

# PREFRONTAL-RELATED IMPAIRMENTS IN COGNITIVE CONTROL ARE NOT SPECIFIC TO SCHIZOPHRENIA

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A large cohort of never-medicated, first-episode (FE) psychosis patients (35 schizophrenia, 16 other psychoses, 34 controls) were studied using theoretically-motivated cognitive tasks and event-related fMRI. Compared with normal controls, schizophrenia patients showed evidence of a specific impairment in the control of attention and working memory, replicating previous work by our group. However, other FE psychosis patients without schizophrenia showed a similar pattern of deficits. Preliminary analyses of event-related fMRI data from a subset of subjects are consistent with this result with decreased dorsolateral prefrontal cortex activation in both FE groups. These results suggest that prefrontal deficits in cognitive control in FE psychosis are not specific to schizophrenia. Further analyses in relationship to specific diagnoses in the non-schizophrenia group, symptom dimensions such as disorganization, cognitive performance, and the effects of subsequent treatment with antipsychotic medication will be discussed.