

## MRI Patient's Guide

You have been referred for an MRI scan at CISC, located at the University of Sussex, Falmer Campus.

### What is an MRI scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an imaging technique that, through a combination of magnetic fields and radio frequencies, provides information about the anatomy and function of your body.

### When your appointment is made we will need to know if any of the following applies to you:

- Pregnancy
- Difficulty tolerating previous MRI or CT Scans due to claustrophobia
- Difficulty lying flat
- Kidney disease
- Epilepsy
- Permanent cosmetics or tattoos

## Contraindications

Because the MRI uses strong magnetic fields to obtain images, some metal objects in your body could cause injury, or potentially malfunction, such as:

- Pacemaker or any implanted defibrillator
- Neurostimulator
- Aneurysm clip
- Metal implants.
- Implanted drug infusion device
- Foreign metal objects, especially if in or near the eye
- Shrapnel or bullet wounds
- Dentures/teeth with magnetic keepers
- Other implants that involve magnets
- Medication patch

## Arriving for your Scan

- **Travel and parking instructions** can be downloaded from the website: [www.bsms.ac.uk/research/cisc/information-for-patients/](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/research/cisc/information-for-patients/)
- If you are in need of assistance please ask at *CISC reception*.
- Please be aware that if you are wearing heavy make-up you may be required to remove it.

## The Procedure

- When you arrive you will be asked to fill in a safety questionnaire to ensure it is appropriate for you to have an MRI scan.
- A radiographer will then escort you to an interview room and perform a short interview.
- You will be asked to remove any metallic objects, **especially loose objects in your pockets**, but also any clothing and jewellery and leave them in a locker provided for your convenience.
- If it has been deemed appropriate by the doctor, a small needle will be inserted into a vein in your arm for the purpose of contrast injection during the scan. You will be advised of the need for this, and any associated risks, on the day.
- You will then be taken into the scan room, where you will lie on your back and set up for the scan. You will be either feet first or head first depending on the area of your body being scanned.
- Due to the noise produced by the machine you will be provided with ear protectors and a call bell to attract attention.
- The scan will take 25-60 minutes depending on the type of scan.
- It is very important that you keep very still during the entire scan as movement can cause image degradation.
- You will be able to speak to the radiographer between scans.

## After your scan

- You will be able to eat, drink and resume normal activities after your scan.
- If you have had an injection of contrast, it may be necessary to wait for a short time in the department to ensure you have experienced no side effects.
- You will be provided with a copy of your scan on a CD for your records.

## Risks

There are *no known side effects* associated with MRI imaging. There is no radiation involved. The use of contrast media has had reported side effects in a small number of patients (less than 1 in a 1000). These include:

- Mild headache
- Light headedness
- Itchy skin
- Discomfort at the injection site
- Nausea
- Vomiting

## Results

A report will be issued to your referring consultant within 1 week.

## Self-Funded Patients

If you are paying for your MRI scan with your own funds, there are now three options available for payment:

1. Debit / Credit card
2. Cheque
3. BACS payment

Please call Nigel Day on 01444 483 649 to discuss which options are most convenient for you

## Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your appointment please contact us on the appropriate number (*see front page*).

## **MRI: Patient Information**



**University of Sussex, Falmer, BN1 9RR**

## **Contact Information**

**CISC: 01273 876720**

[www.bsms.ac.uk/cisc/](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/cisc/)

email: [cisc@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:cisc@bsms.ac.uk)

**Opening hours 8.30-17.00**

**Please read the following carefully as it contains important information regarding your scan**