

Risks and Inconveniences

Magnetic resonance (MR) is a technique that uses magnetism and radio waves, not x-rays, to take pictures and measure chemicals of different parts of the body. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has set guidelines for magnet strength and exposure to radio waves, and we carefully observe those guidelines.

You will be watched closely throughout the MR study. Some people may feel uncomfortable or anxious. If this happens to you, you may ask to stop the study at any time and we will take you out of the MR scanner. On rare occasions, some people might feel dizzy, get an upset stomach, have a metallic taste or feel tingling sensations or muscle twitches. These sensations usually go away quickly but please tell the research staff if you have them.

There are some risks with an MR study for certain people. If you have a pacemaker or some metal objects inside your body, you may not be in this study because the strong magnets in the MR scanner might harm you. Another risk is the possibility of metal objects being pulled into the magnet and hitting you. To lower this risk, all people involved with the study must remove all metal from their clothing and all metal objects from their pockets. We also ask all people involved with the study to walk through a detector designed to detect metal objects. It is important to know that no metal can be brought into the magnet room at any time. Also, once you are in the magnet, the door to the room will be closed so that no one from outside accidentally goes near the magnet.

We want you to read and answer very carefully the questions on the MR Safety Questionnaire related to your personal safety. Take a moment now to be sure that you have read the MR Safety Questionnaire and be sure to tell us any information you think might be important.

This MR study is for research purposes only and is not in any way a health care examination of the brain. The scans performed in this study are not designed to find abnormalities. The principal investigator, the lab, the MR technologist, and the Magnetic Resonance Research Center are not qualified to interpret the MR scans and are not responsible for providing a health care evaluation of the images. If a worrisome finding is seen on your scan, a radiologist or another physician will be asked to review the relevant images. Based on his or her recommendation (if any), the principal investigator or consulting physician will contact you, inform you of the finding, and recommend that you seek medical advice as a precautionary measure. The decision for additional examination or treatment would lie only with you and your physician. The investigators, the consulting physician, the Magnetic Resonance Research Center, and Yale University are not responsible for any examination or treatment that you receive based on these findings. The images collected in this study are not a health care MR exam and for that reason, they will not be made available for health care purposes.

If contrast is used, also include the following:

Contrast Risks and Procedures Statements.

Having an intravenous (IV) line placed is a very safe procedure. There is a slight chance that multiple needle-sticks will be needed to make sure the IV is placed correctly. You might feel a small amount of pain when the IV is placed but it does not last very long. A bruise or a minor infection might develop where the IV is placed. A bruise will go away by itself and it might help if you wrap a warm towel around your arm. Infections can also be treated if necessary.

The FDA approves the contrast agent Gadolinium for use with human participants. You need to know that there are certain risks associated with the use of that contrast. Some healthy subjects (fewer than 3%) may experience mild nausea, headache or dizziness after the injection. These side effects usually go away without need for treatment. There is also a risk of allergic reaction (less than 1%). An allergic reaction can cause hives and itching or difficulty breathing. In individuals with kidney dysfunction, the gadolinium can cause a serious condition called nephrogenic systemic fibrosis. This is why prior to your MR study you will have to undergo blood work to make sure that your kidney function is normal. Detailed information on the contrast agent Gadolinium can be provided to you at your request.

You should tell your principal investigator: (1) if you are pregnant or breast feeding, (2) if you have a history of allergic reactions to MR or CT contrast agents, (3) if you have a history of kidney disease, seizure, asthma, or allergic respiratory disorders, and (4) if you have anemia or disease that affects red blood cells.