



Patient & relative helpline

Tel: 0113 20 65270

Email: mhunit@leeds.ac.uk

Date:

Dear

IMPORTANT: Health Information for Families about Malignant Hyperthermia

We are contacting you because a member of your family has recently been diagnosed with susceptibility to Malignant Hyperthermia.

Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is a relatively rare condition that normally does not produce any symptoms unless you have a general anaesthetic. People who are susceptible to MH can have a potentially fatal, rapidly progressive reaction when they receive common anaesthetic drugs.

MH is a genetic condition, which means that it is passed on within families from generation to generation. Until it can be proven that you do not carry the genetic risk, you should be treated as at risk if you require a general anaesthetic.

Please do let your GP know about this problem as soon as you can, as well as any doctor or surgeon who has to treat you in hospital. General anaesthetics are used for some hospital tests and investigations as well as surgical procedures. If the hospital is aware that you are at risk of developing MH under general anaesthesia, they may advise postponing the procedure until your risk of developing MH has been clarified.

It is important to know that people who are at risk of developing malignant hyperthermia do not have a reaction every time they have a general anaesthetic. This means that even if you have had many operations without a problem, you may still be at risk of developing malignant hyperthermia in future anaesthetics.

Please be reassured that with the correct knowledge and awareness MH is a well managed condition. If you have any questions or concerns, or you would like to discuss this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact our patient and relative helpline on 0113 20 65270 or email mhunit@leeds.ac.uk.

You may also find it useful to refer to our website www.ukmhr.ac.uk, which is a good source of information on the condition, testing and management.

As MH is a genetic condition please do send copies of this letter to any other blood relatives of the family member who contacted you and has been diagnosed with susceptibility to malignant hyperthermia.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Phil Hopkins

Consultant Anaesthetist

Director UK Malignant Hyperthermia Unit