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White Matter Integrity, Duration of Untreated Psychosis, and Antipsychotic Treatment Response in Medication-Naïve First Episode Psychosis Patients

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Abstract

It is becoming increasingly clear that longer duration of untreated psychosis (DUP) is associated with adverse clinical outcomes in patients with psychosis spectrum disorders. Because this association is often cited when justifying early intervention efforts, it is imperative to better understand underlying biological mechanisms. We enrolled 66 antipsychotic-naïve first episode psychosis (FEP) patients and 45 matched healthy controls in this trial. At baseline, we used a human connectome style diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) sequence to quantify white matter integrity in both groups. Patients then received 16 weeks of treatment with risperidone, 51 FEP completed the trial. We compared whole brain fractional anisotropy (FA), mean diffusivity, axial diffusivity (AD) and radial diffusivity between groups. To test if structural white matter integrity mediates the relationship between longer DUP and poorer treatment response, we fit a mediator model and estimated indirect effects. We found decreased whole brain FA and AD in medication-naïve FEP compared to controls. In patients, lower FA was correlated with longer DUP ($r = -0.32$; $p = 0.03$) and poorer subsequent response to antipsychotic treatment ($r = 0.40$; $p = 0.01$). Importantly, we found a significant mediation effect for FA (indirect effect: -2.70 ; $p = 0.03$), indicating that DUP exerts its effects on treatment response through affecting white matter integrity. Our data provide empirical support to the idea the DUP may have fundamental pathogenic effects on the natural history of psychosis, suggest a biological mechanism underlying this phenomenon, and underscore the importance of early intervention efforts in this disabling neuropsychiatric syndrome.

Trial registration: [ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT02034253](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT02034253)

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INTRODUCTION

In patients with a psychosis spectrum disorder, the median duration of untreated psychosis (DUP), defined as the time between first occurrence of positive symptoms and initial antipsychotic treatment, is approximately 74 weeks in the US¹. It is becoming clear that longer DUP is associated with adverse clinical outcomes^{2, 3}, and may even be a determinant of overall outcomes. It has been highlighted that the long DUP may be one of the least understood but most important public mental health problems in our society today⁴, this is true particularly when it comes to the neurobiological underpinnings of this phenomenon. Especially because the relationship between longer DUP and poorer overall outcomes is often cited when justifying early intervention efforts, and because an unequivocal proof of a mechanistic link would have important implications for the use of treatment in case of the patient's refusal⁵, it is imperative to better understand putative biological mechanisms underlying this association.

However, the idea that untreated psychosis may adversely impact brain function and structure remains debated^{6, 7} and only limited empirical evidence is available. To our knowledge, two studies thus far have demonstrated a link between functional brain connectivity, DUP, and antipsychotic treatment response^{8, 9}. Importantly, both found that connectivity mediated the relationship between longer DUP and poorer subsequent treatment response, supporting the idea that untreated psychosis adversely affects the brain in a clinically relevant manner. Because functional connectivity can be perturbed by a number of pathological states such as disruptions in various neurotransmitter systems¹⁰⁻¹² or deficits in the white matter tracts^{13, 14} that provide the structural framework of functional brain networks^{15, 16}, a logical expansion of this line of research is to investigate a presumed role of structural connectivity in the relationship between DUP and treatment response.

Here, we enrolled a group of antipsychotic-naïve first episode psychosis patients (FEP) in a longitudinal diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) study to test the hypothesis that lower white matter integrity at baseline is associated with longer DUP and poorer clinical response after sixteen weeks of antipsychotic treatment. We chose this timeframe because longer treatment trials are warranted in FEP¹⁷ and early symptom reduction does not appear to be a clinically useful predictor of antipsychotic treatment response in this population¹⁸. Our primary variable of interest was whole brain white matter fractional anisotropy (FA), a dimensionless summary measure of microstructural white matter integrity. We chose to focus on whole brain white matter integrity, as we and others have found that whole brain white matter integrity was predictive of subsequent response to antipsychotic treatment in schizophrenia spectrum patients^{19, 20}. As secondary analyses, we also quantified mean diffusivity (MD), radial diffusivity (RD), and axial diffusivity (AD), three related measures that capture various aspects of diffusivity. We then conducted mediation analyses to test if white matter integrity is a mediator in the relationship between longer DUP and poorer response to antipsychotic treatment.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

FEP were recruited from outpatient, inpatient and emergency room settings at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Healthy controls (HC) matched on age, sex and parental occupation were recruited by advertisements. Written informed consent was obtained (once FEP were deemed to have capacity²¹) prior to enrollment in this UAB Institutional Review Board approved study.

