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Rare CNVs and phenome-wide profiling highlight brain-structural divergence and phenotypical convergence

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44 Abstract

45 Copy number variations (CNVs) are rare genomic deletions and duplications that can affect brain and behavior. Previous reports of CNV pleiotropy imply that they converge on 46 47 shared mechanisms at some level of pathway cascades, from genes to large-scale neural circuits 48 to the phenome. However, existing studies have primarily examined single CNV loci in small 49 clinical cohorts. It remains unknown how distinct CNVs escalate vulnerability for the same developmental and psychiatric disorders. Here, we quantitatively dissect the associations 50 between brain organization and behavioral differentiation across eight key CNVs. In 534 CNV 51 52 carriers, we explored CNV-specific brain morphology patterns. CNVs were characteristic of 53 disparate morphological changes involving multiple large-scale networks. We extensively 54 annotated these CNV-associated patterns with ~1000 lifestyle indicators through the UK Biobank resource. The resulting phenotypic profiles largely overlap and have body-wide 55 56 implications, including the cardiovascular, endocrine, skeletal, and nervous systems. Our 57 population-level investigation established brain structural divergences and phenotypical 58 convergences of CNVs, with direct relevance to major brain disorders.

59 Introduction

60 A chief goal of modern neuroscience is understanding how genetic variation impacts brain 61 organization and inter-individual differences in behavior. Advances in genomic microarray 62 technology streamlined the detection of copy number variations (CNVs) - deletions or 63 duplications of chromosomal segments of >1000 base pairs^{1,2}. This class of genetic mutations opens a unique window into the investigation of how neurogenetic determinants shape human 64 behavior. cognition, and development^{3,4}. Pathogenic CNVs that reoccur across individuals 65 provide opportunities to study groups of individuals who carry the same deletion or duplication 66 of a well-defined set of genes⁵. Moreover, CNVs have larger effects on phenotype than the low 67 68 effect-size single-nucleotide polymorphisms often identified by genome-wide association 69 studies⁶. Concretely, CNVs overall have been shown to detrimentally affect cognition and raise 70 the risk for psychiatric conditions^{4,7}. Nevertheless, it remains unexplained why many different 71 CNVs escalate vulnerability for the same developmental and psychiatric disorders^{4,8,9}.

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73 The vast majority of large recurrent CNVs have been linked to more than one clinical diagnosis, including intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, and schizophrenia^{10–12}. 74 75 These findings make a case that circumscribed genetic changes are rarely exclusively associated with a single clinical diagnosis¹³. Further, CNVs have demonstrable consequences even in 76 seemingly unaffected middle and old age carriers, who show no overt signs of early-onset 77 neuropsychiatric disorders. Recent evidence points to a broader spectrum of impacts from CNV 78 79 status, ranging from physical traits to diabetes to hypertension to obesity to renal 80 dysfunction^{3,14,15}, as well as psychopathology¹⁶. Understudied body-wide CNV effects may contribute to the links of schizophrenia-associated CNVs with diminished academic 81 qualifications, occupation, or household income¹⁷. In summary, this class of genetic variants 82 affecting distant parts of the genome can be associated with various behavioral and clinical 83 phenotypes^{18,19}. 84

85

86 Despite many advances in genomic profiling, investigations into the corresponding brain signatures have only been performed for a few CNVs and mostly focused on a single variant at 87 a time^{20,21}. These parallel approaches to catalog CNVs highlighted a wide spectrum of robust 88 effects on brain structure^{22,23}. Although distinct rare CNVs are associated with a range of brain 89 alterations, they have been suggested to lead to a degree of similarity in associated behavioral 90 phenotypes^{9,24}. However, it remains unknown how similar CNVs are in terms of their effects on 91 92 the brain and the phenome. Since deleterious CNVs are rare, such as 1 in 3,000 for 22q11.2 deletion²⁵, previous investigations suffered from small samples of subjects and a lack of 93 94 phenotypic depth. Therefore, previous studies were chronically underpowered to paint a 95 complete picture of CNVs in medicine. There is a need for a systematic investigation of 96 intermediate brain measures and their phenotypic associations across several CNVs by means 97 of a large well-phenotyped patient pool. The recent advent of population cohorts with rich 98 phenotypic assessment batteries represents an untapped opportunity to conjointly examine a 99 set of CNVs and characterize them at an unprecedented scale.

100

101 In the present study, we interrogated the largest existing biomedical data resource, the 102 UK Biobank²⁶, which allowed a head-to-head comparison of an envelope of CNVs. As a first step, 103 we leveraged tools from machine learning, including linear discriminant analysis (LDA), to isolate 104 CNV-specific brain morphology signatures from a multisite clinical cohort. These individuals 105 carried one of eight recurrent CNVs that are among the most widely studied CNV loci to

date^{11,23,27}. Deletions and duplications at the loci 1q21.1, 15q11.2, 16p11.2, and 22q11.2 strike 106 107 a balance between being frequent and having a significant impact on brain and behavior²³. 108 Subsequently, the advantageous properties of LDA allowed us to carry over the CNV-specific 109 whole-brain signatures from the clinical cohort to the large-scale UK Biobank cohort. The UK 110 Biobank is ideally suited to tease apart the commonalities in phenotypic indicators across CNV 111 alterations due to the breadth of available phenotypic annotations. We directly linked a rich 112 portfolio of phenotypes to eight CNV brain signatures in ~40,000 UK Biobank participants. 113 Specifically, we performed separate phenome-wide association studies (PheWAS) for the eight 114 CNV-brain-imaging signatures across 977 phenotypes from eleven categories. In this way, we 115 provide a population-level characterization of what unites and divides the eight CNVs by 116 detailing convergences and divergences from genomic variants to brain morphology to 117 phenome. In an attempt to establish cornerstone evidence for the community, such a study can 118 illuminate fundamental links between genetic variation and brain organization, with their 119 consequences to bodily systems.

120 Results

121 Dissecting different CNV effects on whole-brain morphology

122 We systematically analyzed volumetric measures derived from brain-imaging scans in the 123 clinical cohort comprising 846 total subjects: 534 carried one of eight recurrent CNVs (deletion 124 and duplications of 1q21.1 distal, 15q11.2 BP1-BP2, 16p11.2 proximal, or 22q11.2 proximal), 125 while 312 controls did not carry a CNV (Table 1). We parsed volume measures from these 126 structural brain scans using a 400-region anatomical definition (Schaefer-Yeo reference atlas; 127 see Online methods). To account for variation outside of our current primary scientific interest, 128 each brain region volume was adjusted for intracranial volume, age, age², sex, and acquisition 129 site for all downstream analysis steps. A schematic flow of all analysis steps is depicted in 130 Supplementary Figure 1.

131 As a first step, we compared the effects on brain region volume measures for the eight 132 CNVs. Specifically, after normalizing (z-scoring) brain volumes across groups, that is, across the 133 respective CNV carriers and controls, we examined the extent of volumetric divergence between 134 carriers of each single CNV and controls by computing Cohen's d (giving an effect size for the 135 group difference) for each individual brain region (Fig. 1a). In doing so, for each examined CNV, 136 we obtained a brain map of Cohen's d effect sizes that summarize magnitudes of CNV-induced 137 structural abnormalities across the brain's gray matter. We noted widespread smaller volumes 138 in the majority of the examined atlas regions for the 1q21.1 deletion, 15q11.2 duplication, 139 16p11.2 duplication, and 22q11.2 deletion. Conversely, a preferential increase in most regional 140 volumes became apparent for the 1q21.1 duplication, 15q11.2 deletion, 16p11.2 deletion, and 141 22q11.2 duplication. These findings align with well-known regional alterations identified in 142 cohorts with patients carrying neurodevelopmental disorders²².

143 Each target CNV locus was characterized by an overall constellation of gray matter 144 changes – a brain-wide CNV map of how particular CNV carriership results in systematic brain 145 deviations from controls. To delineate the similarity among effect-size brain maps, we computed 146 Pearson's correlation between all 400 regional Cohen's d values corresponding to each pair of 147 CNVs (Fig. 1b). Statistical significance was assessed using a spin-permutation test across the 148 whole brain surface. We found a large disparity between Cohen's d maps evidenced by the wide 149 spectrum of Pearson's correlations ranging from -0.51 to 0.63. We noted certain similarities, 150 such as for deletions of 22q11.2 and 15q11.2 (r = 0.66, p_{FDR-adj} = 0.03). Further, we observed a 151 strong mirroring effect with significant anti-correlations between deletions and duplication of

the same locus. Mirroring effects were strongest for 22q11.2 (r = -0.51, $p_{FDR-adj} = 0.03$), followed by 16p11.2 (r = -0.39, $p_{FDR-adj} = 0.03$). The average volumetric similarity measured by the average absolute Pearson's correlations was r = 0.23. Taken together, this cursory analysis indicated that spatial distributions of mutation-induced changes in brain morphology differed considerably across CNVs.

