



My child needs Sclerotherapy - Information for Parents and Carers

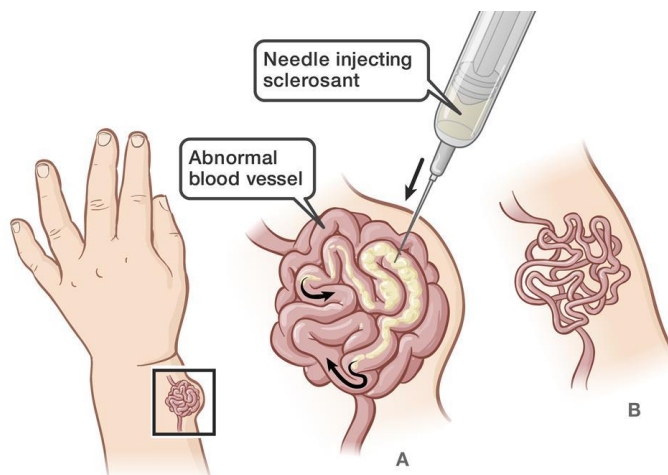
This leaflet aims to answer some of the questions you may have about your child undergoing a sclerotherapy procedure. It explains the risks and the benefits of the procedure and what you can expect when your child comes to hospital.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the staff caring for your child.

What is sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy is sometimes called “sclero”. A doctor inserts a needle into the skin and injects a special liquid (sclerosant) into the abnormal blood vessel. This makes the blood vessel shrink. Sometimes the malformations can enlarge again and sclerotherapy may be done in stages.

Sclerotherapy is done using image guidance by an Interventional Radiologist. Most often sclerotherapy is performed alone or in combination with laser or embolisation.



Who carries out the procedure?

An Interventional Radiologist will carry out the sclerotherapy procedure, a Radiographer and nursing team will support them. All staff are trained professionals in this type of procedure.

What are the risks of having sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy is considered a low risk procedure. Your child’s Anaesthetist and Radiologist will discuss any side effects or complications with you, but possible complications include:

- swelling (to be expected),
- pain,
- skin blisters, ulcers, scars or skin staining,
- nerve damage,
- kidney damage,
- interruption of blood supply to the treated area,
- heart and lung complications.

Contrast

Sclerotherapy uses X-ray dye (contrast), and very rarely, a reaction may occur. If your child has ever had a test that uses X-ray dye and has had a reaction to it, you should tell the doctor or nurse before the procedure. A reaction may take the form of a rash or itching and very rarely, a more severe allergic reaction can occur. The team have measures in place to deal with this safely should this occur.

If your child has had a previous reaction, please let us know, and we can put measures in place to minimise risk from another reaction.

Radiation – Benefit versus Risk

Sclerotherapy uses X-ray radiation. The radiation dose that your child will get from a sclerotherapy procedure is small and the associated risks are low. Clinical staff consider both the risks and benefits when deciding what examination is appropriate for your child. The benefits of having the sclerotherapy procedure outweigh any risk. Clinical staff are responsible for making sure that the dose your child receives is kept as low as necessary to aid their diagnosis or treatment.

Pregnancy

All children 10 years or older will be asked about their periods and any possibility that they could be pregnant. This is a legal requirement under the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (IR(ME)R) 2017. Please inform the Radiology Department if your child’s period falls outside of its normal cycle on the appointment date, as it may need to be rescheduled.

File name: PIL – Paediatric Sclerotherapy	Page 2 of 7	Version 2.0	Date of Issue: 30 th January 2024 Date of Review: January 2026
---	----------------	----------------	--

UNCONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED AND NOT VIEWED ON SHAREPOINT

Fasting

Your child will be asked not to eat or drink anything for 6 hours before the procedure.

Are there any alternatives?

Your referrer has decided that sclerotherapy would be the most useful treatment for your child. The examination will help the referrer assess and plan any further treatment that may be necessary. If you would like more information about alternative imaging tests, please speak to the doctor or health care professional managing your child’s care.

