

Dear parent/patient,

We are writing to let you know that there is a new study at SickKids looking at the brain function such as memory and learning capabilities of children with tuberous sclerosis complex.

This research project will examine whether applying particular brain imaging techniques on the MRI scanner can predict learning and behaviour problems in kids with tuberous sclerosis. Patients will undergo an MRI as well as a series of brain function tests including an autism screening. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder with difficulty in learning, socializing and behavioural problems and some children with tuberous sclerosis may have these difficulties.

The title of the project is: Pilot study of neuroimaging predictors of cognitive impairment and autistic spectrum disorder in tuberous sclerosis patients.

The research is lead by Dr. Elysa Widjaja a Neuroradiologist at SickKids with a special interest in pediatric brain malformations. Dr. Widjaja is conducting this research project with the help of Dr. Snead, Division Head of Neurology and Dr. Mary Lou Smith, a staff psychologist, who is also at SickKids.

What would be involved in the research?

A full 5-7 hour day at SickKids (on a weekend or weeknight evening)

About 30-45 minutes in the MRI scanner

3-5 hours of memory/learning/thinking tests with a neuropsychologist (Ph.D candidate)

1 hour Break

Please note: meals and parking will be compensated and you will receive a certificate for 6 hours of volunteer time. A report of the neuropsychology assessment will be sent to you within 2 months of completing the study.

If you are interested in learning more about this study please contact the study's research coordinator, Nicole Brown (information listed below).

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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