

Having an MRI at Randall Children's Hospital

An MRI is a big machine that takes pictures of the inside of your body. It looks like a large doughnut or tunnel. It uses a magnet, sound waves, and a computer to take the pictures.

When you arrive at the hospital and check in, you and your grown-up will be taken to the MRI area. A nurse will meet you and show you the room where you will wait before and after the MRI. In this room, you will change into hospital pajamas. The nurse will listen to your heart and check your blood pressure.

Since the MRI machine uses a powerful magnet, you will be asked to take off any jewelry or clothing with metal before the MRI. When it's time, your nurse will take you to the MRI room. Your grown-ups will go to the waiting area.

Inside the MRI room is a bed that looks like a table. You will lie flat on your back on the bed. You might get a pillow to put under your head. You can bring a stuffed animal or blanket to help you feel more comfortable. The doctor or nurse will help you get into the right spot, and make sure you feel okay.

MRI with Contrast

Sometimes the doctor needs to use a special liquid called "contrast dye" to help the pictures show more clearly. This contrast helps the doctor see your body, like blood vessels or organs better

The contrast is usually given through a small soft tube called an IV, which goes into a vein in your arm or hand. When the nurse puts the IV in, it might feel like a pinch. The contrast dye travels through your body and helps make the pictures clearer for the doctor.

During the MRI

Some kids are awake during the MRI. If you are awake, you will need to hold very still during the procedure so the pictures turn out clear. A soft belt with Velcro may help keep you still and safe. When it's time for the MRI, the bed will slowly slide into the MRI machine. Inside the machine, you will hear loud noises that can sound like knocking, thumping, or buzzing. You can listen to music or watch movies while you are in the machine to help you relax.

If you are asleep during the MRI, you will get special medicine through your IV. This medicine helps you sleep and is given by a doctor called an anesthesiologist. The medicine doesn't hurt.

After the MRI

When the MRI is done, the bed will slowly slide back out of the machine. You will go back to the first room. If you have an IV, the nurse will take it out. Then you can go home!

The medical provider will talk with you and your grown-up to explain what the MRI showed and what happens next.



One of Randall Children's Hospital's MRI machines.

Scan to watch a video here of a child having an MRI:

OR

Using your mobile device, scan the following code:

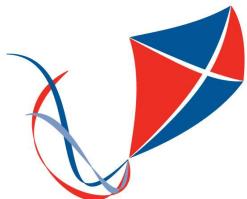


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HOSPITAL**

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