Differential Accelerated Aging in Affective & Non-Affective Psychosis

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Background

- Global Efficiency (i.e. functional integration) of the Cingulo-Opercular Network (CON), Fronto-Parietal Network (FPN), and Subcortical Network support cognitive functioning¹ and demonstrate aging effects².
- Preliminary findings from one small study suggest schizophrenia may be associated with accelerated aging (AA) of CON and FPN efficiency³.
- The present study was undertaken to: 1) test for presence of AA of CON and FPN in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder; 2) replicate prior studies linking network efficiency to cognition; 3) test for reduced network efficiency in psychosis.

Methods

Procedures

The following were collected on 420 individuals:
- Resting-state fMRI on a 3T scanner located at Vanderbilt;
- The Screen for Cognitive Impairment in Psychiatry (SCIP), a brief neuropsychological battery.

Sample Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Healthy Controls N=178</th>
<th>Schizophrenia N=177</th>
<th>Bipolar Disorder N=64</th>
<th>Statistic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (SD)</td>
<td>29.13 (10.60)</td>
<td>28.41 (10.56)</td>
<td>30.08 (11.91)</td>
<td>F(2,417)=.599, p=.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (M/F)</td>
<td>110/69</td>
<td>122/47</td>
<td>117/47</td>
<td>X²=12.44, p=.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race (W/R/O)</td>
<td>125/42/12</td>
<td>122/47/8</td>
<td>53/55</td>
<td>X²=12.94, p=.044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Education</td>
<td>14.44 (2.26)</td>
<td>14.66 (2.79)</td>
<td>14.60 (2.49)</td>
<td>F(2,373)=.899, p=.408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Education</td>
<td>15.15 (2.22)</td>
<td>13.34 (2.23)</td>
<td>14.22 (1.86)</td>
<td>F(2,392)=29.42, p&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Cognition</td>
<td>0.00 (1.0)</td>
<td>-1.92 (1.69)</td>
<td>-31 (1.37)</td>
<td>F(2,414)=85.85, p&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generalized Cognitive Deficit

General cognitive ability was measured as the shared variance in performance in all subdomains of the Screen of Cognitive Impairment in Psychiatry (SCIP). Factor scores from the 1st (and only) factor with an eigenvalue>1 was used as an estimated of cognitive ability.

Network Global Efficiency

Functional Connectivity was calculated from the 264 Power ROIs, which designates nodes within the CON, FPN, and Subcortical Network. Global Efficiency within thresholded (5%-10%) networks was calculated for each subject and averaged across thresholds. Global Efficiency was calculated using algorithms from the Brain Connectivity Toolbox³.

Results

Testing Presence of Accelerated Aging in Schizophrenia and Psychotic Bipolar Disorder

Age was significantly negatively associated with global efficiency in all networks, across all subjects (p<.001). A significant group x age interaction was seen in CON and FPN, but not the Subcortical Network (statistics on graph). Age was significantly correlated with CON efficiency in schizophrenia (r=-.359, p<.001), and bipolar disorder (r=-.355, p=.004) but not controls (r=-.114, p=.13). Age was significantly correlated with FPN efficiency in schizophrenia (r=-.332, p<.001) not bipolar disorder (r=.09, p=.479) or controls (r=-.052, p=.49).

Network Efficiency Associated with Cognitive Ability

General cognitive ability was significantly associated with CON, FPN, and Subcortical Network global efficiency in linear regressions that included diagnostic group, gender, race, and interaction terms.

Group Differences in Network Global Efficiency

Conclusions

- Efficiency of the CON and FPN, but not the Subcortical Network, decline at an accelerated rate in schizophrenia, replicating previous findings.
- Efficiency of the CON and FPN also support general cognitive ability, suggesting that accelerated decline may impact cognition and ultimately functional outcome in chronic schizophrenia.
- While CON efficiency exhibited evidence of accelerated aging in bipolar disorder, the FPN did not, suggesting that accelerated decline of network integration may be specific to schizophrenia.

References


Support: Charlotte and Donald Test Fund; NIMH R01 MH070560 (SH); NIMH R01 MH102266 (NDW)

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