

or aroused/active strategy, and by playing rousing or calming classical music. The overall outcome was somewhat better than previously and slightly (though not significantly) better than chance. No evidence was found for the suggestion that a more aroused state might be PK conducive but a relaxed state better for ESP functioning.

Study 4 focused on possible experimenter effects. Russell Davey conducted 20 trials, much as before, but Chris Roe conducted the other 20 trials. It was hypothesised that Roe's participants might fare better since Roe is a more experienced researcher and as its main designer and fundraiser has a greater 'ownership' of this project. We also included a questionnaire that asked about aspects of the experimenter-participant interaction. There was a further improvement in the overall outcome. Roe's participants fared better than Davey's, suggestively so overall and significantly so for disguised ESP trials. A number of the interaction items correlated remarkably strongly with task performance.

Título/Title: "Anosognosia - bases biológicas da unidade da consciência" – "*Behavioural Inattention Test for the Portuguese population*"

Instituição/Institution: Centro de Estudos Egas Moniz, Hospital Sta. Maria - Lisboa

Duração prevista/Estimated duration: 2001/07 - 2004/03

Investigadores/Researchers: Prof. Isabel Pavão Martins, Dra. Clara de Santos Loureiro, Prof. José M. Ferro, Dra. Tânia Fernandes

Abstract:

Background: Unilateral Neglect is a complex syndrome characterized by an inability to attend to or act upon stimuli in the space contralateral to a brain lesion (without any access to consciousness). The diagnosis depends on the application of tests, not always normalized to the healthy population in each country.

Aims: To obtain normative data for the Behavioural Inattention Test (BIT) in the Portuguese population.

Method: The test was applied to 72 healthy individuals (without clinical evidence of cognitive deterioration or psychiatric illness). Fifty individuals were females and twenty-two males, aged between 20 and 82 years

(48,5±17,5) and a mean educational level of 8,4±6,3 years. The results were calculated for each subtest and also for the total score. We compared their performance according to the gender, age and educational level groups.

Results: A main effect of the educational level was disclosed, with significant differences between the illiterate group and the others ($p<.01$). We did not find any gender or age effect. Star cancellation, copy and representational drawing, picture scanning and coin sorting were the subtests that were more sensitive to the educational level. Using the original diagnostic criteria of BIT without correction for educational level, a considerable part of our healthy population would have been diagnosed with neglect.

Discussion: The BIT results must be corrected for the Portuguese population. The educational level and the pattern of errors/omissions play an important role on the performance of this test. More educated people seem to use better strategies in visual scanning tasks.

Título/Title: “Pain Control from the Brain. Novel approaches of chronic pain treatment through manipulation of supraspinal areas”

Instituição/Institution: Instituto de Histologia e Embriologia da Fac. Medicina do Porto

Duração/Duration: 2000/12 - 2004/02

Investigadores/Researchers: Prof. Deolinda Lima, Prof. Isaura Ferreira Tavares, Prof. Armando Alberto da Nova Pinto de Almeida, Prof. Christophe Dugast, Dr. Vasco Miguel Clara Lopes Galhardo, Dra. Marta Sofia Carvalho Teixeira Pinto

Abstract:

The pain system is endowed with control mechanisms that modulate the ascending transmission of nociceptive input by either depressing or enhancing the responsiveness of nociceptive spinal neurons. Although effective, manipulation of brain pain-control centers as an analgesic procedure has no clinical value since it simultaneously affects neurons involved in brain functions other than pain control. In this project we explore the possibility of using viral vectors as a way of targeting specifi-