

# Your child's MRI scan with general anaesthetic

Department of Radiology

Information for Parents and Carers

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## Introduction

Your doctor has asked that your child has an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan with a general anaesthetic.

## What is an MRI scan?

An MRI scanner is a large tube that contains a powerful magnet. An MRI scan is a test which uses a powerful magnet and a computer to produce detailed images of any part of the body. The MRI scanner does not use X-rays.

## Why a general anaesthetic?

During an MRI scan your child needs to stay as still as possible to get good scan pictures. A general anaesthetic will make your child fall asleep so they don't move during the scan.

## How to prepare your child for the general anaesthetic

Please follow the instructions in your child's appointment letter carefully about eating and drinking before the general anaesthetic. If the instructions are not followed the scan cannot be done.

**Glucose monitor:** If your child uses a glucose monitor which goes on the surface of their skin e.g. Libre, this will need to be taken off for the MRI scan. The same sensor cannot be reattached to the skin once removed. Please bring a replacement to your appointment so you can apply it after the scan. Or you can contact us to change the scan appointment, so it ties in with when you are due to replace the sensor.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## **On arrival at the Children's Hospital**

You will be met by a nurse who will look after you and your child during your stay. Your child will be admitted to the ward so they have a bed to sleep on. A doctor who specialises in anaesthetics (called an anaesthetist) will visit you and your child on the ward so that they can check that your child is well enough to have a general anaesthetic. You can ask the nurse and doctor any questions that you have.

## **Before the MRI scan**

The nurse may put some local anaesthetic cream on the back of your child's hands. This helps to reduce any discomfort when they have the anaesthetic injection and any other injections needed.

If your child is already staying in hospital as an inpatient on a ward, the doctor will see them before the scan. Your nurse will come with you and your child to the MRI department where the scan will be carried out.

A member of the MRI team will complete a safety questionnaire with you to make sure that your child can have the MRI scan.

The anaesthetic doctor will give your child an injection of the anaesthetic. Usually you can stay until your child is asleep. You will then need to leave the room while your child is taken in to the scanner.

## **During the MRI scan**

The MRI scan of your child will be done by a radiographer or assistant practitioner (a health professional who specialises in X-rays and scanning). Your child will be monitored throughout the scan by the anaesthetic doctor.

The scan will take about 30 minutes to 1 hour.

## **After the MRI scan**

When the scan is completed your child will be woken up by the anaesthetist.

You and your child will come back to the ward with your nurse. Your child can eat and drink straight away.

If your child is having the scan done as a day case, they will usually be ready to go home in the afternoon.

## Any questions?

If you have any questions write them down here to remind you what to ask when you speak to your nurse or radiologist.

If you have any questions or concerns you can contact the Radiology Department on **0116 258 8765 (option 2)**.

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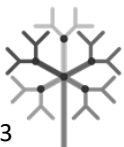
اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email [equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)



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