

Questions about MRI scans

Q: What is an MRI scan?

A: An MRI scan (which stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is a way to get pictures of the inside of our bodies. The MRI machine uses strong magnets and radiowaves to 'take' these pictures. An fMRI (short for functional MRI) is a special type of MRI where researchers take pictures of the brain while it is in action, making decisions or thinking about different things.

Q: Is it safe?

A: Yes. Medical doctors and research scientists have been using MRI scans for decades to safely and effectively get pictures of the inside of our bodies. An MRI is basically just a very big magnet. As long as you do not have any metal with you or inside your body, you will be very safe in the MRI scanner. The researchers ALWAYS do a careful check before anyone goes inside to make sure you have no metal with you or inside you that will affect the scanner.

Q: What does an MRI scanner look like?

A:

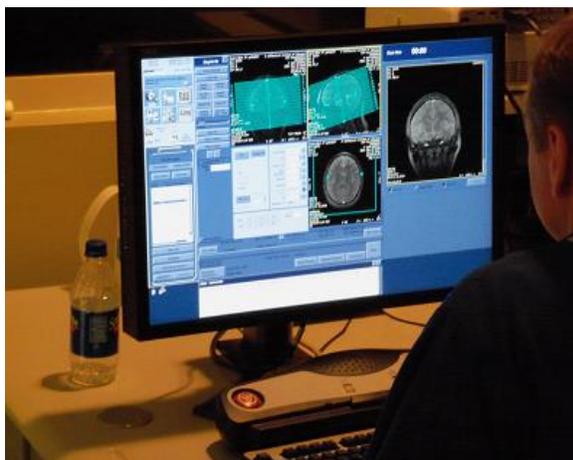


Getting ready for fMRI scan!

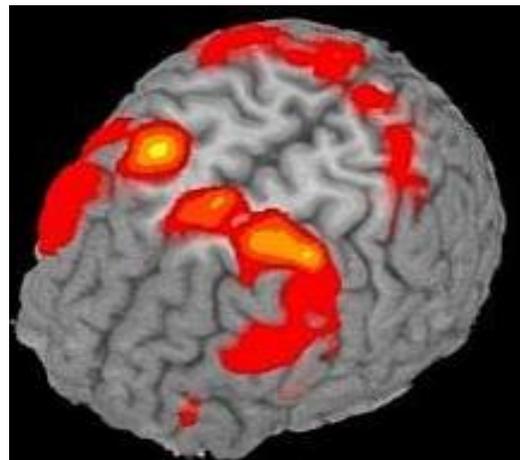


Q: What do pictures taken of the brain look like?

A:



Technician's computer screen during actual scan



The bright, colored areas show what part of the brain is 'working'!

Questions about the Research Study

Q: Why is this research project being done?

A: MRI and fMRI procedures provide scientists with new and exciting ways to understand the brain. Information from this study and other studies like it allow scientists to better understand how our brains function when making decisions. This information can then be used to help create programs to improve how young people make decisions.

Q: Where will the study take place?

A: The study will take place at [] on the campus of []. The address is []. Parking is available next the building. You will need to provide your own transportation, but you will be reimbursed []. Directions are included in a separate document.

Q: How long will the visit last?

A: The visit will last [] hours. The MRI scan is expected to be around [] minutes.

Q: When can the visit be scheduled?

A: The visit can occur any time during the weekday between []. Evenings and weekends also are [or are not] available.

Q: Can other people besides the youth and the parent/guardian attend the visit?

A: Due to space constraints, we recommend that only the youth and parent/guardian attend the visit. Childcare is not available.

Q: What will the youth do as part of the study?

A: On the day of the visit, the youth will []. The MRI scan will involve lying still in the MRI scanner, resting during some portions and doing [] during other portions. After completing the scan, the child will [].

Q: What does the parent/guardian do as part of the study?

A: The parent will accompany the youth during the visit and provide parental consent for his participation. While the youth is in the MRI scanner, the parent/guardian will be in an adjacent room.

Q: Will this MRI scan say anything about how healthy the child's brain is?

A: No. This MRI scan is not a diagnostic medical procedure. Individuals involved with this study are not trained to be able to determine any health information. If the scanner operator observes something from the scan that needs reviewed, the information will be sent to a neurologist. Only in the event that the neurologist identifies something needing further attention will the family be contacted with results from the scan.

Q: Is there reimbursement for participating?

A: Yes. After completing the study, the child will receive [] and the parent will receive []. In addition, the child may earn anywhere from [] based on the choices s/he makes in the decision-making activity in the scanner.

Q: What do I do next?

A: [], the project coordinator for this study, will be giving you a call in a few days to see if you are still interested. Decide if you would like to participate in this study, she will work with you to arrange the details of your visit. Please know that the total amount of families able to participate in the study is limited, and once all openings are filled, no additional campus visits will be scheduled.

Q: What if I have additional questions?

A: If you have any additional questions during this time, please call project coordinator [] at [] or visit the study website at [].