

₩#CHAIR2019



Early Life Predictors for Developing Anxiety and Depression

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Learning Objective

Explore early risk factors for the development of anxiety and depression.



ANXIETY DISORDERS

- Most common class of psychiatric disorders
- Causes suffering & reduces quality of life
- Knowledge of neural substrates are important for development of novel therapies

Kessler RC, et al. *Epidemiol Psychiatr Soc.* 2009;18(1):23-33.

Anxiety Disorders in Childhood

- Common, in children and adults
 Affect up to 20% of youth
- Cause family, academic, and social dysfunction
- Prominent risk factor for psychopathology during adolescence and adulthood
- High levels of comorbidity with anxiety disorders and other disorders
- Understanding the neurobiology of anxiety early in life is needed to develop early interventions





Heritability of Anxiety Disorders

Summary and Meta-Analysis of Twin Studies for Anxiety Disorders

| Disorder | Reference | Number of studies | Ν | Sex | a ² | C ² | e ² |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|--------|------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| PD | Hettema <i>et al.</i> , ⁹ 2001 | 3 | 9007 | M, F | 0.43 (0.32-0.53) | _ | 0.57 (0.47-0.68) |
| Agoraphobia | Kendler <i>et al.</i> , ¹⁰ 1992 | 1 | 2163 | F | 0.39 | _ | 0.61 |
| | Kendler <i>et al.</i> , ¹¹ 2001 | 1 | 2396 | М | 0.37 | _ | 0.63 |
| GAD | Hettema et al.,9 2001 | 2 | 12 924 | М | 0.32 (0.24-0.39) | _ | 0.68 (0.61-0.76) |
| SAD | Scaini <i>et al.</i> , ¹² 2014 | 5 | 20 433 | M, F | 0.27 (0.12-0.42) | 0.04 (-0.01-0.09) | 0.69 (0.59–0.79) |
| Animal phobia | Van Houtem <i>et al.</i> , ¹³ 2013 | 5 | 17 904 | M, F | 0.32 (0.22-0.44) | _ | _ |
| Situational phobia | Van Houtem <i>et al.</i> , ¹³ 2013 | 4 | 16 474 | M, F | 0.25 (0-33) | _ | _ |
| Blood-injury-injection | Van Houtem <i>et al.</i> , ¹³ 2013 | 3 | 10 741 | M, F | 0.33 (0.28-0.63) | - | - |

Confidence intervals are shown in parentheses.

Additive genetic effects (a^2) represent the genetic component of variance due to the average effects of single alleles and are known as heritability; shared environment effects (c^2) are explained by events that happen to both twins, affecting them in the same way; non-shared environment effects (e^2) are explained by events that occur to one twin but not the other, or events that affect either twin in a different way.

GAD, generalized anxiety disorder; PD, panic disorder; SAD, social anxiety disorder.

Shimada-Sugimoto M, et al. Psychiatry Clin Neurosci. 2015;69(7):388-401.





Mutations



Genome-Wide Analysis of Over 106000 Individuals Identifies 9 Neuroticism-Associated Loci



Even Identical Twins Can Differ



Epigenetics of Stress-Related Disorders: Gene X Environment Interactions



Figure 2. Schematic Representation of Main Features of Epigenetic Regulation by Posttranslational Histone Modification, DNA Methylation, and Non-coding RNA

This overview explicitly reduces and simplifies the complex and multifaceted mechanisms of epigenetic regulation for clarity. More specialized reviews for a deeper description of this matter are given in the text.

(A) Histone modifications influence the condensation of the DNA around histone proteins and regulate the accessibility of functional regions to transcriptional regulators, through modification at predominantly the N-terminal tails, altering the spatial structure of the chromatin and the interaction with DNA-binding proteins. Contingent on the location and the type of modification, this can lead to a more condensed chromatin-repressing active transcription (exemplified by histone H3, lysine 27 dimethylation (H3K27me2) and histone H3, lysine 9 trimethylation (H3K9me3)) or vice versa to an open chromatin state facilitating

active transcription (exemplified by histone H3, lysine 4 trimethylation (H3K4me3) and histone H3, lysine 9 acetylation (H3K9ac)). (B) DNA methylation predominantly at CG dinucleotides (CpG) can influence the spatial structure of the DNA and the binding of or repression of specific DNAbinding proteins to the DNA. The closed circles represent higher methylation at cytosine residues, and the open circles represent lower methylation. Methylation around the transcription start site in the promoter and the first exon is usually accompanied by transcriptional silencing. DNA methylation at other regulatory regions and in the gene body can also facilitate transcription. Not depicted here are other modifications such as hydroxymethylation.

(C) Non-coding RNAs that include, for example, miRNA can influence chromatin structure and protein binding to the DNA but also directly target transcription and translation. Depicted here is the regulation of mRNA stability through binding of miRNAs at the 3'UTR of target mRNA that can lead to a decrease in mRNA stability, a decrease in mRNA cleavage, and therefore a reduction in protein assembly.

