

Introduction: The data suggest that anxious drivers may engage in problem behaviors that expose them and others to an increased risk of negative traffic events.

Objectives: To study the problematic behavior taxi drivers related to anxiety in three areas exaggerated safety/caution, performance deficits, and hostile/aggressive behaviors and to determine the factors who are associated with them.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional descriptive and analytical study of 58 taxi drivers in the city of Sfax, Tunisia. We used an anonymous questionnaire that included a socio-demographic fact sheet, and a driver behavior rating scale: Driver Behavior Survey (DBS) with 21 items.

Results: The mean age of the drivers was 40.8 ± 10.2 years. The sex ratio was 0.98. 75.9% were married. 6.9% lived alone. 53.4% were smokers and 25.9% drank alcohol. Coffee and tea consumption were 59% and 33% respectively. 67% had a pathological personal history, including osteoarticular pathologies. 17.2% had a history of serious accidents. The behavior related to anxiety among taxi drivers was 74.66 ± 13.35 . The hostile behavior was 18.88 ± 8 , the exaggerated safety behavior was 38.31 ± 7.3 and the deficit performance related to anxiety was 17.47 ± 7.1 . The problematic behavior in our population was significantly associated with life-style alone, coffee consumption and with serious accidents.

Conclusions: The results of our study identified some risk factors that could lead to poorly adaptive driving behaviors among Taxi drivers. These elements reinforce us in the idea that this population requires special care with a meeting with the doctor.

Keywords: Anxiety; performance deficits; exaggerated caution; Taxi drivers

EPP0006

The effects of sleep and wakefulness on human fear conditioning

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Introduction: Studies on fear conditioning have made important contributions to the understanding of affective learning mechanisms as well as its applications (e.g., anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder). However, central mechanisms of sleep related consolidation of fear memory in humans have been almost neglected by previous studies.

Objectives: In the current study we aimed to test effects of sleep and a period wakefulness on fear conditioned responses.

Methods: In our experiment in a group 18 healthy volunteers event-related brain potentials (ERP), heart rate variability (HRV) and behavioral responses were recorded during a fear conditioning procedure presented twice, before daytime sleep (2h) or control intervention (a period of wakefulness) and after. The conditioning procedure involved pairing of a neutral tone (CS+) with a highly unpleasant sound (UCS+).

Results: Differential conditioning manifested itself in the contingent negative variance (CNV)-like slow ERP component. Both period of sleep and wakefulness resulted in an increased amplitude

of the CNV to CS+. But we did not find an interaction effect of Time (Pre-Post) by Intervention (Sleep-Wake), suggesting that sleep did not affect the conditioned response differently as compared to a period of wakefulness. An apparent increase in HRV after a period of wakefulness did not affect fear conditioned responses (CNV and valence ratings).

Conclusions: To summarize, the data indicate that fear memories are consolidated with the course of time with no beneficial effect of sleep; relearning of fear causes stronger differential responses as measured by slow wave amplitude but not behavior; increase of HRV does not affect fear learning.

Keywords: Fear conditioning; EEG; ECG; sleep

EPP0007

Conversion disorder in children and adolescents : Clinical features of pseudoneurological symptoms

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Introduction: Pseudoneurological symptoms are frequent among children consulting in neuropediatrics. Psychogenic origin is often unrecognized, which may cause a major disruption and an increase of medical care expenses.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to identify clinical features of pseudoneurological symptoms through patients admitted in neuropediatrics.

Methods: A descriptive retrospective study of a population of 19 children and adolescents hospitalized in the neuropediatrics department at the National Institute of Neurology in Tunis, between January 2015 and April 2019, having received the diagnosis of psychogenic symptoms.

Results: Twelve girls and seven boys were included in this study. The average age were 11.5 years. All patients had normal cognitive and motor development. In most cases (84%), patients had a history of somatic illness. Only three patients had a history of psychiatric disorders. Family history of somatic disorders was found in 42 % of the sample and psychiatric disorders in three patients. Negative pseudoneurological symptoms such as loss of function, were detected in 60 % of patients, paraparesis and paraplegia were the most recurrent. Only one patient had pseudo-epileptic symptoms. Further investigations were performed in all patients, averaging 4 tests per patient. The average term between the beginning of the symptoms and the established diagnosis of psychogenic symptoms was 72 days with an average stay at hospital of 4 to 7 days. All patients had conversion disorder according to DSM V.

Conclusions: It is recognized that somatization could be a warning sign of psychological distress mainly among children. Conversion disorder, rarely seen in children, presents frequently as pseudo neurological symptoms.

Keywords: Psychogenic; conversion; pseudoneurological; Children