

## Patient information

# Information about your MRI breast scan

If you have any problems with your appointment time or have any questions you would like to ask, please do not hesitate to contact the MRI receptionist on 01284 712891.

Please arrive 15 minutes early for your appointment to enable us to do all the necessary checks prior to your scan.

## What is MRI?

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. The combination of a powerful magnet and a sophisticated computer allows the radiographer to take images of any body part without the use of X-rays. These images allow the doctors to look at different tissues and internal organs in fine detail.

## How safe is MRI?

With your appointment letter you will have a safety questionnaire. **It is very important that you fill this in before your appointment.** If you have any active implants such as a **pacemaker or other cardiac devices, cochlear implant, aneurysm clips, neuro stimulator or programmable shunts**, please contact us as prior to your appointment. We will need to investigate further as some implants/devices are unsafe to scan.

Any glucose monitoring devices, pain patches or hormone patches must be removed before scanning. The MRI scanner can affect their function and can also cause local skin burns.

We also ask you to contact us if you have **ever** had any accidents where metal may have gone into your eyes. It is important you let us know even if this was many years ago.

## **Preparing for your MRI examination**

### **1. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment**

This allows us to check through your safety questionnaire and talk you through the examination.

### **2. Please do not eat for 2 hours before your scan**

This is important as you will be having an injection as part of the examination.

**Please note:** If you are diabetic, please have a light snack as required.

### **3. What do I need to wear?**

Before the scan we will ask you to get changed into a gown with the opening at the front. We will provide you with a locker for safekeeping. Changing into a gown is important to ensure we eliminate any metalwork from your clothing.

You will need to remove any piercings, metallic hairgrips, hearing aids, watches as well as other items such as coins, keys, credit cards and mobile phones. We also ask you not to wear mascara as this contains metallic elements and can heat up causing irritation.

You will also need to remove any skin patches such as pain patches as these can heat up and cause burns. It is also recommended not to use topical lotions such as heat rubs prior to your MRI due to the heating effect.

## **About your examination**

Once we have checked through your safety questionnaire again and you are changed, you will be taken into the scanning room. The scanner is open at both ends and stays open. It is far more spacious than older versions. For this examination you will be required to lie on your front on a padded table and made comfortable. You will go into the scanner feet first and the area of interest will be in the middle of the scanner. It is very important you keep still during the scan. The scanner is very noisy, this is normal. You will be given earplugs and headphones to listen to music. There is an intercom so that you can speak with the radiographer in-between scans, and you will be offered a patient buzzer so that you can contact the radiographer at all times.

## **Having an injection of contrast media (dye)**

For this examination it will be necessary to give an injection of a “dye” to demonstrate the breast anatomy clearly. This is given into a vein via a cannula which will be put in prior to your scan. You will be asked to fill in a questionnaire to ensure it is safe for you to have it.

**If you have previous experience of difficulties with cannulation of your veins, please contact us in advance.**

The dye is harmlessly removed from your blood by your kidneys and passed out in your urine. If you have any kidney function problems, it is important that you contact the MRI department prior to your appointment as it may be necessary for you to have a blood test.

## **How long will it take?**

The scan will last about 30 minutes. You **are** required to stay in the department for up to 30 minutes after having an injection.

## What if I am pregnant or breast-feeding?

Because of the potential risks to an unborn child, we need to know, for certain examinations, if there is any possibility of you or accompanying parent being pregnant.

All patients between the ages of 12 years and 54 years of age will be asked in private and in confidence if there is the possibility of pregnancy.

If you are pregnant, we will suggest that your scan is carried out once you have delivered. If the doctors feel it is medically necessary for you to proceed with scan whilst you are pregnant this is usually done after the first trimester.

If you are breast-feeding, please let us know. Small amounts of the injection you are given can pass into the breast milk and you may need to make alternative arrangements with respect to feeding for 24 hours after the scan.

If you wish to discuss your scan or require advice, please contact the MRI department.

**It is not advisable to bring children when attending an MRI appointment as there are no child facilities available. Staff are not legally able to look after them.**

**Please note:** The hospital is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables. We provide lockers for safekeeping; however, these have limited space. We do not recommend that you bring valuables to your appointment. Wedding rings **do not** need to be removed.

## **After your MRI examination**

### **How do I get my results?**

The scan images will be examined after your visit and a report on the findings sent to your referring doctor. You should be given an appointment to discuss the results of the MRI test in the surgical clinic. It usually takes a week for the results to be available to you as all cases are discussed in a weekly meeting.

