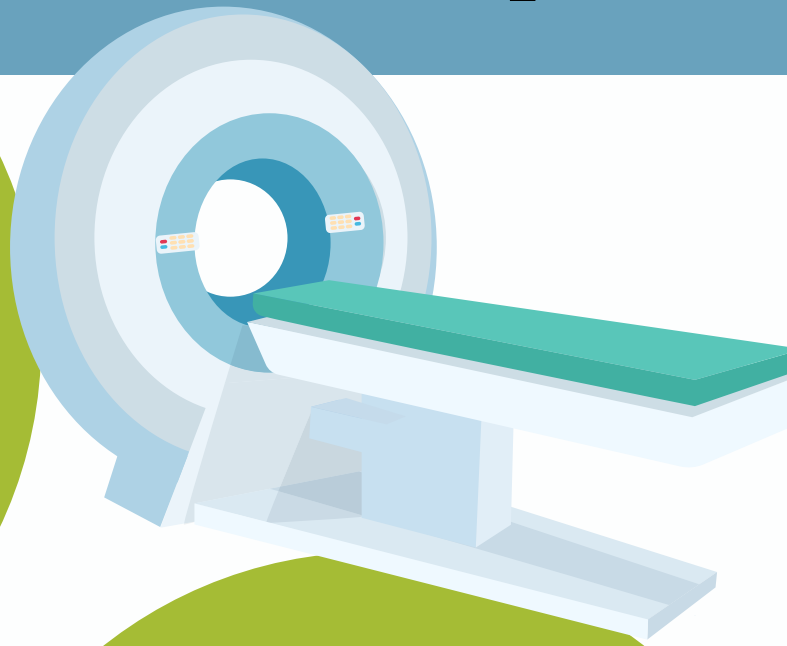


I'm going to have an MRI scan at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital!

What is an MRI scan???

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging - which is a fancy way to say that the machine will be taking pictures of the inside of your body, without touching you!

Taking these pictures (also called images or scans) may help the doctors know what is making you feel sick or hurt, or the pictures can be used to make sure your body is safe.



When you arrive at the hospital:

First, you and your family will check in at the desk on the 2nd floor. You will get a badge that tells everyone that it is safe for you to be in the hospital. Then you will take the elevator to the 5th floor.

You will wait in the waiting room until someone calls your name to take you to the next room.



When you are waiting:

A nurse will call your name and take you to a room called a "pre-op room" that looks like this. Pre-op means before your procedure or MRI scan.

You'll get hospital pajamas to change into so our camera can take the best pictures. We will also make sure you don't have any metal on your body (like a hair clip or bracelet). While you are in this room, people will come talk to you and your family about your pictures.



Getting an IV

For some pictures, we will need to use a liquid called "contrast." Contrast is a kind of water that helps the camera can see what it needs to. If you need contrast for your pictures, you will get an IV.

An IV is a small straw that a nurse will place in your vein so that we can give your body the contrast. Here are the steps of putting in an IV. This IV will be taken out once your pictures are done.

Not everybody who comes for an MRI needs an IV. Your family can ask your medical team if this will be part of your visit.



Your nurse will tie a tight rubber band, or "tourniquet," around your arm. This helps them see your veins better. If this feels uncomfortable, your nurse can put a towel underneath the rubber band. This will only be on for a few minutes.



Then the nurse will clean your skin very well using an alcohol pad. This step might feel cold and wet, and you might smell the alcohol. This smell will go away quickly!



After that, your nurse will use something called a J-tip. The J-tip makes a loud sound, kind of like opening a can of pop or soda, and helps numb your skin so that you don't feel as much when they put in your IV. There is nothing sharp in the Jtip, it uses air to give your body medicine! Some kids say it feels like cold air.



Now it's time to place your IV straw. It's very important to hold still for this step. You might feel pressure, but remember the Jtip has made your skin numb.

Some kids like to squeeze something, look at something else, or take deep breaths to relax their arm. What would you like to do?



Next, the rubber band will come off your arm and your nurses will give your body a drink of water through the IV straw, using a syringe. You might feel this in your arm like cold water, but it should not hurt. They are putting the water in to make sure your IV is in the right place.



Then they will put some stickers or tape on your IV to keep it safe. You might feel some pressure if they need to make sure the tape sticks in the right place. It is really important to stay still while your nurse puts the tape on! Now you are all done! Remember, your IV will be taken out before you go home.

