

# Smaller Anterior Hippocampal Formation Volume in Antipsychotic-Naïve Patients With First-Episode Schizophrenia

Philip R. Szeszko, Ph.D.

Ethan Goldberg, B.A.

Handan Gunduz-Bruce, M.D.

Manzar Ashtari, Ph.D.

Delbert Robinson, M.D.

Anil K. Malhotra, M.D.

Todd Lencz, Ph.D.

John Bates, Ph.D.

David T. Crandall, Ph.D.

John M. Kane, M.D.

Robert M. Bilder, Ph.D.

**Objective:** The authors investigated volumetric alterations of the anterior hippocampal formation in patients experiencing a first episode of schizophrenia relative to healthy comparison subjects.

**Method:** From contiguous 1.5-mm coronal magnetic resonance images, the hippocampal formation was divided into posterior and anterior segments, and the anterior hippocampal formation was separated from the amygdala. Volumes of the posterior and anterior hippocampal formation and amygdala were computed in 46 (31 male and 15 female) patients experiencing a first episode of schizophrenia and in 34 (21 male and 13 female) healthy comparison subjects. Twenty-four patients were antipsychotic naïve at the time of the scan.

**Results:** Patients had significantly reduced total (right plus left) anterior hippocampal formation volume relative to healthy comparison subjects but did not differ in volumes of either the posterior hippocampal formation or amygdala. Similar findings were obtained when analyses were restricted to the antipsychotic-naïve subgroup of patients.

**Conclusions:** These findings suggest that volumetric abnormalities of the hippocampus-amygdala complex may be specific to the anterior hippocampal formation in patients experiencing a first episode of schizophrenia and are consistent with hypotheses regarding abnormal frontolimbic connectivity playing a role in the pathophysiology of the disorder.

(*Am J Psychiatry* 2003; 160:2190–2197)

Abnormalities in temporolimbic structures have been widely implicated in the pathophysiology of schizophrenia (1). Postmortem studies investigating the hippocampus in patients with schizophrenia have reported pyramidal cell disarray (2), reduced pyramidal cell density (3) and number (4), smaller neurons (5), and reduced volume (6, 7). In contrast, there has been less convincing postmortem evidence for amygdala abnormalities in schizophrenia (8–10). Although postmortem studies have provided important neurohistological findings regarding pathology in schizophrenia, potential limitations of such studies include cause of death, illness duration, and extensive prior pharmacologic intervention.

In vivo magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) studies have provided further evidence that patients with schizophrenia have temporolimbic abnormalities. A meta-analysis of 18 volumetric structural MRI studies reported a 4% reduction in bilateral hippocampus volume in patients (11). Inclusion of the amygdala in this analysis significantly increased the effect sizes across studies, suggesting that schizophrenia involves amygdala pathology as well. Moreover, subsequent MRI studies have also identified hippocampal (12–18) and amygdala (13, 19) abnormalities in schizophrenia, although negative findings have also been reported (20, 21).

Functional magnetic resonance imaging (22) and proton magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging (23) stud-

ies suggest that the hippocampus may be divided along its rostrocaudal axis and that these regions have different neuroanatomical projections and different functional correlates (24–26). There is evidence that the dorsal hippocampus (corresponding to the posterior hippocampus in humans) is involved in spatial learning and memory (27), supporting the idea that this part of the hippocampus is part of a functional network that is connected with sensory cortical areas, including the parietal cortex (28, 29). In contrast, animal studies suggest that the ventral (corresponding to the anterior hippocampus in humans) or rostral hippocampus has strong connections with prefrontal regions (30–32). Moreover, overactivity of the ventral hippocampus has been reported to increase dopamine in the nucleus accumbens (33, 34). Thus, the anterior hippocampus may be relevant to hypotheses regarding the pathophysiology of schizophrenia (35–40) and the mechanism of action of antipsychotic agents that ameliorate symptoms associated with the disorder (41). Moreover, MRI studies have reported abnormalities in anterior hippocampal regions in patients (42–47) that are linked to deficits on neuropsychological tests of frontal lobe function (35, 40, 48, 49), implicating a defect in frontolimbic connectivity in the pathophysiology of schizophrenia.

Although the anterior hippocampus may be relevant to neurobiological models of schizophrenia, prior volumetric

studies of the hippocampus-amygdala complex may have methodological limitations that preclude firm conclusions regarding specificity of anatomic pathology. First, few volumetric studies have distinguished the anterior hippocampus from the posterior hippocampus (12, 21, 35, 40, 50) despite differences in anatomic connectivity and function. If structural abnormalities are more pronounced in the anterior hippocampus, then studies examining the entire hippocampus might fail to detect significant group differences. Second, of several published studies that implicated anterior hippocampal volumetric abnormalities in schizophrenia (42–44, 50–52), only the study by Pegues et al. (50) measured the anterior hippocampus separately from the amygdala. Thus, in the majority of prior studies anterior hippocampal volumes may have included the most caudal part of the amygdala, whereas amygdala volumes may have included the most rostral part of the anterior hippocampus. It should be acknowledged, however, that in the study by Velakoulis et al. (12) that used two-dimensional shape information, a selective anterior hippocampal deficit in chronic patients was ruled out.

In this study we distinguished between the posterior and anterior hippocampal formation and separated the anterior hippocampal formation from the amygdala. Volumes of these brain regions were computed from contiguous 1.5-mm MRIs in patients experiencing a first episode of schizophrenia and matched healthy comparison subjects. Patients were studied at the onset of their first episode of illness to minimize possible confounds associated with long-term exposure to antipsychotic medications and potential neurodegenerative effects. Moreover, to rule out potential confounds of current antipsychotic exposure on brain structure volumes, a subgroup of patients who had never been exposed to antipsychotic medications also received MRI exams. Given the relevance of the anterior hippocampus to the pathophysiology of schizophrenia, we tested the hypothesis that patients with schizophrenia would demonstrate smaller anterior hippocampal formation volume relative to healthy comparison subjects.

