

NEWS

# Video: Secrets of the brain at rest

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Brain imaging experiments often require the participant to perform tasks while lying inside a brain scanner for up to an hour — not a pleasant experience for anyone, let alone a child with autism. On Saturday afternoon at the **Society for Neuroscience annual meeting** in San Diego, **Steve Petersen** described 'resting-state' imaging, in which participants lie in the scanner for just five to ten minutes.

Petersen's team at Washington University in St. Louis is collecting resting-state scans from 180 children with autism from 'simplex' autism families — in which only one child is diagnosed with the disorder — and comparing them with scans of healthy siblings and controls. Circuits that turn out to be out of sync in the autism group would be good targets for further investigation, he says.

*For more reports from the 2010 Society for Neuroscience meeting, please [click here](#).*