Data Supplement for Etkin et al., Failure of Anterior Cingulate Activation and Connectivity With the Amygdala During Implicit Regulation of Emotional Processing in Generalized Anxiety Disorder, American Journal of Psychiatry (doi: 10.1176/appi.ajp.2009.09070931)

Supplemental Methods and Table S1

Supplemental Methods

Multivatriate pattern classification

For the multivariate pattern classification analysis (1, 2), we converted the relevant individual-level contrast images, masked by the a priori regions of interest described in the main text, or a whole brain gray matter mask, into a matrix of vectors, using the set of 24 controls and 17 patients. Classification dimensions were reduced by recursive feature elimination (1, 2), using in-house tools based on Matlab (3). To do so, we constructed a classifier using all relevant voxels and rank ordered each voxel's contribution to the discrimination. We iteratively removed the 40% worst-discriminating voxels, stopping at the point at which performance of the classifier began to detriorate. This procedure determined the minimum number of required features (voxels). We then performed linear support vector machine-based classification analysis (regularization parameter C=1), with leave-one-out cross-validation. Significance was determined by randomly reassigning class labels in 2000 permutations of the leave-one-out analysis using the voxels identified by the recursive feature elimination process (alpha = p<0.05, two-sided).

Results

Correlations with symptom scales

For the patients, we correlated symptom scale scores with the reaction time difference between postincongruent incongruent trials minus postcongruent incongruent trials. The only correlation that survived a Bonferroni correction for the six comparisons made was between greater scores on the anxious arousal subscale of the mood and anxiety symptom questionnaire and progressively greater reaction time difference scores (i.e. greater sensitization; r=0.68, p<0.005). This correlation is particularly interesting, because this subscale was designed to differentiate anxiety from depression (4, 5). Indeed, after controlling for the same questionnaire's depression-specific measure, the anhedonic depression subscale, which was not significantly correlated with either the reaction time difference scores (r=0.32, p>0.2) or the anxious arousal subscale (r=-0.1, p>0.7), the correlation between the anxious arousal subscale and the reaction time difference scores rose to r=0.75 (p=0.001; see Figure S1A). Independence from outliers in this correlation was confirmed with robust regression (data not shown) as well as by removing the potential outlier value at the top-right of the plot in supplemental Figure S1A (r=0.54, p<0.05).

Correlations were also made between symptom scale scores with the average difference between postincongruent incongruent trials minus postcongruent incongruent trials for the group contrast clusters in the pregenual cingulate and dorsomedial prefrontal cortices. After Bonferroni correction, the anxious arousal subscale and Penn State Worry Questionnaire were found to correlate with greater inappropriate dorsomedial prefrontal activation in postincongruent incongruent trials (anxious arousal: r=0.64, p=0.005; worry: r=0.68, p<0.005; see supplemental Figure S1B and S1C). After removing variance associated with the anhedonic depression subscale, which did not correlate with dorsomedial prefrontal activity (r=0.04, p>0.8), as well as worry scores, the correlation between dorsomedial prefrontal activity and the anxious arousal subscale remained strong (r=0.6, p<0.05; see supplemental Figure S1B). Likewise, dorsomedial prefrontal activity correlated with worry scores after removing variance associated with anxious arousal and anhedonic depression scores (r=0.63, p=0.01, see supplemental Figure S1C). Worry scores and anxious arousal scores were not significantly correlated (r=0.35, p>0.15).

