



radiology | SA

Locations and opening hours



The Memorial Hospital rooms (Sir Edwin Smith Avenue, North Adelaide, **(08) 8402 0282**) are open from 8.00am to 8.00pm on weekdays. Ticket parking is available on-street on Sir Edwin Smith Avenue, as well as on Pennington Terrace. There is a parking station off Kermode Street.

Patient Information Handout

MRI

Phone 08 8402 0200

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What is an MRI Scan?

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is a form of imaging which uses a large magnet and radio waves. There is no X-ray radiation.

How is an MRI Scan Performed?

A radiographer will perform the examination, they will position you on a MRI table. The Radiologist (a doctor) will supervise and report on the images.

Depending on the body part scanned a separate 'coil' maybe placed on the region to be imaged before you are moved into the open tunnel. The MRI scanner makes a loud knocking sound while the imaging occurs and you will be given earplugs or earphones. You may feel quite warm as a normal response to the scan.

An injection of MRI contrast maybe required within an arm vein depending on the type of scan. This decision will be made by the MRI radiologist reporting the images. MRI contrast reactions are rare.

Are there any risks?

People who have a cardiac pacemaker cannot have an MRI due to the strong magnetic field. Some ear implants (cochlear implants), aneurysms clips, artificial heart valves or stents maybe contraindicated and further details of the type or implanted medical devices maybe required from your doctor.

You will fill out a safety questionnaire form to ensure it is safe for you to have the scan – further information maybe required if you have implanted medical devices or if you have ever been hit in the eye or face with metal shavings.

Preparation needed prior to the examination

As the scanner produces a very strong magnetic field, no metallic objects or electronic/mechanical devices can enter the imaging room. You may also get quite warm within the scanner. It would be worthwhile for you to remember this when deciding what to wear for your appointment.

A few specific points to note:

Clothing – something lightweight and comfortable, avoid metal buttons, hooks and straps.

Jewellery – watches and metal jewellery will have to be removed.

Hair and make up – avoid any metal in clips or bands. Some mascaras are metallic based and are best avoided. They will not cause ill-effects but can interfere with image quality.

Dental – dentures may need to be removed prior to scanning.

The MRI scanner is a long open but quite narrow tunnel. Many people with mild claustrophobia tolerate the scan quite well, however if you are concerned you should discuss this with your referring doctor who may suggest you take an anxiety-relieving medication beforehand. If so, please take it according to your doctor's instructions.

HEAD SCAN

No eye makeup

ABDOMEN/ MRCP

No food, drink or caffeine 4 hours prior to the examination.

How long will the scan take?

Most examinations will take 15-30 minutes for each body part being examined.