

# A Novel Method to Diagnose, Predict Treatment Response, and Develop Treatments for Psychiatric Disorders Using Biomarkers

Published date: Feb. 1, 2012

## Technology description

### Summary

Presently, there are no biological tests to aid in the diagnosis of psychiatric disorders. Therefore, the diagnosis is, largely based on behavior rather than underlying biology or pathophysiology. Accurate diagnosis frequently requires years for the longitudinal course of symptoms to be clear. Current behavior-based diagnoses have a limited ability in predicting a course or response to treatment. A genetic test for detection of pathogenic mutations in the genome will enable a more rapid and accurate diagnosis of the disorder, thereby leading to better treatment. No such test exists and there is currently only a limited understanding of the biological mechanisms of most psychiatric disorders.

### Description

Scientists at UC San Diego have discovered methods and compositions useful to diagnose, prognose, treat, and screen agents associated with mental disorders. The invention includes a method of determining a subject's predisposition to a mental disorder by detecting at least one polymorphism in a gene selected from the group consisting of CACNG2 (stargazin) and Sp4.

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