

# Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

– Information for children and their family

Caroline Thorpe Ward

## Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net).

## Your MRI scan

This leaflet explains what to expect when your child comes to North Devon District Hospital for an MRI scan.

## What is an MRI scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) creates detailed pictures of the body using strong magnetic fields and radio waves, instead of x-ray.

## What happens before the scan?

Your child's doctor or consultant will have discussed with you the need for an MRI scan to help with diagnosis and possible treatment. We may suggest that you and your child come into visit the children's ward before the MRI scan, so we can show you the facilities and answer any questions you may have.

## What does the scanner look like?

The scanner looks like a tunnel. Your child will lie inside on a bed to have the pictures taken. Whilst the scanner is working, it makes quite loud noises, so you and your child will wear headphones. Please bring music or a story on a CD with you. In most circumstances, you or a family member can stay with your child.

## Appointment day

On arrival, please head for the Radiology Department (x-ray). Before anyone, adult or child, can enter the scanning area, you will be asked the following questions to make sure it is safe to enter the scanning area.

- Do you have a pacemaker?
- Do you have metal implants or clips?
- Do you have any history of metal in eyes?
- Are you pregnant?
- Have you had surgery in the last 8 weeks?

Lockers are available in the department to store any personal items. Pockets must be emptied before scanning.

## How long will the scan take?

Most scans take about 20 minutes and it is important to keep as still as possible. Don't worry – this is easier than it sounds, even for your children! The bed will move into the scanner. Once in place the bed will not move again until the scan is finished.

## What happens after the scan?

You will be able to take your child home after the scan and continue as normal. Your child should be fine for school the next day.

## What happens to the scan pictures?

The MRI pictures will be examined by a consultant radiologist, who will send the results to your doctor. These will be discussed at your next clinic appointment.

## MRI and contrast dye

Sometimes your doctor may request a 'contrast' MRI picture. If this is the case, you will be asked to visit the children's ward (Caroline Thorpe). During this short visit, a doctor will put a small tube known as a cannula into the back of your child's hand. The contrast medicine will be given through this small tube. After the MRI scan you will go back to the children's ward and a nurse will remove the tube. You can then go home.

We hope this leaflet has helped and we look forward to meeting you.

### **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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