“The experience of being here is like no other hospital we’ve been to. They embrace a parent’s opinion about what they’re doing, which is unique.”

Rob Simpson, whose daughter Cyenna was successfully cured — *Boston, Mass.*
The 18F-DOPA PET scan takes approximately two hours and is performed at the CHOP PET facility under the care and supervision of pediatric anesthesiologists. Your child will receive a small dose of a radioactive isotope, which is picked up by insulin secreting cells in the pancreas. A bright spot on PET imaging indicates an area of focal disease. If this procedure is appropriate for your child, we will discuss it with you in greater detail.

If your child requires surgery for HI, you should expect to stay at Children's Hospital for at least one month.

Pancreatectomy surgery generally takes from two to four hours. There is a special waiting room for families of children in surgery where you will receive periodic updates.

After surgery, your child should be ready to go home in two to three weeks.

Based on your child’s age and condition, he will be admitted to either Children’s Hospital’s endocrine unit or the Harriet and Ronald Lassin Newborn/Infant Intensive Care Unit (N/IICU). Nurses on both units are experienced in dealing with HI. They routinely and expertly perform the follow-up tests your child needs. In addition, any infant who requires surgery will stay in the N/IICU for at least six days after surgery. Children older than 1 year may be treated in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) after surgery.

WHERE TO STAY

At Children’s Hospital, parents and caregivers are permitted and encouraged to be with their children at all times. Upon admission, you will receive a wristband that allows you to enter and exit Children’s Hospital easily, 24 hours a day. If your child is staying on the endocrine unit, you can sleep in a chair bed located at your child’s bedside. If your infant is admitted to the N/IICU, you have access to special sleep rooms at Children’s Hospital. If you wish to stay in a room outside the Hospital, choices include the Ronald McDonald House and several hotels in the area. You will need to make these arrangements before coming to the Hospital.