

functioning of the human mind (and brain). However, although neuroscientists and psychotherapists study the same object, their competencies are different. Considering these different levels of knowledge, what might be the advantages of studying psychotherapy using neuroimaging? In the present symposium, empirical researchers concerning neural correlates of dynamic psychotherapy are presented in order to reflect on advantages and limitation of the integration between psychotherapy and neuroscience.

NEURAL CORRELATES OF OUTCOME OF COGNITIVE THERAPY COMPARED TO PSYCHODYNAMIC THERAPY IN AFFECTIVE DISORDERS: A META-ANALYSIS

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Anxiety and depression disorders are commonly associated with structural and functional changes in the fronto-limbic brain areas. However, it is still unexplored how different psychotherapeutic approaches affect the functional brain. The present meta-analysis aims to compare the neurobiological outcome of the cognitive therapies compared to the

psychodynamic therapies in anxiety and depression disorders. Sixteen samples undergoing treatment with cognitive therapies and five samples undergoing treatment with psychodynamic therapies were included. The main finding showed a specific activation of the left inferior frontal gyrus and a deactivation of the left paracingulate gyrus in post psychodynamic treatment, while the cognitive therapies showed a decreased activation of right putamen and right temporal pole. Despite there are few samples involved in pre-post psychodynamic treatments studies, findings suggest the different neural mechanisms involved in psychodynamic therapy compared to cognitive therapy in anxiety and depression. Moreover, the activation of the left inferior frontal gyrus could be the neural correlate of an improved emotional processing. Psychotherapy has been described as “a specific kind of enriched environment that promotes social and emotional development, neural integration, and processing complexity” (Cozolino, 2010). Experience-based synaptogenesis continues during entire life course stimulated by the environmental changing. Future neuroscience studies could focus on epigenetic modifications enabled by psychotherapeutic process to support the value of psychotherapy.

ABNORMAL DEFAULT SYSTEM FUNCTIONING IN DEPRESSION: IMPLICATIONS FOR DYNAMIC PSYCHOTHERAPY

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Psychodynamic models of psychotherapy describe the development of individuals' capacity to regulate their emotional states in mother-infant interactions during childhood, through the construction of the representation of the self, others, and relationships. In the present work, we link these