



NEUROLOGY TESTING – MRI

What is an MRI?

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) is a test that takes a picture of areas inside your child's body. It can look at the brain, spinal cord and/or muscle.

An MRI usually takes about 60 minutes. Sometimes more than one area needs to be tested during an MRI. In this case the total MRI time will be longer.

An MRI uses strong magnets to make the picture. There is no radiation used.

What happens during the MRI?

- Your child will need to lie flat on a narrow table that enters an enclosed tube.
- Your child will need to keep completely still for about 20 minutes for each MRI being done. Holding still helps to get the best possible MRI pictures.
- This test will be read by a radiologist and the results will be given to your child's provider. Ask the MRI staff how long it takes for your provider to get the results.

What do I need to know to help my child?

- If your child has anxiety, a fear of closed spaces, or has developmental issues that make it difficult for them to stay still, let your provider know.
- For younger children, the study will be done using sedation to help your child remain still during the study. The sedation will be given by a specialist to keep your child safe during the study.
- If your child is old enough and can hold still, no sedation is typically used. Your child will have to hold still while the pictures are taken.
- Radiology staff will work with your child to decrease their fear. Distraction, such as movies or music, may be used.
- Be sure to let your provider and the MRI staff know if your child has an implanted device, such as a vagus nerve stimulator (VNS).