

## MR Enterography for a Child

Your child's doctor has asked that he or she have a MR Enterography. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a safe and painless way for the doctor to look at your child's stomach and small bowel. The pictures can help the doctor find out more about the problems your child is having. The test uses radio waves and a magnetic field to take pictures.

**This test will take about 2 hours to complete.** During the first hour your child will drink a special contrast called Volumen. This contrast will swell your child's small bowel which will help the radiologist check the stomach. We will also start an intravenous line (IV) that will be used later in the test.

### Before your child's MR Enterography

- Do not let your child eat for 4 hours before their MRI so that their small bowel will be empty.
- **Tell your child's doctor or the nurse in MRI if your child is allergic to any medicine or contrast.**
- If your child takes medicines, he or she may take them the day of the test.
- If your child wears any kind of medicine patch, it will need to be taken off before the test. Bring a new patch that you can put on your child after the test.
- If your child has a fear of small spaces, talk to your child's doctor. The doctor can give your child some medicine that will help them to relax. If your child

takes the medicine to help them relax, and they are old enough to drive, you will need to drive them home.

- If your child has had an endoscopy or a colonoscopy in the last 8 weeks, please call the MRI nurses office **(608) 262-5276**.

### Day of Test

- Check in on the first floor of the AFCH at the Diagnostic and Therapy Center. The Dept. Of Radiology will be informed that you and your child have arrived.
- Plan to arrive an hour and a half before the MRI. There are many questions we need to ask about your child's health history. Please bring cards for any implants in your child's body.
- After we bring your child to the MRI area, he or she will be given an oral contrast called Volumen. They will be asked to drink this contrast over 1 hour. **Your child may go to the bathroom at any time before the MRI.**
- Your child will need to remove all metal items such as a watch, hairpins, bra, jewelry and coins. Your child may not bring anything into the room with the MRI machine. This includes wallet, purse, cell phone and keys.

- We may ask your child to change into hospital clothing. A locker will be provided for your child's clothes and any other items.
- An intravenous line (IV) will be started. During the test we will use this IV to inject two medicines:
  1. Glucagon. This medicine will be given by the nurse to slow down the movement of the bowel. Your child will need 2 doses of this medicine because it does not last very long.
  2. Gadolinium is a contrast medicine. This is used to highlight blood vessels near the end of the MRI.

### **During the Test**

- A MRI is a long tube-like machine that is open on both ends. Your child will lie on a padded table in the middle of the machine. We will ask if your child can lie on their stomach as this position separates the loops of the bowel so that we get a better picture. If your child is unable to do this we can also do this study on their back. We will try to make your child's position as easy as possible. A coil will be placed on your child's stomach or back. The coil works like an antenna to help us get our pictures.
- During the test your child will hear the MRI machine make very loud knocking sounds. Your child will have headphones to block out some of this noise. Your child will be able to listen to music or books on CD. Your child will also hear the

technologist instruct them on how to breathe.

- The technologist will not stay with your child in the room. Your child will be able to hear and see the staff through the intercom and window. They will take pictures and check on your child during the test. Your child should tell us if he or she feels uncomfortable at any time.
- We will place a ball in your child's hand to squeeze if they need the technologist during the exam.
- At different times during the test your child will be asked to hold their breath for about 15 to 20 seconds.
- It is important that your child try not to move during the test. It is just like taking a picture with a camera. If your child moves while the picture is being taken, the picture will be blurry.
- During the test, a nurse or the technologist will come into the room and give your child the Glucagon medicine that slows the motion of the bowel. After the second dose of Glucagon your child will be given the IV contrast to highlight their bowel.
- The nurse and the technologist will leave the room and take a few more pictures before the test is done.

### **After the MR Enterography Test**

- Your child's IV will be removed after the MRI is complete.
- Within the first hour after the test, your child may feel an urgent need to go to the bathroom. Some patients get diarrhea after drinking the

Volumen. The diarrhea may last a short time, but plan carefully for the ride home and bring a second set of clothes for your child.

- We also would like you to have your child drink plenty of fluids to help their system clear the contrast medicine.
- Your MRI will be read by a radiologist and the results will be sent to your child's doctor. The doctor will share the test results with you and your child.
- If you have any problems or concerns after the test, please call your child's doctor.

**Phone numbers:**

If you have any other questions or concerns prior to your child's MRI, please call the nurses office at **(608) 262-5276**

If you need to reschedule your appointment please call the scheduling line at **(608) 263-9729**

<http://www.uwhealthkids.org/anesthesia-medicine/getting-an-mri/46652>

Type in Sedation Clinic, then click on Pediatric Sedation and then click on MRI video.