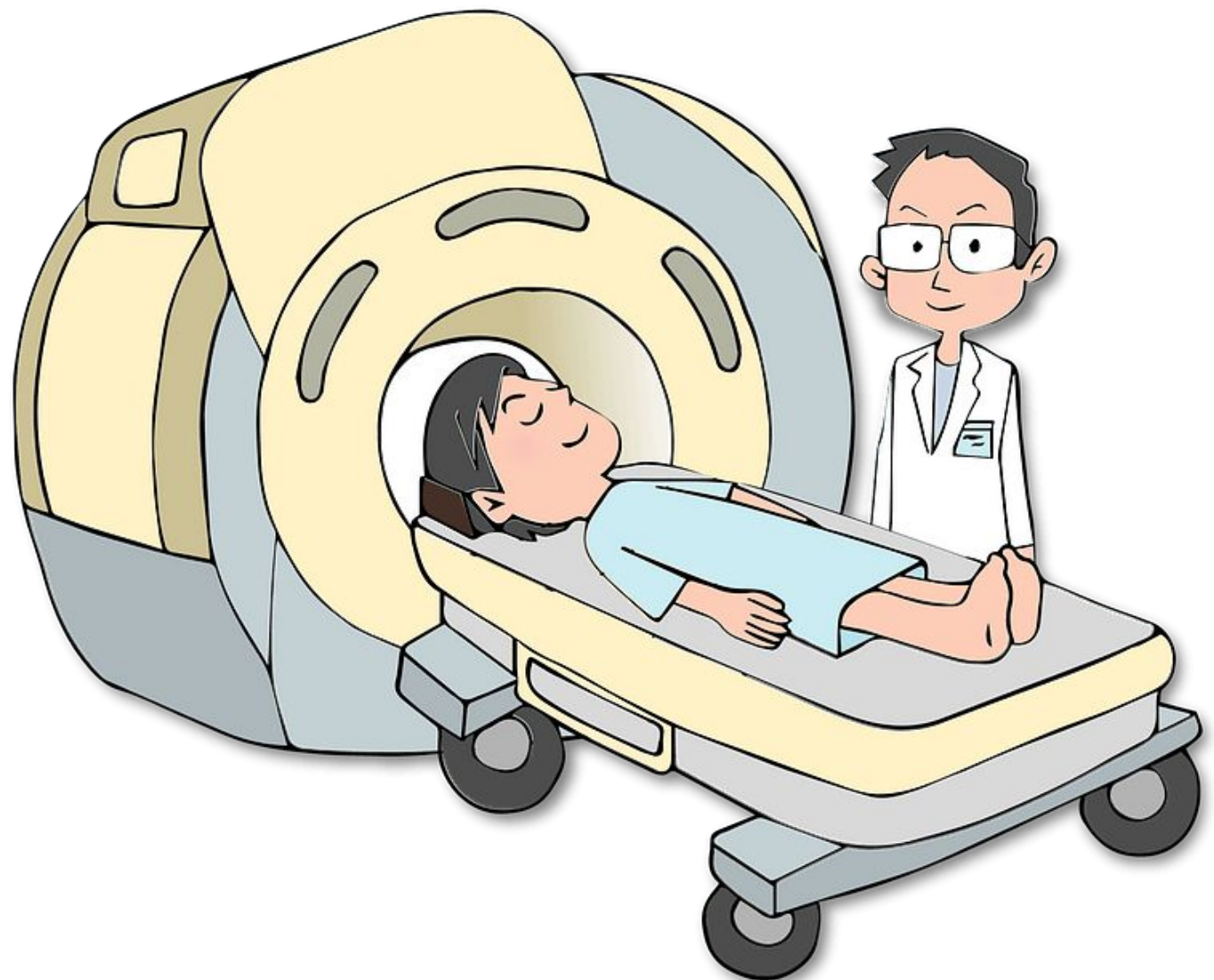
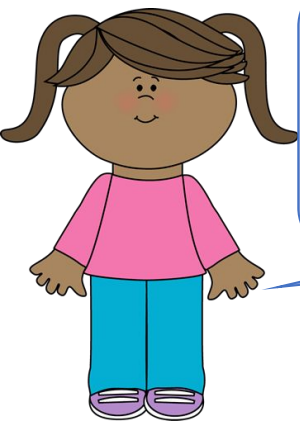
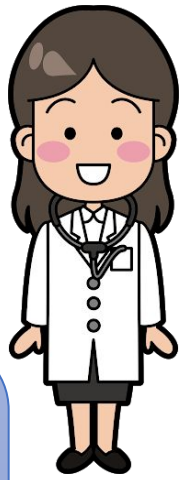


Your MRI Questions Answered!





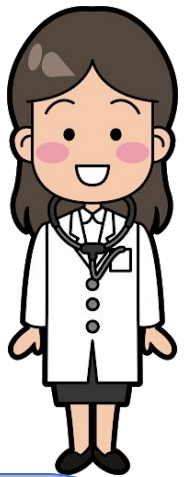
What happens when we move in the scan?



It is important that you stay still in the scanner and try not to move. You can blink and breathe, but it is important that you don't move otherwise the pictures will be blurred and we won't be able to see the part of the brain clearly. It is a little like when you take a photograph, if you move while I take your photograph, it will be blurred!



How does it feel when you are inside?



This is a tricky question to answer because we feel and experience things in different ways. Some children that had an MRI scan said that it is fun because you can look at the mirror and see your parents. It can also be exciting when you lay down and the bed starts to go up. Other children said that at the beginning can be a little frightening, but then when you are in the scanner it feels OK and it is relaxing. Most of the children says that laying down in the bed and listening to music is the best part! When you look above you it is like looking at a white screen and it makes you fall asleep. And if you want to get out of the scan there is a buzzer you can press, and the doctor will stop the scan.



