This brochure was created to give you all the information regarding your participation in the Minds & Genes project. If you have any more questions, do not hesitate to contact any member of the team.

Minds & Genes
Studying the impact of genetic variants on cognition, behaviour and neuroanatomy.

CHU Sainte-Justine
Procedure

If you accept to participate in this study, the examiners will review the consent form with you beforehand. It is to be noted that there are many parts to this study and you have no obligation to participate in all of them; every step is optional. Although it is possible to do every step in one day, we recommend scheduling two days to complete the entirety of the protocol, for you comfort and convenience.

The Evaluations

The examinations can be completed over two half-days: one half-day at CHU Sainte-Justine in Montreal and another half-day at the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI). Children who carry a genetic variation as well as their direct family are recruited for this project.

- **Neuropsychological and behavioral evaluations:**
  A neuropsychological test will evaluate the linguistic ability, social behaviour, global cognition, emotional behaviour, attention and the capacity to concentrate of each participant. This evaluation will be done at CHU Sainte-Justine and can last anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour and a half per person, depending on the age and the participants themselves. Generally, it is a series of puzzles and games.

  A part of the evaluations require you to fill out questionnaires regarding your and your child’s behaviour. These will be sent to you by e-mail and you can complete them online before your appointment.

- **EEG (electroencephalography)**:
  This step is done on the same day as the neuropsychological evaluation. Including the installation time, the EEG segment of the project lasts about an hour per person. During this time, the participant will be watching a movie on mute and will be listening to a series of sounds we will play for them. There is one visual task at the end of the testing.

- **MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)**:
  The MRI will allow us to study the effects of a genetic variant on the neuroanatomy. This step can be done on a different day at the MNI. Including the installation, each scan should last about an hour. During the scan, the participant will have to remain as still as possible, while watching a movie of their choosing. Towards the end of the scan, certain selected participants will have to complete a simple visual & auditory task, which will be explained to them on the day of their appointment.

- **Blood draw**:
  The blood draw allows us to obtain genetic information that we can use for analysis concerning the genetic variants.
Reimbursement

All the tests mentioned above are free and we reimburse all travel costs to our participants. We generally evaluate the distance you’ve travelled, as well as average cost of meals per day. Furthermore, we book a hotel for every family that needs to spend more than one night to complete all the tests. All rooms come with a garage parking at the hotel. All you have to do is check in!

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding our project, you can contact us by e-mail: genetiquedesfamilles@gmail.com

If you would like to speak to a member of our staff, you can contact one of the following people:

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For further information, you can visit our website: https://minds-genes.org