

Presentation 2 - Roger Kaplan

VA Gulf War Illness Research Project

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Office of Research and Development

- "Effects of Gulf War Illnesses on Brain Structure and Function" Mike Weiner, MD, San Francisco VAMC

- FY 02-07 (\$3 Million)

- Neuroimaging study will examine structural changes in basal ganglia and pons of healthy and ill Gulf War Vets

- Replicate findings in a previous study by considering PTSD, alcohol abuse, and depression as covariables

HYPOTHESES

- **Hypothesis 1:** *Subjects with GWI have abnormalities independent of the effects of the confounds of alcohol abuse, PTSD and depression.*
- **Hypothesis 2:** *NAA reductions in the basal ganglia and pons correlate with measures of cognition, audio-vestibular function, enzymes involved in organophosphate metabolism, and dopamine metabolism.*

EXAMINATIONS

- Physical and Neurological
- Neuro-psychological
- Haley GWI Questionnaire
- PTSD Assessment
- Audio-Vestibular (ECOG; ABR; Vestibular; ENG; SHA)
- MRI and MRSI

■ Progress & Timeline

- 1.5 Tesla Magnet
- First subject was enrolled in March 2002
- 122 subjects enrolled to date
- Complete Recruitment by 2006
- Finalize Analysis by 2007