

Who Would Qualify?

To be eligible you must meet the following criteria:

- Male or female between the ages of 14- 25. If you are 14-18, a parent or guardian must accompany you.
- Speak English
- Have a family member with a history of a psychotic disorder OR currently suffer from psychotic symptoms.
- No serious medical problems
- No current drug use (with the exception of drugs prescribed by your doctor)

The Neuropsychiatry Section of the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are recognized world-wide for the quality of their clinical and research programs. The faculty and staff of The Program for Developmental Neuropsychiatry have extensive experience in research and treatment of patients with psychotic disorders and in teaching professionals and family about psychosis and its treatment. They are dedicated to furthering our understanding of neurodevelopmental disorders. This study uses the resources of both institutions to provide a comprehensive research evaluation.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CALL:**

(888) 635-7780

Or email:

naya@bbl.med.upenn.edu

****Remember, if you are younger than 18 years old, please have your parent or guardian call or email**



**Neurodevelopment
in**

**Adolescence and
Young**

Adulthood

**Information for
Families**



**The Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia**

The Behavioral Health Center and Department of Child
and Adolescent Psychiatry

Information about the Study

We are trying to learn more about how the brain works in children as they grow up. This is a program for children, adolescents and young adults who are either **at risk for psychotic disorders due to family history, or who currently exhibit emerging symptoms that raise concern about the development of a psychotic disorder, such as recent deterioration in function, odd thinking, or unusual perceptual experiences.**

There are several aspects of research that are described in the “Procedures” section below. **We are interested in following changes over time, and you may be invited to participate in follow-up sessions, lasting one to two hours, every six months for up to five years.** *During each visit, you will be compensated for your time and travel.*

Procedures

A. Clinical Evaluation

Participants undergo a medical, neurological and psychiatric evaluation. This includes questionnaires about life experiences, a structured interview completed by a trained interviewer, a consultation with one of our doctors and, finally, a small blood test.

B. Neurobehavioral Studies

The Center has a full complement of procedures for neurocognitive assessment that include:

Neurocognition

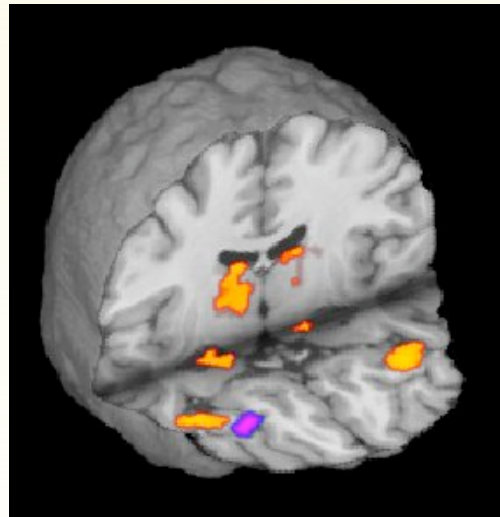
These measures include computerized tests of attention, learning, memory, abstraction and mental flexibility, language skills, spatial processing and sensorimotor integration.

Emotion

Emotional processes are evaluated using computerized procedures that display faces expressing emotions. We assess emotion identification, discrimination among emotions and memory. We may also ask to take pictures of your face while expressing different emotions.

Olfaction

Olfactory studies include identification of odors, discrimination of odors, ratings of odor intensity and neurobiological studies of olfactory biopsy tissue.



This is a picture of the brain taken with the use of fMRI. The colored areas show the regions of the brain that were activated when the participant was presented with a specific task.

C. Neuroimaging

The availability of unique facilities in the Department of Radiology enables our Center to perform the following measures. These procedures, which are non-invasive and painless, include:

Electroencephalography (EEG) and Event Related Potentials (ERP):

EEG and ERP recordings enable us to observe the electrical activity of the brain, both during its resting state (EEG) and while participants perform different tasks that activate different brain regions (ERPs). We use state-of-the-art computer methods to obtain high-density topographic “electrical images” of the brain during cerebral processing. This allows us to observe brain activity as it occurs, from one millisecond to the next.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI):

MRI is a technique which provides high quality images of brain structure created by measuring molecular response to a magnetic field. It provides information similar to that obtained with a CT scan, but does not involve radiation and allows measurement of brain volumes.

Functional MRI (fMRI):

This method permits measurement of blood flow in the brain while the participant is presented with tasks. Such procedures show which parts of the brain become active for specific tasks and how this activity is different in men and women. The method also shows disturbances in activity related to brain dysfunction.