

Information About Your MRI Small Bowel

Your doctor has referred you for an **MRI Small Bowel scan**. This will take place in the Imaging Department (also known as Radiology or X-ray department) on either the **Ground floor** or **First floor** of the **Royal Hospital for Children**. Please refer to your appointment letter for guidance on where to attend.

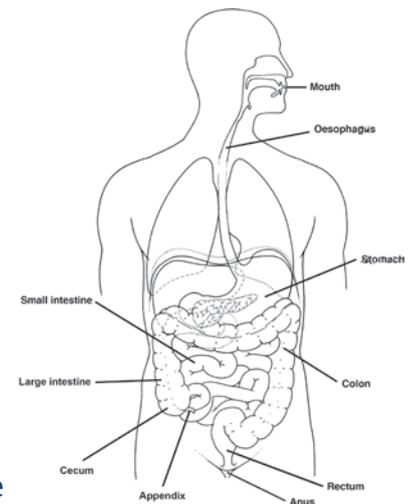
What is an MRI scan?

An **MRI** (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan uses giant magnets inside a special machine to take pictures of the inside of the body. You will lie on a comfortable bed which slides into the middle to take the pictures. MRI does not use any X-rays to take the pictures and does not have any side effects.



What is an MRI Small Bowel Scan?

An **MRI Small Bowel scan** looks at the tubes inside the abdomen (tummy) called the intestines that deal with turning food into waste.



What do I need to think about before coming for the scan?

As the scanner has a large magnet inside, please let us know before the scan date if you or your guardian have any metal inside your body from any surgery or accidents. In rare cases, we won't be able to carry out the scan if you do not let us know about any metal before your appointment.

We need to use a cannula (a small tube) for this scan, which is a bit like having a blood test. If you have difficult veins or if there is anything else you want to tell us about for cannulas, then please call us on the number at the end of this leaflet.

Can I eat and drink as normal before coming for the scan?

You cannot eat for 8 hours or drink for 4 hours before coming to your appointment.

It is very important that you do not eat or drink before your scan to make sure we can get nice clear pictures without any food or drink in the bowel tubes. You can continue with any medication as normal. Please let us know if there are any special reasons why this might be difficult.

What will I wear?

Please wear some comfortable clothes with no metal poppers, eyelets or buttons. Or we may ask you to change into a hospital gown.

Can I bring someone with me?

If you are under 16 you must make sure a parent or guardian who knows your full medical background comes with you for the scan. This is because we need to make sure you are safe to be around a strong magnetic field. One person can stay with you during the scan, we will check them for any metal too. If you are over 16 and are confident about your own medical history you may attend on your own.

Note for parents and guardians:

If you have to bring other children with you, we cannot provide childcare facilities. We will have to ask you to come back another time if this is an issue.

What preparation is there before the scan?

It is very important that you arrive at the time on your appointment letter. **This time is 90 minutes before your scan** to give us time for all the preparation involved. We need to give you a drink so that your small bowel shows up on the scan. This drink is water mixed with a medicine called Lactulose and we need to give you it over a period of one hour.

What does the scan involve?

When it is time for your scan, we get you to lie up on the MRI bed. We will put some soft foam cushions over your tummy; these are part of the cameras that take your pictures. The scanner is very loud so you will wear earplugs and headphones. We will slide you into the middle of the machine. You do not feel anything when the pictures are being taken and you can hold a buzzer that lets you talk to us if you need to. The adult you bring with you can stay during the scan. You can watch a DVD or listen to the radio whilst being scanned.

It is really important that you stay still. We will ask you to help us by holding your breath for very short times but these are easy. Don't worry, we will tell you when you need to do this.

You will also be given a medicine called Buscopan through the little tube in your arm (the cannula) but it won't hurt. This helps to make the pictures more still and the Radiographer will discuss this with you when you arrive.

How long does the scan take?

The scan itself takes about 20 minutes but because of the preparation that is needed, you should expect to be in the department for at least 2 hours

What happens after the scan?

We will remove the cannula from your arm and you can then go home. You can go back to eating and drinking as before. Some people tell us that the Lactulose makes their poo a bit loose afterwards so look out for this.



How will I get the results?

The results go to the hospital doctor who referred you for this scan, usually a Gastroenterology Consultant. You will not get any results on the day as our Radiologist will need time to go over all the pictures we've taken of your tummy.

Do you have any other questions?

Please call the number below or ask your Radiographer on the day.

You can find a video of our MRI scanner on the What? Why? Children in Hospital website at www.wwcih.org.uk

MRI scanner video - <https://www.whatwhychildreninhospital.org.uk/video-happens-in-mri>

Cannula video - <https://www.whatwhychildreninhospital.org.uk/cannula>

Contact Centre

Telephone Number: 0800 056 0103

www.nhsggc.org.uk