

CENTRE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH IN NEUROPSYCHIATRY



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Centre for Clinical Research in Neuropsychiatry-Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank (CCRN-ASRB)

MRI INFORMATION SHEET

On-site Chief Investigator: Professor Assen Jablensky (08) 9224 0290
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Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a way of taking pictures of the internal structure of your body. As part of the Centre for Clinical Research in Neuropsychiatry-Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank (CCRN-ASRB), which you are joining, we would like to record an MRI image of your brain.

How is it done?

The MRI machine uses a strong magnet and radiowaves to obtain the information required to produce the pictures. An MRI scan provides a picture of the brain in three dimensions. The scan will be done at the MRI unit of SKG-Radiology at Hollywood hospital and will take about 20 minutes. No special preparation is required before the scan. You can eat and drink as usual and also take your usual medications. As the MRI machine uses a strong magnet, people with pacemakers will not be asked to participate in this part of the project. If you are claustrophobic, please inform us as you might not be a candidate for an MRI scan. Please do not wear any make-up when you come for the scan. Before the scan we will also ask you to remove any metal objects such as hairpins, jewellery, watches, hearing aides, dentures etc. Fillings in your teeth are not a problem. You will be asked to lie down on a platform and a special antenna, called a coil, will be placed around your head. You will be then be moved backward into the scanner. It is important that you are comfortable as we will ask you to lie very still and not move your head for about 20 minutes. During the scan you will hear a continuous tapping sound which may startle you at first but many people actually fall asleep during the scan. We will give you headphones for hearing protection. After the scan you can resume your normal activities.

Research staff from CCRN will accompany you to and from the MRI unit.





How is it useful?

Comparing brain images of people affected by schizophrenia to images of people without the disease, will increase our understanding of how brain structure influences the mental function, symptoms and behavior of people suffering from schizophrenia.