Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) is a safe, painless way for your doctor to look into your brain. The pictures taken during the test look at your brain and how it responds as we ask you to do certain tasks. When you do a certain task, the blood rushes to that area of your brain, and with the help of a computer, we are able to see how that part of your brain works. The pictures can help your doctor find out more about the problem you are having and also plan the course of your treatment or surgery. The test uses radio waves and a magnetic field to take pictures of your brain.

What You Need to Know

There are some implants that can either be NOT safe for you to have an MRI or need special precautions taken for your safety. **If you have any of the following and have never had an MRI at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center, call (614) 293-4333** so that you may be connected with a technologist who can review your information.

- Are or could be pregnant
- Have a heart pacemaker
- Have aneurysm clips
- An implanted pump or stimulator
- An artificial heart valve
- Breast tissue expander
- Weigh over 300 pounds
- Have any magnetic implants
- Have a blood clot filter
- Penile prosthesis
- Programmable VP or LP shunt valve
- Metal shrapnel or metal fragments inside your body or eyes

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Learn more about your health care.
• Stents anywhere in the body
• Mediport that you would like us to access for IV contrast medication

If we cannot identify the implants in your body, this may result in your test being delayed, rescheduled, or even cancelled.

To Prepare for the Test

• Please arrive **30 minutes before your appointment time** unless you receive a call asking you to arrive earlier.
• Do not drink or eat anything 1 hour before your test.

Tell the doctor or radiology technologist **if you have an allergy to contrast medicines**.

• **Bring a medicine list with you.** Tell the doctor or technologist about the prescription medicines you take, including over the counter, herbals, vitamins or supplements, and **if you have any medicine allergies**.
• **If you wear any kind of medicine patch,** such as nicotine or nitroglycerin patch, they will need to be removed for this test. Bring a new patch that you can put on after your test.
• If being in a closed space frightens you, talk to your doctor. Your doctor may give you some medicine to bring with you to help you relax. **If you do bring medicine to help relax, you need to have someone with you that can drive you home.**

The Day of the Test

You will have this test at University Hospital:

450 W. 10th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210  
(614) 293-8181.

**MRI is located on the 2nd floor of Rhodes Hall, Room S219.** You will need to register at Rhodes Hall Admitting on the first floor when you come to the hospital.
• Bring your ID and insurance card. You will be asked to fill out a form for your insurance and billing information.
You will be asked to fill out a form about your health history when you go to the MRI area. **Please bring any cards or operative reports you may have for any implants in your body.**

You will need to remove all metal items such as watch, hairpins, bra, jewelry, coins and piercings from your body. Please leave valuable belongings at home. You will not be able to take anything into the room including your purse, wallet or keys.

You will be asked to change into hospital clothing. A locker is provided for your clothes and belongings.

An IV may be started in your arm for IV medicine called contrast. IV contrast is needed to give better pictures on certain studies only.

**During the Test**

- An MRI is a long tube-like machine that is open on both ends. You will lie on a padded table in the middle of this machine. We will try to make your position comfortable. You will have headphones to listen to music during the test.

- The table will move into the opening of the MRI machine. It will stop when the part of your body to be tested (your head) is in the center. Please stay as still as you can during the test.

- You will hear a sound like a drum beat as the pictures are taken. You will be given earplugs to wear or headphones to listen to music.

- The technologist will not stay with you in the room. You will be able to hear and see the staff and they will check on you through an intercom and window. If you become uncomfortable at any time, tell the technologist. You will also be given a ball in your hand to squeeze if you need the technologist during the test.

- You will be asked to perform certain tasks that the technologist and radiologist will go over with you during some of the pictures. This is the only time you should move during your test.
There will be a football helmet like device, called a coil, over your head that will help take pictures. It will have a mirror above it so you can see out.

In the mirror, you will be able to see a TV screen outside of the MRI.

Watch the screen for instructions and follow the directions, if you have any questions or you do not understand something, please ask the technologist.

After Your Test

When the test is done, the technologist will take you to an area where you may change into your clothes and collect your things to go home. If you are a patient in the hospital, you will be taken to your room.

Your MRI will be read by a specially trained radiologist, and the results will be sent to your doctor. If you have questions about your MRI, please ask your technologist or your doctor.

If you had contrast medicine, drink 8, 8-ounce cups of liquid to flush the contrast out of your body. Liquids usually recommended are water, apple juice, or Sprite, unless your health condition or doctor has you on a different diet. You may drive home after the test if you did not take medicine to help you relax during the test. If you did take a medicine to help you relax, an adult needs to be with you to take you home.

If you have any problems or feel something is not right after the test, call your doctor.

If you need to cancel or reschedule your test, call (614) 293-4333.

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have any questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.