



Breast MRI

Information for patients



**I-MED Radiology
Network**

Comprehensive care. Uncompromising quality.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a non-invasive imaging technique that does not expose you to ionizing radiation or breast compression. This information sheet will explain what is involved in the test.

Before the test

All breast MRI scans are performed in a closed tunnel, so if you suffer from claustrophobia (fear of closed spaces), please let your doctor know and we maybe able to arrange sedation for you.

The scan is performed with lying flat, face down, arms up, with your breasts inserted into padded hollow depressions in the table, and your face in a cradle. If you think this position maybe an issue for you, please let your doctor know before your MRI is booked.

During the test

The technologist will place you into our large bore (70 cm) MRI tube, communicating with you via the two-way speaker that is located outside the room. You will stay in the tube for the duration of the scan. Depending on what your doctor is looking for, this may take 20 to 30 minutes.

For some patients, images are taken both before and after an injection of an MRI specific intravenous contrast (medical dye). This is known as Gadolinium and is placed via a cannula in your arm. For others, there will be no injection required.

Please note

You maybe asked by I-MED reception to schedule your MRI nearer to the beginning of your menstrual cycle. If your cycles are regular, the first half is usually the best time for a breast MRI (days 7-14).

If you require an intravenous administration of contrast and you are lactating, less than 1/1000th of the contrast dose given to the mother enters the breast milk, so there is no reason to stop breastfeeding, as the risk to the baby is negligible¹.



After the test

Generally speaking, there are no after effects of a breast MRI procedure. You may have pain, redness, or bruising at the IV injection site. On rare occasion, you may experience an allergic reaction to the gadolinium solution. Most cases are mild.

Although anaphylactic reactions to gadolinium are rare (occurring in 0.0004% of cases, according to a 2016 study from Italy), there is a nurse and doctor on site to treat any reactions that may occur².

Your scan will be interpreted by a subspecialist Radiologist and the results will be available for your clinician to review within 2 – 3 business days.

1. Royal Australian New Zealand College of Radiologists, RANZCR MRI Safety Guidelines, Sydney: RANZCR; 2017
2. Granata V, Cascella M, Fusco R, et al. Immediate adverse reactions to gadolinium-based MR contrast media: A retrospective analysis on 10,608 examinations. Biomed Res Int. 2016;2016:3918292.