

University Children's Hospital Zurich, The Zurich Center for Spina Bifida, Postfach, 8008 Zurich

**Pediatrician's note**

Zurich, 25 February 2020 / dreal

Dear Sir, dear Madam

The **Zurich Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy** has been performing open fetal surgery on patients with open spina bifida (intrauterine) since December 2010.

Due to the rare situation and highly specific needs in various medical disciplines, the after-care protocol requires that these patients undergo all major check-ups at **The Zurich Center for Spina Bifida**.

Postnatal standard after-care for these patients includes magnetic resonance tomography (MRT) on the cranium and on the spine once the infant has reached the age of one or two.

These examinations are required because patients who have undergone fetal surgery are at risk for developing intraspinal dermoid cysts. These dermoid cysts can seriously interfere with neuro-motor and urological functions that had previously been improved through the fetal surgery.

The magnetic resonance tomography can be performed at a location near the patient's home. We therefore request that you, as the patient's paediatrician, consult the parents in this regard and make arrangements for the examination.

In addition to the standard MRT sequences on the spine, we request that you perform a diffusion sequence as well as an axial T1 and T2 sequence at the level of the lesion.

**So that we can view and assess the MRI before the after-care appointment, please perform the examination before the appointment and send us the images on a CD by post. This way we can discuss the results at the time of the check-up at The Zurich Center for Spina Bifida.**

We sincerely thank you for your support in caring for the patient.

Kind regards,

Prof. Niklaus Krayenbühl, MD  
Head of pediatric Neurosurgery

Beth Padden, MD  
Co-director The Zurich Center for Spina Bifida

PD Luca Mazzone, MD  
Co-director The Zurich Center for Spina Bifida