MRI Research Study

Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or MRI, is a painless and safe procedure that uses a powerful magnet and radio waves to produce detailed images of the body's organs and structures, without the use of X-rays or other radiation.

What to expect?
During the MRI examination, you are placed within the MR system or "scanner". The powerful, constant magnetic field aligns a tiny fraction of subatomic particles called protons that are present in most of the body's tissues. Radiofrequency energy is applied to cause these protons to produce signals that are picked up by a receiver within the scanner. The signals are specially characterized to produce images of the brain, such as the ones below.

How Long Does It Take?
MRI typically takes 1-2 hours, depending on the number of procedures you are undergoing. Your contact person will provide you with the best time estimate for your study.

Safety Screening
You will be asked to complete an MRI Safety Screening Form to ensure you do not have any metal objects on you or in your body. A technologist will go over the screening form with you before entering the magnet room. If you have any metal implanted in your body, have had a metal injury to your eye or other part of your body, have a possibility of being pregnant, are claustrophobic or are unable to lay flat on your back for the duration of the scan – please tell the research team immediately. Additional information may need to be collected to ensure your safety in a strong magnetic field.

You will be asked to change into hospital scrubs for your scan. Our changing areas are private and have a secure locker for your belongings. It is best, however, if you leave valuable items at home.

What will the MRI exam be like?
You will lie comfortably on the MRI table and may have one or two plastic hand type casts put on your right, left, or both hands. This is how you will respond to tasks presented to you in the scanner while images of your brain are being collected. Once you are comfortable, the table will slide into the center of the scanner.

The technologist will have you in full view at all times and be in constant communication with you via a two-way intercom. It is important to remain as still as possible during the scan. The technologist will tell you what is going to happen at each stage of your scan and may also ask you to do things such as hold your breath for a few seconds during scanning.

You should not feel any pain or discomfort during the imaging. You will hear the hum of the equipment and loud "clunking" or "knocking" noises during certain phases of the scan. You will be given head phones to wear to lessen the sound and also be able to hear any instructions you will need to perform tasks.

It is critical that you do your best, not only on the tasks you are asked to perform, but also to hold as still as possible for the entire study. Any motion during the scan blurs the images and the data collected is not useable.
Remember!

- You may eat or drink anything you like before your scheduled appointment.
- Because the entire procedure may take several hours, eat before you arrive.
- Get adequate sleep the night prior to testing. Leave valuables at home!
- If you need vision correction and have contact lenses, please wear those rather than glasses.
- Testing may take 1 to 6 hours depending on your study; please plan your day accordingly.
- If you are unable to make your scheduled appointment, please call your contact person as soon as possible.

Directions to MRN MRI Facility

1. MRN is located in Pete and Nancy Domenici Hall on UNM's North Campus (north of UNM Hospital).
2. Follow the signs to the Mind Research Network Research Participant Parking.
3. Park in the spaces marked Reserved for Mind Research Network Subject Parking Only.
4. Please bring this form with you to your appointment and provide it to the receptionist when you check-in.
5. You will be given a parking permit for your vehicle.
6. Your contact person will meet you in the reception area and bring you to the MRI lab.

Date: ___________________________   Arrival Time: ______________
Contact Person: ___________________   Contact Phone: ______________

Thank you for your participation!