

MRI examinations during pregnancy/breastfeeding

Consent form



**I-MED Radiology
Network**

Comprehensive care. Uncompromising quality.

[Affix patient label]

Your referring doctor has recommended that you have an MRI examination during pregnancy/breastfeeding. They have considered whether it is the most appropriate examination (including alternative imaging modalities) and have concluded that the benefits of the examination to your clinical management outweigh any risks associated with the use of MR and where applicable, gadolinium based contrast agents (GBCA). It is however important that you are aware of any risks and that you consent to continue with your examination. To help you in your understanding, a summary of these risks is described below. If you would like more information, please ask I-MED staff or alternatively additional information can be found at the end of this document.

Risks of MRI examinations during pregnancy

During an MRI examination the fetus will be exposed to magnetic fields and noise generated by the scanner during the examination. While potential concerns from this exposure include developmental effects on the fetus due to exposure from electromagnetic waves and heating of fetal tissue/amniotic fluid, **to date, no studies have convincingly shown any harmful effects from an MRI examination during pregnancy.** Theoretical concerns also include acoustic damage.

Risks of MRI examinations using GBCA during pregnancy & breastfeeding

In addition, your doctor may have requested that you be given a contrast injection. No adverse effects of gadolinium-based MRI contrast agents on the mother or fetus has been convincingly demonstrated, but there is limited evidence of their safety. It is known that intravenously injected gadolinium-based MRI contrast agents reach the amniotic fluid, where their effects are not yet well understood. However, based on the overwhelming potential benefits to you or your fetus, that outweigh the potential but unknown risks, your doctor has requested the use of contrast. A very small amount (0.04%) of Gadolinium based MRI contrast agents have been shown to reach breast milk. Of this, less than 1% will be absorbed by the child through their gastrointestinal track. Therefore, breast milk need not be discarded after gadolinium injection. However, temporary cessation of breastfeeding may be adopted as an additional precaution for 12-24 hours, if preferred.

I-MED clinical staff will have explained the potential risk(s) to the fetus/child and any restrictions you need to take for your specific examination(s).

Patient consent (please tick as appropriate)

- I have read and fully understand the risks involved in having an MRI examination during pregnancy. I have been informed of the estimated risks to my embryo or fetus. I hereby give consent to have the MRI examination performed.
- I have read and fully understand the risks involved in having an MRI Contrast injection during pregnancy. I have been informed of the estimated risks to my embryo or fetus. I hereby give consent to have the MRI contrast injection performed.
- I have read and fully understand the risks involved in having an MRI Contrast injection during breastfeeding. I have been informed of the estimated risks to my child. I hereby give consent to have the MRI contrast injection performed.

Acknowledgment

_____/_____/_____
Signature of patient or guardian giving consent Date

_____/_____/_____
Name and Signature of technologist performing the exam Date

_____/_____/_____
Name and Signature of radiologist/doctor in charge Date

Interpreter's statement

I have provided a sight translation in _____ (state the language) of the patient consent form. I also have assisted the patient/parent and/or guardian with any verbal and written information given by the medical imaging professionals..

_____/_____/_____
Interpreter's full name Interpreter's signature Date

Acknowledgements:

Much of the content regarding risks during MRI has been adapted from the references 1-3.

- [1] MRI Safety Guidelines, Version 2.0 (2017), The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
- [2] ACR Manual on MR Safety, Version 1.0 (2020), ACR Committee on MR Safety, American College of Radiology
- [3] ACOG Committee Opinion (2017), The American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists., 130 (4), 210-216.