

## Paediatric

# MRI under general anaesthetic (MRIGA)

## Information for patients, relatives and carers

### Introduction

This leaflet tells you more about MRI scans. Please feel free to ask our team any questions you have about the information below.

### What is an MRI scan?

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. This technique uses magnetism and radiofrequency waves to collect information about the part of the body being examined. The radio waves are bounced back to the scanner by your body and a computer within the scanner uses this information to produce images.

### Why do I need an MRI?

Your doctor has recommended that you have an MRI. The reason for this will depend upon your particular condition and will have been discussed with you in clinic. If you're not sure why you've been recommended for an MRI then please ask your consultant to explain this.

### Is there anything I need to do before my MRI?

When confirming your appointment, please tell us if you have:

- a heart pacemaker
- aneurysm clips
- had brain or spinal surgery in the past
- had any surgery involving metal implants, such as hip replacements
- a previous history of metal fragments in your eyes

### What are the risks and benefits of having an MRI?

The benefit of an MRI is that it is a safe and relatively quick procedure, which gives your doctors detailed information about the area being examined. There are no known risks or side effects associated with this test. However, you must tell us if any of the bullet points listed above apply to you, as this could affect your MRI. The radiographer performing the scan will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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## Are there any alternatives to this test?

An MRI will only have been requested by your doctor if they feel that this is the best way to find out more information about your condition.

Other tests such as ultrasound and CT scanning can also give information, but MRI often gives a better quality of information than other methods.

## How to get to the hospital?

Your admission will take place at St Mary's Hospital, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Building (QEQM) – 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Great Western Ward, South Wharf Road, London, W2 1PE. Please arrive at 07:30

Due to high demand for the MRIGA scan, if you are unable to attend for any reason, please call the Paediatric MRI general anaesthetic (MRIGA) coordinator on 07881 851 536 or email [Imperial.paediatricmriga@nhs.net](mailto:Imperial.paediatricmriga@nhs.net) beforehand to cancel and rebook if necessary.

If your child has had surgery or been unwell two weeks before the MRIGA appointment, we will need to be informed as this may have to be rescheduled.

## Before your appointment

We aim to provide our patients with an appointment date within a week of receiving the referral form from your consultant. Due to Covid-19 guidance, one parent or guardian will be allowed to accompany your child to the appointment.

Before your appointment, the MRI lead clinician will contact you with a form that needs to be filled out to show that you consent (give your permission) for the MRIGA. This form can be completed online. Before your appointment the instructions about any special preparations that are required are detailed below that will help you understand what your specific test will show and what will happen while the scan is being performed.

## The morning of your appointment

Bring a copy of your appointment letter/email.

- **Fasting: Please do not have** solid food, milk or other liquids from 2am the night before your MRI. Please do not have breakfast or drinks on the morning on your MRI. You can have sips of plain water until 7:30am. This is to reduce the risk of vomiting, and stomach contents entering your child's windpipe and lungs.
- Avoid dressing your child in clothes that contain metal e.g. metal fastenings/poppers
- If your child has piercings, they will need to be removed beforehand.

