

What happens after the MRI scan?

After the session is finished, the Radiographer will take you out of the scanner. You can then collect your belongings and leave.

The results will not be available immediately after the scan as it is analysed at a later date.



York Neuroimaging Centre
THE UNIVERSITY *of* York

MRI
(Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

INFORMATION

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What is MRI?

MRI is short for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. MRI uses magnetic fields and radio waves to obtain highly detailed images of any part of the body such as the brain.

MRI is a very safe procedure which poses no direct known health risk.

Can I have a MRI scan?

MRI scans take place in a strong magnetic field. Therefore no metallic items can be taken into the scanner since they will get attracted by the magnet. They may also get heated up by the radio waves.

For the same reason, people with metallic implants cannot be scanned. Such metal items include any of the following: Cardiac pacemakers, cochlear implants, metallic aneurysm clips, metallic fragments in the eye, certain types of bio-mechanical implants and fixed dental braces. If in doubt please contact the Neuroimaging Centre before your scan.

If you are pregnant or believe you could be pregnant, please contact the Neuroimaging Centre before your scan.

How do I prepare for a MRI scan?

You will be asked to **leave ANY metallic objects** (including coins, keys, jewellery, mobile phones, watches and credit cards) in the lockers provided.

Please wear loose, comfortable clothing. You may be asked to change into clothing provided by the imaging centre.

Glasses cannot be worn in MRI. Contact lenses are ok.

Females are advised to wear bras with no metallic elements. Sport bras are normally ok.

Do not wear any make-up on the day of your scan as this may cause interference.

A scan will not be performed until you have fully completed a Screening Questionnaire and Consent form

What happens in the MRI scan room?

The radiographer will position you into the scanner and ask you to lie down on a comfortable bed. The scanning process generates intermittent loud buzzing / tapping noises. You will wear ear-plugs or sound-attenuating headphones.

Cushions or supports may be used to make you more comfortable e.g. under your knees. Blankets are available if needed.

A helmet will be placed over your head. You will then be moved into the scanner so that your head is positioned in the centre of the magnet.

The radiographer will then leave the room. The radiographer / researcher can see you and hear you throughout the procedure. If you have any concerns, let them know. You will be given an alarm that you can press if you need assistance.

What should I do during the MRI scan?

It is very important that you **keep your head as still as possible** during the scan as movement may introduce artifacts.

In some scans called *functional MRI scans*, you may be shown pictures on a screen, or given headphones to listen to sounds, or a little plastic cuff may be placed on your finger. Sometimes you may be asked to perform a task e.g. press a button when you see a certain picture on the screen.

You will be given instructions on what to do before starting the task.

How long will it take?

The procedure varies for each study. An MRI scan lasts around 15 minutes. An fMRI scan typically takes 30-40 minutes. The radiographer / researcher will tell you how long your scan will last.