

WESTGATE DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

Westgate Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 6BE - Telephone 0191 2821008

MRI INFORMATION

What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a method of obtain highly detailed images of the inside of your body. A powerful magnet, radio-waves and a computer are used. Most of the human body is made up of water molecules, which consist of hydrogen and oxygen atoms. The interaction of the radio-waves with these hydrogen atoms causes them to release signals during the scan which are picked up and transferred to the computer. The computer puts all of the information together to produce the images. The technique does not use x-rays and there are **no** known side effects.

What must I do in preparation for my scan?

You are able to eat and drink normally and take any prescribed medicines as usual. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown depending on the area we are scanning.

We have lockers available for valuables such as watches, credit cards, jewellery etc. which cannot be taken into the scanner, but where possible these should be left at home.

Eye makeup should be removed as it interferes with the images and can cause slight irritation to the eyes.

Is there anything to prevent me from having a scan?

YES! There are certain circumstances when an M.R.I. scan would not be suitable. If you have any of the following:

- **Cardiac Pacemaker**
- **Cochlear Implant**
- **Biostimulators**
- **Shrapnel in the head/eye**
- **Some surgical clips on blood vessels in the brain**
- **Certain types of replacement heart valves**
- **Pregnancy**

If you have any of the above or any questions regarding your appointment please contact the department on 0191 2821008

What happens when I come for my scan?

ON ARRIVAL AT BUILDING 12 (see map on reverse) PROCEED THROUGH THE DIABETIC OUTPATIENT WAITING ROOM TURN LEFT INTO THE MRI WAITING AREA AND TAKE A SEAT, A RADIOGRAPHER WILL COME TO MEET YOU.

Just before your appointment a radiographer will speak to you about your procedure and answer any questions you may have. You will then change, if necessary, before being escorted through to the scan room.

While the images are being acquired the scanner makes a variety of noises which can be very loud. A music system allows you to listen to the radio/CD while you are in the scanner; you are invited to bring a CD of your choice with you. We are able to speak with you during the procedure.

How long will my scan take?

Most MRI examination will last for 20 to 30 minutes, but you should be aware that if you are having more than one area scanned examination times will increase.

There may be other unavoidable delays which may affect your appointment time, but you will be notified of this by the radiographer on your arrival.

Campus for Ageing & Vitality

Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Westgate Diagnostic MRI Centre

- Key to Building entry:**
- 1 Care of the Elderly
 - 2 Building 15
 - 3 Hadrian Clinic
 - 4 Westgate Diagnostic & Diabetes Centre
 - 5 Westgate Walk - In Centre
 - 6 Cherrymurn
 - 7 Biogerontology
 - 8 MRI/CARU

- Key to symbols:**
- Public Car Parking
 - Staff Car Parking
 - Public & Staff Parking
 - Information Point
 - Pay Machine



Alphabetical Key to Departments

- | | |
|--|---|
| 10 Akenside In-Patient & Day Unit | 05 Institute for Ageing & Health |
| 11 Belsay Day Unit | 13 Security Office |
| 03 Biogerontology & Edwardson Building | 07 MRI/CARU |
| 10 Castle Side In-Patient & Day Unit | 12 Newcastle Diabetes Centre |
| 10 Centre for Health of the Elderly | 15 Newcastle Nutrition |
| 15 Chapelainoy, Chapel | 15 MATT / Connect |
| 16 Cherrymurn Ward | 15 Post Room |
| 09 Craggside | 15 Social Workers Department |
| 15 Community Paediatric Services | 15 Wellbeing Centre / Occupational Health |
| 15 Community Midwives | 12 Westgate Diagnostic Centre / X-Ray |
| 14 Gait Lab | 15 Speech Therapy |
| 09 Gibside Unit | 57 Westgate Walk - In Centre |
| 06 Hadrian Clinic | 09 Wolfson Unit |
| Information Point | |