

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (English)

(MRI)

You have been scheduled to have an MRI examination. This examination will take place in the radiology department of VU University Medical Center.

Please report to:

- the outpatient clinic building, 4th floor, reception area U
- the hospital building, 2nd floor, location 2 A 39.

When are you not eligible?

In this folder you will find an insert which includes a questionnaire. Please read the information carefully and answer the questions. Take the insert sheet with you when you come for the MRI examination. More information about safety during MRI examinations can be found at www.MRIsafety.com

MRI

MRI or magnetic resonance imaging is the newest way to see what is happening inside your body. Using MRI, the radiologist can visualize what is happening in your body without needing an invasive procedure and without using X-rays.

MRI provides information that cannot otherwise be obtained. The examination is painless and there are no after or side effects.

How does MRI work?

MRI uses magnetic fields and radio waves. During the examination, you will be placed in a magnetic field. The hydrogen atoms in your body focus in this field and therefore they react to the radio signals from the MRI system. The hydrogen atoms therefore become small transmitters whose signals can be collected, collated and, via a computer, converted into an image of the examined body parts.

Preparation

In general you do not need to have a special diet or follow special guidelines for an MRI examination. If that does prove to be necessary, you will be told in advance.

Because the examination is disturbed or can be dangerous in the presence of metal objects, you may not bring them into the examination area. Eye make-up contains metal. We ask you, if you are to undergo an examination of the head, not to use eye make-up before this examination. You can leave your belongings in a locked dressing room.

Under no circumstances should you take the following items into the magnetic space:

- passes which have a magnetic code (such as debit cards and credit cards) these may become unusable
- coins (change)
- jewelery
- watches
- cufflinks
- hearing aids
- other metal objects.

The examination

The MRI exam takes place in a room that is shielded against radio waves from outside. You lie on an examination table which slides into the magnet of the machine during the examination.

This is not a closed space. If you are claustrophobic or cannot tolerate small spaces, please contact your physician. It is important that you relax during the examination.

Try to remain as calm as possible, because movements have a negative effect on the results.

During the examination, you feel absolutely nothing. The monotonous sound you hear comes from switching the radio coils. These are normal sounds with an MRI examination.

The duration of the MRI examination depends on the information that the physician wants to have. The examination may therefore take between half an hour and an hour. During the examination, it is sometimes possible to listen to music. You may, if you want, bring your own CD.

For the visualisation of certain organs, it is necessary to use a contrast fluid. If this is necessary, an IV drip will be inserted through which the contrast fluid is administered during the examination. Apart from the puncture, you will not feel the injected fluid at all.

Contrast fluid

The contrast fl used in an MRI has been used for many years to improve the results of the examination. It is a very safe substance, which only very rarely produces side effects. If previously, during the administration of a contrast fluid, you suffered complications which required treatment, you will need to take medication prior to the MRI examination. Another drug will then be administered shortly before the examination. This medication can affect your ability to drive. Please note that you may not drive after the examination. For that reason, make sure to arrange transportation.

If, in a previous examination, a complication has occurred as described above, and if this was not discussed with you when the appointment was made, you must contact your attending physician.

Questions

For any questions you may have, please contact your attending physician and the MRI unit physician of the VU University Medical Center radiology department. You may also always call.

Department of Radiology, MRI

Outpatient clinic, 4th floor, reception area U

in the hospital building, 2nd floor, 2A39 location Telephone (020) 444 0695.