

# Glucagon (Glucagen®) for MRI Scanning

This leaflet contains information on glucagon (also known by the brand name Glucagen®) which 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 a glucagon antispasmodic?

Glucagon is a clear 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 glucagon to help with your treatment. Your doctor will discuss this with you and will use the lowest dose required for a clear image.

## How is it given?

Glucagon is injected into your muscle or one of your veins via a needle or a cannula (a soft, hollow, plastic tube) prior to your scan. The cannula is inserted through your skin into a vein using a needle. 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?

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

Glucagon should **not** be used in patients with:

- **An allergy to glucagon**
- **Tumours in the adrenal glands (phaeochromocytoma)**
- **Tumours in the pancreas (insulinoma).**

Glucagon may cause other side effects in some people and include **nausea, vomiting, hypoglycaemia or changes in blood pressure.**

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

Serious allergic reactions are very rare. **Please seek immediate medical attention** if you have any of the following:

Wheezing

Sweating

Rapid Heart Beat

Rash

Swollen Face

Collapse

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.



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