

# MRI



## What is an MRI?

An MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan is a camera that takes pictures of the inside of your body. It takes pictures of the soft tissue; these are the parts of your body not made of bone like your brain, heart, or muscles.

## Getting ready for your MRI

Depending on how old you are, you might get some medicine that will help you feel sleepy during the pictures. (*Parents-* If your child will be receiving anesthesia, special instructions will be given at the time of scheduling.) The MRI uses magnets to help

take the pictures, so you and your family will need to remove anything with metal like jewelry or barrettes in your hair before going into the MRI room. Electronic games, cell phones, or other devices also cannot go into the MRI room. You can bring a special toy like a teddy bear or blanket to hold during the MRI.

## What will happen during the MRI?

The MRI looks like a machine, but is just a big camera with a tunnel going through the middle. For the pictures you lay on the bed that is part of the MRI camera and the bed slides through the tunnel. Depending on what part of your body we are doing pictures of, you will either move into the tunnel feet first or head first. The MRI camera never touches you but it does make some loud noises like loud “knocking”. Everything is okay when you hear these noises; the camera makes these sounds while it does the pictures. We have ear plugs available for you to wear. If you are **NOT** having pictures done of your head you can bring a music CD we can play on our stereo. Your family will be able to stay in the room with you during the pictures. The most important job you have is to hold **really still**. There are soft seat belts to help you do this so the pictures of your body are not blurry. The pictures take as long as your favorite TV show (45-60 minutes). After the pictures are done you are ready to go home with your family. (*Parents-*Children receiving anesthesia will require additional “wake up” time before going home.)