

Having an MRI using the feed and wrap technique

Information for parents and carers

This leaflet contains important information for parents or carers of children having a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan using the feed and wrap technique. It explains the procedure and how to prepare for it. If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the team caring for you.

Confirming your child's identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your child's name and date of birth and check their ID band. If they do not have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm their address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring your child's safety is our primary concern.

What is the feed and wrap technique?

'Feed and wrap' is a technique used with young babies (0 to 6 months) instead of sedation or general anaesthesia. Generally, babies tend to fall asleep after a feed, so we take advantage of this and scan them while asleep.

Are there any risks?

There are no known side effects associated with MRI scans. However, we cannot scan any metal implants, this is why we carry out a thorough metal check before your child has the scan.

What to do on the day of the scan?

- Your child should wear clothes without zips or metal poppers for the scan – otherwise they will need to be changed into a hospital gown.
- Try to keep your baby awake on the journey to the hospital and, if possible, a bit hungry so they are due for a feed just before the MRI appointment.
- If your child needs an injection of contrast (dye) as part of the MRI scan, you will be asked to arrive an hour earlier and take your child to a paediatric ward so a doctor can insert a cannula (thin plastic tube) into a vein through which the contrast can be injected.
- We will ask you to feed your baby and let them fall into a natural sleep in a quiet room. When your baby is in a deep sleep we will transfer them onto the MRI scanner. Please bring a feed for your baby if you are using formula milk.

What happens during the procedure?

- You will lie your child on the scanner's table and depending on the part of their body being scanned, they may need to have a coil over their body.
- When your child is in the correct position, the radiographer will move the bed inside the scanner and then go into the control room.
- The scanner will make a continuous knocking sound throughout the scan but we will give you and your child ear protectors to minimise any discomfort.

We have booked a specific time slot on the scanner for your child – at the date and time shown on the appointment letter. However, sometimes babies do not fall asleep at the time of their appointment. If you can stay, we may be able to fit in your child later in the day. Please try to be patient – your help in this is very much appreciated and can help towards the scan being successful.

Please contact the MRI department on 020 3299 1797 (King's College Hospital) or 01689 863642 (Princess Royal University Hospital) if you have any further concerns or questions.

Consent

We must by law obtain your written consent to any procedures beforehand. Staff will explain all the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask to speak with a senior member of staff.

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by imaging patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your imaging will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net

PALS at Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough Common, Orpington, Kent BR6 8ND

Tel: 01689 863252

Email: kch-tr.palspruh@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Communications and Interpreting telephone line on 020 3299 4826 or email kch-tr.accessibility@nhs.net