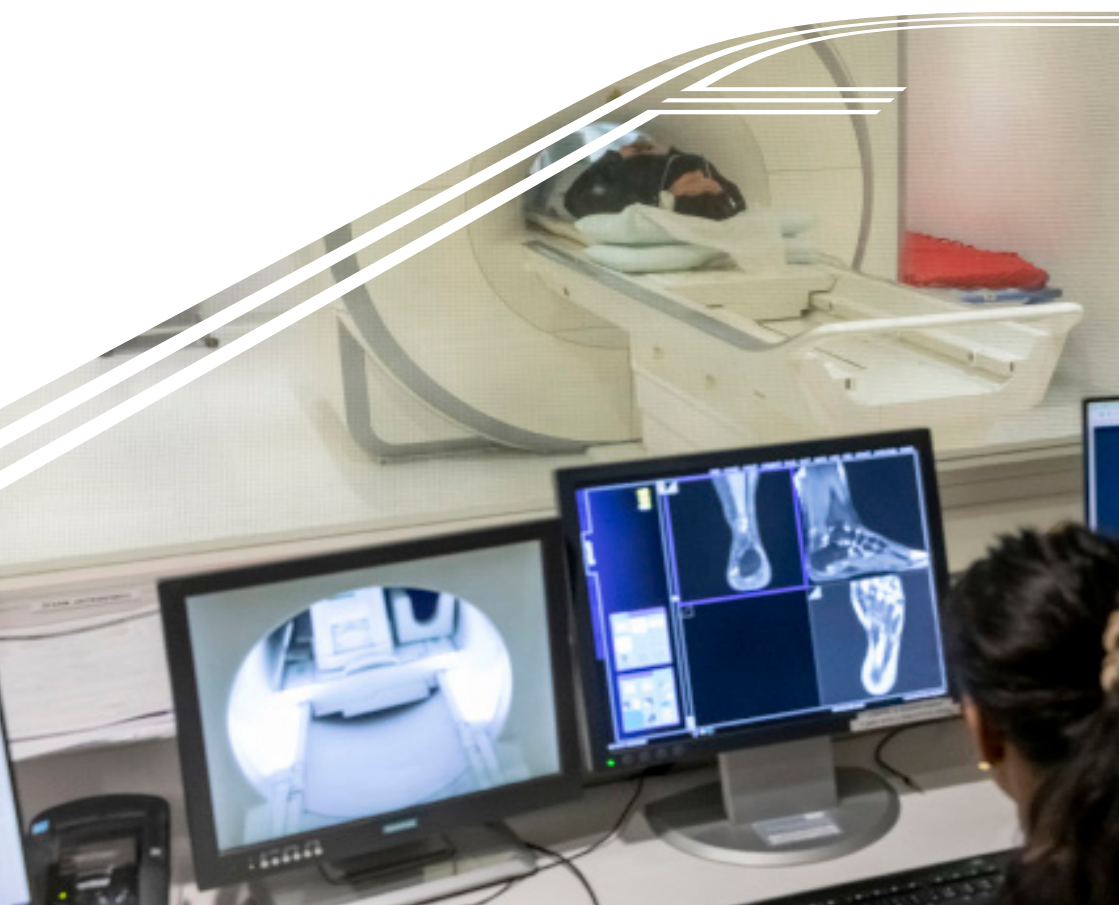


# MRI contrast



## About MRI contrast

MRI contrast is used to enhance different areas of images obtained during MRI examinations. Not everyone will need contrast. If you need it, you will be told before your appointment.

More information about MRI scans can be found in our *MRI scan* leaflet.

## What to expect on the day

### Before your injection

It is important that you arrive 15 minutes before your appointment so that there is sufficient time to get you ready. Please call us as soon as possible if you can not get to your appointment on time. We will attempt to provide you with an alternative slot on the same day.

When you arrive, the radiographer will go through your safety and contrast questionnaires with you, explain how to get ready and answer any questions you have. You will have to remove all metallic objects and may need to put on a patient gown. You may eat and drink normally before the scan.

