

Information About Your Child's **MRI General Anaesthetic Scan (morning)**



Your doctor has referred your child for an **MRI scan under General Anaesthetic (GA)**. This will take place in the Imaging Department (also known as Radiology or X-ray department) on the **First floor** of the **Royal Hospital for Children**. Please refer to your appointment letter for guidance on where to attend – this will either be Day Surgery or one of our other wards.

What is an MRI scan?

An **MRI** (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan uses giant magnets inside a special machine that looks like a doughnut to take pictures of the inside of the body. Your child will lie on a comfortable bed which slides into the middle of the doughnut to take the pictures.

You can watch a video of our scanner on the following website:

<https://www.whatwhychildreninhospital.org.uk/video-happens-in-mri>

What is an MRI under General Anaesthetic?

For an MRI scan your child would need to lie very still for at least 20 minutes, depending on what body part is being scanned. Some children find this difficult either due to their age or a medical condition and therefore your doctor has referred them to have their scan under a General Anaesthetic (GA). This means that your child will be put to sleep during the MRI scan.



The Imaging Team

We are made up of:

- Reception staff
- Healthcare support workers
- Radiographers (who perform the scan)
- Radiologists (the Doctors who report the scan)



The Anaesthetic Team

The Anaesthetic team are made up of:

- Anaesthetist (the specialist doctors who administer anaesthetic)
- Anaesthetic nurse or Operating Department Practitioners (who assist the anaesthetist)

What do I need to think about before coming for the scan?

As the scanner has a large magnet inside, please let us know before the scan date if you or your child have any metal inside the body from any surgeries or accidents. In rare cases, we won't be able to carry out the scan if you do not let us know about any metal before the appointment.

What happens on the day of the scan?

The appointment letter will usually ask you to attend Day Surgery at 7:30am in order to prepare your child for the General Anaesthetic.

Due to limited space within Day Surgery, we would ask that a maximum of 2 people attend with your child for this admission. One parent or legal guardian must be present to sign the consent form.

Sometimes we may ask you to attend another ward that is not Day Surgery – this information will be on the appointment letter.

Can my child eat and drink as normal before coming for the General Anaesthetic scan?

No. It is important that your child is prepared correctly before the scan. You must follow these instructions carefully at home. If you do not follow these instructions we may have to cancel your child's scan.

Your child must have **no**:

- food **after 3:00am**
- formula, milk or milky drinks **after 3:00am**
- breast milk **after 5:00am**
- Please encourage your child to drink diluting juice or water **only** until **8:00am**.

On the day of admission please do **not** give your child fizzy drinks or fresh fruit drinks.

Please note:

If your child develops a cold, rash, sore throat, high temperature, vomiting, diarrhoea, has been in contact with chicken pox or receives a head injury in the 2 weeks before their appointment, please contact a member of staff on the number at the bottom of this leaflet for advice.

What should my child wear?

Your child should wear some comfortable pyjamas with no metal poppers, eyelets or buttons and slippers. Don't worry if this is not possible, we can change them into a hospital gown if needed.

What happens before the scan?

The Day Surgery team will book your child into the hospital and will carry out a pre-assessment on your child. You will also get the chance to meet the Anaesthetist that will be looking after your child.

A member of the Imaging Team will collect you and your child from Day Surgery and will take you to the MRI Department when it is your child's turn on the Anaesthetic list.

Once in the MRI Department, the Radiographer will ask you to fill in a safety questionnaire for your child. For this, you must be aware of your child's full medical history. Someone will be able to accompany the child into the Anaesthetic room – this person must also fill out a safety questionnaire for themselves.

The Radiologist (the doctors who report the scan) will also speak to you about the scan to make sure you fully understand the procedure in order to fill out and sign a consent form. For this reason, a parent or legal guardian must attend with the child for the scan.

Once the paperwork is complete, the Anaesthetic Nurse or Operating Department Practitioner will accompany you and your child to the anaesthetic room.

Once your child is asleep, we will escort you out of MRI and the Anaesthetic team will look after your child from this point onward.

What happens after the scan?

Following the scan and recovery period your child should be ready to go home, if this is not possible the reasons will be explained to you in full. ****Please be aware that this appointment could take most of the day****. It is essential that you have transport either a private car or taxi to take you home. You should not use public transport if our child has had a general anaesthetic.

How will I get the results?

The results go to the hospital Consultant who asked for your scan. You will not get any results on the day as our Radiologist will need time to go over all the pictures in detail and write a report.

Do you have any other questions?

Please call the number below or ask your Radiographer on the day.

You can find a video of our MRI scanner on the What? Why? Children in Hospital website at www.wwcih.org.uk

MRI scanner video - <https://www.whatwhychildreninhospital.org.uk/video-happens-in-mri>

Cannula video - <https://www.whatwhychildreninhospital.org.uk/cannula>

Contact Centre

Telephone Number: 0141 452 4257

www.nhsggc.org.uk