Participants were excluded if they had major neurological or medical conditions, history of head trauma with loss of consciousness, substance use disorders (excluding nicotine and cannabis) within one month of imaging, were pregnant or breastfeeding, or had MRI contraindications. Patients were either antipsychotic-naïve or had no more than five days of lifetime antipsychotic exposure prior to study entry (83% of patients did not receive any antipsychotic prior to the initial scan). Controls with a personal history of a mental illness or family history in a first-degree relative of a psychotic disorder were excluded.

Diagnoses were established by consensus of two board certified psychiatrists (ACL and NVK) taking into consideration information from the Diagnostic Interview for Genetic Studies (DIGS) or Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI) and medical records as available. The Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS) and Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS) were used to assess symptom severity and cognition, respectively. We operationally defined DUP as the time between first onset of positive symptoms and the start of treatment (the time at which the first antipsychotic prescription was written, which also coincided with enrollment in the study). The time of symptom onset was determined in consensus by two psychiatrists (ACL and NVK) via clinical interviews with the patient and family members as well as medical records (psychiatric assessment, review of systems, family history, laboratory workup) and clinical observations and assessments over several months of follow up.

FEP enrolled in this longitudinal study entered into a sixteen week trial of oral risperidone using a flexible dosing regimen (Figure 1). Risperidone was started at 0.5- 1mg and titrated in 1- 2mg increments; dosing was based on therapeutic and side effects. In case of excessive side effect burden, as determined by a study physician, patients were switched to aripiprazole started at 2-5mg and titrated in 2.5-10mg increments (two patients were switched to aripiprazole; one developed hyperprolactinemia within the first week of using risperidone, the second was switched after seven weeks of treatment due to irritability). Use of concomitant medication was permitted as clinically indicated (20 patients were prescribed benztropine, 14 an SSRI, 5 trazodone, 1 bupropione, 1 lithium, 1 valproic acid, 1 prazosin, 1 stimulant). Treatment response (i.e. percent change in symptom severity) was calculated as follows: $[(\text{BPRS positive score at baseline} - \text{BPRS positive score at endpoint}) / \text{BPRS positive score at baseline}] * 100$.

Data acquisition

Imaging was performed on a 3T Siemens Magnetom Prisma scanner equipped with a 20-channel head coil. A T2 weighted scan was acquired for anatomical reference (TR/TE: 3200/ 563ms; GRAPPA factor 2; slice thickness 0.8mm; 208 slices, voxel size 0.8mm³).

DWI data was acquired with opposing phase encoding directions (anterior > posterior, and posterior > anterior; [TR/TE: 3230ms/ 89.20ms; multiband acceleration factor 4, Flip angle: 84°; slice thickness 1.5mm, 92 slices, voxel size 1.5mm³, 92 diffusion weighted images distributed equally over 2 shells with b-values of ~1500s/mm² and ~3000s/mm², as well as 7 interspersed b= ~0s/mm² images]).

Data preprocessing

Preprocessing of DWI images was performed in TORTOISE (version 3.1.2)^{22, 23}. This included correction for thermal noise²⁴, Gibbs-ringing²⁵, high b-value based bulk motion and eddy-current distortions using a MAP-MRI model^{26, 27}, resampling of images to 1mm³, and rotation of gradient tables independently for each DWI phase encoding direction with DIFF-PREP. Then, DR-BUDDI was used to correct EPI distortions with input from the anatomical image and to combine the two datasets using geometric averaging to generate the corrected dataset²⁸. Tensors were computed with DIFF_CALC using a linear fitting algorithm. To spatially normalize images to the Illinois Institute of Technology atlas (IIT4) space, we implemented an optimized non-linear image registration procedure using a modified version of 3dQwarp in AFNI²⁹ (Figure 2). As our primary variable of interest, we extracted whole brain white matter FA. To do this, we created a whole brain white matter mask based on the atlas image and extracted an averaged FA value for each participant, this was done on in standard space. We also calculated whole brain MD, AD, and RD.

