

# MRI Patients Please Read



This information is for patients of Halton Healthcare who are to undergo a test known as an **MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan**.

An MRI scanner uses a powerful magnet, and radio waves to produce superbly detailed views of the human body, particularly of the soft tissues, such as the brain, spinal cord and muscles. **MRI does not use x-rays/radiation**. Though some discomfort may occur from having to lay still, usually on the back, MRI is otherwise a painless procedure and typically takes approximately 20-60 minutes to perform.

A high field magnet as used in MRI may have serious consequences in certain patients, and as such, we need to review your MRI Screening EVERY VISIT. If you do not understand a question, please do not hesitate to ask our technologist.

**Some examination require the injection of contrast or “dye”**, the specific contrast agent used is named Gadovist®, or commonly named “Gadolinium”.

Injections of Gadolinium are routinely given in many MRI studies to enable radiologists (MRI specialists) to more optimally diagnose specific areas such as the brain, arteries, kidneys, liver and other organs.

Please inform the staff if you see a Kidney Specialist (Nephrologist), or have any history of kidney disease or dialysis, as these conditions may affect whether you can receive the contrast dye. Please inform us if you have had any problems with previous injections of contrast, or if you have any drug allergies, food allergies, asthma or hay fever.

To receive the dye will require the insertion of an IV needle in your hand or arm.

The vast majority of people receive the dye without complication. If reactions occur they are very rare, usually mild with symptoms which may include nausea, vomiting, itching and hives. These symptoms usually pass without treatment or if required respond quickly to medication.

More severe reactions can occur, 1 in 100,000- including loss of blood pressure and irregularities of the heart beat. Should there be any complications as noted above, they will be treated as required.

The medical staff in charge of your case are aware of the above risks and possible complications. In their opinion, the information that is to be gained from the injected dye will be beneficial in their attempt to analyze your study.

If you have any further questions regarding the contrast examination that have not been answered by the technologist or nurse, the Radiologist can give further explanation. Technologists cannot show images or relay ANY information regarding your results. You are responsible to follow up with your Physician for results.

Our healthy workplace does not tolerate ANY kind of verbal abuse or unacceptable behavior towards staff. We appreciate your co-operation and thank you for letting us be part of your care.