

Association of FKBP5, COMT and CHRNA5 Polymorphisms with PTSD among patients at Risk for PTSD

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PTSD Diagnosis in 1994 – DSM-IV

- A1. Exposure to traumatic event
- A2. Experienced fear, helplessness, horror
- B. Re-experiences traumatic event
- C. Avoid stimuli associated with event
- D. Experiences hyper-arousal symptoms
- E. Duration of symptoms > 1 month
- F. Symptom cause distress or impairment

Prevalence of Traumatic Event Exposure

- Lifetime experience of qualifying traumatic even in U.S.: 60-90% ^{1,2,3,4}
- Lifetime prevalence of crime/aggravated assault: 36% ²
- Prevalence of combat experience <5%⁴

1. Norris, FH. 1992. J Consult Clin Psychol, 60:409-418
2. Resnick, H. 1993. J Consult Clin Psychol, 61:984-991
3. Breslau, N. 1998. Arch Gen Psychiatry, 55:626-632
4. Kessler, R. 1995. Arch Gen Psychiatry, 52:1048-1060

Prevalence of PTSD

- General population prevalence of PTSD in U.S.: 7.8-9.2% ^{1,3}
- Women twice as likely as men to have lifetime PTSD ¹
- Risk of PTSD after sexual/aggravated assault: 20-60% ^{1,2,3}
- Risk of PTSD after combat 10-15%⁴

1. Kessler, R. 1995. Arch Gen Psychiatry, 52:1048-1060
2. Resnick, H. 1993. J Consult Clin Psychol, 61:984-991
3. Breslau, N. 1998. Arch Gen Psychiatry, 55:626-632
4. Boscarino, J. 2006. *Ann Epidemiol*, 16: 248-58.

Risk Factors for PTSD

- History of childhood trauma¹
- Female gender²
- Recent stressful life events³
- Non-right handedness⁴
- Personality disorders, (e.g., ASP)⁵
- Low self-esteem³
- History of depression before trauma³

1. Kessler, R. 1995. Arch Gen Psychiatry, 52:1048-1060

2. Resnick, H. 1993. J Consult Clin Psychol, 61:984-991

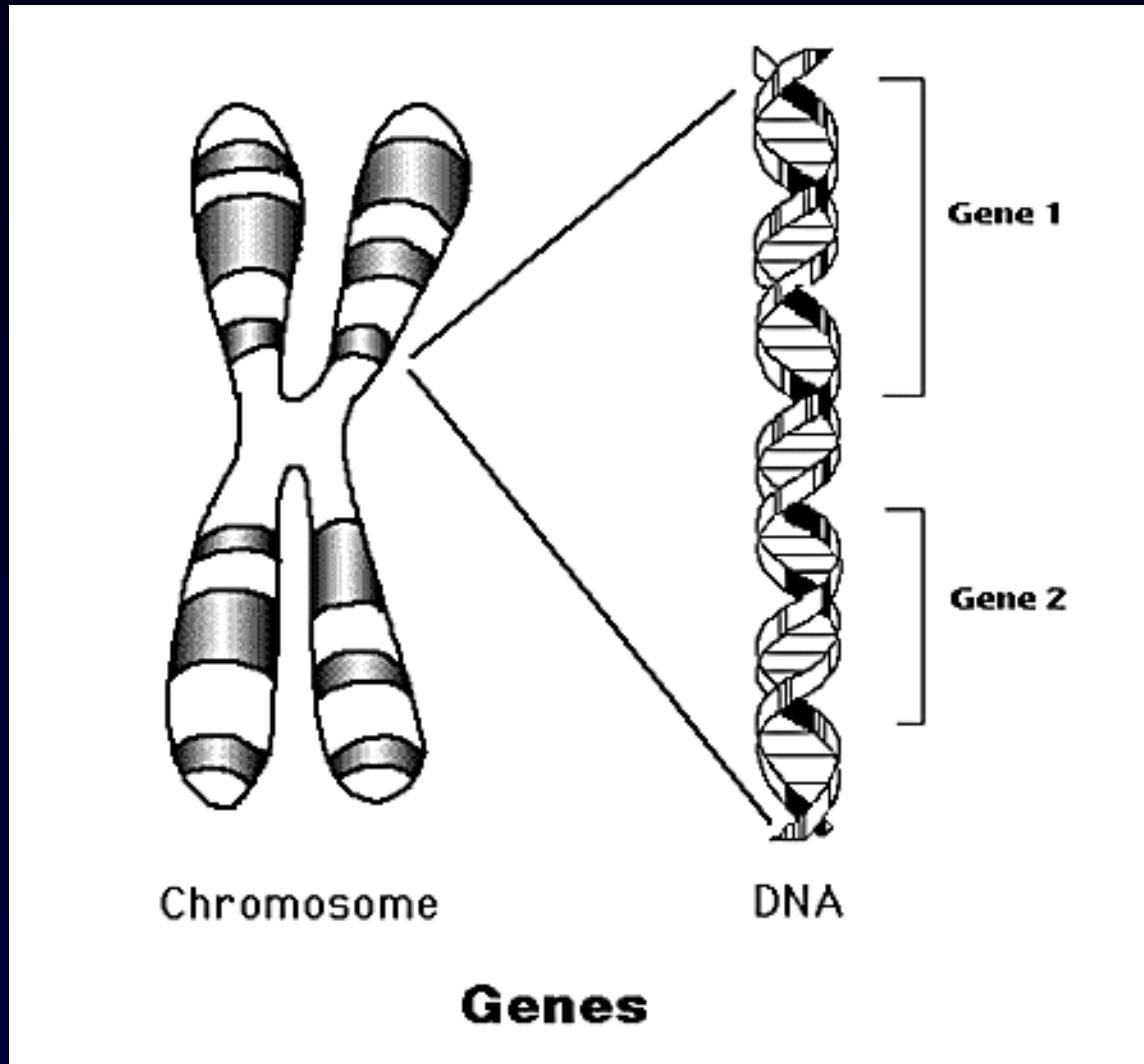
3. Boscarino, J. 2009. Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol. 44: 887-898

