

## **Neurobiological trait markers of boys with Anorexia nervosa**

(project no. 53-15)

### **Authors**

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### **Aim**

The project intends to identify sex-specific neurobiological trait markers as well as “biological scars” of anorexia nervosa (AN) in a sample of boys and girls with former AN. We are especially interested in interaction effects of AN and gender.

### **Background**

Since the diagnostic criteria for eating disorders were broadened in DSM-5, AN in males has ceased to be a niche topic. Although boys are significantly less affected by this disorder than are girls, the social pressure on boys regarding their body shape and the incidence of AN in boys have been increasing. However, specific data about AN in males is rare.

### **Method**

Neurobiological parameters will be compared between recovered male juvenile AN subjects and a sample of matched females with AN as well as two further matched groups of healthy males and females. We are especially interested in prenatal testosterone effects, structural brain alterations (VBM and DTI-data) as well as neural correlates of the brain's reward system and approach-avoidance behaviour with respect to social and food stimuli.

### **Execution**

August 2016 - June 2018

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