

Having an MRI enterography (small bowel scan)

This leaflet explains what an MRI enterography scan entails, including the benefits and possible risks. Further general information about the MRI scan is available in your appointment letter. If you have any other queries please call the Radiology Department on 0118 322 7941.

What is an MRI small bowel preparation?

MRI enterography or small bowel scan uses an MRI scanner to produce images of the small bowel. The ideal preparation for this is to drink enough liquid to fill the small bowel so we can see it better on the scan. We use a preparation called 'Klean-Prep'.

During the scan, a radiographer will also give Buscopan via a cannula (thin pipe) into your vein, which will help to reduce the bowel movement, as well as MR contrast dye (gadolinium-based).

How do I prepare for my appointment?

- You need to arrive one hour before your scan time to drink the MRI preparation liquid. **You MUST arrive one hour before your appointment time or your scan will not go ahead.**
- If you have a **morning appointment**, do not eat food after midnight the night before, but please drink plenty of water.
- If you have an **afternoon appointment**, eat an early light breakfast, and have nothing to eat after this. (Preferably fast for 4-6 hours.)
- You may still drink water.

Other medicines and Klean-Prep

If you are taking other medicines, take them at least one hour before taking Klean-Prep or at least one hour afterwards, otherwise they may be flushed through your digestive system and not work so well. Please tell the radiographer on your arrival if you are taking other medicines, such as diuretics (that increase the amount of urine passed) or laxatives (to help you pass stool or do a poo).

How long will it take?

The scan takes approximately 30-45 minutes. However, because you need to arrive one hour before your appointment, please be aware that you will be in the department for up to two hours in total.

What happens once I have had the Klean-Prep drink?

This drink is a mild laxative, and will help us see your small bowel clearly on the scan. You may experience some diarrhoea 1-3 hours after consuming the drink, so please stay near a toilet. After drinking the liquid, you will be taken into the scan room where the process will be explained to you by the radiographer (clinician doing the scan).

What happens after the test?

You may wish to use the toilet as the Klean-Prep can cause diarrhoea. You should also keep this in mind when making your way home.

Before your MRI scan

You cannot have a MRI scan if you have any of the following:

- Cardiac pacemaker
- Cochlear (ear) implant
- A metal aneurysm clip in the brain
- Metallic fragments in the eye
- Certain mechanical implants

If you have any of these or if there is a chance you could be pregnant, please call the Radiology Department on 0118 322 7991 prior to the appointment date.

Are there any risks?

MRI enterography is regarded as a very safe test. Very rarely, problems can occur, and if they do, they are similar to those which could happen with other methods of examining the bowel.

These include:

- Abdominal discomfort
- Faint-like reactions
- Reaction to the injected contrast (dye)
- Diarrhoea
- Dry mouth
- Blurred vision
- Dilated pupils
- Dehydration or feeling thirsty
- Tachycardia

Is there anything else I should be aware of?

The injection to help relax the bowel (Buscopan) can cause a dry mouth and blurred vision, which lasts about 30 minutes. **Please do not drive if your vision is blurred and wait for it to return to normal.** If you had the injection to relax the bowel (Buscopan) and develop a very painful red eye over the next 24 hours, contact your GP immediately.

Your doctor has asked for this test because they feel that the benefits are greater than the risk of not having the examination. Even so, we cannot guarantee that this test will detect all abnormalities in the bowel.

Results

We will send a report of your examination to your referring doctor; if this is a hospital specialist, then the specialist will contact your GP with the report.

Contacting us

Radiology Department Tel 0118 322 7991.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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