

# What is an MRI scan?



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MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. The main part of an MRI is a very strong magnet.

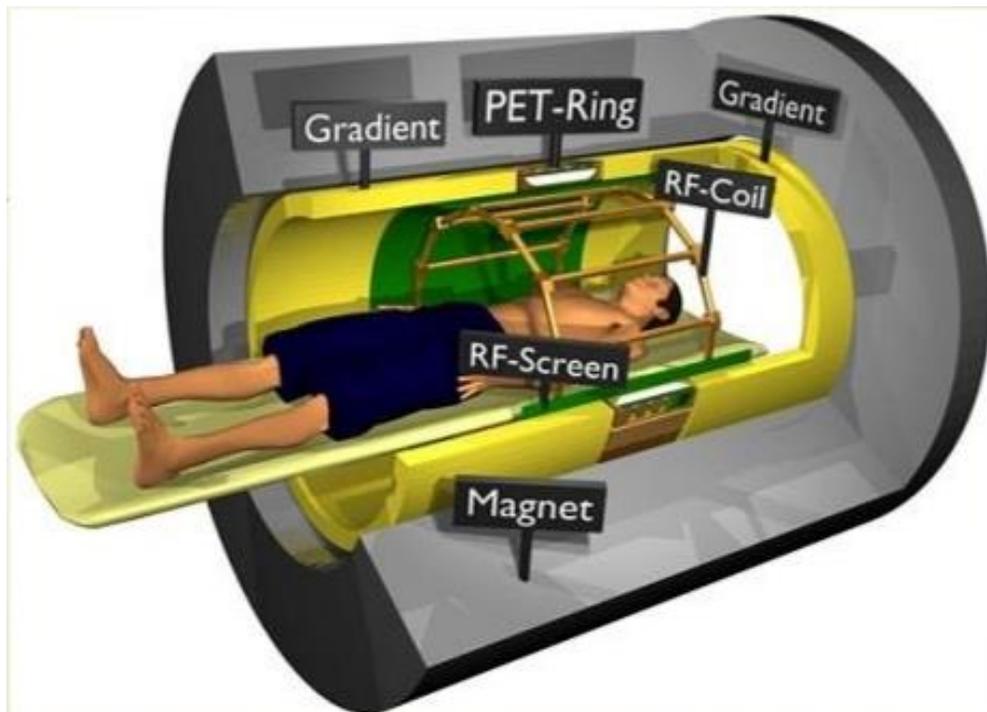
MRI produces highly detailed images of the inside of the body using a combination of a strong magnetic field, radio waves and an antenna (coil).

## Why does the scanner make a noise?

The tapping and knocking noise you hear during an MRI scan is caused by magnetic coils that switch on and off during the scan.

These coils provide the spatial information in the final images.

Earplugs/headphones will be provided for your comfort.



## Why do I need an MRI?

The main advantages of an MRI scan are that it allows you to see anatomy (body structure) in great detail (e.g. brain, nerves, ligaments, muscles, abdominal organs such as liver, pancreas, intestine, etc.). Furthermore, MRI can provide information such as tissue swelling, increasing in size and growth and repair of tissues.

## Is there any radiation exposure?

There is no potentially harmful radiation used for your MRI scan, so it is considered to be very safe. The radiographer will go through a safety questionnaire with you prior to you entering the MRI room, be sure to answer the questions fully and mention any injuries or surgery with metal you may have had throughout your life.