Klengel T, Binder EB. Neuron. 2015;86(6):1343-1357.

Inhibited or Anxious Temperament (AT): Risk Phenotype That Precedes Anxiety and Depressive Disorders

- Extreme behavioral inhibition to novel situations or strangers
- Predicts development of anxiety disorders, depression, and co-morbid drug abuse
- 3-4 fold risk to develop social anxiety disorder
- Can be identified early in life
- Inhibited monkeys and humans share behavioral and physiological features

Clauss JA, Blackford JU. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2012;51(10):1066-1075.



Proposed Anxiety Trajectories for Children with High Anxious Temperament

a) Pathological Anxiety: Trajectories for Children with High AT



Fox AS, Kalin NH. Am J Psychiatry. 2014;171(11):1162-1173.

b) Extreme AT children are at risk for psychopathology across the lifespan



Nonhuman Primates Provide a Unique Opportunity for Studying Human Psychopathology



Anxious Temperament: A Composite Including Freezing and HPA Activity



Fox AS, et al. PLoS One. 2008:3(7):e2570.

The Amygdala is Critical for Fear and Anxiety



Ledoux AA, et al. Front Behav Neurosci. 2014;8:88.

Amygdala – Frontal Connectivity: A Pathway for Emotion Regulation

D24

M25

MPAII

M9

M14

Heavy

Light

Moderate



Adapted from Ghashghaei HT, et al. Neuroimage. 2007;34(3):905-923.

Validation of the Nonhuman Primate Model: Altered Prefrontal-Amygdala Function in Pre-adolescent Children with Anxiety Disorders and Young Rhesus Monkeys



Elevated Dorsal Amygdala/Ce Activation During Uncertain Anticipation in Preadolescent Children with Anxiety Disorders



Builds on sample from Williams LM, et al. Neuropsychopharmacology. 2015;40(10):2398-2408.



Heritability of AT



$h^2 = .36$



Fox AS, et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2015;112(29):9118-9122.





Evolutionarily-Conserved Decrease in dIPFC-Ce Functional Connectivity in Young Anxious Monkeys and Children



Birn RM, et al. Mol Psychiatry. 2014;19(8):853.

White Matter Tracts in Relation to Anxiety Disorders

- Consists of axons and myelin
- Timing and integration of information
- 50% of the brain, yet often ignored







Schmahmann JD, Pandya DN. J Hist Neurosci 2007;16(4):362-377.

Decreased White Matter Integrity (FA) in the UF Associated with Higher Anxiety Across Age and Species



Tromp DP, et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2012;69(9):925-934.

Tromp DP, et al. Am J Psychiatry. 2019 Jan:appiajp201818040425. doi: 10.1176/appi.ajp.2018.18040425. [Epub ahead of print]

Extended Amygdala is a Core Component of AT with Downstream and Upstream Partners



Mechanistic Role of Ce: Neurotoxic **Lesions Alter Components of AT**



Kalin NH, et al. J Neurosci. 2004;24(24):5506-5515.

Performing Post-Mortem Transcriptome Studies to Identify Novel Molecular Targets

Assessing gene function measuring mRNA



Why Study RNA?

- Reflection of the regulated step between DNA and protein
- Deficits in RNA expression and regulation is linked to numerous diseases

Identifying Alterations in Gene Expression Relevant to AT: At-Related Ce Gene Expression



Expression of Neuroplasticity-Related Genes in Ce is Negatively Associated with AT



- mRNA processing (GO:0006397)
- Neurotrophin TRK receptor signaling pathway (GO:0048011)
- Axon guidance (GO:0007411)

1. Fox AS, Souaiaia T, et al. Presented at Society of Biological Psychiatry, 70th Annual Meeting. May 14-16, 2015.; 2. Fox AS, et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci U. S. A. 2012;109(44):18108-18113.; 3. Fox AS, Kalin NH. Am J Psychiatry. 2014;171(11):1162-1173.

Ce NTRK3 Gene Expression Predicts AT in 46 Young Non-Human Primates



Fox AS, Souaiaia T, et al. Presented at Society of Biological Psychiatry, 70th Annual Meeting. May 14-16, 2015.

Combining gene manipulation studies with behavioral and human imaging measures as a "proof of concept" for testing new drug targets in primates.



Real-Time MRI for Site Specific Delivery of Viral Vector (AAV2)



presurgical



Navigus port

alignment guide & intraoperative trajectory planning



adjust angle until alignmnet stem overlaps with target

depth assessment infusion monitoring



Kalin NH, et al. Biol Psychiatry. 2016;80(5):345-355.

Testing the Neuroplasticity Hypothesis: AAV5 Virus to Overexpress NT-3





Kalin NH, et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2016;80(5):345-355.

