

Guide to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

Patient information - Christchurch Hospital Radiology

What is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a painless and harmless way to look inside your body and produce images without using X-Rays.

MRI scanners use strong magnetic fields and radio waves to form images of the body. This provides your doctor with information that is not available from conventional x-rays.



What will the MRI examination involve?

You will be comfortably positioned on the scanner bed. To get the best pictures **keeping still** is important.

You will be given earplugs to reduce the sound MRI makes.

The Technologist will talk to you throughout the examination.

MRI will take between 10-60 minutes depending on the exam requested by your doctor.

Some MRI examinations require an intravenous injection of contrast to help make a diagnosis.

What preparations will be required?

Depending on your exam you may be asked to change into a gown. You will also be asked to remove anything metallic such as watches, coins, hearing aids and hair clips. Eye make-up should also be removed.

If you have dental fillings or other dental fixtures, the MRI scan can still be carried out. It is not usually necessary to remove wedding rings.

If you wish to bring along a CD or MP3 player we may be able to play this during your scan.

Please contact MRI if you have any of the following:

- Cardiac Devices (such as pacemakers).
- Certain metallic surgical clips within your head.
- Metallic heart valves.
- Inner ear implants.
- Known metal fragments within your eye.
- Neuro-electrical stimulators.
- If you are in the first three months of pregnancy

On very rare occasions, some people may feel anxious in small spaces. We are happy to discuss this with you. Our scanners are patient friendly, open at both ends, well lit and with the call bell you are able to contact the operator throughout your scan.

Please inform the Technologists if you require a support person to accompany you during your scan. They will also be required to be checked so they are safe to be near the scanner.

How will I receive the results?

A Consultant Radiologist will interpret your MRI scan and the results will be sent to your clinical team and GP.

Your Appointment

Please refer to the enclosed letter for your appointment details and complete the consent form before arriving at the Radiology Department.

If you cannot attend on the date and time stated, please contact us as soon as possible and we will do our best to make alternative arrangements.

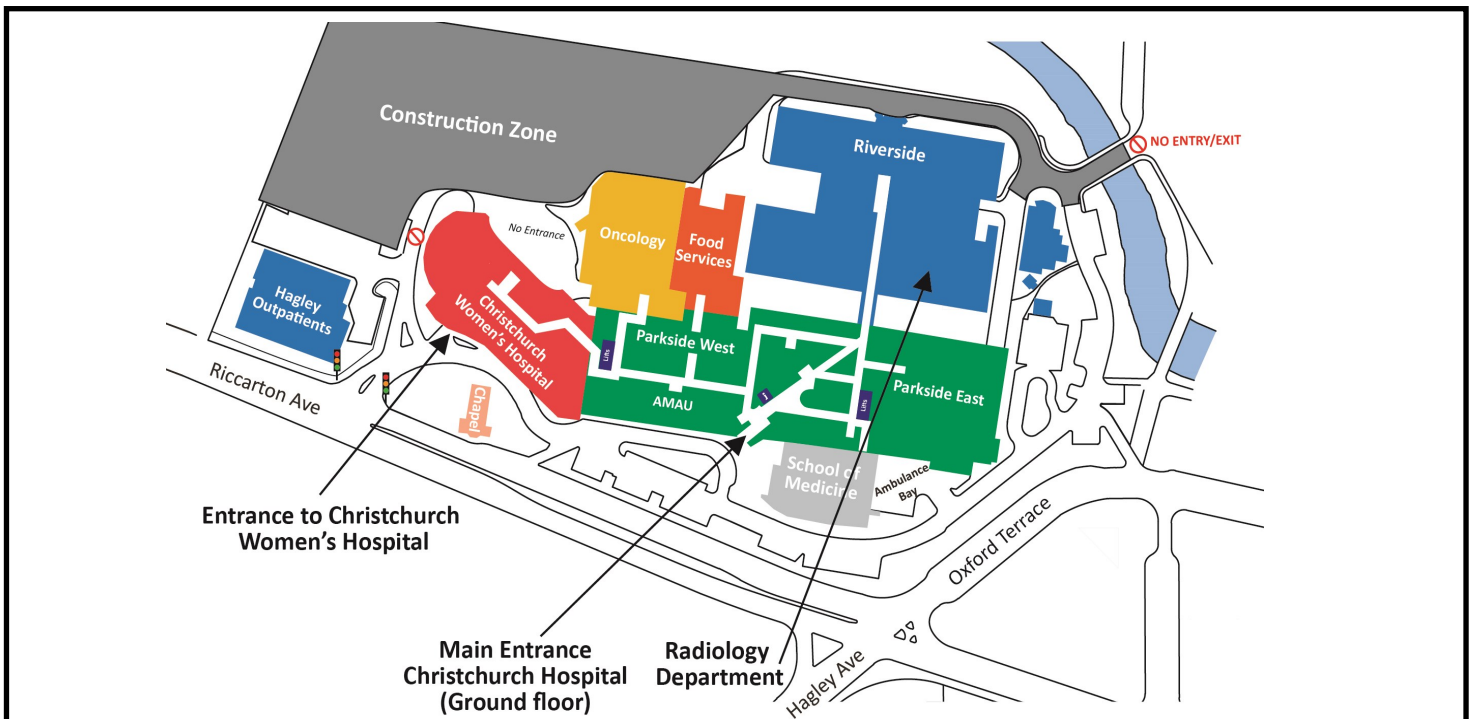
Should you have any queries, please contact us on (03) 378-6126.

Important

If you have mobility limitations or issues please contact the Radiology Department several days prior to your appointment. We will ensure your needs will be accommodated.

For more information about:

- your health and medication, go to www.healthinfo.org.nz
- hospital and specialist services, go to www.cdhb.health.nz



1. Enter through the Main Entrance of Christchurch Hospital
2. You will then be in the reception area
3. Follow signage through to the Riverside block
4. Take the lifts or stairs up to Level 1

Volunteers are available to help you – they are in the reception area.

Radiology Department
1st Floor Riverside
Christchurch Hospital
Telephone: (03) 364 0760
Facsimile: (03) 364 1039