



Procedure Information Sheet - Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Visit No.: Dept.:
Name: Sex/Age:
Doc. No.: Adm. Date:
Attn. Dr.:
Patient No.: PN

*Please fill in /
affix patient's label*

Page No:

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+10	+20	+30	+40	+50	+60	+70	+80	+90

Introduction

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a safe, accurate, non-invasive and painless imaging modality. It utilizes a strong magnetic field, radio-frequencies, and state of the art computer technology to produce excellent images of the human body.

Before Examination

- Unless otherwise specified in the appointment sheet, you can eat, drink and take drugs prescribed by your doctor as usual, except abdominal exam.
- Eye make-up should be avoided.
- Please inform our staff if you have the following items and conditions because they are potentially hazardous and may interfere with the MRI examinations by producing artifacts.
 - You have implants or foreign bodies inside your body such as:
 - Internal shunt
 - Cardiac implantable electronic devices (e.g. cardiac pacemaker or implantable cardioverter defibrillator)
 - Prosthetic heart valve, Cardiac Occluders or closure devices
 - Dentures
 - Surgical clips
 - Metal mesh or wire suture
 - Insulin pump
 - Hearing aids
 - Cochlear implants
 - Neurostimulator or Electrodes or Programmable CSF shunt
 - Orthopaedic devices (e.g. pins, nails, screws)
 - Metallic foreign bodies
 - Intrauterine contraceptive device
 - Intravascular coils, filters and stents
 - Medication patch (that contains metal foil)
 - You are now or used to be a metal worker.
 - You have been injured by metallic foreign body (e.g. bullet, shrapnel).
 - You have been injured in the eye by a metallic foreign body.
 - You have tattoo or permanent eye-lining.
 - You have history of renal failure, renal disease or renal surgery.
 - You are pregnant or suspect that you are pregnant.
- You have to remove from your body any loose ferromagnetic items, metallic objects (e.g. glasses, wristwatch, necklace, safety-pin, hair-slide), and items which may be damaged by the magnetic field (e.g. credit cards, Octopus card) prior to entering the magnet room. A locker will be provided for you to secure your personal belongings.

During Examination

- The examination time varies from 30 minutes to 2 hours. You are required to keep still during the examination. Therefore, children and infants may have to be sedated by medication or other anesthetic measures.



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2. Ear plugs or headphone will be provided to protect you from the noise generated by the machine.
3. For the sake of safety, an intercom system is installed inside the examination room so that you can communicate with our staff during the examination. In addition, an emergency button which you can hold and press for assistance is also available.
4. In some examinations, gadolinium-based MRI contrast medium will be administered intravenously to you in order to show the pathology more clearly.

After Examination

1. Normally the examination will not cause any discomfort and you can go back to work as usual afterwards.
2. If you have any question concerning about MRI examination, please ask the staff of our department.

For female patients of childbearing age

1. All female patients aged between 10 and 60 will be asked whether there is any possibility of pregnancy, and to specify the date of their first day of the last menstrual period (LMP).
2. If there is any uncertainty regarding the pregnancy status or the LMP is over 28 days, a pregnancy test should be considered before proceeding with the examination.
3. In cases where pregnancy is suspected or confirmed, the decision to proceed should be made collaboratively by the doctor and the patient based on clinical necessity. If the potential risks outweigh the benefits, alternative diagnostic investigations should be considered, or the examination should be deferred.

Risk and Complications

Long term biological effects of MRI examinations on human body and fetus are still not fully understood.

General Risks or Complications

- Noise is unavoidable during the course of the MRI examination. There might be a loud tapping, knocking or chirping sound during the examination. The sound loudness can be up to 130dB or above.
- Peripheral nerve stimulation with transient tingling sensation, muscle twitching, warmth and pain.
- Claustrophobia – anxiety response, excessive fear or panic attack when exposure to enclose MRI gantry.
- MRI contrast media is a very safe drug. Reactions are uncommon and usually very mild. Minor reactions i.e. headache, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, might occur in about 1% of patients. Contrast extravasation can cause some discomfort, swelling or pain at the injection site that usually disappears in 1 to 2 days.

Specific Risks or Complications (including low probability serious consequence risks or complications)

- Rarely, gadolinium-based MR contrast media can cause severe reaction, such as convulsion, severe anaphylaxis and death. The chance of this fatal occurrence is about 1 in 400,000.
- MRI non-compatible implants or devices might be displaced, heat up and causing tissue burning, malfunction or attached to the magnet.



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- On very rare occasions, heat can build up in the tissues and burns can occur.
- Patients with renal failure may (1-7%) develop nephrogenic systemic fibrosis after receiving intravenous Gadolinium-based MR contrast media. Some affected patients can develop joint contractures, joint immobility, multi-organ failure. This reaction may in very rare cases be fatal.
- Gadolinium may deposit in various structures of the brain following repeated injection of Gadolinium-based contrast medium. To date, there is no proof that these Gadolinium deposits in the brain have been associated with adverse health effects or pathological consequences.

For Pregnant or Breastfeeding Patient

1. If you think that you are pregnant on the date of examination, please consult your doctor for advice as soon as possible. There is no documented evidence of harmful effect of MRI on the developing human fetus throughout the pregnancy. Only a small number of animal studies have raised the possibility of teratogenic effects of MRI exposure in early pregnancy and the potential risk of acoustic damage to the fetus.
2. Very small percentage of contrast medium may be excreted into the breast milk and absorbed by the infant's gut. There is no documented evidence of harmful effect of the contrast medium to the infant. Ultimately, if the mother remains concerned about potential effects on the infant, it is advisable to use a breast pump to obtain milk prior to the contrast examination for feeding the infant. Following the examination, breastfeeding may be withheld for 12 to 24 hours from the time of contrast administration, and the breast milk from both breasts should be discarded during this period.

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In special patient groups, the actual risk may be different. If you have any questions concerning about your MRI examinations, please ask our staff or contact your referring doctor.

References

1. Smart Patient (Website: <http://www21.ha.org.hk>)
2. ACR Manual on Contrast Media (2025)
3. Safety Manual of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (2026), St. Paul's Hospital

I acknowledge that I have understood the above information and was given opportunity to ask questions concerning my procedure.

Name of Patient / Relative

Signature

Relationship (If any)

Date