

Bournemouth Open Upright MRI – Preparing for an MRI

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MRI examinations will be carried out by MRI Radiographers and the Consultant Radiologist who specialises in reading our scans, will write a report of your examination findings which will be sent to your doctor or healthcare professional within 7 days.

What is an MRI Scan?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanning uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body.

MRI Scans are used to diagnose conditions and are widely used for many different parts of the body.

Popularity of MRI Scans

In the UK there are over 2.7 million scans a year, with an increase of 12.1% more scans year on year. Overall growth of MRI scanning has increased by 220% in the last 10 years.

Are there any risks?

No, there are no known risks of MRI scanning and it is considered to be very safe. However, certain safety checks in relation to the presence of pacemakers, medical implants in the body, embedded metal splinters (for example in the eyes) are necessary because of the strong magnetic field. Your referrer will ask some of these questions when filling out the referral form and the MRI Radiographer will complete the safety questionnaire with you before your scan.

The pre examination safety questionnaire mentioned about prohibited items from examination room, what are these?

Metal and electronic objects are not allowed in the exam room as they can interfere with the magnetic field of the MRI unit. These items include:

- watches
- jewellery (Including piercings)
- credit cards
- hearing aids
- spectacles
- hairpins
- metal zippers and similar metallic items
- removable dental work

- pins
- pens
- pocketknives

Metal objects can distort MRI images.

Who shouldn't have an MRI?

Patients with any of the below should not undergo a MRI:

- cochlear implants
- electronically, magnetically and mechanically activated implants like pacemakers
- ferromagnetic or electronically operated active devices like cardioverter defibrillators
- metallic splinters in the eye
- ferromagnetic haemostatic clips in the brain

If you have an implant of any kind, including insulin pumps and prosthetic heart valves, please inform your referrer so that they can ensure that you will be able to have an MRI scan.

Are you required to make any special preparations in advance?

There are no special preparations for your MRI scans. However, if you have any medical implants or have had metal in the eyes please let us know before your appointment.

We provide gowns for your scan, or if you prefer to wear your own clothes please ensure that they are free from metal, such as a tracksuit or t-shirt and leggings. We provide lockers for your belongings and you will be asked to remove jewellery prior to your scan but you may prefer to leave these items at home.

Can you bring a relative / friend?

Yes, you may be accompanied to the scan. However, due to safety reasons, your chaperone may not be allowed into the scanning room if they have any of the prohibited items on or in them, but they can wait for you in the reception area.

Please be aware that we are not able to supervise children whilst parents are being scanned.

When you arrive

Please go to the reception desk and let them know that you are here for an MRI scan then take a seat. A member of the MRI team will collect you from the waiting room. Upon collection The MRI Radiographer will ask you some safety questions and you will be advised if you have to remove any clothes before entering the scan room, in which case you will be shown to a private cubicle with lockers where you may change. For some examinations you will be asked to put on a gown which will be provided.

Who will you see?

You will be looked after by the MRI Radiographer who will explain the scanning procedure to you.

What happens during the scan?

During the scan you will be asked to remain very still. Pads and pillows may be used to help you stay still and to maintain your position during the scan. A piece of equipment called a coil will be placed around the part of the body being scanned. This acts like an aerial and picks up the MRI signal which will form the images. The scanning table will be moved slowly to position the part of the body being scanned into the centre of the scanner. The MRI Radiographer will then go into the scanner control room, where they can see you at all times. There is an intercom system in the room which allows two-way communication between you and the MRI Radiographer. When the scans start, you will hear a series of noises and you will be offered ear plugs or ear defenders for comfort.

Will it be uncomfortable?

MRI itself is not uncomfortable, however you may find that keeping still in one position for the duration of the scan may cause some discomfort. The MRI Radiographer will endeavour to minimize this and will offer pads and pillows to aid comfort.

How long will it take?

This will depend on the part of the body being scanned. It is possible that a scan of one body part will take up to an hour

Are there any side-effects?

No. You can drive home afterwards, and return to work as necessary.

Can you eat and drink afterwards?

Yes, do so normally.

When will you get the results?

After the scan, the images will be examined by the Consultant Radiologist who is an expert in reading our MRI scans. They will prepare a report on his/her findings which will then be sent directly to your referrer by either fax, email, IEP or post.

If you have a query?

If you have a query about having the MRI scan, please ring the team between 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday on 01202 436276.

Can you share with me any testimonials from patients and referrers?

We love to receive testimonials and will add them below:

“Hi, I wanted to send a quick message to give some feedback on a recent MRI Scan. I have to say I was so impressed not just by the speed in which the scan was offered and the rapidness of the results but also how fantastic the experience was overall. Unfortunately, I don't know their names but the two ladies who managed the scan were both informative, incredibly helpful and such lovely ladies. Thank you very much.”

“Thank you for all your kindness on my visit, it is never an easy exercise, and with 2 bad shoulders I felt it!!! I cannot say enough though for the help and kindness shown to me. I will recommend your services without reservation.”

“I would like to thank you for your professional, prompt and efficient scan yesterday. I was contacted by my GP 7 o'clock last evening stating I had a prolapsed disc and needed surgery ASAP. Therefore, money well spent and hopefully a speedy road to recovery. Please convey my thanks to the relevant staff.”

“Hello! I've been meaning to send an email for a while and just haven't got round to it. I just wanted to thank the ladies who did my scan. I am quite claustrophobic and they couldn't have been nicer and more understanding. I can't remember their names but they were two very nice ladies who made me feel so much more at ease and did everything they possibly could to make it as stress free as possible. Thank you very much.”

“Thank you very much for being so efficient, professional and most charming when I came in for my MRI scan yesterday. The experience was totally different from the tunnel scanner, which I have never enjoyed, and I believe the Upright Scanner has a great future. I was apprehensive as I have been in pain for several weeks and could not lay still on the flat bed of the tunnel scanner last week. You soon put me at ease and I was delighted.”