



Autism Center of Excellence *Advancing Research on Adult Mental Health & Suicide*

RESEARCH STUDY SUMMARY

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WWW.REACT.PITT.EDU

REACT Lab (Regulation of Emotion in Autistic Adults, Children, & Teens)



University of
Pittsburgh

WHAT IS THE STUDY ABOUT?



The ACE aims to learn information that can be used to create treatments for autistic adults who live with thoughts of suicide.

Participants will answer questions about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences. They will also use different kinds of technology so we can learn about their bodies and brains.

This is a research study.
This study does NOT include treatment.

AM I RIGHT FOR THE STUDY?

We want to talk to adults ages 18-65 who:

- Are autistic or think they might be autistic
- Are *not* autistic
- Have thoughts of suicide
- Do *not* have thoughts of suicide



Participants must be willing and able to complete ALL parts of the study. Final eligibility is determined by research staff after the first visit to the research offices.

Participants must be able to safely undergo a brain scan.

This study may not be right for you if you...

- Have certain types of metal in your body that cannot be removed for the day of the scan
- Are taking certain medications that cannot be stopped for the day of the scan
- Are unable to lie still in an enclosed space for 1.5 hours
- Have a history of stroke or loss of consciousness
- Are pregnant

WHAT WOULD I DO IN THE STUDY?

1

IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS & SURVEYS

- You will complete interviews and surveys about yourself. You will be asked about traits of autism and suicide.
- If research staff confirms that you are eligible for the study, you will be asked to complete the remaining steps.

Up to 5
HOURS;
1-3 visits



ONLINE SURVEYS

- You will fill out online surveys about yourself.
- You can do them wherever you want. You do not have to do them all at one time.

2

1 HOUR



3

WEARABLE SENSORS & PHONE SURVEYS

- You will carry a phone provided to you by the study. You will answer 8 surveys throughout each day. Each survey can be answered in about 5 minutes.
- You will wear sensors on your chest and ankle as you go about your daily activities.
- The sensors are similar to fitness monitors. They will collect information about your body throughout the day.

2 WEEKS



BRAIN SCAN

- You will do emotion and sensory tasks in an fMRI scanner while we collect images of your brain and record your eye movements.
- You will spend about 1.5 hours in the scanner. You must wear ear plugs during the scan.
- If you've never done a brain scan, we can help you get comfortable with the sounds and environment before the appointment.

4

3 HOURS



ONLINE SURVEYS & VIDEO INTERVIEWS X2

- 6 & 12 months after you enroll in the study, we will ask you to repeat some of the same surveys and interviews from steps 1 & 2.
- You can do the surveys online and the interviews by video call, or, do them both in our research offices.

5

1.5 HOURS

6

1.5 HOURS



ARE THERE BENEFITS?

Direct benefit cannot be guaranteed. Participants may request **feedback regarding their autism diagnostic testing**. Those who meet criteria for an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis may request **documentation by a licensed psychologist** on the research team. Participants will also have the opportunity to review a report from their brain scan with a qualified investigator.

WILL I BE PAID?

Yes. You will be paid up to \$735 for doing all parts of the study. You will be paid for each step separately, as it is finished.

- 1 *In-person Interviews & Surveys: up to \$125, based on number of assessments/eligibility*
- 2 *Online Surveys: \$25*
- 3 *Wearable Sensors & Phone Surveys: up to \$310*
- 4 *Brain Scan: up to \$125*
- 5 *6-month Online Surveys & Video Interviews: \$50*
- 6 *12-month Online Surveys & Video Interviews: \$50*
- ★ *Bonus for doing everything: \$50*



You will be paid on a debit card.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND?



Participating in this study is completely YOUR CHOICE.

You can stop at any time.

You will be paid for all of the parts of the study that you do, even if you decide not to do everything.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- 1 Visit www.react.pitt.edu to learn more about the study
- 2 Call 724-524-8415 to find out if you might be a good fit for the study
- 3 If interested, schedule your first appointment to enroll and learn if you are eligible

