

ULTRASOUND

Child's Name:.....

Appointment Date:.....

Appointment Time:.....

Preparation:.....

Location:.....

An X-ray, ultrasound or other imaging procedure can be frightening for a child. There are unfamiliar people, rooms with big machines, which make strange noises. Our experienced staff will attempt to make the experience as comfortable and stress free as possible for you and your child. This information brochure is aimed to help you understand an ultrasound examination.

MIA Victoria, Specialists in Paediatric Imaging

At MIA Victoria our aim is to provide the highest quality and most appropriate imaging with a minimum of stress to both children and their parents.

Each dedicated paediatric site is staffed by the same experienced Paediatric Radiologists who also hold respected appointments at the Royal Children's Hospital and between them have over 30 years experience in paediatric diagnostic imaging. Our technologists have extensive experience in paediatric imaging and the special needs of children. Surroundings are child friendly to minimise the potential trauma to children and their parents while undergoing diagnostic procedures. Our staff are always available to answer any questions you may have prior to, during or after the study.

Our team consists of radiologists, radiographers and office staff. The radiologists are doctors with specialist training in performing, interpreting and reporting imaging in children. The radiologists are dedicated paediatric radiologists, amongst the best trained and most experienced in Australia.

What is an ultrasound examination?

Ultrasound is a type of examination which uses sound waves to create an image of internal organs. The examination is not painful and has no side effects. The most common regions examined are the kidneys, abdomen, hips and brain however there are many other organs that can be examined.

How is an ultrasound performed?

Depending on the region to be examined the test usually takes about 30 minutes to perform. The study is performed by a medical imaging technologist experienced in performing ultrasound

examinations (sonographer). The images they obtain will be reviewed by the Paediatric Radiologist who may also examine your child with the ultrasound machine. The approach used is to ensure that the maximum amount of information is obtained from the examination.

The study is usually performed with your child lying on a bed. The procedure is the same as an obstetric ultrasound women have when pregnant. The ultrasound probe, which looks like a microphone, is covered in special gel and placed in contact with your child's skin. The image is transmitted from this probe to the television monitor. The study is not painful in any way.

Parents are encouraged to stay with their children throughout the examination. Your child will need to keep relatively still during the test so that the sonographer and radiologist can obtain all the information that is required.

Preparation for the test

For young children it is often useful to bring a bottle, other drink or snack as well as a favourite toy or book to keep your child occupied during the examination.

For a **Kidney or Renal Ultrasound** your child should not go to the toilet for 30 minutes prior to the study so that there is some urine in the bladder at the time of the study.

For a **Pelvic Ultrasound** your child should empty their bladder 1 hour prior to the examination and then drink 4 or 5 large glasses of water or juice over the next 15 minutes. The bladder needs to be very full for this examination and your child should not go to the toilet to empty the bladder after the drinks have been taken. If your child's bladder becomes full and they cannot wait for the examination then please inform the receptionist.

For an **Abdominal or Biliary Ultrasound** your child needs to fast, this means no solid foods or milk for a time prior to the test.

For children under 1 year this should be for 3 hours, children under 5 yrs, for 4 hours and children over 5 years, should fast for 6 hours prior to the test. Water can be given during the period of fasting.

Your Child's Ultrasound Images and Report

The Radiologist examines your child's ultrasound and a report and images are provided for your doctor. Radiologists are specially trained in the interpretation of ultrasound in children and they will provide a report of the ultrasound for your doctor.

Your child's X-rays and other medical imaging are very important medical records. If you are given your child's images please store carefully and if further imaging is required at a later time please bring the previous films with you. This will enable the Radiologist to compare new films with the previous ones.

Why choose MIA?

MIA has the most extensive network in Victoria for sending and receiving digital X-rays and medical imaging. Images can be sent to specialists and viewed at multiple locations at the one time allowing consultation with other specialists.

Your child's complete imaging history can be accessed electronically. Having previous images available for comparison is invaluable in managing many medical conditions – MIA Victoria makes this link very simple.

A referring doctor can review your child's full history of images and reports regardless of which MIA Clinic completed the examination and your child's imaging history can be shared with relevant practitioners for optimal case management.

Please bring any previous x-rays with you on the day of your examination.

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GENERAL X-RAY

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What is an X-ray?

X-rays are invisible, painless rays that can pass through the body and when they meet a special type of film form an image of the internal body organs and structures. X-rays are very common examinations in children and are used for a variety of reasons such as showing if a bone is broken or whether your child has a chest infection.