Sometimes the MRI scan does not give us enough information about a particular part of your breast. If this is the case, you may be called back to the breast assessment clinic for an additional ultrasound scan before we can decide on a result. Most changes that show up on a breast MRI scan are not a cause for concern.

### **How many women are called back?**

MRI is a very sensitive test. Because of this, 1 out of every 10 women who have a breast MRI scan will be asked to come back to our clinic for further tests.

### **Can I get more information by speaking to someone before I come to the clinic?**

You may find it helpful to phone and ask to speak with one of our breast care nurses on (01284) 713281. They will discuss with you the reason you were called back and will talk to you about what to expect at the clinic.

### **What will happen in the assessment clinic?**

On arrival most women will meet a breast care nurse who will explain what will happen during the clinic. Do eat and drink normally on the day and remember to take your regular medication.

## **Ultrasound scan**

An ultrasound scan will be targeted according to the findings on the MRI scan. An ultrasound scan uses sound waves to provide a picture of the breast tissue. It is harmless and pain free and does not involve any x-rays.

## Breast needle biopsy

It may be necessary for some women to have a small sample of tissue or cells taken from the breast. Local anaesthetic is always used to numb the area first. The result of the biopsy is usually available 7 to 10 days later. You will be given an appointment to return for your result.

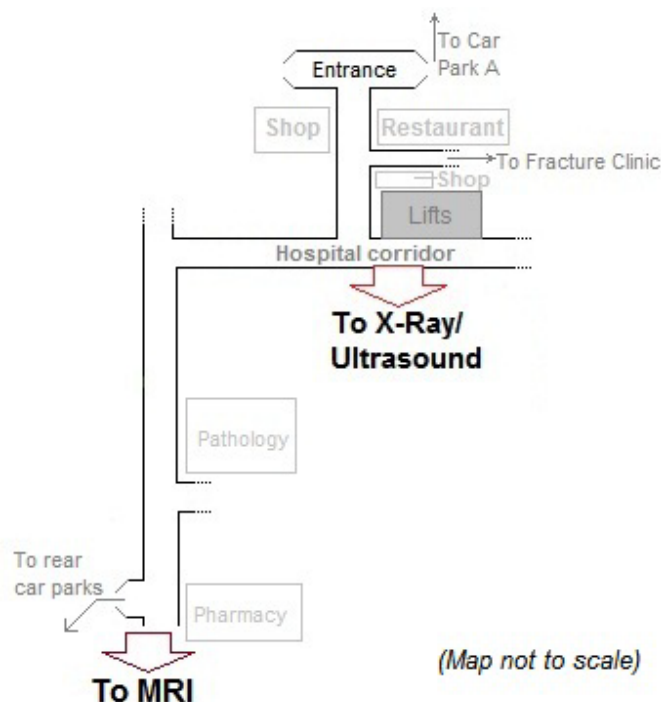
## How long will I be in the assessment clinic?

You may be at the clinic for up to 1 hour.

## When will I get the results?

Before you leave the clinic the doctor, practitioner or breast care nurse will talk to you about your results. If you have a needle biopsy taken, you will be given an appointment to return in for the result.

## Directions to the MRI department:



**Car parking for patients/visitors** is available in Car Park A at the front of the hospital (the first car park to the right as you enter the site), and Car Park D at the rear of the site near the MRI and Macmillan Units.

West Suffolk Hospital operates a number plate recognition system for all vehicles entering the site. When ready to leave, please visit one of the pay stations on site. Enter your vehicle registration number and pay the required fee. The exit barriers will recognise the vehicle registration and that the parking has been paid for and will open automatically. Please check the hospital website ([www.wsh.nhs.uk](http://www.wsh.nhs.uk)) for further information on car parking, fees, exemptions, and penalties.

**Please allow plenty of time to park before your appointment as the car parks are continuously busy throughout the day.**

## Data protection information

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust will manage your information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679. The information you provide will be retained for the purposes of your healthcare. The information will be retained in line with the **NHS Records Management Code of Practice for Health & Social Care**.

You have rights in relation to the way we process your information. If you no longer want us to use your information for the purposes specified above; if you want to request to have your information erased or rectified, please contact the Information Governance team on 01284 712781.

We will review all requests in relation to your rights under GDPR, along with our responsibilities for record keeping.

Images may be used for research purposes as well as teaching. Patients must inform a member of staff know if they do not consent to this.

As part of a shared service agreement with other NHS organisations, your radiology images and records may be shared with these other organisations as part of determining and providing your care. If you would like to know more about the extent of this sharing, or you wish us not to share at all with another organisation, or have any other concerns about it, please contact a member of staff.

**If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities, please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)**

**<https://www.accessable.co.uk>**



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