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Multidimensional imaging techniques for prediction of treatment response in major depressive disorder

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Abstract

A large number of studies have attempted to use neuroimaging tools to aid in treatment prediction models for major depressive disorder (MDD). Most such studies have reported on only one dimension of function and prediction at a time. In this study, we used three different tasks across domains of function (emotion processing, reward anticipation, and cognitive control, plus resting state connectivity completed prior to start of medication to predict treatment response in 13-36 adults with MDD. For each experiment, adults with MDD were prescribed only label duloxetine (all experiments), whereas another subset were prescribed escitalopram. We used a KeyNet (both Task derived masks and Key intrinsic Network derived masks) approach to targeting brain systems in a specific match to tasks. The most robust predictors were (1) positive response to anger and (2) negative response to fear within relevant anger and fear TaskNets and Salience and Emotion KeyNet (3) cognitive control (correct rejections) within Inhibition TaskNet (negative) and Cognitive Control KeyNet (positive). Resting state analyses were most robust for Cognitive control Network (positive) and Salience and Emotion Network (negative). Results differed by whether an -fwhm or -acf (more conservative) adjustment for multiple comparisons was used. Together, these results implicate the importance of future studies with larger sample sizes, multidimensional predictive models, and the importance of using empirically derived masks for search areas.

Introduction

A rapidly growing literature implicates the use of neuroimaging markers in the prediction of response to standard treatments for those with mood and anxiety disorders (1–11). These studies have, by and large, highlighted the challenges in understanding probability of treatment response. For example, there are differences in task probes, relevance to individual patients, heterogeneity of depression, and specificity of prediction. In addition, these studies tend to have small sample sizes, variable analytic techniques, and different thresholding strategies. Within analytic techniques, one challenge in these studies is that there are four classes of studies, *a priori* region of interest (ROI) based, exploratory whole-brain based (WB), and prediction based upon regions identified as critical for task completion (e.g., goal-directed activity) (TaskNet) or between group (BetGroup) differences (i.e., regions implicated in psychiatric illness). As a result, a meta-analysis would fail to adequately represent the entirety of data prediction or variance in algorithms in these studies. These studies and other reviews have strongly suggested that the mechanisms in which people attain wellness are multifactorial and heterogeneous in nature (12). In a recent review, we reported on task-based fMRI studies of treatment prediction in mood disorders and highlighted the cognitive control network (CCN) and salience and emotion networks (SEN) as critical for predicting treatment response in mood disorders (3). In addition, we reviewed well-known regions and networks, such as the amygdala, insula, dorsal and dorsal anterior cingulate, but also less expected regions like occipital cortex and cerebellum that have been implicated in predicting treatment response. In light of that review, there is still a need to synthesize previous findings in order to provide a better framework for how to conceptualize brain-based prediction models of clinical outcomes, or neuroprediction. Do key region (KeyReg, BetGroup) or network (TaskNet, KeyNet) models best predict treatment response? More specifically, does a Reward network or a Salience and Emotion intrinsic network best represent nodes that are relevant for prospective prediction of treatment response? Moreover, does the task probe matter as much as the TaskNet or KeyNet?

More recently, investigations have evaluated the role of intrinsic network connectivity (e.g., KeyNet) in the prediction of treatment response in mood and related disorders (13–19). There are several advantages of the resting state-fMRI approach. Group and individual differences in effort and performance capabilities are not confounds for this approach. In addition, by looking at temporal cross-correlations of these nodes, it is possible to better address convergence across multiple nodes within a network and across and between networks (20). One of the main challenges is the need for a very large adjustment for significance, as there are hundreds of thousands of bidirectional connectivities, which is only aided slightly by the fact that in-network nodes tend to correlate moderately with each other. By using a KeyNet or ROI approach, investigators have dramatically reduced the number of comparisons, but the possibility remains that the best predictive connections (e.g., Intrinsic Networks, or CrossNetwork seed to node connections) are omitted from these models. Reducing the number of comparisons by restricting the search space could allow for a more balanced approach to type I and II error.

Three networks have been identified as particularly reliable intrinsic connectivity networks (21–23), which may be relevant to the prediction of treatment response in MDD (15), the

default mode network (DMN); the salience and emotional network (SEN); and the cognitive control network (CCN). The DMN is active during rest and shows corresponding decreases in activation during cognitively demanding tasks (24–27). In contrast, the SEN is active in response to stimuli that are perceived to be relevant to current goals and involves limbic regions and ventral attention subnetworks. Finally, the CCN involves frontoparietal and dorsal attention network regions and is thought to be critical for problem-solving and executive functioning (28). Examining individual differences in connectivity within these networks during rest can provide useful information about the integrity and efficiency of these networks (23, 28). For example, prior work has suggested that attenuated connectivity within the CCN may have utility as a biomarker for individual differences in cognitive control performance and cognitive vulnerabilities for depression (e.g., (20, 29). In contrast, enhanced connectivity within the DMN often is seen in current depression and is related to elevated rumination and depression symptoms (30–34)

In this paper, we propose TaskNet and KeyNet approaches to identify treatment predictors using several small samples for illustration, balanced with our proposed whole brain uncorrected threshold strategy that could facilitate future meta-analyses (3). We aim to provide a ‘proof of principle’ framework for how data from smaller samples could be published, minimizing type I error with TaskNet and KeyNet masks using more conservative thresholds, and decreasing type II error by including WB data with effect sizes in supplemental tables and a moderately adjusted thresholded (3). We present four experiments, each using a different task that probes one of 4 subdomains of the Research Domain Criteria (RDoC), highlighting recent work suggesting specific subtypes by subdomain in MDD (35–37). 1) We use a well-published emotion face matching task (Negative Valence) (38–40), 2) a monetary incentive delay task (41–43), 3) a parametric Go/No-go task (44, 45), and 4) resting state fMRI (46, 47), all collected from an overlapping set of samples from our group.

General methods

The participants for all four experiments were recruited at the University of Michigan and surrounding area using postings in community settings and online forums. Inclusion criteria were diagnosis of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), a Hamilton Depression Rating Score (HDRS, 17 item) greater than 13 (also completed every two weeks and at completion of the treatment) and age between 18 and 55. Those with comorbid anxiety disorders were also allowed into the study. Exclusion criteria included IQ below 75, use of psychotropic medications in the last 3 months, prior or current evidence of mania or psychosis, evidence of substance abuse (including nicotine) in the past six months, or of substance dependence in the last two years, and suicidal intent, plan, or attempt in the last six months. Participants completed informed consent in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

Participants were compensated for their participation. Diagnosis was obtained with Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV-TR by psychologists or social workers. Imaging experiments were performed prior to initiation of treatment. Participants for all experiments were treated with duloxetine (with 1-week placebo lead-in, 30-90 mg) for 12 weeks. There were too few individuals to evaluate the effects of placebo (only for duloxetine trial)

independent of the effects of medication. No individuals were excluded because of placebo response, and prior work by our group suggests that placebo responders and medication responders may show similar neural changes (12). In experiment 3, 22 additional participants were recruited and treated with escitalopram (5-10 mg and no placebo lead-in, plus the 14 who had already completed the placebo lead in study with duloxetine). If there were side effects or sleep problems, augmentation with trazadone was permitted for those in the duloxetine trial (n=2). Treatment was provided by a board-certified psychiatrist (J-K.Z. or B.J.M.). A psychologist, psychiatrist, or social worker administered the HDRS every two weeks and at completion of the treatment. Those who completed at least seven weeks and up to 12 weeks of treatment were included in the present analyses. Last measurement was carried forward in those instances where 12 weeks of treatment was not completed. Clinical and demographic information across all experiments is presented in Table 2. The dependent variable in all four experiments was percent change in HDRS score, calculated as $((\text{HDRS}_{\text{pre}} - \text{HDRS}_{\text{post}})/\text{HDRS}_{\text{pre}})$. Moreover, treatment response was defined as at least 50% reduction in HDRS score from baseline to post-treatment.

