 Participating in research is a choice

Joining a research study is an important personal decision. Before you join, researchers will talk with you about the goals of the study and possible risks and benefits. They will also explain the rules they follow to protect your safety and privacy. Ask for help if you don’t understand something or have questions.

You should never feel rushed or pressured to make a decision. Being part of a research study is completely voluntary – it’s your choice.

After you understand the study, if you decide to take part you will be asked to sign a document called an “informed consent form.” You can change your mind at any time, for any reason, even after you sign.

How should I prepare for an MRI scan?

Talk with the research staff so that you understand how to prepare for the MRI scan. Make you sure understand what to expect before, during, and after the scan. When an MRI scan is part of a research study, additional steps may be needed. The research team will go over this information with you.

Questions to ask

You have a right to ask questions about the use of an MRI before you decide whether to take part in a research study. You may want to ask the following questions:

- Is this MRI being done specifically for the research study or is it also a part of my regular medical care?
- Where will I go for my MRI?
- How many scans will be needed?
- Will I need to do anything special to prepare for the scan?
- Will I receive medical dye (“contrast”)?
- Will I need to do anything during the scan?
- Who will review my scans? Will a medical doctor review my MRI?
- Will I receive the results of my scan?
- What happens if the MRI scan reveals a medical issue?
- How will my privacy be protected?
- What happens if I decide to leave the study early?

Questions? Call us at

M R I S C A N S F O R R E S E A R C H

An MRI scanner does not use any radiation but instead uses powerful magnets, radio waves, and computer analysis to create detailed pictures of the inside of your body. MRI scans can give important information about your brain or other organs and tissues.

Health Research

Participating in research is your choice. Be informed. Ask questions. Get answers.

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Questions? Call us at
What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a common procedure. During an MRI you will lie on a table that slides into a small tunnel-shaped machine. An MRI scanner does not use any radiation but instead uses powerful magnets, radio waves, and computer analysis to create detailed pictures of the inside of your body. MRI scans can give important information about your brain or other organs and tissues.

What are the risks of undergoing an MRI scan?

MRIs are usually considered safe and relatively painless. The noise from the machine might briefly affect your hearing. Researchers will give you earplugs to help protect your hearing. Although the strong magnetic field is not harmful, certain metal or electric objects may cause problems during an MRI scan. If contrast is needed, there is a slight risk of an allergic reaction. Any study may involve risks; the informed consent form for your research study will explain any specific risks. Make sure you understand both the risks of MRI and the overall study before you decide to take part.

What is different about an MRI scan used for research?

If you have an MRI as part of your regular medical care, your doctor is usually trying to check your health or diagnose a problem. When an MRI is part of a research study, the scan is used to help answer a scientific question. It is not intended to provide you medical care or detect health problems.

Unlike standard MRI scan results, which you and your doctor would discuss, study results might not be discussed with you. Your scans might be reviewed as part of a larger group of scans and not looked at individually.