

# New cognitive disorder treatment possible

May 3 2007

---

U.S. scientists have identified a new class of compounds that could be used in drugs to treat various cognitive disorders.

University of California-Irvine researchers said the compounds target receptors in the brain that are activated by nicotine, imparting the beneficial effects of nicotine -- specifically enhanced cognition -- but without health threats associated with smoking.

"We'd like to see this lead to a drug that would address specifically the cognitive deficits found in schizophrenia," said Profesor Kelvin Gee. "We could probably treat more schizophrenics on an outpatient basis and allow them to re-enter mainstream society if we could address cognition."

The three-year animal study showed activating a certain nicotinic receptor in the brain improved working memory and made it easier to filter sensory input.

The study -- which also involved researchers Herman Ng, Edward Whitemore, Minhtam Tran, Derk Hogenkamp, Ron Broide and Timothy Johnstone, all of UCI; and Lijun Zhang and Karen Stevens at the University of Colorado -- appears in the online edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

*Copyright 2007 by United Press International*

Citation: New cognitive disorder treatment possible (2007, May 3) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2007-05-cognitive-disorder-treatment.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.