

Neuroimaging Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)

ACTRN12622001095752

Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	University of the Sunshine Coast
Enrollment	288 participants

Plain Language Summary

Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) is a serious and disabling illness affecting millions of people worldwide, causing profound fatigue, cognitive difficulties, and post-exertional malaise (feeling much worse after minimal activity). Despite its severity, there is no confirmed biological mechanism and no objective diagnostic test — meaning diagnosis relies entirely on symptoms, and misdiagnosis is common.

This neuroimaging study uses advanced brain MRI techniques to investigate whether a process called neurovascular coupling — the way blood flow increases in response to brain activity — is impaired in ME/CFS. Participants undergo specialised brain scans (including functional MRI and magnetic resonance spectroscopy) and complete clinical and activity assessments. The goal is both to better understand what is happening in the brains of people with ME/CFS and to develop an objective brain-based marker (neuromarker) that could help with diagnosis in the future.

You may be eligible if you are aged 18–65, have a diagnosis of ME/CFS (confirmed using Canadian Consensus Criteria), fibromyalgia, or unexplained chronic fatigue, or are a healthy person with a sedentary lifestyle willing to serve as a comparison participant. People with other neurological conditions, diabetes, hypertension, a BMI over 35, smoking history, or those taking medications that affect the brain are not eligible.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (3)

- The ME/CFS group is patients who meet ME/CFS Canadian Consensus Criteria and have a consistent diagnosis by two clinicians. The two clinicians will discuss to reach a consistent diagnosis if different results are generated during the independent interviews.
- The chronic fatigue group is defined as (1) self-identified ME/CFS but not confirmed by the two clinicians (i.e., present with other conditions or lack core ME/CFS symptoms); (2) with other disorders (not ME/CFS or fibromyalgia) that fatigue is a significant symptom.
- The fibromyalgia group is defined as individuals who meet the 2016 American College of Rheumatology fibromyalgia criteria and confirmed by the clinic interview.

Locations (1 total)

University of the Sunshine Coast Clinical Trials Centre - Sippy Downs - Sippy Downs, ACT,NSW,NT,QLD,SA,TAS,WA,VIC, Australia

<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12622001095752>

DISCLAIMER: This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice. Always consult your healthcare provider before enrolling in any clinical trial. Information may not be up to date — verify details at anzctr.org.au. Generated by ClinicalTrialsFinder.org.