Now it's time to take your pictures. Your camera will look like this! Before you step into this room, your MRI tech (the person who will take the pictures) will make sure there is no metal on your body, by waving a wand all around you. This wand will not touch you. They will then ask you to get on the bed, and start to get you ready for your pictures.



Here are some of the things they will give you for your pictures. The gray squeeze ball will go in your hands. You can squeeze this if you need to tell the MRI tech something or if you need to stop taking pictures. The MRI tech or your family can help you put the small green ear plugs in your ears, and the headphones over them. The reason you will have ear plugs and headphones is because our MRI scanner makes loud noises when it takes pictures! These will help make the noises quieter, but you might still hear the camera taking pictures. For most pictures, you can also choose to watch a movie or listen to music during your pictures, so you don't hear the camera as much!



We will give you a list of movies to pick from when you arrive, or you can bring your favorite DVD from home. These are the mirrors we use so that you can see the movie the whole time you are taking pictures. Your caregiver will be able to ask the hospital if you can watch a movie during your pictures, so you will know before you come in. If you are not able to watch a movie, you can imagine your favorite place, memory, or activity while you hold still for pictures.

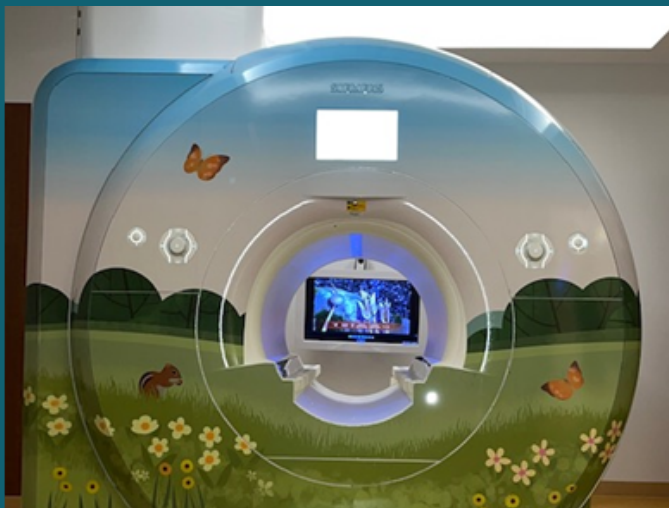




Our cameras use "coils" to know where to take pictures. If you are having pictures of your brain or head, you will have the "head coil," which does not touch you. If you are getting pictures of your stomach or chest, you will wear our "chest coil" like a blanket. We also have coils to help our cameras take pictures of your legs, feet, or shoulders. These do not hurt your body, and they don't move during pictures. The area that the coil is helping to take pictures of will need to stay still so we don't get blurry pictures!



If you need contrast for your pictures, it might be put in at the beginning, middle, or end of your pictures. They will connect tubing from this pole to the IV that you already have, and this machine will put the contrast in your IV at the right time during your pictures. Some kids say that when the contrast goes in, their body might feel cold. If you feel that way, it's normal!



It is time to take your pictures! Your MRI tech will help your bed move into the hole of the camera. No part of our camera will ever move or touch your body. Just like a regular camera, you will need to hold very still so the picture isn't blurry! One of your family members can stay in the room during your pictures with you. Your MRI tech will give them ear plugs just like yours, and help them find a place to sit. You will hear your MRI tech talking to you throughout your pictures to remind you to hold still.

Reminders for during your pictures:

The MRI tech can see you while you are in the MRI. You will have a gray squeeze ball for if you need to ask or tell them anything or stop taking pictures. When they are talking to you through your headphones, they can hear what you say.

You can choose to have your caregiver sit where you can see them or where they can touch your hand or foot. They can stay in the room the whole time you are taking pictures once the MRI tech says they are safe to stay.

Some kids like to listen to the sounds of an MRI machine before they come, so they know what to expect.

Our camera will never move or touch your body. You might hear the noises while the pictures are being taken, but we will give you headphones and ear plugs to make the noises quieter and to hear your movie.

Some MRI scans take the time of a TV show, and other MRI scans take the whole time of a movie! Your caregiver can ask your medical team how long your pictures will be so you know before you come in.

Your biggest job will be to hold your body still the whole time the MRI is taking your pictures! Ask your MRI tech what part of your body is the most important to keep still to get clear pictures.

Once you are done with your pictures, you will get to go home! We are so proud of you for doing something so brave!

We are here to help if you have any questions or worries about your MRI scan.

