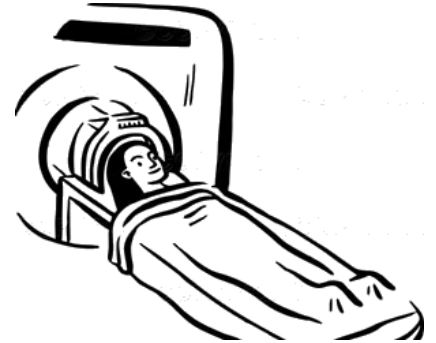


UNDERSTANDING COMMON IMAGING TESTS FOR INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

CT (Computed Tomography) Scan

This test uses both x-rays and a computer to generate pictures of your child's body in "slices." For inflammatory bowel disease, it is the abdomen that is scanned. This is a simple and painless procedure. First, your child will be given some x-ray dye in juice, ginger ale or water 30 minutes to one hour before the scan. Also s/he may require another dye given through an intravenous line. The dye helps the doctor see any abnormal areas in the bowel. Next, your child will be asked to lie still on the CT scanner table while the pictures are taken. Children who cannot lie still for the scan may need some medication to make them sleepy. This medication will be injected into a vein through a small needle.



MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

This test is similar to the CT scan except only radio waves, a magnetic field and a computer are used to produce very clear pictures. Detailed pictures of your child's abdomen will be taken while s/he lies still. First, your child will be given some x-ray dye in juice, ginger ale or water 30 minutes to one hour before the scan. Also s/he may require another dye given through an intravenous line. The dye helps the doctor see any abnormal areas in the bowel. Next, your child will be asked to lie still on the CT scanner table while the pictures are taken. Children who cannot lie still for the scan may need some medication to make them sleepy. This medication will be injected into a vein through a small needle. The machine used in this test is noisy, but the test is painless and your child can go home the same day.

Ultrasound

An ultrasound uses sound waves to take pictures of the inside of your child's body. These pictures give your child's doctor information about how the small and large intestine appear. The doctor, or sonographer, will use a small hand-held camera called a probe to take pictures of the body. He/she will put gel on the probe and on the abdomen. The gel feels like soft cream and does not hurt. The probe is placed on your child's skin over the abdomen. As the probe moves over your child's body, a moving picture will appear on the ultrasound screen. There are no side effects or after-effects from an ultrasound test.