## What happens on the day of the MRI examination?



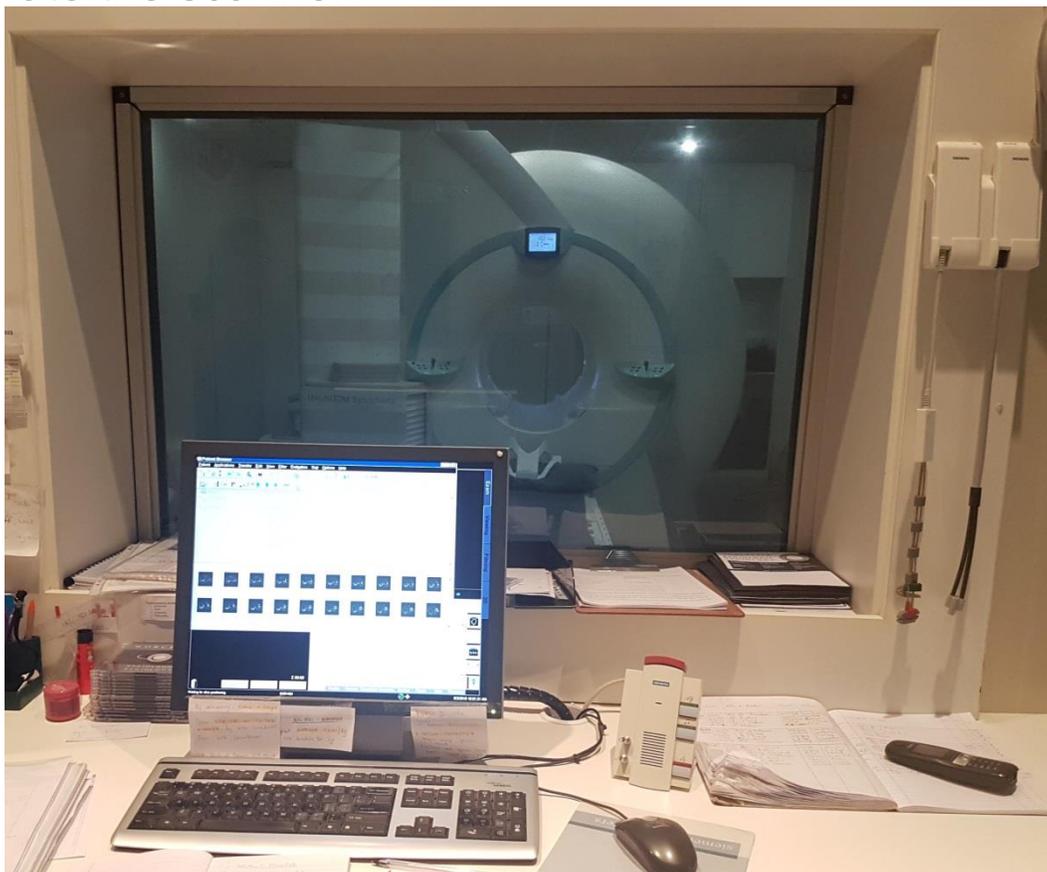
## **Getting ready:**

A radiographer will complete a safety checklist with you to ensure you are safe to enter the magnetic field (MRI room), and will answer any questions that you may have. You may be asked to remove all your outer garments and wear a hospital gown. You will need to remove all metal objects such as keys, cash, credit cards, watches, zips, jewellery, hair grips and so on before entering the scan room.

## **What happens inside the MRI room?**

In order to create the highly detailed images, an additional piece of equipment (coil) is needed and this will be placed only around the particular part being examined.

A computer is used to operate the MRI scanner, which is located in a different room (control room) to keep it away from the magnetic field generated by the scanner. This is where the radiographer will be to operate the scanner.

