



the women's
the royal women's hospital

ABN 62 787 822 077
Locked Bag 300
Cnr Grattan St & Flemington Rd
Parkville VIC 3052 Australia
Tel +61 3 8345 2000
www.thewomens.org.au

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

- Information for Patients

What is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging or MRI uses powerful magnetic fields and radio waves to create pictures of inside the body without using x-rays or radiation.

MRI is used by doctors and specialists to look at the soft tissue of the body. MRI provides highly detailed images at different angles and can provide 3D pictures of some structures for diagnosis.

MRI at the Women's

The Royal Women's Hospital MRI service specialises in women's and neonatal MRI but is also able to offer a range of other MRI scans. As well as more routine scans, MRI at the Women's provides a specialized service that includes Breast MRI

- Pelvic and abdominal MRI
- Neonatal MRI
- MRI for Oncology
- MRI for Women's cancer research

The Royal Women's Hospital 3T MRI is considered one of the most cutting edge, sophisticated and powerful scanners available. It is possible to see minute detail and sub structures, and for patients the time spent in the scanner is reduced.

How to access the service?

You will need an 'imaging request' or referral from your doctor or specialist prior to booking your scan. Specialist, GP, Physiotherapy, Chiropractic, Osteopathic, WorkCover, TAC and private referrals are all accepted.

To make an appointment please call the Pauline Gandel Women's Imaging Centre on (03) 8345 2250, Monday to Friday 8.30-5pm.

MRI safety

Patients will need to **complete** a comprehensive safety screening questionnaire before having the scan.

MRI's are not recommended for some patients. Please call the department if you are concerned, particularly if you have any of the following:

- Cardiac pacemakers and defibrillators
- Some aneurysm clips (brain)
- Implants inside the ears for Cochlear or Stapes bones
- Metal fragments in the eyes
- Any implant that has a magnetically activated component
- Any electronic implanted devices
- Any other metallic implants inside your body

It is important you discuss these with your doctor or the technologist if you have any of these conditions as you may not be suitable for the test.

What happens during the scan?

- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and a qualified MRI Technologist will go through a MRI safety questionnaire with you.
- Please leave all jewellery at home.
- You will enter the room and lie on the bed which will move into a hollow tube or tunnel where the scan will take place.
- The scan is made up of a series of short scans lasting from a few seconds to 20 minutes. During this time the machine will get quite noisy and earplugs will be provided. You will be given an 'alert buzzer' and you will be able to speak to the technologist. The whole scan can vary in length of time, usually lasting 15 to 30 minutes depending on the investigation. While the scan is taking place you will need to lie still when directed. In some cases you will need an injection of contrast – this is to highlight and better see some areas of the body. A technologist or nurse will discuss this with you before the exam.
- After your exam your images will be read by a specialist radiologist and a report will be sent to your doctor.

Pregnancy and MRI

If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, it is important you discuss this with your doctor prior to having the scan. Your doctor can provide you with the benefits and risks associated in line with your medical needs.

Your concerns

If you are worried about having the scan it might be helpful to discuss your concerns with your doctor. You may find that your fears are quite commonly held and that the doctor will have some useful tips to help you overcome them.

Vision

The Pauline Gandel Women's Imaging Centre aims to provide a leading comprehensive imaging service that is informed by research and clinical best practice, utilising the latest imaging technology, in order to improve the health and wellbeing of women, the fetus and newborn babies.

Contacts

The Pauline Gandel Women's Imaging Centre

1st Floor
The Royal Women's Hospital
Corner of Grattan Street and Royal Parade
Parkville
Phone: (03) 8345 2250, Monday to Friday 8.30-5pm.

The Women's Health Information Centre

For more information about any women's health issue
Drop in, telephone or email
Ground floor foyer
The Royal Women's Hospital
Corner of Grattan Street and Royal Parade
Parkville
Phone: (03) 8345 3045
Email: whic@thewomens.org.au