Rotman Research MRI Consent Form Wording

MRI Scanning Session

The MRI scanning session will be conducted at Baycrest on a Siemens 3T PrismaFit MRI Scanner. MRI scanning uses a superconducting magnet and radio waves to construct pictures of the brain on a computer. MRI does not use ionizing radiation like X-Ray or CT scans.

Before entering the scanner room, you will be required to remove any metallic items on your person, you will be required to change into a hospital gown and pants, and a locker will be provided to secure your belongings.

To prepare for the scanning session, you will be given earplugs and/or headphones to reduce the noise of the scanner, you will be asked to lie on a padded bed, a helmet-like antenna will be placed over your head, and the bed will be moved into a tunnel-like machine for the duration of the scanning session. You will be looking at a computer screen during the scanning session and will not be able to see the MRI technologist or the investigators while in the scanner. There is an intercom system that will allow you to talk with them in between scans, and you will be given an emergency squeeze ball to alert them to any emergencies. If you feel uncomfortable during the scan and you wish to stop, you will be taken out of the machine at your request.

We will obtain a series of MRI scans, separated by short pauses, and the entire scanning session will take approximately {X hours/minutes}. While scans are being run, the MRI scanner will be quite noisy, making various loud knocking and buzzing sounds for each scan. You should try to remain as still as possible for the entire time you are in the scanner. Movement during scanning will blur the pictures of your brain, and movement in between scans can cause our pictures not to line up.

Your imaging data will be stored indefinitely and will be de-identified. Only coded identifiers will be kept with the imaging data and the link between that coded identifier and your identity will be kept in another secure and confidential location separate from the images.

Risks of an MRI Scan

The MRI scan is not associated with any known risks to your health, and there is no evidence that there will be either short-term or long-term side effects. MRI does not use ionizing radiation (like X-Ray and CT scans use). Prior to the MRI you will be required to fill out a screening form and review it with our MRI Technologist to ensure that there are no contraindications for MRI scanning. The only absolute requirements for the MRI scan are that you:

Do NOT have a cardiac pacemaker or other electronic implant.

Do NOT have any metal implants, shards of metal, or aneurysm clips in your head.

Do NOT have a chance of being pregnant at the time of the scan.

If you have a tattoo, there is a very small possibility that you will feel a tingling or burning sensation at the tattoo site. The tunnel-like MRI scanner may trigger claustrophobia.

Incidental findings

The MRI scans being done are designed to answer research questions, not to examine your brain medically. These MRI scans are not a substitute for the clinical scans that a doctor would order, and it may not show problems that would be picked up by clinical MRI scans. However, in the unlikely event that we note an atypical finding on your MRI scan, we may ask a radiologist to look at your scans, and we will contact you to help you arrange medical follow-up to interpret the significance of the findings, if any.