

MRI STUDY OF GENETICS AND BRAIN FUNCTIONING IN ADULTS WITH VCFS WITH A HISTORY OF PSYCHOSIS

Drs. Wendy R. Kates and Robert J. Shprintzen
SUNY Upstate Medical University, Department of Psychiatry

We would like to invite your participation in a study of genetics and brain functioning in adults with VCFS who are between the ages of 18 and 35 years and have a history of psychosis.

Adults with VCFS appear to be at increased risk for developing psychiatric disorders as adults. An important goal of our study is to understand *how* the gene-brain-behavior relations in VCFS may lead to these difficulties. We can acquire valuable information about your brain's functioning with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). An fMRI scan provides detailed images of your brain's activities as you perform various problem-solving tasks, which we can compare to those of other adults who do not have the chromosome 22 deletion. By measuring the specific patterns of brain activation, we can investigate whether differences in brain functioning contribute to the psychiatric difficulties we see in adults with VCFS.

Adults who participate in our study will receive an fMRI brain scan, a psychiatric interview about emotional/behavioral functioning and complete psychological standardized testing. In addition, we will take a small amount of your blood for genetic studies. Please be assured that no radiation is involved in an MRI scan. Participation will take about 5 hours. Any testing done for research purposes only will be provided at no charge.

Reimbursement for hotel expenses and for a portion of travel expenses will be provided to adults with VCFS that come from out of town. Each adult who participates in the study will receive a \$50 stipend for their participation as well as a written report describing the results of all tests administered.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:
Anne Marie Higgins, MA, FN, Patient Care Coordinator
Center for the Diagnosis, Treatment and Study of Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome
SUNY Upstate Medical University
750 East Adams Street
Syracuse, New York 13210
Phone: 315-464-6595
higginsa@upstate.edu