

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Dynamic Pelvis Scan

Introduction

Your doctor has requested that you have a scan of your pelvis in order to fully evaluate the pelvic contents and how they move on straining or passing a bowel motion. This scan will require the use of a rectal contrast agent.

Preparation

No special preparation is required prior to the scan. You may eat and drink normally up to the scan. After checking in and completing the MRI safety questionnaire, you will be asked to change into a hospital gown and be brought into the MRI scanning room by a radiographer. The procedure will be fully explained to you and you can ask any questions that you may have.

A syringe containing the contrast gel will then be given to you and the radiographer will leave the room. The syringe contains 50ml of contrast gel and this needs to be injected into the rectum. A water-proof disposable sheet (inco pad) will be placed under you. Female patients will be given an additional syringe of contrast gel which will need to be injected into the vagina. Once the contrast has been injected, you can lie on the MRI couch and call back in the radiographer.

The radiographer will then position you for the scan.

Scan

A series of scans at rest will first be taken. You will then be asked to perform some manoeuvres which are designed to replicate the problems you have during straining and defecating. You will be asked to squeeze up the pelvic floor (a manoeuvre you might use to stop the flow of urine for example) and hold this for several seconds. Then you will be asked to 'bear down' – the manoeuvre used to empty the bowel. During this manoeuvre, most of the contrast in the rectum will be expelled. Some faeces may also be expelled during the manoeuvre; this is nothing to be embarrassed about, as it is during defecation that many of the problems that concern us arise. It is important that you strain hard to replicate your symptoms, so that the correct information can be elicited from the scan. You may be asked to repeat these manoeuvres two or three times.

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Following the scan, you will be given tissues to wipe off any excess gel and the radiographer will again leave the room. You can place the used tissues on the inco sheet and roll this up for disposal in the general waste bin, or leave on the MRI scanner for the radiographer to dispose of. The radiographer will return to the room and you will be directed to a toilet in the MRI area for your convenience.

Important Safety Information

- **Prior to arranging an Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan, please inform us if you have a pacemaker.**
- You must tell us, by calling the telephone number on your appointment letter if you have any of the following:
 - If you have a pacemaker or defibrillator.
 - If you have ever had any metal fragments in your eyes.
 - If you have any implants or surgical clips in your body or head.
 - If you have ever had an operation on your head, eyes, ears, heart or chest.
 - If there is any chance that you are pregnant.
 - If you have had an operation in the last 6 weeks.
 - If you have a cochlear implant.

