

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

MRI takes detailed pictures of the muscles, the brain, and even the blood vessels. MRI uses a computer, radio waves, and a strong magnet.

- MRI does not use radiation.
- MRI exams take 1 hour and longer.

How we do the MRI

A member of our team will meet with you. We will ask about your child's medical history and about medicines and allergies. We'll tell you about the MRI and answer your questions.

Your child will put on a hospital gown and remove all hair barrettes, hair extensions, rubber bands, and all jewelry



MRI is a large magnet that looks like a tunnel

Your child will lie down on the table that slides into the scanner tunnel. It is important to lie very still while we take the pictures.

During the scan, the MRI makes knocking noises. These are just loud sounds and will not hurt. We have ear plugs and headphones to help block the noise.

With some tests, we ask your child to drink a special liquid. Sometimes we give intravenous (IV) medicine.

Starting an IV if needed

We place a small tube called an IV into a vein (usually in the hand or arm) and tape it in place. Please ask us about our comfort menu. We have numbing medicines and other ways to help ease the discomfort and anxiety of starting IVs.

It is important to lie very still

MRI exams are very sensitive to movement. It is important for your child to lie very still while we take the pictures.

If your child is young or has a hard time holding still, we may need to give some sedation. Your doctor will order sedation when we schedule the MRI.

If your child needs sedation, a nurse will call you for more information. Our radiology nurse will call the day before the exam with the preparation and arrival instructions.

MRI uses a very powerful magnet

Everyone must follow important safety guidelines and fill out a MRI screening form.

If your child has any implants, we need the manufacturer information including make and model. We also need the date of the implant.

Child life specialist

A child life specialist may be available to explain the procedure to your child using special words, toys, and games developed for each age group.



Child life specialist explaining the procedure

Please let us know if you or your family would like to visit with a child life specialist before the exam. You can call Child Life if you have any questions or concerns at 682-885-2677.

Special instructions

Please report to patient registration at your child's scheduled **arrival** time.

Most exams do not require any food or fluid restrictions. We will call you the day before the exam if your child needs to stop eating or drinking for the MRI.

Please call us as soon as possible if you are unable to keep your child's appointment.

A caretaker may stay in the room during the procedure **unless we use sedation**. Pregnant caregivers may not be in the scan room during the procedure.

Please do not bring other children. Your child will need all of your attention during the procedure.



For female patients 10 years and older, we need to complete a pregnancy questionnaire and may do a pregnancy test.

After the MRI

Your child may eat and drink as usual and return to normal activities if not sedated.

A radiologist will read the exam and send the report to your child's doctor to review. Their office will share these results with you.

Radiology

For contacts and locations visit

www.cookchildrens.org/services/radiology/contact-us/

or scan the QR code below with your phone



These instructions are only general guidelines. Your health care provider may give you special instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please call your health care provider.