



Beaumont Hospital



Patient Information  
on

**Breast MRI**



## **What is MRI of the breast?**

- MRI is a highly sensitive non-invasive imaging test. There is only light compression of the breast during this exam and there is no radiation exposure.

## **What is Breast MRI commonly used for?**

- Further evaluation of abnormalities seen on mammography/breast ultrasound.
- Screening in women at high risk for breast cancer.
- Prior to and following chemotherapy treatment in patients getting pre-operative (before surgery) chemotherapy.
- Evaluating Breast Implants.

## **How should I Prepare for my Breast MRI?**

- Follow your daily routine and take food and medications as usual.
- Please arrive on time for your appointment. You will be requested to fill in a safety questionnaire and mammo checklist prior to your scan.
- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting trousers with no zips. Jewellery and accessories should be left at home.

## **How is the Procedure Performed?**

- You will be positioned face down with your arms by your sides or above your head on a scanning table. The table has openings to accommodate your breasts and allow them to be imaged. A cannula (IV line) is placed in your arm beforehand to allow injection of contrast (dye) during the MRI scan.

**Please inform the individual who performs the scan:**

- 1) If you have any allergies.**
- 2) If you have had any prior reactions to contrast.**
- 3) If you have a history of kidney problems.**

### **How long does the Breast MRI take?**

- The whole procedure can take up to 1 hour to complete. Please be aware delays may occur as Beaumont Hospital is an acute centre and emergencies will take priority over appointments.

### **What does the equipment look like?**

- The traditional MRI scanner is a large cylinder shaped tube surrounded by a circular magnet. MRI scanners are open at both ends. The machine is quite noisy and it makes loud tapping and banging sounds. You will be given headphones with music to listen to or earplugs during the test.
- You will be provided with a buzzer which you can press at any time to communicate with the radiographer.

### **What happens when the scan is over?**

- When the scans are finished, you will be removed from the machine. Your IV line will be removed. You may need to wait a short period of time while the images are being examined to ensure the data collected is sufficient. You will then be asked to re-dress and will be free to leave.

## How do I get my results?

- The consultant radiologist (doctor specialising in imaging) reviews the scan and dictates a report. The results are back with the referring doctor within 2 weeks.

## Other Points to Note:

- It is quite common for patients to be called back at a later date following an MRI scan for a follow-up (second look) ultrasound. Sometimes a biopsy may be required to investigate and further clarify certain areas on the scan.
- Please inform the radiographer if there is any possibility of pregnancy or if you are breast feeding. If you are breastfeeding you will have to stop for 24 hours after the scan due to the IV contrast injection and dispose of the milk produced during this time.
- Please contact 018093100 if you need to cancel your appointment or if you have any queries related to your scan.
- In most cases, an MRI exam is safe for patients with metal implantable devices, including breast implants. Please ring 018093100 to check compatibility of the device prior to your arrival in the MRI Dept.