

Small Bowel MRI – Information for patients

The leaflet contains information on how to prepare for your small bowel MRI scan and what to expect when you attend for your appointment. It may not answer all your questions, so please contact the number on your appointment letter if you have any queries.

It is **important that you read all the information carefully**, even if you have had previous MRI scans.

What is a Small Bowel MRI?

MRI means Magnetic Resonance Imaging. It uses a powerful magnet, radiofrequency waves and a computer to take detailed images and will examine your small bowel without using X-Rays. Your MRI scan will be performed by a radiographer. The examination is painless, and it is a very safe procedure with no known side effects from being exposed to the magnetic field or radiofrequency waves. However there are risks if anything magnetic or metallic enters the scan room. To avoid this a detailed safety checklist is carried out before the scan.

Safety Notice

Please note there can be a risk in entering a strong magnetic field.

If any of the following apply to you, you must contact the imaging department:

- If you have a heart pacemaker or an implanted cardiac device
- If you have aneurysm clips
- If you have a cochlear implant
- If you have ever had any injuries to your eyes or any part of your body involving metal fragments/bullets/shrapnel
- If you have a drug infusion pump or other external electronic or magnetic device attached to your body
- If you are pregnant

Failure to contact the department about any of the above can result in a substantial delay and/or an unnecessary trip to the hospital.

How long will it take?

You may be in the department for up to 2 hours. Prior to the scan, you will be required to drink some liquid for approximately 45 minutes. The scan takes 30-45 minutes.

We endeavour to keep to appointment times; however, you may be delayed if an emergency arises. You will be kept informed of the estimated delay time.

How do I prepare for the MRI scan?

- Please phone the MRI department to **confirm your appointment**. When you phone to confirm your appointment the receptionist will ask you some safety questions about any surgery or metal injuries you may have had in your lifetime, please answer these honestly and as accurately as you can.
- You should have **nothing to eat or drink for 4 hours** before the appointment, sips of water can be taken with medication. There is no need to stop medication for the scan.
- If you are diabetic and require further information, please ring the MRI department.
- If you wear a subdermal glucose monitor this will need to be removed before the scan. Please bring a replacement monitor with you.
- If you have had bowel surgery and have a stoma, please bring a spare stoma bag with you.
- Drug patches/pain relief patches may need to be removed. Please bring a replacement with you for after your scan.
- You may need to remove any jewellery, body piercings, hair extensions and other metallic or magnetic items including makeup (mascara and eye liner contain iron). Please do this before attending for your scan if possible. We may not be able to perform the scan if you cannot remove these items.
- You can bring a friend or relative with you, but we do not routinely allow friends or relatives into the scan room during the MRI examination. You will remain responsible for any dependants (such as young children) accompanying you to your appointment. Staff will not be able to look after them while you have your scan.

What happens when you arrive at the MRI reception?

- Once you have checked in at MRI reception you will be greeted by a radiographer who specialises in MRI scans. Your radiographer will go through a safety checklist. This is to ensure nothing magnetic or metallic will enter the scan room. A copy of this check list should be attached to your appointment letter, please fill it in with as much information as possible and bring it with you on the day.
- You will be given a drink consisting of Mannitol and water (approximately 1.5L) to take over a period of 30-45 minutes. This fluid makes the images of the small bowel clearer during the scan.
- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown. Your valuables will be placed in a locker while you have your scan.
- A radiographer/radiology assistant will insert a small needle called a cannula into your arm.

Asking for your consent

The radiographer will ask you if you are happy for the scan to go ahead. This is called verbal consent. If you do not wish to have the scan or are undecided, please tell the radiographer.

Students/trainees may be present during the examination but only with your verbal consent.

Please remember that you can ask the radiographer any questions you have at any time before, during or after your scan.

What happens during the Small Bowel MRI?

- The scanner is shaped like a large, hollow cylinder. The scanner is open-ended and will remain open throughout the scan. You will lie on your front (prone) if possible and go into the scanner feet first.
- A piece of equipment called a coil will rest on your abdomen and pelvis. This equipment helps to collect the images.
- During the scan you will hear rhythmic tapping noises which may become quite loud. This is normal and you will be given earplugs or headphones to protect your ears.
- You will be given a buzzer to hold which you can use to get the radiographer's attention if there is something wrong. The radiographer will talk to you at intervals during the scan.
- You will be given breathing instructions during the scan, it is important that you follow these as best you can.
- The computer which operates the MRI scanner is in a separate room. The radiographer carrying out the scan will be able to see you at all times during the procedure.
- You will need to lie very still during the examination so that the images are not blurred.
- Through the cannula, you will be given an injection of an anti-spasmodic agent (Buscopan) to help reduce the movement of the bowel and an injection of contrast media to make the bowel wall more visible.
- Some patients may experience a warming sensation during the scan. If you become uncomfortable, please inform the radiographer using the buzzer.

What happens after the scan?

- You will be asked to remain in the department for 30 minutes following the injection with the cannula in place.
- Some patients may experience dryness of the mouth and blurring of vision after the injection of Buscopan but the effects are short-lived and have usually worn off by the time the scan is finished. You are advised not to drive until any effects have worn off.
- The liquid you drink can have a mild laxative effect so you may experience loose motions after the scan. However, you can return to your normal activities and eat and drink as normal.
- If you have any questions, or you are worried about anything please contact the MRI department.