157

158 Visualizing CNV differences in low-dimensional signatures

159 A drawback of the approach based on Cohen's d lies in its univariate character, which 160 considers each region separately, ignoring the respective remaining atlas regions. Hence, next, 161 we used dimensionality reduction techniques to obtain holistic summaries of the CNV carriers' 162 morphological profiles. We set out from the possibility that CNVs cause coordinated volume 163 changes distributed across the entire brain. Therefore, we expected an intrinsically brain-164 spanning pattern could be extracted that faithfully captures the induced morphological 165 differences. Principal component analysis (PCA) is the most commonly used multivariate tool 166 that is demonstrably most effective at representing linear latent factors. PCA can be interpreted 167 as computing a new coordinate system such that the axes are oriented in the directions of the 168 largest variation across the 400 region volume measures. We thus used PCA to project all CNV 169 carriers' regional volumes onto the two dominant directions of coherent whole-cortex variation 170 (Fig. 1c). In the ensuing two-dimensional subject embedding, CNV carriers were scattered 171 randomly without an apparent systematic relationship with each other. In other words, the 172 results suggested that CNVs were not the primary source of the interindividual variation in 173 whole-cortex morphology in our cohort. Hence, a method without access to CNV-carriership 174 status, such as PCA, could not provide a satisfying overall description of what drives structural 175 brain deviations induced by specific CNVs.

176 Therefore, we turned to linear discriminant analysis (LDA) as a pattern classification 177 algorithm that is naturally capable of recovering a low-dimensional representation explicitly 178 aimed at maximizing the separation between the eight CNVs based on the individuals' brain 179 morphometry measures. We then re-expressed the brain-wide regional volumes as the two 180 primary dimensions of structural variation under the LDA model (Fig. 1d). In particular, the 181 leading dimension of the LDA-derived subject embedding captured the differences between 182 16p11.2 deletion and duplications. The second most explanatory dimension of the LDA-derived 183 embedding mainly captured the differences between 22q11.2 deletion and duplications. This 184 distribution of a single CNV locus along a single dimension points again at similar structural 185 effects with opposite directions. In summary, LDA formed a new low-dimensional space in which the brain morphology of CNV carriers could be effectively identified, quantified, and, 186 187 subsequently, examined in further detail.

188

189 Deriving CNV-specific intermediate phenotypes

190 To supplement the multi-CNV classification model, which explored differences between 191 CNVs (described above), our next analysis step was to extract robust whole-brain signatures 192 specific for each CNV that we could then use to study unseen participants in any number of 193 external cohorts. Therefore, we constructed eight LDA models of order one dedicated to the 194 eight CNVs. Notably, there was a considerable imbalance between the number of controls and 195 CNV carriers (from 2-fold for 15q11.2 duplication to 22-fold for 1q21.1 duplication). Moreover, 196 the number of model parameters to be estimated (at least 400 parameters associated with the 197 400 atlas regions) was larger than the number of subjects. To remedy the challenges of this data 198 scenario, our analysis pipeline combined bagging and regularization to prevent overfitting the

199 model hyperparameters (see details in Online methods). We evaluated the model performance 200 indexed by out-of-sample prediction in brain scans unseen by the model using the Matthews 201 correlation coefficient. All CNVs were successfully classified with a consistent above-chance 202 accuracy (Fig. 2a). Chance level accuracy was defined as the performance of an empirical null 203 model obtained by label shuffling. High classification performance provides empirical evidence 204 that these CNVs are characteristic of robust volumetric signatures.

205 After extracting predictive principles of structural brain deviations by means of LDA, 206 each model included a collection of 400 coefficients associated with the atlas regions (Fig. 2b). 207 These coefficients encapsulated a multivariate prediction rule which maximized the difference 208 between controls and CNV carriers. In other words, each CNV's LDA model encapsulated an 209 intermediate phenotype – a brain-wide volumetric signature that characterizes each CNV. To 210 quantify the similarity between the derived intermediate phenotype representations, we 211 compared them using Pearson's correlation coefficient. Again, we observed certain similarities 212 across the eight CNVs, as well as mirroring effects between reciprocal CNVs (Fig. 2c). However, 213 the wide range and low strength (average similarity r = 0.2) of obtained CNV-CNV similarities 214 indicated that LDA models reflected the sizable diverging effects of CNVs on brain morphometry. 215 The identified intermediate phenotypes bore a degree of similarity to the Cohen's d brain maps 216 (Fig. 2d). The strong positive Pearson's correlation between the intermediate phenotypes and 217 Cohen's d brain maps was significant for all CNVs. In other words, LDA-derived (brain-global) 218 patterns capture certain volumetric effects highlighted by previous (region-local) Cohen's d 219 analysis. Along with the high prediction accuracy, a degree of similarity with estimated region-220 wise Cohen's d maps is an important step on the path toward characterizing derived signatures 221 in another dataset.

222 We further inspected the 400 region coefficients of each LDA model that captured the 223 influence of each CNV on each brain region. By carrying out a one-sample bootstrap hypothesis 224 test independently for each CNV, we assessed which region-specific model coefficients are 225 robustly different from zero and, thus, robustly affected by CNVs. Specifically, during the 226 learning of the coefficients of one of the 8 CNV-specific LDA models, in 100 resampling iterations; 227 we drew a different set of subjects based on drawing subjects with replacement from the control 228 subjects and corresponding CNV carriers. Statistically relevant coefficients were robustly 229 different from zero if their two-sided confidence interval - according to the 2.5/97.5% intervals 230 of the bootstrap-derived distribution - did not include zero. Different CNVs affected (displayed 231 statistically relevant coefficients) different cortical parcels that correspond to the seven large-232 scale brain networks populating the cortex, as defined by our atlas (Fig. 3a). For example, while 233 16p11.2 proximal duplication primarily affects 20% of all regions in the limbic network, 22q11.2 234 deletion affects 20% of regions in the salience ventral attentional network as well as more than 235 10% of regions in the limbic, dorsal attentional, and default-mode networks. Across all examined 236 CNVs and target brain networks, the 16p11.2 deletion affected the largest number of brain 237 regions, while 15q11.2 duplication affected the lowest number of regions. Higher-order network 238 circuits showed, on average, the relatively highest number of significant coefficients. Concretely, 239 the limbic network had the highest relative number of affected regions, followed by the salience 240 and default-mode networks (Fig. 3b). Together, the wide range of effects on the large-scale 241 networks again highlights the diverging consequences of CNVs on brain morphometry.

To further explore characteristic relationships between the eight CNVs, we probed for a linear relationship of the number of salient LDA coefficients with LDA classifier performance and average brain-wide Cohen's *d*. We found a significant positive Pearson's correlation with classifier performance (r = 0.74, p = 0.04) (Fig. 3c) and mean absolute effect size (r = 0.75, p = 0.03). Furthermore, when we included sample size in the testing scheme, we found only a negative linear association with average Cohen's d (r = -0.80, p = 0.02), calling for careful interpretation of effect sizes, owing to the estimation of population mean in small samples. In sum, our collective findings highlighted how LDA models reflect CNV-specific changes in largescale brain networks to form distinctive intermediate phenotypes.

251

252 Lifting over phenotypes patterns from the clinical cohort

253 We built eight separate LDA models that encapsulated CNV-specific intermediate 254 phenotypes. By doing so, we could quantify the presence of each intermediate CNV phenotype 255 for each subject. Hence, as an illustrative example, we compared the expression level of 16p11.2 256 proximal duplication intermediate phenotype between the carriers of that CNV and controls. 257 Based on a two-sample bootstrap hypothesis test for the difference of means with 10,000 258 bootstrap iterations (Online methods), the ensuing means of the intermediate phenotype 259 expressions differed significantly between CNV carriers in the clinical sample and controls (p-260 value $< 10^{-4}$) (Fig. 4a). As a critical step in our analysis, the CNV-specific volumetric signatures 261 derived from our clinical population using LDA could be used in a phenotypically richer 262 population data repository.

263 To carry over the intermediate phenotypes from the clinical cohort to the UK Biobank, 264 we quantified the expression of each intermediate CNV phenotype for all 39,085 UK Biobank 265 participants (Table 2). We first extracted brain volume measures from the 400 atlas regions, 266 adjusting for several confound variables (see Online methods). We then calculated the subject-267 specific expression for all intermediate CNV phenotypes in the UK Biobank. It is important to 268 stress that the intermediate phenotypes were derived in the clinical cohort. However, UK 269 Biobank also contains several carriers of the analyzed mutations. The generalizability of the 270 derived intermediate phenotypes was indicated by the difference between the intermediate 271 phenotype expression level of non-carriers and CNV carriers in the UK Biobank (for 16p11.2 272 duplication p-value $< 10^{-4}$ using an identical test to that above, Fig. 4a). Notably, we obtained 273 similar results for all other seven intermediate phenotypes (Supp. Fig. 2). Carrying over CNV-274 associated MRI profiles computed in the clinical cohort to the UK Biobank was a critical step that 275 allowed us to identify phenotype correlates of the CNV-associated MRI profiles in a population 276 >500 times larger than our median CNV cohort.