Defining TaskNets and KeyNets

We used an empirical approach of defining TaskNets and KeyNets for each probe. KeyNets were based upon the parcellation provided by the 1000 individuals recruited from the greater Boston area (49). For the sake of simplicity, we have taken this seven network parcellation, excluded visual and somatomotor networks. We have also integrated dorsal attention and executive networks based upon work of others (23, 28), to make one Cognitive Control Network (CCN), Ventral Attention (or Saliency) network was integrated with the limbic network and several subcortical regions that were excluded in the prior work of Yeo and colleagues, to create a Saliency and Emotion Network (49). TaskNets were created by using the Neurosynth website <http://neurosynth.org>, which is an online repository of imaging results in healthy individuals. Studies are organized by constructs, and we used anger and fear for Experiment 1 (Figure 1), reward anticipation for Experiment 2 (Figure 1), Errors and inhibition for Experiment 3 (Figure 2). There were no relevant TaskNets for Experiment 4 – rest only. We used a forward inference model, which looks only at what is active, and not at what is specific or unique to the particular construct. Masks thresholded based upon the aggregate set of results ($p < .01$) were then downloaded and used for focused analyses to reduce type I error by reducing the relevant field of view.

Statistical Models and Thresholding for Neuroprediction

Each of the four experiments included models that were comprised of whole brain first level models for each individual (brain contrast or model), with change in HDRS as the predictive marker. Sex, pretreatment symptoms, movement deviation values for x, y, z translation, and age were used as covariates of no interest. To adjust for multiple comparisons, we performed clusterwise adjustment as determined with 3dClustSim where 3dFWHMx was used to estimate the spatial smoothness of the residuals with analyses using the -fwhm and -acf options separately (10,000 iterations; updated and 'newer method' on December 2015 and based upon subsequent commentary and papers in April and October of 2017). Moreover, and consistent with our recent synopsis of the need to balance type I and type II error, we

provide partially adjusted correction values in supplemental tables that can be used for the purpose of meta-analyses ($p < .005$, $\text{mm}^3 > 80$).

We add an example of the effect of masking upon adjustments for multiple comparisons. In WB analyses for Anger (EFAT), the mask consists of 510,340 voxels, and the -acf adjusted threshold would be 1473 contiguous voxels (57 for -fwhm threshold), resulting in the defacto exclusion of most subcortical regions from the models. With the neurosynth mask (TaskNet), there are 4563 voxels and the -acf adjusted threshold drops to 59 contiguous voxels (17 for -fwhm). For the SEN mask, the -acf threshold is 256 contiguous voxels (33 for -fwhm) in a mask that includes 30,532 voxels. Thus, TaskNet and KetNet approaches enable a search within a relevant network, and result in adjusted thresholds that can accommodate activation foci within smaller subcortical structures.

Acute Threat in the Negative Valence Domain with the Emotion Faces Matching Task (Experiment 1)

In the Emotion Faces Matching Task (EFMT) participants must match harsh faces (i.e., angry and fearful) to a correct same-emotion, instead of a non-matching distractor. Here, the comparison condition are shapes or happy face matching (38–40). The task has been used extensively in mood, anxiety and other disorders, and extant results have illustrated key regions and networks implicated in internalizing disorders. Regions engaged by this task include amygdala, anterior insula, and dorsal anterior cingulate. These regions tend to overlap with regions reported in our prior review as critical regions implicated in prediction of treatment response in MDD (3). These predictive studies also suggest that the Cognitive Control Network is included in important predictive regions. It is unclear if the role of the Cognitive Control Network is related to the task demands (choice between emotion in discrimination), or if it might reflect capacity for implicit emotion regulation. The KeyNet (Salience and Emotion Network, plus subgenual ACC, amygdala, and nucleus accumbens) and TaskNet models (fear, anger, from Neurosynth) are represented in Figure 1¹ including overlap.

Experiment 1 Methods—The sample is comprised of 13 individuals with MDD who completed treatment with duloxetine. We modeled activation in KeyNet and TaskNet regions to predict degree of change in HDRS after treatment. The demographic and clinical variables are reported in Table 2.

Data were collected with a 3T GE scanner at the University of Michigan. The task was previously validated for use with fMRI BOLD (38, 40, 50). Angry, fearful and happy faces were selected from the Gur emotional faces set (51). There were 3 angry, 3 fearful and 3 happy blocks of trials, interspersed with shape-matching blocks. Each block lasted 20 s and consisted of 4 back-to-back 5-s trials. Shapes were used as control stimuli instead of neutral faces, because they may provide a more truly neutral baseline for comparison, particularly when using a patient sample (52). Data were analyzed using SPM8 (with despiking in AFNI

¹These masks are intrinsic resting state networks derived from Yeo and colleagues (2011), including an adaptation by our group to condense the maps into three distinct networks based upon work of Menon and colleagues (2009). We also add subcortical regions to the SEN mask, as these were excluded in the work of Yeo and colleagues).

and realignment in FSL) based upon prior studies in our group (48, 53). All models included movement detection and movement estimates built into first and second level models.

Experiment 1 Results—The majority of these depressed subjects responded to duloxetine treatment (Table 2). Within the TaskNet mask for Anger (Neurosynth, FDR .01, forward inference), 6 regions significantly predicted treatment response (Table 3), with clusterwise adjustment to significance using the -fwhm correction in 3dClustSim ($p < .005$, $k > 17$ for anger, $k > 25$ for fear). For Fear TaskNet mask (Neurosynth, FDR .01, forward inference), right inferior frontal gyrus activation was inversely correlated with eventual degree of treatment response. No clusters were significant after the -acf clusterwise adjustment for Fear TaskNet ($k > 102$), whereas right amygdala was significant after -acf clusterwise adjustment for anger TaskNet mask ($k > 59$).

Within the KeyNet mask (Salience and Emotion Network, plus subgenual ACC, amygdala, and nucleus accumbens, hereafter SEN), 11 anger regions (see Table 3, Figure 3) significantly predicted treatment response, with clusterwise adjustment to significance using the -fwhm correction in 3dClustSim (Dec 2015, $p < .005$, $k > 33$ for anger, $k > 25$ for fear, Table 3, Figure 3). For fear with SEN KeyNet mask, right inferior frontal, subcallosal, and fusiform gyrus activation was inversely correlated with eventual degree of treatment response (also Table 3). With the -acf clusterwise adjustment for fear ($k > 182$), subcallosal/subgenual anterior cingulate activation was significantly negatively correlated with treatment response. For anger (-acf clusterwise, $k > 256$), right inferior parietal activation was a significant positive correlate of later treatment response.

