Location of the lab & accommodations for those escorting patients to appointments
The MEG Lab is in the basement of The Kirklin Clinic. When one gets off the elevator in the basement, turn toward the waiting area and follow the signs to the MRI/PET/MEG Waiting Area. Tell the receptionist that you are here for an MEG scan. The receptionist will notify the lab personnel, and you will be escorted to the lab by the appropriate person. Individuals/relatives/friends accompanying the patients to The Kirklin Clinic may wait in the general Waiting Area but are not permitted in the lab itself.

Braces, Metallic Plates/Implants, Insulin pumps, Pain pumps, & Aneurysm Clips
Braces and retainers are incompatible; we cannot do an MEG scan with this type of dental work unless they can be removed. Permanent metallic bridges are also incompatible or unsuitable for an MEG. Pacemakers, cochlear implants, and TENS units are also incompatible for MEG scans. It may be possible to scan patients with aneurysm clips, but we must know the exact type and metallic composition of the clip before considering the scan. Please let us know in advance if the patient has an insulin/pain pump.

Vagal Nerve Stimulators (the MEG Language mapping scan cannot be performed with these)
We will attempt Epilepsy localization scans on patients with Vagal Nerve Stimulators, but they must be turned OFF, and we must be notified in advance of the need to have the VNS shut off. We have trained staff available to turn the VNS on and off without changing its settings.

PRE-PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS: (These vary based on the type of MEG scan performed.)

ALL Scans ➔ Clothing, Hair, & Makeup: Try to wear all-cotton clothing. No metal on clothing or on person, i.e. zippers, braids, bobby pins, rivets on jeans, or jewelry. If a bra with clasps or underwire is worn, it must be removed prior to the procedure. We recommend that female patients wear sports bras. Try to refrain from a lot of makeup, especially eye makeup with a lot of color as these tend to have metal in them. No hair spray, oils, or hair gels should be used on exam day.

Medications & Dietary/Sleep Considerations for Epilepsy Patients (not for tumor patients)
It is standard protocol for patients not to take their morning anti-seizure medications the day of the scan. If your physician is not affiliated with UAB, you must refer to him or her regarding any such changes to your medications. Otherwise, you should contact your physician at the UAB Epilepsy Center (205-934-3866) regarding the MEG pre-procedure medication instructions ➔ If you are instructed to withhold medication(s), bring those with you so they can be taken after the MEG scan.
- DO NOT CONSUME ANY CAFFEINE AFTER MIDNIGHT OF THE EVENING BEFORE YOUR MEG SCAN FOR EPILEPSY LOCALIZATION
- ONLY GET FOUR HOURS OF SLEEP THE EVENING PRIOR
- PATIENTS SHOULD AVOID NAPPING ON THE MORNING BEFORE THE SCAN.

Language Mapping Scans, Visual Mapping Scans, & PET Scans: Special Considerations
- Patients must have at least a 5th-grade reading level to complete the MEG Language scan
- No glasses with metal can be used during Visual mapping scans; contacts must be used if needed.

If you are scheduled for a PET scan after your MEG scan, you cannot eat, smoke or drink between scans.