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[Genetic basis for antipsychotic-induced weight gain](#)

DOI: 10.1038/npp.2009.235

People with certain variants of the cannabinoid receptor 1 gene (CNR1) are more likely to gain
substantial amounts of weight on antipsychotic medications than those without these genetic
variants, reports a study online this week in *Neuropsychopharmacology*. Antipsychotic
medications have revolutionized the treatment of schizophrenia, but the associated weight gain
experienced by some patients can create health complications and lead to less successful
responses to treatment. This research could help identify those at risk.

To investigate a previously theorized link between CNR1 and weight regulation, James Kennedy, Daniel Mueller and colleagues analyzed DNA from 183 patients from mixed ancestries who underwent treatment for chronic schizophrenia. Analyses that controlled for ethnicity revealed an association between CNR1 variants and antipsychotic-induced weight gain for several gene loci.

If these results are replicated in a larger study, CNR1 variants could potentially be used to identify people who are susceptible to antipsychotic-induced weight gain and aid in the development of new schizophrenia medications that avoid this side effect.

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