

Patient information

MRI – Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Explained by Mr Mole

Hi there, I'm Mr Mole!

I'm here to tell you all about your MRI examination.

MRI is a way of looking inside your body without using X-rays.

MRI is a **very** safe. MRI uses:

- A very large magnet
- Radio waves
- A computer

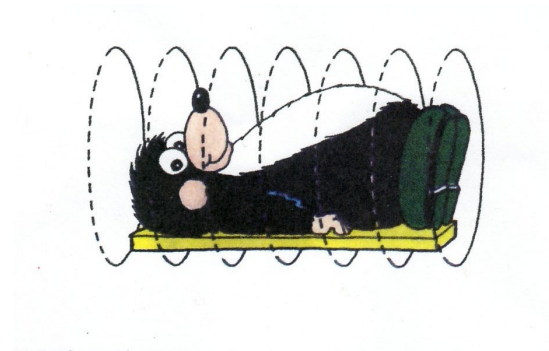
The MRI scanner looks like a big box with a hole in the middle where the magnet is. It is very light and airy and you will have plenty of room.



MRI works like this:

- You will lie on the scanner table and slide slowly into the scanner. You may go in headfirst or feet first depending on what we are scanning.
- The magnet is always on.
- We use radio waves to make the pictures. When we turn these on and off they make lots of noise.
- The computer turns the magnet's signal into a picture.

Look at me in the scanner!



Before your MRI scan

Before you come for your scan it's very important that you fill in the safety questionnaire we send you. This is because the magnetic field is 5,000 times stronger than that of your refrigerator door and metal items **will damage** my magnet.

If you have any metal inside your body, you must tell the staff.

This is a scan of my brain.
Who says moles don't have brains!



Look at me
without my hat
and spade ready
for my scan!

Special patients who have heart pacemakers or other implants **cannot** be scanned.

For most scans you can wear your own clothes as long as they don't have any metal buttons or zips.

Before your scan you must remove any metal objects such as watches, jewellery, hair clips, hearing aids, glasses, or coins or anything else from your pockets.

During your MRI scan

When you are ready for your scan, you lie on the table with your arms by your sides.

The table slides gently into the scanner until the part of the body that needs to be scanned is in the middle of the magnet.

You will be able to have somebody stay with you the whole time.

During the scan you won't feel a thing:
MRI does not hurt!

The most important part is that you keep **very** still as any movement will spoil the pictures and the scan will have to be done again.

During the scan you will hear some funny noises: these are the hum of the machine, a thump when the radio waves are turned on and off and a whirring noise.

We will give you some earplugs and headphones to block out the noise, and you can choose some music to listen to.

An MRI scan usually takes between 15 – 20 minutes in total with short breaks between each set of scans.

The computer pictures are then checked to make sure you have not moved.



I think it
sounds like a
motorbike –
listen
carefully and
decide what
you think it
sounds like.



Look at my feet!

It's just like playing statues!!

How good are you at keeping still?

After your MRI scan

You will be able to go home, and the pictures will be looked at by one of our doctors who are specially trained in looking at MRI scans. The results will be sent to the doctors that sent you to use and they will arrange to see you again.

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