

plugs and headphones required). Once the scans are completed you will be moved out of the MRI scanner and helped off the bed.

RESULTS OF YOUR CHILD'S SCAN

A radiologist will review your MRI results and a report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results during the follow-up appointment.

NEED TO CANCEL

If you need to cancel your child's MRI appointment, please call the MRI Centre at (807) 684-6300 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If your child has a bad cold and is coughing, you would be best to reschedule the appointment, as it is unlikely that your child could lie still for the entire time of the scans and/or an appointment time can be given to another patient.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is important for you and your child to understand and prepare for a hospital event such as a MRI. Be sure to contact us with any additional questions that you may have. The pamphlet has been designed for you to read with your child.

PHONE CONTACTS

MRI Reception	(807) 684-6300
Paediatric Outpatients	(807) 684-6520
Child Life Specialist	(807) 684-6521

Also visit the hospital website at www.tbrhsc.net / Programs/Services / Paediatrics / Getting Ready for your MRI

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
980 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay ON P7B 6V4
Tel: 807-684-6000
www.tbrhsc.net



MATERNAL/CHILD SERVICES

Paediatrics/Paediatric Out-Patient Unit

WHAT IS AN MRI? (MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING)



Date: _____

Time: _____

Special Dietary
Instructions: _____

Special Medication
Instructions: _____

Report to Diagnostic Imaging – X-Ray Department.
Please bring your Health Card to your appointment.

WHAT IS MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a way of taking pictures of the head and body without the use of radiation. A magnet, radio signals, and a computer are used to create the pictures. A complete study is made up of a number of short scans. Each scan may take from 3 to 8 minutes. The total time for a complete MRI study is about ½ hour to 1 hour.

These scans can produce a detailed (clearer) look inside the body. You must remain still during scans so the pictures will be clear.

HOSPITAL STAFF INVOLVED

A **Booking clerk** will contact you and book an appointment.

An **Outpatient nurse** will prepare your child for their scan and give sedation when necessary.

A **Child Life Specialist** can assist you and your child, prepare and understand the procedure.

A **Medical Radiation Technologist** will be operating the scanner.

A **Radiologist** will check each scan to make sure the study is complete.

An **Anaesthetist** will be present when a general anaesthetic is occasionally required.

WHERE DO I GO?

Preparation will be provided by the Paediatric Outpatient Department when sedation is being considered. When your child is sedated, a paediatric nurse will go with you and your child to the MRI department; and after the scan, your child will return to the Paediatric Outpatient Department to be cared for until they are fully awake. If sedation is not required, you will go directly to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre Diagnostic Imaging Department.

SEDATION

Sedation may be necessary for some children. Factors that may affect the need for sedation are: type of scan required, length of scan, child's age and their ability to remain still for extended periods. If sedation is being considered, please discuss with

your doctor. Sedation can be given orally or rectally. It is very important for your child's safety to have an EMPTY stomach before sedation can be given. The procedure will be cancelled or delayed if the requirements are not followed.

- No food or milk products 8 hours before sedation.
- May have 4 oz. clear fluids (apple juice or water 4 hours before sedation.
- Infants may have up to 6 oz. formula 6 hours before sedation
- May breast feed 4 hours before sedation.

To help the effect of sedation, a late bed time and early wake time is required for your child. For example, if your child's appointment is at 10 am, he/she should wake at about 4 am. The lack of sleeps helps your child during the procedure to remain still.

WILL MY CHILD BE GIVEN ANY INJECTIONS FOR THE MRI STUDY?

Some scans provide the doctor with more information when a contrast fluid is given to the child. This fluid is injected through a small needle in a vein; usually on the top of their hand. If the radiologist feels that your child's scan would benefit with the injection of this fluid, it will be discussed at the time of the scan.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION FOR THE CHILD

Before entering the MRI room, a staff will question you to make sure you are able to be near a strong magnetic field. Parents may wear their own clothes during the scan; however, pockets will be completely emptied of any metal items. Patients booked through Paediatric Outpatients will wear hospital pyjamas/gowns.

The MRI scanner is a large machine with a deep, wide tunnel in the centre. It is important to remember that a MRI scanner works like a big camera and takes pictures of the inside of your body. You are securely positioned on a firm bed and when you are ready, the bed will slowly move into the MRI (tunnel) until your body is properly placed. Remember to stay perfectly still and breathe normally. Someone can remain in the room with you and talk to you between scans. The technologist will also be able to talk to you through an intercom. The scanner does make a loud knocking or drumming sound during each scan (ear