The WB results are included in Supplemental Table 1 for purposes of meta-analyses, with the threshold of significance set at .005 and $k > 15$ contiguous clusters, resulting in a minimum effect size to minimize type II error (note that for WB analyses, -acf cluster size is $k > 1474$ for anger and $k > 767$ for fear). Performance for fear accuracy was not a significant predictor of treatment response ($B = .34$, $t = 1.07$, $p = .31$, $R^2 = .11$). Anger accuracy was not a significant predictor of treatment response ($B = -.32$, $t = -1.00$, $p = .34$, $R^2 = .10$).

Reward Anticipation in the Positive Valence Domain with the titrated Monetary Incentive Delay Task (Experiment 2)

Emerging literature suggests that reward anticipation may be a core domain of dysfunction in MDD. Although there are only a handful of imaging and performance studies using reward functioning to predict clinical outcomes in MDD (42, 54–59), most of which are ROI only, there is a strong conceptual basis for why reward anticipation might be dynamically related to probability of treatment response in MDD. Diminished reward anticipation would reduce pursuit of goals, rewards, and social interactions, thereby eliminating any positive feedback that could have been derived from these activities. The likely mechanism of behavioral activation (also part of cognitive behavioral therapy), interpersonal therapy, and exercise therapy, which are all effective therapies for depression, is increasing engagement and effectiveness of the reward and motor systems in the brain (1, 60, 61). Other work suggests that pharmacotherapy may also be helpful in increasing behavioral activity and activation. We used the Monetary Incentive Delay task (MID; Knutson et al., 2008) to probe

brain activation during reward anticipation. We predicted that diminished activation during reward anticipation would predict decreased treatment response for patients MDD.

Experiment 2 Methods—The sample used for prediction with the MID task was overlapping with that investigated for Experiment 1 and the task has been described in previous work (42). Our version of the task, which we have described in previous work (42), includes an individualized titration of the task response window to give each participant about a 65% chance of being able to successfully win and avoid losing money on each trial. In the present sample, this titration resulted in adaptive performance in the HC group, but not in the MDD group, particularly MDD with low trait reward responsiveness (42). Data were collected with MID using a fixed hemodynamic response model to compare win anticipation trials relative to neutral anticipation trials and processed as above for Experiment 1.

The treatment and the demographic and clinical variables are reported in Table 2.

Experiment 2 Results—Using the TaskNet for Neurosynth for reward anticipation, activation in left rostral anterior cingulate ($-2, 32, 16, Z = 3.40, p < .0003, k = 20, BA 24$) was inversely correlated with treatment response in MDD after adjustment (with $-fwhm (k > 20)$, but not after acf adjustment for multiple comparisons).

Using the SEN KeyNet mask, right inferior frontal gyrus ($52, 16, -2, Z = 3.53, p = .0004, k = 34, BA 47$) was negatively associated with treatment response in MDD after adjustment (for $-fwhm (k > 33)$, but not for $-acf$ adjustment for multiple comparisons).

The WB results are included in Supplemental Table 2 for purposes of meta-analyses, with the threshold of significance set at .005 and $k > 15$ contiguous clusters, resulting in a minimum effect size to reduce type II error. For performance, total amount of money won was not associated with degree of treatment response ($B = -.32, t = -0.88, p = .42, R^2 = .09$).

Experiment 3: Cognitive Control and the Parametric Go/No-go Test

At the behavioral level, executive functioning and cognitive control tests are well-replicated predictors of treatment response in MDD (62). However, cognitive control is relatively understudied in fMRI task-based studies (63, 64). In a recently published study, we illustrated how use of complementary analytic strategies with the Parametric Go/No-go test was able to predict treatment response probability with 89% accuracy (65). The study used independent components analysis, performance, and traditional hemodynamic response function analyses in an integrated, multimodal model. In our recent review, we determined that activation within the cognitive control network, regardless of task type, was often predictive of treatment response. This was true even for emotion perception tasks (3).

Experiment 3 Methods—The individuals used in this predictive model of pharmacological treatment response have been reported in a prior study ($N=36, (48)$). Over 65% of these depressed subjects responded to SSRI treatment (Table 2). The Parametric Go/No-go Test is a well-validated test that includes measures of attention and inhibition

errors. Data were collected with a 3T GE scanner at the University of Michigan. Data were analyzed using SPM8 based upon prior studies in our group (48, 53). We evaluated network activation during commissions (error TaskNet mask) and correct rejections (inhibition TaskNetmask).

Experiment 3 Results—Within the TaskNet mask for Errors, there were no regions for the Commissions model (Figure 3) that positively or negatively predicted treatment response (for either -fwhm ($k > 27$) or -acf adjustment for multiple comparisons ($k > 96$)).

For the Inhibition Task Net mask, activation for Correct Rejections in left ($-32, 30, -6, Z = 3.62, k = 43, BA 47/13$) and right inferior frontal gyrus/insula ($42, 30, -14, Z = 3.51, k = 43, BA 47/13, Fig3, Pan B$) and right putamen ($28, 6, 6, Z = 3.53, k = 29$) were inversely associated with treatment response (significant with -fwhm clusterwise adjustment ($k > 28$), but not with -acf adjustment ($k > 121$)).

Within the KeyNet mask (CCN from (20)), there were no regions that significantly predicted treatment response, either positive or negative, for Commissions (neither -fwhm or -acf adjustment for multiple comparisons with 3dClustSim).

For Rejections within the CCN KeyNet, activation within left middle frontal gyrus was positively correlated with treatment response ($-36, 42, 24, Z = 3.39, k = 42, BA 10$) significant with -fwhm adjusted ($k > 29$), but not with -acf adjusted threshold ($k > 77$)).

Activation in a number of regions for both errors and rejections was predictive of treatment response at the WB level (Supplemental Table 3). The adjusted threshold with significance of .005 and $k > 15$ contiguous clusters was used, in order to reduce type II error. For performance data, Percent Correct Inhibition was not a significant predictor of treatment response ($B = -.33, t = -2.00, p = .06, R^2 = .29$).

Resting State fMRI with SEN and CCN (Experiment 4)

Recent investigations have evaluated the role of intrinsic networks as potential biomarkers of treatment response (15) given that these intrinsic networks are relevant to a variety of psychological functions. The recent review by Dichter and colleagues documented several studies that identified increased connectivity between CCN and SEN regions in association with superior response to antidepressant medication treatment, potentially representing that patients with better inhibitory control over emotional stimuli are more able to benefit from treatment with antidepressants (15). In addition, treatment-sensitive patients with MDD may have higher connectivity within the CCN (perhaps representing superior executive functioning abilities) and lower connectivity within the DMN (perhaps representing less tendency to ruminate), relative to treatment-resistant patients. Furthermore, a large study that used intrinsic networks to identify subtypes of MDD found that patients who responded to repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) for MDD tended to have reduced connectivity in fronto-amygdala networks (i.e., reduced connectivity between CCN and SEN), as well as reduced connectivity in cingulate and orbitofrontal areas supporting motivation and salience evaluation (66).

Experiment 4 Methods—The sample used for prediction with the MID task was overlapping with that investigated for Experiments 1 and 2. The treatment and the demographic and clinical variables are reported in Table 1, with over 71% improvement in HDRS symptoms (Experiment 4).

