

# Fact Sheet

## MRI

### What is an MRI scan?

An MRI is a painless test that uses a strong magnetic field and a special machine to take pictures of the inside of your body.

MRI scans do not use X-rays (radiation).

### What is involved?

**Before** the test, tell your **doctor** and the **imaging staff** if you are **claustrophobic**, have **allergies**, are **pregnant** or think you **might be pregnant**, or have any **implanted medical devices**.

You will be asked to complete an MRI safety checklist before the scan.

For the scan, please remain as still as possible. You will not feel anything during the scan, but it is noisy.

You may need to have a contrast injected into your arm to highlight the area of the body being studied.

The MRI will take between 20 minutes and an hour.

### What happens after the test?

A radiologist (a specialist doctor) assesses the images and sends the results to your referring doctor.

### Are there any risks?

Metal objects can move or get hot inside the scanner.

Metal objects can be pulled rapidly into the MRI machine. This can injure you or anyone in the room and damage the machine.

Electrical currents may lead to problems with devices such as pacemakers.

These risks can cause harm or death, so it is important to let the staff know if you have any of these kinds of objects in or on your body.

#### *Risks of MRI Contrast*

If you are having MRI contrast, there is a small risk of infection at the site of injection.

There is a small risk the injection may leak outside of the vessel under the skin and this may be painful and require treatment.

There is a very small risk of an allergic reaction. Minor reactions (such as hives or itchy eyes) occur in about 1 in 1000 people. More serious reactions (difficulty breathing or collapse) may occur in 1 in 10,000 people.

**For more information visit: [www.insideradiology.com.au](http://www.insideradiology.com.au)**