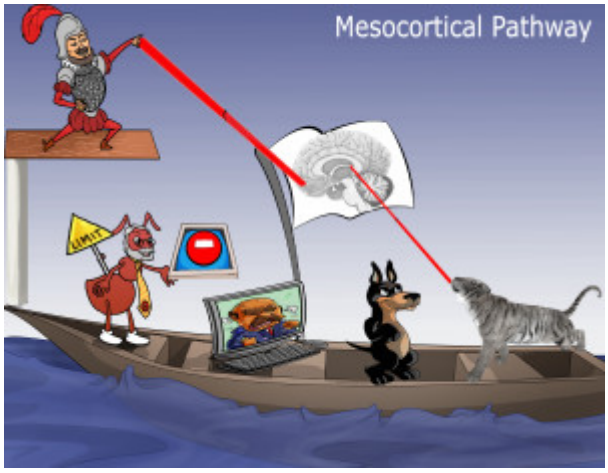
Mesocortical Pathway (Dopaminergic)



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Dopamine Pathway
Doberman Pathway
The mesocortical pathway is one of the four dopaminergic pathways involved in the release of dopamine.

Location

Ventral Tegmental Area
Tiger-metal
The mesocortical pathway begins in the ventral tegmental area (VTA) of the midbrain and extends to the prefrontal cortex of the frontal lobe.

Prefrontal Cortex
Cortez-pointing to Prefrontal
The mesocortical pathway begins in the ventral tegmental area (VTA) of the midbrain and extends to the prefrontal cortex of the frontal lobe.

Characteristics

Executive Function
Executive who can't Function
The mesocortical pathway is known to control the executive functioning of the brain. This functioning can involve planning, cognition, attention, motivation, and emotional response.

Defect

Negative Symptoms
Negative-sign
An inhibition or defect of the mesocortical pathway leads to the presentation of negative symptoms (e.g., lack of energy, flat affect, anhedonia, apathy) often seen in those with schizophrenia.

Limited Antipsychotic Efficacy
Ant-tie-psychiatrist with Limit sign
Overall, the mesocortical pathway has limited efficacy in terms of responding to antipsychotics.

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