

Schizophrenia: What the Radiologist Provides

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To date traditional MRI imaging has failed to be clinically useful for the diagnosis and management of patients with schizophrenia. In fact, some evidence-based studies suggest that MRI should not be performed at all in the setting of first-episode psychosis, as it doesn't add any value to the workup. While this may indeed be the case, I would argue that the reason that MRI has failed to be useful is due to the current limitations of the technology rather than the lack of physical findings in the brain.

Decades of work has already been performed on autopsy specimens from patients with schizophrenia. This talk will review what is currently known about the anatomical and biochemical defects seen in the disease, including how these changes progress over time. Next, state of the art imaging techniques will be reviewed and evaluated based on their ability to detect the above anatomical/biochemical defects. Finally, a discussion of what a future radiologist *could* provide will be entertained.