Data quality control

We verified protocol adherence and visually inspected raw images for signal loss and artifacts. We then assessed bulk motion and excluded datasets with an average root mean square of absolute displacement (RMS_{abs}) of greater than the voxel edge length (1.5mm) or root mean square of relative displacement (RMS_{rel}) of >0.05mm averaged across phase encoding directions from further analyses. DR_BUDDI outputs were assessed for quality of motion, eddy current and EPI distortion correction, and scalar diffusion maps were inspected for anomalies in parameters.

Statistical analyses

We compared baseline differences in whole brain white matter integrity between FEP and HC using univariate analysis of variance with age, sex, and RMS_{rel} as covariates. We also examined the relationship between whole brain white matter FA and log transformed DUP as well as treatment response after 16 weeks in FEP using partial correlations with age, gender and RMS_{rel} as covariates. We then repeated analyses with whole brain MD, AD, and RD.

To test if structural white matter integrity mediates the relationship between longer DUP and poorer treatment response, we used the method described by Preacher and Hayes³⁰ to fit a mediator model and estimate indirect effects. The model controlled for age, sex and RMS_{rel}. Accelerated bias-corrected bootstrap confidence intervals were used to test for statistical significance and to form 95% confidence intervals (based on 1000 replications) for the indirect effects³¹.

As a post hoc analyses, we examined relationships between whole brain voxel-wise FA, MD, RD, and AD and DUP as well as treatment response using AFNI's 3dttest++; co-variates included age, gender, RMS_{rel} . Clustsim, a randomization/ permutation simulation to produce 10,000 iterations of noise only generated t-tests and determine global cluster-level threshold values, was implemented to control for the false positive rate (voxelwise threshold Bonferroni corrected $p = .00625$ [accounting for 8 comparisons at $p_{uncorrected} = .05$]; cluster threshold $\alpha = 0.05$)³².

The sample here has no overlap with our previous studies on white matter integrity in psychosis spectrum patients^{19, 33, 34}.

RESULTS

Participant characteristics

Of the 183 patients assessed for eligibility between June 2016 and April 2019, 74 FEP were consented and 66 were entered into the sixteen week trial of risperidone (Figure 2), a total of 51 FEP completed the study. We also enrolled 45 HC.

Groups did not differ in gender, age or parental socioeconomic status (Table). In patients, BPRS scores significantly decreased after 16 weeks of treatment, the average daily dose of risperidone at that time was 4.11 ± 2.66 mg. Importantly, longer DUP predicted worse subsequent response to antipsychotic treatment ($r = -0.37$; $p < 0.01$), but DUP was not associated with RBANS scores.

Whole brain diffusion, DUP and treatment response

Imaging data from 3 HC and 10 FEP did not pass quality control. Additionally, 4 FEP terminated the scan before DWI images were acquired. In summary, diffusion datasets from 52 FEP and 42 HC were included in analyses for group comparisons. Whole brain FA and AD were significantly lower in FEP compared to controls (FA: $F = 8.58$; $p < 0.01$; AD: $F = 23.98$; $p < 0.01$; Figure 3A), but MD and RD did not differ between groups. There was no difference in whole brain FA, MD, RD or AD between patients who tested positive and negative for cannabis (all $p > 0.70$).

In FEP, lower FA was correlated with longer DUP ($r = -0.32$; $p = 0.03$) and poorer antipsychotic treatment response ($r = 0.40$; $p = 0.01$; Figure 3B). We did not observe associations between AD, MD or RD and DUP, treatment response, or RBANS scores.

As a post-hoc analysis, we also examined regional patterns of the relationships between DUP/ treatment response and white matter integrity in FEP. Longer DUP was associated with lower FA in the anterior corona radiata, but no regional patterns were seen with AD, MD, or RD. Better subsequent response to antipsychotic treatment was associated with lower MD and RD in the inferior longitudinal fasciculus/ inferior fronto-occipital fasciculus (Figure 4).

Mediation Analyses

The independent variable DUP predicted the dependent variable treatment response, DUP was correlated with the putative mediator FA, and FA predicted treatment response, thus fulfilling the prerequisites for testing a mediation effect³⁵ (Figure 3C illustrates standardized regression coefficients). We did find a significant mediation effect for FA [indirect effect: -2.70 ; $p=0.03$; 95% CI: $(-\infty, -0.25)$], indicating that DUP exerts its effects on treatment response through affecting white matter integrity.

DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, this is the first study to examine a putative role of white matter integrity in the observed association between DUP and clinical outcomes in FEP. We report evidence of white matter alterations in medication-naïve FEP compared to controls, and demonstrate empirical links between the extent of FA alterations, DUP, and clinical response after sixteen weeks of antipsychotic treatment. Mediation analyses indicate that longer DUP impacts white matter integrity, which in turn influences clinical outcomes. Taken together, our data are consistent with the idea that the DUP may have fundamental pathogenic effects on the natural history of psychosis, suggest a biological mechanism underlying this phenomenon, and underscore the importance of early intervention efforts in this disabling neuropsychiatric syndrome.

Here, we found that whole brain FA and AD were decreased in FEP compared to controls, which is consistent with reports of widespread white matter integrity deficits in the schizophrenia literature³⁶. However, we did not find alterations in MD or RD, which are often interpreted as evidence of neuroinflammation and myelin damage/ abnormal fiber crossing respectively.

Our findings replicate reports of an association between DUP and antipsychotic treatment response in psychosis spectrum patients³⁷, and extend the literature by demonstrating that whole brain white matter integrity deficits in medication-naïve FEP appear to be more prominent as the DUP increases. While this contradicts several literature reviews^{6, 38} failing to demonstrate unequivocal evidence of a relationship between DUP brain structure, it is important to note that these reviews solely focused on gray matter morphology. Unfortunately, data on white matter are scarce; we found only two other relevant publications^{39, 40}. In a letter to the editors, Lee and colleagues found an inverse relationship between DUP and FA in the left tapetum in a large group of medicated FEP with an average DUP of 14.6 weeks³⁹, which is consistent with our findings. The other study was conducted in 43 medication-naïve FEP and 17 controls. Results showed a mix of areas with increased and decreased FA in patients compared to controls, and a correlation between DUP and FA⁴⁰. It is notable that all three studies found an association between DUP and white matter integrity. The discrepancy between studies examining gray matter and those investigating white matter is perhaps not surprising, as trajectories of gray and white matter deterioration in schizophrenia have found to be dissimilar⁴¹. Post-hoc voxelwise analyses showed an association between DUP and FA in the anterior corona radiata, one of the brain areas with the largest effect sizes in terms of FA reductions in schizophrenia³⁶. Consistent with our findings, Lee and colleagues reported a negative relationship between DUP and FA in the

left anterior and right posterior corona radiata and the left internal capsule⁴². Similarly, in bipolar disorder, a negative relationship between FA in the anterior corona radiata and illness duration has been demonstrated, however, this was not found in schizophrenia patients⁴³. The spatial extent of voxelwise associations with DUP was limited, which at first glance may be surprising given the finding of a significant negative correlation with whole brain FA. It is possible that existing subtle associations across white matter tracts did not survive the voxelwise threshold for multiple comparison corrections, suggesting that a whole brain approach may have greater power to detect relationships between imaging and clinical variables.

Our study also adds to a growing literature highlighting white matter integrity as a predictor of antipsychotic treatment response in patients with psychosis spectrum disorders. Similar to us, others have found more widespread FA decreases in FEP with a subsequent poor response compared to those with a good response⁴⁴ and that baseline global white matter network organization showed greater alterations in FEP who subsequently showed poor treatment response compared to those with a more favorable response²⁰. Our group previously found that whole brain orientation dispersion index (ODI), a measure of white matter fiber uniformity, was predictive subsequent treatment response in psychosis spectrum patients¹⁹.

Tying together our main findings, mediation analyses demonstrated an indirect effect of FA on the relationship between DUP and treatment response. In other words, our data suggests a process, i.e. white matter deterioration, through which DUP affects antipsychotic treatment response, which is consistent with the idea that DUP has fundamental pathogenic effects on the brain. Our findings are also in agreement with two studies examining a possible mediating role of functional brain connectivity in the association between these two variables. Sarpal and colleagues investigated functional connectivity of the striatum, a principal site of antipsychotic drug action⁹. They describe a significant mediation effect, indicating that DUP exerts its effects on treatment response through corticostriatal connectivity. Our group recently reported that resting state connectivity of the default mode network in medication-naïve FEP mediates the relationship between DUP and subsequent response to antipsychotic medication⁸. Taken together, all three studies lend empirical support to the idea that untreated psychosis impacts brain connectivity in a clinically meaningful way and highlight neurobiological substrates underlying this phenomenon.

