

Waiting list office

If you have a non-clinical query about your child's surgical date or waiting list status, please contact the booking office on 01 409 6126 for assistance.

Patient Advocacy

Should you wish to give any compliments, suggestions or complaints about your experience of the service, please contact the Patient Advocacy Department on 01 409 6715 for assistance or email pacs@olchc.ie

Repeat Prescriptions

For repeat prescriptions, please contact your GP.

Contact Us

Spinal Disorder Clinical Nurse Specialist Team

Phone

01 409 6024 Monday - Friday 10:00 -12:00.
A voicemail service operates outside of this time and all messages are responded to within 24 hours.

Alternatively you can email Spinal.Disorders@olchc.ie

Dedicated scoliosis phone line for parents

01 409 6877 Monday - Friday 09.00-12.00

REMEMBER

Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care.

Further Information

USEFUL INFORMATION SOURCES

Information for Scoliosis patients and families attending CHI at Crumlin about orthopaedic implants

<http://olchc.ie/About-Us/News/Message-to-families-attending-OLCHC-re-MAGEC-Rods.html>

Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)

www.srs.org

Paediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA)

<https://posna.org/>

British Scoliosis Society (BSS)

<http://www.britscoliosissoc.org.uk/>

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS)

<https://www.aaos.org/Default.aspx?ssopc=1>

Scoliosis Association (SAUK)

<https://www.sauk.org.uk/>

<http://www.olchc.ie/Children-Family/Scoliosis/>

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Children's Health Ireland
at Crumlin

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS / CARERS on MAGEC Rod surgery



CHI at Crumlin, Dublin 12

Phone: 01 409 6100

MAGEC Rods

MAGEC rods are used in the treatment of early onset scoliosis, where there is a high risk of spinal deformity progressing with growth. They are a Titanium Rod with an inbuilt magnet. They are adjustable using an external remote controller to lengthen the rod from outside the body. Your child may have 1 or 2 Rods surgically implanted.

Benefits

Fewer Invasive surgeries/less anaesthesia exposure / minimising infection risk / patient satisfaction/reduced anxiety

Alternative options to MAGEC Rods

If you feel MAGEC Rod surgery is not an option for your child alternative options are;

- Do nothing and continue to observe
- Bracing
- Traditional growing rods
- Full spinal fusion

What is the likelihood that my child will need to further surgery after initial insertion?

With all types of growing rod surgeries, there is a risk of implant related complications. These include hooks or screws pulling out of place or rod fractures, or failure of the procedure to be effective.

The child's weight, type of deformity, spinal flexibility, degree of mobility, surgical technique, and/or activity level may also be contributing factors to implant complications.

In non-fusion constructs, like MAGEC constructs, the greater the amount of time the rods have been implanted the higher the risk of rod fracture. This is a rare event.

When you get home post-surgery

While your child will require periods of rest, it is very important to encourage them to mobilise, and get back to normal daily activities. They may need to stay at home from school for up to 4 weeks.

Medication

Your child will be given a prescription prior to discharge. Please give regular analgesia for two weeks post operatively. Occasionally analgesia is required for up to 4 weeks after surgery. The pain specialist team will link in prior to discharge with advice.

Wound care

There will be one or two spinal wounds with dissolvable stitches. These are covered with a dressing, which should be removed as instructed (usually 5-7 days). Please contact the team, if you have any concerns. The wound should be kept clean and dry and checked daily for signs of infection.

Signs of Infection include but are not limited to: Malaise, Fever, Redness, Pain, Oozing, Tenderness, Swelling or heat at the wound site

Exercise

Walking is the only exercise permitted until the first post op review.

Follow up

Your child should return to the outpatient department approximately 6 weeks after surgery for review and Xray.

This is a good opportunity to discuss with your Consultant any specific concerns, such as returning to sports and other activities.

What happens next?

Lengthening is done in the outpatient department at 3-6 monthly intervals. Your Consultant will plan the frequency of lengthening has to suit your child's specific requirements. The procedure takes 5 minutes and is generally non-painful. However, paracetamol is sufficient if your child experiences discomfort. Diversion techniques are particularly helpful during these procedures, for example use of tablet or a favourite toy. A member of the team will be in contact to arrange these appointments.

Things to look out for with MAGEC Rods.

Do not let your child participate in high velocity sports such as skiing, gymnastics, trampoline etc. as the metal implants may move, break or cause pain.

Please contact the spinal service if your child complains of acute onset of back pain. Your child may require an Xray/EOS and or review

Should your child require an MRI for any reason in the future, the magnetic rods are compatible with some MRI scanners. However, the images may be distorted. Please contact the Orthopaedic team if you have any concerns. CT scans are compatible with MAGEC rods.

How Successful Are MAGEC Rods?

Progressive spinal deformity is always challenging to manage. No treatment is universally successful. Each child's treatment is individual and how they progress will be closely monitored by the team.