



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 detail without the potential risks of X-rays.
- Each MRI scan is designed based on your child's medical history.

What happens before all MRI scans?

Assessment

Two very important questions are asked to confirm your child will be safe during the MRI:

- Does the parent or child have any metal or surgical implants or devices that cannot be removed?
- Is it possible that you or your child is pregnant?

Education and preparation

- A staff member will explain the MRI procedure and, if needed, contrast or sedation procedures.
- A child life specialist may help prepare, distract and support your child during any part of the visit.
- The patient will be asked to wear scrubs or a gown provided by Radiology.
- Anyone entering the MRI area must remove all metal. A locker for all jewelry, hair accessories, belts, purses, wallets and cell phones will be provided.

Important scheduling information

- We will evaluate your child's ability to hold still and follow directions before scheduling. This will help determine if anesthesia or sedation are needed during the procedure.
- The length of an MRI scan is about 45 minutes but may take longer depending on the area scanned.
- **A legal guardian or parent must accompany your child.**
- Bring your child's implant identification card if they have any implanted devices or pumps.
- If your child is ill (fever, cough, flu, etc.), you need to cancel or reschedule your child's appointment, or if you have any questions or concerns about this procedure, please call Radiology scheduling:

Dallas 214-559-8572

Frisco 469-515-7190



What happens during the scan?

- Your child will lie very still on a bed that will slide in and out of the scanner. The scanner is shaped like a large tunnel or donut.
- As the MRI “camera” takes the pictures, it will make loud noises. Earplugs are available.
- Depending on the length of the procedure, your child may be able to watch a movie.



Is there preparation for anesthesia?

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

- You will receive fasting instructions and the exact arrival time one week before the appointment from the **Radiology nurse**.
- A legal guardian or parent **must** accompany your child to the appointment.
- The anesthesiologist will give medication to help your child be still during the MRI scan.
 - Your child will be closely monitored during the MRI scan and for an hour or so after the scan.
 - A child life specialist may be available to support your child before they are given anesthesia.
 - To safely send your child home, it will be necessary for your child to return to their pre-sedation condition. Discharge instructions will be given to you at that time.

What is contrast?

To help with the evaluation of the results, injecting a fluid called contrast may be recommended. The fluid is given through an IV, or intravenous line, that will be removed immediately after the MRI is complete.