

How can I contact you?

Telephone: 020 7288 5888
(Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm)

Address: MRI Department
Whittington Health
Whittington Hospital
Magdala Avenue
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N19 5NF

All about your MRI scan of the small bowel

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Phone: 020 7272 3070

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A patient's guide



What is a small bowel magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan?

This is an examination that uses a strong magnet to look at small bowel (intestines). It produces a detailed 3D picture that assists your doctor in making an accurate diagnosis.

Important - safety checklist

MRI is a safe procedure but as you will be placed in a strong magnet, we need to obtain certain information from you. If you answer yes to any of the following questions please call us and let us know.

- Do you have a cardiac pacemaker?
- Have you had surgery in the last three months?
- Have metallic fragments ever entered your eyes at any time in your life?
- Are you claustrophobic?
- Could you be pregnant?

What preparation do I need?

Have a light meal the night before you examination such as clear soup or white fish or chicken. Please do not eat food such as bread and potatoes. Have nothing to eat or drink on the day of your appointment. You can take all your medications normally

Please fill the checklist and bring it with you on the day of your appointment

If you are claustrophobic and need sedation you will have to see your GP. Please contact us if you are diabetic.

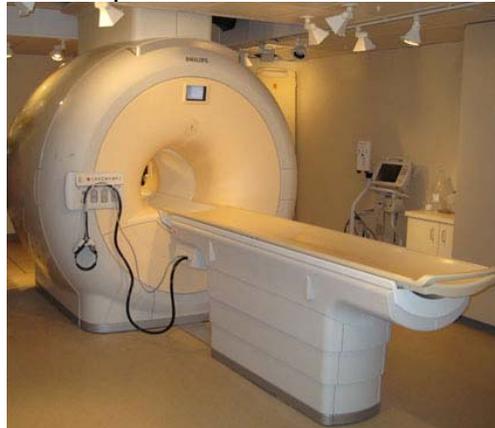
On arrival

The MRI Unit is in the main imaging department on level 3. Enter the main hospital from Magdala Avenue and take lift A to the imaging reception. A member of the MRI staff will take you through the safety checklist.

You will be given one and a half litres of a liquid to drink within the hour, before your scan. This expands the bowel which is very important for us to get diagnostic pictures. You will be given a gown to change into and then taken into the scanning room by the radiographer, the person performing your scan.

The MRI scan

During the scan you will be lying on a soft table in a doughnut-shaped scanner for approximately 30 minutes. The scanner is well-lit and open at both ends.



During the scan the machine will make several loud, banging noises. Earplugs or headphones are provided for your safety and comfort. Music is provided but you may bring your own CD if you wish. You will be given an alarm button before the scan. This allows you to stop the scan if you feel uncomfortable at anytime.

We will need to give you two injections for this scan. The first is relaxes the bowel which makes the examination more comfortable and effective. The other is an MRI dye which enhances the images.

What happens after the scan?

After the injection to relax the bowel, you must not drive or operate machinery for at least two hours. Drink lots of water and avoid a big meal for the rest of the day. There are no serious side effects although occasionally you may get loose stools for a few hours after the examination

When do I get the results?

If you have been referred from the clinic You will get the results of the scan when you next return to clinic. If you have been referred from your GP, the results will be sent within 14 working days. We sorry we are not able to give you the results straight away.