

Text for Web Posting

Brief abstract: (This short description will be displayed to participants when they view the entire list of studies.)

Volunteers, ages 18-40, fluent in English, are sought for a research study on cognition and decision making. All participants must be in general good health. Testing procedures will require up to four hours of your time, and will involve simple behavioral tasks such as reading text, viewing images or listening to sounds presented by a computer while pictures. During part of this time, up to two hours, pictures of your brain are taken using functional a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner. You may be asked to make judgments about the stimuli that are presented to you. Participants will be paid \$40 for each hour spent in the scanner and \$15 for each hour spent outside the scanner performing the behavioral tasks (in order to be compensated, it must be legal for you to receive payment for services in the United States). To ensure that you meet eligibility requirements, researchers responsible for this study will ask you a series of questions. Except for remuneration, no direct benefits will be obtained from this study, but your participation helps to extend our knowledge of the brain and how thinking and decision making are mediated.

Detailed Description (This can be a more detailed description about the study, and it will show if a participant clicks on the study to get more information, before they sign up.):

Volunteers, ages 18-40, fluent in English, are sought for a research study on cognition and decision making. All participants must be in general good health. The entire procedure will take up to four hours of your time. The study will take place at Massachusetts General Hospital-East in Charlestown. Before beginning the study, we will go through a list of criteria that would make you ineligible to participate (such as metal in the body, pregnancy, history of head trauma or fainting, major medical, psychological, or neurological disorders, certain drugs or medications), and ask you about each one separately.

If you are eligible and still interested, you will undergo the procedures described below.

You will begin by filling out some preliminary questionnaires. Among other questions, we will ask you your age, if you are left or right-handed, and your weight. Data collected from the questionnaires that you are given will be kept confidential. After the screening procedure, you will go to a behavioral testing room for a practice session during which you will be asked to read or listen to words or to view images on a computer screen. You may be asked to make judgments about the things you see or hear by using a computer keyboard. Next, you may go to the fMRI scanning room. Before you are scanned, we will ask that you remove any metal items from your body (including jewelry, watches, belts, hairclips, coins, metallic makeup, etc.). If your clothing contains metals, you may be asked to remove it and put on a hospital gown instead. You will lie down on the scanning couch and a specialized coil will be placed around your head that allows your brain to be scanned. You will be made to feel as comfortable as possible in the scanner and will be offered blankets to keep you warm. You will be in touch with the people

running the study via an intercom. You may stop your participation in the study at any time (even during a scan). When in the scanner, you will be asked to breathe quietly and remain very still. We will begin by taking some preliminary pictures of your brain. During this time the scanner will make some knocking noises. Soon after this, the tasks will begin, at which time the noises will become louder and higher-pitched. You will be asked to read or listen to words or to view images on a screen. You may be asked to make judgments about the things you see or hear by using a button box to record your responses while lying still in the fMRI scanner. If so, detailed instructions will come at the beginning of the task. Between each task there will be a short break. During both the presentation of the tasks and the breaks in between, it is important that you keep your head as still as possible. The fMRI scan should last approximately two hours. At the end of the scan, we will help you out of the scanner, and then you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding the tasks and your experience during the study.