



## MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a method of examining the inside of the body. The MRI machine is a large magnet that surrounds the body. It uses magnetic fields and radio frequencies instead of X-rays to produce images. The patient is not exposed to radiation during this exam.

### What to Bring for the Test

Have your child bring a favorite cuddling toy or blanket to keep with him during the test. (The toy may not have any metal in or on it.)

### Before the Test

- **Clothing** - Dress your child in comfortable clothes with no snaps or zippers (sweat pants and T-shirt, for example). Any objects that contain metal (such as hairpins, watches, jewelry, or pajamas with metal snaps) or any body piercing must be removed because metal can affect the test. Tell the technologist if your child has any tattoos or uses a medicine patch.
- **Medicines** - On the day of the MRI scan, the patient should **NOT** take any medicine meant specifically to calm his or her worries about the MRI or make him or her sleepy for the exam. Please call the Radiology Nurses with questions at (614) 722-2624.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

### APPOINTMENT:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring your child to:

- Nationwide Children's Hospital Main Campus, First Floor, Crossroads Registration Area 700 Children's Drive, Columbus, OH. Phone: (614) 722-2351, Option #2.
- Nationwide Children's Hospital, Westerville Close-to Home Center, Registration Desk 433 N. Cleveland Ave., Westerville, OH Phone: (614) 355-8300

A parent or guardian must be present at registration if the child is under 18 years old.

### Arrival time:

- If your child needs **anesthesia**, you will receive a phone call from a nurse in the procedure center, the day before the exam, to give you instructions about when and where to arrive, and when to stop eating and drinking.
- If your child **does not need anesthesia**, we need you to arrive **30 minutes before your scan time**. This allows you time to register and fill out safety screening sheets.

Scan time: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you need to cancel your appointment or reschedule, call (614) 722-6200, Radiology option.**

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## Before the Test, continued

- **Prescription Medications** - Give your child his or her other usual prescription medicines.
- If your child uses a medication patch, remove the patch before the test, put the sticky sides together, and flush it down the toilet. If there is any gel on the skin, wipe it off before going into the MRI. After the test, replace the patch with a new one.

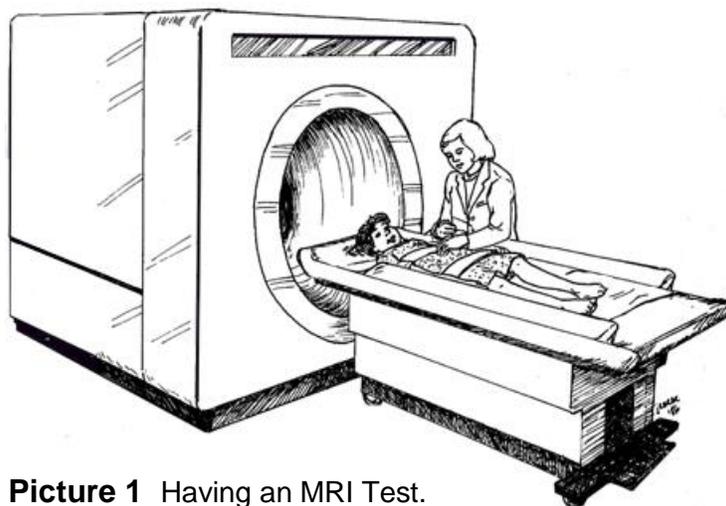
## How the Test is Done

If your child is **not having** anesthesia, one parent may stay with the child in the MRI room while the test is being done. If you would like to stay with your child during the test, please tell the technologist.

A technologist or RN will come and get you and your child from the waiting room, and take you to the MRI area.

### For the safety of you and your child:

- All metal and jewelry must be removed before entering the MRI area. Lockers will be provided to secure your belongings.
- The technologist will then take you and your child through a metal detector and into the MRI room.
- Next, the technologist will have your child lie on the MRI table and move it so that your child's body is inside the opening of the part where the magnet is (**Picture 1**). If your child is not having anesthesia, it is important for him or her to hold very still during the test. When a patient moves too much, it may take longer to finish the test and complete a quality scan. Sometimes, a form of “sleepy medicine” is necessary to complete the test. If the MRI exam is not scheduled with anesthesia, this may involve coming back on a different day.
- Your child will be given earplugs to wear or a set of headphones to listen to music. Your child will not have any pain with this test, but will hear a sound like a loud tapping or hammering. During some tests, your child might also be able to watch a movie. The technologist will let you know if this is possible.
- Your child’s doctor may ask that your child be given a contrast solution during the test so the scan can pick up more information. If so, an IV will be started and the contrast solution will be put in the IV. The technologist will be outside the room during the test but will be able to see and hear your child. Depending on the type of test your child is having, the exam may take 20 to 90 minutes to complete.



**Picture 1** Having an MRI Test.

## **After The Test**

- If an IV was placed for contrast, it will be removed after the test is completed.
- A report of the test results will be sent to your child's doctor usually within 48 hours. When the doctor gets the results, he or she will explain the test to you.

If you have any questions, ask your child's doctor, nurse or technologist, or call 614-722-6200.