

Compensation

Earn up to \$315 or more by the end of the study, depending on your participation.



Be part of an international research study testing a supplement that may help reduce symptoms of early psychosis.



If you are interested in learning more about this study, please call or e-mail:

Corin Pilo, MA
617-754-1224
cpilo@bidmc.harvard.edu

Chelsea Wakeham, BA
617-754-1237
cwakeham@bidmc.harvard.edu

Ann Cousins, PhD, APRN
617-754-1211
acousins@bidmc.harvard.edu

Larry J. Seidman, PhD
Principal Investigator &
Center Director

Ann Cousins, PhD, APRN
Psychiatric Nurse Specialist

Chelsea Wakeham, BA
Research Assistant

Matcheri Keshavan, MD
Research Psychiatrist

Wilson Woo, MD, PhD
Research Psychiatrist

Joanne Wojcik, PhD, APRN
Psychiatric Nurse Specialist



Study of a New Use of an Add-On Drug in the Early Phase of Psychosis

Larry Seidman, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator



Commonwealth Research Center
A Center of Excellence in collaboration with the
Massachusetts Department of Mental Health,
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and the
Harvard Medical School
Department of Psychiatry

What are we studying?

When a person experiences psychosis, there are often changes in the way he or she feels, thinks, perceives and interacts with their world. These changes may be linked to changes in the brain. We are studying a substance that has promise in reducing these changes early in the illness.

What is NAC?

N-Acetyl-Cysteine (NAC) is a precursor of glutathione, a molecule in the brain, which is important to brain function. A precursor is a substance from which another more active substance is formed.

Decreased glutathione in the brain may be a factor that increases vulnerability for developing psychosis.

- ◆ NAC works as an antioxidant,
- ◆ NAC helps genes that protect nerve and other cells against damage, and
- ◆ NAC helps the brain make glutathione.

Why study NAC?

NAC has been studied and found helpful with some types of respiratory problems and in some people with long-term psychosis. We are studying the use of NAC in people with early phase psychosis when changes in thinking, memory, or problem-solving may occur.

Who can participate?

If you, or someone you know, have recently had a first psychotic episode and are aged 18-35, you may be eligible for this research study.

Symptoms of psychosis include unusual ideas or beliefs, paranoia, hallucinations, and confused thinking.

You may have also been hospitalized in the recent past for a psychotic disorder.

If you have recently recovered from a first episode of psychosis, you may still be eligible to take part.

What is involved?

- ◆ About 9-10 visits spread over 28 weeks,
- ◆ An initial set of personal interviews and brief interviews at other visits,
- ◆ Paper and pencil tests of your thinking and memory,
- ◆ Blood tests and a specialized EEG at the beginning and at months 6 & 7,
- ◆ Taking either the NAC or placebo (inactive) in the form of an effervescent tablet, which is dissolved in water, and
- ◆ Continuing your usual medication treatment by your doctor.

Study Location

This study is being done at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center and the main campus of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

We encourage you to contact us if this study interests you. It will be our pleasure to answer your questions.

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