You will be asked to complete a contrast questionnaire which will ask for your medical history and allergy information. If any of the following applies to you, please let the radiographers know:

- You have previously reacted to a contrast agent during an examination

- You have asthma
- You have a history of allergy (such as seafood allergy, urticaria, hay fever)
- You are being treated with a beta-blocker (medicine for heart and blood pressure disorders, such as Metoprolol)
- Your kidneys do not work properly
- You have recently had, or soon expect to have, a liver transplant or there are concerns over your liver function
- You have a disease affecting your heart or your blood vessels
- You have had convulsions or you are being treated for epilepsy

If the answer is yes to any of these questions you may need a blood test to check your kidney or liver function.

Anyone aged 65 years or older will need a blood test to check their kidney function before the scan.

### During your MRI and injection

You will be positioned on the MRI table and a small flexible plastic cannula will be placed in your arm. MRI contrast will be injected towards the end of the scan as the radiographer will take some pictures pre-injection and post-injection for the radiologist to compare. Once you have finished the scan, the cannula will be removed and a plaster will be put on the injection site.

There is a small risk you may have an allergic reaction to MRI contrast. Reactions can be severe and result in shock. If you have any of the below symptoms after your contrast injection, please inform your radiographer or another healthcare professional immediately:

- Swelling on the face, mouth or throat which may cause you difficulties in swallowing or breathing
- Swelling of hands or feet
- Light-headedness
- Breathing difficulties
- Whistling respiration
- Coughing
- Itching
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Eye irritation
- Hives/skin rash

### After your MRI

Once your scan is finished and your cannula has been removed you can collect your belongings and get dressed. After the injection make sure you drink plenty of fluids throughout the day (water, tea, coffee, juice) to help get rid of the contrast through your kidneys.

A radiologist report will be available for your referrer. Please let the radiographers know if you would like a CD or electronic copy of your images.

## Reporting and results

We offer a state-of-the-art picture archiving communications system (PACS) which enables radiologists and consultants, both at Fortius and elsewhere, to access your images. A report from your examination will be available on PACS and sent to your referrer or consultant. All patient information is protected and stored using the strictest security measures. If you have left the clinic and would like a copy of your images, please complete a CD request form or an electronic transfer request form available on our website and email it to [pacsadmin@fortiusclinic.com](mailto:pacsadmin@fortiusclinic.com).

If you have any questions about receiving your results or next steps, please speak to our Reception or Appointments teams, your referrer or your consultant's secretary.

## FAQs

### Can I continue to eat and drink normally after the scan?

You can eat and drink as normal following your scan.

### Can I drive or operate machinery after the scan?

If you feel unwell after contrast you should not drive or operate machinery and seek medical advice. Otherwise you are fine to do both.

### Can I continue to take other medication before the scan?

Please inform your doctor, radiologist or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken medicines for heart and blood

pressure disorders such as beta-blocking agents, vasoactive substances, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor antagonist.

### Are there any possible side effects?

If you have any symptoms of an allergic reaction please inform a healthcare professional immediately. There are some uncommon side effects which can occur up to seven days after an MRI contrast injection which include:

- Hypersensitivity
- Headaches
- Unusual taste in the mouth
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Sensation of tingling, warmth, cold and/or pain
- Low or high blood pressure
- Nausea
- Stomach pain
- Skin rash
- Feeling hot, feeling cold
- Lack of energy
- Discomfort, coldness, swelling, redness and pain at the injection site

Please seek medical advice if you are experiencing any of the above.

## Contact information

### Appointments, billing and imaging enquiries

Switchboard

0203 195 2442

imaging@fortiusclinic.com

### MRI safety

Radiology administrator

0203 805 4776

mrissafety@fortiusclinic.com

### Post injection advice

0203 195 2458 or 0203 617 6317

opnurses@fortiusclinic.com

### Copies of images and electronic transfers

Radiology administrator

0203 805 4776 or 0203 831 3580

pacsadmin@fortiusclinic.com

For more information visit our website



If you require urgent medical attention or advice out of clinic hours, please visit your local A&E

### **Fortius Clinic London**

66 Wigmore Street, London W1U 2SB

### **Fortius Clinic City**

75 King William Street, London EC4N 7BE

### **Fortius Clinic Marylebone**

17 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 6EQ

### **Fortius Clinic Wimbledon**

22 Worple Road, Wimbledon SW19 4DD

### **Clinic opening times**

Monday to Friday 8am-8pm (open later some evenings)

Saturday 8am-1pm (not all sites)