

## Vaso CT - Information for patients

This leaflet aims to answer some of the questions you may have about having a VasoCT. It explains the risks and the benefits of the procedure and what you can expect when you come to hospital.

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

### What is a VasoCT?

A Vaso CT is an investigation to access cerebral vascular stents and vessels.

### What are the benefits?

Because a Vaso CT gives us lots of information about your blood vessels, it is often very useful in helping us to follow up your treatment.

### What are the side effects are and the risks?

The procedure is normally very safe and most patients have no major problems.

### Minor side effects

- As the contrast (dye) is injected you may have a warm feeling, flashing lights in eyes, hear buzzing noises or have a strange taste in your mouth.
- Some bruising and mild bleeding may occur at the needle site in the arm.

Complications after a Vaso CT are very rare, however, please let the radiographer know if it becomes uncomfortable when the cannula is placed or when the x-ray dye is injected.

### Contrast

Vaso CTs use contrast (x-ray dye), and very rarely, a reaction may occur. If you have ever had a test that uses radio-opaque dye and you have had a reaction to it, you should tell the doctor or nurse before you have your angiogram. 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 you have 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

Vaso CTs use X-ray radiation. The radiation dose that you get from a vaso CT is small and the associated risks are low. Clinical staff consider both the risks and benefits when deciding what examination is appropriate for you. The benefits of having the Vaso CT outweigh any risk. Clinical staff are responsible for making sure that the dose you receive is kept as low as necessary to aid your diagnosis or treatment.

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## Pregnancy

If you are in the early stages of pregnancy there is a very small risk of x-rays harming your unborn child. If you think you could be pregnant, or you are trying to get pregnant, please tell us before your appointment. Individual aged 10-55 will be asked to confirm their pregnancy status by the radiographer before the procedure and sign a form.

## Consent

We want you to be involved in all the decisions about your care and treatment. The Interventional Radiologist will ask you if you are happy for the procedure to go ahead. This is called verbal consent. If you do not wish to have the procedure or are undecided, please tell the Radiologist. Students/trainees may be present during the examination but only with your verbal consent.

Please remember that you can ask the Interventional Radiologist any questions you have at any time before, during or after your scan.

## Pre-assessment

Pre assessment is not required for this examination.

## How do I prepare for the test?

You may have a light early breakfast on the day of the procedures.

Please ring the number on the appointment letter to confirm and to discuss the attached checklist, and attend the named department.

Please let us know if you have any of the following:

• Severe allergies?
• Have you had a previous adverse reaction to x-ray dye before?
• Asthma which is poorly controlled?
• Renal impairment (poor kidney function)?
• Diabetes which is treated with Metaformin therapy?
• Are taking any anti-coagulants (blood thinners)

## What happens before the test?

A radiographer will greet you in the day ward. You will be asked a few questions relating to allergies and medical history. A small cannula will be placed into a vein on your arm (or elsewhere if access cannot be gained in the arm).

The radiographer will lead you to the x-ray room, help to position you on the table and set up for the examination. Your procedure will be carried out by an Interventional Radiographer, and the images assess by an Interventional Neuroradiologist.

The Royal Victoria Hospital is a teaching hospital and as such university students may be in attendance, with your permission.

## What happens during the test?

Vaso CT works by using an x-ray tube that rotates around the head for approximately 20 seconds to acquire a CT image. Before the pictures are taken, the radiographer will move the equipment around you into the correct position. It is very important that you remain still to ensure the best possible pictures are taken.

## What happens after the test?

At the end of the test the cannula is removed from the arm.

The contrast dye contains iodine which some people are allergic to. You will be asked to stay in the department after the Vaso CT for 30 minutes so that we can check for signs of an allergic reaction and treat you if required.

Afterwards, you will be able to go and continue as normal. We advise you to have a cup of tea / coffee and small snack before leaving the hospital.

## Aftercare

There is no specific aftercare following a Vaso CT. You can eat and drink, go to work and drive as normal.

If you notice any pain, redness, and/or swelling at the IV site after you return home following your procedure, you should notify your doctor as this could indicate an infection or other type of reaction.

## Radiation

Vaso CT scans use X-ray radiation. The radiation dose that you get from a Vaso CT examination is small and the associated risks are low. Clinical staff consider both the risks and benefits when deciding what examination is appropriate for you. The benefits of having the Vaso CT scan outweigh any risk. Clinical staff are responsible for making sure that the dose you receive is kept as low as necessary to aid your diagnosis or treatment.

## Complications

Complications after a Vaso CT are very rare. There is a small chance of a delayed reaction to contrast (dye). If you become unwell, please seek advice from your GP or emergency department.

## Duration

The procedure itself, performed in the Interventional Radiology Suite, should take approximately 30 minutes.

Whilst we try to accommodate all patients at their appointed time, occasionally emergency patients arise which may delay procedure or result in an extend length of time in DSU prior to the procedure. Your procedure may be cancelled due to emergencies cases and will be reappointed for the next available slot.

## 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 procedure and you can contact us on the number given on your appointment letter.

### Useful telephone numbers.

Ward 4 F 02896150783

Ward 4 E 02896150778

Interventional Neuroradiology Secretary 02896156115

## 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>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.