

Brain MRI Scans with Children

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) involves the use of very powerful magnets to detect small magnetic fields in oxygen and water molecules in the brain. MRI doesn't use any harmful radiation, so it is perfectly safe and has no known side effects.

A child going into the MRI scanner.



An MRI scan.



The MRI scanner sits in a protected room and no metal is allowed to be brought in. We will do a thorough check beforehand to make sure that your child has no loose metal on them and that any metal on their clothing will be safe in the scanner. We will also ask you to complete a form asking you questions about your child's medical history to ensure that they have no metal implants in their body. If your child has any piercings or jewellery that cannot be removed at the time of the scan, please let us know so that we can rearrange for an appropriate date.

Please take the following information into consideration when deciding if your child is appropriate to take part. We are happy for children to see how they feel, but we do not want to put them in situations that they know they will find uncomfortable:

- Children will be somewhat restricted in their movement as they need to lie very still and not move their heads. If your child suffers from claustrophobia, or is uncomfortable in small spaces then they should not take part
- The scanner makes loud pumping and beeping noises during the scans, we give children headphones which block out most of the noise but occasionally children find it scary
- The lights will be switched off so it is also quite dark in the scanner room

We will spend time familiarising your child with the MRI scanner and make sure that they are always comfortable. We will monitor them from the adjacent control room and speak to them every 5 minutes to check on them. If at any time your child is uncomfortable we will stop the scanning immediately and let them out of the scanner.

For a quick video on the MRI scan procedure, follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3VJHjALUEo>