



Having a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scan with a Cardiac Device in Situ

Why have I been given this leaflet?

You have been referred for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan of your heart to provide further diagnostic information.

What is an MRI scan?

An MRI scan is a non-invasive test that uses an MRI machine to create magnetic and radio waves to show detailed pictures of your organs and vessels.

Can I have an MRI scan if I have a pacemaker or ICD in situ?

With most modern pacemakers and ICDs you can have an MRI scan, but the make and model of your device and the leads attached must be checked prior to a scan being booked. The referral for the scan is sent over to the Cardiology Department and one of the Cardiac Physiologists will let the MRI Department know whether the scan can take place or not, or if there are certain conditions under which it can take place.

What happens at the time of the MRI scan?

If it is decided that you can have an MRI scan then two of the cardiac physiologists will come down to the MRI department at the time of your scan. Your device will be checked and programmed to an appropriate way of working. If you have an ICD in situ then the defibrillator function of the ICD will be turned off during the scan to avoid any interference from the scanning machine. The physiologists will stay down in the department during the scan, and then your device will be re checked and reprogrammed back to normal once the scan has finished.

What happens after the scan?

Your device will be checked three months after the scan either in clinic or through your home monitoring box. After that it will go back to your normal follow up appointments.



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If you require further information, please contact the cardiac device clinic on:

Device queries/ symptoms: 01793 604257, Monday – Friday 09:00 – 17:00

Further information can be obtained from the British Heart Foundation website

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/tests/mri-scans>

Picture courtesy of the NHS website: Overview of an MRI scan

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mri-scan/>



Smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

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