A number of mechanisms through which active psychosis may adversely affect the brain have been proposed. Several authors suggested that dopaminergic hyperactivity, whereby a prolonged elevation of dopamine during a psychotic episode, could lead to a progressive decline in brain volume in form of neuronal injury, which could potentially be reversed with antipsychotic medication treatment^{45, 46}. McGlashan postulated that the DUP may be important in the sense that first episode patients with a long DUP may be well beyond the period of active deficit processes formation in their brain, while patients with short DUP may still have actively destructive neurobiological changes that can be arrested or reversed with antipsychotic treatment⁴. Interestingly, preclinical data shows that dopamine signaling via dopamine D2 receptors regulates myelination in response to chronic stress⁴⁷ and that alterations in white matter are associated with defects in the dopaminergic system⁴⁸.

It is tempting to speculate a dopaminergic hyperactivity in FEP may result in reversible structural injury, but if it is prolonged, may permanently affect white matter integrity. In that case, those with a short DUP and little appreciable white matter deficits should respond well to antipsychotic medication, while those with a longer DUP should show greater white matter impairments and poorer response to treatment, which is consistent with our empirical findings. Another mechanism through which untreated psychosis could adversely affect the brain is altered glutamate metabolism, which has been reported in acutely ill early stage psychosis spectrum patients^{49, 50}, and may be normalized after successful antipsychotic treatment⁵⁰⁻⁵³. Because glial cells and axons are vulnerable to glutamate related excitotoxicity^{54, 55}, it is conceivable that prolonged exposure to excess glutamate metabolism as the DUP increases, contributes to progressive white matter pathology and poorer overall outcomes in this patient population. It is intriguing that proposed mechanisms underlying the adverse impacts of DUP on the brain have in common an element where an initial structural injury is potentially reversible with antipsychotic treatment, but with prolonged exposure the pathological state becomes permanent and results in poor overall outcomes. Regardless of the underlying mechanisms, our data underscore the importance of early intervention efforts aimed at arresting DUP's detrimental effects on the brain.

One of the major strengths was that we enrolled FEP at first treatment contact mitigating confounds of antipsychotic medication exposure and illness chronicity. Even though this is a notoriously challenging patient population to recruit, our sample represents perhaps one of the largest antipsychotic-naïve first episode psychosis cohorts followed longitudinally in the US. We treated patients with risperidone, the chosen trial duration of 16 weeks allowed us to capture those who respond only after prolonged treatment reducing the possibility of late responders being incorrectly characterized as poor responders. Our retention rates were excellent for a clinical trial with antipsychotic medications, with only ~23% attrition⁵⁶. We determined DUP using a clinical interview. A quantitative review comparing methods of gauging DUP concluded that clinical interviews are no less reliable than standardized assessment tools, but that the definition of treatment onset as first-ever antipsychotic medication prescription or first hospitalization may have greater validity compared to other methods such as first adequate response to treatment⁵⁷. We enrolled subjects with a first psychotic episode, regardless of diagnosis. A subset of our patients were diagnosed with a mood disorder with psychotic features or with unspecified psychosis. It is possible that DUP has different effects depending on the primary diagnosis, but we were not adequately powered to test this. Future large-scale studies should investigate if DUP is factor affecting brain structure irrespective of the clinical diagnosis or if there are differential effects. We chose not to exclude patients who used cannabis. Though exposure to cannabis may affect brain structure and function, it is one of the major risk factors for developing a psychotic illness and therefore highly clinically relevant. Excluding patients with a history of cannabis use would have inadvertently biased our sample and limit the generalizability of our data. Finally, we obtained diffusion data with a human connectome style sequence and used state of the art data post-processing strategies including stringent quality control. This allowed us to acquire data with good spatial resolution, minimize distortions and other artifacts and accurately align corresponding brain areas across subjects.

In conclusion, DUP has been identified as one most important public mental health problems today⁴. Our data are consistent with the idea the DUP may have fundamental pathogenic effects on the structural connectome which results in poorer clinical outcomes. Importantly, findings underscore the critical need of early intervention in an effort to alleviate disease burden and improve outcomes in this disabling neuropsychiatric syndrome.

