MRI Scan

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.

The MRI machine looks like a small tunnel. The exam table moves through the opening of the tunnel.

MRI Safety Precautions

- The MRI affects implanted devices and metal items. For this reason, every patient MUST be screened to make sure the child and parents/guardians are SAFE to enter.
- Parents/guardians who are pregnant or may be pregnant MUST step out of the room for the test. Please make sure that there is someone else available to be with your child during the scan, if needed.

Before the MRI, we ask your child to:

- Go to the bathroom to empty his/her bladder
- Maybe remove clothing and change into a gown
- Remove items that contain metal
  - All jewelry and/or metal (zippers, snaps, hair barrettes, hair bands)
  - Check any stuffed animal for metal parts

Your child may require an IV. You will have the opportunity to support your child while the IV is placed. A child life specialist will be there to distract your child if needed.

During the MRI, your child will lie on a bed with a safety belt on him/her. Depending on age and other factors, you may have the option of remaining with your child.

Only one parent/guardian will be allowed to be with his/her child in the scanner room; other plans should be made for siblings.

Your child will be given ear plugs to block the loud, knocking sounds of the machine. Then, the table will slide into the tunnel-shaped scanner.

MRIs time varies on the part of the body being tested (30 min to 2 hrs).

- Your child will need to stay completely still during the test
- Your child may be asked to hold his or her breath for several seconds during the test.
The intercom will allow your child to talk with the technologists during the scan.

Contrast, a liquid that shows up on MRI images, may be given through your child’s IV.

**After the MRI**

- 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. Explain the importance of holding still while pictures are being taken.
4. Bring items such as a blanket, stuffed animal, or pacifier to comfort your child.

Before your child’s appointment, you will receive a phone call 24 to 72 hrs from the radiology department to confirm your appointment and answer any questions.

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