

Breast MRI

Patient Information Sheet No. MR 2

Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

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Please see our website or the back of this form for more branch details.

Patient Preparation:

Menstrual Cycle

- Scan to be performed between day 7 and 15

HRT

- Must cease HRT at least 60 days before scan

Duration of Examination

25 - 30 minutes.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- All previous relevant imaging
- Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested. If examination is not covered by Medicare, full payment on the day is required.

For more detailed information on this procedure please call 8239 0944 or visit our website.

www.bensonradiology.com.au

What is Breast MRI?

MRI uses a powerful magnetic field, radio frequency pulses and computer technology to produce images of the breasts and surrounding structures. The images can be reviewed on a computer monitor, printed or copied to CD. MRI does not use ionising radiation (x-rays). MRI of the breast offers valuable information about many breast conditions that cannot be obtained by other imaging modalities such as mammography or ultrasound.

What are its common uses?

Breast MRI is not a replacement for mammography or ultrasound imaging. It is used as a supplemental tool for the detection or staging of breast cancer.

MRI of the breast is performed to

- Assess size and location of tumour(s), especially prior to conservation surgery
- Identify early breast cancer not detected by other imaging modalities, especially in women with dense breast tissue and those at high risk for the disease
- Evaluate abnormalities detected by mammography or ultrasound
- Distinguish between scar tissue and recurrent tumour
- Assess the effect of chemotherapy
- Determine the integrity of breast implants

Pre-scan procedure:

On arrival for your appointment, you will be given a safety questionnaire to complete. This is to ensure it is safe for you to have the scan. People with cardiac pacemakers cannot have an MRI due to the strong magnetic field. Other exclusions include some ear implants, brain aneurysm clips and other medically implanted devices. We have a detailed database of various medically implanted devices which we refer to when checking a patient's compatibility with MRI.

Patients with metallic foreign bodies in their eyes, through grinding/welding, are excluded from MRI. You may be required to have a screening x-ray to exclude metal in your eyes.

What will happen during the examination?

Due to the safety aspects involved with strong magnetic fields and the sensitive nature of the technology, you will be asked to change into a gown and remove your watch and certain jewellery. Underwear below the waist may be worn. All valuables may be safely stored in a locker which is provided for you.

Breast MRI requires an injection of gadolinium contrast into the bloodstream. Before you are positioned on the MRI examination table, an intravenous (IV) line will be inserted into a vein in your arm or hand. Gadolinium is an extremely well tolerated contrast material. There is no relationship between gadolinium and other forms of x-ray dyes. The chance of any significant allergic reaction to gadolinium is extremely rare - approximately 1 in 500,000. We have the equipment and trained staff required to respond to any allergic reaction on site if one was to occur.

Prior to being placed inside the MRI scanner, you will be positioned on your stomach with your breasts hanging freely into the breast coil which is the signal receiver that works with the MRI system to create the images.

The MRI scanner makes a loud noise during scanning and you will be given earplugs to wear. You will also be given a call buzzer which may be used to gain the attention of the MRI radiographer at any time during the scan.

Other Considerations:

Breast MRI is especially sensitive to motion. You will be asked to remain as still as possible during the scan. The images obtained before the injection of the gadolinium contrast are subtracted from the images obtained after the injection. If there is any movement between the pre and post contrast scans, the images may not subtract precisely degrading the image quality.

After the examination:

The MRI Radiographer will assist you from the examination table and the IV line will be removed. You will not be able to wait for your results due to the time required to process, evaluate and report the images. The report, together with the images, will be forwarded to your doctor, or alternatively, they may be collected by you the next day.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our branches or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.