Rs-fMRI data collection and analysis steps have been described in detail in prior studies (34, 67, 68). Briefly, we used a key seed approach for each of three networks, CCN, SEN, and default mode network (DMN, Figure 4). As the SEN is most heterogeneous relative to the CCN and DMN, we used two seeds for SEN (Left amygdala and left subgenual anterior cingulate). We generally use left-sided seeds (excepting right DLPFC) due to accumulating evidence that left hemisphere dysfunction is more pertinent in MDD (69). As there is no relevant TaskNet, we only use the resting state intrinsic KeyNets (Figure 4).

Experiment 4 Results

SEN KeyNet Results: For left Amygdala, bilateral orbital frontal cortex connectivity were significant negative predictors of treatment response in MDD (Table 4, $k > 25$ -fwhm adjustment). For left SGAC, left middle temporal gyrus connectivity was positively correlated with treatment response, whereas left orbital frontal cortex connectivity was negatively predictive of treatment response in MDD (none were significant with -acf adjustment ($k > 155$) after multiple comparisons).

CCN KeyNet Results: Connectivity of five regions within the CCN KeyNet right DLPFC was predictive of later treatment response in MDD (See Table 4), including bilateral middle frontal, inferior parietal regions (-fwhm ($k > 27$), but not -acf ($k > 155$) adjustment for multiple comparisons).

KeyNet Results: There were no regions of significant connectivity with left PCC that were significant positive or negative predictors of subsequent treatment response for MDD (for either DMN -fwhm or -acf adjustment for multiple comparisons).

Supplemental Table 4 lists predictive results with $p < .005$ and $k > 15$ for all four seeds.

General Discussion

Treatment prediction studies in MDD continue to struggle with pathways for how they can be disseminated into clinical and research advances, as results are difficult to translate to individual prediction models. The present report illustrated a way of providing supporting information for meta-analytic studies that could drive these breakthroughs. In the present experiments, emotional reactivity (to angry faces), regulation (cognitive control), and resting state networks (CCN, SEN) produced regions that were predictive of treatment response. Surprisingly, resting state connectivity of a key DMN node, the posterior cingulate, was not predictive of treatment response.

As might be expected, increased activation for angry faces (Table 2) in a number of regions included in the salience and emotion network was predictive of treatment response, highlighting that excessive neural response to threat is an important treatment target. It may

also reflect the high degree of comorbidity with anxiety in this sample, which is typical for depression. Indeed, SSRIs and SNRIs are thought to modulate excessive responsivity of the salience and emotion network nodes, including amygdala, insula, fusiform and ventromedial and orbital frontal cortex, but also less studied regions like inferior parietal lobule and precuneus (3). These regions also tend to be closely associated with anxiety in response to fear, which may reflect the degree of comorbidity in this sample (70). In contrast, activation to fearful faces was inversely associated with treatment response, if in fewer areas.

Notably, activation within right inferior frontal gyrus and insula was a predictor for both anger and correct rejections, but in the *opposite* direction. Increased activation within this SEN node is expected for anger and is possibly reflective of excessive reactivity to threat that can be modulated by SSRIs and SNRIs. In contrast, excessive activation here when one has been successful in avoiding an error may reflect the decreased capacity for correct interaction between key CCN nodes and SEN nodes when regulation is required. Regulation was successful, yet activation in a node more reflective of errors was observed in those who are likely to be poor responders to treatment.

These results for fear as a predictor are more in line with a recent review, where increased activation in subgenual cingulate was a predictor of poorer treatment outcome (7). In most prior reviews, responses to different emotional faces are collapsed together, so we are not certain whether differential responses to fearful and angry faces in this sample is of any substantive meaning. Moreover, sad faces are studied most often in MDD, so fearful and angry faces may be understudied. The broader pattern is of excessive activation to negative stimuli in MDD relative to HC (71).

There were also regions from Cognitive Control and Salience and Emotion Networks that were predictive of treatment response using resting state analyses. Resting-state fMRI has great promise for parsing the diagnostic heterogeneity in depression (66), and may also aid in defining treatment targets, by matching treatments based on patients' patterns of intrinsic network activity and unique symptom dimensions (66). Some excitement exists about the value of modulation of CCN circuits, and the number of foci evident in this sample suggests that there may be some reason for that excitement. The present results suggest that those with less disruption in CCN intrinsic connectivity are more likely to respond to standard pharmacological treatments (e.g., SSRI or SNRI). It is possible that those with decreased CCN connectivity might benefit from rTMS, which targets a left frontal node within the CCN. rTMS may enhance network plasticity and revert CCN functioning to normal levels. Indeed, rTMS to the dlPFC tends to enhance connectivity within the CCN (72). rTMS to the left dlPFC also has been shown to decrease DMN hyperconnectivity and to normalize CCN-DMN anticorrelations (73). Other treatment approaches may alleviate symptoms and increase wellbeing via normalization of intrinsic networks. For example, SSRIs reduced DMN hyperactivity (74); and decreased connectivity between the DMN (posterior cingulate) and CCN (inferior frontal gyrus) was associated with decreased rumination after treatment with rumination-focused CBT (68). Cognitive remediation is another pathway to improve CCN function and efficiency to facilitate and maintain wellbeing.

There were also some null results with resting state connectivity within the DMN. Notably, there were not any results within DMN connectivity patterns that met the adjusted criteria for significance. The small sample size may implicate a type II error in prediction. For reward, there were results in rostral cingulate (positive) and ventral frontal areas (inverse), aligning with TaskNet and KeyNet approaches. This approach illustrates how focused network analysis approaches might reveal activation that would not survive whole brain adjustments for significance. It is possible that reward is a newer area of inquiry in the context of treatment outcome in depression, and that more studies will be emerging in due time. The notable absence of whole brain predictive models of treatment response in the published literature may also indicate a potential ‘file drawer’ effect.

There are a number of limitations to consider for this study. First, the small sample size for experiments 1, 2, and 4 could have, and most likely did lead to some type II errors. The small sample size also increases the likelihood of type I error. In addition, the order of administration for the study probes was fixed. This order could have led to some fatigue in participants (1.5 hours of scanning), or order effects that obscured or confounded some of the results. In addition, the study recruited unmedicated participants could result in recruitment of more mildly ill individuals. Indeed, about 70% change in clinical outcome (and > 75% responders if defined by traditional standard of greater than 50% reduction in symptoms) is well above what would be expected in a clinical trial, so these results may not reflect those with MDD in the general community. Importantly, we cannot infer that the achievement of treatment response in this study was secondary to pharmacotherapy, as it was an open-label, one arm study. The effects could as easily represent placebo effects or a natural return to wellness (12). The placebo lead in was used only in the duloxetine sample, and there were insufficient number of completers to dissociate placebo and medication effects. Finally, the use of TaskNet and KeyNet approaches here has limitations. While they may reduce the amount of adjustment needed for multiple comparisons, there is an assumption of network unilateral function embedded within this approach. For an emotion task, the salience and emotion network may be relevant (as it was for anger and to a lesser extent, fear), but it is also the case that activation in primary visual networks or cognitive control network might be just as relevant, or even more so (75). Future studies with more well-powered samples can better address these alternative network models, or even interactions between networks.