4. Boscarino, J. 2007. Psychosom Med, 69: 365-369

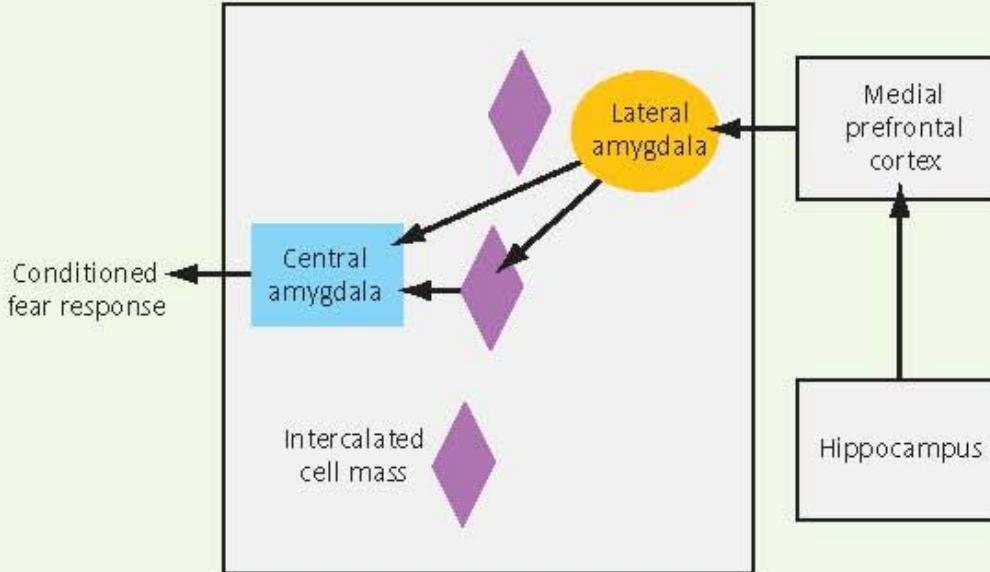
5. Sadock, B. Synopsis in Psychiatry, 10th Ed., 2007

