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What can the brain tell us about patient subtypes in psychosis?

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What can the brain tell us about patient subtypes in psychosis?

Psychosis is a condition that affects the mind, and people who experience it are temporarily detached from reality. Psychosis can be induced by many different conditions, for example, a psychiatric cause (e.g. schizophrenia), or a secondary condition induced by some substance or traumatic experience. Hence, different types of causes for psychosis may exist and we want to have a better classification system.

We look at the brain for an answer because psychosis is a symptom of brain disorder. Currently, there is no biological test to know why psychosis develops and how to treat it. Prescription of antipsychotic medications is, therefore, often based on the psychiatrist's experience and sometimes, trial-and-error. Studying the brain, including its shape, structure, chemicals, physiology, etc. can help us better understand the cause and improve treatment for psychosis.