Moreover, we did not have a large enough sample to ask the questions posed in the introduction about the value of KeyNet and TaskNet approaches relative to KeyReg and BetGroup approaches. KeyReg approaches would have potentially “missed” relevant activations in cortical regions. For example, in the TaskNet anger regression, there were 4 of 6 regions identified that were in cortical regions and not in insula or amygdala, and 6 of 7 regions in KeyNet mask were outside these ROIs. For connectivity, the results are more mixed, with about half of the regions that might be considered as significant ROIs vs not.

In summary, the present study highlights that excessive responsivity to anger and diminished reactivity to regulation challenge and connectivity for cognitive control network are most relevant in the prediction of treatment response. Prediction models with integrated, multimodal imaging techniques might provide unique, additive variance in treatment

prediction. This is a likely byproduct of the heterogeneous nature of depression and the need for more personalized identification for the causes and systems involved in MDD. Multidimensional approaches can aid in addressing heterogeneity in the disease and relevance to different treatments.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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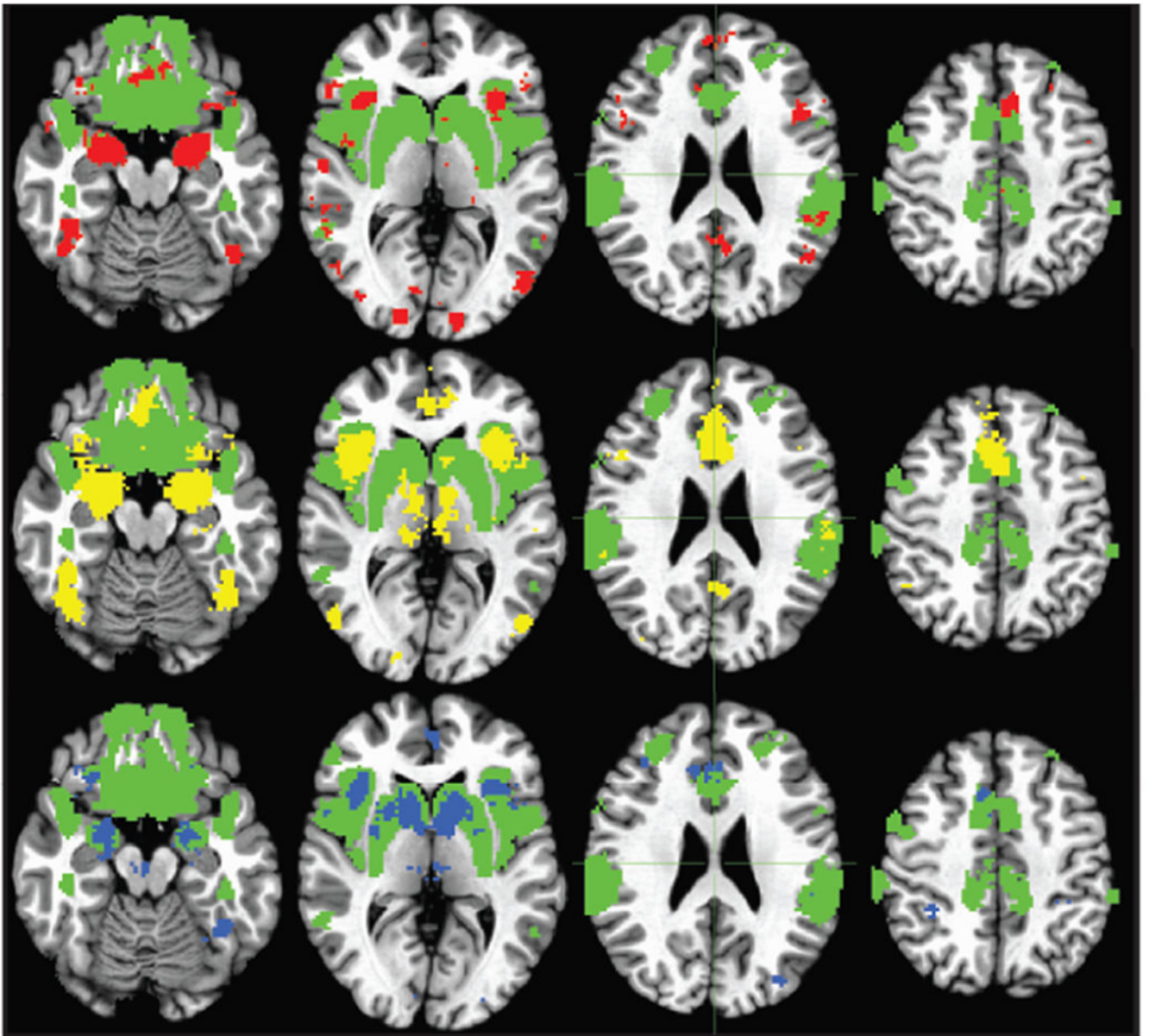


Figure 1. Saliency and Emotion Network Intrinsic mask (green), with overlays of TaskNet for Anger (top row, red), Fear (middle row, yellow), and Reward Anticipation (bottom row, blue) derived from Neurosynth (<http://neurosynth.org>).

