MRI with General Anesthesia (GA)

MRI, (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is a test that uses a large magnet, radio waves, and a computer to take pictures of the inside of the body. This does NOT use radiation. When you arrive to the Center for Children’s Surgery, a nurse will greet you and your child and take you to the EXAM ROOM.

- Your child may change into a gown and remove jewelry or items that contain metal
- The nurse will weigh your child and check his/her temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure
- The nurse will get an update on your child’s health history, including current medications, allergies, and his/her last solid food and clear liquid intake
- A child life specialist will assist you and your child to have a positive experience

Next, you and your child will meet with the anesthesiologist (doctor who gives the general anesthesia) to discuss the general anesthesia plan.

Depending on age and other factors, your child will have an IV placed before OR during the general anesthesia.

If before the anesthesia, you will have the opportunity to support your child while the IV is being placed. The child life specialist will help distract your child.

If during the anesthesia, the IV placement will be done when your child is asleep.

After that, you will be directed to the WAITING ROOM. The doctor, the child life specialist and the nurse will transfer you child to the SCANNER ROOM.

The anesthesiologist will give your child medications and monitor him/her.

During the MRI, your child will be positioned on a table. The table will slide into the tunnel-shaped scanner. MRI time varies on the part of the body being tested.

If you child requires contrast, a liquid that shows up on MRI images, a nurse will give it in your child’s IV.
After the MRI, your child will be transferred to the POST ANESTHESIA CARE UNIT (PACU) where the nurse will monitor him/her.

As your child wakens, the nurse will ask you to come back to be with him/her. Prior to discharge, the nurse will remove the IV and will give you instructions.

- If contrast is given, your child is encouraged to drink at least 4 glasses of water or juice to help flush the contrast dye from your child’s body.
- The radiologist will send a report to your child’s doctor.
- Call your child’s doctor if you have any questions about the results.

Preparation Tips

1. Explain to your child what will happen in words that he/she can understand.
2. Tell your child you will be there.
3. Bring items such as a blanket, stuffed animal, or pacifier to comfort your child.
4. A History and Physical Exam needs to be completed by your child’s physician within 30 days before the scheduled appointment.
5. Please have your physician send this document to the Pre Admission Department or bring a copy with you. If we do not have this document, we will need to re-schedule the procedure.

Prior to your appointment, you will receive a phone call from 1) Pre-admission testing department (PAT) and 2) Center for Children’s Surgery.

EATING INSTRUCTIONS

Meal/milk  STOP 8 hrs before the arrival time (or after midnight)
Formula     STOP 6 hrs before the arrival time
Breast milk STOP 4 hrs before the arrival time
Clear Liquids STOP 3 hrs before the arrival time

Department of Radiology: 315-464-5189
Nurse: 315-464-7405
Child Life Specialist: 315-464-7217