

Information About Your Child's **MRI Foetal Scan**



Your doctor has referred you for an **MRI scan of your baby in the womb (Foetal MRI)**. This will take place in the Imaging Department (also known as Radiology or X-ray department) on the **Ground floor of The Royal Hospital for Children**.

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 your body. You will lie on a bed which slides into the middle of the machine to take the pictures.



A foetal MRI gives additional information about your baby from the information obtained from your ultrasound scan.

Is it safe for my baby to have an MRI scan in the womb?

MRI does not use any X-rays to take the pictures and does not have any known side effects. Like you, your baby will hear the noise of the scanner but the fluid in the womb is good at absorbing the sounds.

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 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 the metal before your appointment.

What will I wear?

To keep you feeling cool and comfortable, we will ask you to change into a hospital gown.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes. Your partner, friend or relative will be able to stay with you for the scan to offer reassurance.

Please note: 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 does the scan involve?

The Radiographer will explain the scan in detail and will go through some questions to make sure that you and the person with you are safe to be near a strong magnetic field. After changing into a gown and emptying your bladder, we will get you to lie up on the MRI bed. We will place a soft flexible wrap called a coil on top of your tummy. We will ask you to lie on your back on the scan table and will be able to turn slightly on your side with the help of support cushions if this is more comfortable.

The scanner is very loud so you will wear earplugs and headphones. You will move in feet first 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. You can listen to music whilst being scanned.

It is really important that you stay as still as you can. We will ask you to hold your breath at times but these are short and fairly easy. Don't worry, we will tell you if you need to do this.

How long does the scan take?

Foetal scans can take up to one hour, depending on exactly what pictures we need and how much the baby is moving.

What happens after the scan?

There are no side effects from having an MRI scan and you can go about your day normally.

How will I get the results?

The results go to the hospital Consultant who asked for your scan. You will not get any results on the day as our Radiologist will need time to go over all the pictures in detail and write a report.

We will ask you when your next clinic appointment is so that the result can be ready for this appointment.



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>

Contact Centre

Telephone Number: 0800 056 0103

www.nhsggc.org.uk