

## Patient information

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS MAG 3 (kidney) Scan

This leaflet is for children and parents to give them some information about MAG 3 scans.

### What is a MAG 3 scan?

The doctor has asked for your child to have a special scan called a MAG 3 scan. It works by injecting a chemical called 'mercaptoacetyl triglycerine (MAG 3) linked to a radioisotope in the vein of your child. The substance is taken up in the kidneys and passed out into the urine. The camera detects the gamma rays emitted from the MAG 3 as it is taken up in the kidneys and flows out of the kidneys in the urine to the bladder.

The scan shows how well each kidney is working (the kidney function) and shows how well urine is leaving, or draining from, your child's kidneys. This may help to find out whether there is a blockage that affects the flow of urine from their kidneys.

### What are the risks?

The radioactive amount given to your child is calculated according to your child's weight. A MAG 3 scan uses small amount of radiation and is considered safe. The radioisotope injected into your child becomes inactive after few hours and is passed out of your child's body in urine and faeces. Your doctor will carefully consider the risks and benefits of doing the test in your child.

### Before the procedure

Babies less than 3 months do not require sedation for the scan and may be "fed and wrapped". If your child is older than 3 months and is not able to lie still for the scan, they will require sedation. The doctor who requests the scan will refer your child to a

sedation assessment clinic before your appointment for the scan. Parents of children requiring sedation will receive information regarding the sedation procedure in the paediatric sedation clinic.

## **At the appointment**

You will be asked to come to the Rainbow ward or paediatric out-patients clinic before the scan. An anaesthetic cream will be applied on your child's arm or hand and a cannula will be inserted. If sedation is required, your child will be sedated and taken, asleep, to the nuclear medicine department.

The scan will be done in the nuclear medicine department.

The doctor may ask whether your child is allergic to any medicines or contrast dye that may be used during the test. Older girls may be asked if they are pregnant. This is because ionising radiation from x-rays may harm an unborn baby.

Your child will be given a small injection of radioactive substance through the cannula.

If you have a baby who does not require sedation, you may need to bring a feed with you or be asked to breast feed your baby when you arrive.

During the scan, your child will need to lie still on a scanning bed while a large camera above him or her takes the pictures. You will be able to stay with your child at all times and hold their hand. You may also bring a soft toy or favourite book. The test normally lasts about 30 minutes.

At the end of the scan, your child may be asked to empty their bladder into a container and some more pictures may be taken. This is called a micturating cystogram.

After the scan, your child may usually go home straight away.

## **After the scan**

The radioactive substance lasts for only a short period of time and usually disappears from the body within 24 hours. Your child will be asked to drink lots of water after the test to help to 'flush out' the radio isotope from the body more quickly.

During this period, please ensure strict hand washing following toileting or nappy change and ensure that potties are cleaned thoroughly. During this time, please

place nappies in an outside bin. If your child accidentally wets their clothes or bedding, put these in a separate bag for 24 hours and then wash them as normal.

Pregnant women should avoid direct contact with the child's urine or faeces for 24 hours.

The results of the scan will be sent to the doctor who requested the scan and an appointment will be sent to you to discuss the results with your doctor.

Should you have any worries or concerns within the first 24 hours after leaving hospital, please feel free to contact us on 01284 713315.

If you have any specific concerns that you feel have not been answered and need explaining, please contact the following:

Rainbow ward: 01284 713315

Consultant paediatrician: 01284713903 (secretary)

## References

[www.infokid.org.uk](http://www.infokid.org.uk) - information for parents and carers about children's kidneys conditions.

Addenbrookes Hospital MAG 3 scan parents information leaflet.

*If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk>*

