

Patient information

Magnetic Resonance Imaging



Feed and wrap for babies

It is important for parents/guardians to read the following information

(please also see children's leaflet 'Mr Mole')

Please read all the enclosed information and be aware that parents taking babies or children into the scanner need to fill in a safety questionnaire (see enclosed with appointment letter).

Your consultant has referred your child for an MRI. We have found that it is not necessary to sedate small babies to keep them still. We instead use a technique called "feed and wrap". After a feed, it's a natural time for most babies to fall asleep. We therefore ask you to attend the MRI department 30 minutes prior to your appointment time so that you can feed them here at the hospital. We will provide a warm and private area for this to happen. We will swaddle your baby in a blanket with the aim of making them sleepy. You may stay with your baby throughout the scan as long as you have completed a safety questionnaire.

N.B. If you are accompanying your child and may have had metal go into your eyes, or if you are pregnant please inform us. It may not be possible for you to enter the scanning room.

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.

About the examination

What is a MRI?

MRI is a technique used by doctors to image many parts of the body. It is particularly good at imaging soft tissues and the central nervous system such as the brain and spine. It uses a powerful magnet and makes very loud noises. A high resolution scan may take 15 minutes.

How safe is MRI?

There are no known side effects associated with MRI scanning. MRI has been used in hospitals for 30 years and has been researched thoroughly. It is however very important that we exclude any metal implants and complete all safety checks.

With this appointment letter you will receive 2 safety questionnaires, one for yourself or accompanying adult and another for your child. It is **very important** that you fill these in before your child's appointment.

The MRI scanner is a powerful magnet and some metallic implants are not safe. Please contact the department if you answer "yes" to any of the following:

- ***pacemakers or other cardiac devices***
- ***brain implants such as aneurysm clips or programmable shunts***
- ***cochlear implants***
- ***heart valves***

How do I prepare for my child for MRI?

1. Please feed your child prior to the scan and swaddle in a blanket with the aim of making them sleepy for the scan.
2. Please dress your child in clothing that does not contain any metal such as metallic poppers and fastenings.
3. If your child wears nappies please ensure this is changed just before the scan. It is important that the nappy is not wet as this could heat up in the MRI scanner and cause burns.

What will happen?

The MRI procedure will be explained to you by a radiographer before we take your child into the scanning room. The scanner is far more open and spacious than older versions. Your child will be wrapped in a blanket and lie on a padded table. The lights will be dimmed and you should expect the scan to take about 15 minutes.

The scanner is very noisy (it needs this buzzing and tapping to work). With swaddling and the use of pads and earplugs (where possible) your child's hearing will be protected.

There is a camera that allows the radiographer to see your child at all times. If your child wakes during the scan we can stop immediately.

You may be allowed to stay with your child during the MRI as long as you complete a safety form and remove the following items from your person: hair grips, keys, coins, hearing aids as well as other items such as watches, mobile phones and credit cards. We provide lockers for safe keeping.

How long will it take?

Scans take 15-20 minutes.

How do I get my results?

Your child's results will not be available on the day. These are specialist scans and will be sent to specialists for interpretation. The results will be returned to your paediatrician. These will be discussed at your next clinic appointment.

Please review the following checklist before attending:

- Complete the safety questionnaire on behalf of your child
- Complete the questionnaire as the accompanying parent
- Dress your child avoiding metallic poppers and fastenings
- If you have any concerns about the safety questionnaire or the MRI scan please contact us on (01284) 712891

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.

Hospital transport has **not** been booked. If you are eligible for transport or have any queries regarding transport eligibility then please contact: The Patient Transport Coordinator on **0300 999 6666** between 8.15am and 4.00pm.

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.

Blue badge holders are required to pay for parking.

Please check the patient and visitors / car parking section of the hospital website (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.

MRI and pregnancy

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

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

Discussion will be carried out in private and in confidence.

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

Feedback

Please tell us about your experience in the MRI Department following your appointment:

Email: imaging.comments@wsh.nhs.uk

Or complete our online survey using this weblink:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TKTVBBF>

Your opinions help shape the department for future patients.

Teaching/research

The West Suffolk Hospital is a teaching hospital and as part of their training it is necessary for students to observe examinations. If you do not wish for an observer to be present please tell the receptionist on arrival.

Images may be used for research purposes as well as teaching. Please let a member of staff know if you 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 hospital website www.wsh.nhs.uk and click on the link, or visit the disabledgo website:
<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust/main>*

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