

## Advice following administration of MRI contrast agents (Dotarem, Primovist)

### What are Dotarem and Primovist used for?

Dotarem and Primovist are contrast media, used for MRI scans. They highlight blood vessels and any abnormalities on the images. They also improve the amount of information available to help make a diagnosis. Dotarem can be used for scans of most parts of the body. Primovist is normally used for certain reasons when scanning the liver.

### How are Dotarem and Primovist given?

They are given as an intravenous (IV) injection, usually into a vein in the arm. The amount injected is dependent on body weight and is normally between 5 – 40ml.

### What happens before I am given Dotarem and Primovist?

A questionnaire will have been completed to assess your suitability for contrast media. Your kidney function blood tests will have also been reviewed where required. You may have been asked for a blood sample to be tested in the department if we did not have recent results available.

### When can I go home after being given Dotarem and Primovist?

You should stay within the area where you were given your contrast injection for 30 minutes after the injection. During the rest of the day, you should drink 500ml extra fluids to rehydrate your body. This can be tea, coffee, water or any soft drink. You may eat as normal.

Children should be encouraged to drink freely. Parents should look for skin or other reactions and contact the Children's Unit if advice is needed.

Your medical team will usually tell you about the results for the scan at your next clinic appointment. If you have not received a further appointment, please contact your team for advice.

### Do Dotarem and Primovist cause any side effects?

Contrast media are given to patients after considering the risks and benefits for the examination, and the lowest possible dose is given. The most frequent side effects are headache and nausea, however, as with any medicine there is a small risk of an allergic reaction. The MRI contrast used is not radioactive.



If you experience any of the following symptoms during or after the MRI scan, please tell the radiographer immediately:

- Wheeziness, difficulty in breathing, tightness or pain in the chest
- Swelling or tingling of the face, mouth or throat
- Skin rash, lumps, itchy spots or other allergic symptoms (these reactions may appear several hours or days after the injection)
- Dizziness or feeling faint
- Flushing / feeling hot
- Pain at or near the injection site during or immediately following the injection
- Vomiting.

Other, rare side effects (occurring in 1 in 1,000 people) which may occur during or after the scan include:

- Temporary change in taste
- Palpitations
- Generally feeling unwell.

If you have experienced any side effects from this injection, it is very important to tell staff before you have further scans or tests (either at The Royal Marsden or at any other hospital).

If you have any questions after reading this information sheet, please ask the radiographer.

### **Contact details**

If you have any queries or feel unwell after your scan, please call for advice.

The Royal Marsden Hotline: 020 8915 6899

(Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