277

278 Charting phenome-wide associations of CNV signatures

279 The UK Biobank is the largest existing uniform brain-imaging dataset in terms of 280 subject sample size and the breadth of available phenotypic annotations. It provides 977 unique 281 phenotypes spanning eleven different categories (Supp. Fig. 3). We performed an exploratory 282 phenome-wide association study (PheWAS) for the purpose of generating new candidate hypotheses. PheWAS allows investigation of the overall patterns of connections by charting 283 284 associations between hundreds of non-imaging phenotypes and imaging-derived phenotypes. 285 Specifically, we calculated Pearson's correlation between the derived subject-specific 286 expressions of the eight intermediate CNV phenotypes and each of the 977 phenotypes provided 287 by the UK Biobank resource (Fig. 4b). In our recurring example of the 16p11.2 duplication 288 intermediate phenotype, 55 associations surpassed Bonferroni correction for multiple testing 289 (including comparative body size at age 10, education score, hemoglobin concentration, or 290 physically abused by family as a child), while 145 associations surpassed FDR correction. In other 291 words, individuals with greater similarity to the 16p11.2 duplication MRI profiles showed a 292 stronger association with levels of education or blood assays biomarkers.

293 To gain additional insight, we summarized the phenotypic association profiles by 294 domain. To this end, we calculated the relative number of association hits for each of the eleven 295 phenotypic domains (using the more stringent Bonferroni correction) as a ratio between the 296 number of significant associations and the number of phenotypes in each category. The highest 297 relative number of associations were in categories detailing physical measures, blood assays, 298 and early life factors categories (Fig. 4c). Among all examined CNVs, the 22q11.2 deletion 299 intermediate phenotype displayed the highest number of phenome-wide hits, with 90 robust 300 associations after Bonferroni's correction for multiple comparisons (Fig. 4c; for further details, 301 see Supp. Fig. 4-11). The collective results showed that CNVs are associated with numerous rich and diverse phenotypes across all eleven categories. 302

303 Analogous to comparing volumetric signatures (cf. above), we examined the similarity of 304 phenotypic profiles across CNVs. To this end, we calculated a correlation between the 305 association strengths (Pearson's correlations) from each PheWAS analysis (Fig. 5a). The 306 definitive collection of brain signature-phenotype links reflected the linear association strength 307 between CNV phenotypical profiles across 977 indicators (Fig. 5b). We found a strong 308 resemblance (average similarity r = 0.62) between the eight phenotypical profiles with positive 309 as well as negative correlations (Pearson's correlations from r = -0.84 to 0.82). We subsequently 310 zoomed in on the strong convergence across the phenotypic profiles characterizing each CNV by 311 computing the correlation between CNV-phenotypic associations within each of the eleven 312 considered categories (Fig. 5c). In particular, we found the bone density and sizes along with 313 blood assays categories showed strong associations across CNV intermediate phenotypes, 314 suggesting similar behavior within these categories. Altogether, the strong correspondences 315 among CNV pairs suggest that CNV brain profiles are linked to similar phenotypes across a rich 316 portfolio of ~1000 curated lifestyle indicators.

317

318 Detailing shared and distinct phenotypic associations

319 To shed light on which particular phenotypes are most strongly associated with CNV-320 specific brain signatures, we calculated the mean absolute Pearson's correlations across the 321 eight PheWAS analyses. Across all CNVs, diastolic blood pressure, alkaline phosphatase, and red 322 blood cell count showed the strongest associations (Fig. 6a). Moreover, we examined which 323 phenotypes are most consistently associated with CNV brain profiles. We found eight 324 phenotypes associated with six CNV intermediate phenotypes and eleven phenotypes shared by 325 five CNV intermediate phenotypes (Supp. Fig. 3b, c). The most consistently overlapping 326 phenotype hits were from the blood assays category (e.g., mean corpuscular volume, SHBG, IGF-327 1), along with weight or home population density. In total, these robust and shared phenotypic 328 associations point to the fact that CNV brain profiles are associated with similar systemic 329 phenotypes.

330 Comparisons of the phenotypical profiles associated with each CNV intermediate 331 phenotype revealed that there remains unexplained residual variance, as suggested by a 332 maximum absolute association strength of r = 0.81. To access this remaining part of the variance, 333 we computed new brain profiles adjusting for the other CNVs. Specifically, for each CNV-specific 334 intermediate phenotype, we singled out the variation explained by the remaining seven. Thus, 335 we obtained a set of eight unique intermediate phenotypes, each with the variation shared with 336 other intermediate phenotypes removed. Subsequently, we used this new set to perform the 337 PheWAS analysis and counted the relative number of associations surpassing the Bonferroni 338 correction in each category. We still observed significant associations across CNVs and 339 categories even after conditioning out on the shared associations. In particular, 22q11.2 deletion

showed a high relative number of associations in the physical measures category (Fig. 6c). As
such, next to the substantial phenotypic similarity, CNVs also displayed some unique
characteristic phenotypic associations relative to other CNVs.

343

344 Quantifying the path toward converging phenotypical profile

345 The observed magnitude of similarity between the phenotypic profiles of the CNV 346 intermediate phenotypes reaching Pearson's r = 0.84 demonstrated a strong relationship 347 between phenotypic profiles across the 977 indicators. In general, the phenotypic similarity 348 (absolute Pearson's correlation of PheWAS outcomes) between CNVs exceeded their 349 morphological similarity (absolute Pearson's correlation between Cohen's d maps) (Fig. 6d). The 350 dissonance between the two similarity measures was highlighted by Lin's concordance 351 correlation coefficient equal to -0.23, suggesting poor concordance. More specifically, 22 of 28 352 CNV pairs showed stronger phenotypical similarity compared to volumetric similarity. Thus, 353 CNVs were characteristic of stronger phenotypic signature associations compared to 354 associations among volumetric signatures or intermediate phenotypes (Fig. 6e).

Our collective analyses demonstrated that although each CNV displays largely distinct whole-brain morphometric signatures, they converged on similar phenotypic profiles. In proving this, we transferred the intermediate phenotypes derived in the clinical cohort to the UK Biobank population cohort with 39,085 subjects. Using the subject-specific expression levels of eight intermediate phenotypes from eight rare CNVs allowed us to characterize complex phenotypical profiles of each CNV, providing a detailed portrait of their commonalities and idiosyncrasies.

362 Discussion

363 CNVs offer a unique window of opportunity into the consequences of localized genetic variation on human traits. This is especially the case, given their known genetic architecture and 364 365 typically high penetrance. In the present study, we built computational bridges between eight 366 key CNVs in a multisite clinical dataset, on the one hand, and their deep phenotypic profiling in 367 39,085 subjects from the wider population, on the other hand. To this end, we designed an 368 analytic framework that can quantitatively dissect the impact of distinct genetic mutations on 369 brain organization and behavioral differentiation. Bringing over derived CNV-specific 370 intermediate phenotypes to the population cohort revealed that the CNVs are tied to pleiotropic 371 associations beyond physical and cognitive domains. This phenome-wide analysis across ~1000 372 phenotypes revealed many ramifications for several body systems. Our collective analyses also 373 reveal wide-ranging similarities between the PheWAS profiles of the eight CNVs. Therefore, the 374 phenotypic level appears to be the point of alignment for distinct long-segment genetic variants 375 that we show to cause diverging morphological changes in brain morphology. Such late 376 convergence in phenotypic consequences speaks to profound basic science questions regarding 377 the organization of genetic influences on human brain and behavior.

378

For a long time, inquiries targeting genetic influences have been limited by the lack of longitudinal and deep multimodal measures of brain and behavior in large subject samples²⁴. Studies aimed at elucidating genotype-phenotype links were challenged by several obstacles, including ascertainment bias, limited statistical power, and patchy phenotypic coverage²². We are unlikely to have access to large enough clinical datasets soon – a condition *sine qua non* for definitive tests of phenotypic overlaps and differences between genetic variants. As a concrete example, Marek and colleagues (2022) highlighted the need for thousands of participants to 386 obtain reproducible and reliable brain-wide associations. Therefore, to overcome several of 387 these hurdles, we here put forward solutions that take advantage of intermediate CNV phenotypes, a term coined in research on psychiatric disorders²⁹. These refer to biological traits 388 that lie in between an individual's external phenotype and innate genetic blueprint^{30,31}. We 389 390 captured CNV-specific intermediate phenotype representations as "genetics-first" whole-brain 391 signatures derived from our clinical boutique dataset. These signatures recapitulated previous findings on morphology alterations, such as the predominant decrease in regional volumes for 392 deletions of 1g21.2 or 22g11.2, as well as the increase for 16p11.2 deletion^{23,32,33}. We also 393 observed reported mirror dose responses, especially strong in 22q11.2 locus²². Therefore, the 394 395 validity of LDA-derived intermediate phenotypes is corroborated by recapitulating key findings 396 from clinical studies.