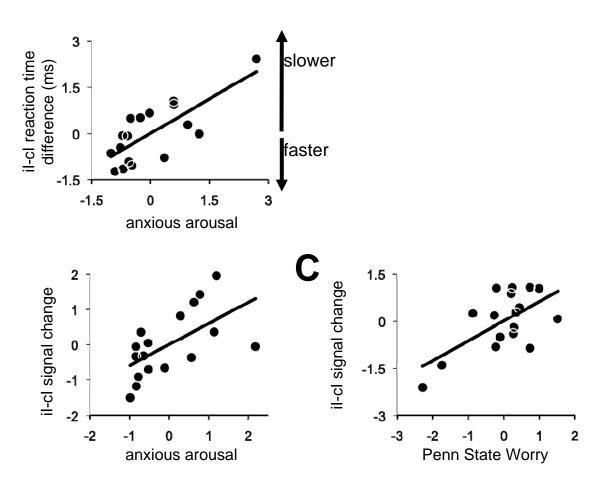


FIGURE S1. Correlations Between Anxiety Symptoms and Reaction Times

(A) A significant positive correlation in patients between the anxious arousal subscale of the Mood and Anxiety Symptom Questionnaire and reaction time difference scores for the contrast of postincongruent incongruent trials minus postcongruent incongruent trials (iI-cI), indicating worse performance, rather than facilitation, to repeated incongruent trials in more anxious individuals. Psychometric and behavioral data are expressed as Z-scores after accounting for variance related to the anhedonic depression subscale of the same questionnaire. (B, C) Greater inappropriate dorsomedial prefrontal activation is correlated with higher levels of anxiety. Correlations between iI-cI signal for patients in the group difference dorsomedial prefrontal cluster from Figure 3C and anxious arousal subscale scores adjusted for anhedonic depression subscale and worry scores (B), or the correlation with scores on the Penn State Worry Questionnaire (C), after adjusting for anxious arousal and anhedonic depression scores, all expressed as Z-scores.

Multivariate pattern classification

We implemented a linear support vector machine pattern classification approach, using recursive feature elimination for feature reduction and leave-one-out cross-validation, to determine whether fMRI signal in the emotional conflict task can discriminate between patients and controls. Within our *a priori* regions of interest, significant classification using the contrast of incongruent trials preceded by incongruent trials minus incongruent trials preceded by congruent trials was achieved in the pregenual cingulate (accuracy 88%, p<0.0005; sensitivity 88%, specificity 88%), and the dorsomedial prefrontal cortex (accuracy 76%, p<0.01; sensitivity 59%, specificity 88%), but not in the amygdala (accuracy 66%, p>0.1; sensitivity 24%, specificity 96%). Using whole brain data, we were able to achieve 95% accuracy (p<0.0005, sensitivity 94%, specificity 96%). Successful classification could also be achieved using reaction time difference scores (accuracy 73%, p<0.0005; sensitivity 53%, specificity 88%).

REFERENCES

- 1. De Martino F, Valente G, Staeren N, Ashburner J, Goebel R, Formisano E: Combining multivariate voxel selection and support vector machines for mapping and classification of fMRI spatial patterns. Neuroimage 2008; 43:44–58
- 2. Formisano E, De Martino F, Bonte M, Goebel R: "Who" is saying "what"? Brain-based decoding of human voice and speech. Science 2008; 322:970–973
- 3. Hoeft F, Lightbody AA, Hazlett HC, Patnaik S, Piven J, Reiss AL: Morphometric spatial patterns differentiating boys with fragile X syndrome, typically developing boys, and developmentally delayed boys aged 1 to 3 years. Arch Gen Psychiatry 2008; 65:1087–1097
- 4. Watson D, Clark LA, Weber K, Assenheimer JS, Strauss ME, McCormick RA: Testing a tripartite model: II. Exploring the symptom structure of anxiety and depression in student, adult, and patient samples. J Abnorm Psychol 1995; 104:15–25
- 5. Watson D, Weber K, Assenheimer JS, Clark LA, Strauss ME, McCormick RA: Testing a tripartite model: I. Evaluating the convergent and discriminant validity of anxiety and depression symptom scales. J Abnorm Psychol 1995; 104:3–14

TABLE S1: Reaction Times (standard deviations in parenthesis)

Healthy subj	ects	Current trial congruent	incongruent
trial	congruent	736.6 (95.6)	850.2 (152.4)
	incongruent	762.9 (84.8)	821.4 (117.1)
Patients Previous		Current trial congruent	incongruent
trial	congruent	810.7 (233.4)	905.8 (226.8)
	incongruent	851.1 (263)	922.0 (252.3)