

Further Information

- ◇ Please contact the MRI Department if you weight more than 21 stone, you may require an alterative examination.
- ◇ If you are on medication from your doctor, please continue to take as normal.
- ◇ Please arrive 15 minute before your appointment time, so we can prepare you for your scan.
- ◇ Please inform a Radiographer is there is any chance you are pregnant.
- ◇ If you have any metallic or electronic implants, please inform the MRI secretaries prior to your scan. The list includes but is not limited to: cardiac pacemaker, artificial heart valve, spinal cord stimulator, vagal nerve stimulator, aneurysm clip (metal clip inserted in a blood vessel in the brain), reprogrammable shunt.
- ◇ If you have previously had metal fragments in the eye, head or body (if you suspect that a metal fragment may have entered your eye, particularly if you have ever worked with metal grinding equipment), please contact us for advice.

Further Information

Directions:

The MRI Department is located on the Lower Ground Floor of Beaumont Hospital. Please check in at the Main X-ray Reception on arrival.

If you have any questions, require further information, have specific requirements or require access to interpretation or translation services, please contact the MRI Secretaries on: **018094826/ 018094827** or email **mriferrals@beaumont.ie**.

If you do not contact us, this may result in delays on the day or cancellation of your appointment.

Additional information available at:

<http://www.beaumont.ie/mri>



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Beaumont Imaging & Interventional Directorate



BEAUMONT
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PATIENT INFORMATION

LEAFLET:

MRI CERVICAL/ THORACIC/ LUMBAR SPINE



Introduction

You have been advised by your doctor to get a magnetic resonance imaging scan (MRI). This leaflet will explain what the scan involves and how to prepare for your scan. If you have any other queries please contact the listed phone number or ask one of the MRI Radiographers.

What is an MRI Scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses a strong magnetic field, to produce high quality images of the body. This examination produces detailed images of the spine, which shows the bones, discs, spinal cord and the spaces between the vertebral bodies that nerves pass through.

There are no known health risks or side effects associated with MRI. Magnetic resonance imaging does not use radiation, unlike x-rays or CT examinations.

Because of the strong magnetic field used to produce the MR image, some people are not suitable for scanning by MRI. It is important for us to know if you have metallic/ electrical implants or have had certain operations. Implants and devices must be reviewed prior to your MRI scan.

Preparation for your MRI Scan

The Radiographer will provide you with an MRI Safety Questionnaire to complete, prior to your examination, to determine if it is safe for you to receive the scan. One of the MRI Radiographers will go through the Questionnaire with you prior to the scan. You will be given an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

You may be required to get changed into a hospital gown prior to your examination. You will also be required to remove any jewellery or metallic objects, as you will not be permitted to take them into the scan room with you. Belongings can be placed in a locker, left with a companion or the Radiographer can look after them for you.

Some scans require an injection of contrast medium. If this is the case the Radiology Nurse will insert a small tube (cannula) into a vein in your arm. This will permit the Nurse or Radiographer to administer contrast media ("dye") during the examination, to enhance the appearance of anatomy.

As Beaumont is an acute hospital, there may be occasions when other patients may need to be scanned urgently which could mean you experience a delay to your appointed time. Please allow for 1 and a half in the MRI department on this basis. Please arrive **15 minutes** prior to your examination.

During the Examination

The MRI scanners in Beaumont Hospital have a wide circular bore and is open at both ends. The Radiographer will position you on the MRI table and try make you as comfortable as possible. You will be provided with earplugs and headphones to protect your ears, as it will be very noisy during the scan, like a tapping sound. You can listen to music during your scan if you wish. A communication buzzer will also be placed in your hand, so you can alert the Radiographer at any point. The Radiographer may have to put a frame above your head, to acquire the images.

The Radiographer will slowly move the MRI table into position. The body part being scanned will be placed at the centre of the scanner. The Radiographer performing the scan can see you throughout the scan. It is important that to try to stay as still as possible, to ensure good quality images.

The scan can take from 15 minutes to 90 minutes, depending on the examination requested. Once your examination is complete, you are free to leave the department and continue with your day.

How do I receive the results of my scan?

The results of your MRI scan will not be available immediately. The results will be sent to the Doctor who referred you for the MRI scan.