



The safe  
and accurate  
measurement  
of liver iron  
concentration

Information for Patients

# What you need to know

## What is iron overload?

“Iron overload” is the accumulation of too much iron in the body. People receiving multiple blood transfusions are at risk of iron overload because each transfusion has a high iron content. Patients with the following conditions are often at risk:

- Thalassaemia
- Sickle cell disease
- Myelodysplastic syndrome

Iron overload can also be caused by conditions such as hereditary haemochromatosis, a condition that involves abnormally high iron absorption from a person’s diet. Hereditary haemochromatosis is caused by an abnormal gene or genes that control iron absorption.

## Why is it important to measure the amount of iron in the liver?

There are several reasons why it is important to have your liver iron accurately assessed if you are at risk of iron overload:

- Liver iron concentration (LIC) is recognised as the most effective measure of your body’s total iron stores
- The liver is the main site where excess iron is stored in the body
- Patients with elevated LIC have a greater risk of future complications

Liver iron concentration provides an early warning of potential future complications in the heart and other organs and the early diagnosis and management of iron overload is important to prevent widespread organ damage.

# about FerriScan®.

## What is FerriScan?

FerriScan is an MRI-based test to measure the amount of iron in the liver (or liver iron concentration). The FerriScan result will provide your doctor with the accurate information they need to help determine the most appropriate treatment for your condition. For transfused patients the doctor can use this information to make decisions on:

- when to start chelation therapy
- when to adjust chelator dose
- the best way to deliver the chelation therapy

For patients with hereditary haemochromatosis FerriScan can assist with diagnosing iron overload and identifying patients who are at risk of iron induced liver damage.

## How does FerriScan work?

There are 3 simple steps:

1. An MRI scanner captures a set of images of your liver.
2. The MRI images are sent via the internet to the FerriScan Service Centre where they are analysed.
3. Once the analysis has been completed, a report detailing the amount of iron in your liver is sent to your doctor (via the MRI Centre).

## How long does a FerriScan take?

On average, it takes around 10 minutes to collect the MRI images required for FerriScan analysis but this can be quicker on some scanners. The results are usually available within 48 hours.

## **Do I need a referral?**

Yes, you will need to obtain a referral from your treating doctor prior to attending the radiology (MRI) clinic. Your doctor will need to specifically request a quantitative MRI liver iron test or 'FerriScan'.

## **Is it safe to have an MRI and FerriScan?**

Yes. MRI is accepted as a safe, non-invasive imaging procedure. MRI scanners use a magnetic field and pulses of radio wave energy to take images, so there is no radiation exposure. No contrast agent is administered during the FerriScan procedure.

## **Can anyone have a FerriScan?**

Before the scan, you will be asked some questions to assess your suitability for MRI examination. There are some instances where it might not be recommended to have an MRI scan including if you are pregnant or if you have a pacemaker or any electronic or metal implants. Your doctor will discuss your suitability with you. If you have any concerns, please let the MRI radiographer or your doctor know prior to undergoing the scan.

## **Can my child have a FerriScan?**

Children of most ages will be able to have a FerriScan. However, it may be necessary for them to be sedated during the MRI scan as shifting or movement of the body can affect the accuracy of the FerriScan result. Your Doctor or MRI radiographer will talk to you about this if it is required.

## How frequently can FerriScan be used?

FerriScan is safe to be used repeatedly. It is recommended that you have a FerriScan once every year to monitor the amount of iron in your liver if you are receiving regular blood transfusions.

## How do I find out my FerriScan results?

Once the FerriScan analysis is completed, the results will be sent back to the MRI centre. The MRI centre will return the results to your referring doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you.

## Why you should choose FerriScan?

FerriScan is the world's leading liver iron measurement technology which offers substantial benefits for patients. These include:

- Non-invasive - no longer require a liver biopsy
- Accurate - serum ferritin tests do not provide an accurate measurement of the body iron stores
- Can be used repeatedly

FerriScan has regulatory clearance in the USA (FDA), Europe (CE Mark), Australia (TGA), New Zealand (MedSafe) and Canada (Health Canada). As at 2008, we have performed over 5,000 patient liver iron measurements and FerriScan is available in over 20 countries.

## Where can I get a FerriScan?

A list of FerriScan sites is available from our website at [www.resonancehealth.com](http://www.resonancehealth.com).

## Resonance Health Analysis Service Pty Ltd

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DISCLAIMER: FerriScan provides a Liver Iron Concentration measurement only and no other diagnostic information can be derived from the scan images or test results. Resonance Health Limited and its subsidiary companies including its officers, employees, representatives and consultants use all reasonable efforts to include up-to-date, complete and accurate information in this brochure. Resonance Health Group, however, shall not be liable for any loss, damage, or injury resulting from reliance on information provided. Patients considering having a FerriScan should seek advice from their physician in relation to their condition.