

STUDY OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IN INFANCY

SIEMENS
Help move the science
of autism forward



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Marcus
AUTISM CENTER

**NIH Autism Center
of Excellence**

Study of Brain Development in Infancy

Help move the science of autism forward

Marcus Autism Center is studying how the brain grows in the first months of life in typically developing infants. Typically developing infants will serve as comparisons for infants who are at high-risk for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Who can be a part of this study?

We are looking for pregnant moms—or those who have a newborn younger than 3 months old—with no family history of autism.



What are the goals of this study?

An infant's brain develops rapidly in the first months of life. We want to examine how brain development may differ between typical infants and infants who are later diagnosed with ASD. This research will help us develop new methods for early identification and treatment for infants at risk for ASD.

What will the study require?

We will ask you to visit us at the Wesley Woods Center for Systems Imaging and the Marcus Autism Center seven times during our study. All visits will take place when your infant is between 1 week and 6 months of age.



At each visit, your infant will watch short videos of people on a computer screen. At three of the visits, we will also use magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to take pictures of your infant's brain while he or she is sleeping naturally. You will also complete surveys about your infant's development and behavior.

What is MRI? Is it safe?

MRI is a safe technique that is routinely used with people of all ages. MRI does not use harmful X-rays or radiation. Instead, it uses non-harmful magnetic fields to take pictures of the brain. These pictures help us understand the structure of the brain and what parts are active when we see, hear or do things.

What are the benefits?

Your participation in this research will allow us to better help families who have a child with ASD and to better understand ASD itself.

This study is free. As a token of our thanks, families will be compensated for taking part in our research. Families will receive \$30 for each visit involving video watching and \$50 for their participation in each MRI visit.

Next steps

Visit marcus.org/research or call 404-785-7600 for more information. For more information about Infant MRIs visit: marcus.org/InfantMRI