

Frequently Asked Questions



If I decide to participate, can I change my mind later?

Yes. You can change your mind and withdraw at anytime.

Is MRI safe for my baby?

Yes. Every year, over 10 million people have an MRI, including babies and children. MRI is pain-free & extremely safe. The MRI machine used in the study is designed for babies and children, and the study technician is very experienced in scanning babies and young children.

Does MRI use radiation?

No. MRI uses a strong magnet instead of radiation, making it a safer imaging technique.



MRI Machine

Will sedation be used?

No. Most babies, once swaddled and fed, sleep right through it.

Are there MRI precautions?

Yes. MRI uses a magnet to take pictures. Therefore, all metal objects must be removed and those with metal in their bodies (e.g., metal screws, pacemaker) cannot be scanned.

Pregnancy & Newborn Brain Development

A new study for pregnant women & their babies

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**Pregnancy & Newborn
Brain Development**

Newborn Brain Development Study

Study Description

We are seeking pregnant women with bipolar disorder or manic depression to participate in a new study about newborn brain development.

The goal of this study is to understand how things during pregnancy, such as the mother's mental health and mood symptoms, may influence connections between different areas of the baby's brain (e.g., areas important for processing emotion).

To participate, you must be:

- Currently pregnant.
- At least 18 years old.
- Have a diagnosis of **bipolar disorder (also called manic-depression)** and/or have received treatment (e.g., medications) for bipolar disorder.



Baby sleeping while wrapped in study blanket

Unfortunately, you are not able to enroll in this study if:

- You or your doctor feel that it is not in your best interest because of your physical or mental health.
- You have reason to suspect that your baby will not be healthy enough to participate.

Study Participation

To participate in this study, we are asking you to do **two things**:

1. Complete a **one-time visit shortly after your baby is born** that will last about 60-80 minutes. This visit will include a short (10-12 minute) scan of your baby's brain while he or she is sleeping. The scan will take place at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Egleston), will use a standard child-sized MRI machine, and will be done by a trained technician who does many MRI scans with babies and children.

Your baby will wear infant sized ear-muffs to reduce scanner noise. A special blanket will be wrapped around your baby to keep him/her still, safe, and comfortable. Your baby's heart rate and breathing will be monitored throughout the scan. The scan involves no radiation and no sedation; most babies, once swaddled and fed, sleep right through it.

2. Second, we ask your **permission to access** portions of your medical record from the Emory Women's Mental Health Program, so they can be used as part of the study. Because you are already being seen during pregnancy, no additional study visits are needed.



Nurse with baby comfortably wrapped in blanket

Study Compensation

You will receive \$50 for the study visit and a picture of your baby's brain that you can add to a baby book or share with family and friends. We can provide childcare during your visit and parking fees are also covered.

If you are interested in learning more about this study opportunity, please contact:

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Calling does not mean you have to participate. It will allow you to get more information and ask questions so that you can make an informed decision about participating. You may also ask your current study doctor or the research coordinator at the Women's Mental Health Program to call us and let us know you are interested in learning more.



Baby wearing study earmuffs

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