total intracranial contents through linear regression, were examined in relationship to 2 neuropsychological domains that tapped executive and memory functions. Statistical analyses were conducted using Spearman Rank order correlations. Results indicated significant (p < .05) positive correlations between anterior hippocampus and amygdala volumes and functioning on the memory domain. Investigation of the tests comprising the memory domain revealed that smaller anterior hippocampus and amygdala volumes correlated significantly with worse WMS-R Logical Memory I and Logical Memory II performance. These findings suggest that mesiotemporal lobe volumes may be a significant predictor of neuropsychological functioning in schizophrenia.

95. SMOOTH PURSUIT EYE MOVEMENT DYSFUNCTION IN PATIENTS AT CLINICAL RISK FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Research involving individuals at risk for schizophrenia has traditionally focused on the identification of early biobehavioral indicators of schizophrenia. Biobehavioral indicators are subtle neurocognitive deficits that can be accurately detected before onset of psychotic illness. Of the many neuropsychological domains that have been studied, eye-movement dysfunction have been found to be among the most promising candidate indicators.

Early studies of the at-risk offspring and siblings of schizophrenia probands suggest the presence of eye movement impairments in at least a subgroup of subjects. However, more recently, detection of indicator deficits has focused on a new high risk population—subjects at clinical risk for schizophrenia. These subjects are characterized by symptoms that have been retrospectively identified with the schizophrenia prodrome.

In this study, we evaluated smooth pursuit eye movement performance in 29 adolescents at clinical risk for schizophrenia recruited from the RAPP (Recognition and Prevention of Psychological Problems) clinic (Barbara Cornblatt, Ph.D., Director) at Hillside Hospital/Schneider Children’s Hospital, which is a recently opened program specializing in the treatment and assessment of adolescents with early prodromal symptoms of schizophrenia. These at-risk subjects were compared with 25 adolescent patients diagnosed with schizophrenia, recruited from an adolescent inpatient unit at Hillside Hospital.

Preliminary results suggest that 28% of the adolescents at clinical risk for schizophrenia display impaired smooth pursuit eye tracking performance similar to that of patients with schizophrenia. These results provide early evidence of the presence of a well-established schizophrenia-specific neurocognitive deficit in subjects at clinical risk for schizophrenia.

96. AWARENESS OF MEMORY DYSFUNCTION IN FIRST-EPISODE SCHIZOPHRENIA


Hillside Hospital; Psychiatry Research; Glen Oaks, NY 11004

Patients with schizophrenia manifest a high degree of generalized neurocognitive dysfunction, with particularly severe impairment in memory. There is growing interest in patient awareness of clinical and cognitive symptoms, since this has implications for treatment compliance and outcome. The present study reports preliminary data addressing awareness of memory dysfunction and its impact on daily activities in a cohort of prospectively ascertained first-episode patients with schizophrenia. Fourteen patients meeting DSM-IV criteria for schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder rated their daily memory function in a number of real-life contexts and received formal neurocognitive tests of memory. Family members independently rated patient memory function, using the same item content that were performed in patient self-ratings. The results revealed a surprising concordance between patient and observer ratings of daily memory function; absolute scores of patients ratings did not differ significantly from observer ratings, though the correlation between patients and observers was less consistent. Both patients and informants agreed on ratings of the quality of recent episodic memory. Patient ratings of daily memory function correlated modestly with test based assessment of memory (range of correlations: .33 to .45). Informant ratings of recent episodic memory were more consistently associated with actual patient performance, particularly on measures of working memory and explicit recall. The findings indicate that patients have partial awareness of memory function as it impacts on recall of daily episodes. Test based assessment of memory provides an indirect indication of global memory capability in real-world situations, but is less directly associated with more specific daily functions.

97. THE HILLSIDE RAPP CLINIC: WHY THE SUDDEN INTEREST IN THE SCHIZOPHRENIA PRODROME?

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The RAPP (Recognition and Prevention of Psychological Problems) Clinic of Hillside Hospital is a research/early intervention center focusing on adolescents thought to be in the pre-psychotic or prodromal stages of schizophrenia. A major research goal of the RAPP clinic is to prospectively establish risk factors that predict future illness, since the current definition of the prodrome has been derived from retrospective research. Clinical assessments, neurocognitive data and treatment outcome will be presented for 50 adolescents who have received at least one year of treatment. To date, four major non-specific disturbances have accounted for most referrals: a sudden decline in school functioning, increasing social withdrawal, emergence of odd behaviors and the presence of depression. Self-reports by the RAPP adolescents indicate the presence of a range of schizophrenia-like symptoms, including schizotypal, schizoid, paranoid and avoidant features and elevated levels of social isolation. Parental reports further corroborate the presence of these characteristics. In addition, performance on measures of attention, working memory and