



CHILDREN'S
HEALTH SYSTEM®

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scan

1600 7th Ave. S. • Birmingham, AL • 35233 • (205) 939-9377 • CHECK Center Health Information

Your child's doctor has ordered a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan. Information about the exam is listed below. Appointment information is on the back of this sheet.

WHAT IS AN MRI SCAN?

The scan is an exam that makes very detailed pictures of the inside of the body. The machine that takes the pictures is an MRI scanner. A magnet and other equipment in the scanner make and receive radio waves that take the pictures. X-rays are not used.

WHAT DO I NEED TO TELL MY CHILD ABOUT THE MRI SCAN?

- Your child will lie on a narrow table that slides into a large round machine called the MRI scanner.
- It is important for your child to lie very still.
- Your child will not feel anything during the exam.
- Loud, drumming noises are heard when the pictures are taken.
- Your child may use earphones during the exam to listen to music; he/she may even bring a favorite CD or cassette tape.
- Your child will be monitored during the exam, and one adult may stay in the room.
- Your child or anyone in the room with him/her cannot wear any metal items (like jewelry, watch, hairpins, zippers, snaps, cell phones or glasses) during the exam. Charge cards, items with metal clips or parts and pagers/beepers are also not allowed in the scan room.
- Patients with pacemakers or certain metal clips in their head will not be able to have MRI scans. Other problems that might keep a child from having an MRI scan will be discussed with you.
- The exam may take one to two hours.



MRI Scanner

Children are the center of our lives.®

HOW WILL MY CHILD STAY STILL THAT LONG?

To help your child be still during the scan, your child's doctor may decide your child needs **sedation, a medicine to keep them calm**. The medicine will be a small amount of liquid your child will swallow by mouth or the medicine may be placed by needle into a vein. A registered nurse will sedate your child, and the nurse or doctor will watch your child closely until he/she is discharged.

You will know ahead of time if your child needs sedation so you can talk with your child about what sedation is and how it is given. You will also be told not to let your child eat or drink anything (not even a sip of water) for a certain period of time before the exam. This is to help prevent vomiting or choking. If your child does have anything by mouth, the scan will be canceled.

A type of dye called contrast might be used if more detailed pictures are needed. The contrast or dye is placed by needle into a vein. The dye itself does not hurt.

It is recommended that two (2) adults come with a child who will be sedated in order to assist with transportation home.

If you have any questions about the MRI scan or sedation, please call (205) 939-9105.

If you need to change the appointment, please call (205) 939-9141 or 1 (800) 226-4770.

MRI SCAN APPOINTMENT

Date _____

Time _____ a.m. _____ p.m.

DO NOT let your child eat or drink anything by mouth (not even a sip of water) after _____ a.m. _____ p.m.