Genetics of PTSD

Searching for Genetics of PTSD

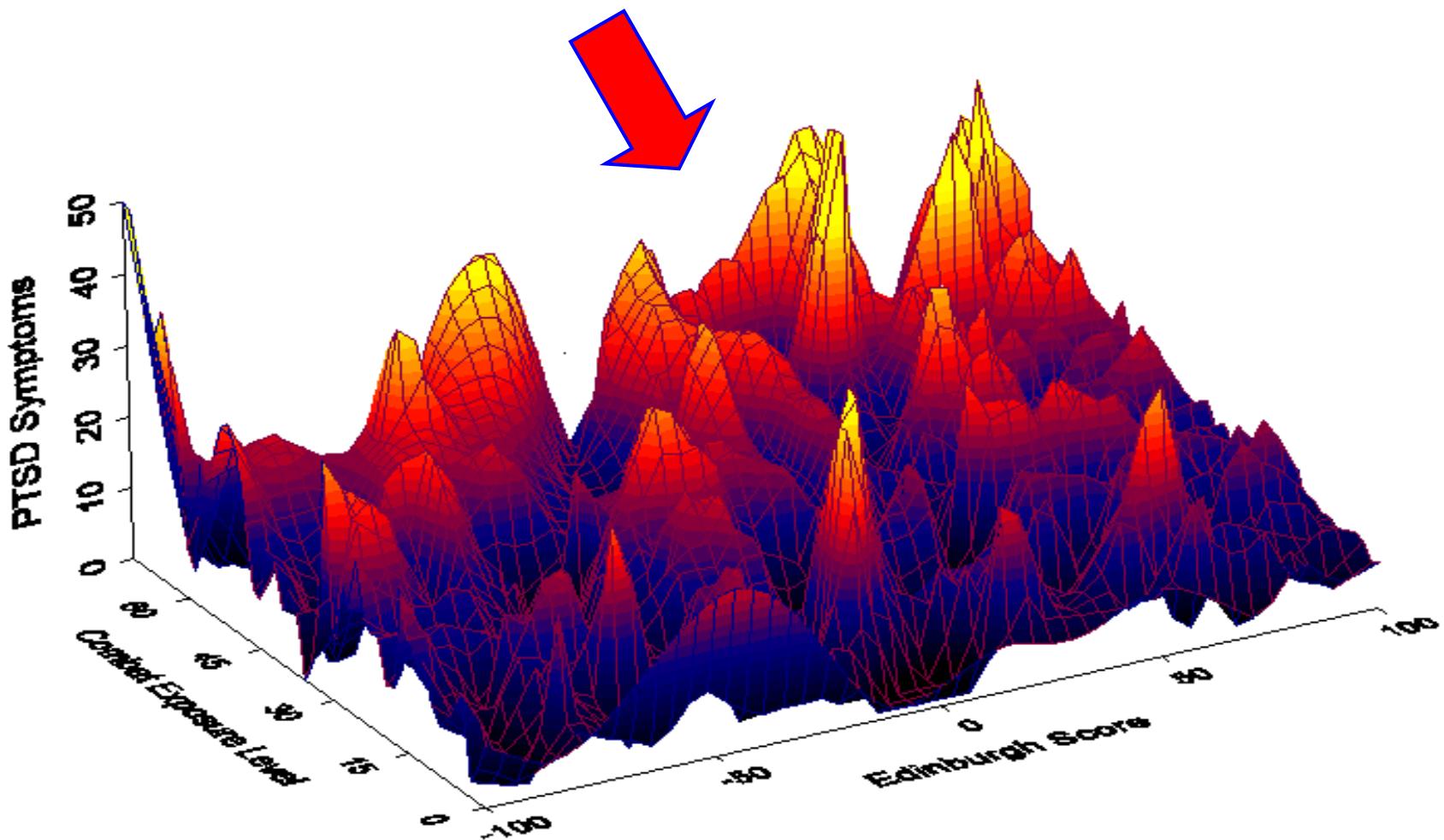


The Anatomy of Fear Extinction



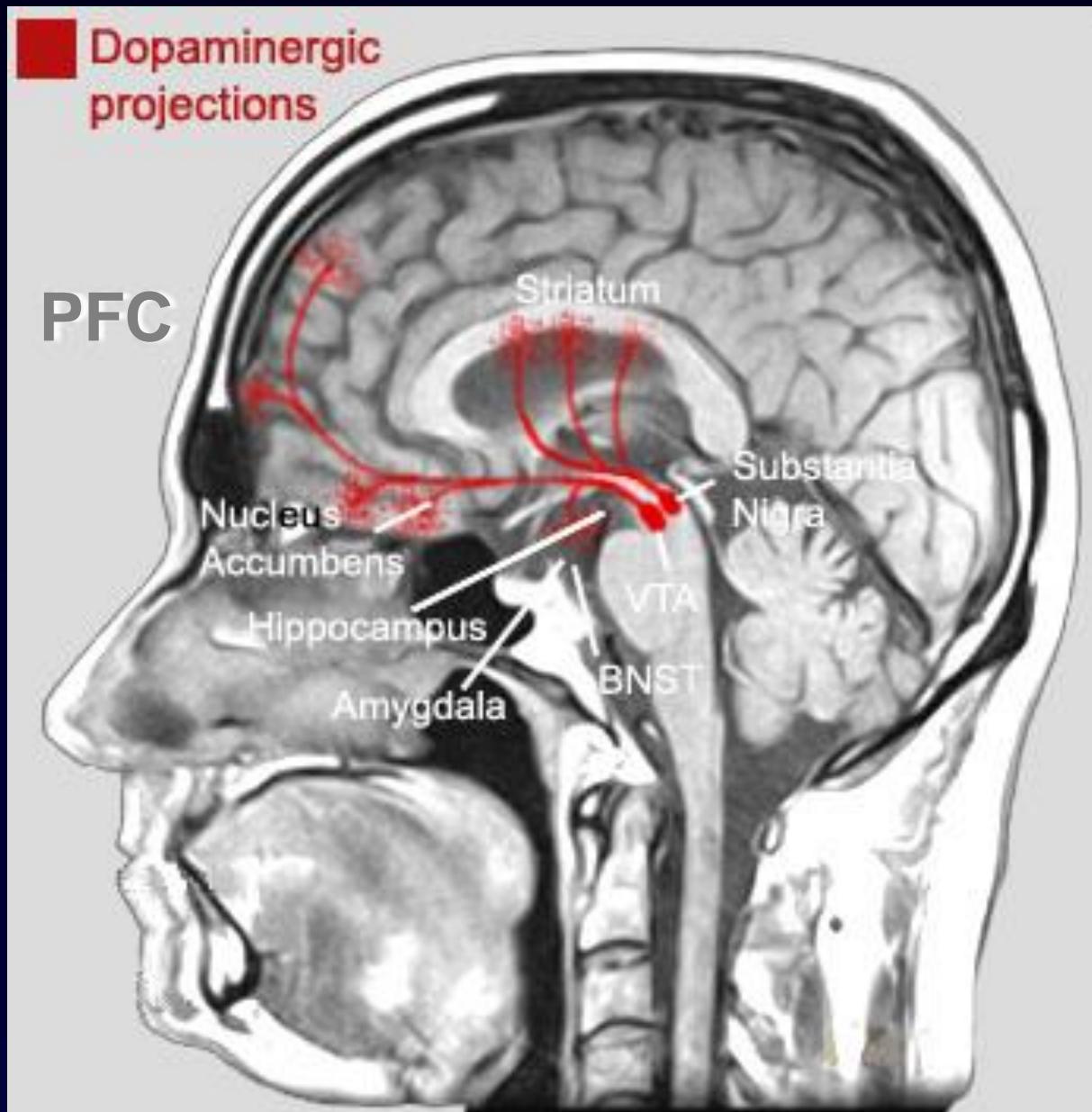
The fear extinction model has its origins in the classical conditioning that Ivan Petrovich Pavlov (left) first developed in dogs. Specific molecular events within the lateral amygdala facilitate extinction of fear learning (the conditioned fear response) hypothetically by stimulating inhibitory intercalated cell mass activity on the central amygdala. Regions within the prefrontal cortex (ventral and medial aspects) have an inhibitory influence on fear learning in the lateral and central amygdala, an influence modulated by hippocampal input to the ventral/medial prefrontal cortex. Circuit drawing modified from Sotres-Bayon F, Bush DEA, LeDoux JE: Emotional perseveration: an update on prefrontal-amygdala interactions in fear extinction. Learn Mem 2004; 11:525–535.

