Introduction

• What do you know about anxiety disorder?
  Anxiety disorder are a set of pathological fears and anxieties like:
  – posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
  – social anxiety disorder
  – specific phobia
  – normal fears
  – […]

Introduction

• What happens inside our brains?
  Various studies show that there is a link between anxiety disorders and specific areas of the brain. Differences areas are activated during anxiety's process.

Introduction

• How do we know it?
  The study of human anxiety disorders has benefited greatly from functional neuroimaging approaches.
Objective

- The focus of this study is to show that:
  - There is a link between anxiety disorders and specific areas of the brain.

Hypothesis

- Is there a link between anxiety disorders and specific areas of the brain?

Material and Methods

- Subjects:
  Patients with some kind of anxiety disorder and healthy patients.
- Experimental paradigm:
  Searched for common and disorder-specific functional neurobiological deficits in several anxiety disorders. To study brain activation of fear in healthy patients we use phobia-related and neutral pictures.
Material and Methods

- Results:
The forebrain is the area most affected in people with anxiety disorders.

![Image of brain scan with highlighted areas]

Results are shown for the amygdalae (A) and insular cortices (B).

Problems

- The study needs a large number of subjects. Actually it represents a relatively limited population size.
- Noted age and gender ratio differences between subjects.
- The PET techniques require a meticulous process.