

Try to Help Young People with Psychosis

(Schizophrenia / Bipolar Disease)



Over 1% of the population suffer from chronic psychotic diseases, commonly known as schizophrenia or bipolar disease. Many of these individuals are homeless, because their hallucinations and paranoia keep them away from other people. About 5% end up by committing suicide. These diseases begin typically in people who are in their adolescence or early adulthood, often in their twenties.

Researchers at several hospitals in Houston, led by Dr. Joseph C. Masdeu, MD, PhD, believe that many people with psychosis may have a disease caused by antibodies produced by their own body that attack their own brain. By lowering the antibodies, the psychosis may disappear.

However, doctors still do not know whether this is correct. To find out, in a treatment trial conducted in Houston, 20 people with psychosis are being given a medication to lower antibodies and another 20 are being given a look-alike inert placebo.

People 18 to 35 years of age who have been diagnosed with schizophrenia or bipolar disease may be candidates for this treatment trial. They need to have been vaccinated against COVID.

For more information, please contact Nilene Crisci by email at ncrisci@houstonmethodist.org or call 713-441-3771.

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