



COMMON RADIOLOGY SCANS AND DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

Radiology scans and diagnostic imaging are used to diagnose and monitor IBD. Here is a list of commonly used methods. Your physician will provide you with specific details and instructions for each test that is recommended. Do not hesitate to ask questions prior to the procedure.

X-Ray: Used to detect blockages of the small or large intestine. No preparation required.

Upper Gastrointestinal Series (UGI): Radiologic exam of the upper and middle sections of the GI tract. This test uses a barium contrast that your child will need to drink prior to the test.

Small Bowel Follow-Through (SBFT)/Small Bowel Series (SBS): A series of X-rays taken every 15-30 minutes. This test uses a barium contrast that your child will need to drink prior to the test. This test may take a half day or so to complete.

CAT Scan (CT Scan): Takes simultaneous X-rays from several different angles to reconstruct a realistic image. It can show how much of the colon is inflamed. This test takes approximately 5-15 minutes to complete. It may require a special contrast material (oral, rectal, or intravenously).

CT Enterography (CTE): A Variation of the CT scan. CTE reconstructs images in 3-D to better visualize the small bowel in relation to other organs. A special oral or intravenous contrast is given.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI): Useful for viewing internal organs, muscles, and soft tissue. It does not involve radiation. No metallic objects are allowed in or near the scanner. Some children may need sedation for this test.

MR Enterography (MRE): Special type of MRI performed with a contrast material to produce detailed images of the small intestine. An intravenous contrast may be used.

White Blood Cell Scan or Leukocytes Scintigraphy: Used to determine the presence of active inflammation and the site of inflammation. It uses a radioactive substance (called a tracer) to find the inflammation. A blood sample is required. The white blood cells are separated and mixed with a small amount of radioactive material. These tagged cells are then returned to your child's body. Pictures are taken to locate the tagged cells. This test can take several hours.

Capsule Endoscopy: Your child swallows a capsule that has a tiny camera on it. The camera takes pictures as it moves through the digestive tract, and the images are transmitted to a computer that is worn on a belt. Your physician will later download and review the images. The capsule exits the body with stool after it makes its way through the digestive tract.