Acknowledgments

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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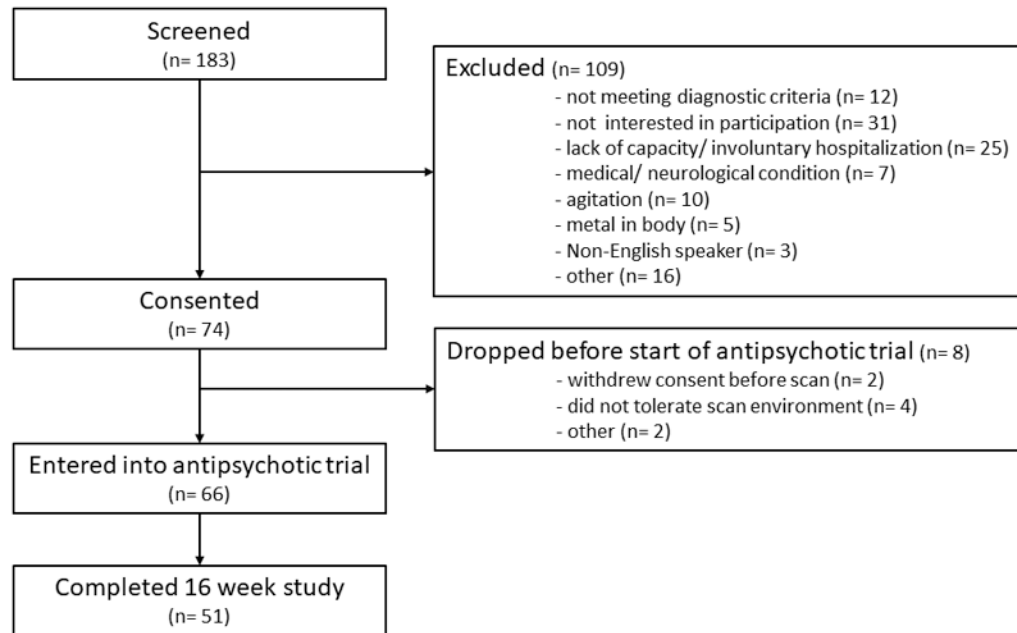


Figure 1:
CONSORT flow chart.

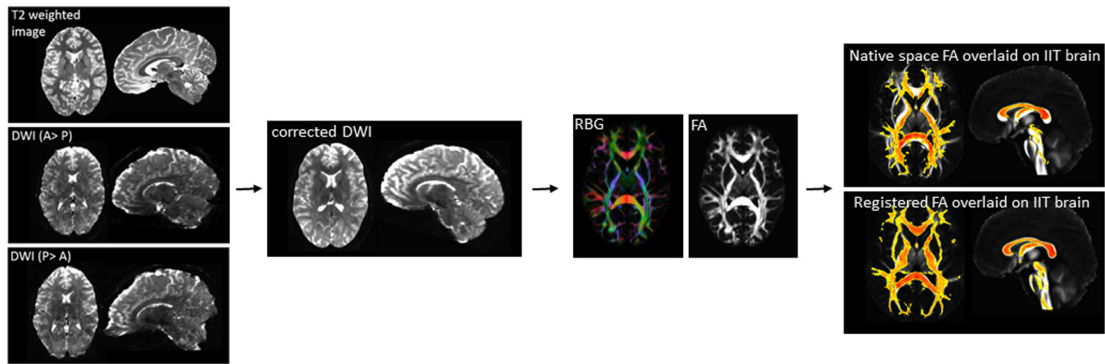


Figure 2: Diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) data processing pipeline. A: anterior; p: posterior; RBG: red blue and green color map; FA fractional anisotropy; IIT: Illinois institute for technology.