The eight analyzed CNVs are known to differ in the ensuing effects on brain 397 architecture^{11,12}. The magnitude of their effects has previously been associated with the number 398 of affected genes and clinical outcomes. In concordance, we found 16p11.2 deletion to affect 399 400 the largest number of regions. This CNV contains 29 genes and is associated with an almost 40fold increase in the odds of autism spectrum disorder²⁷. Conversely, we found 15q11.2 401 duplication, which contains only four genes and is not formally associated with any disease, to 402 403 affect the fewest number of regions. In addition, we provide a fresh look into the diverging CNV 404 effects on brain morphology by summarizing the effects with respect to seven large-scale Schaefer-Yeo networks. The network effects revealed a degree of similarity to functional 405 connectivity alterations in CNV carriers²¹. We also observed effects in the default mode and 406 limbic network for 22q11.2 deletion, as well as for ventral attention and motor network for 407 408 16p11.2 deletion. Together, the structural and functional alterations showed significant overlap with alterations of idiopathic autism spectrum disorder and schizophrenia³⁴. The resemblance 409 410 suggests that the risk conferred by genetic variants, structural alterations, and the associated 411 functional connectivity patterns represent important dimensions that are coupled with diseases. 412

413 In the present work, we demonstrate the added value of how intermediate phenotypes 414 can be transferred for direct usage in other cohorts, including large-scale populational datasets. 415 By transferring these brain-wide representations over to the UK Biobank and carrying out PheWAS, we obtained systemic phenotypic associations across eleven rich phenotypic 416 417 categories that go beyond mere cognitive domains. The reported PheWAS associations of the 418 intermediate CNV phenotypes were concordant with previous studies investigating more circumscribed links between CNV status and indicators of cognitive performance, including fluid 419 intelligence score¹⁷, physical measurements like weight or height^{3,15}, common medical 420 conditions like hypertension or obesity, and blood biomarkers like indicators of cholesterol fat 421 422 metabolism pathways³⁵. As one of many examples, we demonstrated how intermediate phenotypes tied to 22q11.2 deletion relate to an array of phenotypes in blood assays as well as 423 424 cardiac and blood vessels categories. It is important to stress that PheWAS only charts 425 associations between imaging and non-imaging measures to generate testable hypotheses without providing causal links³⁶. Even though there may not be a causative link between a brain 426 427 phenotype and cardiac biomarkers, the thus revealed association suggests a hidden causal effect 428 of the CNV on both traits (e.g., brain morphology and artery wall thickening³⁷).

Similar to Auwerx and colleagues (2022), six of our eight examined CNVs were associated with body weight, insulin-like growth factor 1, alkaline phosphatase, or mean red blood cell volume. Therefore, these bodily alterations may not be mere secondary effects³⁸. Instead, systemic manifestations could be a fundamental aspect of the primary biology of CNVs and brain disorders in general. Critically, they might also lead to a reduced life span, as suggested by the 63% probability of survival to age 50 in adult carriers of 22q11.2 deletion^{14,39}. Similar to 22q11.2 deletion, psychotic disorders have been linked with 15–20 years shorter life expectancy⁴⁰. Most of this premature mortality is predominantly due to elevated cardiovascular risk factors^{41,42} – causes that belong to the phenotype category among the most consistent associations in our phenome-wide assays. Detected associations speak in favor of CNVs as a complex disorder with several manifestations outside the brain that have considerable deleterious impacts on various parts of everyday lives.

441

442 By combining hand-crafted analytic solutions with recently emerged data resources, our 443 computational assays lay out pleiotropic associations in CNV carriers. These consequences 444 include systemic associations outside the central nervous system. This underappreciated insight 445 is reflected in our results, including strong brain-behavior associations of the CNV profile in the 446 UK Biobank population with blood pressure, cholesterol, and weight. Since CNVs do not show complete penetrance in all cases⁴⁴, such associations portray a necessary picture of a broad 447 spectrum of outcomes later in life. Hence, the constellation of results advocates rebalancing the 448 medical care of CNV carriers towards more comprehensive medical monitoring in a broader 449 450 patient pool⁴⁵.

451 In a similar way, previous clinical research has provided evidence that schizophrenia and related psychotic disorders often affect multiple body systems (e.g., nervous, immune, or 452 endocrine), even from illness onset^{46,47}. Pillinger and colleagues (2019) reported robust 453 alterations in immune and cardiometabolic systems of a comparable magnitude to alterations 454 in the central nervous system. Further examples of major brain disorders accompanied by 455 problems outside the brain include gastrointestinal disorders in autism⁴⁸, loss of bone density in 456 depression⁴⁹, or cardiovascular symptoms in bipolar disorder⁵⁰. Finally, a recent study showed 457 458 that genetic liabilities for five major psychiatric disorders are associated with long-term 459 outcomes in adult life, including sociodemographic factors and physical health⁵¹. Our findings thus add pieces of knowledge that illuminate how the nervous system is interlocked with the 460 461 rest of the body in a way that affects general well-being.

462

463 More broadly, understanding pathophysiological disease mechanisms will be propelled 464 by further disentangling the perplexing link between genes, brain, and behavior⁵². There is an active debate on the extent to which distinct gene dosage disorders can lead to different non-465 overlapping phenotypical profiles²⁴. This discourse was sparked from the observations that 466 many SNPs and CNVs increase the risk for schizophrenia or autism^{11,53}. Polygenicity and 467 pleiotropy, key features of the genetics underpinning psychiatric disorders^{13,54}, imply that 468 469 genetic mutations can converge on shared mechanisms at some level of pathway cascades, from 470 genes to large-scale brain networks to the phenome. Here, we report a low similarity of 471 intermediate phenotypes representing morphological CNV-specific brain signatures, in line with a documented broad diversity of regional morphometry patterns across genomic loci^{22,55,56}. 472 Conversely, the ramifications of carrying distinct CNV variants for cognition and behavior have 473 previously been hypothesized to be more similar than those on brain anatomy^{9,24}. We here find 474 475 evidence for substantial convergence of phenotypic measures across CNVs quantified by 476 increased phenotypical similarity. Specifically, we observed a high degree of similarity between 477 the phenotypical profiles (mean similarity r = 0.46 as measured by Pearson's correlation across 478 the CNV's corresponding PheWAS profiles), which largely exceeded the similarity of brain 479 morphometry profiles (mean similarity r = 0.2 as measured by the correlation of volumetric 480 Cohen's d maps). Based on the presented strong resemblance of phenotypic profiles of the 481 examined eight CNVs, we speculate that the polygenic architecture of human phenotypic traits

482 may be related to genotype-phenotype convergence that occurs later than on molecular483 pathways or macroscopic brain networks.

484

485 This study has several limitations. One is that we did not investigate the effects of 486 medication on derived CNV-specific brain signatures since medication information was not 487 available for the whole clinical dataset. Nevertheless, previous studies have reported no 488 significant effects of psychiatric comorbidities (e.g. psychosis, ASD, ADHD, anxiety and mood disorder) and psychotropic medication on neuroimaging patterns^{34,57}. We also did not study 489 causal relationships between brain patterns and non-imaging indicators. Making causal 490 491 inference requires proposing and defending a plausible causal structure by spelling out the 492 assumed (directional) dependencies among the outcome, input variables, and relevant confounding variables⁵⁸. Future studies can start off from hypotheses generated by our catalog 493 494 of PheWAS links to find causal links between variables, for example, using structural equation 495 modeling. Finally, given our data scenario, we resorted to linear models in combination with 496 bagging and shrinkage to safeguard from overfitting.

497 In conclusion, we have triangulated i) a purpose-designed analytical strategy, ii) a 498 roadmap for investigating rare brain pathologies employing intermediate phenotypes derived 499 from smaller clinical datasets, and iii) a framework for application in population-scale cohorts. 500 Our results highlight the potential of using intermediate phenotypes as a device to study a wide 501 variety of rare conditions and thus accelerate the pace of neurogenetic innovation. By building 502 bridges between the broad population of the UK Biobank and carefully collected clinical 503 datasets, we derived prediction models for CNV-specific brain phenotype expressions that can 504 be used in other hospitals and healthcare institutions. Deep phenotypic profiling of these models 505 clearly demonstrates that CNVs may have whole-body manifestations. Therefore, our study 506 shows that CNV effects go beyond relevance for childcare and psychiatry by potentially 507 extending to other areas of medical care and treatment, which are blind spotted today. In 508 addition, detected overlapping system-wide phenotype associations across multiple CNVs 509 advance our understanding of genotype-phenotype correspondences. Specifically, the observed 510 phenotypic convergence sheds light on why so many CNVs increase the risk for the same 511 developmental, psychiatric disorders.

513 Methods

514 Multisite clinical cohort

515 Signed consents were obtained from all clinical participants or legal representatives prior 516 to the investigation. The current study, which is purely analytical, was approved by the IRB 517 (Project 4165) of the Sainte Justine Hospital. UK Biobank participants gave written, informed 518 consent for the study, which was approved by the Research Ethics Committee. The present 519 analyses were conducted under UK Biobank application number 25163. Further information on 520 the consent procedure can be found online (biobank.ctsu.ox.ac.uk/crystal/field.cgi?id=200).