Overexpression of NT3 in Neurons of the Dorsal Amygdala



Kalin NH, et al. Biol Psychiatry. 2016;80(5):345-355.

Ce AVV5 NT3 Decreases AT



AT is significant p<.05 one-tailed significant, t=-2.515, p=0.066; t=-3.013, p=0.039, two-tailed paired t-test Kalin NH, et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2016;80(5):345-355.

Reversibly Manipulating Neural Circuits in Primates: Proof of Concept for Humans



In Vivo PET Assessment of DREADDs. Clozapine Binding

Right hemisphere injections: Amygdala (24 μL) and Putamen (24 μL) $_{AAV2/5-hSyn-hM4Di\,-\,6.95\,x\,10^{13}\,\,gc/ml}$

iMRI

[¹¹C]clozapine PET

Subject 43





DREADDs Expression in the Primate Amygdala



AAV2/5-hSyn-hM4Di - 6.95 x 10¹³ gc/ml

EM localization of DREADDs expression



In collaboration with Adriana Galvan

Effect of hM4Di DREADDs activation on Freezing during NEC condition





Call to Action

- It is important to take into account complex interactions between genetic and early life environment
- Identify early risk associated with sub-syndromal trait-like anxiety
- Early interventions have the potential to be preventative
- New treatments should be based on scientific knowledge focused on molecular alterations in specific neural circuits





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A Review and Meta-Analysis of the Genetic Epidemiology of Anxiety Disorders

John M. Hettema, M.D., Ph.D. Michael C. Neale, Ph.D. Kenneth S. Kendler, M.D. **Objective:** The authors conducted metaanalyses of data from family and twin studies of panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, phobias, and obsessivecompulsive disorder (OCD) to explore the roles of genetic and environmental factors in their etiology.

Method: MEDLINE searches were performed to identify potential primary studies of these disorders. Data from studies that met inclusion criteria were incorporated into meta-analyses that estimated summary statistics of aggregate familial risk and heritability for each disorder.

Results: For family studies, odds ratios predicting association of illness in first-degree relatives with affection status of the proband (disorder present or absent) were homogeneous across studies for all disorders. The calculated summary odds ratios ranged from 4 to 6, depending on the disorder. Only for panic disorder and generalized anxiety disorder could the authors identify more than one large-scale twin study for meta-analysis. These yielded heritabilities of 0.43 for panic disorder and 0.32 for generalized anxiety disorder. For panic disorder, the remaining variance in liability could be attributed primarily to nonshared environment. For generalized anxiety disorder, this was true for men, but for women, a potentially significant role for common familial environment was also seen.

Conclusions: Panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, phobias, and OCD all have significant familial aggregation. For panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and probably phobias, genes largely explain this familial aggregation; the role of family environment in generalized anxiety disorder is uncertain. The role of nonshared environmental experience is significant, underscoring the importance of identifying putative environmental risk factors that predispose individuals to anxiety.

Hettema JM, et al. Am J Psychiatry. 2001;158:1568-1578.

Childhood Normative Fears and Development



Figure adapted from Beesdo-Baum K, Knappe S. *Child Adolesc Psychiatri Clin N Am.* 2012;21:457-478. Craske MG, Stein MB. *Lancet.* 2016;388(10063):3048-3059.

Human Intruder Paradigm: A Method to Assess Adaptive Defensive Responses as Well as Anxious Temperament

No eye contact condition (NEC) ALONE CONDITION NO-EYE-CONTACT CONDITION



Assessing AT



Kalin NH. Sci Am. 1993;268:94-101.

Capturing Ce and BST Neurons with LCM for RNAseq



Neurons from 47 animals from CeL have already been collected.

Mean = 650 neurons std = 66

Ce AVV5 NT3 FDG-PET Change is Associated with Freezing



Ce / BST Metabolism

and correlated

Anxious Temperament

Group by time interaction (pos): p<.05, two-tailed AND negatively correlated with pre-post change in AT, p<.05, two-tailed

Kalin NH, et al. Biol Psychiatry. 2016;80(5):345-355.

Support for Our Extended Amygdala Neuroplasticity Hypothesis in Mediating AT



Fox AS, et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U. S. A.* 2012;109(44):18108-18113. Fox AS, Kalin NH. *Am J Psychiatry.* 2014;171(11):1162-1173.

Testing Mediators Of AT: Corticotrophin Releasing Hormone (CRH) In Ce

CRH Receptors are expressed in Ce

CRHR1



Sanchez et al., 1999

CRHR1 SNPs are associated with AT



Rogers J, et al. Mol Psychiatry. 2013;18(6):700-707.



CRH expression in HEK293 Cells infected with CRH AAV2 construct



Overexpression of CRH in the Ce



Kalin NH, et al. Biol Psychiatry. 2016;80(5):345-355.

Ce CRH Overexpression Increases AT

