

that both deviations might be artefactual, or alternatively, that a genuine psi effect could be responsible for both. As control periods were chosen by setting random event markers on the EEG trace during each session, and the experimenter was not blind to these control events, the possibility of an experimenter effect of a similar nature to the intended “remote” effect is raised. Additional random control samples were taken from the EEGs of all participants subsequent to the experiment to investigate this question further.

Título/Title: “Seeking the Intuition Response: Exploring the Human Electrodermal “Presponse” as a Reliable Indicator of Precognitive Intuition”

Instituição/Institution: Intuition Laboratories, Durham - USA

Duração/Duration: 2000/12 - 2002/08

Investigador/Researcher: Prof. Richard S. Broughton

Abstract:

Recent experiments have demonstrated that the body is capable of generating an “orienting response” several seconds before a randomly timed emotional shock is delivered. If the brain is responding to future information, as these experiments indicate, this suggests that the emotional system may play a role in the type of intuition that involves anomalous communication. This project builds upon this work by determining if this response, called “pre-stimulus response” (PSR) is sufficiently reliable to be used to identify exceptional intuitive talent. Additionally the project examined individual differences in PSR using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the NEI-FFI tests.

Volunteer participants completed two sessions of viewing 40 calm and arousing images from the International Affective Picture System (IAPS) while SC was monitored. The PSR window was defined as 3 seconds before stimulus onset, and the measure of PSR was the area between the mean relative SC levels for the two classes of stimuli within the prestimulus window. Significance was determined using a Monte Carlo method. A novel analysis technique of de-trending the SC data immediately before the PSR analysis window was used to counter the possible effect of expectancy and other artifacts. Eighty planned subjects were tested. Sixteen were eliminated from further analysis because of lack of minimum SCRs, leaving 64 subjects in the final data pool.

The experiment did not produce overall evidence of a PSR effect, nor did it demonstrate test-retest reliability. Test-retest reliability of the normal post-stimulus SCR was found to be robust. Of three personality factors previously associated with better ESP scoring in other experiments, MBTI Extraversion, MBTI Intuition, and NEO Openness, the last two were positively and significantly correlated with individual mean PSR, confirming the earlier work. A detailed examination of the possibility of an expectancy artifact was made. No evidence of an expectancy artifact was found, contrary to the arguments of some researchers.

Título/Title: “Effect of Galvanic Skin Response (GSR) biofeedback on seizure frequency in patients with poorly controlled epilepsy”

Instituição/Institution: Institute of Neurology, Univ. College London - UK

Duração/Duration: 2001/04 - 2003/03

Investigadores/Researchers: Dr. Yoko Nagai, Dr. Michael Trimble, Prof. Peter Fenwick, Prof. Laura Goldstein, Prof. John Lumsden

Abstract:

Behavioural interventions including biofeedback represent an alternative or adjunctive therapeutic axis in the management of drug refractory epilepsy. Our previous study suggested that the modulation of the peripheral state of arousal as indexed by the Galvanic Skin Response (GSR) had considerable influence on cortical excitability, indicating the possible use of biofeedback in controlling seizure activity.

We investigated the effect of the GSR biofeedback training on seizure frequency in patients with treatment resistant epilepsy. Eighteen patients with drug refractory epilepsy were randomly assigned either to an active GSR biofeedback group (n = 10) or to a sham control biofeedback group (n = 8). Patients received a total of 12 sessions over four weeks, representing either real GSR biofeedback training, where subjects were trained to decrease skin resistance using biofeedback, or sham training, where the feedback was unrelated to the subjects' GSR. Biofeedback training significantly reduced patients' seizure frequency in the active biofeedback group (p = 0.017), but not the control group (p > 0.10). This was manifest as a significant between group difference in seizure reduction (p = 0.01). Our findings demonstrate that a behavioural intervention,