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Information and consent for sedation with Benzodiazepines

Dear Patient,

Due to your claustrophobia, it will be necessary to sedate you before and during the scan. To this end we use either Diazepam (Valium®) or Midazolam (Dormicum®). The injection is intravenous, via a cubital venous access. My staff is authorised for intravenous injection of patients in our practice (Praxis im Köln Triangle).

Please note the following:

- The substance relaxes and alleviates anxiety: some few cases of paradox reactions have been known, where anxiety is increased.
- The substance can lead to hypoventilation and even cessation of breathing, but this is not expected with the low doses used for cases applicable here. Patients' breathing is monitored throughout the examination via continuous measurement of oxygen partial pressure. All team members are trained for emergency situations.
- As with all medication, sedatives can in principle give rise to allergic reactions, in rare cases even resulting in death.
- Sedatives acting on the central nervous system reduce patients' ability to drive or use heavy/dangerous machinery. Patients expecting to be sedated must bring a companion with them to accompany them home following the examination. Anyone having been sedated must not drive a car for 24 hours following injection.
- The substance irritates the tissue during injection. It is normal to experience localised burning where the injection has taken place. Beyond this, the vein may become inflamed (thrombophlebitis), the blood vessels may become blocked (thrombosis) and in extreme cases the blockage may be carried to the lung (lung embolism). If the vein feels hard or hot, or hurts a few days following injection, consult your doctor without delay.
- In principle any injection may cause bleeding, inflammation, an abscess, tissue damage, or tissue malformation.

Anxious patients may be examined in a so-called 'open design MRI scanner'. Usually open design scanners are low field scanners (0.5 T or less) with reduced image quality. Our high field strength Philips MRI scanner (1.5 T) with high performance gradients comes close to an open design with its short tube length, and still guarantees optimal image quality.

Confirmation

I have read and understood all the above information and wish to be sedated before the scan.

place, date, signature of patient/carer

signature of medical team member