

MRI examination during pregnancy

Dear Patient,

Your doctor has referred you to us for an MRI examination. This leaflet is designed to give you information about the special circumstances of an MRI examination performed during pregnancy.

MRI examination

Previous studies have not demonstrated any harmful effects of MRI examinations on the developing, unborn child. However, this does not automatically mean that there is no residual risk for the unborn child. Therefore, in pregnant patients, a careful review should be made as to whether an MRI examination is necessary or sensible to answer the question at issue (risk-benefit evaluation). In pregnant patients, MRI examinations can be performed when justified by the risk-benefit evaluation. For that reason, no special recommendations are given either regarding MRI examinations in the first trimester as compared to the subsequent months of pregnancy. The following conditions ought to be fulfilled and documented in the radiologist's report.

- The medical question cannot be clarified by an ultrasound examination.
- The diagnosis obtained by the MRI examination potentially has an influence on the treatment of the patient or of the fetus during the pregnancy.
- The referring doctor does not deem it justifiable to postpone the MRI examination until after the term of the pregnancy.

MRI contrast media

MRI contrast media should not be routinely administered to pregnant patients. The decision whether to use MRI contrast media should be made in each individual case after weighing the risks against the benefits.

MRI contrast media should only be administered to obtain potentially critical additional information about the patient or the unborn child. Should it be necessary or very sensible to administer contrast media, only the lowest possible dose should be administered, since gadolinium-based contrast media can pass through the placenta. Subsequent to the MRI examination, no prenatal tests are required. MRI contrast media should not be administered to pregnant women with impaired renal function.

References:

ACR Guidance Document on MR Safe Practices: 2013
ESUR Guidelines on Contrast Media Version 9.0

Last Name:

First Name:

Date of birth:

If you consent to the planned MRI examination being performed, please sign below. **Naturally, you may ask us questions at any time before and during the examination.**

Date:

Signature:

Radiologist: