WEBINARS

Webinar: Shafali Jeste discusses brain development in high-risk infants

BY **CLAIRE CAMERON**

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Here's how Jeste describes what she will discuss in this webinar:

Although the clinical diagnosis of autism cannot be made until early childhood, the neurobiological changes underlying autism begin much earlier in development. Prospective studies of infants at high risk for autism provide us with opportunities to examine and measure developmental changes as they unfold, both in brain function and behavior. These early changes can help us predict which infants will develop autism and can also help us understand the pathways that lead to autism. These insights may, in turn, guide the timing and design of early interventions to improve outcomes.

In this webinar, I will provide an overview of my research in early brain development in autism. I will discuss different methods of examining brain structure and function in infancy, with a focus on electroencephalography. I will then share preliminary findings from my work with two high-risk cohorts under study at the University of California, Los Angeles Center for Autism Research and Treatment: infants who have older siblings with autism, and infants with the autism-related syndrome tuberous sclerosis complex. These studies highlight key challenges in conducting research on brain function in early infancy, but also present exciting opportunities to examine the earliest manifestations of atypical development and the effects of early intervention on brain development in autism.