Mayo Clinic Minute: Brain mapping improves surgical outcomes

VIDEO	AUDIO
09:52 **Leslie Baxter, Ph.D.** **Neuropsychology** **Mayo Clinic**	"It's really amazing that we've gotten to the point that we can map out the brain so precisely."
Jason	Mayo Clinic Neuropsychologist Dr. Leslie Baxter is talking about brain mapping.
Jason	Using imaging, such as an MRI, doctors determine the areas of your brain that control vision, language and movement — making surgery more precise and preserving those brain abilities.
Jason	To map the brain, a patient is given instructions on a monitor while in the scanner.
08:54 **Dr. Baxter**	"A simple task is: 'I want you to open and close your hand every time you see the word 'go' on the computer screen.'"
09:07 **Dr. Baxter**	"And that maps the hand motor system."
Jason	If it's a vision task, the patient looks at something during the MRI. If it's a language task, it's reading words on the screen or listening to audio.
09:15 **Dr. Baxter**	"So they're actually getting an MRI of their brain while they're doing an action."
Jason	And that map of the brain is beneficial for brain surgeons to protect those cognitive functions.
11:33 **Dr. Baxter**	"They can see all of those structures and all of the function, real time during surgeries to help them do their surgery the best way they can."
Jason	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.