Few of us realise that we are exposed to x-rays in our everyday life, such as computers, sunlight and plane flights.

The amount of x-rays used in medical imaging is small and our specialised equipment and experienced staff will ensure that the amount of X-rays your child is exposed to is kept to a minimum. X-rays are only performed for valid medical reasons where the likely benefit of the X-rays outweighs any potential harm. If you have any concerns regarding X-rays please ask our staff.

Please bring any previous x-rays with you on the day of your examination.

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How is an X-ray performed?

Depending on the type of X-ray the test takes between 15-30 minutes. Your child may be changed into a gown. The imaging technologist will position your child in the X-ray room to take the X-ray. The special X-ray camera shoots out a narrow beam of invisible X-rays which passes painlessly through the body part to be X-rayed and recorded on a special film. At the moment the x-ray is taken your child must be still or the image may be blurred.

Parents are encouraged to stay with their children throughout the examination.

Preparation for the test

No special preparation is necessary

Your Child's X-rays and Report

The Radiologist examines your child's X-rays and a report of the examination is provided for your doctor. Radiologists are doctors specially trained in the interpretation of x-rays in children and they will provide a report of the X-ray for your doctor.

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BARIUM MEAL EXAMINATION

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Appointment Date:.....

Appointment Time:.....

Preparation:.....

Location:.....

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What is a Barium Meal examination?

A barium meal is a special X-ray examination where your child swallows a special dye which is visible on X-ray. This dye is followed on the X-ray monitor from the mouth down to the start of the oesophagus (gullet) through the stomach to the start of the intestine. It is a relatively common procedure in children and is usually performed in babies and young children with recurrent vomiting. It is performed to determine if there is any obstruction or whether gastro-oesophageal reflux is present.

How is a barium meal performed?

The test takes 20-30 minutes to perform unless your child's doctor has asked for a "follow through" where the entire bowel is examined and this can take several hours.

Your child will be changed into a gown and will lie on the X-ray table. Your child drinks the barium, which can be chocolate flavoured, and we will usually get you to help feed them with a bottle, cup or syringe.

Parents are encouraged to stay with their children throughout the examination.

The procedure does use X-rays. Our staff are specialized in imaging children and will keep the amount of radiation to a minimum. If you have any concerns with regards to the radiation please ask our staff.

Preparation for the test

Your child needs to fast, this means no solid foods or milk for at least 4 hours prior to the examination. Water can be given during the period of fasting. The period of fasting is important to ensure that your child is hungry and to ensure that there is no food in their stomach.

What to expect after the test

Our Radiologists are available to discuss the results of the tests with the parents when the test is complete. There are usually no problems for your child following the procedure. Occasionally the barium causes constipation. If your child has this tendency some extra fruit or juice for the remainder of the day usually helps.

Your Child's X-rays and Report

The Radiologist examines your child's X-rays and a report of the examination is provided for your doctor. Radiologists are doctors specially trained in the interpretation of x-rays in children and they will provide a report of the X-ray for your doctor.

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Please bring any previous x-rays with you on the day of your examination.

If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact MIA Victoria on 9804 6100.

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MICTURATING CYSTOURETHROGRAM (MCU)

Child's Name:.....

Appointment Date:.....

Appointment Time:.....

Preparation:.....

Location:.....

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What is a micturating cystourethrogram?

MCU stands for micturating cystourethrogram and is a specialized X-ray examination in which the bladder is filled with dye this is visible on the X-ray and is then emptied by the child passing urine. It is a relatively common procedure in children and is usually performed in babies and young children who have had a urinary infection. It is performed to determine if there are any abnormalities of the urinary tract (kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra), which are associated with urinary infection in children.

Specialists in Paediatric Radiology

How is MCU performed?

The test takes 20-30 minutes to perform, if an ultrasound is performed as well this will take a further 30 minutes and is usually performed first. Your child will be changed into a gown and will lie on the X-ray table. The genital area is washed with a warm antiseptic solution and clean towels placed around the genitals. A thin soft plastic tube (catheter), similar in size to thin spaghetti, is coated in lubricating jelly and introduced into the urethra leading to the bladder. This is not painful, although it is a strange sensation, which your child will probably not like. The tube is held in place by a tape. If there is urine in the bladder a sample is taken which is sent to a laboratory to determine if there is any residual infection. A bag containing the X-ray dye is connected to the catheter and the dye is run into the bladder. Once the bladder is full your child must pass urine either into a bottle, towel or into a pan. Urine must be passed while the child is lying on the X-ray table. This may be difficult for your child especially when they are toilet trained and may require some encouragement, X-rays are obtained while they pass urine and then the test is over.

