

When do we get the results of the MRI?

The MRI images will be discussed on a Thursday morning at the Joint Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Conference. Please ensure that you have a follow-up appointment with your cardiologist, prior to discharge home. The results of your child's MRI will be discussed at this appointment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Cardiac Day Unit on 01 409 6060 (7am-7pm) or your cardiac nurse specialist.

This patient information leaflet has been created by the nursing staff of the cardiac day unit – August 2021.

Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care.

Additional instructions

Developed by the Cardiac Day Unit

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Children's Health Ireland
at Crumlin

**Information for teachers/ carers
of a child**

Cardiac MRI Scan

With or without General Anaesthetic



Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

Phone: 01 409 6100

Why does my child need a cardiac MRI?

The cardiologist has referred your child for an MRI scan. An MRI scan will show detailed pictures of the blood vessels and the function of your child's heart. This will help to plan your child's future treatment.

What is a cardiac MRI?

The MRI scanner is an open-ended tunnel with a bed that can move through it. Your child will lie on the bed and it will be moved into the tunnel for the duration of the scan. MRI scans do not hurt; however, they are very noisy. A film will be played on a screen for your child to watch for the duration of the MRI scan.

Will my child need a general anaesthetic?

In order to get clear images during your child's MRI he/she will be required to lie very still and hold their breath for short periods. The scan can take up to one hour to complete. Therefore, a young child or a child with special needs may require a general anaesthetic (GA).

Preparing for the anaesthetic

A nurse from the cardiac day unit will phone you the evening before the procedure as to when your child should start fasting. It is important that you adhere to these fasting times, giving drinks as advised to ensure that your child is not fasting unnecessarily. Please inform us in advance if your child is unwell.



Cardiac MRI Scan *without* general anaesthetic (awake).

Your child will be awake for the duration of the MRI scan. They can eat and drink, however we suggest that your child avoids eating or drinking large amounts prior to the MRI scan.

The day of your child's MRI scan

On arrival to the hospital, check in to the admissions department, located on the main corridor beside the shop. You will then be sent to the Cardiac Day Unit on the 3rd floor. Your child will be admitted to the Cardiac Day Unit. If your child requires a general anaesthetic for their MRI scan, you will be asked to sign a consent form.

During the MRI scan the radiographer will administer a solution called 'contrast'. This highlights parts of the heart. To administer contrast, your child will need an IV cannula (Freddie). The IV cannula will be inserted into a vein in your child's hand



or arm, before their MRI. The nurses can apply local anaesthetic cream or use a cold spray to numb the area prior to insertion.

If your child requires a general anaesthetic he/she will be transferred to the MRI department by nursing staff. You can stay with your child until they are asleep. For an MRI without GA (awake), you will accompany your child to the MRI department.

After the MRI *without* a General Anaesthetic (awake).

You and your child will return to the Cardiac Day Unit after the MRI. On some occasions your child may require further tests such as an Echo prior to discharge. Once all tests are completed, the IV cannula (Freddie) can be removed and your child can be discharged home.

After the MRI *with* General Anaesthetic (asleep)

Your child will be collected from the recovery room by a nurse. It can take a number of hours for your child to wake up fully. Your child can eat and drink once they are awake and alert. On some occasions your child may require further tests such as an Echo, prior to discharge home. Once all tests are completed and your child has had something to eat/drink and passed urine - the IV cannula (Freddie) can be removed and your child can be discharged home.