

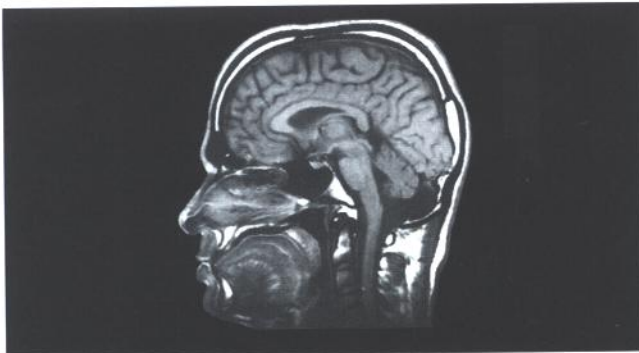
## WHAT IS MRI

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a technique to examine the structures in your body. It does not use x-rays. The equipment can produce two or even three dimensional images of the parts examined.

An MRI examination is painless and has no known harmful effects from either the magnetic fields or the radio frequency waves that are used.

MRI can visualize certain structures on your body better than x-rays and can provide important information to your doctor.

The images are formed using a large magnet, radio frequency waves and a computer to gather the information generated. The images are recorded on film by a laser printer and copies of the film and a radiologist report will be sent to your doctor.



*MRI image of the head*



*MRI image of the spine*

## WHERE WILL THE MRI SCANS BE DONE?

Your MR examination will be done at the MRI Centre, main building. Directional signs at the front lobby will guide you to our centre.

## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

There is no special preparation, pain or discomfort associated with an MR examination. The examination room where your scan will be performed is occupied by a large magnet with a padded couch.

The radiographer or a nurse will help you lie on the couch and you will then be moved into the machine. Depending on the part of your body that is imaged, the radiographer will ask you to lie in a position where either your feet or your head will be moved into the machine first.

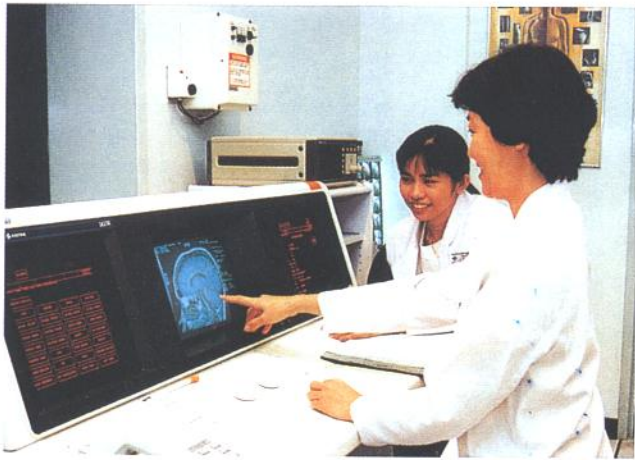
We have found that occasionally patients may feel a sense of confinement during the MRI procedure. If you have a history of feeling uncomfortable in a confined space, let our staff know before the examination.

Our staff have been specially trained to allay your fears. Bringing a relative or a friend to accompany you during the procedure may also help.

You will have voice contact with the radiographer at all times and he/she can observe you clearly from the control room. The humming and thumping sounds you will hear is common to all MRI equipment. Disposable ear plugs are given to buffer the sound.

## HOW LONG WILL THE EXAMINATION TAKE?

The examination will take approximately one hour.



*Preparing for the procedure*

From our experience, many people fall asleep during the procedure. You should expect to be at the MRI Centre for approximately 2 hours, therefore please do not schedule other appointments within this period.

### **PREPARATIONS FOR MRI**

The MR examination does not require restrictions on diet, medication or driving.

If sedation has been scheduled as part of your examination, you will be informed about appropriate restrictions.

If your appointment is for MRI of the head, do not apply any substances to hair (eg. hair spray, mousse, etc) and no make-up should be used as these may alter the MRI images.

Please do not bring expensive jewellery or large sums of money as all personal items have to be removed and kept in lockers provided.

### **WILL I NEED TO BE HOSPITALISED?**

No, it is not necessary unless you are hospitalised for other investigations.

### **ANY REASON I CANNOT HAVE A MRI EXAMINATION**

Due to the strong magnetic field, you should not have the examination if you have any of the following:

- A Pacemaker
- Metallic implants eg. certain IUDs
- Certain types of prosthetic devices
- Implanted hearing aids
- Certain types of metallic clips used in brain surgery
- Artificial heart valves
- Neurostimulators
- Weight more than 300 pound

If you have any doubts, please discuss them with our staff who are best equipped to advise you.

### **ON THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION**

These studies require scheduling and missed appointments may result in your doctor being unable to collate his findings. If you arrive late, it may result in a re-scheduling of your appointments.



*Radiologist reviewing the images*

