PATIENT INFORMATION

Cardiac MRI

Detailed imaging of your heart, closer to home

Available at Wollongong Diagnostics Kiama

What is Cardiac MRI?

Cardiac MRI is a specialised MRI scan that provides detailed information about the structure and function of your heart and the heart muscle itself.

Your doctor or specialist may recommend a Cardiac MRI to help understand what is happening within your heart and, in some cases, investigate the cause of an abnormal finding.

What can a Cardiac MRI show?

A Cardiac MRI can provide information about:

- the structure of your heart
- how well your heart is pumping
- the thickness and movement of the heart muscle
- changes within the heart muscle, including fibrosis, inflammation or scarring
- blood flow in the heart and surrounding blood vessels
- some conditions affecting the heart muscle or surrounding structures.

It can be particularly useful when your doctor needs more information about why the heart may be weak, thickened or otherwise abnormal.

Why might I need one?

Your doctor or specialist may consider Cardiac MRI for:

- reduced heart function
- unexplained thickening of the heart muscle
- cardiomyopathy
- possible inflammation or scarring of the heart
- abnormal cardiac test results where further information is needed
- blood flow within the heart and surrounding blood vessels
- selected conditions affecting the heart or major vessels.

Whether Cardiac MRI is appropriate will depend on your individual circumstances and the clinical question your doctor is trying to answer.

Different heart scans answer different questions

ECHOCARDIOGRAM

Uses ultrasound to assess the structure and movement of the heart and how well it is pumping.

CARDIAC CT

Provides detailed images of the coronary arteries when investigating coronary artery disease.

CARDIAC MRI

Assesses heart structure and function, including characteristics of the heart muscle itself.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Your Cardiac MRI appointment

What happens during a Cardiac MRI?

A Cardiac MRI generally takes around 30 to 45 minutes. Before and during your examination, our team will guide you through each step.

30-45

MINUTES

A series of sequences provides different information about your heart.

1 Change into a gown
You will usually change into a gown before the scan.

2 Heart monitoring
Cardiac electrodes are placed on your chest to monitor your heart rhythm.

3 Contrast if required
A cannula may be inserted if contrast is required.

4 Series of images
You will lie on the MRI table while a series of images is taken.

5 Short breath holds
You may be asked to hold your breath for short periods, often around 10 seconds.

6 Stay in contact
You will usually wear headphones and can communicate with the MRI technologists throughout your scan.

Before your appointment

Please tell our team when booking if you:

- have a pacemaker, implanted medical device or other metal in your body
- have previously had surgery involving implants or clips
- may be pregnant
- have kidney problems
- have previously had a reaction to MRI contrast
- experience significant claustrophobia or have concerns about undergoing an MRI.

Our team will advise you of any specific preparation required for your examination.

What should I bring?

Please bring:

- your referral
- Medicare card and any relevant concession, DVA or healthcare cards
- relevant previous imaging or reports if these were performed elsewhere
- any information our team has asked you to bring when confirming your appointment.

Cardiac MRI at Kiama

Wollongong Diagnostics Kiama

Shop 1, 115 Terralong Street, Kiama NSW 2533
(02) 4208 3030

SCAN FOR SERVICES

Medicare and fees

Eligibility for Medicare rebates depends on the examination, referral and applicable Medicare requirements. We will confirm eligibility and any costs when you book.