## Method

### Subjects

At initial presentation, subjects were assessed with a structured diagnostic interview: the Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia (53) during the first part of the study and the Structured Clinical Interview for Axis I DSM-IV Disorders (SCID) (54) during the later parts of the study. Subjects were longitudinally assessed, and study diagnoses for the initial episode were assigned by using information from the baseline structured interview, longitudinal psychopathology ratings, and clinical data from the treatment team. All patients met either Research Diagnostic Criteria (55) for schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder or DSM-IV criteria for schizophrenia, schizophreniform disorder, or schizoaffective disorder and had fewer than 12 weeks of cumulative (lifetime) antipsychotic drug treatment. Diagnoses for the 46 subjects were schizophrenia (N=31), schizophreniform disorder (N=10), and schizoaffective disorder (N=5). Mean age at first psychotic symptoms was 22.0 (SD=4.8). Psychopathology was as-

essed with the Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia–Change Version (SADS-C) (56) and the Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms (SANS) (57). The median number of weeks from the administration of antipsychotic medication to the MRI exam was 0 (range=-1 to 44). Twenty-four patients had never received antipsychotic medication.

Healthy comparison subjects were recruited from local newspaper advertisements and through word of mouth in the community. Inclusion criteria for healthy subjects were age of 16–40 years and no history of psychiatric or medical illness as determined by clinical interview and, for 17 individuals, supplemented by the nonpatient version of the SCID. Exclusion criteria for all study participants were serious neurological or endocrine disorder, any medical condition or treatment known to affect the brain, or mental retardation per DSM-IV. There was no overlap between this study group and those of our prior studies of the hippocampus-amygdala complex (35, 40). All procedures were approved by the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System institutional review board, and written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

### MRI Procedures

MRI exams were conducted at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Images were acquired in the coronal plane by using a three-dimensional fast spoiled gradient recall acquisition with inversion recovery Prep (TR=12.7 or 14.7, TE=4.5 or 5.5 msec, field of view=22 cm) on a 1.5-Tesla whole body superconducting imaging system (General Electric, Milwaukee). This sequence produced 124 contiguous images (slice thickness=1.5 mm) through the whole head with in-plane resolution of 0.86 mm × 0.86 mm in a 256×256 matrix. All scans were reviewed by a neuroradiologist and a member of the research team, and any scan with significant artifacts was repeated. Patients typically received 1–2 mg of oral lorazepam before the scan.

### Measurement Procedures

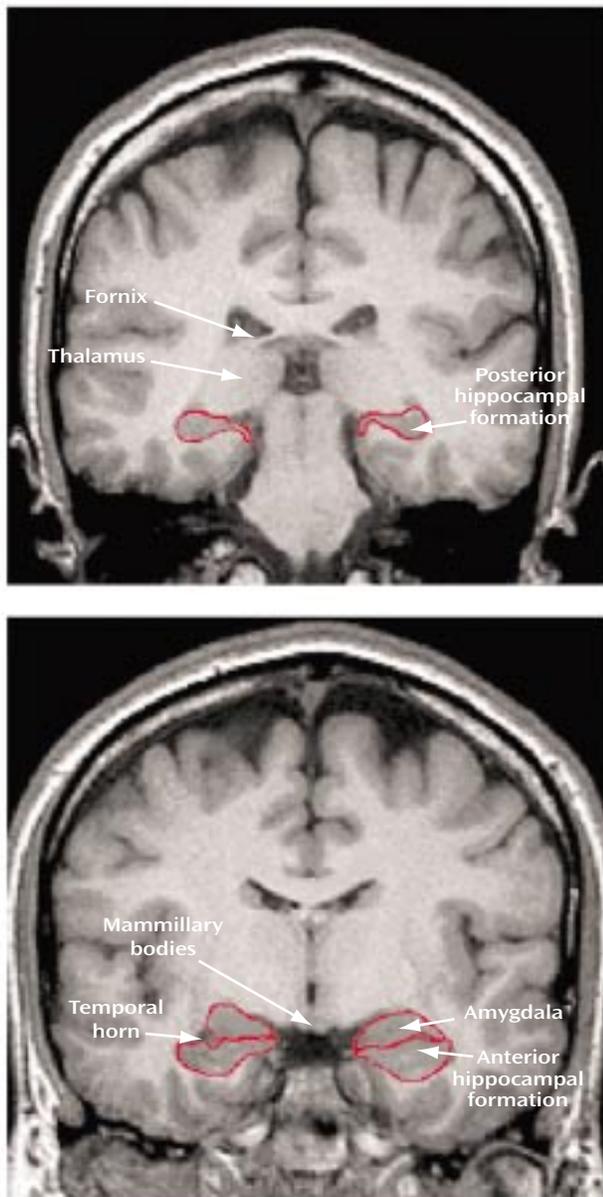
All measurements were completed in MEDx (58). Scans of patients and healthy comparison subjects were mixed together randomly, and no identifying information was available to the operator from the scan. The spoiled gradient recall acquisition images were aligned along the anterior and posterior commissures for standardization across subjects and flipped randomly in the right-left axis so that the operator was blind to hemisphere. The operator (E.G.) performing the measurements was blind to the study hypotheses.

**Total intracranial contents.** Measurement of total intracranial contents was completed in MEDx by computing the volume of the total cerebrum, CSF cerebellum, and brainstem. Interrater reliability between two raters as assessed by intraclass correlations in nine cases was 0.99.

**Hippocampus-amygdala complex.** Three contiguous portions of the hippocampus-amygdala complex were measured in each hemisphere: 1) the posterior hippocampal formation, 2) anterior hippocampal formation, and 3) the amygdala. Neuroanatomical boundaries were based on operationalized criteria from postmortem histological work (6, 59) and prior published studies (7, 60–63). The operator used the neuroanatomical information available in each orthogonal plane to facilitate measurement of these regions and to distinguish them from surrounding structures. The anatomic regions are illustrated in Figure 1. Intraclass correlations (ICCs) between three operators for nine cases were moderate to high for the posterior hippocampal formation (right: ICC=0.87; left: ICC=0.88), anterior hippocampal formation (right: ICC=0.94; left: ICC=0.87), and amygdala (right: ICC=0.79; left: ICC=0.76).

The posterior boundary of the posterior hippocampal formation began where an ovoid mass of gray matter appeared inferiomedially.