521 Our clinical dataset consisted of volumetric measurements derived from magnetic 522 resonance imaging (MRI) brain scans of 860 subjects: 548 CNV carriers and 312 controls not 523 carrying any CNV (Table 1). The here examined CNVs are among the most commonly studied 524 CNVs⁵⁹. Deletions and duplications of 1g21.1, 15g11.2, 16p11.2, and 22g11.2 represent some of the most frequent risk factors for neuropsychiatric disorders identified in pediatric clinics^{19,20}. 525 526 That is why the target CNV loci were also selected by The Enhancing NeuroImaging Genetics 527 through Meta-Analysis copy number variant (ENIGMA-CNV) in a study on their cognitive, psychiatric, and behavioral manifestations²³. These deletions and duplications strike a balance 528 between occurrence in the population and their effect size. In other words, the selected CNVs 529 530 are frequent enough so that we can start studying large enough sample sizes that allow for 531 across-CNV comparison in the first place. At the same time, this class of CNVs has been shown 532 to detrimentally affect cognition and raise the risk for psychiatric conditions^{23,25,33}. Our CNV 533 carriers did not carry any other large CNV.

An extensive description of methods and analyses is available in an already published 534 study with an identical dataset⁶⁰. In short, PennCNV and QuantiSNP were used, with standard 535 quality control metrics, to identify CNVs. CNV carriers were selected based on the following 536 537 breakpoints according to the reference genome GRCh37/hg19: 16p11.2 proximal (BP4-5, 29.6-538 30.2MB), 1q21.1 distal (Class I, 146.4-147.5MB & II, 145.3-147.5MB), 22q11.2 proximal (BPA-D, 539 18.8-21.7MB) and 15q11.2 (BP1-2, 22.8–23.0MB). Control individuals did not carry any CNV at 540 these loci. The CNV carriers were either probands referred to the genetic clinic for the 541 investigation of neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders or their relatives (parents, 542 siblings, and other relatives).

543 UK Biobank might represent the largest dataset of carriers affected by 15q11.2 deletions 544 and duplications. Therefore, after identifying 15q11.2 deletions and duplications in the UK 545 Biobank, we added the respective carriers to our clinical cohort. In other words, we excluded 546 these subjects from the UK Biobank and treated them as part of our clinical dataset. Sensitivity 547 analysis concluded that including this CNV locus does not change our main findings (Supp. Fig. 548 12). Controls were either non-carriers within the same families or individuals from the general 549 population. Furthermore, controls were carefully matched for sex and age to CNV carriers.

550

551 Clinical MRI data recording and processing

552 We analyzed a data sample of T1-weighted (T1w) images at 0.8-1 mm isotropic 553 resolution. All T1w included in the analysis were quality checked by a domain expert⁶⁰. Data for 554 Voxel-Based Morphometry were preprocessed and analyzed with SPM12 (http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/software/spm12/)^{61–63} running under MATLAB R2018b 555 556 (https://www.mathworks.com/products/new_products/release2018b.html). Further quality control was performed using standardized ENIGMA quality control procedures 557 558 (http://enigma.ini.usc.edu/protocols/imaging-protocols/). Finally, neurobiologically 559 interpretable measures of gray matter volume were extracted in all participants by summarizing

560 whole-brain MRI maps in the MNI reference space. This feature-generation step was guided by 561 the topographical brain region definitions of the commonly used Schaefer-Yeo atlas with 400 parcels⁶⁴. The derived quantities of local gray matter volumetry resulted in 400 volume measures 562 563 for each participant. As a data-cleaning step, derived regional brain volumes were adjusted for intracranial volume, age, age², and sex as fixed effects and scanning site as a random factor, 564 following previous research on this dataset⁶⁰. In particular, we have previously demonstrated 565 that CNVs show independent effects on regional and total brain volumes³³. Our current 566 investigation is focused on how CNVs induce regional brain effects. Note that ancillary analyses 567 568 revealed additional adjustments for total gray matter volume not to have any appreciable effect 569 on subsequent analyses.

570

571 Population data source

572 The UK Biobank is the largest biomedical resource that offers extensive behavioral and 573 demographic assessments, medical and cognitive measures, as well as biological samples in a 574 cohort of ~500,000 participants recruited from across Great Britain 575 (https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/). The present study was based on the recent brain-imaging data 576 release from February/March 2020. Our data sample included measurements from 39,085 577 participants with brain-imaging measures and expert-curated image-derived phenotypes of gray 578 matter morphology (T1-weighted MRI) (Table 2). Among the participants, 48% were men and 579 were 52% women with age between 40 and 69 y.o. when recruited [mean age 55 y.o., standard 580 deviation (SD) 7.5 y.]). We benefited from the uniform data preprocessing pipelines designed and implemented by the FMRIB, Oxford University, Oxford, UK⁶⁵, to improve comparability and 581 582 reproducibility.

583 MRI scanners (3T Siemens Skyra) at several dedicated data collection sites used matching 584 acquisition protocols and standard Siemens 32-channel radiofrequency receiver head coils. 585 Brain-imaging measures were defaced to protect the study participants' anonymity, and any 586 sensitive meta-information was removed. Automated processing and quality control pipelines 587 were deployed^{36,65}. To improve the homogeneity of the brain-imaging scans, the noise was 588 removed using 190 sensitivity features. This approach allowed for the reliable identification and 589 exclusion of problematic brain scans, such as due to excessive head motion.

590 The structural MRI data were acquired as high-resolution T1-weighted images of brain 591 anatomy using a 3D MPRAGE sequence at 1mm isotropic resolution. It was preprocessing 592 included gradient distortion correction, the field of view reduction using the Brain Extraction 593 Tool⁶⁶ and FLIRT⁶⁷, as well as non-linear registration to MNI152 standard space at 1 mm 594 resolution using FNIRT⁶⁸. To avoid unnecessary interpolation, all image transformations were 595 estimated, combined, and applied by a single interpolation step. Tissue-type segmentation into 596 the cerebrospinal fluid, gray matter and white matter to generate full bias-field-corrected 597 images was achieved using FAST (FMRIB's Automated Segmentation Tool⁶⁹). Finally, gray matter images were used to extract gray matter volumes in parcels according to the Schaefer-Yeo atlas 598 with 400 regions⁶⁴. Following previous work on the UKBB^{70,71}, inter-individual variations in brain 599 600 region volumes that could be explained by nuisance variables of no interest were adjusted for 601 by regressing out: body mass index, head size, head motion during task-related brain scans, head 602 motion during resting-state fMRI scanning, head position and receiver coil in the scanner (x, y, 603 and z), position of scanner table, as well as the data acquisition site.

605 Statistical analysis for volumetric brain measures

606 All subsequent analyses were performed in Python v3.8 as a scientific computing engine 607 (https://www.python.org/downloads/release/python-380/). We used Cohen's *d* to quantify the 608 effect size of the CNVs on individual regional volumes. For a given region, Cohen's *d* is defined 609 as:

610

$$d = \frac{\overline{x_1} - \overline{x_2}}{\sqrt{\frac{s_1^2 + s_2^2}{2}}},$$

611 where $\overline{x_1}$ corresponds to the mean region volume across CNV carriers, $\overline{x_2}$ corresponds to the 612 mean region volume across controls. Similarly, s_1 and s_2 correspond to standard deviations of 613 CNV carriers and controls.

Results from Cohen's *d* analyses were confirmed by a non-parametric effect size measure (Supp.Fig. 13).

616 We compared Cohen's *d* volumetric brain maps (and intermediate phenotypes brain 617 maps) between different CNVs using Pearson's correlation. Furthermore, we used spin 618 permutation testing to calculate empirical p-values for the ensuing correlation coefficient ⁷².

Finally, we calculated Lin's concordance correlation coefficient to quantify the agreement of similarities between volumetric Cohen's *d* maps, intermediate phenotypes, and PheWAS profiles. The degree of concordance between the two measures is thus calculated as:

$$\rho_C = \frac{1}{s_1^2 + s_2^2 + (\overline{x_1} - \overline{x_2})^2},$$

623 where $s_{1,2}$ corresponds to the covariance between x_1 and x_2 .

