

York MRI Facility

Standard Operating Procedure #53-01

Incidental Findings

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The 3T MRI scanner at the York MRI Facility is used primarily for in-vivo studies of human and animal structure and function. These studies include assessment of cognitive function and vascular dynamics, metabolism and physiology in normal and research patient populations. The facility resources are available to peer-reviewed grant funded scientific collaborators with appropriate Review Ethics Board protocols in place, see SOP #20-01 “New Protocols and Ethics Procedures”.
- 1.2. The operators at the York MRI Facility are not trained or qualified to detect or diagnose pathologies, and a radiologist does not review acquired images. Therefore detecting abnormalities is limited by the training and experience of the MRI operators and study investigators.
- 1.3. In general, Principal Investigators and Operators should not to make any comments about a participant’s brain, just as one would not comment on any other body part. An individual’s brain is often intrinsic to their self-image and even the most innocent comments could potentially cause stress or concern and thus ethical harm in some subjects.

2. Incidental Findings

- 2.1. If a potential anomaly is detected in a participant’s brain, follow the procedure below:
 - 2.1.1. Continue the scan session as usual and do not inform the participant. Informing a participant would cause ethical harm in the event of a false alarm.
 - 2.1.2. After the completion of the scan session, show the images to the MRI Technologist or the Facility Director.
 - 2.1.3. The MRI Technologist or the Facility Director will send the images to a neuroradiologist for review.
 - 2.1.4. The neuroradiologist will determine if additional attention or follow up is required.
 - 2.1.4.1. If additional attention is required, this information will be conveyed to the Principal Investigator who will then inform the participant.