**FIGURE 1. Temporolimbic Regions Measured in 46 First-Episode Schizophrenia Patients and 34 Healthy Comparison Subjects**



ally to the trigone of the lateral ventricle. The fasciola cinerea, gyrus fasciolaris, isthmus, and crus of the fornix were excluded from measurement. Following the interruption of the pulvinar by the crus of the fornix, all CA segments (CA1, CA2, CA3, CA4), dentate gyrus, alveus, parasubiculum, presubiculum, subiculum proper, and presubiculum were included in the measurements. The anterior boundary was the coronal slice posterior to the one where the cisterna pontis became clearly visible. The posterior boundary of the anterior hippocampal formation was the slice in which the cisterna pontis became clearly visible and included all the segments that were measured for the posterior hippocampus as well as the uncus and intralimbic gyrus (including the dentate gyrus and Ammon's horn). The amygdala was measured from the posterior slice in which it first became visible. Its anterior boundary was the slice in which the amygdala no longer appeared to have an ovoid shape,

which was either at or posterior to the slice in which the closure of the lateral sulcus formed the entorhinal sulcus.

We chose the cisterna pontis to divide the hippocampus on the basis of functional magnetic resonance imaging data that demonstrated a dissociation in functions for the posterior and anterior parts of the hippocampus with regard to familiarity of stimuli (22, 64). Specifically, activation of the hippocampus just anterior to the cisterna pontis was found to be associated with generic novelty (22) and registering mismatch between expectation and actual outcomes (64). In contrast, activation of the hippocampus posterior to the cisterna pontis was associated with familiarity of stimuli that have behavioral relevance (22).

**Handedness.** Handedness was assessed by a modified 20-item Edinburgh Inventory (65). The total number of right- and left-hand items was scored, and the laterality quotient was computed as  $[(\text{total right} - \text{total left}) / (\text{total right} + \text{total left})] \times 100$ . Subjects with a laterality quotient greater than 0.70 were classified as dextral; the rest were classified as nondextral.

**Symptom clusters.** Brain structure volumes were examined in relationship to the clinical ratings conducted closest to the time of the MRI scan. Selected items from the SADS-C (56) were chosen to comprise positive and disorganization symptom clusters on the basis of prior work (66). The positive symptom cluster was generated by averaging the severity of hallucination and severity of delusion items from the SADS-C (56). The disorganization cluster was generated by averaging the following items from the SADS-C (56): illogical thinking, impaired understanding, derailment, bizarre behavior, and inappropriate affect. Because slightly different versions of the SANS were used in the ongoing treatment studies from which patients were recruited to participate in this study, we could not average all the global ratings to form a single negative symptom cluster for all subjects for a single analysis. Thus, the negative symptom cluster was generated by averaging the global ratings of affective flattening and alogia and examined in relationship to the brain structure volumes separately in the two subgroups of patients who were enrolled in their respective treatment studies.

### Statistical Analyses

Analysis of variance (SPSS [67]) was used to compare the temporolimbic brain structure volumes between the patients and healthy comparison subjects. Brain structures were analyzed separately because of their functional and neuroanatomical heterogeneity and our hypothesis that patients would demonstrate smaller anterior hippocampal formation volume. Group (patient versus healthy comparison subject) was a between-subject factor, and hemisphere was a within-subject factor. Sex was included as a between-subject factor given that men with schizophrenia have been found to have more severe temporal (68, 69) and mesiotemporal (52, 70) lobe abnormalities relative to women with schizophrenia. Analysis of covariance was used to control for age, parental social class, and total intracranial contents. Additional analyses compared the brain volumes of the antipsychotic-naïve patients to the healthy comparison subjects. Group differences in demographic variables and clinical assessments were examined by using independent group *t* tests. Chi-square tests were used to examine differences in joint classifications of discrete variables. Tests of association between continuous variables were examined by using Pearson product-moment correlations. All analyses were two-tailed with alpha set to 0.05.

### Results

Sample characteristics for the schizophrenia patients and healthy comparison subjects are provided in Table 1. The entire group of first-episode patients did not differ sig-

nificantly from the healthy subjects in age, sex, or handedness but did differ in racial/ethnic composition ( $\chi^2=6.03$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=0.01$ ). In addition, relative to the healthy subjects the schizophrenia patients had a significantly lower parental social class ( $\chi^2=4.70$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=0.03$ ) and, as expected, less education ( $\chi^2=8.52$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=0.01$ ). The subgroup of antipsychotic-naive patients did not differ significantly, however, from the healthy subjects in age, sex, handedness, racial/ethnic composition, or parental social class.

Mean temporolimbic structure volumes for the healthy comparison subjects, the entire group of first-episode schizophrenia patients, and the antipsychotic-naive subgroup of patients are presented in Table 2, along with the adjusted 95% confidence intervals for the differences between group means. Analyses performed for the entire group of first-episode patients revealed significantly smaller total volume of the anterior hippocampal formation compared with the healthy subjects ( $F=5.21$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $76$ ,  $p<0.03$ ), which remained significant after the effects of age, parental social class, and intracranial volume were controlled ( $F=4.47$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $65$ ,  $p<0.04$ ). Total volume of the anterior hippocampal formation is illustrated for patients and healthy subjects in Figure 2. Given the ethnic/racial differences between the overall patient sample and the healthy subjects, we analyzed the subgroup of Caucasian subjects (the only subgroup large enough for analysis) separately, which confirmed the original finding of smaller anterior hippocampal formation volume in patients ( $F=5.06$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $28$ ,  $p<0.04$ ). The main effect of sex was significant for the anterior hippocampal formation ( $F=6.80$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $76$ ,  $p=0.01$ ) and amygdala ( $F=6.85$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $76$ ,  $p=0.01$ ) such that male subjects had larger volumes of these structures overall than did female subjects. After we controlled for the covariates, however, the main effect of sex remained statistically significant only for amygdala volume ( $F=4.37$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $65$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). Neither the group-by-sex nor group-by-hemisphere interactions were statistically significant for any of the temporolimbic structure volumes in analyses either with our without the statistical covariates.

