Most brain research for people with Cerebral Palsy (CP) focuses on early brain development. More research is needed to understand how the brain changes through the teenage years and into adulthood.
The MyStory Project will study physical health (fatigue and pain), mental health (anxiety and depression), chronic stress and overall well-being in adolescents and young adults with CP between the ages of 16-30.

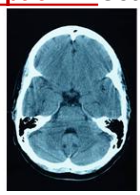
If I decide to participate, what will I be asked to do?

There are three options. You can choose to participate in all of them or only the ones that interest you.

Option 1: Complete online surveys and send in a sample of your hair for analysis (from home)

A package will be mailed to you with instructions to compete online or paper surveys about your experiences related to anxiety, depression, fatigue, quality of life, pain and family functioning. You will also be provided instructions on how to submit a sample of hair (50 strands) to McMaster. Option 1 looks at how these things are changing over time. We will ask you to do this 3 times (once every year).

Option 2: Get your brain scanned (at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario)



Participation involves coming to St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton to have an MRI brain scan. Parking and travel expenses will be paid by the study. The first step is to complete an MRI safety checklist to make sure you can safely have an MRI. Before having the brain scan, you will practice laying still and doing the visual tasks you will be asked to do later. Next, you will have your actual brain scan inside the MRI machine at St. Joseph's. Option 2 will help us better understand stress reactions in the brain and the MRI will be done only once.

Option 3: See your brain activity (at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario)

Participation involves coming to Brock University in St. Catharines to have an EEG. The first step is to complete some screening questions to make sure you are able to have an EEG. EEG is a technique where small discs called electrodes are taped to specific areas of your scalp. In Option 3, we will use these electrodes to measure brain signals as you complete a computer task..

Who are the researchers?

CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research is a group at McMaster University in Hamilton. What we learn is used all over the world to improve the things we do for young people with disabilities and their families. Over the past five years, CanChild researchers have partnered with the Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) as part of the Childhood Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy (CP) Integrated Neuroscience Discovery Network (CP-NET), a network of world-renowned Ontario researchers across scientific disciplines to improve the understanding of CP and develop new treatments.

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If you are interested in participating or if you have questions, please contact the research assistant:
Phone: 905-525-9140 ext. 27854 Toll-free:1-844-572-7096 Email: cpnet@mcmaster.ca