

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) – is it safe for my baby?

The Royal Women's Hospital Fact Sheet / www.thewomens.org.au



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This fact sheet is based on common questions that parents have asked about MRI and their baby. If you have further questions please ask.

Every year, around 10 million people around the world will have an MRI. MRI has been shown to be extremely safe as long as proper safety precautions are taken. The MRI does not cause pain or any short-term or long-term damage or health problems.

What about radiation?

While x-ray and CT scan expose people to radiation, this is not the case with MRI. An MRI scanner uses electromagnetic waves in a strong magnet to take clear pictures of the inside of the body.

Why can't there be metal objects near an MRI?

The magnet in the scanner attracts certain metallic objects, causing them to move suddenly towards the centre of the scanner. The MRI technologist will ensure that all such objects are identified and removed prior to anyone entering the scanning room.

Is the noise going to upset my baby?

We are careful to reduce the noise exposure to safe recommended levels for babies using MiniMuffs®, special ear muffs designed for babies. There is also a beanbag that surrounds the baby's head, which provides additional ear protection for the babies.



Ear Muffs on



Secured in special wrap for scanning

Will my baby get too warm or cold during the MRI?

We measure all babies' temperatures before and after the MRI examination. To date, we have not had any problems with babies getting too hot or too cold. Indeed, most babies sleep peacefully through the whole procedure.

The MRI examination we use is developed specially for babies to minimise any possible side effects.

If you want to read more, try:

www.MRIsafety.com

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