Additional analyses investigated the possible effects of antipsychotic treatment on these findings by excluding those patients from analyses who had been exposed to antipsychotic medications. Antipsychotic-naive patients also demonstrated significantly smaller volume of the anterior hippocampal formation relative to the healthy subjects ( $F=6.23$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $43$ ,  $p<0.02$ ) (Table 2). In addition, similar to the findings observed for the overall patient sample, there were no significant group volume differences for either the posterior hippocampal formation or amygdala. Total volume of the anterior hippocampal formation did not correlate significantly with any of the clinical measures or duration of psychotic symptoms before study entry in either the overall sample of patients or the antipsychotic-naive subgroup of patients.

**TABLE 1. Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of First-Episode Schizophrenia Patients and Healthy Comparison Subjects**

Characteristic	First-Episode Schizophrenia Patients					
	Healthy Comparison Subjects (N=34)		Antipsychotic-Naive Subgroup (N=24)			
	N	% <sup>a</sup>	Total (N=46)	% <sup>a</sup>	N	% <sup>a</sup>
Sex						
Male	21	61.8	31	67.4	16	66.7
Female	13	38.2	15	32.6	8	33.3
Handedness						
Dextral	25	80.6	33	76.7	18	78.3
Nondextral	6	19.4	10	23.3	5	21.7
Race						
Caucasian	22	64.7	17	37.0	12	50.0
African American	6	17.6	21	45.7	9	37.5
Hispanic	3	8.8	2	4.3	1	4.2
Asian	3	8.8	6	13.0	2	8.3
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Age (years)	26.5	6.8	25.0	4.6	25.4	5.5
Parental social class <sup>b</sup>	2.5	0.9	3.1	1.0	2.9	1.1
Education code <sup>c</sup>	2.8	1.3	3.6	0.9	3.6	0.8

<sup>a</sup> Data missing from some subjects for the following variables: education (two patients, four healthy subjects), parental social class (four patients, four healthy subjects), and handedness (three patients, three healthy subjects).

<sup>b</sup> Hollingshead-Redlich scale (71).

<sup>c</sup> Hollingshead-Redlich system in which 1=postgraduate and 6=junior high school graduate.

## Discussion

Although the anterior hippocampus is highly relevant to several neurobiological models of schizophrenia, many neuroimaging studies have not distinguished this region from the posterior hippocampus or amygdala, making it difficult to address issues regarding specificity of anatomic pathology. To our knowledge, this study provides the first evidence of volumetric alterations in the hippocampus-amygdala complex that are specific to the anterior hippocampal formation in antipsychotic-free patients experiencing a first episode of schizophrenia.

Our findings are consistent with and extend prior MRI evidence of anterior hippocampal-amygdala volume reductions in schizophrenia. Shenton et al. (42) and Rossi et al. (46) reported smaller anterior hippocampus-amygdala volume in patients with schizophrenia compared with healthy subjects. Suddath et al. (43) found reduced temporal lobe gray matter among patients in a central temporal lobe subdivision that anatomically corresponded to the anterior hippocampus and amygdala. A subsequent study by Suddath et al. (44) found that the right and left pes hippocampi were smaller in the affected twin of monozygotic twin pairs discordant for schizophrenia compared respectively to their normal twins. Our results also converge with the recent study by Pegues et al. (50), who reported that anterior hippocampal volume was smaller in older (mean

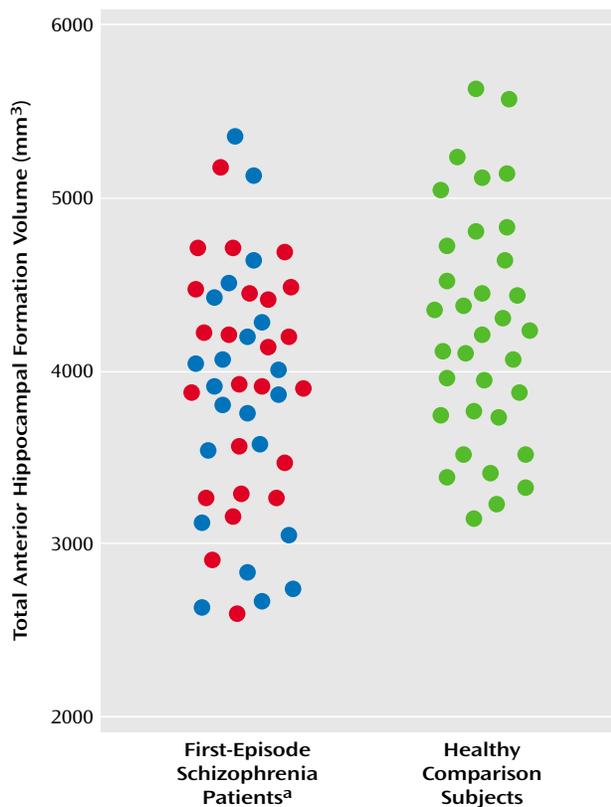
TABLE 2. Temporolimbic Volumes in First-Episode Schizophrenia Patients and Healthy Comparison Subjects

Brain Area	Volume (cm <sup>3</sup> )							
	First-Episode Schizophrenia Patients						Adjusted <sup>a</sup> 95% CI of Between-Group Difference	
	Healthy Comparison Subjects (N=34)		Total (N=46)		Antipsychotic-Naive Subgroup (N=24)		Healthy Subjects Versus All Patients	Healthy Subjects Versus Antipsychotic-Naive Subgroup
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Total intracranial contents	1476	128	1459	168	1509	154	-51 to 86	-108 to 42
Total hippocampus								
Right	3.61	0.41	3.41	0.43	3.44	0.45	-0.002 to 0.38	0.04 to 0.49*
Left	3.56	0.43	3.31	0.41	3.41	0.41	0.07 to 0.44**	0.03 to 0.47*
Posterior hippocampal formation								
Total	2.93	0.51	2.83	0.53	2.90	0.54	-0.17 to 0.35	-0.22 to 0.39
Right	1.43	0.28	1.39	0.28	1.39	0.28	-0.10 to 0.18	-0.11 to 0.22
Left	1.50	0.28	1.44	0.27	1.50	0.29	-0.09 to 0.19	-0.14 to 0.20
Anterior hippocampal formation								
Total	4.25	0.67	3.89	0.70	3.96	0.65	0.03 to 0.68*	0.07 to 0.80*
Right	2.18	0.38	2.03	0.37	2.05	0.36	-0.03 to 0.33	0.003 to 0.42*
Left	2.07	0.35	1.87	0.36	1.91	0.32	0.03 to 0.38*	0.02 to 0.41*
Amygdala								
Total	2.79	0.49	2.68	0.50	2.69	0.43	-0.18 to 0.31	-0.13 to 0.40
Right	1.39	0.31	1.33	0.25	1.34	0.20	-0.10 to 0.16	-0.09 to 0.21
Left	1.40	0.25	1.35	0.29	1.35	0.26	-0.10 to 0.17	-0.07 to 0.22

<sup>a</sup> Hippocampal volumes adjusted for total intracranial contents, age, and parental social class.

