



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

Resources:



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Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a medical imaging technique that uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed images of the inside of the body. It is a safe and non-invasive way to visualize structures within the head, including the brain and the auditory system.

Why Might Your Child Need an MRI for Hearing Loss?

If your child has been diagnosed with hearing loss, an MRI may be recommended for several important reasons:

- **Rule Out Structural Abnormalities:** Hearing loss in children can sometimes be linked to structural issues in the ear, auditory nerve, or brain. An MRI can help identify any abnormalities that could be causing or contributing to the hearing loss.
- **Assess Inner Ear Health:** MRI can provide detailed images of the inner ear, helping healthcare providers evaluate the condition of the cochlea and other critical auditory structures.
- **Plan Treatment:** In some cases, an MRI can guide treatment decisions, especially when surgical intervention, such as cochlear implantation, is considered.
- **Comprehensive Diagnosis:** MRI, when combined with other diagnostic tests, allows healthcare providers to gain a more complete understanding of your child's hearing health.

What to Expect During Your Child's MRI:

- **Preparation:** Your child may need to fast for a few hours before the procedure, depending on the type of MRI. Check with the scheduler for fasting instructions specific to your child's age. Dress your child in comfortable, metal-free clothing, as metal objects can interfere with the MRI.
- **Comfort and Safety:** Your child will be made as comfortable as possible. Your child may be offered sedation or anesthesia, depending on their age, rules for the location where the procedure will be done and the child's ability to remain still during the procedure.
- **MRI Procedure:** Your child will be positioned on a special table that slides into the MRI machine. It is essential to remain as still as possible during the scan to obtain clear images. The procedure is painless. Parents may not be able to go with their child to the procedure area.
- **Duration:** The MRI typically takes about 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the specific imaging needed.
- **Post-Procedure:** After the MRI, your child may be monitored briefly to ensure they are fully awake and alert. You will receive instructions on resuming normal activities and follow-up appointments.