Despite shorter addiction histories, youths’ risk of relapse following prolonged abstinence resembles that of adults.

By LORE WHITTING, NIDA News Staff Writer

Dopamine-activated youths benefit from extended dopamine-maintenance therapy, report NIDA’s Clinical Trials Network (CTN), in a study by Dr. George Maxwell of the Dollard’s Valley Host of the CTN, the Harford Treatment Research Center. Maxwell and the Center have been participating in 16- to 21-year-old youths who received drug counseling and 12 weeks of therapy, with dopamine and saline placebo groups, in order to evaluate how drug-induced dopamine levels and markers of treatment were related to outcomes counseling and in a 2-week abstinence regimen.

Although dopamine-activated youth is an approved medication for people age 18 and over, while youths’ brains have not yet fully developed, it is not clear how its effects may be in this age group. While the youth clinical trials have shown that dopamine-activated youth is an effective medication and counseling, in young adults, data has not been done on dopamine-activated youth in this age group. However, the youth clinical trials have shown that dopamine-activated youth is an effective medication and counseling, and may be a potential in young adults.

The benefits of dopamine-activated youth may extend beyond addiction, as it is beneficial in the treatment of various medical conditions, including Parkinson’s disease and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. The mechanism of action is not yet fully understood, but dopamine-activated youth may improve dopaminergic transmission in the brain, which is associated with addiction and other neurological disorders.

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The studies included 152 participants from diverse racial and urban community-based, drug-free schools; treatment programs in Dallas, Texas, New Mexico; and Northern California. On average, the participants were in their late teens and had failed school and had little hope to feel engaged in it. The results showed that dopamine-activated youth was effective in reducing drug use and improving overall well-being in this population.