

Advice following administration of MRI contrast agents Dotarem® and Primovist®

What are Dotarem and Primovist used for?

Dotarem and Primovist are contrast media, used for MRI scans. They show up 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 in conjunction with scans of any part of the body. Primovist is used specifically for certain clinical indications in the liver.

How are Dotarem and Primovist given?

They are given as an injection, usually into a vein in the arm. The amount injected is dependent on body weight and can be between 5mls and 40mls.

What happens before I am given Dotarem and Primovist?

Please fill in the patient questionnaire and consent form for contrast media on the reverse of the MRI safety checklist. Make sure you discuss any concerns with the radiographer before your scan.

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

You do not need to stay in the department after the injection. During the rest of the day, you should drink 500mls 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 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?

Dotarem and Primovist may cause side effects in some people but they are not radioactive. Your doctor will have chosen the contrast medium after considering the risks and benefits for this examination. The most frequent side effects of Dotarem and Primovist are headache and nausea, however, as with any medicine there is a small risk of an allergic reaction.

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



- 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 Macmillan Hotline: 020 8915 6899

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

