**What is the purpose of the research study**?

The purpose of this study is to determine the effects of N-acetylcysteine and tryptophan on attention and memory. N-acetylcysteine is a naturally occurring substance found in our bodies and is used to treat certain lung conditions and protect against environmental toxins. Tryptophan is an amino acid found naturally in foods, such as turkey, and has been approved by the FDA for use as a dietary supplement. The information from the study will be used to help create new treatments for people with schizophrenia or other illnesses.

**Who can participate in this study?**

This study is accepting men and women who:

* Are 18 to 55 years of age and in generally good physical health
* Have a diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizoaffective, or schizophreniform disorder
* Are able to complete magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanning

**What will participants be asked to do?**

This study consists of 4 visits spread out over the course of 4 or more weeks. The first 2 visits will include screening for study eligibility. Participants will:

* Learn about the study details
* Sign a consent form if interested in participating
* Fill out questionnaires
* Answer questions about psychological and physical health
* Have a brief physical examination
* Have an EKG as well as urine and blood samples taken

The final 2 visits will be for testing. Participants will:

* Receive N-acetylcysteine (or a placebo) and tryptophan by mouth
* Complete tests of memory, attention, thinking, and motor skills
* Have blood drawn
* Complete MRI scans

**Where is the study taking place?**

The Maryland Psychiatric Research Center, which is located on the grounds of the Spring Grove Hospital Center Campus in Catonsville, MD.

**Will I receive payment of some kind?**

All study participants will be paid for their time.

**How can I find out if I’m eligible?**

Call 410-294-9171 for a confidential screening or email MPRC-TRP@som.umaryland.edu