

# Brain Changes During Social Reward Psychotherapy for Mid- and Late-Life Suicidality

NCT05925322

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Status	RECRUITING
Phase	Not Applicable
Sponsor	Weill Medical College of Cornell University
Enrollment	128 participants

## Plain Language Summary

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This study is testing a type of psychotherapy called Social Reward Psychotherapy — which focuses on increasing positive social connections and meaningful rewards in life — for older and middle-aged adults (ages 50–80) who are experiencing suicidal thoughts alongside major depression. Researchers are also using brain imaging to understand how this therapy changes brain activity.

**\*\*You may be eligible if:\*\***

- You are 50–80 years old (with half the spots reserved for those over 65)
- You have major depressive disorder diagnosed by a structured clinical interview
- You have expressed suicidal thoughts at a significant level (as measured by a standard interview)
- Your depression score is 16 or higher on the MADRS scale
- You are not currently receiving individual psychotherapy, and your antidepressant dose (if any) has been stable for at least 8 weeks
- Your cognitive function is intact (MMSE score of 23 or higher)

**\*\*You may NOT be eligible if:\*\***

- You have an intent or specific plan to attempt suicide in the near future (requiring immediate intervention)
- You have another psychiatric diagnosis beyond depression, generalized anxiety, or specific phobia
- You have a neurological condition such as dementia, Parkinson's disease, or epilepsy
- You have had a serious medical event in the past 3 months (such as a stroke, heart failure, or major surgery)
- You are taking psychotropic medications other than a low dose of lorazepam or a stable antidepressant

Talk to your doctor to see if this trial is right for you.

## Key Eligibility Criteria

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### Inclusion (7)

- Ages aged 50-80 \[stratified so that 50% are older than 65\]
- Endorsement of Suicidal Ideation \[Structured Clinical Interview for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders-5 (SCID-5) Suicide Item (Item 9) with a score of 2
- Major Depressive Disorder as determined by the SCID-5
- Depression Rating Scale \[Montgomery-Åsberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS)\] score of 16 or greater.
- Mini Mental Status Exam (MMSE) equal or greater than a score of 23
- ... and 2 more (see full listing online)

### Exclusion (6)

- Intent or plan to attempt suicide in the near future.
- History or presence of psychiatric diagnoses other than major depressive disorder without psychotic features, generalized anxiety disorder, or specific phobia.

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT05925322>

DISCLAIMER: This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice. Always consult your healthcare provider before enrolling in any clinical trial. Information may not be up to date — verify details at [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov). Generated by [ClinicalTrialsFinder.org](https://clinicaltrialsfinder.org).

- Use of psychotropic drugs or cholinesterase inhibitors other than use of 0.5 mg or less of lorazepam daily up to seven times per week.
- Neurological disorders (dementias, amnesic and multidomain Mild Cognitive Impairment, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, etc.).
- Acute or severe medical illness in the past 3 months (metastatic cancer, multiple sclerosis, decompensated cardiac, liver or kidney failure, major surgery, stroke or myocardial infarction, cardiac, renal, or respiratory failure; severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, etc.) that may be the primary cause depressive symptoms, influence brain systems of interest, or impact ability to participate in the study.

... and 1 more (see full listing online)

## Locations (1 total)

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Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, New York, United States

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