624

625 Charting complex association using phenom-wide association study

626 We performed a rich annotation of the derived intermediate phenotypes by means of a 627 phenome-wide association analysis benefitting from a wide variety of almost 1,000 lifestyle 628 factors. For a detailed description of phenotype extraction and analysis, refer to our previously published studies⁷³. Feature extraction was carried out using two utilities designed to obtain, 629 clean, and normalize UKBB phenotype data according to predefined rules. In short, we collected 630 a raw set of ~15,000 phenotypes that we further processed by the FMRIB UKB Normalisation, 631 632 Parsing And Cleaning (FUNPACK Kit version 2.5.0; 633 https://zenodo.org/record/4762700#.YQrpui2caJ8). FUNPACK is designed to perform automatic 634 refinement on the UKB data, which includes removing 'do not know' responses and filling the 635 blank left by unanswered sub-questions. The FUNPACK-derived phenotype information covered 636 11 major categories, including cognitive and physiological assessments, physical and mental 637 health records, blood assays, as well as sociodemographic and lifestyle factors. The output 638 consisted of a collection of 3,330 curated phenotypes which were then fed into PHEnome Scan 639 ANalysis Tool (PHESANT⁷⁴, https://github.com/MRCIEU/PHESANT) for further refinement in an automated fashion. PHESANT performs further data cleaning and normalization along with 640 641 labeling data as one of four data types: categorical ordered, categorical unordered, binary, and 642 numerical. Categorical unordered variables were one-hot encoded, such that each possible response was represented by a binary column (true or false). The final curated inventory 643 644 comprised 977 phenotypes spanning 11 FUNPACK-defined categories. Furthermore, we used 645 Pearson's correlation to quantify the association strength between these 977 phenotypes with 646 subject-specific expressions of our eight intermediate phenotypes (cf. below). To ensure that 647 the correlations are not driven by a few outlying intermediate phenotype expressions, we first 648 discarded 551 subjects based on Tukey's interquartile range rule for outlier detection.

649 Multi-class prediction model and intermediate phenotype extraction

650 Technically, our core aim was to derive robust CNV-specific representations of 651 intermediate phenotypes from a clinical sample that could be transferred to a large population resource for deep profiling. We derived the intermediate phenotypes as systematic brain 652 653 morphometric co-deviations attributable to each of our eight target CNVs. To this end, we 654 capitalized on linear discriminant analysis to extract separating rules between CNV carriers and 655 controls based on whole-brain volume measurements. LDA can be viewed as a generative 656 approach to classifying CNV carriers, which requires fitting multivariate Gaussian distribution to regional brain volumes and producing a linear decision boundary⁷⁵. In particular, LDA-derived 657 658 discriminant vectors/functions represented CNV-specific intermediate phenotypes. Using a 659 linear model represents a data-efficient and directly biologically interpretable approach to our 660 analysis, especially in our boutique datasets with limited subject samples⁷⁶. These datasets are characteristic of the low sample size regularly encountered in biology and medicine, which 661 662 typically impedes the application of more complex non-linear models that require high numbers 663 of parameters to be estimated.

664 As another key model property of direct relevance to our present analysis goals, LDA can 665 also be viewed as a dimensionality technique because this modeling framework enables the 666 extraction of underlying coherent principles among our anatomical target regions that are most 667 informative in telling apart CNV carriers from controls. To do so, LDA has access to class labels (CNV status in our case) and thus belongs to supervised techniques⁷⁵. Specifically, LDA projects 668 the input subjects' set of brain morphology measurements into a linear subspace, consisting of 669 the directions which maximally separate our classes⁷⁷. This dimensionality reduction quality of 670 LDA was a necessary prerequisite for extracting intermediate phenotypes from one dataset and 671 672 transferring them to other datasets.

673 In our study, we used LDA models to classify between CNV carriers and controls. 674 Specifically, we derived a single LDA prototype for each CNV status, which yielded eight CNV-675 specific models. The dimensionality reduction capability of the LDA framework provides 676 biologically interpretable compact views on distinguishing the CNV carriers and controls based 677 on a linear combination of brain region volumes. As a general rule, the maximum number of 678 dimensions equals the number of classes -1. Since each LDA model instance discriminated between two classes at hand (e.g., controls and 22q11.2 deletion), we obtained a one-679 680 dimensional vector encapsulating the 22q11.2 deletion intermediate phenotype. This vector of 681 coefficients revealed the concomitant contribution of each brain region volume towards the 682 separability of the CNV carriers based on whole-brain morphology measurements. Therefore, 683 the coefficients provided quantitative information on the relative importance of the collective 684 brain regions for CNV-health separation. Moreover, the LDA coefficients were estimated hand-685 in-hand with the other brain region volume effects, in contrast to the estimation of marginal or 686 partial variable effects as in linear regression. Furthermore, to embed each subject's brain 687 morphology in a low-rank subspace that maximally separates 22q11.2 deletion carriers and 688 controls, we used the LDA coefficient vector to re-express (i.e., more formally, project) the set 689 of 400 regional volumes of a given subject onto a single dimension representing 22q11.2 690 deletion intermediate expression level signature. Finally, as a step from dimensionality 691 reduction to classification, these expressions of predictive subject brain morphology indicators 692 were then used to construct a discriminant function.

694 Building and validating robust prediction models

695 To recapitulate, our goal was to derive eight CNV-specific intermediate phenotypes using 696 LDA. Therefore, we built separate CNV-specific LDA models designated to learn predictive 697 principles to tell apart between CNV carriers and controls. However, we faced the challenge of 698 the low number of CNV carriers. This challenge is inherent to various boutique datasets of rare 699 medical conditions. Consequently, our number of measured features (regional brain volumes) 700 was higher than the number of observation samples (subjects). Concretely, we disposed on 701 average of 67 subjects per CNV class (cf. Table 1), while each subject was described by 400 702 regional volumes. Such a high-dimensional data scenario can lead to overfitting⁷⁸, where the 703 model learns the detail and noise in the training samples and performs poorly in group classification on unseen test samples⁷⁵. Hence, we used bootstrap aggregation (bagging), an 704 ensemble learning method that can be used to reduce overfitting⁷⁹. Bagging gains its value by 705 706 profiting from a wisdom-of-crowds strategy. Concretely, we used a set of trained LDA models to 707 obtain a more robust and better predictive performance than could be obtained from a single trained LDA model in isolation⁷⁹. Such a model-averaging design improves classification 708 709 performance by reducing variance⁷⁵.

710 We performed bagging during the derivation of LDA models separately for all eight CNV 711 classes. Specifically, we used the following analytical strategy for a set of subjects consisting of 712 a single CNV type and controls. In the first phase, a randomly perturbed version of the dataset 713 is created by sampling the subject cohort with replacement. This bootstrap resampling served as the "in-the-bag" set of samples (i.e., subjects). The number of "in-the-bag" CNV carriers and 714 715 controls equals their number in the dataset. Furthermore, the LDA model was trained on this 716 training "in-the-bag" dataset. Model performance was then evaluated on all subjects from the 717 dataset that were not selected for the "in-the-bag" dataset. These subject samples formed a 718 testing "out-of-bag" dataset. The performance (i.e., classification accuracy) was based on the 719 Mathews correlation coefficient, which has been reported to produce a more informative and truthful score than accuracy and F1 score⁸⁰. The coefficient ranges between –1 and +1, where a 720 721 coefficient of +1 represents a perfect prediction, 0 random prediction, and -1 indicates total 722 disagreement between prediction and observation.

723 We repeated the bootstrap resampling procedure with 100 iterations. In so doing, we 724 obtained different realizations of the entire analysis process and ensuing LDA model estimate. 725 Concretely, the bagging algorithm resulted in 100 trained LDA models used to obtain 100 out-726 of-bag predictions in unseen subjects. We calculated the final prediction accuracy as a mean 727 across the 100 performance estimates. Critically, the average over the collection of separately 728 estimated LDA discriminant functions served as our CNV-specific intermediate phenotype that 729 provided the basis for downstream analysis steps. Finally, we characterized each subject by the 730 intermediate phenotype expression level, which we calculated as the average one-dimensional 731 LDA projection of regional volume sets across the 100 replications. In summary, the variance of 732 local information in the 100 redraws of our original clinical subject cohort promoted diversity 733 among the obtained candidate predictive rules, thus strengthening the fidelity of our ultimate 734 predictions.

To further safeguard against the risk of overfitting, we optimized the shrinkage parameter of each LDA model. Shrinkage corresponds to regularization used to stabilize the estimation of model parameters, such as in covariance matrices during model training. The empirical sample covariance is a poor estimator when the number of samples is small compared to the number of features. The covariance matrix estimation involved an interpolation between the sample covariance matrix based on the maximum likelihood estimator and a weighted identity matrix, which amounted to the l2-penalization of the covariance matrix that then provided the basis forderiving a robust LDA solution.

743 Indeed, our sample covariance matrix held 80,200 unique entries, almost 1200 times 744 more than the average number of CNV carriers available. Therefore, the vanilla estimation of 745 the covariance matrix is singular and thus degenerate for downstream analysis steps, such as 746 matrix inversion. To avoid such an inversion problem, we applied a dedicated shrinkage 747 approach for the covariance matrix estimation step within LDA (ShrunkCovariance function from 748 sklearn). Using a nested cross-validation architecture, we performed a rigorous search over 11 shrinkage hyper-parameter choices between 0 and 1, in steps of 0.1, in each "in-the-bag" 749 750 bootstrap iteration (GridSearchCV function from *sklearn*). The optimal hyperparameter choice 751 was based on a leave-one-out strategy. In this cross-validation technique, each sample of the 752 "in-the-bag" dataset was used once as a test set of unseen subjects, while the remaining subject 753 samples formed the training set.

