

Is shyness or social anxiety a problem for you? Do you fear social situation such as meeting new people, speaking in public and going to social events?

The proposed study wants to explore the effects of a potentially new treatment involving Oxytocin, on the brain's response to fear processing in patients with Generalised Social Anxiety Disorder (GSAD) also known as Social Phobia (SP). Oxytocin is a neuropeptide which may play a new role in the treatment for a range of psychiatric illnesses. The study will use brain imaging involving functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

The study will recruit **male** participants with a current primary diagnosis of Social Phobia, or those who feel they may suffer from it. We can confirm a diagnosis under no costs.

Participants are required to also meet the following criteria:

- Right-handed;
- Between ages of 18-55 years;
- Non-smoking;
- Medication free (no current medication for anxiety);
- No current drug/alcohol abuse.

The study consists of 3 sessions:

Session 1 – involves both a physical health check and a psychiatric screen, to ensure you are suitable to participate (1½-2 hr at Monash University, Clayton).

Sessions 2 and 3 – involves brain scanning (MRI), treatment administration (Placebo and Oxytocin), and two computerised facial expression tasks. These sessions will be separated by a minimum of 1 week (2 hr at Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville).

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