## HOW HORMONES INFLUENCE TRAUMA DURING PERIMENOPAUSE

CHANGES IN FEMALE SEX HORMONE LEVELS MAY PLAY A ROLE IN DEVELOPING PTSD SYMPTOMS.

Perimenopause is the time period when a body begins to make its transition to menopause. The body's estrogen levels begin to decrease and some people begin to experience symptoms such as irregular menstrual cycles and mood swings. This typically starts around age 40.

Low levels of the hormone estradiol are linked to a higher risk of anxiety and depression.

WE WANT TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE DECREASE IN LEVELS OF THIS HORMONE DURING THE TRANSITION TO MENOPAUSE IMPACTS TRAUMA-RELATED SYMPTOMS.

## CHAPTERS STUDY

LOOKING AT HORMONE LEVELS IN TRAUMA-EXPOSED BLACK AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN





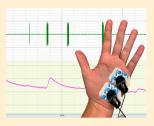
We measure hormone levels in blood and use brain imaging techniques to look at two important areas of the brain related to fear and trauma.

**Grady Trauma Project** 

## WHAT WE DO:

We use a safe method called Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) to take pictures of participant's brains. It uses strong magnets to capture images. During this, we place special stickers on the hand to measure sweat levels.





While in the scanner, participants perform some tasks. We look at the brain activity during these tasks, and afterward measure hormone levels in the blood.



In doing this, we want to better understand how changes in hormone levels during perimenopause affect brain activity in trauma-exposed individuals.

## WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY?



UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE Check out our website or scan the QR code for more information!



www.gradytraumaproject.com/chapters-study



Grady Trauma Project