PTSD Symptoms by Combat Exposure by Handedness



Boscarino & Hoffman, Psychosomatic Medicine, 2007

PTSD and the Brain



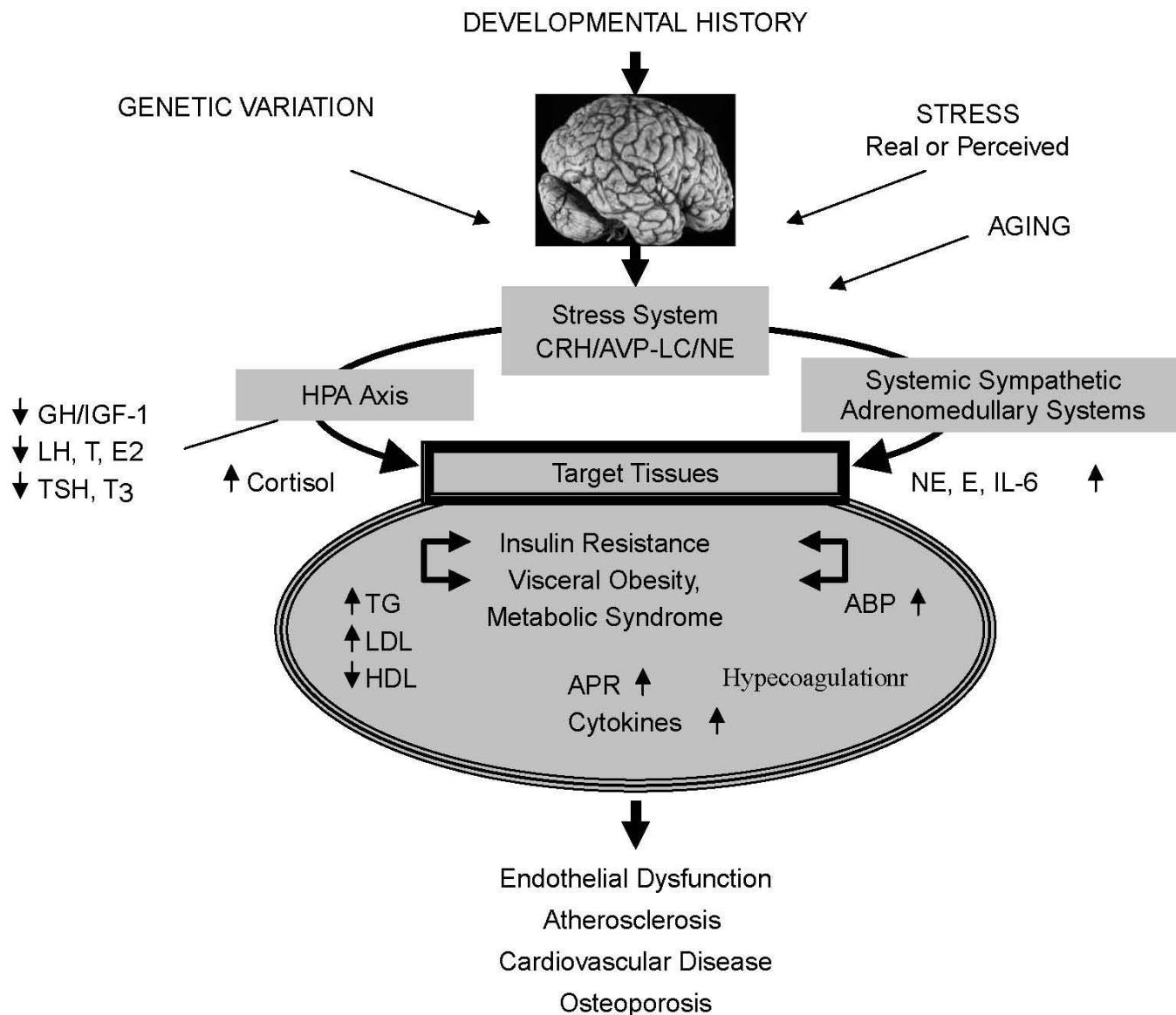


Figure 2. Endogenous/exogenous inputs to the stress system and their effects on the metabolic and cardiovascular systems and bone. ABP, arterial blood pressure; APR, acute phase reactants; AVP, arginine vasopressin; CRH, corticotropin-releasing hormone; E, epinephrine; E2, estradiol; GH, growth hormone; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; HPA axis, hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal axis; IGF-1, insulin-like growth factor-1; IL-6, interleukin-6; LC, locus caeruleus; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; LH, luteinizing hormone; NE, norepinephrine; T, testosterone; T3, triiodothyronine; TG, triglyceride; TSH, thyroid-stimulating hormone.

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Forthcoming: Psychiatry Research, 2011

Method

- Cross-sectional, candidate-gene study among Geisinger Clinic's outpatients
- Electronic Health Record (EHR) data were reviewed for patients prescribed pain meds. Patients selected for a phone interview if they had 4+ prescription orders for pain in the prior 12 months
- Cases were identified based on the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, Version IV* (DSM-IV) criteria

Method (cont'd)

- A modified Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) was used to obtain data on mental health status by telephone.
- Data were gathered on detailed drug, psychological, and environmental exposures.
- Data were also collected on exposure to psychological trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Altogether, 705 patients completed the CIDI; 505 of these patients (72%) provided DNA for genotyping and completed the NEO Five-Factor Personality Inventory.

Sample design for pain study

2459 adult long-term opiate users

- 9 primary care & 3 specialty clinics
- ≥4 prescriptions
- not cancer-related
- July 2006 – June 2007

86 not contacted (study quota met)

2373 attempted contact (mail/phone)

983 not reachable or not qualified

- Institutionalized (nursing home, correctional facility, mental institution, etc.)
- Incapable of answering questions
- Language barrier
- Denied taking medication
- Deceased
- Disconnected phone
- Busy signal/answering machine
- Business/wrong number

1390 surveyed (8/07 – 11/08)

685 Not interested/declined study

705 consented and completed questionnaire

505 genotyped

Collection of DNA

- Following the phone survey, patients were mailed buccal swab kits
- Patients provided a sample of their DNA (cheek cells) and returned by mail to Geisinger Clinic
- Altogether, 505 patients provided usable DNA of the 705 interviewed (72%)

Candidate Genes/SNPs Studied

SNP Marker	Gene	SNP Marker	Gene	SNP Marker	Gene
rs2283265	DRD2	rs279859	GABRA2	rs6265	BDNF
rs2734838	DRD2	rs17537141	GABRA2	rs929623	BDNF
rs11246226	DRD4	rs279830	GABRA2	rs9785023	NPY
rs3758653	DRD4	rs4646316	COMT	rs540825	OPRM1
rs11080122	SLC6A4	rs4680	COMT	rs1799971	OPRM1
rs140701	SLC6A4	rs9296157	FKBP5	rs6923231	OPRM1
rs6280	DRD3	rs9470080	FKBP5	rs6495308	CHRNA3
rs1800828	DRD3	rs9296158	FKBP5	rs660652	CHRNA3
rs324030	DRD3	rs4867796	DRD1	rs1051730	CHRNA3
rs5906957	MAOA	rs251937	DRD1	rs16969968	CHRNA5
rs2072743	MAOA			rs12443170	CHRNA3

DSM-IV Drug Dependence by Significant Predictors

Study Predictors	Total Sample Percent (N)	Lifetime Drug Dependence Percent (N)	No Lifetime Drug Dependence Percent (N)
Lifetime Opioid Drug Abuse			
% Yes	12.3 (88)	<u>31.8</u> (79)	1.9 (9)***
% No	87.7 (617)	68.3 (172)	98.1 (445)
Severity Opioid Dependence			
% High	15.1 (108)	<u>30.4</u> (77)	6.8 (31)***
% Not High	84.9 (597)	69.6 (174)	93.2 (423)
Lifetime Alcohol Dependence			
% Yes	9.7 (68)	<u>14.3</u> (36)	7.1 (32)**
% No	90.3 (637)	85.7 (215)	92.9 (442)
Lifetime Tobacco Dependence			
% Yes	36.3 (251)	<u>41.8</u> (103)	33.4 (148)***
% No	63.7 (454)	58.2 (148)	66.6 (306)
Lifetime Posttraumatic Stress			
% Yes	13.2 (97)	<u>21.3</u> (55)	8.7 (42)***
% No	86.9 (608)	78.7 (196)	91.3 (412)

** p<0.01

*** p<0.001

DSM-IV Drug Dependence by Significant Predictors

Study Predictors	Total Sample Percent (N)	Lifetime Drug Dependence Percent (N)	No Lifetime Drug Dependence Percent (N)
History Childhood Neglect			
% High	24.6 (178)	<u>33.0</u> (84)	20.1 (94)**
% Not High	75.4 (527)	67.0 (167)	79.9 (360)
History Exposure to Trauma			
% High	22.5 (161)	<u>31.8</u> (80)	17.5 (81)***
% Not High	77.5 (544)	68.2 (171)	82.5 (373)
History Illicit Drug Use			
% Yes	38.1 (273)	<u>50.3</u> (127)	31.5 (146)***
% No	61.9 (432)	49.7 (124)	68.5 (308)
History Substance Treatment			
% Yes	21.8 (153)	<u>36.4</u> (90)	13.9 (63)***
% No	78.2 (552)	63.6 (161)	86.1 (391)
History Anti-Social Personality			
% Yes	23.3 (167)	<u>32.7</u> (83)	18.3 (84)***
% No	76.7 (538)	67.3 (168)	81.7 (370)
(N =)	(705)	(251)	(454)

Boscarino et al. *Addiction* vol. 105; 2010.

