

## MRI

### What is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a painless examination that can produce very detailed images of your body without the use of radiation. MRI uses magnetic fields and radio waves to visualise your internal organs and soft tissues such as the brain, spinal cord, blood vessels, muscle, cartilage and skin. Occasionally an injection of contrast (dye) called Gadolinium is required to obtain more information. This medication is administered intravenously i.e. into a vein in your arm through a fine needle.

### Is MRI safe?

MRI uses a very powerful magnet, therefore it may not be safe for you to have a scan if you have a surgical implant. This includes some pacemakers, aneurysm clips, stapes (ear) implants or other metallic foreign bodies. To ensure that it is safe to undertake your MRI scan the reception staff will mail/email you a copy of the MRI checklist, or you can [click on this link](#) to download and print out a copy. Many surgical implants can be safely scanned however it may be necessary to obtain the operation notes to check that the implant is safe to scan. Overall, MRI is a very safe test with no known side-effects or complications.

**Please call (03) 9508 1614 if you answer yes to any questions on the first page of the checklist.**

### What preparation is required?

Generally no patient preparation is required. If you think you may be claustrophobic please speak with our receptionists.

### What is involved?

When you arrive at Cabrini Medical Imaging a receptionist will greet you and check your paperwork. A MRI radiographer will then escort you into the MRI department. The MRI radiographer will check your MRI safety questionnaire; they may ask additional questions to ensure that it is safe to undertake your examination.

You will be then be taken to a change room and asked to change into a gown. You will be given a locker to safely store your belongings.

The radiographer will escort you to the MRI suite where you will be asked to lie in position on the MRI bed inside the machine, which is an open-ended tube. You will not notice anything except a loud banging noise while the scan is in progress. You will be given earplugs or headphones to protect your ears. It is very important that you keep perfectly still while you hear the loud noise. You may require an injection into a vein in your arm to obtain more information. If you have problems with your kidney function please inform the MRI department when booking.

During the examination you will be given an alarm buzzer to alert the radiographer if you wish to stop the scan. The radiographer will communicate with you throughout the scan to ensure that everything is progressing well. You will feel the same after the scan as you did when you arrived.

### Are there any side-effects?

No.

### How long will this take?

Most appointments take about 30 minutes, however each examination is tailored to suit the individual patient and ensure that any clinical questions are answered.

### How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **If a priority report is requested, it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 24 hours.** If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available for you to take to your doctor.

### How much will it cost?

Most imaging studies are partially covered by a Medicare rebate. A 'gap fee' may be applied because the actual cost of providing a medical imaging service is more than the rebate available from Medicare. Please call us on (03) 9508 1624 for specific out-of-pocket costs. Pensioners and concession card holders will be bulk billed for the majority of procedures. Patients having multiple examinations on the same day (i.e. CT and MRI) will have a maximum out-of-pocket cost of \$400 per visit. Third party claims such as TAC and Workcover will be billed to the relevant authority.

### Important

**It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.**

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

### Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the relevant number below.

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