Research MRI Safety Committee Standard

PREGNANCY AND MRI SAFETY

Category: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Safety

Procedure #: MR.SOP.09

Applies to: Investigators, study personnel, Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) staff

---

PURPOSE:

The mission of the Research MRI Safety Committee at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) is to foster an environment for the safe use of MRI in research at MCW on behalf of the Office of Research. The purpose of these procedures is to ensure the safety of investigators, study personnel, MRI staff, accompanying parents or spouses who may be pregnant.

DEFINITIONS:

Accompanying parents, spouses, or others: individuals who, after thorough safety screening would be allowed to enter the magnetic environment to provide company and or comfort for the research subject.

Magnetic Environment: the area where the magnetic field is greater than 5 gauss resulting in the potential for objects to become missiles or projectiles as they are attracted into the magnetic field of the scanner. Individuals who may have cardiac pacemakers or other implants and devices may be at risk to enter the magnetic environment. The magnetic field is always present and is three dimensional around the scanner.

Research Study Personnel: individuals including students, staff members or laboratory assistants for whom the PI of the study is responsible, and who are at the MR scanner site during the study or may be recruiting subjects for the study.

Research Subject: a human or animal participant who is placed into the bore of the MRI scanner for research purposes.

Safety Screening: the process of inquiring about the safety of individuals, including research subjects prior to entering the magnetic environment. Safety screening also applies to checking equipment for safety prior to being used in the magnet room.

POLICY:

Research subjects may not participate in an MRI study if they are known or to be or may be pregnant. Pregnant study personnel, who have undergone proper MRI safety screening, may enter the magnet room to assist in the study, but must exit the scanner room before the RF and gradients are initiated. Likewise, pregnant parents, spouses, or other individuals who have undergone proper MRI safety screening, may enter the magnet room to accompany the research subject, but must exit the scanner room before the RF and gradients are initiated.

PROCEDURE:

A. Research study personnel should arrange for testing for research participants unsure of their pregnancy status.

B. Research study personnel should ensure that individuals who are pregnant do not remain in the scanner room when the RF and gradients are on.

C. Medical College of Wisconsin employees whose work duties require them to enter the magnetic environment but are pregnant and do not want to enter the magnetic field will be considered on a case by case basis by Department leadership in conjunction with Human Resources.

Approval Date:	01/21/2021
Effective Date:	01/21/2021
Review Date:	01/21/2021
Revision History:	01/2009, 12/17/2012, 11/13/2014, 3/12/2015; 01/21/2021
Approved By:	Research MRI Safety Committee