



MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) SCANS

What is an MRI scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or MRI, uses a very strong magnetic field, radio-frequency waves and a computer to create detailed images of the body.

- MRI images show the soft tissues of the body in great detail without any of the potential risks of X-rays.
- Each MRI scan is designed based upon your child's individual medical history. Special imaging devices may be placed close to the area being scanned.
- The length of time an MRI scan takes averages 45 minutes but may take longer depending on the area being scanned.
- **A legal guardian or parent must accompany your child.**
- **Please read this instruction sheet prior to your child's MRI scan.**
- **If your child is ill (fever, cough, flu, etc.), please call Radiology scheduling:**
Dallas 214-559-8572 Frisco 469-515-7190

What happens before the MRI scan?

We will evaluate your child's ability to hold still and follow directions before scheduling the appointment. Before the scan, both you and your child will be asked some questions, including:

- Is there a possibility of any metal or surgical devices in the parent or child?
- Is it possible that you or your child is pregnant?
- Also, if your child is receiving sedation or anesthesia, the **Radiology nurse** will talk to you about your child's medical history.
 - Please tell the nurse about any allergies your child may have.
 - The nurse or MRI technologist will explain the MRI scan to your child and will also talk to you about the MRI procedure and sedation.
 - A certified child life specialist may be available to help prepare, distract and support your child. Child life specialists help ease fears and anxieties that some children have during their hospital visits.

What is worn for an MRI scan?

- Children will be asked to wear only radiology scrubs during the study.
- Jewelry (even pierced jewelry), hair accessories, purses and wallets will **not** be allowed inside the MRI scanning area.
- You will be asked to remove belts and accessories and place in a locked cabinet.



What happens during the scan?

- Your child will lie on a bed that will slide into an open tunnel that looks like a big donut.
- Your child will need to be very still.
- As the MRI “camera” takes the pictures, it will make loud knocking noises. Earplugs muffle the noise.
- Depending on the part of the body being scanned, your child may be able to watch a movie with special goggles. A noise-canceling headset (made just for the MRI scanner) will be offered.

Is there preparation for anesthesia?

Some children may require sedation to help them hold still during the MRI scan. If your child has been scheduled for sedation, please review the following information:

- A legal guardian or parent **must** accompany your child to the MRI suite.
- You will receive fasting instructions from the radiology nurse prior to your appointment.
- If your child is ill (fever, cough, flu, etc.) and is scheduled with sedation/anesthesia please call Radiology scheduling: Dallas 214-559-8572 Frisco 469-515-7190
- The anesthesiologist will prescribe sedation medication to help your child be still during the MRI scan.
 - The anesthesiologist and nurse will closely monitor your child during the MRI scan and for an hour or so after the scan.
 - A member of our Child Life department may be available to support your child during the anesthesia process.
 - To safely send your child home, it will be necessary for your child to return to their pre-anesthesia condition. Discharge instructions will be given to you at that time.

What is contrast?

Your child’s physician or the radiologist may request the use of contrast medium if they feel it is necessary to more closely visualize certain areas of your child’s body.

- The Radiology nurse will place an I.V. (intravenous line) to give contrast.
- The I.V. will be removed following the MRI.
- A member from our Child Life department may be available to support your child during the I.V. placement and offer coping strategies.

If you have any questions or need to cancel or change your appointment, call Radiology scheduling: Dallas 214-559-8572 Frisco 469-515-7190