

FerriScan[®] and Haemochromatosis Fact Sheet

Endorsed by:

What is FerriScan?

FerriScan is an MRI-based method of measuring liver iron concentration. It provides an accurate, accessible and safe method of assessing the presence and severity of iron overload.¹

FerriScan was developed in Australia and is now used worldwide to diagnose and manage patients with iron overload

The Role of FerriScan in Haemochromatosis

The accumulation of excess iron in haemochromatosis occurs primarily in the liver, which over a prolonged period can cause liver damage. This may lead to liver fibrosis or cirrhosis and is a risk factor for hepatocellular carcinoma. Diagnosing and assessing the level of iron overload is not always straightforward, as confounding factors such as inflammation can affect blood results.

- FerriScan is a useful tool to accurately quantify the extent of iron overload following an initial diagnosis of haemochromatosis, especially if the ferritin levels are >1,000ng/ml. This may assist in treatment planning and assessing the likelihood of liver damage.
- A FerriScan assessment of liver iron concentration can provide a definitive diagnosis of iron overload in patients who are not positive for the HFE gene mutations but have elevated ferritin levels. Serum ferritin may be raised for reasons other than iron overload and has low specificity at elevated levels.²



FerriScan Facts:

- ✓ FerriScan is TGA approved
- ✓ FerriScan provides an accurate, MRI-based measurement of liver iron concentration
- ✓ FerriScan takes 10 minutes to complete, is non-invasive and requires no contrast agent
- ✓ FerriScan has high sensitivity and specificity at low and high levels of iron
- ✓ FerriScan results are unaffected by inflammation, fibrosis or cirrhosis of the liver

The FerriScan Process



FerriScan imaging can be performed on most MRI scanners and is available at MRI facilities in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, ACT and Western Australia. The image analysis is performed centrally by Resonance Health. Please visit www.ferriscan.com for a list of participating centres or contact Resonance Health for further information on info@ferriscan.com. FerriScan is not currently reimbursed through Medicare. The cost of a FerriScan will vary between MRI centres, but may be in the range of \$500-\$700.

1. St Pierre *et al* (2005) *Blood*; 105:855-861

2. *European Association for the Study of the liver. EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines for HFE Hemochromatosis. Journal of Hepatology*, 2010. doi: 10.1013/j.jhep.2010.03.001. (C) 2010 European Association for the Study of the Liver.