

MRI of the small bowel

Before the scan

Please complete the Preliminary Information Form carefully and bring it with you to your scan appointment.

Your appointment lasts about 1.5–3 hours; this includes preliminary preparations. However, you should reserve about 4 hours for your hospital visit.

Getting ready for the scan

If you are on iron supplements, stop taking them 5 days before the scan.

Do not eat or drink anything for 4 hours before the scan. You may take your regular medications with a little water. Do not take iron tablets, however.

If you have a transdermal medication patch, change it on the day of the scan. Remove the old patch before the scan. Apply a new patch after the scan. However, an HRT (hormone replacement therapy) patch may be kept in place during the scan.

If you have a sensor that measures glucose in interstitial fluid, remove it for the duration of the scan.

Remove jewellery and piercings.

Wear or bring along long pants and a shirt that contain no metal, i.e. no metal zips, fasteners or similar.

You may borrow clothes if necessary from the imaging unit.

If you develop a fever, cancel your appointment!

Contact the referring outpatient clinic or ward in case you need sedative premedication.

We do not have sedatives in our unit.

How the scan is done

Before the scan, you will be given 1.2 litres of Mannitol solution to drink.

It has a sweet taste.

Drink the solution, a little at a time, every five minutes. Drink the entire amount.

The radiographer will give you more detailed instructions when you come in for your scan.

The scan starts about 60 minutes after you started drinking the solution.

The scan does not use X-rays.

During the scan, you will be in an open, tunnel-like device.

The radiographer will help you find position that is as comfortable as possible.

During the scan, it is important that you lie absolutely still.

The scan is painless.

You will be given ear protectors

because the scanner makes a loud noise. You can listen to the radio if you wish.

The radiographer will be in the next room during the scan to monitor how you are doing.

If you have someone accompany you, they can be present in the MRI scanner room.

The person accompanying you must not have any contraindications for MRI. See the Preliminary Information Form for more information.

During the scan, you may be given a magnetic contrast medium into a vein. It does not contain iodine.

The contrast medium makes it easier to interpret the MRI images as it helps to differentiate between different tissues. The contrast medium is eliminated from your body through urine.

After the scan

You were given Mannitol solution to drink before the scan.

As it is not absorbed by the bowel, it causes increased bowel movements and enhances stool passage.

You will get the scan results from the referring outpatient clinic or ward.

Other considerations

There is no separate fee for the scan; it is included in the outpatient clinic fee.

If you are unable to attend your scheduled scan appointment, please cancel your appointment by 12 noon the day before. A penalty fee will be charged for a missed appointment not cancelled in advance.

Contact information

If you have any questions about the MRI scan or if you want to cancel your appointment, please call us:

Satasairaala Diagnostic Imaging,
tel. 044 707 9202.

Phone hours:

Monday to Thursday 8 am–2 pm,
Friday 8 am–1.30 pm.