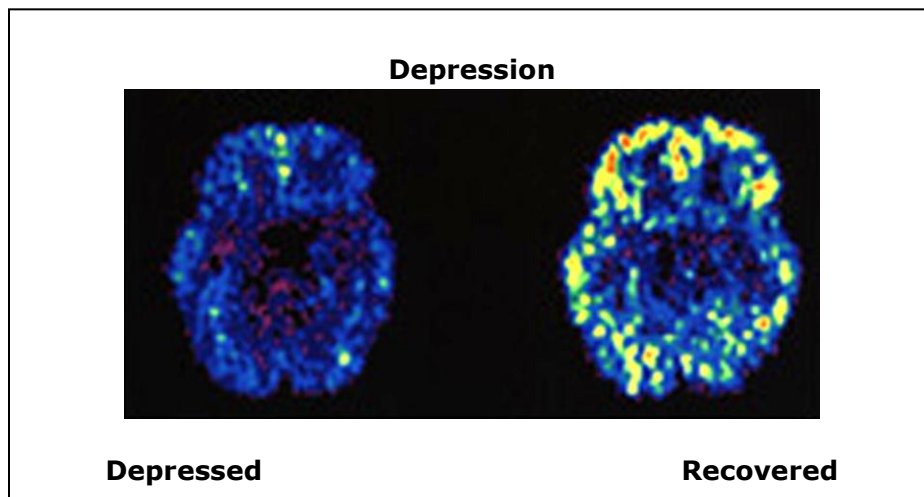
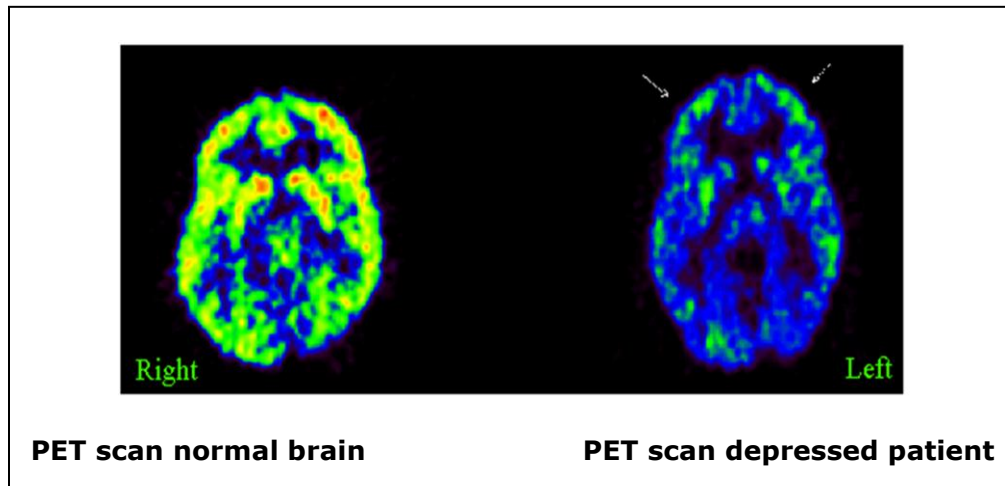


Functional brain changes

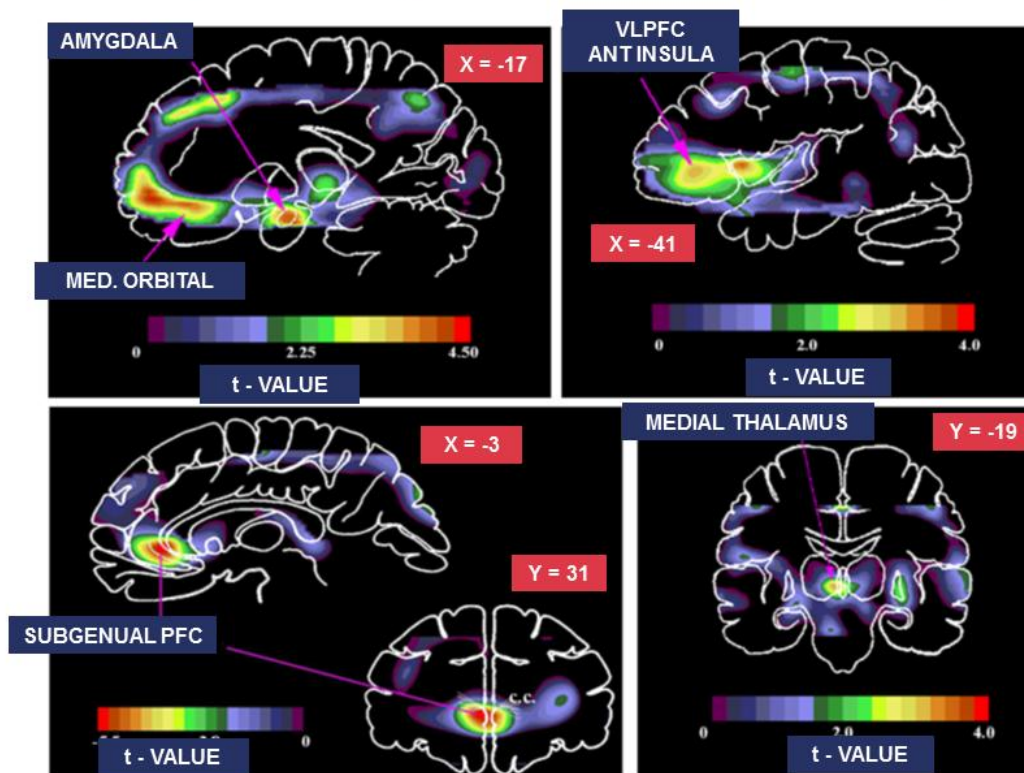
Pet scan images can show reduced brain activity and reduced functioning in a person with MDE so they are not just lazy or morally weak. There is a physiologic reason for their symptoms which are as real as any other organ dysfunction. So the distinction of functional vs organic becomes artificial and there is little reason to consider mental health disorders any different than suffering or symptoms from any other area of medicine.



And there is hope as we see the functional changes with treatment of MDE can be corrected and return to normal which coincides with symptom improvement.

Specific areas of low brain function in MDE include Ventrolateral prefrontal cortex VLPFC and frontal lobe areas that may be manifest as symptoms of low concentration and low motivation. Other areas of abnormal activity include limbic system areas such as the amygdala with possible symptoms of emotional dysregulation and sadness.

t-Statistic Maps Showing Areas of Abnormal Activity in MDD



Drevets WC. Annual Reviews in Medicine 1998; 49:341-61