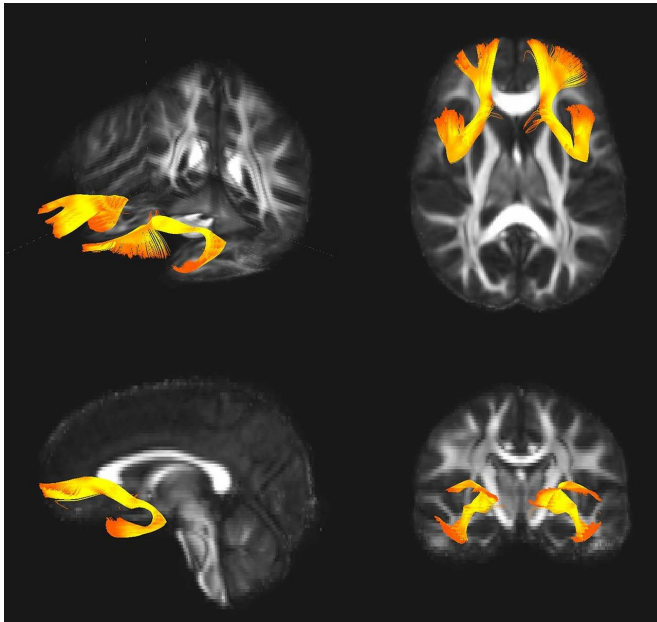


Shared genetics in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder

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processing between brain regions involved in regulating emotions. Consistent with this idea, the variant was associated with larger amygdala volume and altered prefrontal-limbic connectivity.

The authors replicated these findings in independent samples, minimizing the potential for false positives and increasing confidence in their results. The research confirms a shared genetic component of these disorders and points to a potentially new condition that may arise in patients with varying diagnoses in which this gene is implicated, such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

More information: A multi-level functional study of a SNAP25 at-risk variant for bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, *Journal of Neuroscience* (2017).

[DOI: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1040-17.2017](https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1040-17.2017)

A genetic variant implicated in bipolar disorder and schizophrenia is associated with larger amygdala volume and altered prefrontal-limbic connectivity. Credit: Stéphane Jamain (data from diffusion-imaging.com)

Provided by Society for Neuroscience

A genetic variant associated with multiple psychiatric disorders drives changes in a brain network that may increase an individual's risk of developing bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, finds a study published in *Journal of Neuroscience*.

Stéphane Jamain and colleagues used genetic analysis and neuroimaging in samples of adults with schizophrenia, early-onset [bipolar disorder](#) and healthy controls—in addition to postmortem analysis of brain tissue from schizophrenia patients—to demonstrate that a variant of a gene involved in neurotransmission is associated with both disorders. They found that this [genetic variation](#) changes the expression of the SNAP25 protein in the brain, which may impact information

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