

# Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) with Anesthesia



## What is an MRI?

An MRI is a scan that takes detailed pictures of the inside of the body. There is no exposure to radiation during this scan.

## What is anesthesia?

Anesthesia is a medicine used for sleep, pain, and to stop your child from moving during the MRI. Anesthesia is more than just being asleep. It also includes the care before, during, and after the procedure.

## How do we prepare for the MRI?

- Your child's nurse will give you instructions about when your child can eat and drink before the MRI.
- Children are not allowed in the waiting room without an adult. If you will be in the MRI room with your child, please bring another adult with you to watch your other children.

## What will happen during the MRI?

A staff member will bring you and your child to the holding room. A nurse practitioner will ask you questions about your family's and your child's medical history. Your child will need to change into a hospital gown without snaps. When it is time, a staff member will bring your child into the MRI room. One adult family member will be able to stay with your child until they are given the anesthesia and they fall asleep.

- Staff will help your child onto the procedure bed and place monitors and a blood pressure cuff on your child.
- Your child will have an intravenous line (IV) placed for anesthesia. An intravenous line (IV) is a soft, flexible tube placed inside a vein. IV lines are used to give your child medicine or fluids.
  - The nurse will look for a good vein (usually on the hands or arms) to place the IV.
  - They will clean the skin and spray a special cold spray on it to help with pain.
  - Then, the nurse will use a needle to place a small tube into your child's vein.
  - Once the IV is in place, the needle will be taken out, leaving only a small, soft tube in your child.
  - The nurses will put special water in the IV to make sure it's in the right place.
  - The IV will be taped to help it stay in place and to keep your child from moving it.
- The anesthesiologist then connects a tube to your child's IV to give the anesthesia. This way, we can be sure your child is very still so we can get clear pictures.

## What happens after my child receives anesthesia?

The medicine may make your child feel uncomfortable as it is going in through the IV. Your child will fall asleep very fast once the medicine has been given. Once your child is asleep, you will need to wait in the waiting room. When the MRI is done, your child will be moved to the recovery area. This is where children wake up after anesthesia. You will be able to be with your child as they wake up.

## Radiology

## How can I help my child?

Explain to your child what will happen during the scan. Use simple words that are familiar to you and your child.

- Be honest with your child about the scan.
- Bring comforting things that your child enjoys from home, such as a favorite toy, blanket, book, etc. (However, these items will not be allowed inside the MRI room.)
- Praise and support your child and acknowledge their feelings.
- Ask questions. Make sure you have all the information you need to be prepared and to best support your child.

## Glossary

**Anesthesia:** medicine used for sleep, pain and to stop your child from moving during a scan, surgery, or procedure.

**Anesthesiologist:** a medical doctor who is trained to give anesthesia to children who are having surgery or a procedure.

**Intravenous line (IV):** An intravenous line (IV) is a soft, flexible tube placed inside a vein. IV lines are used to give your child medicine or fluids.

**If you would like a Child Life Specialist to talk to your child about the scan or give support, call 323-361-7675.**