Candidate Genes for PTSD

- HPA stress axis system
 - FKBP5
 - CRH-R1
- Locus coeruleus/noradrenergic systems
 - COMT
 - NPY
- Limbic-frontal brain/mesolimbic system
 - CHRNA5
 - DRD2
- Opioid system
 - OPRM1

Statistical methods (SNP Level)

- Linear models (additive genetic)

- continuous: $E(Y) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_n G_A$

- dichotomous: $\log(p/(1-p)) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_n G_A$

- adjustments:

DEM	Confounding factors
age	income
gender	education status
income	trauma exposure
etc.	childhood neglect
	neuroticism, etc.

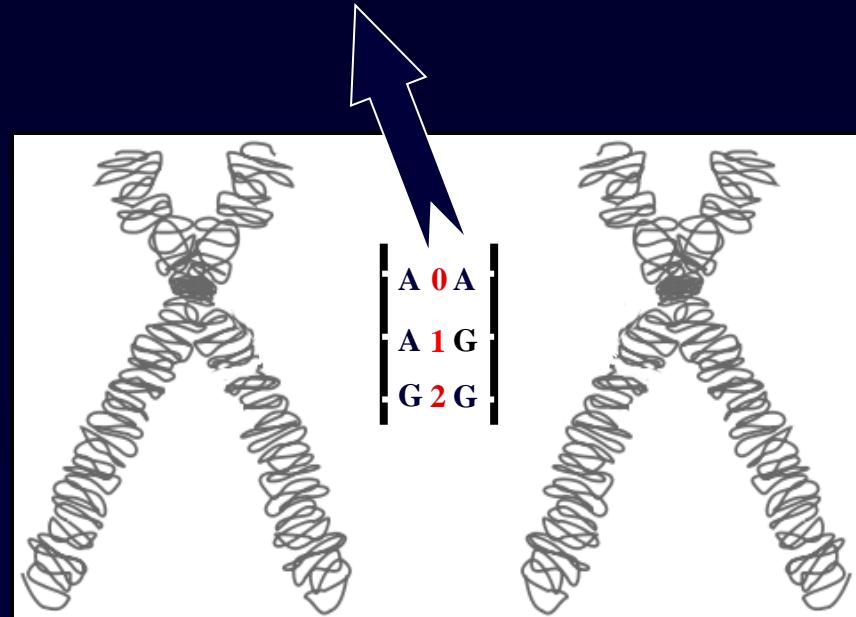


Table 1: Covariates in Genetic Model by PTSD

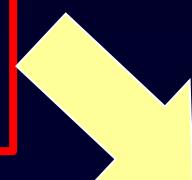
Study Variables	Total	No PTSD	PTSD*			P-value
	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	OR	95% C.I.	
Age:	18-39	10.3 (52)	9.1 (39)	17.6 (13)	5.52 2.06-14.8	0.001
	40-64	65.2 (328)	63.9 (274)	73.0 (54)	3.27 1.44-7.39	0.005
	65+ (ref)	24.5 (123)	27.0 (116)	9.5 (7)	--	--
Gender:	Male (ref)	30.2 (152)	31.9 (137)	20.3 (15)	--	--
	Female	69.8 (351)	68.1 (292)	79.7 (59)	1.85 1.01-3.37	0.037
Income:	>\$30,000 (ref)	57.5 (289)	59.7 (256)	44.6 (33)	--	--
	<\$30,000	42.5 (214)	40.3 (173)	55.4 (41)	1.84 1.12-3.02	0.016
Married:	No (ref)	38.2 (192)	35.9 (154)	51.4 (38)	--	--
	Yes	61.8 (311)	64.1 (275)	48.6 (36)	0.53 0.32-0.87	0.013
High trauma:	No (ref)	78.5 (395)	82.1 (352)	58.1 (43)	--	--
	Yes	21.5 (108)	17.9 (77)	41.9 (31)	3.30 1.95-5.56	< 0.001
High adversity:	No (ref)	73.2 (368)	77.2 (331)	50.0 (37)	--	--
	Yes	26.8 (135)	22.8 (98)	50.0 (37)	3.38 2.03-5.62	< 0.001
High neuroticism:	No (ref)	78.3 (394)	82.3 (353)	55.4 (41)	--	--
	Yes	21.7 (109)	17.7 (76)	44.6 (33)	3.74 2.22-6.30	< 0.001

*The lifetime prevalence of PTSD among pain patients was 14.7% (95% CI = 11.7-18.1%).

Exploratory Genetic Results

Phenotype/Gene (SNP) Marker (N = 503; Call Rate ~ 95%)	Crude Results				Adjusted Results*			
	OR	95% C.I.	(p)	OR	95% C.I.	(p)		
Lifetime Opioid Dependence (n=176)								
DRD3-280-Additive	1.54	1.15-2.05	(0.003)	1.42	1.05-1.91	(0.021)		
DRD3-828-Additive	1.57	1.15-2.13	(0.005)	1.53	1.11-2.12	(0.010)		
DRD3-828-Dominant	0.34	0.14-0.83	(0.018)	0.36	0.14-0.92	(0.032)		
Lifetime PTSD (n=73)								
FKBP5-080-Dominant (R)	2.77	1.43-5.40	(0.003)	2.83	1.41-5.69	(0.003)		
COMT-680-Additive	1.57	1.10-2.24	(0.014)	1.57	1.08-2.88	(0.018)		
CHRNA3-730-Additive	1.38	0.98-1.94	(0.064)	1.47	1.03-2.10	(0.034)		
CRH-402-Additive	1.49	1.01-2.2	(0.046)	1.33	0.89-2.01	(0.167)		
Lifetime Abuse - Any Drug (n=44)								
CHRNA3-652-Dominant	0.45	0.24-0.84	(0.013)	0.42	0.21-0.81	(0.010)		
Lifetime Poly-Drug Dependence (n=114)								
CHRNA3-170-Additive (2)	1.40	0.97-2.04	(0.071)	1.56	1.07-2.30	(0.023)		
Lifetime Cigarette Dependence (n=180)								
CHRNA3-652-Additive (2)	1.70	1.28-2.25	(0.00021)	1.70	1.27-2.27	(0.00031)		
CHRNA3-308-Additive (2)	1.39	1.04-1.86	(0.026)	1.43	1.06-1.93	(0.021)		
Amphetamine Use – Ever (n = 79)								
DRD2-838-Dominant (1)	0.61	0.37-0.99	(0.047)	0.61	0.37-0.99	(0.049)		

