University College Hospital

Having an MRI scan of the penis

Imaging Department
If you would like this leaflet in another format, for example: large print or audio, or in translation please contact us on 020 3456 7002. We will try our best to meet your needs.

If you have any questions after reading this booklet, please contact us on 020 3456 7002.

You will need to know your hospital number. This can be found on your appointment letter.

20 Useful telephone numbers

UCH Switchboard
020 3456 7890

Imaging Booking Centre (to change or cancel an appointment)
020 3456 7002

Hospital Transport Services
020 3456 7010

21 References

Royal College of Radiologists
http://www.rcr.ac.uk

Gadolinium
www.guerbert.com

UCL Hospitals cannot accept responsibility for information provided by other organisations.
19 Where is UCH main hospital?

If you have an appointment at the UCH main hospital site, use the map below:
1 Introduction
This booklet contains information for patients and carers about having an MRI scan of your penis.

2 What is MRI?
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an imaging tool that uses a powerful magnet to scan your body. The MRI scan will assist in the diagnosis and treatment of your health condition. There is no use of radiation or X-rays.

The MRI scanner is a tube which is open at both ends. You can be seen at all times by the Radiographer.

The MRI scanner has a weight limit of 250kgs. Your referrer will need to make alternative arrangements if you are over this weight.

3 Are there any risks of having an MRI?
MRI scans are not suitable for everyone. Radiographers have to be 100% certain that you meet the safety standards before entering the MRI scanning room.

You will be sent a safety questionnaire to complete with your appointment letter. Please fill in this before your appointment. If you answer yes to any of the questions please call the department.

There are no known risks of having an MRI if you meet the safety standards.
If you have a clinical condition or mobility problem that is unlikely to improve you will be exempt from the assessment process. However, you will still need to contact the assessment team so that your transport can be booked.

If your appointment is cancelled by the hospital or you cannot attend it, please (020 3456 7010 to cancel your transport.

Can an escort be arranged to accompany me in hospital transport?
This will depend on your clinical condition or mobility. If you meet the criteria then an escort will be booked to accompany you to and from the hospital. However, we aim to keep these to a minimum as escorts take up seats that would otherwise be used for patients.

4 What if I am claustrophobic?
If you are claustrophobic, we recommend you consult with your referrer or your GP who may prescribe medication to help you relax. We cannot prescribe this medication for you in the MRI department. Please inform the Radiographer if you are claustrophobic or anxious.

5 What will happen if I chose not to have an MRI?
Your referring doctor will discuss the alternative options with you.

6 Asking for your consent
We want to involve you in all the decisions about your care and treatment. If you decide to go ahead with the scan, by law we must ask you to consent to the test. This confirms that you agree to have the test and understand what it involves. The doctor that refers you for the scan will explain the risks, benefits and any alternative tests. If you are unsure about any aspect of your scan please do not hesitate to speak to either your doctor, or the Radiographer who will carry out the scan.

7 Before the MRI scan
You will receive a ‘Patient Information’ leaflet with your appointment explaining the examination.

You must arrive 1 hour before your appointment time. The Radiologist will assess you for a Caverject® injection and it will give you time to read the ‘Caverject® injection in the penis’ information sheet. Not all patients will have the injection.
You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and lock your valuables into a locker.

If you are to have Caverject®, the Radiologist will administer the injection.

As part of this examination you **may** have a cannula (a small plastic tube with a needle) placed into your arm and that will remain in for the length of the scan. The cannula is used to administer the contrast dye.

**8 What is Caverject®?**

Caverject® is a drug called prostaglandin E1 or ‘alprostadil’. It is injected into the penis to induce an artificial erection to improve the quality of the images. Each patient is different, so dose and time for effect can be different. Some patients may require a further injection.

The Radiologist will discuss your medical history with you before the injection.

There are several medical conditions where it is recommended not to have this injection. These include sickle cell disease, heart disease, leukaemia, multiple myeloma and priapism.

