

Your Child's MRI scan under General Anaesthetic

Critical Care Unit (ICCU)



The prevention of infection is a priority in all healthcare settings and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, a cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or an unexplained rash which could be infectious please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility. If your visit is essential then phone ahead to the department that you are visiting
- If you are unwell seek advice from 111 or your GP if required
- Help us to keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.



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Introduction

The information sheet aims to answer some of the questions you may have about your child's MRI scan under general anaesthetic. It explains the benefits, risks, and alternatives of the procedure as well as what you can expect when you come to hospital. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

What is an MRI scan?

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. An MRI scan uses a combination of a strong magnet and radio waves to produce detailed pictures of the inside of your body.

What are the benefits of an MRI scan?

An MRI scan can help to find out what is causing your child's problem and help your doctor to find the best treatment.

An MRI scan provides much more detailed pictures of your child's body than an ordinary X-ray. It is particularly good at identifying problems in the spine, the brain and in the joints. It is also helpful for looking at other parts of the body, often when other types of scan have not given a full picture. Unlike X-rays and CT (computerised tomography) scans, MRI scans do not use radiation.

Are there any risks?

MRI is a very safe procedure for most patients. However, patients with heart pacemakers and certain other surgical implants, for example a cochlear implant, cannot be scanned. You will be asked to complete and sign a safety questionnaire for your child before their scan, to make sure it is safe for them to be scanned.

Why does my child need a General Anaesthetic for an MRI?

Your child will need to lie completely still for the scan, which can be difficult to achieve whilst awake, hence the need for a general anaesthetic.

What should I do if my child develops a bad cold before the MRI scan?

If your child develops a bad cold or becomes unwell for any other reason, it is important to call the children's ward the day before to cancel your appointment.

What happens before the scan?

Before your child is given the anaesthetic, the radiographer (a specially trained member of the radiology team who performs the MRI scan) will go through your child's safety questionnaire with you. You will be given the opportunity to ask the radiographer any questions you have.

Your child will be given the anaesthetic in the anaesthetic room, which is next to the MRI scanner. Once asleep, your child will be taken into the scanner.

The scanner is a short tunnel and, when the scanner is working, it makes a loud banging noise. However, since your child will be asleep with a general anaesthetic, they will not be able to hear the sound. We will give your child headphones to wear, to protect their ears while they are asleep.

Will my child need an injection of contrast dye during the scan?

If we are scanning certain areas of your child's body, we may need to give them an injection of contrast dye. This shows up on the scan and gives us more detailed pictures, particularly of your child's blood vessels.

The injection will be given through a cannula (plastic tube) which a doctor will place in a vein in your child's arm for the general anaesthetic procedure.

The contrast dye contains gadolinium, which may occasionally, cause allergic reactions. The most common allergic reactions are headaches, nausea and vomiting, sneezing, wheezing, runny nose, eye irritation, itching, hives, skin rash, swelling of the face, mouth, hands, feet or throat, difficulty in breathing, and low blood pressure.

Before the scan we will check whether your child has had any previous allergies. If you would like more information about the injection, please ask the radiographer before your scan.

If your child has any problems with their liver and/or kidneys please raise this with the medical team on your child's admission, as extra tests may be required before administering any contrast.

How long will the scan take?

This depends on which part of your child's body is being scanned and the information that the doctor needs.

The radiographer will tell you how long he/she expects your child's scan to take. The whole procedure can take one to two hours on average.

Will my child feel anything?

The scan should be completely painless.

What happens afterwards?

As soon as the scan is finished, your child will be taken to the recovery room. Here, specially trained recovery nurses will closely monitor your child.

You will be taken to the recovery room as soon as your child starts to wake up.

The pictures taken during the scan are carefully studied by the radiologist who will produce a detailed report.

Will my child have to stay in hospital overnight after the procedure?

You can take your child home provided they have achieved all of the following:

1. Be fully awake and alert
2. Tolerating food and drink and not be vomiting

It is anticipated that you will need to stay for up to four hours following your child's MRI scan, to ensure they are fit to be discharged. However, please bring overnight provisions in case of any unforeseen circumstances.

When will I get the results?

The results will be sent to the doctor who referred your child for the scan; usually a hospital specialist. You will get the results of the scan at your child's next clinic appointment. For more urgent problems, they may be available sooner.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the MRI scan under general anaesthetic, or the contrast dye injection, please contact the doctor who referred your child for the scan.

If you have any questions about your child's appointment and admission for the scan, please phone 01902 307999 extension 85047.

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。