

MRI or magnetic resonance imaging

Head, neck, spine, limbs, chest, joints or blood vessels

Due to the preparations needed for the examination, we ask you to **arrive 15 minutes before the appointment time.**

The examination takes around 30-60 minutes.

Before the examination

- You can eat and drink as usual and take your daily medications
- Do not apply any medicated patches (e.g. nicotine patch, analgesic patch)
- Jewellery and piercings should be removed and it would be better if you leave them at home
- Eye makeup should not be applied before an examination of the head area
- Wear something light and comfortable that is easy to put on and remove

During the examination

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) allows us to obtain accurate anatomical images of the human body using a strong magnetic field. No ionising radiation or X-rays are used for the examination. The examination is painless and enables the diagnosis of several diseases. The examination is performed in a tunnel-like device, which is an open, ventilated and illuminated room at both ends.

Please note! If you have claustrophobia or a fear of confined spaces, talk to your doctor, who will prescribe a mild sedative if needed so that the procedure can be performed. If you are afraid, also inform the radiology technician performing the procedure.

During the examination, you will be monitored through a window and via a camera and in the case of discomfort, you can let the radiology technician know by pressing the safety button.

For the examination to be successful, you are required to keep still throughout the examination. To this end, we try to position you as comfortably as possible. If necessary for the examination, you may be given breathing instructions. The moments where you need to hold your breath last around 10 to 20 seconds at a time.

Since the MRI device produces loud noises throughout the examination, you will be given ear protection.

If necessary, an iodine-free contrast agent is injected into your vein during the study. Allergic reactions are very rare. The contrast agent is excreted by the kidneys. Thus, it is recommended that you drink more fluids than usual after the examination.

After the examination

You will receive the results of the examination from your physician. If you do not have an appointment or a call booked, contact the department that referred you for the examination.