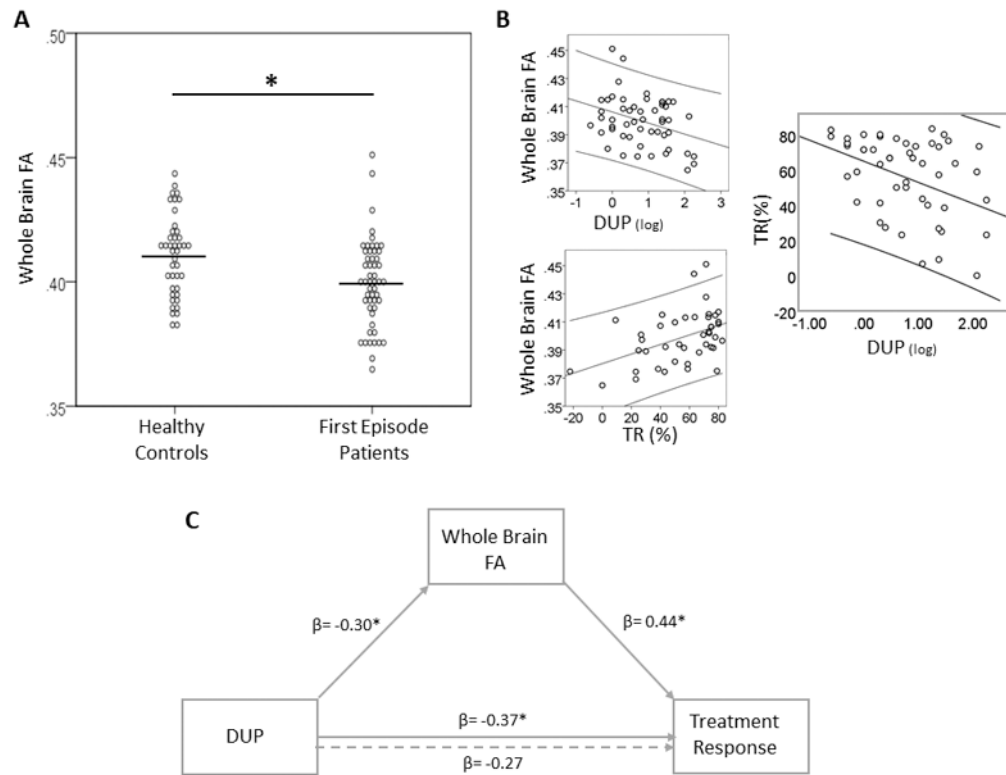


Figure 3: White matter integrity, duration of untreated psychosis and response to antipsychotic treatment. **A.** At baseline, whole brain fractional anisotropy (FA) is lower in first episode psychosis patients compared to healthy controls. Dots represent individual measurements, the lines represent the group means. **B.** Top left panel. In first episode patients, whole brain FA is inversely related to duration of untreated psychosis (DUP; note that values are log transformed). Bottom left panel. In first episode patients, whole brain FA at baseline predicts subsequent response to antipsychotic treatment (TR). Right panel. Greater DUP is associated with poorer subsequent TR. **C.** Mediation model, where DUP is the independent variable, treatment response is the dependent variable and whole brain FA is the mediator. Numbers indicate standardized beta coefficient (β) for regression analyses.

