.

Getting your results

- Results of your scan will be sent back to the Doctor who requested it.
- We advise you make an appointment to discuss your results with your doctor

Contact Us

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Department of Radiology

Radiology Department

Austin Hospital

Phone: 9496 5431 or enquiries.radiology@austin.org.au



Date produced: September 2019
Date for review: September 2022