How do I get the results of my scan?

The radiographer performing your scan will not be able to give you any results. The images are assessed by a Consultant Radiologist who will send their report to the referring doctor. You will get your results from the doctor who asked for you to have the scan.

Is there an alternative to a small bowel MRI?

Your doctor has decided that a small bowel MRI scan would be most useful in your case. If you would like more information about alternatives including not having this test, please speak to your referring doctor managing your care.

Image sharing

Your images will be electronically stored on the hospital picture archiving system. This data can be accessed throughout the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and other doctors and health care professionals who are directly involved in your care. The ability to share images and radiological reports will improve the safety and quality of your care by ensuring that the right information is available in the right place at the right time.

In order to improve the medical services we provide we may also use your data as anonymously as possible for internal audit and medical education. If you would prefer that your data is not used for these purposes, please inform a member of staff when you attend for your examination.

If your data is to be used for research, then a separate consent process will be used. You will be asked for your consent, should this be the case.

Contact us

If you have any queries, we will be happy to answer any questions on the day of your scan or you can contact us on the number given on your appointment letter.

Feedback

We hope you found the information in this leaflet helpful. If it did not tell you what you needed to know or you would like to provide any feedback on your experience please let us know so that we can make any necessary improvements.

You can provide feedback on your experience:

Telephone: **028 9504 8000** (Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm)

Textphone: **18001 028 950 48000**

By email: compliments@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By email: complaints@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By completing an online form:

<http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/contact/FeedbackForm.htm>

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We invite you to share your experience by clicking the following link:
<https://www.careopinion.org.uk/> or by scanning the following QR code on your
smartphone or tablet:

Language and accessible support services -

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

If a Sign Language interpreter is required, please either telephone **028 9615 8900** via the Sign Video remote interpreting service (<https://signvideo.co.uk/deaf-community/>) or email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net and we will arrange one for your appointment. Please have your H&C number ready when calling or include it in your email. This can be found at the top right corner of any Health and Social Care letters you may have received.

If you are unable to hear on the phone and need to contact us with regards to your appointment you can email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Do you need this information in another format or language?

Your referrer should inform us if you require an interpreting service. However please confirm with us also so that we have the required interpreter present for the duration of your appointment. Unfortunately, if we do not know you need an interpreting service we cannot undertake your MRI scan, you will have to be re-appointed so the interpreting service can be organised in advance of your attendance. Furthermore, we cannot use the assistance of an accompanying family member or friend to provide interpreting, we must only use a HSC approved interpreter.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, including Braille, large print, CD, audio tape please contact the telephone number **028 9615 8900** or e-mail address MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Polish - Czy potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym formacie lub języku?

Fundusz ma dostęp do usług w zakresie tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych. Jeśli potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym języku lub formacie, w tym w piśmie Braille'a, dużym druku, na płycie CD, kasecie magnetofonowej, skontaktuj się z nami pod numerem telefonu lub adresem e-mail **028 9615 8900 / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net**, a my dołożymy wszelkich starań, aby spełnić Twoje potrzeby.

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Arabic - هل تحتاج هذه المعلومات بصيغة أو بلغة أخرى؟

تستطيع الجمعية توفير خدمات الترجمة الفورية والتحريرية. إذا احتجت هذه المعلومات بلغة أو بصيغة أخرى، بما فيها صيغة برايل Braille أو صيغة بالأحرف الكبيرة، أو في سي دي CD أو في شريط مسموع، يُرجى الاتصال برقم التليفون أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900**، وسوف نبذل قصارى جهدنا في تلبية احتياجاتك.

Lithuanian - Ar jums reikia šios informacijos kitu formatu ar kalba?

Tarnyba gali suteikti vertimo žodžiu ir raštu paslaugas. Jei reikia šios informacijos kita kalba ar formatu, įskaitant Brailio raštą, didelį šriftą, kompaktinį diską, garso įrašą, skambinkite telefonu arba susisiekite el. paštu **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900** ir mes padarysime viską, kad patenkintume jūsų poreikius.

Romanian - Aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-un alt format sau altă limbă?

Trustul are acces la servicii de interpretariat și traducere. Dacă aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-o altă limbă sau într-un alt format, inclusiv Braille, tipărire cu caractere de mari dimensiuni, CD, înregistrare audio, atunci vă rugăm să ne contactați la numărul de telefon sau la adresa de e-mail **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900**, iar noi vom face tot posibilul pentru satisfacerea necesităților dumneavoastră.

Tetum - Ita presiza atu informasaun ida ne'e iha formatu ka lian seluk ka lae?

Fidusiáriu ida ne'e iha asesu ba servisu durubasa no tradusaun. Se Ita presiza informasaun ida ne'e iha lian ka formatu seluk, inklui letra Braille, letra boot, CD, kasete audio, entaun favór telefone númeru ka enderesu e-mail **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900**, no ami sei halo esforsu tomak atu kumpre Ita-nia nesesidade sira.