

### **Is your child having a cardiac MRI?**

Please refer to Cardiac MRI leaflet, prior to reading this section.

### **Uses/Benefits of (test)**

Cardiac MRI allows detailed assessment of your child's heart anatomy, function and blood flow without the need of radiation.

### **How it is performed and what will happen during the scan?**

Your child will need to change into a hospital gown. This is because metal fastenings, such as zips or hooks and eyes, may ruin the pictures.

Most centres/institutions allow one parent or guardian to be allowed into the MRI scanner room. You will also be asked to complete and sign a safety questionnaire for yourself in addition to one for your child to ensure it is safe. Your children may have had a procedure(s) where metal is used, such as a clip, stent, valve or some other heart device. Most of these can be safely scanned but this will be confirmed before your child has the MRI.

If you are going to accompany your child into the MRI scanner room, you will need to take off your watch and remove credit cards or travel cards with magnetic strips out of your pockets and store them in the lockers.

Your child will then be taken to the scanner room. Small sticky patches, electrodes, will be put on your chest. The electrodes are connected to a monitor that shows a tracing of your heart rhythm. This is to take images of your child's heart. An MRI coil is light piece of equipment place on your child's chest to take the pictures and a small pad on your child's tummy to monitor your breathing. Your child will also be given a headphone to wear to reduce the noise. If your child is uncomfortable or scarred, a buzzer will be given to him/her and a member of the staff will check on your child.

Your child can listen to music while they are being scanned and they can watch a DVD – so **please bring in a CD or a DVD of your choice**. You can also bring a favourite soft toy, and as long as there is no metal on it, it can go into the scanner with your child.

If a dye is required to be given, this will be through the cannula (small plastic tube) in the vein in your child's arm. This injection is usually very safe, but it can very rarely cause an allergic reaction. The most common feeling is a warm sensation or a metallic taste of the mouth. Allergic reactions from this type of dye is uncommon and includes nausea, vomiting and headache. Very rarely, hives, itchy eyes, or other allergic reactions occur. Before the scan we will check if your child has had any previous allergic reactions. Please note that if your child has an allergic reaction, it can be easily treated. If your child has any problems with their liver or kidneys, please tell the appointment team for the MRI scan before the coming for the scan, as extra tests may be needed before the contrast injection.

If your child requires a general anaesthetic to sleep during the scan, this will be given through the cannula (small plastic tube) in the vein in your child's arm in an anaesthetic room. Once your child is asleep, he/she will be taken in the scanner to acquire images of your child's heart.



**EACVI**

European Association of  
Cardiovascular Imaging

When the scan is done, your child will be taken to the recovery room. The staff there will closely monitor your child. You will be taken to the recovery room as soon as your child starts to wake up.

To obtain more information about child's anaesthetics, we direct you to the following page  
<https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2020-05/07-ChildsAnaesthetic2020web.pdf>

**Any preparations needed**

Guidance about eating and drinking before an MRI scan vary with the specific exam and also with the imaging centre. They will provide you with specific guidance. If there is anything that is not clear about the preparation or the scan, please contact them directly.