Is it comfy?

You will lay in the bed and you can ask to have a blanket on, so to keep you warm. Other children have said that lay in the bed was one of the best parts. You don't have to do anything, you just lay in the bed, listen to music and if you want you can have a nap



How long does it take?

An MRI scan will take approximately 30-40 minutes, but this might be different depending on the type of scan you are having, some scans a longer than other. Sometimes you might be able to have a short break. There is also a buzzer you can press if you need a break.



Why do we need MRI brain scans?

Normally, brain scans are done to find out if everything is OK with the brain (or other part of body). Sometimes the MRI scans can show the doctors what and where the problem is, so that they can help you. BUT sometimes we ask healthy children and adults to take part in research projects and we may ask them if they are OK if we take a special pictures of their brain (or other part of their body) via MRI. These MRI scans are taken because the researchers want to know how the brains of healthy children and adult look like, so that we can compare the results with the brain scans of children and adults that are poorly.



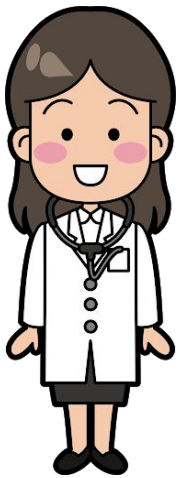
What happens if the MRI breaks in the middle?



The MRI won't break in the middle, because it is made from very strong material. The scanners are regularly checked by expert and they will see if there is a problem with the scanner. If they find a problem and the machine needs to be fixed, the doctor will not use it for scanning. But if the MRI breaks, it could not be used anymore.



Why do we need to change and not be in our normal clothes?



Sometime in clothes there is metal, for example trouser buttons, zip etc. That is why you have to change. But if you wear (or you bring with you) a plain T-shirt and a pair of leggings or joggings with no button or zip you may be able to stay in your clothes. But you will have to check with the people that takes the scan first.



Will I be able to wear glasses because otherwise I would not be able to see my mum?

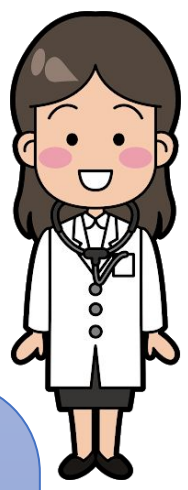


It depends on whether there is metal part of your glasses. Most glasses have metal parts so you won't be allowed to wear them while you have the MRI scan. Your mum or dad will be sitting very close to you so you will be able to see them or if you really cannot see your mum without your glasses, you can ask them to put their hand on your feet or leg, so you can feel they are still there with you.





How are the pictures taken?

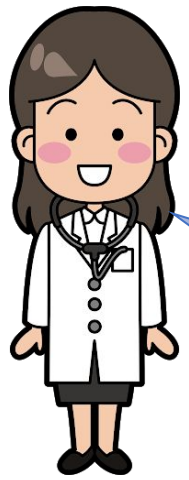


MRI or Magnetic Resonance Imaging uses strong magnet and radiofrequency forces to generate signal from the body. These signals are detected by a radio antenna and processed by a computer to create very detailed pictures of your brain (or body). The magnet inside the scanner are so strong that they will pull any magnetic material toward the machine so fast that it will look like a missile, that is why we ask to remove any metal objects so you won't get injured!



Do you get any marks from it?

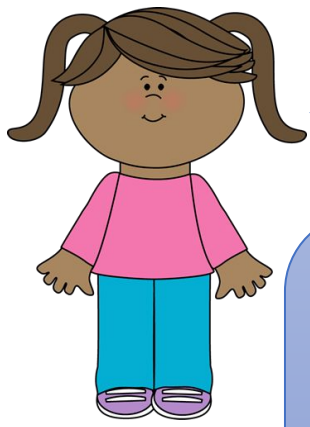
No, the machine will not touch you



What is the maximum amount of people next to the scanner when you are in there?

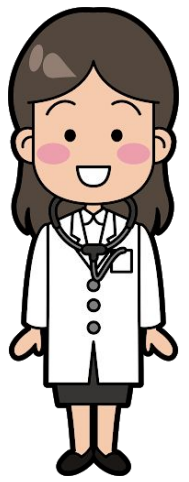
One or two





Why is there a mirror?

During the scan you have to be still, and you are laying down on the bed. The radiographer will put something that looks like a space helmet on top of your head. The mirror is there so you can see in front of you and so you will be able to see your parents or the person that is in the room with you.



Can animals have brain scans?

Yes, animals can have brain scans. But you cannot explain to them that they have to be still. Therefore, they will have to go to sleep, so they lay still in the scanner.



How old do you have to be?

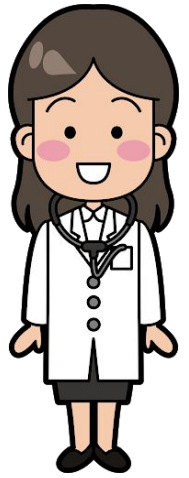
There is no age restriction. Newborns and even children that are still in their mother's womb can get an MRI.





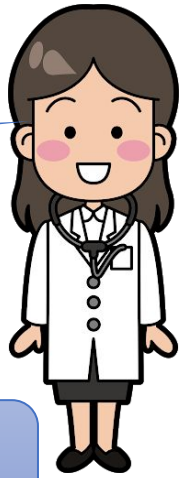
what happens if you have something metal stuck on you, for example a needle?

The radiologist, the person that takes the pictures will ask you and your parents if you have any metal inside your body. If you do, you might not be able to have an MRI scan. Some types of metal are fine though.



Did it hurt other people or not?

No, having an MRI does not hurt.



What do the scans look like when they're done?

Here are some pictures of children's MRI scans:

