

- Please read this explanation sheet before your appointment
- You will be asked to sign a MRI Safety Checklist and Screening form prior to your appointment

Your doctor has requested we perform an MRI examination. This procedure will take place in the Radiology Department.

In order to get the most information from the scan it is sometimes necessary to inject a colourless dye (also called 'contrast media') into a vein in your arm. In some circumstances we will know this is required before the scan is started. Occasionally, it is not possible to know this until after the first set of images have been taken. Having the dye injected is similar to having a blood test taken.

The contrast media contains the element Gadolinium.

This is the safest and best tolerated agent available. In the vast majority of cases there is no discomfort or side effects from the injection. Some people have unpredictable allergic type reactions to the contrast media. Minor reactions include a skin rash, nausea, vomiting. These are temporary and usually need no special treatment.

Rarely serious reactions can occur. Very rarely these can be life threatening in nature. Trained professionals, emergency equipment and drugs are always available for prompt treatment in response to this type of reaction.

Please inform MRI staff if you have chronic renal failure or are on dialysis as there is some recent evidence that this may increase the risk of a specific rare complication.

Your doctor is aware of the possibility of reactions to contrast media and feels that the potential benefits outweigh the low risk.

Please inform us if you:

- Have previously reacted to the intravenous contrast medium.
- Are pregnant or breast feeding

Any questions relating to your MRI scan:

Contact us

Phone: (04) 806 2193

Hours: 8:30 am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

Fax: (04) 806 0301

Email: radiology.admin@ccdhb.org.nz