



## The Perth Radiological Clinic Difference

- > a network of conveniently located community and hospital based locations
- > caring, helpful and professional staff
- > state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment
- > over 60 specialist radiologists, trained to provide you with accurate and reliable results
- > world class digital networking between clinics provides the benefits of second opinions from specialist radiologists, no matter which clinic you attend.

Patients can now make appointments online via our website and our staff will call them back to confirm their appointment.

For more information about any of our services, please visit our website:

[www.perthradclinic.com.au](http://www.perthradclinic.com.au)

An appointment has been made for you

Clinic

Address

Phone

Time

Date



*Leaders in Medical Imaging*  
[www.perthradclinic.com.au](http://www.perthradclinic.com.au)

A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS AND PARENTS

# MRI and Children

For information regarding your appointment, please see the back of this leaflet.

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## What is an MRI?

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. The MRI scanner is a powerful magnet that makes a strong magnetic field. The scanner uses this strong magnetic field and radio-waves (similar to radio-waves used in radio and television) to take pictures of the inside of your body. The MRI scanner is a tunnel that is open at both ends.

### What happens before my MRI scan?

Before you have your scan, you and your Mum or Dad will be asked some questions to make sure you have no metal in your body that is not safe to go into the scan room. If you are wearing clothes that have metal on them (like zips or buttons) you will be asked to change into a gown. You will be given a locker to put both yours and your Mum or Dad's personal items into. Please make sure Mum or Dad bring all of your previous x-rays to the appointment. This is really important as the doctor who looks at your MRI scan might need to look at these too.



### What happens when I have the scan?

Your Mum or Dad are very welcome to come into the room with you whilst you have your scan. When you enter the room, you will be asked to lie on the bed and a camera will be placed on the area of your body we are taking pictures of. The scan doesn't hurt you but it does make lots of loud banging, thumping and whirring noises so you will be given some earplugs and head phones as hearing protection. You will also be given a buzzer to hold that you can squeeze to stop the scan if you are not comfortable at any time.

When you are ready you will be moved into the middle of the tunnel and the scans will start. In-between the pictures being taken, the radiographer will talk to you to make sure you are ok. It is very important that you lie as still as you can during your scan so the pictures come out clearly.

You can go to our website [www.perthradclinic.com.au](http://www.perthradclinic.com.au) to have a look at the machine and hear some of the noises it makes.

### How long will my scan take?

Most scans take between 20 and 30 minutes.

### Are there any side effects?

No not at all. MRI is safe, painless and doesn't use any radiation. It's just a bit noisy!



### Will I need to have an injection?

Most scans can be done without any need for an injection, however, sometimes we do need to give a special dye as part of the test. If you need an injection, the technician will talk to you and your Mum and Dad about it first.

### When can I get my results?

All the pictures from your MRI scan will be looked at by a specially trained doctor called a Radiologist. Because the MRI scanner takes a lot of pictures it can take several hours for the radiologist to look at all of them and issue a report. The results are then sent to your doctor, though it might take up to a day or two for the results to get back to them.

### Is the cost of my scan covered by Medicare?

General Practitioners can now request a MRI investigation for a small number of clinical conditions for children less than 16 years of age that will attract a Medicare benefit. However, if the reason you are having the scan is not covered under these guidelines you will be responsible for the full account. If you are unsure if your scan is covered please speak to one of our staff when making your appointment.

Please bring any previous imaging with you on the day of your examination. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask us!