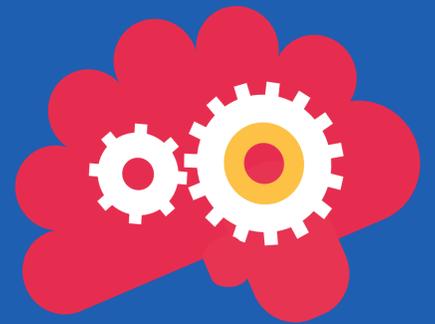


Frequently asked questions about ...



MRI scans |



What is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or MRI, is an imaging technique that uses powerful magnets and radio waves to produce very detailed pictures of structures inside the body, like the brain.

Are MRI scans safe?

There are no known risks associated with MRI as long as your child does not have any contraindications like metal inside the body (e.g., a pacemaker; however, we also need to know about metal like orthodontic braces as these may interfere with picture quality!). MRI does not use ionizing radiation like an x-ray or CT scan does and can be used on infants and even prenatally with no health risks.

What happens during an MRI scan?

Before the scan, our team will review our consent forms with you and confirm that your child has no contraindications to MRI. Then your child will change into pyjama-like scrubs and remove all jewellery and other accessories (e.g., bobby pins) before moving to the MRI room where they will be made comfortable on the MRI bed with warm blankets and pillows. The bed will then slowly move into the magnetic bore (the MRI "machine," which resembles a long donut) so that the scan can begin.

Is an MRI scan fun?

During the scan, your child must lie very still for a period of time. This isn't necessarily *fun*, but it also isn't too unpleasant for most! Some children fall asleep while others watch Netflix as our scanners have a projector and screen inside.

Is an MRI scan uncomfortable?

The MRI machine is a little loud and can make children who are very claustrophobic a bit nervous. However, we do everything we can to make the scan as comfortable as possible by giving your child warm blankets, pillows, headphones, and their choice of Netflix shows to watch during the scan. Preparing your child in advance (e.g., with videos about what to expect) is also extremely helpful for warding off any anticipatory anxiety; please see the last box on this page for a link to such resources.

How long does the scan take?

It takes about 45 minutes to capture the series of images that we need for this study.

What if I don't think my child can stay still for 45 minutes?

Our technicians have many years of experience scanning children with MRI, so we have several tricks up our sleeve we can try! Your child can also talk to us at any time during the scan (by squeezing a ball that operates a speaker) if they have any questions or want to let us know that they wish to come out. We know that it can be hard to stay still the entire time, so we also ensure that they know that no one will be mad at them if they can't do it.

Can I use my MRI images for clinical or diagnostic purposes?

No. These images are intended for research purposes only. Our research team members have not been trained to look for diseases or medical abnormalities. However, in the event that something unusual was detected, the images would be passed on to a qualified physician who would follow up with you if necessary.

Why can't I keep pictures of my child's brain?

In addition to being intended for research purposes only, many of the images we collect are also advanced types of images that are not currently used for clinical purposes (i.e., they are not the type of images that would be ordered by your family doctor), so they would not be of use to you or your doctor.

Do you have any videos that show what an MRI scan involves?

Yes! On our website (<https://www.developmentalneuroimaginglab.ca/participate/resources/>) there are a number of videos and links to other helpful resources. We highly encourage you to review this information and watch the videos with your child ahead of your visit!



For more information, please scan the QR code to the left or contact **Mercedes Bagshawe** at brainmri@ucalgary.ca or by calling **1-403-955-5548**. Thank you for your interest in this project!



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This study was approved by the University of Calgary's Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board. Ethics ID: REB17-0563