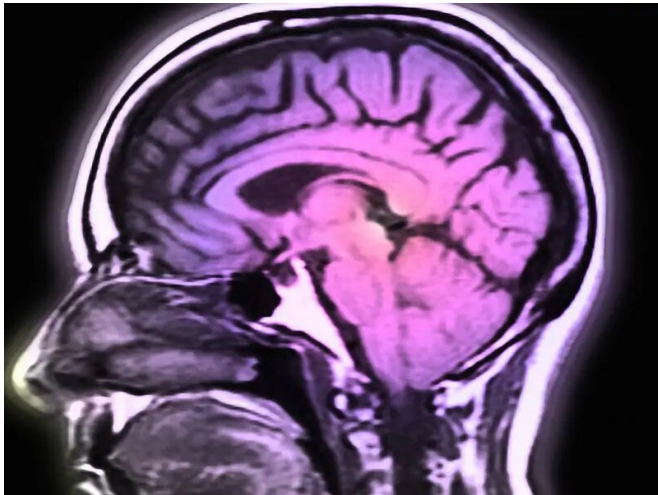


Brain changes from multiple sclerosis may occur in preteens

6 April 2020



independent sample of 186 children.

"This is the first study to show that greater [genetic predisposition](#) for MS is associated with higher global brain [white matter](#) fractional anisotropy at an early age in the [general population](#)," the authors write. "Our results suggest a preadolescent time window within neurodevelopment in which MS risk variants act upon the brain."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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(HealthDay)—Greater genetic predisposition for multiple sclerosis (MS) is associated with altered brain white matter development at an early age, according to a study published online March 12 in the *Annals of Neurology*.

C. Louk de Mol, from the Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam in the Netherlands, and colleagues evaluated the association between MS polygenic risk scores and brain imaging outcomes in a large, population-based pediatric sample (ages 8 to 12 years old). Participants underwent genotyping and T1-weighted volumetric (1,136 individuals) and/or diffusion tensor imaging (1,088 individuals).

The researchers observed no associations between the genetic risk for MS and regional volumes. There was a [positive association](#) noted between the MS polygenic risk scores and global fractional anisotropy. Findings showed higher fractional anisotropy and lower radial diffusivity in several tracts. These results were replicated in an

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