It is also important you inform the Radiologist of any medication you are taking for high blood, respiratory or heart disease, widening blood vessels, blood thinners, or any other treatments for erectile dysfunction.

**18 Travelling to the hospital**

No car parking is available at the hospital. Street parking is limited and restricted to a maximum of 2 hours.

Please note the University College Hospital lies outside, but very close to the Central London Congestion Charging Zone.

**Public transport**

**Tube**

The nearest tube stations, which are within 2 minutes walk are:

Warren Street (Northern and Victoria lines)
Euston Square (Hammersmith & City, Circle and Metropolitan lines).

**Overground trains**

Euston, King Cross & St Pancras and Kings Cross Thames link railway stations are within 10-15 minutes walk.

**Bus**

Bus services are shown on the map on page 12.

Further travel information can be obtained from [http://www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) Tel: 020 3054 4040

**Hospital transport services**

If you feel that you are eligible for transport please ring 020 3456 7010 (Mon to Fri 8am-8pm) to speak to a member of the Transport Assessment Booking Team.

You will need to call at least 7 days before your appointment.
Will the test be painful?
The Caverject® injection and cannula may be uncomfortable.

How long will the procedure take?
The time for the preparation and the scan will vary from patient to patient. In total it should take approximately 60 minutes.

Can my I eat and drink normally before the test?
Yes.

Can my I eat and drink normally after the test?
Yes.

9 What is a contrast dye?
You may be given an injection of a contrast dye which is a colourless liquid called Gadolinium. The Radiologist will review your clinical indications and decide this. There is a small risk of a reaction to the contrast. If you suffer from Renal (Kidney) Impairment or Failure contact your referrer to organise a GFR test to assess this.

During the scan you may experience tingling in your hands and feet and may feel an increase in body temperature. These are normal sensations. Please use the contact buzzer if you feel uncomfortable.

10 During the MRI scan
You will be asked to lie on your back, feet toward the scanner. Pads will be used to align your penis straight and a device will then be placed over your pelvis to capture the images.

The MRI makes a loud knocking sound which changes throughout the scan. This is all normal. You will be given headphones that help reduce the noise.

The scan will last approximately 30 to 40 minutes and it is important to remain still during the scan otherwise the images become blurred.

If you require the contrast dye, it will be injected through the cannula using an electronic injector.
11 Are there any side effects?
The most common side effect of Caverject® is a prolonged erection. If your erection does not go down after 4 hours or becomes painful, you must immediately return to the hospital or your local Accident and Emergency department. Remember to take ‘Caverject® injection in the penis’ information sheet with you.

It is rare to react to the contrast dye. The most common side effects are itching, nausea or vomiting. These are usually soon after the injection. Please inform the radiographer of any symptoms.

12 After the MRI scan
The cannula will be removed and you will be able to get dressed and go. You may eat and drink as normal following your scan.

You will not immediately receive your results. The images will be reviewed by a radiologist and a report is then issued to your referrer. If you do not already have an appointment to return to the clinic, you should contact your clinic to arrange this appointment.

13 How will I get my results?
You will not immediately receive your results. The images will be reviewed by a Radiologist and a report is sent to your referrer. If you do not already have an appointment to return to the clinic, you should contact your clinic to arrange this appointment.

14 Interpreter services
If you require the services of an official hospital interpreter please arrange this with the doctor that has referred you for your scan. Alternatively, you may bring along a relative, carer or a friend who speaks and understands English to translate for you.

15 Childcare
We are unable to offer childcare facilities. If you need to bring your children with you, please bring along somebody who can look after them while you are being scanned.

16. Frequently asked questions
Can I take my normal medication?
All medication can be taken as normal.

Will I need to bring a dressing gown?
This is not essential, but if you feel more comfortable wearing a dressing gown, then please bring one with you on the day of your test.

Can I wear my own clothes for the scan?
Yes. You can wear your own clothes as long as they are metal free for example no zippers or metal buttons.

Can I bring a relative or friend with me?
Yes.