MRI Mythbuster

MRI, or Magnetic Resonance Imaging, is used in many fields to image different parts of the body. Here at the VTCRI we use fMRI, or functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging, to image your brain and see what part of your brain you use when you make decisions. Here are some facts about our fMRI:

- It does NOT use radiation, which is used in x-rays.
- It uses a large magnet to create a magnetic field that helps image your brain.
- It is very loud when the scanner is running but doesn’t cause hearing damage.
- You cannot bring metal, including jewelry and hairpins, into the MRI room.
- We at VTCRI do NOT use shots or injections (contrast agents).

A squeezebulb works as a “panic button.” If you want to come out of the MRI, squeeze

Headphones help reduce the noise. These also let us talk to you through the intercom in between scans.

A headcoil (shaped like a hockey mask or football helmet) will go over your face to help scan your brain.

We will place a mirror on top of the headcoil so you can see a projector to play games or watch videos.

A “button box” works like a game controller for certain experiments.

Here is someone laying in the MRI: