

More information

For any queries about this information,
please contact the MRI scanning
department on
01225 824072 or 821940

RUH

Patient Information

Use of contrast agents for children in MRI scanning



The aim of this leaflet is to provide you
with some information about what MRI
contrast agents are and why they are
important.

Your child has been referred for an MRI scan. During the scan, as part of the procedure, we may wish to give your child a small injection of an MRI contrast agent.

What is an MRI contrast agent and why is it used?

An MRI contrast agent is a chemical that is injected into a vein (usually in the arm or hand) that helps improve the MRI image. It works by increasing the contrast between the different types of body tissues and helps to make the images obtained during the scan clearer. This can then help the Radiologist make a diagnosis

Are there any side effects?

All medicines can cause side effects and everyone reacts differently to medicines. MRI contrast agents have been shown to be very safe and rarely cause side effects. Very occasionally, minor side effects such as sneezing or feeling slightly sick are seen. Very rarely, MRI contrast agents have been thought to cause a condition called Nephrogenic System Fibrosis (NSF), an extremely rare but serious condition

which causes fibrosis of skin, joints and internal organs. The link between MRI contrast agents and NSF has only been found in patients with severe renal function disorders.

If your child suffers from kidney or liver disease, please let us know as soon as possible as we may need to arrange for some blood tests to be done. We will check with you at the time of the scan whether your child has any other health issues which may slightly increase the risk of any side effects.

What MRI contrast agent will be used?

There are several different MRI contrast agents available to use. In the RUH, we use a contrast agent called Dotarem as this product is very safe and rarely causes any side effects. It is also classed as a low risk product with regards to NSF.

Dotarem is also the only MRI contrast agent that has a licence to be used in children under the age of 2.

We are happy to discuss this further when you attend for your child's appointment.

If you are happy for us to give your child an injection of Dotarem please sign below.

I have had the information sheet on use of contrast agents in MRI scanning. I have had an opportunity to discuss this with staff.

I agree for my child to have an injection of Dotarem

Name.....

Signed.....

Date.....