



Pediatric Urology

Mag III Renal Scan

What is a Mag III Renal scan?

Your doctor has asked for special pictures to be taken of your child's urinary system. The urinary system includes the kidneys, ureters, and bladder. These pictures are taken with a special medicine called a radioisotope, Mag3, is given to your child through an IV (into the blood stream through a vein). The pictures determine how well the kidneys are working and if there is a blockage of the kidneys. If there is a blockage, this exam will determine the degree of obstruction and the need for surgery.

What happens during the scan?

In order for the Mag3 to be given, first an IV will be inserted. If sedation is necessary the IV will be used for the sedation medicine also. Once the IV is in place the Mag3 is injected. A small tube or catheter will be inserted in your child's bladder through the opening where urine comes out to allow us to measure the urine output before, during and after the Mag3 is given. We will also give a diuretic medicine through the IV to stimulate the kidneys to make more urine. It will take 45 minutes to one hour to take the pictures. Remember, you may stay with your child the entire time. If sedation is needed for the pictures, the sedative will be given right before the pictures are taken and one of our nurses or doctors will stay with your child throughout the exam.

What happens after the scan?

As soon as the pictures are complete, the IV and catheter will be removed. If sedation was needed the nurse will provide you with special discharge instructions on how to care for your child.

The Mag3 is cleared from the child's body through the kidneys and should be completely out of your child's system within 24 hours. Please give your child plenty of fluids to help clear the Mag3 from his/her body. As always, you and your child should wash your hands after using the bathroom or when handling wet diapers or sheets. Results will be sent to your doctor's office. Therefore you will receive the results from your doctor.

If your child is scheduled for a renal ultrasound this will be done as soon as possible after the Mag3 exam.

Special Instructions:

Sedation may be needed to get clear pictures. For this reason, do not consume:

Solids/Dairy – 8 hours prior to the scan

Formula – 6 hours prior to the scan

Breastmilk – 5 hours prior to the scan

Clear liquids – 3 hours prior to the scan

Who do I call if I have questions?

If you have questions about the exam or sedation, please call the Radiology Department at Greenville Memorial Hospital at 455-7911 and ask to speak to one of the radiology nurses.