Before your procedure:

Please attend the appropriate department as stated on your appointment letter with your child. The ward staff will help to prepare your child for their procedure; this will include completing a theatre checklist and taking a blood sample. There are play specialists there to help your child understand what is going to happen during the procedure. The Royal Victoria Hospital and Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children are teaching hospitals and as such, university students may attend, with your permission.

When you receive this letter, please let us know if your child has any of the following:

A history of severe allergy (or anaphylaxis)?
A previous adverse reaction to X-ray dye?
Difficult to treat asthma?
Renal impairment (poor kidney function)?

Consent

We want you to be involved in all the decisions about your child’s care and treatment. Your child’s Radiologist will discuss any risks to your child with you and they will answer any questions you have before the procedure. If you choose to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This confirms that you agree for your child to have the procedure and understand everything involved.

What happens during sclerotherapy?

Your child will be transferred onto the X-ray table. The Anaesthetist will help your child go to sleep, you can be present to comfort your child until they are asleep. Monitors will be attached to record heart rate and blood pressure. The procedure is performed under sterile conditions and the Interventional Radiologist will wear a sterile gown and gloves to carry out the procedure. The child will be positioned comfortably to allow for suitable access to the area requiring treatment. The skin will be cleaned with antiseptic, and numbed with local anaesthetic. Using ultrasound guidance a small needle will be placed accurately into the malformation. Once in position, a small amount of X-ray dye will be injected to assess the malformation, the sclerosant will then be injected. Once the procedure is completed a dressing will be applied and the use of a compression garment may also be required.

Duration

The procedure is performed in the Children’s X-ray department. Each treatment will take approximately one to two hours and sometimes longer depending on the complexity of the malformation. Whilst we try to accommodate all patients at their appointed time, occasionally emergencies arise which may delay your child’s procedure or result in an extend length of time in the ward prior to the procedure. If your child’s procedure is cancelled due to an emergency, it will be reappointed for the next available

What happens after the sclerotherapy procedure?

Once the procedure is completed, your child will return to the ward for nursing staff to monitor them post procedure. Your child will generally remain in bed for 4 hours. Your child can usually eat and drink normally, unless told not to. Your child will generally go home later that day.

Aftercare following discharge

You will be given information on caring for your child at home. The areas that were injected are normally swollen for one week and bruised for two to three weeks following the procedure. The skin close to the abnormal blood vessel may blister or be sore.

When will I get the sclerotherapy results?

You may be able to discuss your child’s procedure with the performing Interventional Radiologist once it is complete. The performing Interventional Radiologist will dictate a formal report on the procedure, and it will be attached to your child’s images on our Radiology Information System (RIS). A copy of the report will be sent by Radiology to the referring clinician. The referring clinician will arrange any follow up.

Usually the results of sclerotherapy are apparent to see, or from improvement of symptoms. With standard sclerotherapy these results often take up to 3 months to become apparent. If an additional agent, known as Bleomycin is used, improvements can continue for up to 12 months after the procedure.

Image sharing

Your images will be electronically stored on the hospital picture archiving system. This data can be accessed throughout the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and other doctors and health care professionals who are directly involved in your care. The ability to share images and radiological reports will improve the safety and quality of your care by ensuring that the right information is available in the right place at the right time.

In order to improve the medical services we provide we may also use your data as anonymously as possible for internal audit and medical education. If you would prefer that your data is not used for these purposes, please inform a member of staff when you attend for your examination.

If your data is to be used for research, then a separate consent process will be used. You will be asked for your consent, should this be the case.

Contact us

If you have any queries, we will be happy to answer any questions before or after your child's procedure and you can contact us on the number given on your appointment letter.

For procedures performed at the Royal Victoria Hospital

Please email: InterventionRadRVH@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Tel: 02896156661 Interventional Radiology Secretary RVH

For procedures performed at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children

Tel: 02896150289 Childrens X-ray Reception Desk.

Further information can be accessed on the British Society of Interventional Radiology patient portal, under Central Venous Access: https://www.bsir.org/patients/what-is-interventional-radiology/#col_right.