\*p<0.05. \*\*p<0.01.

FIGURE 2. Anterior Hippocampal Formation Volumes of 46 First-Episode Schizophrenia Patients and 34 Healthy Comparison Subjects



<sup>a</sup> Data points in red represent the antipsychotic-naive patient subgroup.

age=35.1 years) male patients who had been treated with antipsychotics compared with healthy male subjects.

In contrast to other reports indicating that smaller hippocampus volume was lateralized to the left hemisphere (42–44) or more pronounced in male than in female patients (51, 52), we did not find evidence for either effect. Our findings are consistent, however, with Pegues et al. (50), who also did not identify a selective left hemisphere deficit in their sample of male patients. Sampling and methodologic differences in defining the hippocampus and amygdala may account for these discrepant findings, thus making it difficult to directly compare studies. For example, in some of our prior work (35, 40) we did not separate the anterior hippocampal formation from the amygdala but instead used a midline landmark (i.e., the mamillary bodies) to distinguish between these regions.

The finding of smaller anterior hippocampal formation volume in patients may be consistent with neurodevelopmental (72) or postnatal influences on hippocampal morphology (73, 74). Specifically, abnormal pre- and postnatal hippocampal development has been found to also be associated with factors such as genetic variants (75), viral infection (76), stress (77), or obstetric complications (78). Although neurodegenerative mechanisms cannot be entirely ruled out, there was no association between volume of the anterior hippocampal formation and duration of psychotic symptoms before study entry, which argues against this possibility. It should be acknowledged, however, that such an association might be observed during the course of illness or in more chronic patients.

An abnormality involving the medial frontolimbic system or dorsal “archicortical” trend has been hypothesized to comprise, at least in part, the structural basis for frontal

lobe dysfunction in schizophrenia (35, 40, 48, 79). Consistent with this hypothesis are findings from MRI studies investigating the functional sequelae of hippocampal pathology in schizophrenia, which have more often implicated the anterior hippocampus than the posterior hippocampus. Weinberger et al. (49) found that differences in anterior hippocampus volume computed between monozygotic twins discordant for schizophrenia correlated with the differences between the twins in regional cerebral blood flow to the prefrontal cortex during performance of the Wisconsin Card Sorting Test. Moreover, reduced volume in the anterior (but not posterior) hippocampal formation was found to be significantly correlated with lower scores on neuropsychological tasks considered sensitive to the integrity of frontal lobe functions in schizophrenia (35), with this effect being more pronounced among male patients in a larger sample (40).

Findings from animal studies also suggest that early developmental lesions to the hippocampal formation may yield both pharmacologic and behavioral abnormalities consistent with frontal lobe lesions in adult animals (80–83). In particular, an excitotoxic lesion to the rat ventral hippocampal formation (corresponding to the anterior hippocampal formation in humans) produced increased mesolimbic dopamine responsiveness to stressful stimuli along with deficits in socioemotional functions (80, 81) and altered the development of neural circuits mediating certain dopamine and *N*-methyl-D-aspartic acid-related behaviors (83). Of interest is that these abnormalities became apparent in these animals only upon maturation into adolescence or adulthood. Extrapolating from the animal literature, it is therefore conceivable that a neurodevelopmental defect involving the anterior hippocampal formation could yield a pattern of frontal lobe dysfunction in schizophrenia through a disruption in frontolimbic connectivity (35, 40).

There are several limitations to this study that preclude firm conclusions. It is important to acknowledge that more subtle abnormalities may be present in the posterior hippocampal formation or amygdala in patients that were not detected using these volumetric methods. For example, some studies that analyzed the shape of the hippocampus-amygdala complex reported abnormalities in the posterior hippocampus (12) and amygdala (19). Thus, including additional information regarding shape in analyses may improve group discrimination (18, 84). In addition, although consistent with functional neuroimaging data, our use of the cisterna pontis to distinguish between the posterior and anterior hippocampal formation should not be interpreted to enable a strict subdivision of the hippocampal rostrocaudal axis. Future cytoarchitectonic and functional neuroimaging studies might better clarify a subdivision of the hippocampus along the rostrocaudal axis.

In summary, we report volumetric alterations of the anterior hippocampal formation in patients experiencing a first episode of schizophrenia in the absence of group vol-

ume differences for the posterior hippocampal formation or amygdala. In vivo studies conducted at higher field strengths may be able to resolve the internal architecture of the hippocampus-amygdala complex to more precisely determine the nature of purported anterior hippocampal pathology in schizophrenia.

---

Presented in part at the eighth International Congress on Schizophrenia Research, Whistler, B.C., April 29–May 5, 2001. Received Nov. 21, 2002; revision received April 2, 2003; accepted April 8, 2003. From the Department of Psychiatry Research, The Zucker Hillside Hospital; the Department of Psychiatry, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y.; and the Department of Radiology, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, New Hyde Park, N.Y. Address reprint requests to Dr. Szeszko, Department of Psychiatry Research, The Zucker Hillside Hospital, 75-59 263rd St., Glen Oaks, NY 11004; szeszko@lij.edu (e-mail).

Supported by grants from NIMH to Dr. Bilder (MH-60374), Dr. Kane (MH-60575, MH-60004, MH-41960), and Dr. Szeszko (MH-01990) and a National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression Young Investigator Award to Dr. Szeszko.

The authors thank Richard Mudge for his assistance in data collection and management.

