

Paediatric MRI under general anaesthetic

The following information is being provided for you when your child has been booked for an MRI under general anaesthetic with Wesley Medical Imaging.

Admitting to The Wesley Hospital

For any further information on admitting to hospital, please call The Wesley Hospital on 07 3232 7000.

As your child will be undergoing general anaesthetic, admission to The Wesley Hospital is required to ensure that your child has access to a Paediatrician. Admission is required 2 hours prior to the examination.

Preparation on the day

If your child is breast fed: 4 hour fast required

General fasting and formula: 6 hour fast required

Please note: Fasting is from the examination start time (not admission time).

Patients can have clear fluids, which includes water and apple juice up to 2 hours prior to examination.

About your child's anaesthetic

Your child's anaesthetist is a specialist paediatric anaesthetist who has undergone extensive training in delivering safe anaesthesia to children.

Children can be anaesthetised in different ways. They may have a cannula inserted into a vein usually in the hand, into which drugs may be given, or they may have a 'gas' induction whereby anaesthetic vapour is administered via a facemask.

You and the anaesthetist will decide which way is best for your child.

The anaesthetist will remain with your child throughout the examination adjusting levels of anaesthesia and monitoring your child. If required, they will be given pain killers and anti-nausea medications.

After the examination the anaesthetist will awaken your child and take them to recovery on the unit.

About your child's specialist Paediatric Anaesthetist

Dr Brett Chaseling FANZCA, MBBS (Hons)

Dr Chaseling studied at the University of Queensland where he received a University Medal for Medicine. In 2007 he completed his anaesthetic training and was awarded the Cecil Gray Memorial Prize. He then completed a year of paediatric anaesthetic fellowship, which included time in neonatology and paediatric intensive care.

His special interest in ultrasound guided vascular access and regional anaesthesia has led to significant advances in the paediatric approach to these cases. Dr Chaseling is a part of Paediatric Anaesthesia Queensland.

For further information regarding your child's anaesthesia, please visit www.paq.com.au OR contact Dr Chaseling's rooms on 07 3831 0383.

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Frequently asked questions

Why does my child have to fast?

This is to ensure that their stomach is empty and to minimize the chance of stomach contents being inhaled into their lungs during the anaesthetic.

Can I be with my child during their anaesthetic?

In the majority of circumstances your anaesthetist will allow one parent to accompany your child whilst they are being anaesthetised. Once they are asleep, and or told to by your anaesthetist, you will then be asked to leave the room and the MRI will then proceed.

Can I be with my child during their recovery?

Once your child has woken and they are stable you may be allowed into the recovery area to be with your child.

Sometimes your child may recover better with a parent present in which case the recovery nurse will call for you to be present in this instance.

When will I see my anaesthetist?

In most cases, the anaesthetist will see you on the day of the procedures.

Before an elective list your anaesthetist will usually contact you via phone to ask a few pre-anaesthesia questions.

They will see you just prior to your child's MRI to answer any more questions you may have. If your child has multiple medical problems, we can arrange a phone call from the anaesthetist.

My child is very anxious regarding their anaesthetic - what can be done?

Your paediatric anaesthetist is very experienced in dealing with anxious children and hence we will guide you in the various ways we might manage your child's apprehension.

Often having a discussion with your anaesthetist can alleviate many of these worries. In some cases we will request the administration of a premedication which can help with extremely anxious children prior to or on arrival to Wesley Medical Imaging.

How long will my child take to recover from the anaesthetic?

This varies from child to child and also from surgery to surgery. Children often recover from an anaesthetic much quicker than adults. Usually your child may be a little drowsy or tired for about 24 hours before returning to their normal level of activities.

If your child experiences persistent nausea and vomiting following the MRI with anaesthetic, please contact our clinic nurses between 8.00am and 6.00pm. Outside these hours please contact your local emergency centre or referring doctor.