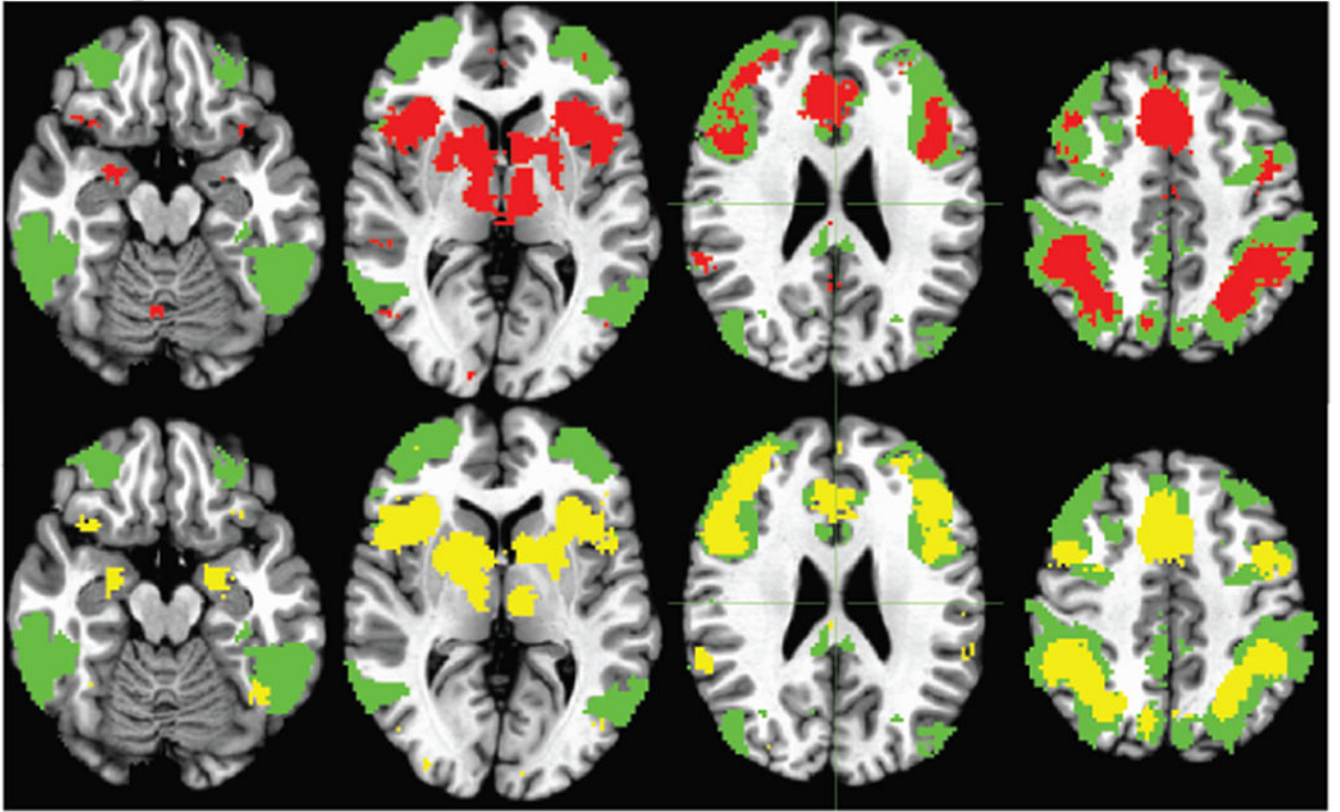
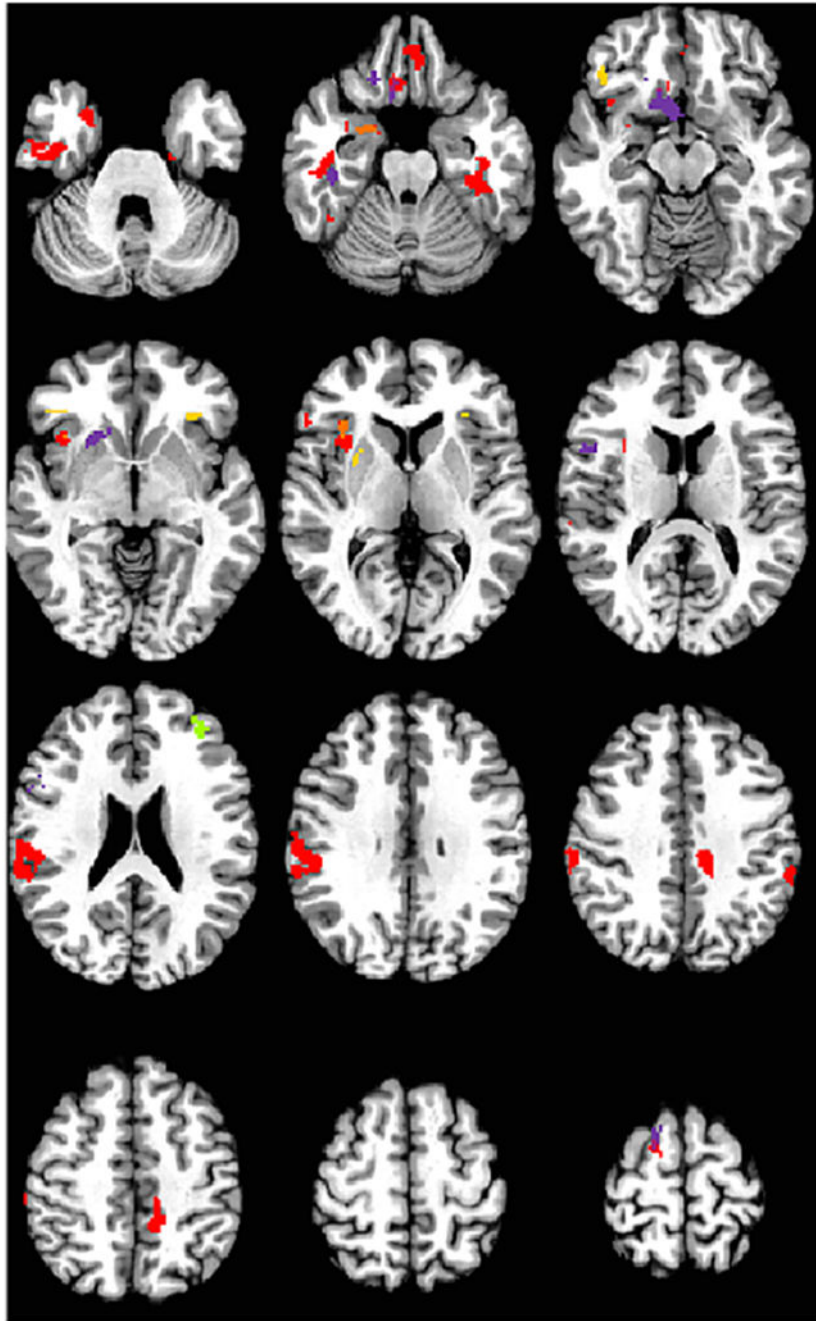


Figure 2. Cognitive Control Network Intrinsic mask (cyan), with overlays of TaskNet for Errors (top row, red) and Inhibition/Rejections (middle row, yellow) derived from Neurosynth masks (<http://neurosynth.org>).



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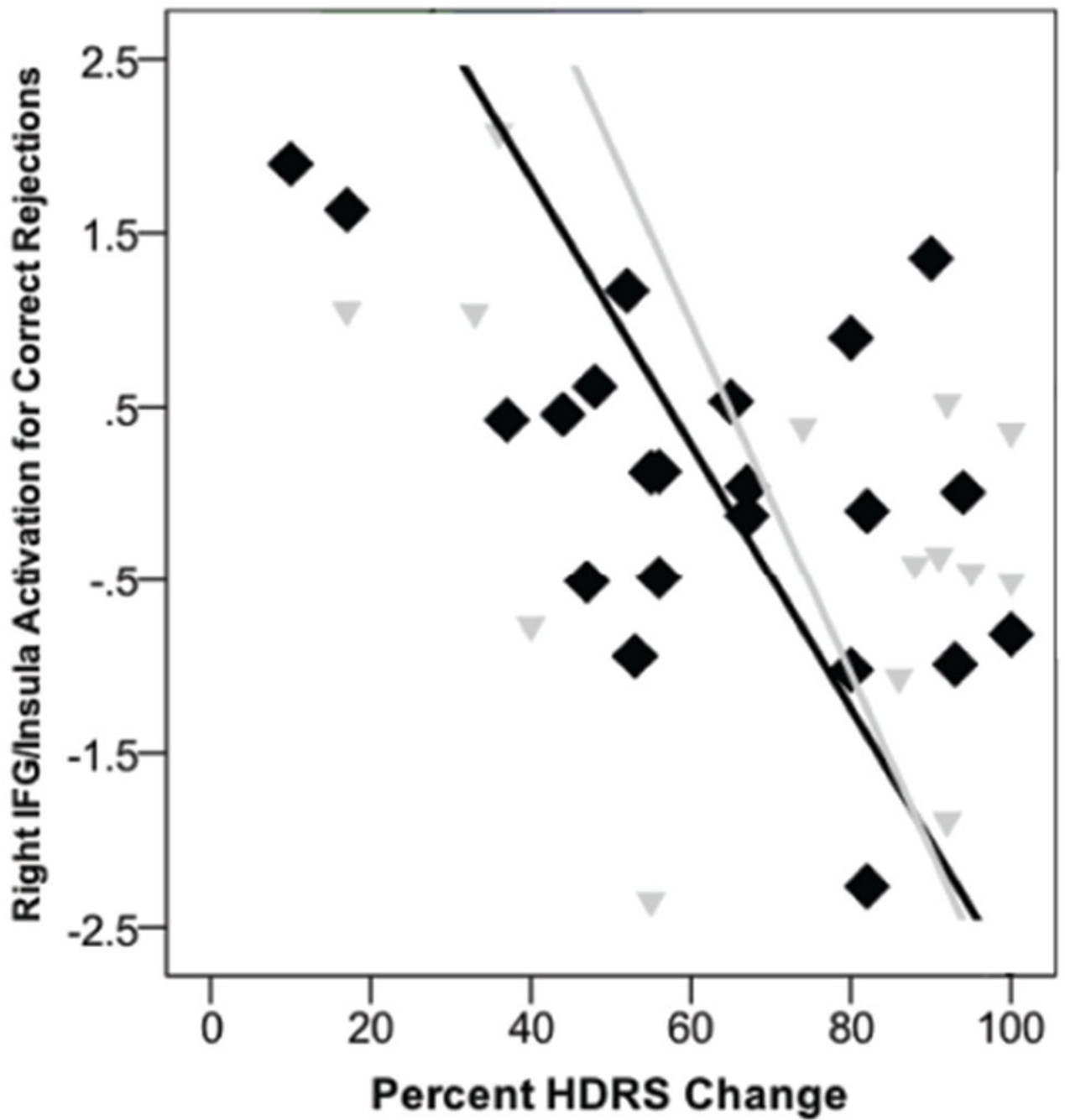


