

Children's

MRI

centre



ROYAL
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL



What is an MRI?

MRI is an abbreviation for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. It is a diagnostic technique used for taking detailed pictures of any part of the body.

The MRI scan uses a very strong magnet to obtain these pictures. There are **no x-rays** (ionizing radiation) involved. It is a safe, painless and non-invasive test.

What is involved with an MRI scan?

The MRI scanner is a large cylindrical machine open at both ends. It has a bed to lie on and a place to rest your head. The bed is moved into the magnetic cylinder so the region to be scanned is in the centre. You need to keep **very still** while the pictures are taken.

You will be given headphones as the scanner makes loud knocking noises when it takes the pictures. You can watch a video or listen to music during the scan.

Generally a scan takes between 20 and 40 minutes.

▼ The MRI waiting room contains many distractions for children of all ages.



Will I need an injection?

Sometimes an injection of contrast is requested by the radiologist to provide extra detailed pictures. If an injection is necessary, anaesthetic cream may be put on your hand or arm first to make the area numb.

Special precautions

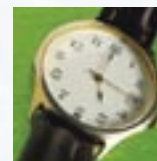
The MRI scanner has a very strong magnetic field. Certain types of metallic implants and objects are not allowed into the scanner.

Everyone entering the MRI room must first complete the **MRI safety questionnaire**. This is posted to you with the appointment letter. You must bring the completed questionnaire with you.

All body jewelry (eg. earrings) must be removed.

It is a good idea to wear comfortable clothes. Clothing with metal zippers and studs are discouraged. **The following items are affected by the magnet and are not permitted into the scanning room for safety reasons:**

- watches
- pens
- keys
- coins
- jewelry
- hair pins
- safety pins
- mobile phones
- credit cards
- pagers.



General anaesthetic session

Anaesthetic sessions are routinely booked for children **under four years of age**. If your child requires an anaesthetic, the appointment letter attached gives special instructions to ensure your child is fasted for the scan. If your child is on medication or you have any further questions regarding the anaesthetic, please telephone 9345 5240.

Practice MRI sessions

Children over **four years of age** may not be able to co-operate, so a practice MRI session can be organised with an educational play therapist.

The practice MRI appointment takes about one hour. This involves role play in a mock MRI scanner with the same noise effects. It will be helpful to determine whether your child is able to have a successful MRI scan without an anaesthetic. To make an appointment with an educational play therapist please telephone 9345 4303.

After the scan

You will be able to leave immediately after the scan.

However, children who have had an anesthetic or sedation, will be observed for a period of time after the completion of the scan.

A radiologist will send the report to the referring doctor usually within one week. If required earlier your doctor can telephone the radiologist.



MRI reception desk (left) and waiting area (above)

Where do I go?

The MRI department is located in the Medical Imaging (Radiology) Department on the second floor of The Royal Children's Hospital. Enter from the main entrance on Flemington Road and follow the signs to the Medical Imaging Department.

Arriving for the appointment

If the appointment is after 8.00 am, it is requested that you arrive 30 minutes early in order to go through the necessary preparation. However it must be noted that emergency scans take priority and therefore you may be delayed.

Please note that there is limited council car parking surrounding the hospital. The Royal Children's visitors carpark fills quickly after 9.00 am.

What happens if I can't attend?

If you are unwell or unable to keep the appointment please ring and let us know as soon as possible as we may offer this scan time to another patient. Please remember that failure to arrive on time may result in the cancellation of the appointment.

For more MRI information

www.rch.org.au/med-imaging

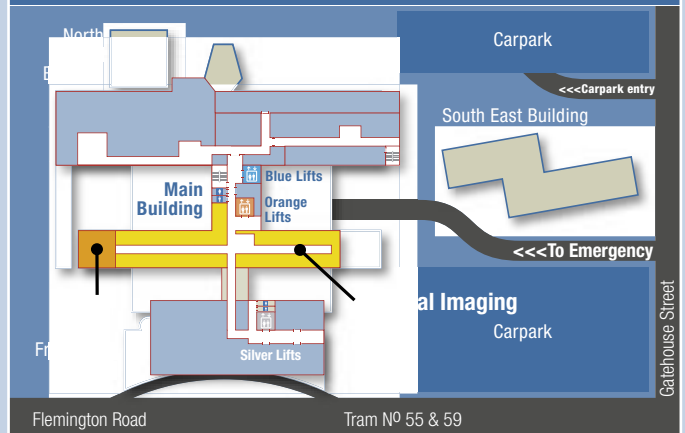
follow the links to MRI

Here you may view 3D images and pictures of the MRI room and the scanner. You may also hear the noises the scanner makes and download the safety questionnaire and fasting instructions.

For any further queries please contact MRI reception, telephone (03) 9345 4303.

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The Children's MRI Centre is a collaboration between The Royal Children's Hospital and the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute.

