

Moulier et al (2012)

Researchers used fMRI to examine brain activity in a man convicted of paedophile offences who was being treated with GnRH Agonists. The patient's brain responses to pictures of children were assessed at the start of treatment and after five months of treatment. Comparison was made with a matched individual with no history of offending. At the start of treatment pictures of boys elicited increased activation in the left calcarine fissure, left insula, anterior cingulate cortex, and left cerebellar vermis in the patient but not the control. After five months of treatment there were no differences in response between the patient and control.

Winder et al (2018)

Researchers studied 127 male prisoners referred for treatment for hypersexual disorder (excessive sexual thinking and behaviour). They were treated with AAs, GnRH agonists or SSRIs. The men were assessed on a number of measures including the RM2000 and SARN risk assessment tools for sexual reoffending (both administered by trained psychologists) and self-reports of sexual thoughts, feelings and behaviour. Assessments were carried out at the start of treatment and after three and six months. Both SSRIs and hormone treatments resulted in a decline in all measures of risk and sexual thinking/behaviour. The decline was faster in the prisoners receiving hormone treatments but the levels of all measures after six months were similar.

Lievesley et al (2014)

Researchers interviewed 13 convicted sex offenders who were undergoing voluntary pharmacological treatment with SSRIs in prison. They were also taking part in psychological rehabilitation programmes. They completed a semi-structured interview lasting around 45 minutes. The interviews were transcribed and thematic analysis was used to identify common themes in the offenders' responses. The participants reported a noticeable reduction in their sexual urges and preoccupations, including a reduction in sexually deviant thinking. Many of them reported that the reduction in sexual preoccupation had allowed them to start addressing their deviant sexual thinking and fantasies. They also talked about side effects and some reported that these affected compliance, although overall compliance with medication was high.