Parents are encouraged to stay with their children throughout the examination. Your child will need to keep relatively still during the test and parents are encouraged to hold their children's hands and our experienced X-ray staff hold the child's legs.

The procedure does use X-rays. Our staff are specialized in imaging children and will keep the amount of radiation to a minimum. If you have any concerns with regards to the radiation please ask our staff.

What to expect after the test

Our Radiologists are available to discuss the results of the tests with the parents when the test is complete. There are usually no problems for your child following the procedure. Occasionally the tube may cause a small scratch and it can sting when your child next passes urine. If this occurs it is usually only the first time your child passes urine and will pass very quickly. Occasionally a child will refuse to pass urine because they think it may sting and if this occurs they will usually pass urine when placed in a warm bath. If there is a scratch the urine may also be slightly blood tinged for a short time. Very rarely a bug can be introduced into the bladder by the tube, which may cause a urinary infection. If your child is unwell in the next few days you should return to your doctor so that a sample of your child's urine can be tested for infection.

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CT SCAN

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Appointment Date:.....

Appointment Time:.....

Preparation:.....

Location:.....

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What is a CT Scan?

A CT (Computer Tomography) scan allows us to look at the body in cross section (like looking at slices of a loaf of bread). Using the CT scanner and a powerful computer, we can build up pictures of the body which are difficult to see by any other method.

How is CT performed?

Some scans require no preparation whilst others will require some. Preparation varies depending on the age of the child and test required. Some children may need to be anaesthetised.

Prior to the abdomen or pelvis being examined, your child may be given a special drink. This drink will help to outline the bowel, making interpretation easier and more accurate.

Procedure

Your child will be asked to lie on a table which is moved into the centre of the scanner.

This contains the x-ray tube and sensitive detectors. These rotate around the part of the body to be examined but will not touch your child's body. The CT scanner makes a light buzzing sound as it rotates. Your child may be asked to hold their breath for short times during the scan.

The information from the scan is processed by a computer. The scan is closely monitored by our highly trained staff to give you and your child all the assistance you require.

How long will the procedure take?

Most examinations are completed within 30 minutes, although the procedure may take up to 1.5 hours for abdominal scans.

On completion of the procedure the pictures are processed and reported by the Radiologist. CT examinations often involve many images and may take 60-90 minutes to report.

Parents are encouraged to stay with their children throughout the examination.

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What to expect after the test

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MRI SCAN

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Appointment Date:.....

Appointment Time:.....

Preparation:.....

Location:.....

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What is MRI

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses a very powerful magnet and radio-frequency pulses to collect signals that are then processed by a computer to form a picture of the body part being studied. Images line up (like slices from a loaf of bread).

MRI gives a detailed picture of the soft tissues of the body e.g. muscles, ligaments, brain tissue, discs and blood vessels.

Is an MRI scan safe?

An enormous amount of study has not demonstrated any danger from an MRI scan. It uses no x-ray radiation. The radio-wave pulses are of similar frequency to your radio. The powerful magnet does not have any known side effects.

Will it hurt?

MRI is painless but may be noisy, and since scans take between 30 and 40 minutes and some children may become a little uncomfortable lying still for that period.

Preparation

In most cases there is no special preparation. However, some children may need to be anaesthetised depending on the age and test required.

During the scanning process

Prior to the scan beginning a special signal receiving coil may be placed around your Child's knee, shoulder or abdomen (depending on the nature of the examination). Your child will be asked to lie on a movable table which positions the body part to be imaged in the centre of the tunnel.

During the examination your child will hear a series of loud knocking noises and may feel a slight vibration. Music or earplugs will be provided. It is important that they remain as still as possible during the scan otherwise the images taken will appear blurry. Constant communication, both verbal and visual, is maintained throughout the scan to ensure that your child is comfortable we will keep you informed of the progress of the examination. If at any time your child becomes uncomfortable, a buzzer enables them to communicate with the technologist.

How long will the procedure take?

Most examinations are completed within 30 minutes.

What to expect after the test

Our Radiologists are available to discuss the results of the tests with the parents when the test is complete. There are usually no problems for your child following the procedure.

Your Child's X-rays and Report

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