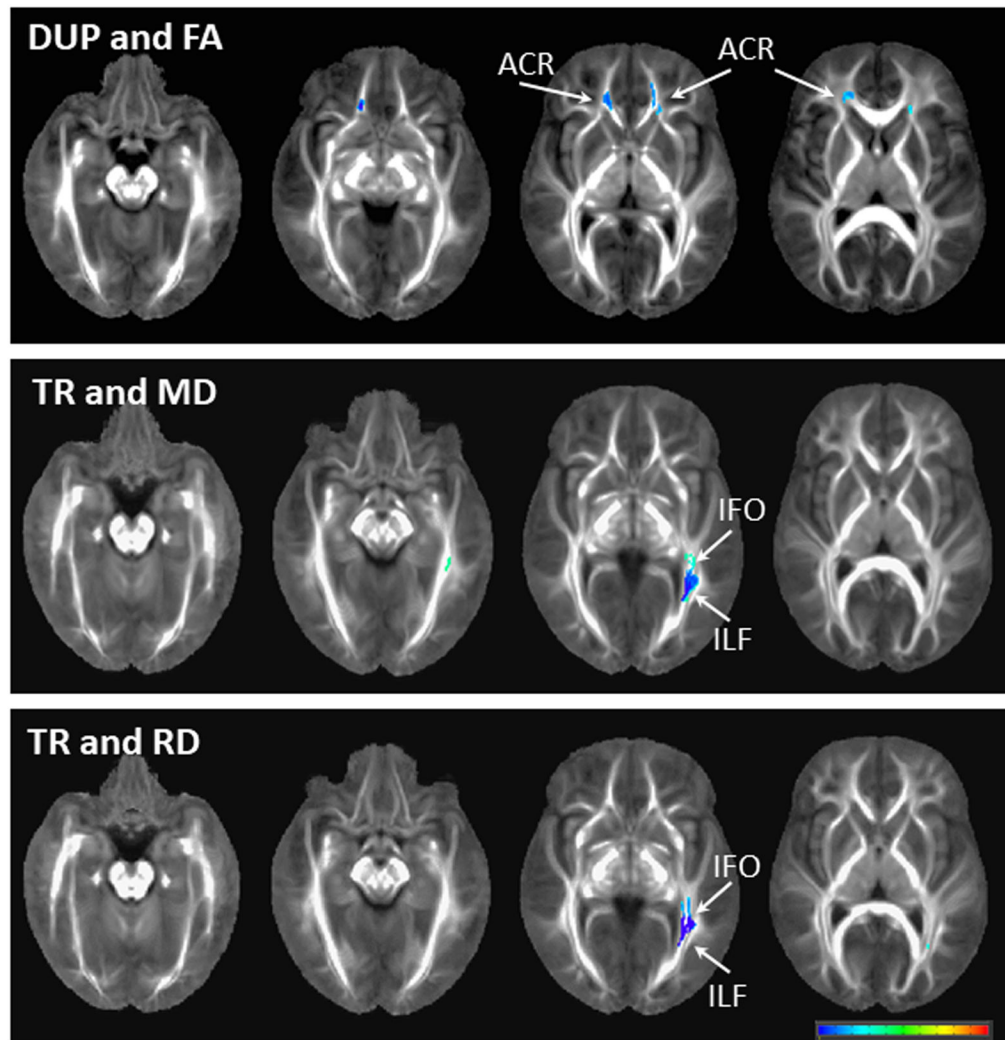


Figure 4: Regional patterns of associations between white matter integrity and duration of untreated psychosis (DUP) as well as to response to antipsychotic treatment (TR). Images are overlaid on the IIT4 atlas. Blue colors reflect a negative association between white matter values and clinical values. Abbreviations: FA fractional anisotropy, MD mean diffusivity, RD radial diffusivity, ACR anterior corona radiata, IFO inferior fronto-occipital fasciculus, ILF inferior longitudinal fasciculus.

Table:Demographics, clinical measures, and motion parameters^a

	FEP (n= 66)	HC (n= 45)	t/X ² /F	p value
Demographic variables				
Gender (% male)	65.2%	64.4%		
Age	23.83 (6.21)	24.78 (6.24)	0.785	0.43
Parental Occupation ^b	5.95 (4.83)	4.22 (4.06)	11.68	0.63
Clinical variables				
Diagnosis				
Schizophrenia	32			
Schizoaffective Disorder	12			
Schizophreniform Disorder	3			
Brief Psychotic Disorder	2			
Bipolar Disorder with psychosis	3			
Major Depression with psychosis	2			
Unspecified Psychosis	12			
Duration of untreated psychosis [in months; range, median, mean, (SD)]	0.3-180, 6.00, 20.57, (38.87)			
UDS +cannabis (%)	31.8			
Risperidone dose at week 16 ^c	4.11 (2.66)			
BPRS ^d				
Baseline				
Total	50.85 (11.62)			
Positive	15.88 (4.18)			
Negative	6.00 (3.23)			
BPRS				
Week 16				
Total	29.94 (5.88)			
Positive	6.38 (2.68)			
Negative	5.69 (2.83)			
RBANS ^e				
Total index	76.16 (16.05)	94.41 (10.94)	6.66	< .01
Immediate memory	81.79 (18.55)	99.64 (17.05)	4.80	< .01
Visuospatial	77.12 (17.73)	99.28 (14.53)	2.76	< .01
Language	83.98 (15.49)	99.28 (14.53)	4.89	< .01
Attention span	80.19 (17.18)	100.95 (17.30)	5.81	< .01
Delayed memory	78.59 (14.89)	92.36 (9.10)	5.16	< .01
Scan quality data				
DWI				
RMS absolute motion (mm)	0.40 (0.24)	0.34 (0.22)	-1.16	0.25

	FEP (n= 66)	HC (n= 45)	t/X²/F	p value
RMS relative motion (mm)	0.007 (0.007)	0.006 (0.005)	-1.05	0.30

FEP, first episode psychosis patient; HC, healthy control; UDS, urine drug screen; DWI, diffusion weighted image; DWI, diffusion weighted imaging; RMS, root mean square of the six motion parameters (translations and rotations)

^aMean (SD) unless indicated otherwise

^bRanks determined from Diagnostic Interview for Genetic Studies (1 – 18 scale); higher rank (lower numerical value) corresponds to higher socioeconomic status

^cTwo subjects were switched to aripiprazole prior to week 16 (10mg daily and 20mg daily respectively), and are not included in the average dose

^dBrief Psychiatric Rating Scale (1 – 7 scale); positive (conceptual disorganization, hallucinatory behavior, suspiciousness and unusual thought content); negative (emotional withdrawal, motor retardation, and blunted affect)

^eRepeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status