PROJECT RESUME

Although the hippocampus and amygdala have been linked to psychotic experiences (PEs), their output tracts, the fornix and stria terminalis, are understudied in individuals with PEs. Using magnetic resonance imaging data from the Adolescent Brain Development study at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, this project aims to understand the relationship between these tracts, PEs and neuropsychological measures in a cohort of 50 young adolescents. Using an anatomically validated model of fornix and stria medullaris generation, the tracts will be reconstructed, and diffusion metrics extracted. Group differences between PEs and controls and correlations with neuropsychological measures will be explored using appropriate statistical techniques. This project applies sound anatomical principles to the analysis of psychiatric data. Ultimately, this will further our understanding of the functional anatomy of the fornix and stria terminalis and the influence of the microstructural anatomy on psychological symptoms.

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