

# Empathy & psychosis

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<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruitment stopped
<b>Health condition type</b>	Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON44395

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Empathy & psychosis

### Condition

- Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders

### Synonym

psychosis

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** PPO;postmasteropleidingen psychologie Groningen

### Intervention

**Keyword:** at risk, empathy, psychosis, schizophrenia

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

Empathy as measured with the Empathic Accuracy Test, Faux Pas Test, Interpersonal Reactivity Index, Questionnaire of Cognitive and Affective Empathy and the Metacognition Assessment Scale.

### Secondary outcome

Social functioning (Time Use) Insight (Beck Cognitive Insight Scale), Depression (Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology), Stigma (Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness Scale) Quality of Life (Manchester Short Assessment of Quality of Life).

## Study description

### Background summary

Schizophrenia is a chronic illness of which poor social functioning is a core characteristic. A crucial capacity for maintaining successful relationships is empathy. Empathy exists of affective and cognitive processes. Some research shows that affective aspects and cognitive aspects of empathy are impaired in people with schizophrenia. However, the literature is not consistent on this matter. We want to investigate which aspects of empathy are affected in people with schizophrenia. Research suggests that empathy might be impaired in people at risk of psychosis. Impaired empathy, among other factors, may function as a predictor for the later development of schizophrenia. Therefore, we also want to investigate if empathy is affected in people who are at risk of psychosis (UHR group).

### Study objective

Empathy is related to quality of life, depression, insight and social functioning and may be an important factor in recovery of people with schizophrenia. Empathy is impaired in schizophrenia, however it is not clear which elements of empathy are affected exactly. We want to investigate this. Research questions:

What elements of empathy are impaired in people with schizophrenia?

What elements of empathy are impaired in people who are at risk for psychosis?

Is empathy correlated with quality of life, social functioning, depression, stigma and insight in people with schizophrenia and people at risk of psychosis?

## **Study design**

Case-control study

## **Study burden and risks**

Participants in this study are not expected to be at any risk. Each participant will receive 15 euro for their participation. The assessment will take up to two hours. The participant is allowed to quit when he/she doesn't want to continue the assessment.

An important research question is whether empathy is affected in people who are at risk of psychosis. First signs of psychosis may appear at a young age. We want to investigate the total 'at risk' population and therefore want to include young participants between the age of 15 and 18 in the study.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

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## **Trial sites**

## Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adolescents (12-15 years)

Adolescents (16-17 years)

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Patients with schizophrenia;;- Diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, according to DSM-IV-TR criteria;

- Being able to give informed consent;

- 18 years or older;

- No change in medication in the past thirty days;

- Low metacognition (group 1) and high metacognition (group 2). ;Patients in UHR group;;- At risk of psychosis determined by genetic risk or the CAARMS;

- Being able to give informed consent;

- No change in medication in the past thirty days.

### Exclusion criteria

All participants;;- Florid psychosis;

- Comorbid neurological disorder;

- Substance dependence (not substance abuse);

- IQ < 70.

## Study design

### Design

**Study type:** Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Diagnostic

## Recruitment

NL  
Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped  
Start date (anticipated): 24-11-2016  
Enrollment: 90  
Type: Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO  
Date: 30-03-2015  
Application type: First submission  
Review commission: METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (Groningen)  
Approved WMO  
Date: 27-09-2016  
Application type: Amendment  
Review commission: METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (Groningen)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

## In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL49321.042.14