The diagnosis, biomarker identification and measurement of drug efficacy for neurological and mental disorders

Purpose
The purpose of this project is to compare brain activity using a new recording and data analysis technique called electrovestibulography (EVestG).

What is being investigated?
This study is using EVestG to measure neural responses from ear canals to determine whether this technique can help provide diagnostic information about different patient populations. This study will also explore whether this technique is helpful in monitoring changes in medication levels. Participation involves up to two sessions and is completely confidential.

What will be required of the participants?
Participants would be required to attend the Monash Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre (MAPrc) at The Alfred Hospital, Victoria and have brain activity recorded whilst seated in a chair. Participants would also be required to have their hearing and balance checked, and complete simple questionnaires to assess their mood and thinking skills. Participation involves one to two sessions in total, lasting a total of approximately 3 to 4 hours.

Who can participate in the study?
Participants must be between the ages of 18 and 75 and either have no medical conditions or a diagnosis of:
• schizophrenia,
• bipolar disorder,
• Major Depression,
• Parkinson’s disease,
• Alzheimer’s disease,
• vertigo (central or peripheral), or
• Meniere’s disease.

How large is the study?
Approximately 650 participants will be recruited in total for this study.

What are the Australian Study sites?
This study is being undertaken at the Monash Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre at The Alfred Hospital, Victoria.
Where can I get more information?
Please contact:
Monash Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre (MAPrc)
Phone: (03) 90766907
Email: La.Hunt@alfred.org.au

Dates
It is anticipated that this study will run until approximately December 2010.