Figure 3.

Panel A. Significant Activation Prediction Models from Experiments 1 and 3. Red = Anger positive prediction for either Anger TaskNet or SEN KeyNet. Orange is overlap of significant predictors within Anger TaskNet and SEN KeyNet for anger positive prediction. Purple is prediction for fear with Fear TaskNet or SEN KeyNet in a negative direction. Yellow is prediction of treatment response with the Inhibition TaskNet mask for PGNG Rejections in an inverse direction (see Panel B for relationship between activation in right

IFG/insula and treatment response), and green is significant prediction in the positive direction for the CCN KeyNet mask for Rejections. Image is radiological format.

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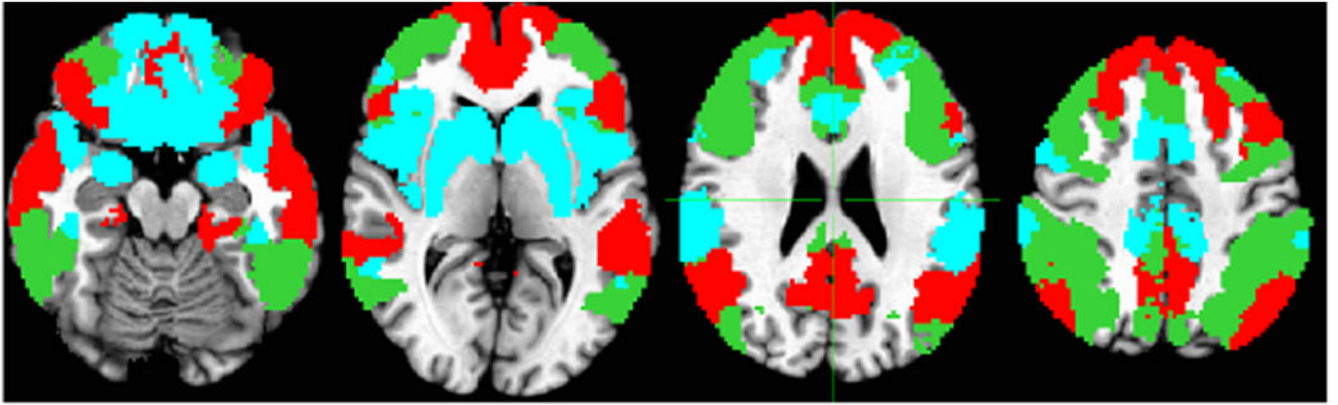


Figure 4. KeyNet Intrinsic masks for DMN (red), CCN (green) and SEN (blue) used in the respective rs-fMRI analyses.

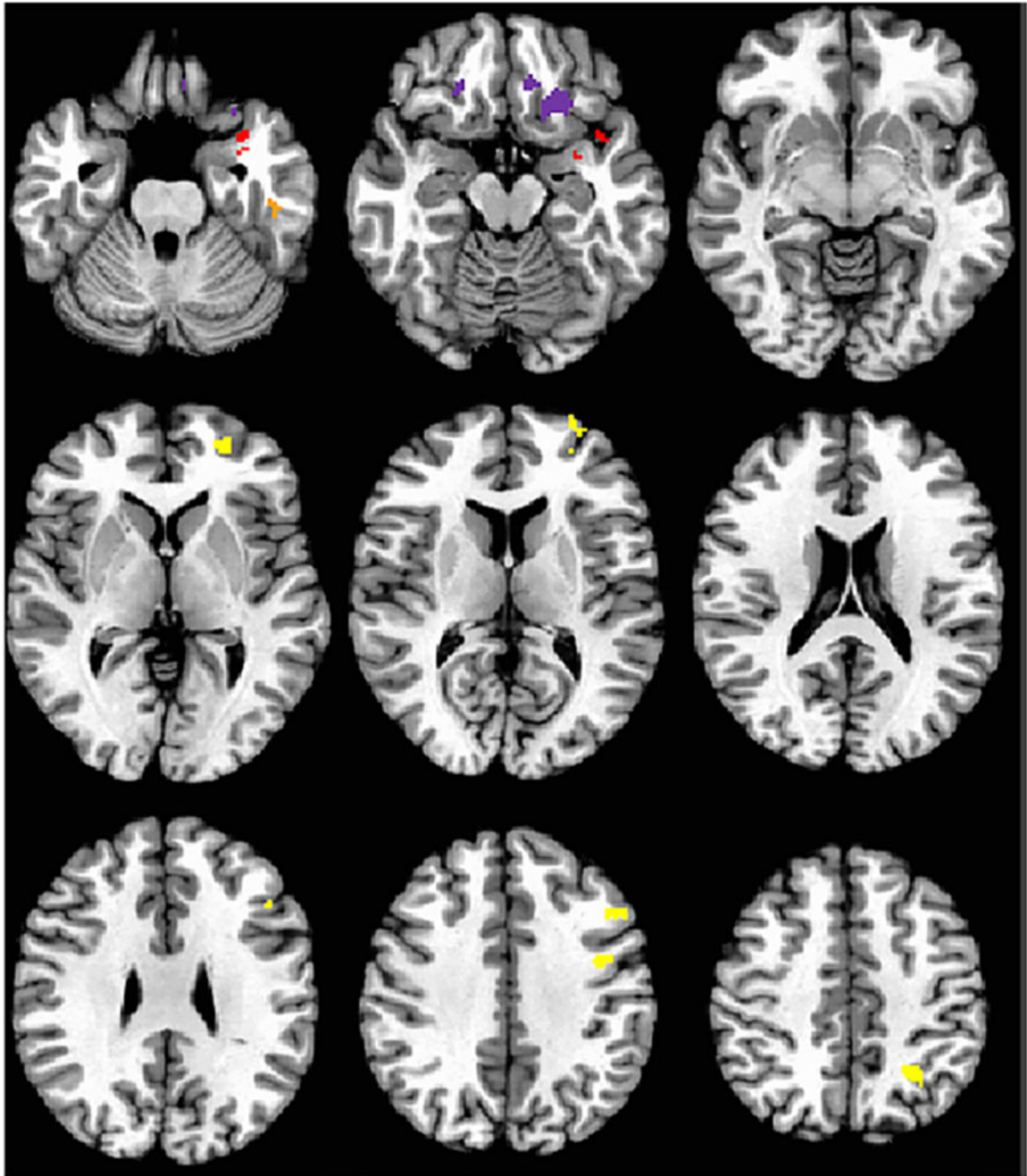


Figure 5.

