



**The Leeds  
Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Trust

# Having an MRI enteroclysis

Information for patients



**Leeds**  
Radiology

## What is an MRI enteroclysis?

This is an examination of the small bowel. The first part will be performed in the x-ray department and the second part will be performed in the MRI department. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of your body.

## What does it involve?

In the x-ray room we will pass a small tube via your nose, into your stomach. Local anaesthetic gel will be applied to your nose to make the examination more comfortable.

Once the tube is in the correct place you will be moved to the MRI scanner where some liquid will be injected down the tube to fill your small bowel. Before you have the MRI scan a member of staff will put a small needle (cannula) into a vein in your arm. This is so that a muscle relaxant (Buscopan) and x-ray dye can be injected during the scan. A detailed MRI scan of the abdomen will then be performed, looking particularly at the small bowel. During the scan the MRI machine will make a loud noise, this is normal. Once the scan has finished the cannula and the tube that is in your nose will be removed

By the time the examination has finished the liquid we have injected will be in your large bowel so we ask that you wait in the department for 30 minutes and to visit the toilet during this time to make sure you empty your bowel before you leave the department.

## Who performs the examination?

It is performed by a team of healthcare professionals which may include a radiographer, an advanced practitioner, an assistant and a radiologist.

Important Some things may be affected by the magnetic field, so please ring the contact number on your appointment letter as soon as possible if any of the following apply to you:

- If you have ever had or have a Cardiac Pacemaker
- If you have ever had head or ear surgery involving the use of metal clips
- If you have ever had fragments of metal in the eye / eyes
- If you have ever had a Spinal Cord Stimulator
- If you are or could be pregnant
- If you are breast feeding

## How do I prepare for the examination?

On the day of the examination

**HAVE NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK** for **SIX HOURS** before the examination.

You may have **CLEAR FLUIDS ONLY** until **ONE HOUR** before your appointment.

Do not stop taking vital medication.

### **Important note for patients with diabetes:**

If you have an early morning appointment bring your morning medication and a snack with you.

If you have an afternoon appointment eat breakfast and take your morning medication at least six hours before your appointment. Bring a snack and any afternoon medications with you.

Please telephone the department if you have any questions.

## **In the Radiology Department**

You will be given a gown to change into.

Before your scan you will be asked to remove any loose metal objects, watches, credit cards, money, or electronic devices. For security reasons we advise that you leave any valuables at home. It is recommended to bring loose fitting comfortable clothes. It's important that you do not come to your appointment with wearable weights or wearable magnets. If you use cosmetics with magnetic substances (such as magnet attached eye lashes) please make sure you do not wear these on the day of your scan and make sure any previously applied make-up is fully removed. If you have hair extensions that use metal fastenings, then please remove these before your scan.

You will be asked to complete a safety questionnaire before entering the MRI department (staff are available to help if you require). For your own safety it is important to complete this form as accurately as possible.

## **How long will I be in the department?**

Allow two hours for your examination. Although we try to keep to your appointment time, there may be a delay due to emergency patients.

We are unable to provide any childcare so please make alternative arrangements.

## Are there any risks?

### Radiation

This procedure involves x-rays. Patients who are, or might be pregnant **must** inform a member of staff.

The amount of radiation used is more than an ordinary x-ray of the chest or body and is equal to the natural radiation we receive from the atmosphere over a period of approximately two years.

The risk from this radiation dose is very low.

### Allergic reaction

Some patients may be allergic to the x-ray dye or medicines. This is very rare. If you have any allergies, please tell a member of staff.

### Injection of x-ray dye

You will have some x-ray dye injected into a vein so we can see more information on the scan. The injection usually causes nothing more than a warm feeling passing around your body. Extravasation (leakage) of x-ray dye outside the vein very occasionally occurs. This can cause pain and swelling at the injection site. Usually symptoms resolve completely within 24 hours. Very rarely extravasation may lead to tissue damage which may need an operation. If the extravasation is severe, a doctor will examine you before you leave the department and advise you if any further treatment is necessary.

Despite these small risks your doctor believes it is beneficial for you to have this examination.

## **Do you ever fail to complete the examination?**

This examination is usually successful. If, for any reason, we are unable to perform the examination we will inform your doctor who will discuss the alternatives with you.

## **Following the examination**

You will be able to eat, drink and continue normal activities. Drink plenty of fluid for the next day or so as you may be a bit dehydrated.

## **Are there any side effects?**

The injection of Buscopan can make your mouth dry and your vision slightly blurred, which normally lasts 15-20 minutes. Very rarely patients may develop pain or redness of the eyes which occurs in the 24 hours after the test. If this happens, you should go to an Emergency department immediately for a check up. Take this leaflet with you. Please remember this is very rare.

## **How do I get my results?**

You will not be given your results on the day. They will be sent to your hospital consultant and they will contact you.



**What did you think of your care?**

Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/nhsleedsfft](https://bit.ly/nhsleedsfft)

***Your views matter***



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