



Information for  
patient and  
carers

Advice regarding your sedation  
procedure for MRI

## What is sedation?

You will be attending the MRI department to have a scan following oral sedation (Lorazepam). Lorazepam is used to make you feel drowsy, sleepy and relaxed, but you will remain conscious throughout the examination.

Lorazepam tablets start to work after around 20 to 30 minutes. They reach full sedating effect after 1 to 1.5 hours, which lasts for around 6 to 8 hours. The effects of the sedation will stay in your system for up to 24 hours.

It is important that you follow the advice in this leaflet for a 24 hour period **before** your appointment and for 24 hours **after** the scan has been completed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the Radiographers and they will take advice from an Anaesthetist if required.

## Preparation for sedation for MRI scan

### 24 hours before your scan please DO NOT

- Drink any alcohol
- Consume any caffeine

### Important

Your co-ordination and judgement may be affected after your sedation, so please arrange for a capable adult to be with you for 24 hours after the scan, including overnight.

## Immediately after the MRI scan

After your scan, you will be asked to stay in the MRI department until the Radiographers have assessed your recovery level as safe to be discharged. This short stay is usually around 1 hour. After you have been discharged, please contact the MRI department if you have any further questions.

## **For 24 hours after your scan please DO NOT**

- Drive. Your co-ordination and judgement may be affected, so it is important that you arrange to have a capable adult to drive/escort you home. Please note: You should not drive until you are sure you are no longer feeling any effects from the medication – this could be longer than 24 hours. It is an offence to drive while under the influence of this medicine
- Use machinery or electrical equipment, including household appliances, for example, a kettle
- Drink alcohol or take any recreational drugs. This will increase the drowsy effects of the Lorazepam and may make you go into a very deep sleep
- Smoke. There is an increased possibility of headaches, nausea, and faintness
- Make any important decisions, such as signing contracts, commitments or major purchases
- Be the sole carer for young children or other dependants

## **For 24 hours after your scan please DO**

- Have a responsible adult to escort you home and supervise you overnight
- Rest
- Continue diet and fluids as normal
- Take your regular evening medication (please seek advice from the department if you are taking sleeping tablets)

## **Is it safe to have the sedation?**

There is a small chance you could go into a very deep sleep, which could put you at risk of not being able to breathe properly, and you may have difficulty waking up.

The Radiographers will monitor your oxygen levels throughout the scan to make sure your breathing does not become too shallow. It is very important to let us know of any existing medication you are taking prior to your appointment. We will ring you for this information. There is a very rare risk of having an allergic reaction to the Lorazepam.

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:  
MRI department: 01772 523999 or 01772 522014.

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Gujarati:**

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

**Romanian:**

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

**Polish:**

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪਰੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Urdu:**

دوسری زبانوں اور ریڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو  
یہی چھپا جس یہ ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے براے مہر یان پوے چھدی۔ معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطبوعه بأحرف كبيرة وبلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يرجى أن تطلب  
أخرى يمكن توفير هذه المعلومات

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