

Hyoscine butylbromide (Buscopan®) for MRI Scanning

This leaflet contains information on hyoscine butylbromide (also known by the brand name Buscopan®). It is an antispasmodic used during MRI scans. Further information about the medicine is available in the manufacturer's patient information leaflet – please ask us if you would like a copy.

What is hyoscine butylbromide?

Hyoscine butylbromide is a clear colourless / almost colourless fluid that is used as a relaxant (antispasmodic) to reduce movement in the gastrointestinal tract (commonly known as the gut) and to produce clearer MRI images. This may help with diagnosis.

A radiologist (a specialist doctor trained in studying medical images, such as MRI and X-rays) or a senior radiographer (a specially trained member of the radiology team who performs the MRI scan) will decide if you need a scan with hyoscine butylbromide to help with your treatment. A member of the MRI team will discuss this with you and will use the lowest dose required for a clear image.

How is it given?

Depending on the type of scan you are having, hyoscine butylbromide is either injected into your muscle or one of your veins via a needle or cannula (a soft, hollow, plastic tube). If a cannula is required, this will be inserted through your skin into a vein using a needle prior to your scan. Once the cannula is in place, the needle is removed leaving a small thin plastic tube in the blood vessel.

This should be comfortable and will only be in place until your scan is finished.

Are there any side effects?

Hyoscine butylbromide is not suitable for everybody and the radiographer or radiologist will decide if it is appropriate for you.

Hyoscine butylbromide should not be used in patients who have or who are:

Allergy to hyoscine butylbromide	Enlarged prostate gland or bowel
History of porphyria	Pain / difficulty passing urine
Increased heart rate or heart failure	Gut blockage problems
Fever	Obstruction of the intestine due to paralysis of the intestinal muscles (paralytic ileus)
Glaucoma	Extreme muscle weakness (myasthenia gravis)
Pregnant or breast-feeding	

Hyoscine butylbromide may cause serious side effects in some people who require urgent medical treatment. These include **sudden difficulty breathing, feeling faint or dizzy, skin reactions, or painful, red eye with loss of vision.**

Some other side effects include blurred vision, increased heart rate, dizziness, dry mouth or constipation.

Please let us know if you have had a previous allergic reaction to hyoscine butylbromide (Buscopan®), are currently taking any other medication or have any concerns.

Serious allergic reactions have been rarely reported. **Please seek immediate medical attention** if you have any of the following:

Swelling of face, mouth, hands, feet or throat
Coughing / wheezing / sneezing
Difficulty in breathing or swallowing
Eye irritation
Fainting
Rash / hives / itchy red skin

If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns or experience any of the symptoms listed, please contact the MRI department on 020 8725 2933 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm). Out of hours, please contact your GP or go to your local emergency (A&E) department for advice.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or care. You can contact the PALS team on the advisory telephone line Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

A Walk-in service is available:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 4pm

Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Please contact PALS in advance to check if there are any changes to opening times.

The Walk-in and Advisory telephone services are closed on Wednesdays.

PALS is based within the hospital in the ground floor main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing.

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS UK

The NHS provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



Reference: MRI_BUS_LP_01 Published: September 2024 Review date: September 2026