---

## References

1. Bogerts B: The temporolimbic system theory of positive schizophrenic symptoms. *Schizophr Bull* 1997; 23:423–435
2. Kovelman JA, Scheibel AB: A neurohistological correlate of schizophrenia. *Biol Psychiatry* 1984; 19:1601–1621
3. Jeste DV, Lohr JB: Hippocampal pathologic findings in schizophrenia: a morphometric study. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1989; 46:1019–1024
4. Benes FM, Sorensen I, Bird ED: Reduced neuronal size in posterior hippocampus of schizophrenic patients. *Schizophr Bull* 1991; 17:597–608
5. Arnold SE, Franz BR, Gur RC, Gur RE, Shapiro RM, Moberg PJ, Trojanowski JQ: Smaller neuron size in schizophrenia in hippocampal subfields that mediate cortical-hippocampal interactions. *Am J Psychiatry* 1995; 152:738–748
6. Bogerts B, Meertz F, Schonfeldt-Bausch R: Basal ganglia and limbic system pathology in schizophrenia: a morphometric study of brain volume and shrinkage. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1985; 42:784–791
7. Bogerts B, Falkai P, Haupts M, Greve B, Ernst S, Tapernon-Franz U, Heinzmann U: Post-mortem volume measurements of limbic system and basal ganglia structures in chronic schizophrenics. Initial results from a new brain collection. *Schizophr Res* 1990; 3:295–301
8. Chance SA, Esiri MM, Crow TJ: Amygdala volume in schizophrenia: post-mortem study and review of magnetic resonance imaging findings. *Br J Psychiatry* 2002; 180:331–338
9. Heckers S, Heinsen H, Heinsen YC, Beckmann H: Limbic structures and lateral ventricle in schizophrenia: a quantitative postmortem study. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1990; 47:1016–1022
10. Pakkenberg B: Pronounced reduction of total neuron number in mediodorsal thalamic nucleus and nucleus accumbens in schizophrenics. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1990; 47:1023–1028
11. Nelson MD, Saykin AJ, Flashman LA, Riordan HJ: Hippocampal volume reduction in schizophrenia as assessed by magnetic resonance imaging: a meta-analytic study. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1998; 55:433–440
12. Velakoulis D, Stuart GW, Wood SJ, Smith DJ, Brewer WJ, Desmond P, Singh B, Copolov D, Pantelis C: Selective bilateral hippocampal volume loss in chronic schizophrenia. *Biol Psychiatry* 2001; 50:531–539

