What You Should Know If Your Child Has Been Scheduled for a Swallow Study

Swallow Studies take place in the American Family Children’s Hospital on the first floor in the Radiology Pavilion (which is near the Guest Depot). A Speech Pathologist along with a Radiologist will complete the study.

A family member or caregiver is encouraged to stay in the x-ray room to make it easier for the child. You can bring toys that make them comfortable.

The swallow study uses X-ray. Caregivers who are pregnant and siblings cannot be in the room with the child/patient. If you are in this situation, another person who is familiar with the child should also come to the study to be with the child during the active X-ray portion of the study.

Instructions to Parents: Your child should be hungry and thirsty for the swallow study. Usually withholding a meal about 2-3 hours before the arrival is long enough. If your child is also having an Upper GI/Esophogram study, they cannot eat or drink for at least 4 hours before the test.

Medications should be given at their regularly scheduled times, unless your doctor suggests otherwise.

What to bring: A typical meal for your child. Depending on your child’s age and feeding experience, the meal may include a sampling of:

1. Liquid: A typical amount of formula/milk/juice that your child takes at a feeding/meal.
2. Foods that are typical of what your child eats. We would like to look at different consistencies/textures your child eats – puree, lumpy, chopped, soft solids, and hard solids.
3. A food that your child has difficulty with (*if appropriate).
4. Feeding equipment that your child uses, such as: pacifier, bottle, nipples, cup, spoon, straw, thickener for liquids (*if appropriate).