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**Norfolk and Norwich
University Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

Department of Radiology

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI): Information for pregnant patients



Your doctor has requested that you have an MRI scan as it is felt that this is the best imaging method to diagnose your condition.

What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)?

- MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) creates high resolution images of the body on a computer using a powerful magnet and radio frequency waves.
- MRI is a very safe way of producing images that can diagnose medical conditions. Unlike CT (Computed Tomography), it does not use X-rays.

What will happen on the day?

- The MRI scanner is a long open ended tube, surrounded by a large magnet.
- You will be asked to lie on a scanning table, which will move slowly so the part of your body being scanned is in the centre of the scanner. It is important that you remain as still as possible, so that the best images can be obtained.
- You will be positioned either head first or feet first, depending on the area to be scanned.
- You will be given ear protection because the scanner makes a loud drumming noise.
- The radiographer will be able to see you from the control room during the scanning and talk to you through an intercom system.

Is MRI safe?

- There are theoretical risks from electrical fields and currents associated with MRI, but no conclusive evidence of biological harm have been found in scientific studies.
- Research has shown no evidence to suggest that MRI is harmful to either a pregnant woman or her baby.
- Loud tapping noises are generated by the MRI scanner because of rapidly changing electromagnetic currents. Studies have shown no adverse effects on hearing of the foetus.

Should you have any further concerns, please speak to the referring doctor or the radiographer before your scan.

