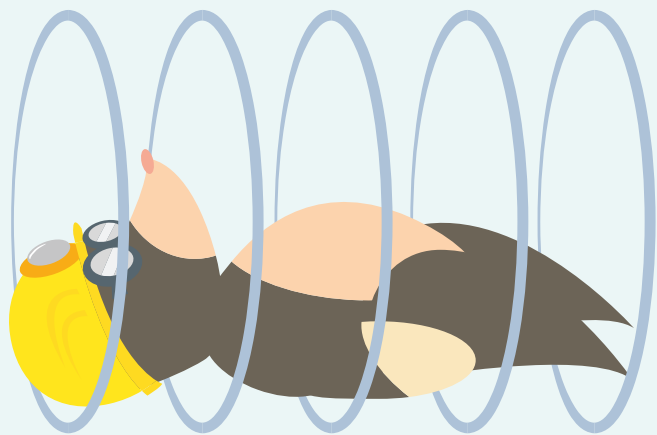




An MRI scan usually takes between 10 minutes and an hour.

For some MRI scans you might need to be given a special dye called contrast through a little injection into the back of your hand. The dye shows up as a different colour on the scan pictures.

The scans will be studied by a Radiologist; this is a doctor specially trained in looking at MRI scans. The results of your scan will then be sent to your consultant.

If you have any questions or are worried about having an MRI scan, just ask your consultant or the MRI team to help.



Spire Children and Young
People's Service

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) For Children

Looking inside you – Explained by Mr Mole

The information contained in this leaflet is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice nor is it intended to be for medical diagnosis or treatment.



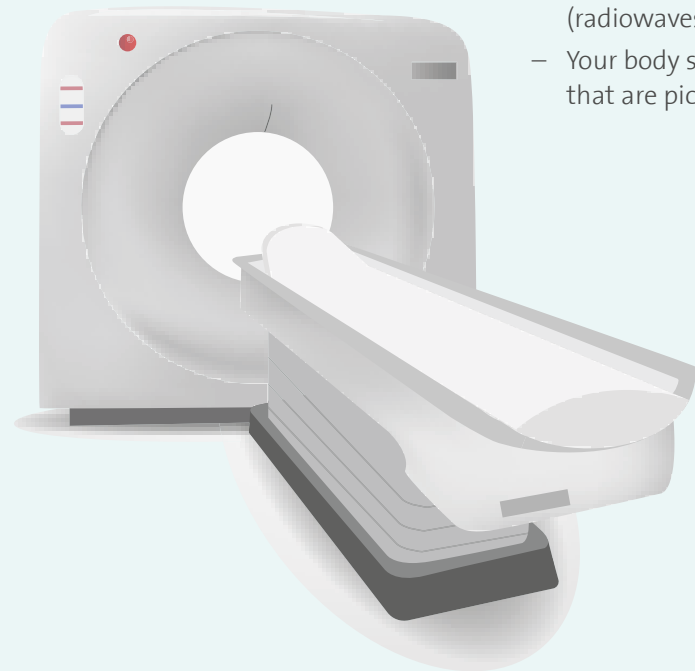
Looking after you.

Hi there I'm Mr Mole
I am here to tell you all about
your MRI scan.



An MRI scan looks inside your body and takes detailed pictures for your doctor to have a look at. It does not use radiation, but a very large magnet to make these pictures.

This is a picture of an MRI scanner:



The MRI scanner

- The scanner is a powerful magnet. It looks like a short tunnel, open at both ends, with a bed that slides in and out
- A 'coil' (a special radio aerial) will be placed on or around the part of your body we want to scan
- The scanner sends a special message (radiowaves) into your body
- Your body sends tiny messages back that are picked up by the coil

The computer puts all the pictures in order and lets us see what your body and head look like on the inside.



Is it magic or what?

Before your appointment you will meet a member of the MRI team who will chat to you about your scan.

This will include a Radiographer who is specially trained to take MRI pictures.

You and your parent or carer will be asked lots of questions from a safety checklist to make sure it is safe for you to have an MRI scan.

You will need to take off any metal items such as watches, rings, earrings, necklaces, glasses and hearing aids, and check that you have nothing in your pockets.

We will have a locker ready for you to put your belongings in. You might like to bring your pyjamas to change into for your scan.

You can also bring a teddy bear (which has no metal on it or inside it) to go in the scanner with you.

When you are ready for your scan you will lie on the bed with your arms by your sides. We will make sure you are comfortable and we can give you some cushions and a blanket.

The bed slides gently into the scanner tunnel until the part of your body to be scanned is in the middle of the magnet. The tunnel is light and airy and your parent or carer can stay with you the whole time.

An MRI scan
will not hurt.

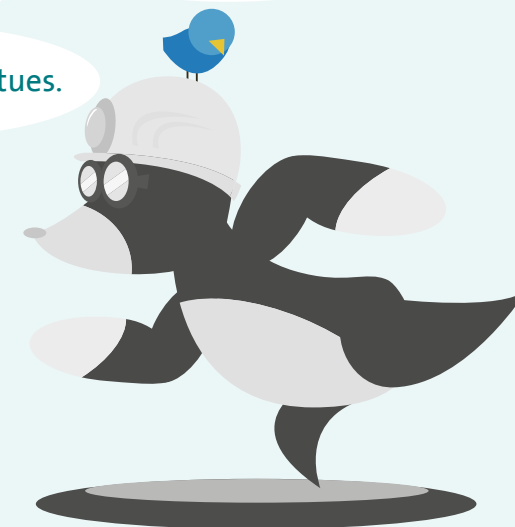


You will be given a buzzer and either you or your parent or carer can hold this during the scan. If you feel cold or uncomfortable or need to speak to a Radiographer you can press this buzzer. It is important that you keep all of your body very still. If you move it will make the pictures blurry and the scan might have to be done again.

How good are you at
keeping still?

Look at my feet!

It's like playing statues.



There are no moving parts, the MRI scanner makes lots of different funny noises. To begin with you'll hear a little chirping noise, and then when the scan starts you'll hear lots of humming, clicking, clunking, whirring and beeping noises.

I think it sounds like a motorbike – listen carefully and decide what you think it sounds like. As it is noisy you and your adult will be given some earplugs or headphones.

An MRI scan usually takes between 10 minutes to 1 hour. Sometimes it might take longer, but we will let you know how long you will be before we start, although it can take a bit longer if you need to have an injection during the scan. The computer pictures are then checked to make sure you have not moved during the scan.

