Oxytocin and empathic behavior.

No registrations found.

Ethical review	Not applicable
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	-
Study type	Interventional

Summary

ID

NL-OMON22193

Source
Nationaal Trial Register

Health condition

empathy and emotional processing

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Performer, Leiden University Medical Centre
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Department of Clinical Psychology, Leiden University

Intervention

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

1. Electromyographic (EMG) responses to presented happy and angry faces;

2. Attentional bias to happy and anxious faces over neutral faces;

3. The amount of distraction by emotional pictures compared to neutral pictures during a working memory task.

Secondary outcome

The effect of oxytocin administration will be compared between
subjects that score high or low on questionnaires measuring, anxiety, depression, empathy and autistic traits.

Study description

Background summary

Empathy is a human emotion related to understanding and feeling the emotions of others. Lately, there has been increasing interest in the neurobiological backgrounds of empathy. The hormone oxytocin (OT) seems to play an important role in empathy and in empathy related disorders. In this study we will investigate the effects of 24 IU intranasal oxytocin administration on implicit empathic behaviors in healthy male volunteers. We will measure automatic facial mimicry to, and attentional bias for emotional faces, and the strength of distraction by emotional information both after oxytocin and after a placebo spray in a double-blind crossover design. We expect OT to increase empathic responding.

Study objective

Oxytocin administration leads to stronger empathic reponses and faster emotional processing.

Study design

Placebo controlled cross-over design with 1 week in between. Tasks will be performed within 90 minutes after nasal spray administration.

Intervention

A nasal oxytocin spray is administered once containing 24 IU oxytocin (6 puffs). This will be compared with a placebo nasal spray in a cross-over design. Thirty minutes after nasal spray administration computer tasks will be performed to measure the effects of the oxytocin spray versus placebo.

Contacts

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Eligibility criteria

Inclusion criteria

1. Male;

2. Age 18 - 35;

3. Healthy (see exclusion criteria).

Exclusion criteria

1. Major physical illness such as heart problems, high blood pressure, diabetis, epilepsy, liver disease, or any other serious medical condition;

2. Current or past (< 5 years) psychiatric disorders, as assessed by selfreport;

3. Medication use that can interfere with the study;

4. Use of more than 3 glasses of alcohol per day;

5. Use of more than 10 cigarettes per day;

6. Use of hard drugs;

7. Common use of soft drugs (cannabis) - at least once per week in the last 3 months.

Study design

Design

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model:	Crossover
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Double blinded (masking used)
Control:	Placebo

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Recruitment stopped
Start date (anticipated):	01-07-2011
Enrollment:	20
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Not applicable

Application type:	Not applicable

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

ID: 36038
Bron: ToetsingOnline
Titel:

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
NTR-new	NL2715
NTR-old	NTR2853
CCMO	NL36378.058.11
ISRCTN	ISRCTN wordt niet meer aangevraagd.
OMON	NL-OMON36038

Study results

Summary results
N/A