



Participants Needed!

Dopamine drug study on decision-making with brain imaging

We are studying learning and motivation. We assess how brains learn about how effortful and rewarding something is, and how this learning process links to mental health symptoms.

Email Samuel Hewitt (s.hewitt.17@ucl.ac.uk) with your name, email address and contact number to take part.



About the study

Who can take part?

Because of the nature of this study, only specific people can participate. You must be:

- Male Right handed
- Aged 18-35
- Fluent English speaker
- Do not have substantial neurological or psychiatric history, including depression (past or present).
- Do not take any regular medications
- No drug (including recreational drugs) use within seven days of the experiment
- Do not have any of the following conditions: claustrophobia, severe asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, myasthenia gravis, glaucoma, melanoma, heart or blood vessel disease, psychiatric illness, hyper or hypo-thyroidism, phaeochromocytom or severe dyskinesia
- Do not have cardiac, hepatic or renal disorder
- Have not experienced an allergic reaction upon administration of a drug.
- Have not participated in any other pharmacological study within the last week before the study.
- Do not have any metal implants (such as pacemakers).
- Have not had any dental fillings in the last 2 weeks
- Do not have tattoos on the head, neck or upper area (including permanent eye lining) or large tattoos (greater than 20cm) anywhere on the body.
- Non-smoker or willing to abstain from smoking on the morning of the study

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Visit uclpsychology.sona-systems.com/default.aspx?p_return_experiment_id=9379 for more information.

About the study

What can you expect?

Brain Imaging

First, you will undergo a short telephone screening to confirm you are eligible. The study last about 5 hours - you will do some thinking tests and questionnaires about mental health before the scan. Our study doctor will prescribe the drug which is either a low dose of l-dopa (a drug which is commonly prescribed to increase dopamine in the brain) or a placebo. Then you will play our motivation game inside the brain scanner. We will also take pictures of your brain while you are relaxing.

The MRI scan in the study will last up to 2 hours. The participant will play a game inside the scanner while we track their brain activation during this. Then we will take pictures of the brain at rest for about 45 minutes. In this part, the participant can relax, watch a documentary or sleep.

The experiment takes place in person at Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging, 12 Queen Square WC1N 3AR. We have various dates available on weekdays until October.

Reimbursement

£50-£60 (£10 / hour plus bonus based on points word in the game)

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