Feedback

We hope you found the information in this leaflet helpful. If it did not tell you what you needed to know or you would like to provide any feedback on your experience please let us know so that we can make any necessary improvements.

You can provide feedback on your experience:

Telephone: (028) 9504 8000 (Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm)

Textphone: 18001 028 950 48000

By email: compliments@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By email: complaints@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By completing an online form: <http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/contact/FeedbackForm.htm>

File name: PIL – Paediatric Sclerotherapy	Page 5 of 7	Version 2.0	Date of Issue: 30 th January 2024 Date of Review: January 2026
---	----------------	----------------	--

UNCONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED AND NOT VIEWED ON SHAREPOINT



Care Opinion

We invite you to share your experience by clicking the following link:
<https://www.careopinion.org.uk/>

or by scanning the following QR code on your smartphone or tablet:



Language and accessible support services

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

If a Sign Language interpreter is required, please either telephone **028 9615 8900** via the Sign Video remote interpreting service (<https://signvideo.co.uk/deaf-community/>) or email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net and we will arrange one for your appointment. Please have your H&C number ready when calling or include it in your email. This can be found at the top right corner of any Health and Social Care letters you may have received.

If you are unable to hear on the phone and need to contact us with regards to your appointment you can email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Do you need this information in another format or language?

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, including Braille, large print, CD, audio tape please contact the telephone number **028 9615 8900** or e-mail address MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Polish - Czy potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym formacie lub języku?

Fundusz ma dostęp do usług w zakresie tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych. Jeśli potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym języku lub formacie, w tym w piśmie Braille'a, dużym druku, na płycie CD, kasecie magnetofonowej, skontaktuj się z nami pod numerem telefonu lub adresem e-mail **028 9615 8900 / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net**, a my dołożymy wszelkich starań, aby spełnić Twoje potrzeby.

Arabic - هل تحتاج هذه المعلومات بصيغة أو بلغة أخرى؟

تستطيع الجمعية توفير خدمات الترجمة الفورية والتحريرية. إذا احتجت هذه المعلومات بلغة أو بصيغة أخرى، بما فيها صيغة برايل Braille أو صيغة بالأحرف الكبيرة، أو في سي دي CD أو في شريط مسموع، يُرجى الاتصال برقم التليفون أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900**، وسوف نبذل قصارى جهدنا في تلبية احتياجاتك.

File name: PIL – Paediatric Sclerotherapy	Page 6 of 7	Version 2.0	Date of Issue: 30 th January 2024 Date of Review: January 2026
UNCONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED AND NOT VIEWED ON SHAREPOINT			

Lithuanian - Ar jums reikia šios informacijos kitu formatu ar kalba?

Tarnyba gali suteikti vertimo žodžiu ir raštu paslaugas. Jei reikia šios informacijos kita kalba ar formatu, įskaitant Brailio raštą, didelį šriftą, kompaktinį diską, garso įrašą, skambinkite telefonu arba susisiekite el. paštu **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900** ir mes padarysime viską, kad patenkintume jūsų poreikius.

Romanian - Aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-un alt format sau altă limbă?

Trustul are acces la servicii de interpretariat și traducere. Dacă aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-o altă limbă sau într-un alt format, inclusiv Braille, tipărire cu caractere de mari dimensiuni, CD, înregistrare audio, atunci vă rugăm să ne contactați la numărul de telefon sau la adresa de e-mail **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900**, iar noi vom face tot posibilul pentru satisfacerea necesităților dumneavoastră.

Tetum - Ita presiza atu informasaun ida ne'e iha formatu ka lian seluk ka lae?

Fidusiáriu ida ne'e iha asesu ba servisu durubasa no tradusaun. Se Ita presiza informasaun ida ne'e iha lian ka formatu seluk, inklui letra Braille, letra boot, CD, kasete audio, entaun favór telefone númeru ka enderesu e-mail **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900**, no ami sei halo esforsu tomak atu kumpre Ita-nia nesesidade sira.