

## Department of Radiology

# Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) – For Children

Hi there, my name is Mr Mole!  
I am here to tell you all about your MRI scan.

An MRI scan looks inside your body and takes detailed pictures for your doctor to have a look at. It does not use radiation, but a very large magnet to make these pictures.

This is a picture of an MRI scanner:

### The MRI scanner

- The scanner is a powerful magnet. It looks like a short tunnel, open at both ends, with a bed that slides in and out
- A 'coil' (a special radio aerial) will be placed on or around the part of your body we want to scan
- The scanner sends a special message (radiowaves) into your body
- Your body sends tiny messages back that are picked up by the coil
- All these tiny messages are collected and sent to a very clever computer that creates the MRI pictures

Before your appointment you will meet a member of the MRI team who will chat to you about your scan. This will include a Radiographer who is specially trained to take MRI pictures and there may also be an assistant specialising in play therapy. You and your

adult will be asked lots of questions from a safety checklist to make sure it is safe for you to have an MRI scan.

You will need to take off any metal items such as watches, rings, earrings, necklaces, glasses and hearing aids, and check that you have nothing in your pockets. We will have a special locker you can put your belongings in. You might like to bring your pyjamas to change into for your scan. You can also bring a teddy bear (which has no metal on it or inside it) to go in the scanner with you.

When you are ready for your scan you will lie on the bed with your arms by your sides. We will make sure you are comfortable and we can give you some cushions and a blanket. The bed slides gently into the scanner tunnel until the part of your body to be scanned is in the middle of the magnet. The tunnel is light and airy and your adult can stay with you the whole time.

### **An MRI scan will not hurt.**

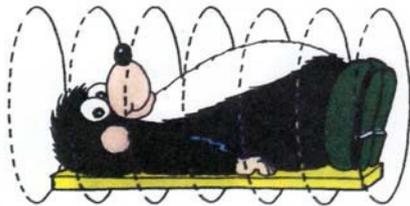


You will be given a buzzer and either you or your adult can hold this during the scan. If you feel cold or uncomfortable or need to speak to a Radiographer you can press this buzzer. It is important that you keep all of your body very still. If you move it will make the pictures blurry and the scan might have to be done again.



Although there are no moving parts, the MRI scanner makes lots of different funny noises. To begin with you'll hear a little chirping noise, and then when the scan starts you'll hear lots of humming, clicking, clunking, whirring and beeping noises.

I think it sound like a motorbike – listen carefully and decide what you think it sounds like. As it is very noisy you and your adult will be given some earplugs.



An MRI scan usually takes between 10 minutes to 1 hour. Sometimes it might take longer, but we will let you know how long you will be before we start. The computer pictures have to be checked to make sure you have not moved. If you do move and more scans are needed these will be done right away before you leave.

A doctor who is specially trained to look at MRI scans will study your pictures and the results will be sent you to your doctor in 7 – 10 days.

Please remember I am here with my friends, the MRI team to help you understand what your MRI scan is all about. If you have any questions please ring us on our direct telephone number below. We look forward to meeting you soon.

### **Contacting the MRI appointments office**

**Telephone:** 01603 286107  
**E-mail:** [radiology@nnuh.nhs.uk](mailto:radiology@nnuh.nhs.uk)  
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