754 Finally, we evaluated the significance of a cross-validated score and thus assessed 755 whether our ensemble LDA model displayed above-chance classification performance. Specifically, we carried out a label permutation test to quantify whether our LDA model 756 757 outperforms the empirical null model. The null distribution was generated by calculating the 758 prediction accuracy of our LDA classifier on 100 different permutations of the dataset. In these, 759 features remained unchanged, but class labels (i.e., CNV carriers or controls) were randomly 760 shuffled. Such a shuffling corresponded to the null hypothesis, which states no dependency 761 between the features and labels. LDA model displayed above-chance classification performance 762 if its prediction accuracy was higher than the 97.5th percentile of prediction accuracy coefficient 763 distribution derived from 100 permuted models.

764

765 Performing model inspection using feature importance

After deriving robust LDA classifiers, we inspected which brain regions were the most 766 767 informative in telling apart CNV carriers and controls. In other words, we aimed to contextualize 768 and unpack the prediction rules of our ensemble LDA model. The bagging algorithm led to 769 obtaining a collection of LDA models, resulting in a collection of estimates for each LDA 770 coefficient and subject-specific intermediate phenotype expressions. Since each LDA model is 771 trained on a different bootstrap population, it might happen that two distinct LDA models' 772 coefficients would carry opposite signs due to the sign invariance of LDA dimensionality 773 reduction. Therefore, we aligned all LDA models by multiplying them with -1 or 1 to produce a 774 positive correlation between LDA coefficients and a corresponding Cohen's *d* map.

Furthermore, we designed a criterion to test which LDA coefficients are significant, meaning which features significantly contribute to the classification. Significant coefficients had the distribution of 100 LDA coefficients significantly different from 0. Specifically, they were robustly different from zero if their two-sided confidence interval according to the 2.5/97.5% bootstrap-derived distribution did not include zero.

780

781 Carrying intermediate phenotype expressions over for deep characterization in782 other data resources

One of the aims of this study is to use a population dataset to investigate derived intermediate phenotypes. To do so, we transferred the CNV-specific intermediate phenotypes carefully derived in our boutique dataset and quantified their expression in the general population (i.e., UK Biobank). It is important to note that the derived intermediate phenotypes were not influenced by ASD or schizophrenia diagnosis (Supp. Fig. 14). UK Biobank itself contains CNV carriers. Therefore, we aimed to validate the transferability of intermediate phenotypes by testing the difference in intermediate phenotype expression between CNV carriers and controls in both the clinical dataset and UK Biobank. Specifically, we tested the null hypothesis of no difference in the mean expression of intermediate phenotype in CNV carriers and controls. We adopted a two-sample bootstrap hypothesis test for means difference with 1,000 bootstrap replicates ⁸¹.

794 Data availability

The majority of 16p11.2 data are publicly available (https://www.sfari.org/). For the 22q11.2 sample, raw data are available upon request from the PI (CB). All derived measures used in this study are available upon request (SJ). The rest of the CNV carriers' data cannot be shared as participants did not provide consent. All data from UK Biobank are available to other investigators online (ukbiobank.ac.uk). The Schaefer-Yeo atlas is accessible online

800 (https://github.com/ThomasYeoLab/CBIG/tree/master/stable_projects/brain_parcellation/Sch
 801 aefer2018_LocalGlobal).

802 Code availability

The processing scripts and custom analysis software used in this work are available in a publicly accessible GitHub repository along with examples of key visualizations in the paper: https://github.com/dblabs-mcgill-mila/CNV-convergence.

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836 Author Contributions Statement

837 JK, DB, and SJ designed the study, analyzed imaging data, and drafted the manuscript. 838 JK, CMod and KK did all the preprocessing and analysis of neuroimaging data. KS provided 839 scripts for the PheWAS analysis. DB and SJ contributed to the interpretation of the results and 840 in the editing of the manuscript. CMod, AM, AP, SR, and SM-B recruited and scanned 841 participants in the 16p11.2 European Consortium. SL, COM, NY, PT, and ED recruited and 842 scanned participants in the Brain Canada cohort. LK collected and provided the data for the 843 UCLA cohort. DEJL, MJO, MBMVdB, JH, and AIS provided the data for the Cardiff cohort. All 844 authors provided feedback on the manuscript. DB led data analytics.

845 Competing Interests Statement

846 The authors declare no competing interests.

847 Tables

848 **<u>Table 1</u>**.

849 Clinical dataset demographics.

850 CNV loci chromosome coordinates are provided with the number of genes encompassed in each 851 CNV and with a well-known gene for each locus to help recognize the CNV. Other diagnoses 852 included: language disorder, major depressive disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, 853 unspecified disruptive and impulse-control and conduct disorder, social anxiety disorder, social 854 phobia disorder, speech sound disorder, moderate intellectual disability, specific learning 855 disorder, gambling disorder, bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity 856 disorder, substance abuse disorder, global developmental delay, motor disorder, obsessive-857 compulsive disorder, sleep disorder, Tourette's disorder, mood disorder, eating disorders, 858 transient tic disorder, trichotillomania, pervasive developmental disorder, specific phobia, body 859 dysmorphic disorder, mathematics disorder, and dysthymic disorder. Abbreviations, Del: 860 deletion; Dup: duplication; ASD: autism spectrum disorder; SZ: schizophrenia; chr: chromosome; 861 Age: mean age; SD: standard deviation; nGenes: number of genes.

Loci	Chr (hg19) start-stop	nGenes (Gene)	Туре	Subjects	Age (SD)	Sex (M/ F)	ASD SZ diagnosis	Other diagnoses
	chr1	7	Del	24	31 (18)	9 / 15	0 0	4
1q21.1	146.53-147.39	CHDIL	Dup	15	33 (17)	7/8	3 0	2
15q11.2	chr15	4	Del	112	55 (7)	51/61	0 0	2
13411.2	22.81-23.09	CYFIP1	Dup	146	54 (7)	69 / 77	0 0	6
16-11-2	chr16	27	Del	80	17 (12)	46 / 34	10 0	10
16p11.2	29.65-30.20	KCTD13	Dup	69	31 (14)	37 / 32	7 1	10

	22q11.2	chr22	49	Del	69	17 (9)	33 / 36	8 2	29
		19.04-21.47	AIFM3	Dup	19	19 (14)	12 / 7	2 0	5
		Controls			312	26 (14)	179 / 133	1 0	12

863 <u>Table 2.</u>

864 UK Biobank Imaging demographics.

Our data sample included measurements from 39,085 participants with brain-imaging measures 865 866 and expert-curated image-derived phenotype. Based on the cohort's sociodemographic, physical, lifestyle, and health-related characteristics, UK Biobank participants are known to be 867 close to the general population⁴³ (Fry et al., 2017). CNVs were identified using PennCNV and 868 QuantiSNP. UK Biobank might represent the largest dataset of carriers affected by 15q11.2 869 870 deletions and duplications. Therefore, we excluded these subjects from the UK Biobank and 871 treated them as part of our clinical dataset. The remaining CNV carriers served for validation of 872 derived LDA prediction patterns. ¹ICD10 code, including diagnoses of schizophrenia, schizotypal 873 and delusional disorders (F20-F29). ²ICD10 code, including diagnoses of childhood autism 874 (F84.0), atypical autism (F84.1), Asperger's syndrome (F84.5), other pervasive developmental 875 disorders (F84.8), and pervasive developmental disorder, unspecified (F84.9). Mean age is 876 depicted along with standard deviation (SD).

	Non-	1q21.1		15p11.2		16p11.2		22q11.2	
	carriers	del	dup	del	dup	del	dup	del	dup
Subjects	38731	12	14	117	155	4	7	5	47
Percent female	52	42	64	54	53	25	43	60	43
Age (SD)	55 (8)	51 (6)	54 (7)	55 (7)	54 (7)	58 (3)	55 (6)	53 (8)	54(8)
ASD ¹ SCZ ² diagnosis	68 18	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0

877

878 Figure legends

879 <u>Figure 1</u>

880 Eight CNVs lead to largely distinct spatial patterns of abnormalities in brain morphology.

881 We analyzed gray matter region volumes in 534 subjects carrying one of eight CNVs and 312 controls. Regional 882 volumes were adjusted for intracranial volume, age, age², sex, and acquisition site. a) Cohen's d brain map quantifies 883 the magnitude of structural change for each CNV. We have computed Cohen's d between CNV carriers and controls 884 separately for each of the 400 brain regions (Schaefer-Yeo reference atlas). Our analysis reveals increased (red) and 885 decreased (blue) brain volumes depending on the variation type. The uncovered patterns of volumetric changes 886 confirm established knowledge on the regional increase and decrease across CNV loci^{22,23}. b) Examining associations 887 between Cohen's d brain maps rendered on brain surface from each pair of CNVs. The wide range and low magnitude 888 of Pearson's correlations show that CNVs have distinct effects on brain volumes (more red=more similar, more 889 blue=more dissimilar). Average similarity stands for the mean absolute Pearson's correlations across all CNVs. 22q11.2 890 and 16p11.2 deletions and duplications show strong mirroring (opposing) effects. Asterisk denotes FDR-corrected 891 spin permutation p-values. c) Projecting brain volumes onto two dominant dimensions of variation using principal 892 component analysis (PCA). Although the first two dominant PCA components explain 18 % of the variance, they are 893 unrelated to differences between CNVs. The light and dark symbols represent deletions and duplication, respectively. 894 The gray hexagonal bin plot represents the frequency of controls. Controls were not used to calculate the PCA and 895 were projected post hoc. d) Projections of brain volumes to two dimensions using linear discriminant analysis (LDA). 896 The first LDA dimension (LD₁) mainly captures differences between 16p11.2 proximal deletion and duplication, while 897 the second LDA dimension (LD₂) mainly captures differences between 22q11.2 deletions and duplications. Symbols 898 and hexagonal binning plots were constructed in the same way as for the PCA approach. CNVs lead to distinct changes often represented by a predominant increase or decrease in the gray matter cortex that could effectively be described
 using low dimensional representations derived by LDA models.