## During your appointment

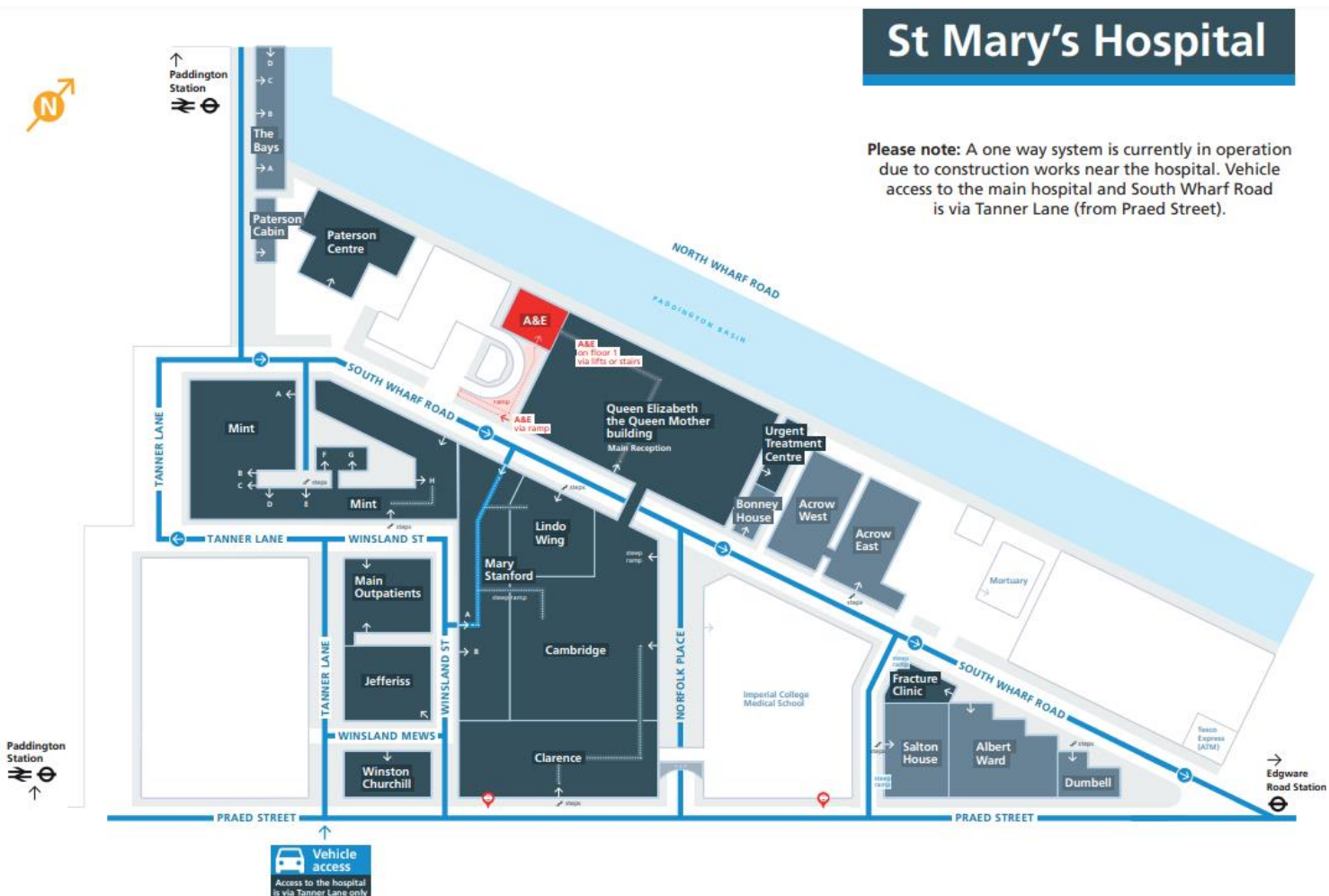
Please note that we are a teaching hospital, so medical students may be present for some appointments. If you are not comfortable with this, please let the clinical team know. When you arrive, please check in at reception on Great Western Ward. You may be asked to

complete a safety questionnaire. You will be asked to confirm your name, date of birth and address, and then your child will be asked to change into a gown. They will be given a bay (space on the ward) where they can wait and be comfortable until their scan. The anaesthetic team will discuss the procedure with you. The radiographer performing the scan will position your child in certain ways, for example with their arms up, in order to obtain optimal imaging for review.

After your child has had the MRI, they will be given lunch and can be discharged after observation, usually around lunch-time. You can request a snack box on the day, please inform the nursing team if your child would like one.

## After your appointment

The results of all examinations are made available to the referring team as soon as the consultant neuroradiologist have reviewed the image and issued a report. The report will be sent to your referring clinician.



Please note parking at the hospital is limited and if you do arrive by car, allow sufficient time to park and arrive at your appointment on time. There is limited parking on South Wharf Road and ACPOA Paddington Station car park, W2 6AA, is an eight-minute walk.

## How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday). You can also email PALS at [imperial.pals@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.pals@nhs.net) The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street  
London W2 1NY



Email: [ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net](mailto:ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net)

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Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

## Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:  
[imperial.communications@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.communications@nhs.net)

## Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: [www.imperial.nhs.uk](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk)

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