

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE (SWP)

Workplace: NeuRA Imaging Centre

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TASK/OPERATION:	Magnetic Resonance Safety – Pregnancy and MR Safety (SWP02)		
Operating Procedure Developed by:	National Imaging Facility Fellow, with MRI Facility Committee	Approved: COO	Date: 31 st January 2020
Reviewed by:	WHS & Clinical Consultant		
Version:	1.0		

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedures to ensure the safety of participants, investigators, study personnel, facility, staff, accompanying carers or spouses who may be pregnant.

Rationale:

There are no known biological risks from Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). No delayed sequelae from MR examination have been encountered, and it is expected that the potential risk for any delayed sequelae is extremely small or non-existent. The MR procedure is not believed to be hazardous to the foetus. In a survey among female MR workers, no substantial increase in adverse pregnancy outcomes was found (Kanal, Gillen, Evans, Savitz and Shellock, 1993). However this situation should be operated in a conservative manner.

Procedures:

1. Research participants that are pregnant or think that they may be pregnant will not be scanned unless it is addressed as part of the ethics application.
2. Pregnant study personnel and/or facility staff or those that think they may be pregnant, who have undergone the facility MR screening process, may enter the magnet room to assist in the study but must leave before the scanner's RF and gradient subsystems are activated.
3. Pregnant carers, spouses or other individuals, or those that think they may be pregnant, who have undergone the facility MR screening process, may enter the magnet room to accompany the study participant but must leave before the scanner's RF and gradient subsystems are activated.
4. Project leads should make arrangements for pregnancy testing via the patient's GP prior to scanning or removal from the study where the study participant is not sure of their pregnancy status.
5. It is the Radiographer's responsibility to ensure that anyone who is pregnant does not stay in the magnet room during operation of the scanner.

6. Any facility staff members who are pregnant and who do not wish to enter the magnetic field should discuss their concerns with either the Facility Director or the Medical Director.
7. If circumstances arise that a pregnant woman was scanned unknowingly at the time and NeuRA is informed, a WHS incident report should be lodged online by the NeuRA personnel who was informed. Current scientific evidence demonstrates that there are no known risks to a developing foetus hence follow-ups are unnecessary and not part of usual practice and participants will be informed of this.

Codes of Practice/Standards:

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists:

- <https://www.ranzcr.com/search/ranzcr-mri-safety-guidelines>
- <https://www.ranzcr.com/our-work/quality-standards>

Emergency Procedures:

- Magnetic Resonance Safety – Incidents (SWP03)
- Magnetic Resonance Safety – Emergencies (SWP04)
- NeuRA Incident Report & Investigation Procedure (WHS31)
<https://intranet.neura.edu.au/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=6848643&preview=%2F6848643%2F19824750%2FWHS31+Incident+Report+%26+Investigation+Procedure+v2.0.pdf>
- NeuRA Online Accident & Reporting Tool <https://forms.neura.edu.au/login>
- NeuRA First Aid Procedure (WHS20)
<https://intranet.neura.edu.au/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=6848643&preview=%2F6848643%2F16450180%2FWHS20+FirstAid+Procedure.pdf>
- Follow NeuRA Emergency Procedures Flipchart 2018 located near the MRI control room phone or on NeuRA Intranet
<https://intranet.neura.edu.au/download/attachments/6062404/Emergency%20Procedures%20Flipchart%20-%20Dec%202018.pdf?api=v2>