

Where is the MRI scanner situated?

The Neuroradiology MRI scanner is situated on **Level 5** in the **New Victoria Wing** at the **RVI**.

The department of Neuroradiology can be accessed via a link corridor from the Leazes wing or alternatively directly from Queen Victoria Road. Neuroradiology and the Neuroradiology MRI scanner are clearly signposted throughout the RVI.

If you have difficulties finding the scanner please ask at reception upon entering the hospital and you will be directed via the shortest route.

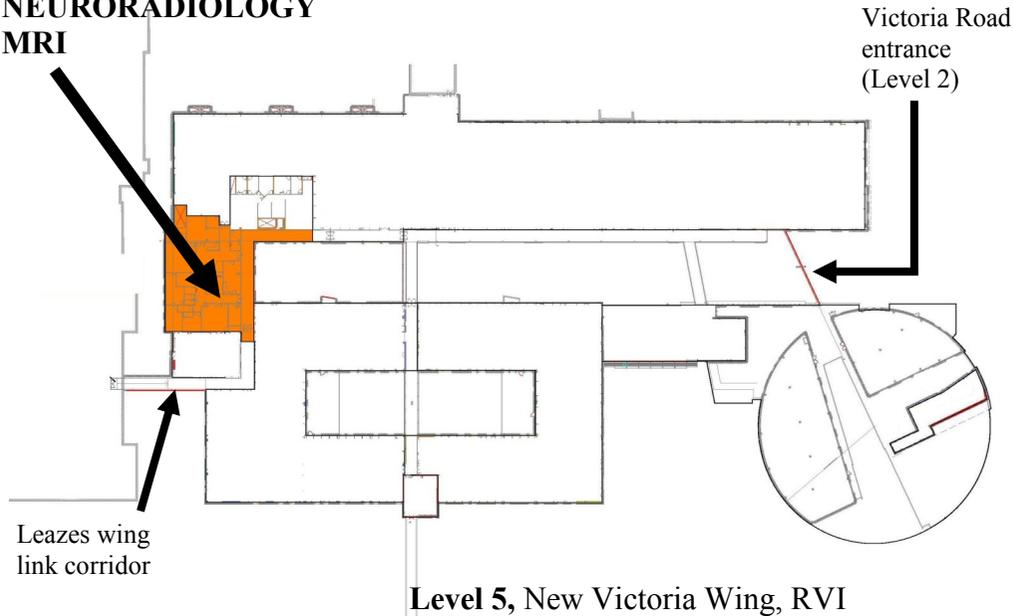
NEURORADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Level 5
New Victoria Wing
Royal Victoria Infirmary

MRI SCANNER

PATIENT INFORMATION

**NEURORADIOLOGY
MRI**



What if I need an ambulance?

If you need an ambulance, you must ask your GP surgery to arrange one, giving them three working day's notice. However, it would be helpful if you could inform the department if you are arriving by ambulance as we will arrange your appointment time to fit with ambulance arrivals

What if I have any questions?

If you have any worries or concerns before you attend for your appointment, then please do not hesitate to contact us on 0191 2823946 and we will be happy to help in whatever way we can.

If you have any other questions when you attend for your scan then please ask any of the staff in Neuroradiology.



Introduction

We have received a request for you to have an MRI scan. This booklet is designed to give you some information about the MRI scanner, to help you prepare for your scan and to give you some idea of what to expect when you attend.

What is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging or MRI for short, is a method of obtaining highly detailed pictures of the inside of your body. A powerful magnet, radio-waves and a computer are used. The technique does not use X rays and there are no known side effects, however it is extremely important that certain precautions are followed (as detailed opposite).

Preparation

You are able to eat and drink as normal. However if you are receiving sedation or an anaesthetic you MUST follow the guidelines in the accompanying letter. Please continue to take any medicines normally prescribed by your doctor.

We have safety lockers for valuable items such as watches, credit cards, jewellery etc which cannot be taken into the scanner. If possible try to leave these items at home. Eye make up should also be removed. Mascara contains 'ferric' (metal) compounds, which may lead to distortion of images.

What happens during my scan?

As far as the scanning goes all you need to do is lie still throughout the procedure. A radiographer will escort you into the scanning suite and ask you to lie on the scan table. Once you are ready you will be moved into the scanner and your scan will begin.

Whilst the information for the pictures is being acquired the machine will make a series of rapid tapping or buzzing noises. This is a normal part of the scan. We do have a music system which allows you to listen to a CD via headphones. You are invited to bring a CD along with you so you can relax during the scan. The radiographers will be in constant communication with you throughout the procedure (via an intercom) so if you need anything at all you just have to ask.

How long will my scan take?

It is difficult to predict, a scan can last for anything between 15 and 50 minutes.

For some types of scan a small injection will be administered into a vein in your arm. This can help us gain further information. You should experience no side effects.



Will anything prevent me from having an MRI scan?

Yes: Under certain circumstances an MRI may not be suitable if you have any of the following:

Cardiac Pacemaker, Aneurysm Clips in your head, Cochlear (Inner ear) implants, Metallic fragments in your eyes, some old types of Heart Valves, some types of Aortic Stents, some implanted mechanical pumps and nerve stimulators, also if you are or think you may be pregnant.

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE APPLY TO YOU IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU CONTACT US ON 0191 282 3946 AND A MEMBER OF STAFF WILL BE ABLE TO ADVISE YOU FURTHER. OUR NEW MRI SCANNER HAS A HIGHER MAGNETIC FIELD THAN PREVIOUSLY AND WE WILL HAVE TO ESTABLISH THE NATURE OF ANY METALLIC IMPLANTS

What happens after my scan?

After your scan has finished the radiographer will not be able to tell you the result. If you have been scanned as an outpatient the result will be sent to the doctor who referred you for the scan.

