



**Queensland  
Government**

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY**

**NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED**

*Unless patient is renal impaired*

# Consent Information - Patient Copy Magnetic Resonance Imaging

## 1. What is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an advanced imaging method that uses a strong magnetic field, radio waves and a computer to produce pictures of the body. MRI does not use x-rays.

MRI pictures are very detailed. They can show both bones and soft tissues in the body.

### MRI Safety

- No one is permitted into the scanning room until they have answered a series of safety questions and removed all metal objects from your body. (eg jewellery, eyeglasses and mobile phones).
- Because of the strong magnetic field there will be some patients who cannot undergo an MRI. These are patients who have metallic implants. These include but are not limited to: heart pacemakers, aneurysm clips in the brain, and foreign bodies such as metal shavings in the eyes.
- It is vital that you answer the safety questions as correctly as possible. You should discuss any internal implants (of any kind) that you may have with MRI staff to clarify any possible risks.



## 2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?

An MRI Scan is a painless procedure, no anaesthetic is required.

Some people find that being inside the MRI machine makes them feel uncomfortable due to the confined space of the tunnel. This is known as 'claustrophobia'. If this occurs, let the staff know as there are many different ways they can help you.

Rarely, medication may be required to help you complete the scan. If you require medication for the scan please check the procedure with MRI staff.

## 3. Preparation for the procedure

The medical imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your procedure.

- Please tell the staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

## 4. During the procedure

You will not feel anything during the scan. The radio waves used to take your pictures are very noisy; you may hear thumping, and knocking sounds. You will be provided with headphones or earplugs to protect your ears from the noise.

MRI staff will not be in the room with you during the scan but they will be able to see you and talk to you between the scans via an intercom. You will be given a call button to use if you need help.

The MRI scan will take between 15 and 90 minutes. It is extremely important that you keep completely still during the scan. Any movement can blur the pictures.

Depending on the area being scanned, you may be given MRI Contrast.

A fine needle (IV cannula) will be put into a vein in your arm, to inject the MRI Contrast.

For more information on MRI Contrast and the risks involved in its use, please read the **MRI Contrast Patient Information Sheet** (if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one).

## 5. After the procedure

The IV cannula will be removed (if inserted).

There are no known side effects or after effects of having a MRI.

## 6. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

The risks and complications with this procedure can include but are not limited to the following.

### Common risks and complications include:

- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from the IV cannula. This may require treatment with antibiotics.

### Less common risks and complications include:

- No known less common risks.

### Rare risks and complications include:

- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.

## Notes to talk to my doctor/ Health practitioner about:

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