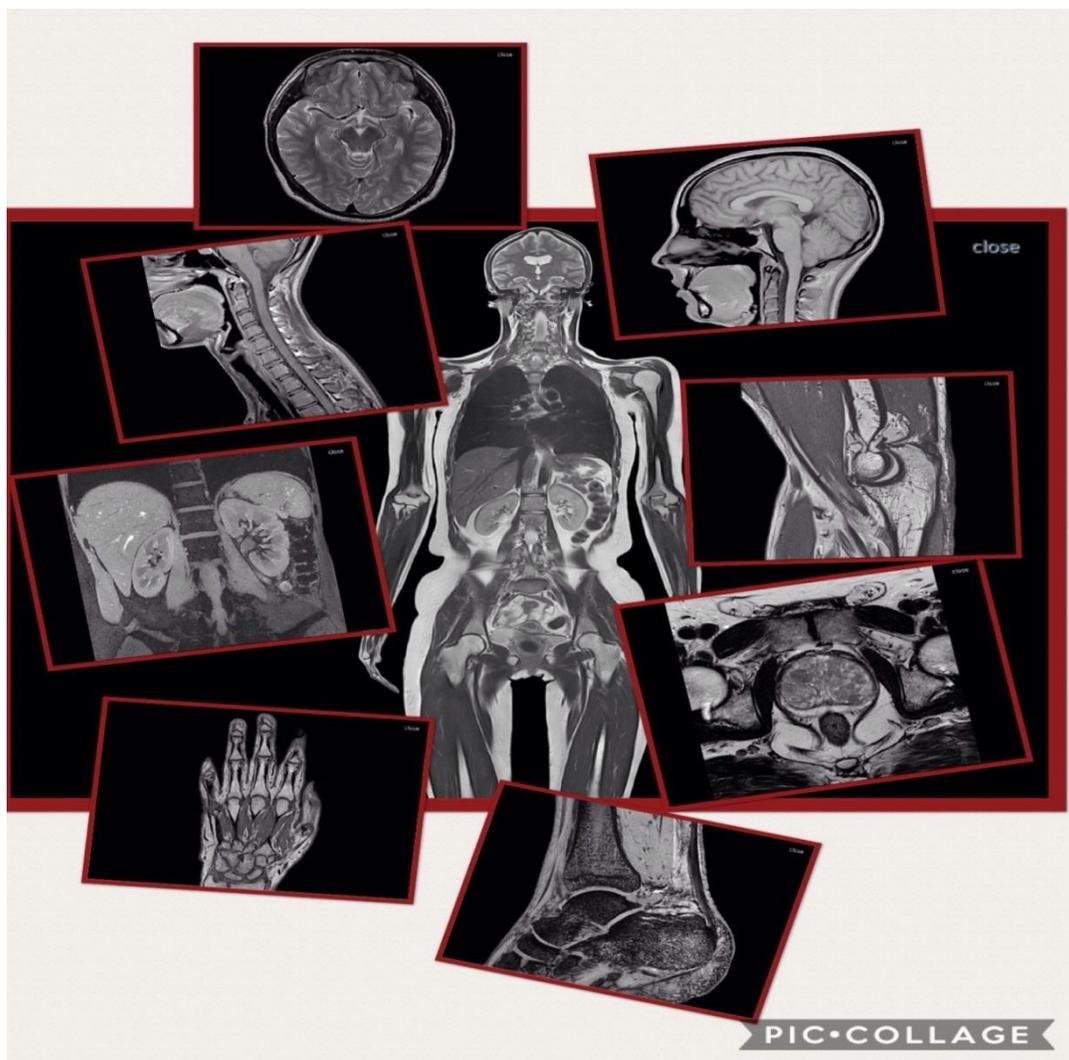


The radiographer will then move the bed slowly to position the part of your body being scanned in the centre of the scanner. He/she will then go into the control room, but he/she will be watching you throughout the duration of the scan. It is important that you remain completely still during the scan otherwise the images can be blurred.

You will be given a buzzer to squeeze should you need to get the radiographer's attention urgently.

### **How long will it take?**

This depends on which part of the body is being examined. Most scans are completed in 20-30 minutes. Some scans can be up to 60 minutes. Please feel free to ask the radiographer for an estimated time.



## Can I bring a relative/friend?

Yes, someone can sit inside the scan room with you. The same safety rules apply for this person, so if unsure please enquire beforehand.

If you have any further queries, feel free to contact our practice (023 3470923) and ask to speak to a MR Radiographer.

<https://youtu.be/H5q79R9C-mk> (5-minute explanation)

<https://youtu.be/wFTVTv407yw> (Doctor's comments)

