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MRI SCAN

What is MRI scan?

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanning is an investigation that uses an exceptionally strong magnet and radio frequency waves to generate images and a computer to produce detailed pictures of organs, soft tissues, bone and virtually all other internal body structures. MRI does not use ionizing radiation (x-rays)

Detailed MR images allow physicians to evaluate various parts of the body and determine the presence of certain diseases. The images can then be examined on a computer monitor and printed.

How is MRI done?

The MRI scanner is a tube surrounded by a giant circular magnet. The patient is placed on a moveable bed that is inserted into the magnet. Sensation of claustrophobia can be experienced by some patients

Why would I need MRI scan?

An MRI scan is one of the most sophisticated diagnostic tools available to help a referring clinician understand the cause of your particular health issue.

How is MRI different than a CT scan?

Unlike CT scan which uses ionizing radiation, MRI uses magnetic fields to produce detailed pictures of the organs. The MRI is able to pick up the difference in the normal and abnormal tissue

better than the CT scan. The CT scan takes less time whereas MRI can take around 30 minutes

What can be diagnosed by MRI scan?

By scanning the relevant part of a patient's body, an MRI scan can help to diagnose the following:

- Conditions of the brain, including tumors, strokes and dementias.

- Problems in vessels of the brain (MR angiography)

- sports injuries

- Musculoskeletal problems

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Most spinal conditions/injuries
Vascular abnormalities
Female pelvic problems
Prostate problems
Certain ear, nose and throat (ENT) conditions
Soft tissue and bone pathology/conditions

Who cannot have MRI scan?

Due to the powerful magnetic force involved in producing an MRI scan, certain individuals will not be scanned. You should inform your doctor if you have the following :

- a cardiac (heart) pacemaker
- certain clips in your head from brain operations, i.e. aneurysm clips
- a cochlear (ear) implant
- a metallic foreign body in your eye
- had surgery in the last 8 weeks
- a programmable shunt for hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain)

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