13. Gur RE, Turetsky BI, Cowell PE, Finkelman C, Maany V, Grossman RI, Arnold SE, Bilker WB, Gur RC: Temporolimbic volume reductions in schizophrenia. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 2000; 57: 769–775
14. Copolov D, Velakoulis D, McGorry P, Carina Mallard, Yung A, Rees S, Jackson G, Rehn A, Brewer W, Pantelis C: Neurobiological findings in early phase schizophrenia. *Brain Res Brain Res Rev* 2000; 31:157–165
15. Velakoulis D, Pantelis C, McGorry PD, Dudgeon P, Brewer W, Cook M, Desmond P, Bridle N, Tierney P, Murrie V, Singh B, Copolov D: Hippocampal volume in first-episode psychoses and chronic schizophrenia: a high-resolution magnetic resonance imaging study. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1999; 56:133–141
16. Hirayasu Y, Shenton ME, Salisbury DF, Dickey CC, Fischer IA, Mazzoni P, Kiser T, Arakaki H, Kwon JS, Anderson JE, Yurgelun-Todd D, Tohen M, McCarley R: Lower left temporal lobe MRI volumes in patients with first-episode schizophrenia compared with psychotic patients with first-episode affective disorder and normal subjects. *Am J Psychiatry* 1998; 155:1384–1391
17. Whitworth AB, Honeder M, Kremser C, Kemmler G, Felber S, Hausmann A, Wanko C, Wechdorn H, Aichner F, Stuppaek CH, Fleischhacker WW: Hippocampal volume reduction in male schizophrenic patients. *Schizophr Res* 1998; 31:73–81
18. Csernansky JG, Wang L, Jones D, Rastogi-Cruz D, Posener JA, Heydebrand G, Miller JP, Miller MI: Hippocampal deformities in schizophrenia characterized by high dimensional brain mapping. *Am J Psychiatry* 2002; 159:2000–2006
19. Narr KL, Thompson PM, Sharma T, Moussai J, Blanton R, Anvar B, Edris A, Krupp R, Rayman J, Khaledy M, Toga AW: Three-dimensional mapping of temporo-limbic regions and the lateral ventricles in schizophrenia: gender effects. *Biol Psychiatry* 2001; 50:84–97
20. Laakso MP, Tiihonen J, Syvalahti E, Vilkmann H, Laakso A, Alakare B, Rakkolainen V, Salokangas RK, Koivisto E, Hietala J: A morphometric MRI study of the hippocampus in first-episode, neuroleptic-naïve schizophrenia. *Schizophr Res* 2001; 50:3–7
21. Rajarethinam R, DeQuardo JR, Miedler J, Arndt S, Kirbat R, Brunberg JA, Tandon R: Hippocampus and amygdala in schizophrenia: assessment of the relationship of neuroanatomy to psychopathology. *Psychiatry Res* 2001; 108:79–87
22. Strange BA, Fletcher PC, Henson RN, Friston KJ, Dolan RJ: Segregating the functions of the human hippocampus. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1999; 4:4034–4039
23. Vermathen P, Laxer KD, Matson GB, Weiner MW: Hippocampal structures: anteroposterior-acetylaspartate differences in patients with epilepsy and control subjects as shown with proton MR spectroscopic imaging. *Radiology* 2000; 124:403–410
24. Moser EI, Moser MB: Is learning blocked by saturation of synaptic weights in the hippocampus? *Neurosci Biobehav Rev* 1999; 5:661–672
25. Strange B, Dolan R: Functional segregation within the human hippocampus. *Mol Psychiatry* 1999; 6:508–511
26. Nieuwenhuis R, Voogd J, van Huijzen C: *The Human Central Nervous System: A Synopsis and Atlas*, 3rd ed. Berlin, Springer-Verlag, 1988
27. Moser E, Moser MB, Andersen P: Spatial learning impairment parallels the magnitude of dorsal hippocampal lesions, but is hardly present following ventral lesions. *J Neurosci* 1993; 13: 3916–3925
28. Save E, Poucet B: Hippocampal-parietal cortical interactions in spatial cognition. *Hippocampus* 2000; 10:491–499
29. Guazzelli A, Bota M, Arbib MA: Competitive Hebbian learning and the hippocampal place cell system: modeling the interaction of visual and path integration cues. *Hippocampus* 2001; 11:216–239
30. Barbas H, Blatt GJ: Topographically specific hippocampal projections target functionally distinct prefrontal areas in the rhesus monkey. *Hippocampus* 1995; 5:511–533
31. Jay TM, Glowinski J, Thierry AM: Selectivity of the hippocampal projection to the prelimbic area of the prefrontal cortex in the rat. *Brain Res* 1989; 505:337–340
32. Carr DB, Sesack SR: Hippocampal afferents to the rat prefrontal cortex: synaptic targets and relation to dopamine terminals. *J Comp Neurol* 1996; 369:1–15
33. Legault M, Rompre PP, Wise RA: Chemical stimulation of the ventral hippocampus elevates nucleus accumbens dopamine by activating dopaminergic neurons of the ventral tegmental area. *J Neurosci* 2000; 20:1635–1642
34. Brudzyski SM, Gibson CJ: Release of dopamine in the nucleus accumbens caused by stimulation of subiculum in freely moving rats. *Brain Res Bull* 1997; 42:303–308
35. Bilder RM, Bogerts B, Ashtari M, Wu H, Alvir J, Ma Jody D, Reiter G, Bell L, Lieberman JA: Anterior hippocampal volume reductions predict frontal lobe dysfunction in first episode schizophrenia. *Schizophr Res* 1995; 17:47–58
36. Bilder RM: Neurocognitive impairment in schizophrenia and how it affects treatment options. *Can J Psychiatry* 1997; 42: 255–264
37. Early TS, Posner MI, Reiman E, Raichle ME: Hyperactivity of the left striato-pallidal projection, part I: lower level theory. *Psychiatr Dev* 1989; 2:85–108
38. Early TS, Posner MI, Reiman E, Raichle ME: Hyperactivity of the left striato-pallidal projection, part II: phenomenology and thought disorder. *Psychiatr Dev* 1989; 2:109–121
39. Gray JA, Feldon J, Rawlins JNP, Hemsley DR, Smith AD: The neuropsychology of schizophrenia. *Behav Brain Sci* 1991; 14:1–84
40. Szeszko PR, Strous RD, Goldman RS, Ashtari M, Knuth KH, Lieberman JA, Bilder RM: Neuropsychological correlates of hippocampal volumes in patients experiencing a first episode of schizophrenia. *Am J Psychiatry* 2002; 159:217–226
41. Robbins TW: The case for frontostriatal dysfunction in schizophrenia. *Schizophr Bull* 1990; 16:391–402
42. Shenton ME, Kikinis R, Jolesz FA, Pollak SD, LeMay M, Wible CG, Hokama H, Martin J, Metcalf D, Coleman M, McCarley RW: Abnormalities of the left temporal lobe and thought disorder in schizophrenia: a quantitative magnetic resonance imaging study. *N Engl J Med* 1992; 327:604–612
43. Suddath RL, Casanova MF, Goldberg TE, Daniel DG, Kelsoe JR Jr, Weinberger DR: Temporal lobe pathology in schizophrenia: a quantitative magnetic resonance imaging study. *Am J Psychiatry* 1989; 146:464–472
44. Suddath RL, Christison GW, Torrey EF, Casanova MF, Weinberger DR: Anatomical abnormalities in the brains of monozygotic twins discordant for schizophrenia. *N Engl J Med* 1990; 322: 789–794; correction, 322:1616
45. DeLisi LE, Dauphinais ID, Gershon ES: Perinatal complications and reduced size of brain limbic structures in familial schizophrenia. *Schizophr Bull* 1988; 14:185–191
46. Rossi A, Stratta P, Mancini F, Gallucci M, Mattei P, Core L, Di Michele V, Casacchia M: Magnetic resonance imaging findings of amygdala-anterior hippocampus shrinkage in male patients with schizophrenia. *Psychiatry Res* 1994; 52:43–53
47. Csernansky JG, Joshi S, Wang L, Haller JW, Gado M, Miller JP, Grenander U, Miller MI: Hippocampal morphometry in schizophrenia by high dimensional brain mapping. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1998; 95:11406–11411
48. Bilder RM, Degreaf G: Morphologic markers of neurodevelopmental paths to schizophrenia, in *Developmental Neuropathology of Schizophrenia*. Edited by Mednick SA, Canon TD, Barr CE, LaFosse JM. New York, Plenum, 1991, pp 167–190
49. Weinberger DR, Berman KF, Suddath R, Torrey EF: Evidence of dysfunction of a prefrontal-limbic network in schizophrenia: a