Regions of resting state networks with significant seed to node connectivity that is predictive of treatment response in MDD (Experiment 4). Left Amygdala connectivity for SEN KeyNet is in purple, with negative prediction. Red illustrates positive prediction with left subgenual cingulate seed and uncus, and orange is negative connectivity prediction with left subgenual cingulate. Yellow displays the regions of positive connectivity with right DLPFC that are predictive of treatment response within the CCN KeyNet. Image is in radiological format.

Table 1.

Strategies for reducing the field of view for treatment prediction models

KeyReg	Region of interest that is theoretically or empirically related to the research question
KeyNet	Intrinsic network that is theoretically or empirically related to the research question
TaskNet	A network or extended subset of regions that are typically engaged in a task or task contrast.
BetGroup	Region or set of regions that differ between groups, though they implicate disease processes (e.g., interference, but may also implicate compensatory responses)

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Table 2.

Clinical and Demographic Information for Participants from Experiments 1–4.

	EFAT (Exp 1) <i>n</i> =13	MID (Exp 2) <i>n</i> =10	PGNG [^] (Exp 3) <i>n</i> =36	rs-fMRI (Exp 4) <i>n</i> =14
Age	31.23 (11.26)	28.10 (9.86)	35.89 (11.71)	28.93 (8.40)
Gender (M/F)	5/8	6/5	14/22	6/8
Education	15.54 (1.66)	16.10 (1.97)	15.14 (2.15)	15.57 (1.74)
Pre-treatment HDRS	20.00 (3.46)	21.00 (4.57)	19.22 (3.46)	19.64 (3.49)
Post-treatment HDRS	6.67 (10.92)	10.40 (14.00)	7.43 (6.93)	6.67 (10.92)
Treatment Response (HDRS % change)	70.46 (27.82)	64.57 (42.72)	65.94 (25.99)	71.36 (28.91)
Comorbid Anxiety	84.6%	53.8%	63.6%	76.9%
Medications (Escitalopram/Duloxetine)	0/13	0/10	22/14	0/14
Refusals/Dropouts/Data [*]	3/4/4	3/4/7	7/5/1	3/4/3

Note. Values are means and standard deviations unless otherwise noted;

[^] 16 subjects were included in Langenecker et al., 2007, and 36 were included in Crane et al., 2017 (8, 48). 11 participants overlap across all experiments 1–4.

^{*} Data exclusions are because of invalid performance data or invalid imaging data, typically due to movement, and do not overlap across paradigms.

Table 3.

Emotion Faces Affect Task Activation Prediction of Treatment Response in MDD

Mask/Emotion	Region	BA	MNI			Peak Z	Cluster k
			x	y	z		
Positive HDRS Change							
TaskNet Mask							
<i>Anger</i>	Inferior Frontal	45	56	28	2	3.94	25
	Insula	47	38	24	2	3.34	46
	Gyrus Rectus	11	0	40	-18	2.79	22
	Amygdala	28	16	0	-22	3.07	66 [^]
	Superior Temporal	22	60	-26	10	4.47	18
	Inferior Occipital	37	46	-56	-22	3.61	25
<i>Fear</i>	n/a						
KeyNet Mask							
<i>Anger</i>	Medial Frontal	11	2	44	-18	2.89	118
	Superior Frontal	6	10	-2	72	3.26	44
	Subcallosal	11	10	26	-18	3.03	100
	Insula	48	32	12	10	3.68	173
	Uncus	36	24	10	-32	3.21	90
	Inferior Temporal	20	44	-12	-28	3.64	237
	Inferior Parietal	40	-56	-36	40	3.50	55
		2	62	-28	44	4.20	632 [^]
	Mid-Cingulate	23	-12	-30	36	4.48	218
	Fusiform		-30	-14	-40	3.06	37
Fusiform/Hippocampus	37	-36	-36	-20	5.52	183	
<i>Fear</i>	n/a						
Negative HDRS Change							
TaskNet Mask							
<i>Anger</i>	n/a						
<i>Fear</i>	Inferior Frontal	44	56	14	16	3.66	29
KeyNet Mask							
<i>Anger</i>	n/a						
<i>Fear</i>	Inferior Frontal	6	54	10	18	3.75	58
	Subcallosal/Subgenual	25	4	6	-16	3.36	229 [^]
	Fusiform	20	42	-26	-26	3.10	35

Note. TaskNet mask has an adjusted threshold of $p = .005$ and $k > 17$ contiguous voxels (-fwhm 3dClustSim, April 2017), whereas KeyNet mask uses an adjusted threshold of $p = .005$ and $k > 33$ contiguous voxels (-fwhm 3dClustSim, April 2017).

Significance after using the -acf adjustment is noted with [^].

Conversion from k to mm³ is *8.

Table 4.

Resting State functional MRI Results in Prediction of Treatment Response in MDD

Mask/Emotion	Region	BA	MNI			Peak Z	Cluster k
			x	y	z		
Positive HDRS Change							
CCN KeyNet Mask							
<i>Right DLPFC</i>	Middle Frontal	10	-28	54	6	3.75	91
	Middle Frontal	46/9	-48	20	36	3.49	63
	Precentral	6	-46	-2	34	3.03	33
	Inferior Parietal	40	-28	-54	46	3.83	71
	Inferior Parietal	40	22	-58	48	3.07	24
	Inferior Occipital	37	46	-56	-22	3.61	25
SEN KeyNet Mask							
<i>Left Amygdala</i>	n/a						
Left Subgenual AC	Middle Temporal	20	-48	-24	-26	3.83	40
DMN KeyNet Mask							
	n/a						
Negative HDRS Change							
CCN KeyNet Mask							
	n/a						
DMN KeyNet Mask							
	n/a						
SEN KeyNet Mask							
<i>Left Amygdala</i>	Inferior Frontal	47	-10	34	-20	4.51	195 [^]
	Inferior Frontal	47	22	30	-16	3.5	39
Left Subgenual AC	Uncus	47	-32	2	-20	3.69	47

Note. KeyNet mask uses an adjusted threshold of $p = .005$ and $k > 27$ contiguous voxels (-fwhm 3dClustSim, April 2017, same threshold applies to each of three KeyNet masks, SEN, DMN, and CCN).

Significance after using the -acf adjustment is noted with ^.

Conversion from k to mm^3 is *8.