*Adjusted for age, gender, education, income, whites only



Exploratory Genetic Results (con't)

Phenotype/Gene (SNP) Marker (N = 503; Call Rate 90-95%)	Adjusted Results*				Adjusted Results**			
	OR	95% C.I.	(p)		OR	95% C.I.	(p)	
Lifetime PTSD (n=73)								
FKBP5 + COMT + CHRNA5 (0-4)	1.60	1.25-2.06	(0.000210)		1.70	1.27-2.24	(0.000185)	
FKBP5 + COMT + CHRNA5 + CRH (0-6)	1.60	1.24-2.07	(0.000313)		1.53	1.99-1.96	(0.000903)	
1. FKBP5 + COMT + CHRNA3 (0-4)	—	—	—		1.71	1.29-2.26	(0.000190)	
<u>Interaction:</u> high trauma x neuroticism	—	—	—		5.70	2.05-15.81	(0.003)	
2. FKBP5 + COMT + CHRNA3 (0-4)	—	—	—		1.78	1.34-2.67	(0.000065)	
<u>Interaction:</u> high neglect x neuroticism	—	—	—		6.04	2.58-14.15	(0.002)	
3. FKBP5 + COMT + CHRNA3 + CRH (0-6)	—	—	—		1.51	1.18-1.95	(0.002)	
<u>Interaction:</u> high trauma x neuroticism	—	—	—		6.46	2.09-19.91	(0.004)	
4. FKBP5 + COMT + CHRNA3 + CRH (0-6)	—	—	—		1.56	1.22-2.01	(0.000503)	
<u>Interaction:</u> high neglect x neuroticism	—	—	—		6.24	2.55-15.27	(0.0142)	
5. FKBP5 + COMT + CHRNA3 (0-4)	—	—	—		2.70	1.43-5.11	(0.002)	
<u>Interaction:</u> FKBP5COMTCHRNA x CRH	—	—	—		(See Figure 2)		(0.049)	

*Logistic regressions adj. for age, gender, education, income, whites only

**Logistic regressions adj. for age, gender, education, income, lifetime trauma, childhood neglect, neuroticism , whites only

FKBP5 = FK Binding Protein 5; **COMT** = catechol-O-methyltransferase; **CHARNA3** = cholinergic receptor, nicotinic, alpha polypeptide 3; **CRH-R1** = corticotropin releasing hormone receptor 1

Table 2: Individual SNP and Cumulative Risk Allele Model

Genetic markers	Unadjusted Results		Adjusted Results†		Adjusted Results††	
Individual SNPs	OR	95% C.I.	P-value	OR	95% C.I.	P-value
CHRNA5 rs16969968[A]	1.37	0.97-1.91	0.072	1.46	1.02-2.08	0.037
FKBP5 rs9470080[T]*	2.77	1.43-5.40	0.003	2.94	1.46-5.94	0.003
COMT rs4680[G]	1.57	1.10-2.24	0.014	1.55	1.06-2.26	0.023
<hr/>						
Cumulative Risk-allele (<i>model 1</i>)	OR	95% C.I.	P-value	OR	95% C.I.	P-value
rs16969968 + rs9470080 + rs4680)	1.52	1.19-1.93	0.001	1.55	1.20-2.00	0.001
						0.000426

†Adjusted for demographic variables, including age, gender, income, education, and marital status.

††Adjusted for demographic variables plus: lifetime history of trauma exposure, history of childhood adversity, and neuroticism.

Table 3: Association between Risk Alleles and PTSD

Genetic marker		Total	No PTSD	PTSD
Genotype (value)		% (n)	% (n)	% (n)
CHRNA5 (rs16969968)	GG (0)	46.4 (228)	48.1 (201)	37.0 (27)
	AG (1)	38.9 (191)	38.0 (159)	43.8 (32)
	AA (2)	14.7 (72)	13.9 (58)	19.2 (14)
FKBP5 (rs9470080)	CC+CT (0)	89.2 (421)	91.0 (366)	78.6 (55)
	TT (1)	10.8 (51)	9.0 (36)	21.4 (15)
COMT (rs4680)	GG (0)	25.8 (128)	27.4 (116)	16.4 (12)
	AG (1)	49.6 (246)	49.6 (210)	49.3 (36)
	AA (2)	24.6 (122)	22.9 (97)	34.2 (25)
Risk-Allele Count	0 Alleles (0)	11.2 (52)	12.8 (51)	1.4 (1)
	1 Alleles (1)	30.9 (144)	31.0 (123)	30.4 (21)
	2 Alleles (2)	32.4 (151)	33.8 (134)	24.6 (17)
	3 Alleles (3)	19.5 (91)	17.4 (69)	31.9 (22)
	4+Alleles (4)	6.0 (28)	5.0 (20)	11.6 (8)

SNP Marker Specifications

Marker specifications (NCBI build 37.1)				
SNP	Gene	Chromosome (map location)	MAF (minor/common)	Functional annotation
rs16969968	CHRNA5	15 (78882925)	35% (A/G)	Missense (D↔N)
rs9470080	FKBP5	6 (35646435)	33% (T/C)	Intron
rs4680	COMT	22 (19951271)	49.5% (G/A)	Missense (V↔M)

MAF: minor allele frequency

Genetic Predictors of PTSD: Best Model (N= 502)

Predictor	Odds Ratio	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	P-value
FK+CM+CH5*	1.65	1.25	2.16	.000426

*FK = FK Binding Protein 5 (FKBP5); CM = catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT); CH5 = cholinergic receptor, nicotinic, alpha polypeptide 5 (CHRNA5)

FK+CM+CH5 = 0-4 at-risk alleles (continuous variable)

