Eagle Program: Preventing Hospitalization and Improving Outcomes for Young Adults Experiencing Their First Psychotic Break

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Our Team
The Problem: Poor Lifetime Outcomes for Young Adults who Experience a Psychotic Break

$4 billion annually in healthcare costs

Medical and psychiatric hospitalizations

28.5 years decreased life expectancy
Our Solution: Intervene Early and Change Lifetime Trajectory

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQWVU_FCJf8
Program Goals

1. No more than 10% of Eagle patients experience a psychiatric hospitalization within one year of starting treatment.
2. 80% of Eagle patients will be enrolled in school and/or employed at least 20 hours a week within one year after starting treatment.
Psychotic Disorder Impact on the Brain

BASAL GANGLIA
Involved in movement and emotions and in integrating sensory information. Abnormal functioning in schizophrenia is thought to contribute to paranoia and hallucinations. Excessive blockade of dopamine receptors in the basal ganglia by traditional antipsychotic medicines leads to motor side effects.

AUDITORY SYSTEM
Enables humans to hear and understand speech. In schizophrenia, overactivity of the speech area (called Wernicke’s area) can create auditory hallucinations—the illusion that internally generated thoughts are real voices coming from the outside.

FRONTAL LOBE
Critical to problem solving, insight and other high-level reasoning. Perturbations in schizophrenia lead to difficulty in planning actions and organizing thoughts.

LIMBIC SYSTEM
Involved in emotion. Disturbances are thought to contribute to the agitation frequently seen in schizophrenia.

OCCIPITAL LOBE
Processes information about the visual world. People with schizophrenia rarely have full-blown visual hallucinations, but disturbances in this area contribute to such difficulties as interpreting complex images, recognizing emotion, and reading emotions on others’ faces.

HIPPOCAMPUS
Mediates learning and memory formation, intertwined functions that are impaired in schizophrenia.

ALFRED T. KAMAJIAN
Results: Reduced Hospitalizations
Results: Working or In School

Percent Patients Working or Going to School Half Time or More
Eagle Program 2017-2018

- Admission
- 3M
- 6M
- 9M
- 12M
“Early intervention has been shown to interrupt the deteriorating course that can often occur with psychotic disorders. This can provide these young people with a greater opportunity for fulfilling their hopes and dreams. In addition, engagement with their families helps both patients and families to better navigate the road ahead.”

—Dr. Bruce Noll, Medical Director for the Eagle Program at Atrium Health
Questions?