- magnetic resonance imaging and regional cerebral blood flow study of discordant monozygotic twins. *Am J Psychiatry* 1992; 149:890–897
50. Pegues MP, Rogers LJ, Amend D, Vinogradov S, Deicken RF: Anterior hippocampal volume reduction in male patients with schizophrenia. *Schizophr Res* 2003; 60:105–115
  51. Bogerts B, Lieberman JA, Ashtari M, Bilder RM, Degreef G, Lerner G, Johns C, Masiar S: Hippocampus-amygdala volumes and psychopathology in chronic schizophrenia. *Biol Psychiatry* 1993; 33:236–246
  52. Bogerts B, Ashtari M, Degreef G, Alvir MJ, Bilder RM, Lieberman JA: Reduced temporal limbic structure volumes on magnetic resonance images in first-episode schizophrenia. *Psychiatry Res Neuroimaging* 1990; 35:1–13
  53. Endicott J, Spitzer RL: A diagnostic interview: the Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1978; 35:837–844
  54. First MB, Spitzer RL, Gibbon M, Williams JBW: Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders, Patient Edition (SCID-P), version 2. New York, New York State Psychiatric Institute, Biometrics Research, 1994
  55. Spitzer RL, Endicott J, Robins E: Research Diagnostic Criteria (RDC) for a Selected Group of Functional Disorders, 3rd ed. New York, New York State Psychiatric Institute, Biometrics Research, 1977
  56. Spitzer RL, Endicott J: Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia—Change Version, 3rd ed. New York, New York State Psychiatric Institute, Biometrics Research, 1978
  57. Andreasen NC: Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms (SANS). Iowa City, University of Iowa, 1983
  58. Medx. Sterling, Va, Sensor Systems, 1998
  59. Falkai P, Bogerts B: Cell loss in the hippocampus of schizophrenics. *Eur Arch Psychiatry Neurol Sci* 1986; 236:154–161
  60. Pruessner JC, Li LM, Serles W, Pruessner M, Collins DL, Kabani N, Lupien S, Evans AC: Volumetry of hippocampus and amygdala with high-resolution MRI and three-dimensional analysis software: minimizing the discrepancies between laboratories. *Cereb Cortex* 2000; 10:433–442
  61. Watson C, Andermann F, Gloor P, Jones-Gotman M, Peters T, Evans A, Olivier A, Melanson D, Leroux G: Anatomic basis of amygdaloid and hippocampal volume measurement by magnetic resonance imaging. *Neurology* 1992; 42:1743–1750
  62. Kates WR, Abrams MT, Kaufmann WE, Breiter SN, Reiss AL: Reliability and validity of MRI measurement of the amygdala and hippocampus in children with fragile X syndrome. *Psychiatry Res* 1997; 75:31–48
  63. Convit A, McHugh P, Wolf OT, de Leon MJ, Bobinski M, De Santi S, Roche A, Tsui W: MRI volume of the amygdala: a reliable method allowing separation from the hippocampal formation. *Psychiatry Res* 1999; 90:113–123
  64. Strange BA, Dolan RJ: Adaptive anterior hippocampal responses to oddball stimuli. *Hippocampus* 2001; 11:690–698
  65. Oldfield RC: The assessment and analysis of handedness: the Edinburgh Inventory. *Neuropsychologia* 1971; 9:97–113
  66. Bilder RM, Mukherjee S, Rieder RO, Pandurangi AK: Symptomatic and neuropsychological components of defect states. *Schizophr Bull* 1985; 11:409–419
  67. SPSS 9.0 for Windows. Chicago, SPSS, 1998
  68. Bryant NL, Buchanan RW, Vladar K, Breier A, Rothman M: Gender differences in temporal lobe structures of patients with schizophrenia: a volumetric MRI study. *Am J Psychiatry* 1999; 156:603–609
  69. Cowell PE, Kostianovsky DJ, Gur RC, Turetsky BI, Gur RE: Sex differences in neuroanatomical and clinical correlations in schizophrenia. *Am J Psychiatry* 1996; 153:799–805
  70. Bogerts B, Falkai P, Hapts M, Greve B, Ernst S, Tapernon-Franz L, Heinzman U: Post-mortem volume measurements of limbic system and basal ganglia structures in chronic schizophrenics: initial results from a new brain collection. *Schizophr Res* 1990; 3:295–301
  71. Hollingshead AB: Two Factor Index of Social Position. New Haven, Conn., Yale University, 1965
  72. Weinberger DR: Implications of normal brain development for the pathogenesis of schizophrenia. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1987; 44:660–669
  73. Kretschmann HJ, Kammerdt G, Krauthausen I, Sauer B, Wingert F: Growth of the hippocampal formation in man. *Bibl Anat* 1986; 28:27–52
  74. Rakic P, Nowakowski RS: The time of origin of neurons in the hippocampal region of the rhesus monkey. *J Comp Neurol* 1981; 196:99–128
  75. Mody M, Cao Y, Cui Z, Tay KY, Shyong A, Shimizu E, Pham K, Schultz P, Welsh D, Tsien JZ: Genome-wide gene expression profiles of the developing mouse hippocampus. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2001; 98:8862–8867
  76. Fatemi SH, Emamian ES, Kist D, Sidwell RW, Nakajima K, Akhter P, Shier A, Sheikh S, Bailey K: Defective corticogenesis and reduction in Reelin immunoreactivity in cortex and hippocampus of prenatally infected neonatal mice. *Mol Psychiatry* 1999; 4:145–154
  77. Vaid RR, Yee BK, Shalev U, Rawlins JN, Weiner I, Feldon J, Totterdell S: Neonatal nonhandling and in utero prenatal stress reduce the density of NADPH-diaphorase-reactive neurons in the fascia dentata and Ammon's horn of rats. *J Neurosci* 1997; 17:5599–5609
  78. McNeil TF, Cantor-Graae E, Ismail B: Obstetric complications and congenital malformation in schizophrenia. *Brain Res Brain Res Rev* 2000; 31:166–178
  79. Szeszko PR, Bilder RM, Lencz T, Ashtari M, Goldman R, Reiter S, Wu H, Lieberman JA: Reduced anterior cingulate gyrus volume correlates with executive dysfunction in men with first-episode schizophrenia. *Schizophr Res* 2000; 43:97–108
  80. Lipska BW, Jaskiw GE, Weinberger DA: Postpubertal emergence of hyperresponsiveness to stress and to amphetamine after neonatal excitotoxic hippocampal damage: a potential animal model of schizophrenia. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 1993; 9:67–75
  81. Sams-Dodd F, Lipska BK, Weinberger DR: Neonatal lesions of the rat ventral hippocampus result in hyperlocomotion and deficits in social behavior in adulthood. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)* 1997; 132:303–310
  82. Bachevalier J, Beuregard M: Maturation of medial temporal lobe memory functions in rodents, monkeys, and human. *Hippocampus* 1993; 3:191–201
  83. Lipska BK, Halim ND, Segal PN, Weinberger DR: Effects of reversible inactivation of the neonatal ventral hippocampus on behavior in the adult rat. *J Neurosci* 2002; 22:2835–2842
  84. Shenton ME, Gerig G, McCarley RW, Szekely G, Kikinis R: Amygdala-hippocampal shape differences in schizophrenia: the application of 3D shape models to volumetric MR data. *Psychiatry Res* 2002; 115:15–35