

# Mri Proctogram

## What Is An Mri Proctogram?

Magnetic resonance imaging or MRI, uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to create very detailed images of the inside of the body. The scanner itself is a long tube surrounded by powerful magnets. You lie inside the tube whilst the scan is being carried out

An MRI proctogram, also known as MR defaecography, is a specialised MRI scan. This type of scan is very useful for investigating problems with bowel emptying and symptoms of obstructed defaecation as well as other areas of prolapse.

The test is designed to show how well the bowel empties. It can identify areas of bulging such as rectoceles, enteroceles and sigmoidoceles and is also useful for showing external rectal prolapse and internal rectal prolapse (intussusception). The scan will also show the pelvic floor muscles as well as bladder and vaginal prolapse where it exists.

This type of test is known as a dynamic test as we can record all the movements of the pelvic floor muscles as they are working. It can also show whether or not the pelvic floor muscles are working in a co-ordinated way.

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## Do I Need Any Preparation Before-Hand?

You will receive written instructions about the test beforehand. No preparation is usually required.

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## What Does The Test Involve?

When you arrive in the MRI department you will be asked to lie in the scanner. A small tube will be inserted into your bottom and some paste injected. The scan will be done first with you lying still. A further scan will be taken whilst you are straining and another scan will be done as you expel the paste from your bottom.

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## What Happens Afterwards?

The test does not take long to complete. You will be able to go home straight afterwards and you can continue with all normal activities.

The radiologist will analyse the pictures and send a full report to your consultant.