

Your Child's Care

The Le Bonheur radiology staff wants to care for your child's physical and emotional needs. The information in this brochure will answer questions you or your child may have about the scheduled well-tempered renal scan (MAG 3), and help prepare your child for the test.

Your child's doctor can also answer any questions you may have, or you can call the Le Bonheur radiology department where your child will have the test to get more information.

What is a well-tempered renal scan?

This test helps the doctor find out how the kidneys are working. The kidneys make urine. The urine drains through the ureters into the bladder.

How is a renogram done?

1. We will take you and your child to an exam room. Your child will put on the hospital gown.
2. Your child will lie on a table. There will also be a large camera hooked to a screen and computer.
3. We will put an IV needle in your child's vein. This will sting for a few seconds, but will not hurt after it is in. The arm that has the IV in it will be taped to a board to keep it still during the test.
4. We will put a small catheter into your child's bladder to keep it empty during the test.
5. A small amount of liquid (radioisotope) will go through the needle into your child's arm, and to the kidneys. Your child will not have any side effects from the liquid. The radioisotope helps the camera take pictures of the kidneys.
6. The test usually takes about 1-1/2 to two hours. Your child will be able to watch his/her kidneys on the television screen. It is very important for your child to remain still, so the pictures will be clear. If your child is scheduled for a well-tempered renal scan, it will take about 1-1/2 hours to complete.
7. A doctor trained in reading X-rays will study the X-ray and send the results to your child's doctor.

How do I tell my child about the renogram?

Please talk to your child before you come to Le Bonheur. It will make the procedure easier for you and your child. Assure your child that any discomfort will only last a few minutes, and that the test will not hurt.

Tell your child that the test is helping the doctor find out how his/her body is working inside. Explain that it is important to remain still during the test. You may want to practice being still and relaxing with your child before you come for the test. Your child may want to imagine being in a favorite place during the test.

If your child is concerned about being touched or looked at by someone, please explain that we will try to keep his/her body covered as much as possible during the test, and that touching helps find out how his/her body is working.

For infants, the test seems to mean mostly a chance in routine feeding and/or sleeping schedule. You can help by being with your infant as much as possible. Bring along your child's favorite blanket or toy. If your child must not eat before the test, feed him/her just before the fasting time begins.

For preschoolers (less than 5 years), explain what will be done during the test, and reassure your child that this is a "helping test." Discuss the test the night before or the day of the test. It may make your child more anxious to talk about it too far ahead of time. Tell your child you will be close during the test. Bring along your child's favorite book to read during waiting periods.

For school-aged children, the test may not seem threatening, since they may have already had X-rays or other medical tests before. Explain the test to your child, and answer any questions or concerns he/she might have. Tell your child to ask questions of us during the test. Bring along a book for your child to read during waiting periods.

For adolescents, privacy may be their biggest concern. Explain the test to your teen, and encourage him/her to ask us questions.

Does my child have to do anything different before the test?

Your child may eat, drink and take medicine as usual.

Your child's doctor will tell you if there are special things to do before your child has the test. Please call Radiology at 901-287-7041 if you have any questions.

What else should I know about coming for the test?

It is best not to bring siblings or other children with you to have your child's test. There are times when you will need to be with your child, and other children cannot be left unattended or permitted in the procedure room.

Sometimes, depending on the age and cooperativeness of the child, immobilization devices may be used to get the test done as quickly as possible for the child, and to make sure the results are good.

The radiology staff tries to maintain the schedule as closely as possible. Occasionally a patient requires more time than usual to complete a test. We ask for your cooperation and understanding if you are asked to wait for another patient's test to be finished. The staff will take the time needed for your child, as well.

If you are pregnant, bring another adult to be with your child during the test. You will need to be protected from X-ray exposure. Radiation regulations do not allow pregnant females in X-ray rooms. You should not be involved in the care of your child for 24 hours.