

Research MRI

The Centre for Advanced MRI is a leading research facility offering world class expertise and MRI technology. We are based in the University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

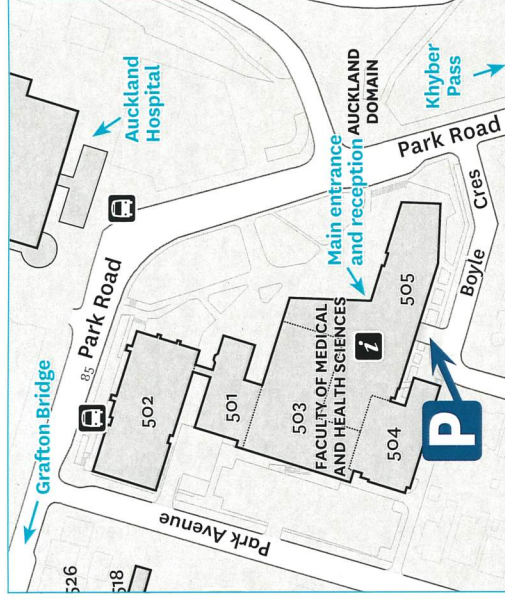
The Centre for Advanced MRI is the first MRI venture in New Zealand to focus on high-end clinical and research work. It is an advanced research facility where the MRI scanners are of higher specifications and tolerances than standard facilities.

The Centre for Advanced MRI is recognised for its specialised expertise in Cardiac MRI Research (CMR). Our team have extensive experience and have been involved in large scale international clinical trials. They have also developed advanced 4D analysis software for cardiac imaging, which has been licensed to Siemens Medical Systems and is installed in a number of international research and clinical facilities.

Our ongoing collaboration with Siemens ensures our clinic has access to the latest equipment and software developments for advanced research and clinical imaging.



Where to find us



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Centre for Advanced MRI

Patient Information



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MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES

Patient Information

The Centre for Advanced MRI offers world class expertise in MRI technology. Though we are a research facility, we offer our services to the public through DHB and specialist clinical referrals.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a diagnostic technique that uses magnetic fields and radio waves to produce a detailed image of the body's soft tissue and bones. It provides your specialist with a clear view of what is happening inside your body.

Because of its reputation for accuracy and safety, MRI is the method of choice in diagnosing a wide range of injuries and conditions from identifying tumours, strokes, degenerative diseases, cardiac disease amongst others.

Having an MRI is painless and doesn't expose you to ionising radiation (x-rays). Sometimes an injection of dye or contrast agent is required to improve the accuracy of the scan. This is given via a small needle in a vein in your arm. Side effects to these are very rare.

If you are pregnant, or there is a chance you could be, you will need to discuss having an MRI with your doctor beforehand. Scans in first trimester are usually avoided where possible.

Referrals

Your specialist can send a referral directly to us.

Safety

Prior to having a scan you will need to complete a safety check sheet which will be checked by the radiographer.

No detrimental effects or risks are known from MRI scanning. However, it may not be possible, or safe, to have an MRI scan if you have any of the following:

- Cardiac pacemaker
- Surgical clips in the brain
- Some artificial heart valves
- Electronic inner ear implants
- Metal fragments in your eyes
- Electronic stimulators
- Implanted pumps

If any of these apply, please contact us to discuss prior to your appointment.

Claustrophobia

Those who experience claustrophobia, or have trouble in enclosed spaces, may have some concerns about the MRI scan. Please call to discuss with the MRI staff before your appointment. A mock scanner is now available to allow for a test run to help prepare anxious patients and children. Some people find that having a friend or relative in the room for support is enough to help relieve anxiety. Everyone who enters the room will need to complete a safety sheet.

Your MRI Procedure

On arrival, the radiographer will go through your safety checklist. You will then be asked to change into a gown and remove all metallic objects and jewellery.

The scan will take place usually with you lying on your back, and lightweight equipment will be placed on top of or around the region being scanned. The scanner is very noisy while working and has been likened to someone drilling the road or an aeroplane taking off. You will be given headphones and ear plugs to wear for protection. If you wish, you are able to request music, to be played over the headphones during the scan. You will be asked to lie in the scanner for between 30-60 minutes, and to remain as still as possible to ensure the resulting images are movement free. At all times you are able to communicate with staff throughout the scan, and are supplied with an emergency buzzer.

MRI mock scanner

The Centre for Advanced MRI now houses a 'mock scanner' (pictured below) and allows for a 'test' run of what a real scan would be. It is the first facility of its kind in the country. The purpose of the Mock MRI is to enable children and anxious adults who require an MRI scan for clinical or research purposes to become familiar with the noisy and confined environment of the scanner and if required to practise the tasks expected of them.

