

Imaging: CTs

CT: Computed Tomography is a computerized xray technique in which multiple xrays are taken, then put together in a way that allows to look into parts of the body with excellent detail (but less detail than an MRI). It does use radiation, as do xrays, but if used prudently is considered safe. CT is used in pediatric neurology for many reasons. Dr. Siegler or Erin will explain the reason for the ordered CT during your visit.

Duration: the study takes a few minutes without sedation and without contrast. Time is added if contrast is use. In children too young to remain still, sedation will be needed, prolonging the duration to perhaps 1 to 2 hours. The CT is shaped like a large donut so that most people do not suffer from anxiety or claustrophobia during the CT.

Sedation: may be needed for some children and adolescents. If so, Dr. Siegler will ask your PCP to perform a history and physical (H&P) and fax the filled out H&P form to us after which we will order the study with sedation (if an insurance authorization is also needed then scheduling will be delayed until your PCP obtains the authorization). Anesthesiologists or the sedating physician or nurse may use oral or IV (intravenous catheter) routes. If the sedation is ineffective or for children with certain disorders (asthma, Down syndrome, severe CP, autism, others) an anesthesiologist will perform general anesthesia. Your child should not eat at least 6 hours before study time and not drink liquids 4 hours before the study. Do not give your child chewing gum, mints or candy less than 4 hours prior to study time. If your child is an infant ask the radiology department on feeding guidelines. Be sure to ask about guidelines on taking medications (often are allowed to be taken with sips of water) but this should be cleared with the radiology or anesthesiology department.

Contrast: is typically used in all pediatric neurology studies as it is usually medically indicated and efficient. Convenience supports initial use of contrast: if the radiologist finds an abnormality after a non-contrast study, then a repeat study with contrast and a second sedation would be needed on a different day which also may delay diagnosis and treatment. Although contrast can cause allergic or adverse reactions, the chance of this happening is low. If your child has had past reactions or known allergies to contrast, or has kidney disease, please notify the radiology staff.

Authorization: insurance companies may require an authorization which your PCP may obtain with Dr. Siegler's office note. The process may take 1-2 weeks for non-emergent studies. We ask that your PCP obtain the authorization and fax to Child Neurology of Tulsa and we will schedule the study. If sedation is needed, your PCP will be asked to perform a history and physical and send the H&P form to us, then we will order the study with sedation. Appeals for denials are subject to a minimum charge of \$25 (Non-Covered Benefit) depending on the amount of work and time involved.

Results: may take 1-3 days depending on the radiologist. Dr. Siegler will schedule an appointment to review the film and discuss the results, unless he makes alternative arrangements with you.

