

CENTRE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH IN NEUROPSYCHIATRY



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Cortical Inhibitory Deficits as a Core Feature of Schizophrenia: Electrophysiological and Neurocognitive Studies

INFORMATION SHEET

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This research is a part of the Western Australian Family Study of Schizophrenia (WAFSS). We aim to increase our knowledge about aetiology of schizophrenia. To achieve this aim, we invite the participation of people diagnosed with schizophrenia. Since we should compare patients with people without the disease, we also invite volunteers from the community to participate in this research.

What does participation in the study involve?

If you decide to participate, we will ask you to complete:

- An interview regarding your own experience of any problems throughout your life. These questions are about a variety of psychological symptoms (e.g. anxiety, depression, experience of psychotic phenomena, use of drugs and alcohol). The length of the interview is about 1-2 hours but can be separated into shorter sessions, or ended on your request at any time. We will request your permission to videotape the interview. Strict confidentiality will be maintained at all times.
- A recording of the brain electrical activity (like an EEG) while you doing two different tasks, one involves following dots with your eyes on the computer screen and another one is watching a documentary on the TV. In this task, the electrical activity of the brain is measured using the small headcap with sensors sewn in. To make sure the sensors do their job well, we will have to put some paste between them and your scalp. This paste will wash out easily the next time you shampoo your hair. The task will take about 90 minutes to complete.
- We will ask you to participate in two tasks of memory and speed of information processing by using a computer. This will take about 30 minutes to complete.

All this different steps will be completed over two sessions. In the first session, you will be asked to do the interview, and in the second session, the EEG recordings and tasks of memory and speed of information processing.

Your rights:

You may withdraw your consent for this project and discontinue your participation at any time. If you choose not to participate in this project, this decision will not affect your current or future treatment in any way.

This project has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the North Metropolitan Health Services.

If you have any further question, please do not hesitate to contact the chief investigator, Dr Shahrzad Mazhari on (08)93476404; or email mazhas01@student.uwa.edu.au.