901

902 <u>Figure 2</u>

903 Pattern-learning models extract distinct intermediate brain phenotypes from CNV status.

904 We estimated eight LDA models to classify between controls and each of the eight different CNVs. a) Classification 905 performance of eight distinct LDA models when telling apart controls and CNV carriers, given as Matthews correlation 906 coefficient. All eight CNVs are successfully classified based on brain structure at above-chance accuracy as their 907 performance exceeds that of an empirical null model (black line depicts upper 2.5 percentile threshold of the null 908 distribution obtained by label shuffling). b) Prediction rule derived for each of the eight CNV-specific LDA models 909 projected on the brain (red/blue = positive/negative weight). The prediction rule is a CNV-specific brain signature and 910 can be treated as an intermediate phenotype. C) Similarity between CNV-specific intermediate phenotypes. The wide 911 range and low magnitudes of ensuing Pearson's correlations reflect the disparity in the captured intermediate 912 phenotypes. Average similarity represents the mean absolute correlation across all CNVs. Asterisk denotes FDR-913 corrected spin permutation p-values. d) Relationship between Cohen's d brain maps and intermediate phenotypes. 914 Based on FDR-corrected Pearson's correlations, all eight intermediate phenotypes appear to largely follow the 915 respective Cohen's d brain maps. LDA models identified and quantified CNV-specific intermediate phenotypes that 916 effectively captured distinct morphometric differences between CNV carriers and the general population.

917

918 Figure 3

919 Intermediate brain phenotypes track structural changes with distinct impacts in large-scale networks.

920 We identified which aspects of the LDA-derived prediction rule robustly contributed to classification success by 921 calculating 100 bootstrapped LDA models for each CNV while sampling CNV carriers randomly. A) Percentage of 922 statistically relevant LDA coefficients in a CNV carrier group among all the regions that belong to each brain network 923 (one-sample bootstrap hypothesis test for non-zero mean with 10,000 replicates). For example, 16p11.2 proximal 924 deletion strongly affects most large-scale networks except the frontoparietal network. Altogether, the estimated LDA 925 coefficients represent the backbone of each intermediate phenotype. Large-scale networks correspond to seven 926 SchaeferYeo networks; Vis: Visual, FrontPar: Frontoparietal, SomMot: Somatomotor, DorsAttn: Dorsal attention, 927 SalVenAttn: Salience ventral attention, Limbic, Frontoparietal, Default: Default mode. b) Significant LDA coefficients 928 grouped by the large-scale networks. The highest relative number of affected regions is in the limbic network. 929 Conversely, regions in the frontoparietal network are targeted less frequently. c) Relationship between CNV effects 930 and LDA performance. There is a significant positive correlation between the number of significant LDA coefficients 931 and classifier performance, unlike for the sample size of the cohort (marker size). According to the eight specific LDA 932 models, CNVs affected predominantly high-level networks such as the limbic, salience, and default-mode networks.

933

934 <u>Figure 4</u>

935 Using intermediate CNV phenotypes as a basis for phenome-wide association analysis.

936 We performed a phenome-wide association study (PheWAS) by computing Pearson's correlation between the 937 expression of each of the eight intermediate CNV phenotypes and 977 phenotypes spanning 11 categories in 39,085 938 UK Biobank subjects. a) Letter-value (boxen) plot for the expression of 16p11.2 proximal duplication intermediate 939 phenotype is shown for the sake of illustration. The boxen plot depicts the distribution of quantiles for the expression 940 scores computed by quantifying the presence of derived 16p11.2 proximal duplication intermediate phenotype in 941 both the clinical cohort (left) and the UK Biobank (right). Based on a two-sample bootstrap hypothesis test for 942 difference of means with 10,000 bootstrap replicates, the 16p11.2 proximal duplication carriers significantly differed 943 in the expression level from controls both in the clinical cohort ($p < 10^{-4}$) and UK Biobank dataset ($p < 10^{-4}$). b) PheWAS 944 study using the CNV-specific intermediate phenotype. We calculated the Pearson's correlation between the 945 expression of 16p11.2 proximal duplication intermediate phenotype and each of 977 phenotypes. After the 946 Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons (BON), there were 55 significant associations, such as education score, 947 hemoglobin concentration, or physically abused by family as a child. There were 145 significant associations exceeding 948 false discovery rate correction (FDR) c) The relative number of significant correlations summarized for each of the 949 eleven categories for each CNV in the UK Biobank. Most CNVs are strongly associated with multiple categories and 950 their respective phenotypes. For example, up to 35% of phenotypes in general physical measures show a significant 951 correlation with four CNV brain signatures. The light and dark symbols represent deletions and duplication, 952 respectively. As an insight from the performed phenome-wide association analysis, CNV brain signatures are linked 953 with multiple phenotypes across most categories but mainly in the general physical measures, blood assays, and early 954 life factors categories.

955 956 <u>Figure 5</u>

957 Eight different CNVs converge on similar phenome-wide association profiles.

958 We carried out the PheWAS analysis for each intermediate phenotype to quantify the differences and commonalities 959 in phenotypical consequences due to the eight CNVs. a) Pearson's correlations from PheWAS analysis for each CNV 960 status. Among those, 22q11.2 deletion shows the strongest associations with numerous phenotypes across 961 categories. Colors indicate the eleven categories. b) Linear association strength between PheWAS outcomes across 962 all CNVs. Strong Pearson's correlations suggest that CNVs are linked with similar phenotypes. Average similarity 963 exceeds those of volumetric Cohen's d maps and intermediate phenotypes. Asterisk denotes FDR-corrected 964 significant correlations. c) Linear association strength between category-specific Pearson's correlations from the 965 PheWAS analysis across all CNVs. Detailed visualization depicts the similarity of the impact of CNVs on all phenotype 966 categories. The direction of the linear relationship tends to be identical across categories for a given CNV pair (strong 967 negative or strong positive), unlike across CNV pairs for a given category. The eight CNVs exhibited similar PheWAS 968 profiles, especially in bone density, blood assays, and general physical measures categories.

969

970 <u>Figure 6</u>

971 Detailing aspects convergence in phenome-wide portfolios across different CNVs.

972 For all eight CNVs, we delineate the most prominent as well as distinctive associations among their PheWAS profiles 973 in 39,085 UK biobank participants. We also compare CNVs based on their brain and behavior similarities. a) 974 Phenotypes from the PheWAS analysis most strongly associated with the eight CNVs. We show ten phenotypes with 975 the strongest average Pearson's correlations across all CNVs. The most prominent association across CNVs is with 976 diastolic blood pressure. The box plot displays the first quartile, median, third quartile, and whiskers corresponding 977 to the appropriate quartile plus 1.5 times the interquartile range. b) Phenotypes most consistently associated with 978 the eight CNVs. We find eight phenotypes associated with most (six) of the CNVs. Phenotypes are ordered according 979 to the mean strength of the association. Most of the phenotypes are from the blood assays category. c) Number of 980 significant hits per category for each intermediate phenotype conditioned on the shared phenotypical profile. For 981 each of the eight intermediate phenotype expressions, we regressed out the remaining seven. Even after conditioning 982 on the shared phenotypical associations, each particular CNV still shows a specific set of distinct phenome-wide 983 associations across various categories. For example, 22q11.2 deletion still displays a high number of associations in 984 physical measures - general category. d) Concordance between brain volume effects and PheWAS effects. The 985 absolute value of correlation between Cohen's d brain maps (Fig. 1a) is plotted against the absolute value of 986 correlation between PheWAS profiles. Negative Lin's concordance correlation hints at the disparity between 987 volumetric and phenotypical similarity. Moreover, the majority of points lie above the 45°-degree line suggesting that 988 PheWAS similarities are more substantial than volumetric similarities. e) From diverging brain patterns to converging 989 portfolios. Each line represents a similarity of Cohen's d map, intermediate phenotype, and PheWAS profile for a given 990 CNV pair. Convergence on PheWAS profiles is demonstrated by the increase in similarity in 22 of 28 CNV pairs. Hence, 991 the similarity of CNV portfolios exceeded that of volumetric intermediate phenotypes.

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