



MRI of the Small Bowel

Radiology department

01935 384 275
yeovilhospital.nhs.uk



MRI of the small bowel

Your consultant has requested this specialised test for you which uses an MRI scanner to look at the small bowel in detail. In order to do this, it is very important that the bowel is clear of food.

It is essential to follow the instructions below:

Preparation prior to your appointment

Do not eat anything from midnight onwards on the day of your scan.

You may drink as much clear fluid as you like during this time. This includes black tea/black coffee, fizzy drinks, water.

What will happen once I arrive for my scan?

NOTE: Please arrive one hour prior to your appointment time.

Once you arrive in the department you will be given a pint of MOVIPREP to drink over the course of 30 minutes. This expands the bowel so it can be seen clearly. MOVIPREP is a laxative, so it is normal to want to go to the toilet.

A small cannula will then be put into your arm. This is so you can be given an injection during the scan that calms your bowel. This is important as it improves the quality of the pictures taken.

You will then be taken to the scanner room and positioned ready for your scan. The scan may take up to 30 minutes.

We will be giving you breathing instructions throughout the scan. You will need to hold your breath a number of times.

We may also give an injection of contrast agent through the same cannula. This will make the pictures we take clearer.

How long will the examination take?

You should allow two hours in total for the appointment. This allows time for you to drink the MOVIPREP and have your scan.

What happens after the MRI scan?

You are likely to have diarrhoea after the scan and therefore, you will need to stay close to a toilet for the rest of the day.

We recommend that you arrange for someone to drive you home because of the effects of any medication we may give you for your scan.

When will I get the scan results?

The images are carefully viewed by a consultant radiologist and will usually be available to the doctor who referred you for the scan within two to three weeks.

If you have any questions or require further information or advice, contact the Radiology department between 9am and 5pm, 01935 384275.

If you would like this leaflet in another format or in a different language, please ask a member of staff.

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