

Your breast MRI scan

Who is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is for women who have been referred to the MRI department for MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) of the breasts. It explains why you have been referred, and provides information specifically about breast MRI scans. This leaflet should be read in conjunction with the separate leaflet on MRI, which explains the MRI procedure in detail.

Why do I need a breast MRI scan?

You have been offered MRI screening because either:

- you are aged between 30 and 50 with a strong family history of breast cancer.
or,
- you have received mantle radiotherapy treatment for Hodgkins Lymphoma under the age of 30.
or,
- your doctor recommends MRI as part of your imaging requirements.

When will I have my scan?

The MRI scan of your breasts needs to be done between day six and sixteen of your menstrual cycle (day one being the first day of your period). Please contact us on 01872 252880 if the date of your MRI is not suitable.

How do I prepare for it?

Within the three months before your scan it is essential to have a blood test to check your kidney function. This is because the scan involves an injection of contrast medium (a special dye) which very rarely can affect the kidneys. This blood test is carried out at your GP surgery and the results will be available to the MRI department. You must arrange with your GP to carry out this blood test. If it is not done we will not be able to proceed with your MRI scan. The test is called an eGFR (glomerular filtration rate).

Is an MRI scan suitable for everyone?

An MRI scan may not be appropriate if you:

- have a pacemaker
- have had operations on your brain or heart
- have sustained any injuries to your eyes involving metal fragments
- are in the first three months of pregnancy
- are unable to lie on your front
- have severe claustrophobia.
- have had a previous reaction to the contrast injection used in the test.

The test involves:

- cannula insertion
- lying prone and still for 20 minutes
- high noise levels
- contrast injection.

What else should I be aware of?

The MRI may show up differences in your breasts which were not shown on your mammograms. If this is the case, you may need further mammograms, breast ultrasound or further intervention. This does not necessarily mean something is wrong. In a very small number of cases, a biopsy may be required under MRI guidance.

Any questions?

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Mermaid centre on 01872 252880.