

## Significant association between brain derived neurotrophic factor gene polymorphism C270T and cognitive symptoms in veterans with PTSD

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### Abstract

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a trauma and stressor related disorder characterized with specific clusters of symptoms including cognitive disturbances. Brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) is a neurotrophin with important role in modulation of neuronal growth, plasticity, neurotransmission, stress response and cognition (learning, memory), all processes are altered in PTSD. The study included 333 male Caucasians with combat-related current and chronic PTSD. They were evaluated using SCID, PANSS, CAPS, and two PANSS cognitive subscales: PANSS Cognition subscale 1 and PANSS Cognition subscale 2. Genotyping of the BDNF Val66Met (rs6265) and BDNF C270T (rs56164415) was done using the primers and probes from the TaqMan® Drug Metabolism Genotyping Assays on ABI Prism 7300 Real time PCR System apparatus (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) in DNA samples. Results were evaluated using Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA and Dunn post-hoc test, or Mann Whitney U test, or  $\chi^2$  –test.

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### Biography

Nela Pivac has her expertise in evaluation of molecular basis of neuropsychiatric disorders including PTSD, and in the search of biomarkers of these disorders.

She is a leader of the national and international projects, and a winner of the scientific awards.. His area of interest includes Preventive Psychiatry, Addiction Psychiatry, and Severe Mental Illness.