

Having an MRI scan, Children's Services

Hello, I can tell you all about having an MRI scan.

What is an MRI scan?

The MRI is a scanner that uses a magnet that helps to take pictures inside your head or body. It can be quite exciting or quite scary having an MRI scan. It can be noisy but having an MRI scan doesn't hurt.

Where will I have my MRI scan?

You can have your scan in the Atkinson Morley Wing at St Georges Hospital. When you get there you go to the Imaging department (MRI). There is a waiting room with some toys to play with and a nurse to look after you.

Who will I meet?

You will meet a Nurse and a Radiographer (a radiographer is a scan specialist). They will ask you some questions about how you are feeling. They will also have some questions for your parents to answer.

How do I get ready for the MRI scan?

Because it uses a big magnet you have to take off any metal like belts and hair clips.

You then will be asked to put your valuables (keys, purse, mobile phone, money) into a locker to keep them safe. You can wear your own clothes as long as they haven't got any metal on them.

You then go into a big room with the scanner in it. You can take a special toy with you as long it hasn't any metal in or on it.

What happens during the scan?

You will have to lie on the bed and the radiographer will help you get comfortable. The scanner is very noisy – it makes sounds like knocking, beeping, and drilling. This means you have to wear head-phones or ear plugs to help reduce the sounds of the scanner. The noises can sometimes make you jump so head-phones are great to wear.

Then you are moved into the scanner and you can see around using the little mirror. Your Mum/Dad or some one like me can stay with you and hold your hand or leg.

The bed can move in and out of the scanner - it all depends on the area of your body they want the pictures of. When you are in the scanner you have to be very still so your pictures don't look fuzzy. It might help if you pretend that it's a long game of musical statues or you are in a space rocket, lying on a beach or at home in your bed.

This can take some time - about 30 to 40 minutes.

Can I talk to anyone?

The radiographer gives you a buzzer to press if you need to speak to them. You can talk to your Mum/Dad between the noises as long as you keep still.

What happens afterwards?

The Radiographer will tell you when you can move and the pictures are all finished. Then you can go home or back to the ward. The Doctors will let you know about your pictures on the ward or at your next appointment.

The Radiographer will give you a certificate for having an MRI scan. It shows that you are very brave and have stayed very still.

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please ask me or any of the nurses or doctors on the ward. If you are coming from home to have your scan you can ask any questions on the day. You can telephone me on 020 8725 0331.

Bye for now ,
The Play Team

St George's Healthcare NHS Trust

St George's Hospital

Blackshaw Road

London

SW17 0QT

Tel: 020 8672 1255

Website: www.stgeorges.nhs.uk



PED/HAM/01

Published: July 2014

Review: July 2016