and an understanding of withdrawal and its natural history is rarely considered from the user's perspective.
Aims/Methods: This presentation will outline the results of a study of 150 dependent psychostimulants users and their experiences of withdrawal treatment and of withdrawal. A detailed retrospective natural history was documented using a structured and semistructured interview format.

Identification of a bipolar disorder susceptibility locus on chromosome 15Q

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Background: Bipolar affective disorder (BP) is a relatively common, severe mood disorder characterized by periods of mania and depression, with estimates of lifetime prevalence up to 4%.
Method: We conducted a 10-cM genome scan on 35 multigenerational pedigrees with 288 genotyped individuals (130 affected according to a broad disease definition). Subsequent fine mapping was conducted on the region with significant linkage results and was assessed using parametric, nonparametric and multipoint linkage analysis methods, as well as haplotype analysis based on pedigree-specific, identical-by-descent allele sharing.
Results: The genome scan identified significant linkage on chromosome 15q25-26 and suggestive evidence on chromosomes 4q, 6q and 13q. Analysis of the 15q25-26 region, including additionally typed chromosome 15q markers, gave significant results with a maximum two-point LOD score of 3.38 and a multipoint LOD score of 4.58 for marker D15S130. A maximum NPL score of 3.38 ($P = 0.0008$) was obtained at 107.16 cM near D15S130. The 95% confidence interval estimation suggested a support interval spanning 17 cM between the markers D15S979 and D15S816. Haplotype analysis supported the 95% confidence interval estimates.
Conclusions: The significant and supporting results from a number of analysis methods performed on chromosome 15q25-26 provide evidence for a BP susceptibility locus in this region. It is further supported by linkage findings from studies on recurrent early-onset major depressive disorder, BP with psychotic features, and a study of schizophrenic and BP subjects, suggesting that the locus might contain a gene conferring susceptibility to both mood and psychotic disorders.

A blinded, placebo-controlled randomized trial of low-dose risperidone, intensive psychological treatment and befriending in young people at risk of psychotic disorder: baseline characteristics of the sample

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Background: Intervention during the prodromal phase of psychotic disorder has become an important focus of early intervention research.
Method: The PACE Clinic, ORYGEN Youth Health, has been conducting a blinded randomized controlled trial (RCT) comparing the effectiveness of low-dose risperidone (0.5–2.0 mg/day) and intensive CBT-based psychological treatment vs. placebo and intensive CBT-based psychological treatment vs. placebo and a control psychological treatment (befriending). The trial consists of a 12-month treatment phase, followed by a 12-month follow-up phase. The primary outcome of interest is the proportion of patients meeting onset of psychosis criteria during the treatment and follow-up phases.
Results: The current presentation will describe baseline characteristics of the sample. About 119 participants (mean age = 18.36 years, men = 41.2%) meeting ultrahigh-risk criteria for psychotic disorder were randomized to the three treatment groups. Baseline characteristics will be compared between 1) the three treatment groups and 2) the treatment groups and a monitoring group ($n = 83$, mean age = 18.45 years, men = 41%), who received 'treatment as usual'.
Conclusion: Pending.

The defensive function of persecutory delusions: an investigation using the Implicit Association Test

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Background: Delusions are first-rank symptoms of schizophrenia. Of all delusional themes, delusions of persecution are the most commonly observed clinically and the most vigorously researched empirically. Bentall et al. claim that persecutory delusions are constructed defensively, for the maintenance of self-esteem. A central prediction of their model is that

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0924270800030556 Published online by Cambridge University Press