Hey! Aberrant Salience Impacts Cognitive Control of Patients with Schizophrenia

Cecilia Votta

Follow this and additional works at: http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/vol8_iss1

Recommended Citation

http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/vol8_iss1/156

This publication is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Undergraduate Research through Washington University Open Scholarship. For more information, please contact digital@wumail.wustl.edu
Dopamine dysregulation is thought underlie symptoms of schizophrenia. A recent theory proposed by Kapur suggests that this dysregulation impacts salience assignment, important for attributing salience to events and thoughts and driving goal directed behavior. For patients, aberrant salience assignment may lead to symptoms like delusions and hallucinations. Interestingly, cognitive control deficits, which are thought to be tied to the pathophysiology of schizophrenia, may also be impacted by aberrant salience assignment. To test this we developed a novel task of cognitive control that separates updating, interference control, and simple maintenance. We administered this task to 20 patients diagnosed with schizophrenia. We also collected information about their clinical symptoms using the Chapman scales, Aberrant Symptom Inventory, the Scale for the Assessment of Positive and Negative symptoms. We predict that patients with higher aberrant salience will be more susceptible to irrelevant task distractors. We do not predict a relationship between aberrant salience and other cognitive domains, like updating and simple maintenance.