World Trade Center Disaster Study



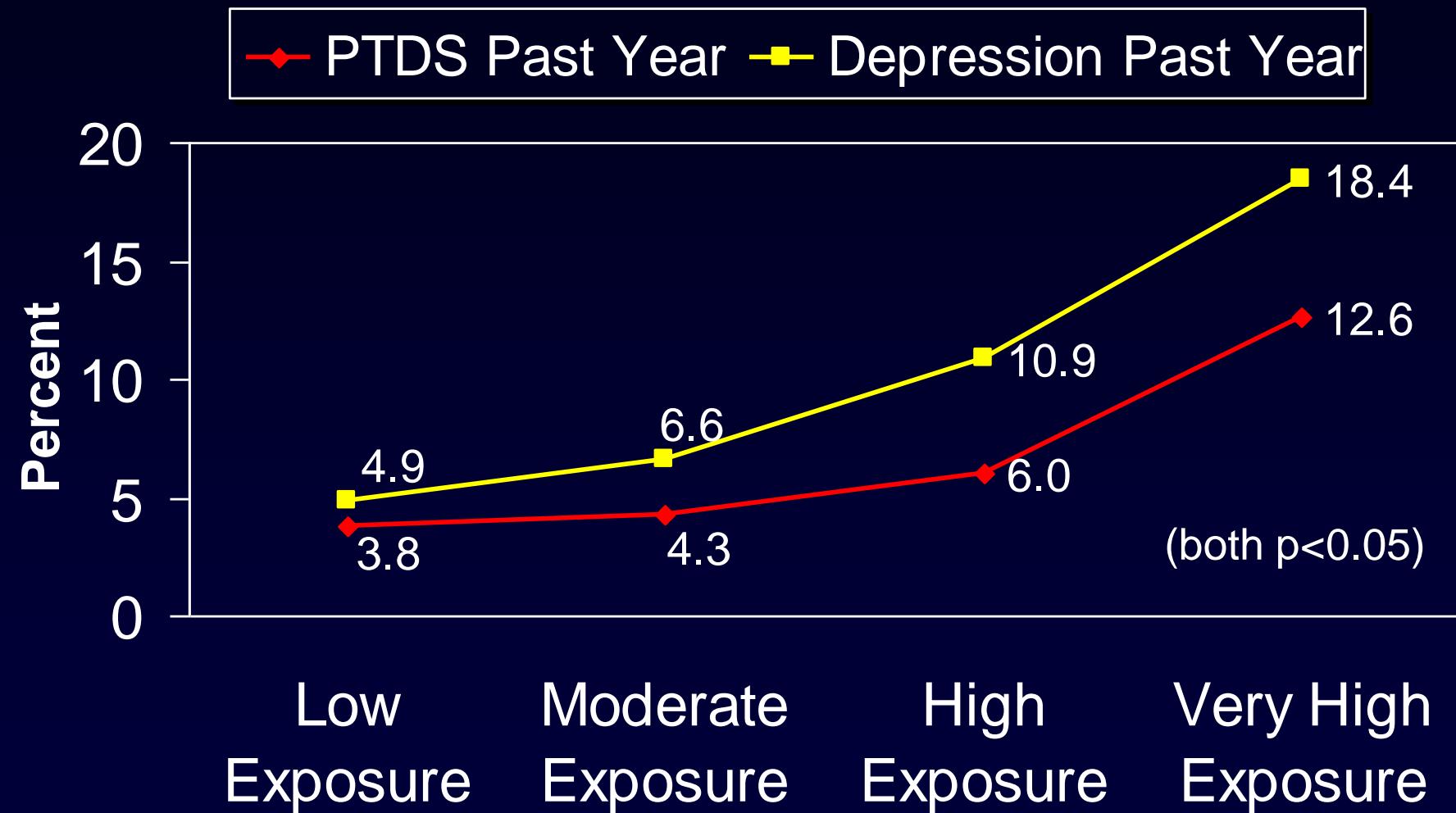
NBC News

WTCD Study Contributors

(Impact of Mental Health Services in NY after WTC Disaster - R01 MH66403)

- Joseph Boscarino, PhD, MPH – Study PI
- Richard Adams, PhD
- Charles Figley, PhD
- Sandro Galea, MD, DrPH
- Heidi Resnick, PhD
- Edna Foa, PhD
- Joel Gold, MD
- Michael Bucuvalas, PhD
- David Vlahov, PhD

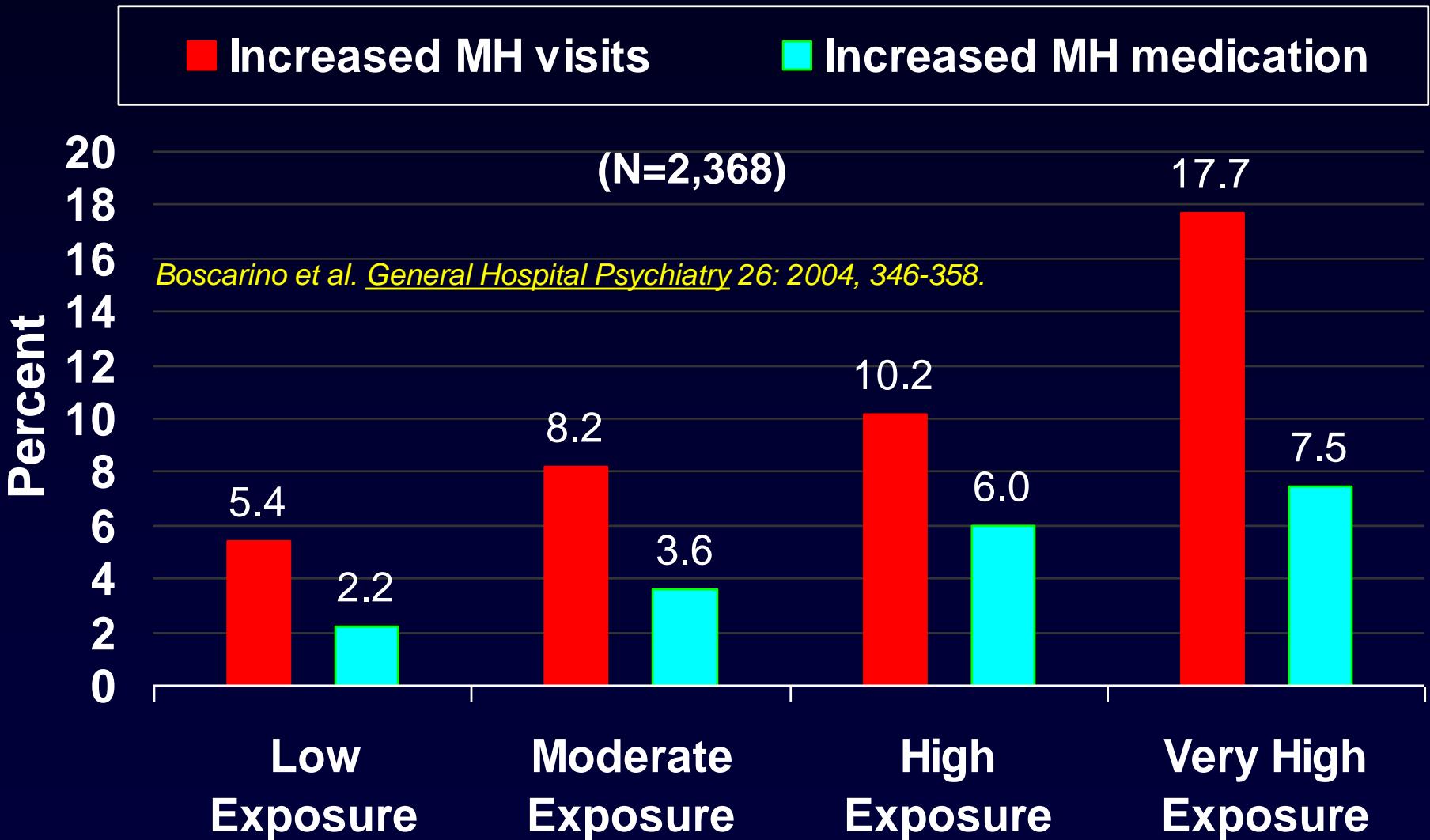
Prevalence of PTSD and depression by Exposure to WTC disaster - wave 1 (N=2,368)



