PARTICIPANT ASSENT FORM

Children aged 10-13 years

Assent Form – The effects of Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis on human vestibular perception

Invitation

I am invited to be part of a research study. A research study asks questions and tests those questions to try and find out the answer and help children like me. It is up to me if I want to be in this study. No one will make me be part of the study. Even if I agree now to be a part of this study, I can change my mind later. No one will be mad at me if I choose to not be a part of this study.

Why Are We Doing This Study?

I am a healthy person without a condition called Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis (AIS). This means that my spine grows straight, rather than growing in a “C” or “S” shape. This condition affects many other children. There is also a way to trick my brain into thinking that it’s moving using tiny amounts of stimulation behind my ears. The study is trying to find out if there is a difference between when I am really moving and when I think I am moving.

What Will Happen in This Study?

If I agree to be a part of this study, I will come into the lab at the University of British Columbia once for two and a half hours. In the lab, the researchers will apply a topical cream to the back of my ears and maybe a small part of my upper back, so that I will not feel the plastic pads they will position there. I will sit in a specially designed chair with a racecar seatbelt that has a motor in it that will spin me around during the study. Foam cushions will lie on top of me. I will put my head into a helmet that is tilted downwards, and I will wear earplugs and a
blindfold so that I cannot see which way I am spinning. The researcher will tell me when I am about to spin and I will tell the researcher if I think I am spinning to the right or to the left. The first session, the chair will actually be rotating to the left or to the right. The second session, the chair will not be spinning but the researchers will trick my brain into thinking my body is spinning by stimulating the area behind my ears.

**Who Is Doing This Study?**
Dr. Christopher Reilly, Dr. Jean-Sébastien Blouin and other researchers from the University of British Columbia and BC Children’s Hospital will be doing this study. They will answer any questions I have about the study. I can also call them at 778-873-7910.

**Can Anything Bad Happen to Me?**
Like when I am on a ride at the amusement park, some people do not feel very well when they are spun. It is possible that I could feel dizzy or have a stomachache.

**What Should I Do If I Am Not Feeling Well?**
If I do not feel well at any time, I can tell the researcher right away and he or she can stop the test. I do not have to continue the test if I do not want to anymore.

**Who Will Know I Am in the Study?**
Only the people who are involved in the study will know that I am in it. When the study is finished, the researchers will write a report about what they learnt. The report will not include my name or that I was a part of this study. My parents and I do not have to tell anyone that I am in the study if I do not want to.

**When Do I Have To Decide?**
I have as much time as I would like to decide to be a part of this study. I have also been asked to discuss my decision with my parents.

**Signatures:**
If I put my name at the end of this form, it means that I agree to be in the study.