

## Contact us

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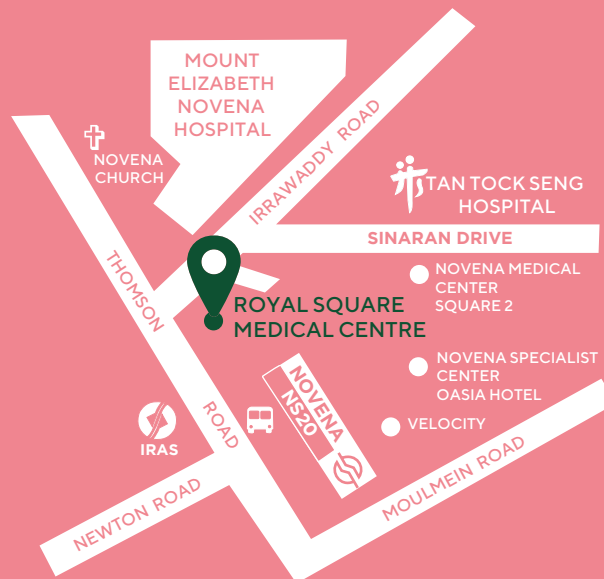
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## MRI Scan

Everything you  
need to know about  
your MRI scan



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## MRI scan

# An MRI scan helps us determine the nature of the breast lump.

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. It helps us to further characterise lesions, giving a more accurate diagnosis.

MRI scan does not use ionising radiation. It is especially useful for looking at soft tissue and is often used for disease detection, diagnosis and treatment monitoring.

For specific groups of women, breast MRI scan is recommended as a screening tool for detecting breast cancer.

This group includes – women with very dense breast tissue or implant, women with a family history of breast cancer, and women who carry a hereditary breast cancer gene mutation.

## How to prepare for your MRI scan?

### Let us know if you are pregnant or have kidney problems

Tell us if you are pregnant or could be pregnant, and if you have any kidney problems.

### 1-2 weeks after your period

If you have a regular menstrual cycle, it is best to schedule your MRI scan 1-2 weeks after the start of your period.

### Talk to us if you are claustrophobic, we can help

If you are worried about the MRI scan or feel claustrophobic, let us know so we can better support you.

### Fill a simple questionnaire

You will need to fill and sign a questionnaire to ensure that the MRI scanner is safe for you.

As the MRI scanner is a powerful magnet, the questionnaire helps us ensure you do not have any metal implants or electrical devices in your body.

### Fasting is not required

You do not need to fast before your breast MRI scan.

## What happens during your MRI scan?

1

During the scan, you will need to lie very still, face down, on a platform bed, which will slowly move through a tube-like scanner. This small space and position might make some people feel uncomfortable.

2

Lying still is crucial because any movement can affect your result. If you experience any discomfort, simply let our radiographer know.

We will also provide extra help if you have physical limitations preventing you from lying flat.

3

You will likely be given an injection of contrast into a vein in your arm during the scan. This acts as a contrast medium and helps certain types of tissue show up more clearly on the scan. Rarely will this IV contrast cause any allergic reaction.

4

Our radiographer will supervise the scan in the next room, where they can see you through a window and a screen monitor.

You will always be able to talk to us through the intercom, and you will have a call bell to alert us if you need our immediate attention.

5

The scan is painless and takes around 30 minutes. A blanket, earplugs or headphones will be provided for your comfort.



## Also important to know

- Some tattoos contain metal, especially those with red dye in them. These can cause a warm, or sometimes a burning sensation during an MRI scan on the area of skin where the tattoo is. Let our radiographer know immediately if this happens.
- As always, feel free to talk to us if you have any concerns or queries. We are always here for you.