Boscarino et al. Mental Health Service Use 1-Year after the World Trade Center Disaster. *General Hospital Psychiatry* 26: 2004, 346-358.

Exposure to WTC disaster and mental health visits/medication use – W1

(all comparisons significant at $p < .05$, χ^2 test)



Developing PTSD Risk Assessment Tools Using the World Trade Center Study

(NIMH # R21-MH-086317)

- The objective of this application is to differentiate trauma survivors who recover from PTSD from those who develop enduring symptoms.
- To meet this objective, we are using a dataset originally developed by the WTCD Study.
- These data were collected during a NIMH-funded study, “Impact of Mental Health Treatment in NY after WTC Disaster” (MH-66403).
- This study collected detailed medical, mental status, trauma, demographic, psychosocial, and exposure data spanning both the pre-WTCD and post-WTCD periods.

Genetic vs. Psychosocial Predictors of PTSD (N= 502)

Predictor	Odds Ratio	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	P-value
FK+CM+CH5*	1.65	1.25	2.16	.000426
WTCD PTSD Prediction Model**	34.26	15.90	73.82	.0000000000000000184

*FK = FK Binding Protein 5 (FKBP5); CM = catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT); CH5 = cholinergic receptor, nicotinic, alpha polypeptide 5 (CHRNA5)

**Positive PTSD screener, sleep problems, depression symptoms, trauma history, age, gender, ethnicity, etc.

Figure 1. Regression-tree results showing interactions between risk-allele counts, neuroticism, trauma exposure & childhood adversity
 (all p-values shown Bonferroni adjusted hierarchically for multiple comparisons)

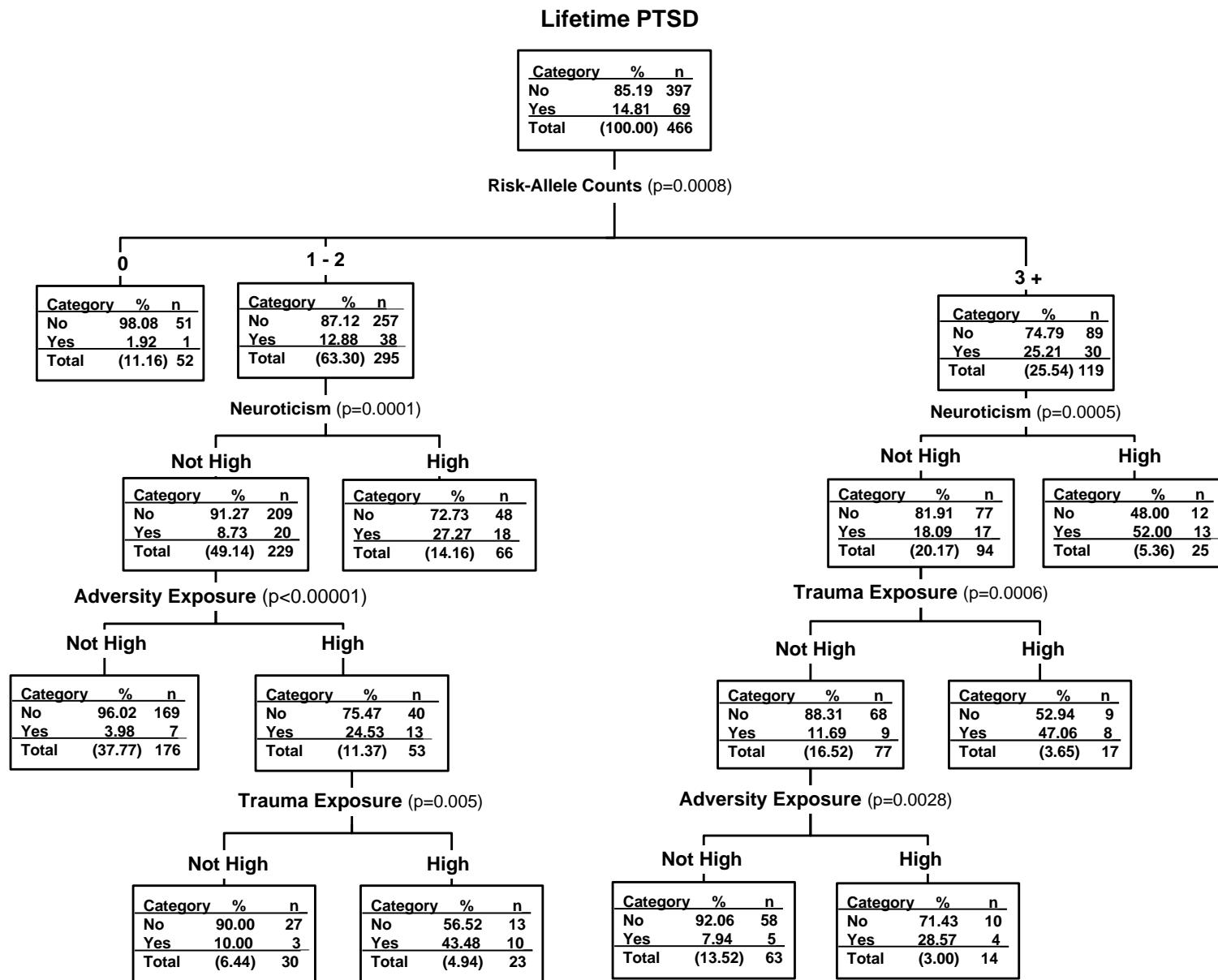


Figure 2. Percent prevalence of PTSD, trauma, adversity and neuroticism by risk-allele counts*

