

in schizophrenic patients are linked to frontal disorders in schizophrenia. The results of study have shown that the characteristics of presaccadic potentials in antisaccadic task could be used as objective measures of frontal lobes functioning.

88/02 - "A neuropsychological examination of orbitofrontal cortex function in eating disorders"

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Abstract: Objective: This study examined decision making ability in people currently ill and recovered from anorexia nervosa (AN). It tested the hypothesis that impaired decision making in AN is associated with the absence of anticipatory rises in skin conductance during high risk (disadvantageous) conditions.

Method: Patients with AN (n=29), healthy control (n=29), comparable in age and IQ, and women long term recovered from AN (n=14) completed the Iowa Gambling Task (IGT), during which skin conductance was measured.

Results: People with current AN made disadvantageous decisions in the IGT compared to both controls and recovered AN participants (ANOVA $p=0.03$). Patients who were currently ill, but not those who were recovered, showed significantly diminished anticipatory skin responses before making high-risk choices ($p=0.04$). Performance on the IGT was not related to current levels of depression or anxiety.

Conclusions: Results suggest that impaired decision making is a state marker of AN and improved decision making is associated with recovery. Blunted peripheral autonomic response to emotional stimuli is consistent with dysfunction of the ventromedial prefrontal circuits underlying the deficit in adaptive decision making seen in patients with AN.