

MRI Enterography

What is an MRI Enterography?

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. The MRI machine uses a large magnet to take pictures of the inside of your child's body. MRI does NOT use radiation.

MRI enterography (MRE, or MR enterography), is an MRI exam to take detailed pictures of your child's abdomen to see if there are any abnormalities within the gastrointestinal (GI) tract (the long tube in the belly that food goes through).

Why is this exam performed?

This exam is used to locate the exact position and nature of a GI condition. This helps in the care and treatment plan by finding:

- Areas of inflammation (swelling) or narrowing
- Infection in the intestine
- Abnormalities in the intestine wall
- Bowel obstructions (bowel is clogged)

What to expect

Because MRI uses a powerful magnet to create images, we must follow a strict safety process. To make sure your child is safe, we will ask you to answer a list of safety questions and will use a hand-held metal detector. Since your child will be awake for the exam, one parent or guardian may be with your child in the MRI suite. You will be asked to complete the same screening process as your child. It may be helpful to make plans for other siblings. For safety reasons, you will not be permitted to accompany your child if you are pregnant. Because of the nature of the study, we do not offer the option of medication to sleep for the exam.

Preparing your child is key to the success of this study. To help prepare your child, our Child Life Specialists will help ease your child's fear and anxiety. Please let a staff member know if you are interested in a Child Life consultation at no additional cost. Your child will have the option to watch a movie with headphones during the exam.

Success for an MRI exam depends on a child's ability to lie still inside the MRI tunnel. The machine makes different types of noises as it takes pictures. The MRI preparation video found on this page may be helpful in preparing your child:

<https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/mri-magnetic-resonance-imaging>

Your child will be asked to change into a gown for the exam. A technologist will take your child and the accompanying adult to the procedure room where he or she will ask why the study is being done and will explain the exam to your child.

For this 60-90 minute exam:

- Your child should not have anything to eat for 4 hours prior to the exam.
- An intravenous line, also known as an IV, is required to give the contrast and medications. An IV is a tiny tube that is inserted into a vein. Your child might feel a pinch or poke when it goes in the vein, however we have ways to manage the pain associated with it.
- Your child will be asked to drink 1-2 bottles (depending on patient age) of a clear contrast liquid that tastes like a flat lemon soda. This liquid fills the GI tract to help get pictures of the stomach and bowel.
- Your child may empty their bladder but must avoid having a bowel movement.

- After 30-45 minutes, your child will be placed into the MRI scanner to see how much of the contrast liquid is in the bowel. If the contrast liquid has not traveled far enough in the GI tract, your child may be asked to drink additional contrast and walk around to help move the liquid along.
- Your child will be asked to lie on his or her back on the table at the entrance to the camera “tunnel.” The technologist will place a “coil,” which is part of the camera, on the area to be imaged. The table will then be moved into the “tunnel.”
- Due to the amount of time to drink the contrast and have it move through the GI tract, the total time you should expect to be in the MRI department is approximately 2-3 hours.
- When the procedure is over, you will be given discharge instructions.

Receiving your Enterography results

Call your doctor for a follow up appointment as instructed. You can also call the doctor who ordered the MRI for the results 24 to 48 hours after the test. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call Radiology Nursing at 832-826-5371.

If you would like a CD of your child's study, please call the film library at 832-822-1202. The Radiologist's report will also be included on the CD.