

Patient information

Cardiac MR examination

Dear patient

On behalf of the Director of our Nuclear Medicine Service and the Management of University Hospital Zurich we cordially welcome you. We expect you for an outpatient examination.

For administrative purposes, please bring along your insurance certificate and show it to our receptionists.

What is an MR-scan?

MR is an imaging method, which allows us to image your body organs. MR produces cross-sectional images of the brain, heart, liver, vessels, muscles etc.. For the examination, you are placed into a circular tunnel in which there is a strong magnetic field. This field and additional magnetic fields orient the hydrogen nuclei in your body. Then, this orientation is disturbed by radio-wave pulses, and we observe how the hydrogen nuclei reorient themselves after such pulses. The information thus obtained allows us to reconstruct images from inside your body. MR uses radio waves, no X-rays, thus there is no exposure to ionizing radiation

What are the contraindications to an MR scan?

If you have a cardiac pacemaker, a neuro-stimulator or other electrically active implants and in rare cases prosthetic implants, it is possible that you cannot undergo an MR examination. Furthermore, artificial heart valves, metallic splinters e. g. in your eyes, the brain or other parts may be a contraindication to an MR scan. You must inform your referring physician about any metallic implant in your body, including hip- or other bone prostheses, ear implants, vascular clips or potential metallic splinters in your body after an accident, particularly if there was an issue with your eyes. Also, inform your physician about a pregnancy and severe allergies, as in the latter case the use of MR contrast media may be contraindicated. If you suffer from claustrophobia, the exam may also not be carried out. If necessary, you can look at the MR scanner prior to your examination.

Investigation proper

The MR examination lasts for about 60 minutes. You need to change into clothes provided by us prior to the examination. It is important, that you do not wear any metallic objects like jewelry, watches and hair clips during the scan.

For the examination you are placed on a table and then slid into the tunnel of the scanner. As the scanner is quite loud during image acquisition, you will be hooked up to an interphone by earphones. They allow you to hear instructions from the personnel and listen to music.

Please note, that you should not be accompanied by children or young adults when coming to the examination.

Contrast media

It is possible that we will need to inject some contrast material into you during the examination, as the heart, vessels and other organs may be better visible.

Side effects

MR has no known side-effects. During the examination, you may sense a bit of warmth in your body.

Please note:

Children or young adults are not permitted to accompany you to the examination

If you are unable to keep your appointment, you have to let us know by phone no later than noon of the day preceding the examination.

Else, we have to bill you for the cost of the examination.

Phone: +41 44 255 35 55

Parking space around the University Hospital is very limited and maximum parking time is two hours. We kindly ask you to use public transportation, whenever possible.