PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY

NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED

Unless patient is renal impaired
1. What is MRI?
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an advanced imaging method that uses a strong magnetic field, radio waves and a computer to produce pictures of the body. MRI does not use x-rays. MRI pictures are very detailed. They can show both bones and soft tissues in the body.

MRI Safety
- No one is permitted into the scanning room until they have answered a series of safety questions and removed all metal objects from your body. (eg jewellery, eyeglasses and mobile phones).
- Because of the strong magnetic field there will be some patients who cannot undergo an MRI. These are patients who have metallic implants. These include but are not limited to: heart pacemakers, aneurysm clips in the brain, and foreign bodies such as metal shavings in the eyes.
- It is vital that you answer the safety questions as correctly as possible. You should discuss any internal implants (of any kind) that you may have with MRI staff to clarify any possible risks.

2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?
An MRI Scan is a painless procedure, no anaesthetic is required.
Some people find that being inside the MRI machine makes them feel uncomfortable due to the confined space of the tunnel. This is known as ‘claustrophobia’. If this occurs, let the staff know as there are many different ways they can help you.
Rarely, medication may be required to help you complete the scan. If you require medication for the scan please check the procedure with MRI staff.

3. Preparation for the procedure
The medical imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your procedure.
- Please tell the staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

4. During the procedure
You will not feel anything during the scan. The radio waves used to take your pictures are very noisy; you may hear thumping, and knocking sounds. You will be provided with headphones or earplugs to protect your ears from the noise.
MRI staff will not be in the room with you during the scan but they will be able to see you and talk to you between the scans via an intercom. You will be given a call button to use if you need help.
The MRI scan will take between 15 and 90 minutes. It is extremely important that you keep completely still during the scan. Any movement can blur the pictures.
Depending on the area being scanned, you may be given MRI Contrast.
A fine needle (IV cannula) will be put into a vein in your arm, to inject the MRI Contrast.
For more information on MRI Contrast and the risks involved in its use, please read the MRI Contrast Patient Information Sheet (if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one).

5. After the procedure
The IV cannula will be removed (if inserted).
There are no known side effects or after effects of having a MRI.

6. What are the risks of this specific procedure?
The risks and complications with this procedure can include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications include:
- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from the IV cannula. This may require treatment with antibiotics.

Less common risks and complications include:
- No known less common risks.

Rare risks and complications include:
- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.

Notes to talk to my doctor/ Health practitioner about:

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1. What is a MRI contrast?
The medical imaging MRI procedure your doctor has asked you to have may use MRI Contrast. MRI Contrast is a colourless liquid that is injected into your blood stream. MRI Contrast is not a dye. It does not stain the inside of your body. It is used during MRI medical imaging procedures to allow your organs to be seen more clearly. Your doctor needs to use MRI Contrast to be able to get all the information needed to assist with your diagnosis.

This information sheet must be read together with the information sheet of the procedure you are booked for (if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one).

2. During the procedure
When the MRI Contrast is injected you should not feel any different.

3. After the procedure
MRI Contrast does not affect your ability to carry out normal activities; you should be able to continue with your day as normal.

4. Precautions
MRI Contrast is not suitable for some people; you will be asked a series of questions before it is given to you. Your answers allow staff to identify any risk factors that you may have.

- Please tell the staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

Kidney function:

- MRI Contrast is removed from your body by your kidneys through your urine. It is easily removed from the body of people who have normal kidney function.
- People whose kidneys are poorly functioning (known as ‘Renal Failure’) cannot remove MRI Contrast from their body. This may lead to a very rare disorder called Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF).
- NSF is a condition that results in scarring or thickening of the skin and tissues throughout the body. This scarring can lead to a tightening of muscle, tendons, ligaments, or skin that prevents normal movement and function. This condition is severely disabling and may result in death.
- You may be asked to have a simple blood test to find out the level of their kidney function.

5. What are the risks of MRI Contrast?
The risks and complications with MRI Contrast can include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications include:
- No known common risks.

Less common risks and complications include:
- Injected Contrast may leak outside of the blood vessel, under the skin and into the tissue. This may require treatment. In very rare cases, further surgery could be required if the skin breaks down.
- The injection may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

Rare risks and complications include:
- Allergic reactions occur within the first hour with most happening in the first 5 minutes.
- The reactions vary from:
  - Mild – headache, brief nausea, dizziness, hives, rash and itching.
  - Moderate – wide spread hives, headaches, facial swelling, vomiting, shortness of breath.
  - Severe – Severe reactions are rare but include: life-threatening heart palpitations, very low blood pressure, throat swelling, fits and/or cardiac arrest.
  - Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF) for severe renal impaired patients only.
  - Death as a result of MRI contrast is very rare.

6. What are the safety issues when you leave the hospital?
Go to your nearest Emergency Department or GP if you become unwell.

Notes to talk to my doctor about:

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