



Quinte Health Diagnostic Imaging Department

Sedation for Medical Procedures: Parent Information

Your child has been booked for an MRI.

It is very important that your child lie completely still for up to 30 minutes during this procedure. This is hard for young children to do, even if they are very cooperative. In order to help him/her through this procedure, your doctor has decided to give some sedation. This means that your child will be given some medication (by mouth) that will make them sleep through the procedure.

On the day of the procedure, your child will go to the Diagnostic Imaging Department at Belleville General Hospital. Your child will be assessed by a nurse and a doctor before the sedation. The sedative medication is a liquid medicine that will be given to your child 30 minutes before the procedure. The medication will make most children slowly fall asleep over 30 minutes.

IMPORTANT SAFETY ISSUES:

We do our best to make sure that the sedation is a safe procedure. In order to make this as safe as possible, there are a few things that you need to know before your child is sedated.

- 1) It is important that your child does not eat or drink anything before being sedated. If their stomach is full, they may vomit while asleep. This is a serious problem when it happens because it can hurt the lungs. This can be avoided if their stomach is empty.

Do not give your child solid foods or liquids 4 hours prior to appointment

If they have eaten or drank anything after the times stated above, the procedure will probably be cancelled for safety reasons. We will re-book it for you if this happens.

If your child is on medication that must be given in the morning, this is okay. Please give all regular medication that they usually take.

- 2) If your child has a cold or other breathing problems, this might make the sedation more risky. If your child has cold symptoms, or other breathing issues that are considered to be a problem at that time, the procedure may be cancelled for safety reasons. We will re-book it for you if this happens.



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Common questions about sedation:

What are the side effects of the medication used for sedation?

Most of the time, the sedation doesn't have any side effects. Some children might have an upset stomach. Some children will have a few stomach cramps. Rarely, children may be allergic to the medication. Some kids will get anxious or act "funny" while they are falling asleep (almost like they are drunk – this does not last for long, but can make some parents anxious). It will be important for you to be there to calm your child while they are having these unusual feelings as they go to sleep. Some kids will go to sleep so deeply that their breathing gets shallow and they need extra oxygen. This is a serious problem, but is also very rare. Your child will be examined before the sedation so that we can do our best to make sure that this doesn't happen.

How long does the medication last?

Most kids will be awake 4 hours after the medication is given, but they may be a bit sleepy for up to 8 hours afterwards.

What happens if my child has a cold on the day of the sedation?

Most kids with colds or breathing problems will have the procedure cancelled and re-booked for when they have recovered. We know that this can be frustrating, but it is best for your child.

What happens if the sedation doesn't work?

The sedative that we use is very gentle and safe, but because of this, it is also not a very strong sedative. It will work on most kids, but a few children will not fall asleep completely with the medication that we give. If they are still awake and moving around, we cannot do the procedure and will have to cancel it. We will re-book the procedure in a place where they can give a more powerful sedative medication (usually in Kingston).

We understand that it can be very stressful to have your child sedated. Please feel free to ask your doctor questions before the procedure.