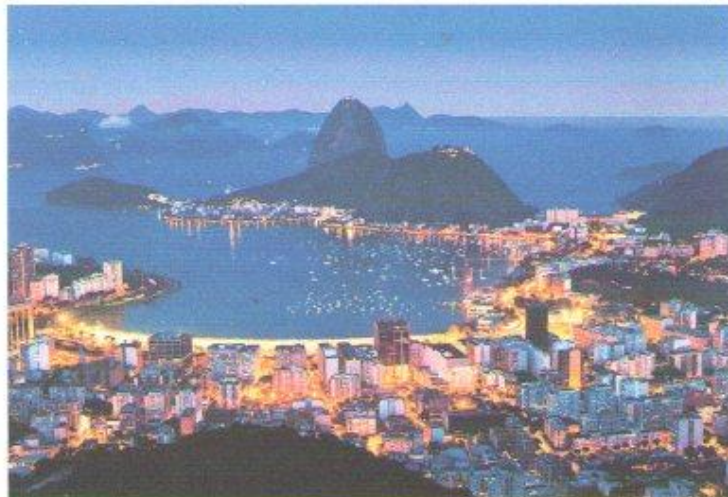


THE INTERNATIONAL STRESS AND BEHAVIOR SOCIETY (ISBS)

# PROCEEDINGS

International Neuroscience and Biological Psychiatry  
ISBS Regional Conference (S. America)

**“NEUROSCIENCE OF STRESS”**



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30-40%, multifactorial 7-10% and remaining 50% is still remains unknown. The present study is to explore the effect of maternal immobilization stress and its associated risk for birth defects, infant mortality, stillbirth and alterations in the cognitive functions. **STUDY DESIGN:** Gestational animals were exposed to immobilization stress for 45 minutes / 3 times / per day in different days of gestational period. The stress exposed animals were divided into Group I: Control; Group II: Early gestational stress (EGS); Group III: Late gestational stress (LGS); Group IV: Full term stress exposure (FGS). **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:** Rats those were exposed to prenatal maternal immobilization stress, which showed physical impairment, neonatal deaths; still births, low birth weight, pre-term births and delayed eye lid opening when compare to the control rats. The data showed significant alterations in the cognitive behavior of offspring which is exposed to immobilization stress during gestation. Gestational immobilization stress exposed groups showed severe impairment on their learning ability, memory retention ability, and novelty preference. **CONCLUSION:** From the present study, it is clearly hypothesized that gestational stress exposure has negative impact on neonatal and postnatal development of offspring and altered cognitive function; this might be due to stress induced impairment in neuronal development, thereby it leads to learning and memory deficit. The underlying mechanism behind the birth defects would be elevated levels of glucocorticoids, catecholamines and low feed intake which alter the normal physiology.

#### INTERACTIVE POSTER SESSION

**EFFECT OF ANXIETY ON THE MAINTENANCE OF POSTURAL STABILITY IN UPRIGHT STANCE OF PATIENTS WITH VESTIBULAR DYSFUNCTION.** K Stambolieva and D Petrova, Department of Cognitive psychophysiology, Institute of Neurobiology BAS, Department of Neurology, National Multiprofile Transport Hospital "Tzar Boris III", Sofia, Bulgaria

**INTRODUCTION:** Dizziness, vertigo and postural instability are common symptoms of the vestibular disorders. Usually the attack of vertigo and imbalance are accompanied by vegetative symptoms as nausea and vomiting. That caused a significant decreasing on the ability of patients to perform one or more activities of daily living and provoke an anxiety in some of the patients. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of anxiety on the postural stability in patients with vestibular disorders. **PATIENTS AND METHODS:** Forty patients with diagnosed vestibular disorders (aged between 25 and 55 years) took part in the investigation. The diagnosis was based on the detailed anamnesis and neuro-otological clinical examination, including audiometry, vestibular tests and static posturography. The postural stability was evaluated by static posturography during upright stance with eyes-open and eyes-closed on firm and foam supports. The total length of displacement of center of foot pressure (Sway path) and sway velocity were measurement. The Dizziness Handicap Inventory (DHI) questionnaire was applied to evaluate severity of the dizziness and/or vertigo and its effects on the quality of life of patients. The degree of anxiety in patients was evaluated by hospital anxiety and depression scale (HADS). The patients were divided on the basis of their HADS\_A score of groups without anxiety and with different degree of anxiety. **RESULTS:** We found a significant positive correlation between anxiety and postural instability parameters, as well as between anxiety and DHI - scores. It was found more visually dependence for maintenance of postural stability in upright stance in patients with anxiety compared to vestibular patients without anxiety. The recovery period of patients with anxiety is longer and the quality of life is strongly disturbed. **CONCLUSION:** Anxiety has a negative effect on patients with vestibular disorders. Fear of dizziness and/or vertigo, and fear of falling restricts the activity of the patients on the one hand and psychologically inhibits them from the other hand. This leads to a delay of the central vestibular compensation. The timely intervention of a psychiatrist in the course of treating these patients is mandatory.

**RELATIONSHIP OF CRAVING SEVERITY WITH SEVERITY OF DISSOCIATIVE EXPERIENCES WHILE CONTROLLING THE STATE AND TRAIT ANXIETY IN A SAMPLE OF INPATIENTS WITH ALCOHOL USE DISORDER.** C Evren, G Umut, B Evren, Research, Treatment and Training Center for Alcohol and Substance Dependence (AMATEM), Bakirkoy Training and Research Hospital for Psychiatry Neurology and Neurosurgery, Department of Psychiatry, Baltalimani State Hospital for Muskuloskeletal Disorders, Istanbul, Turkey

**OBJECTIVE:** The aim of the present study was to evaluate the relationship of craving severity with the severity of dissociative experiences while controlling the state and trait anxiety in a sample of inpatients with alcohol use disorder (AUD). **METHOD:** Seventy eight consecutively admitted male inpatients with AUD were considered for participation in the study. Participants were evaluated with the Obsessive-Compulsive Drinking Scale (OCDS), the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI) and the Dissociative Experiences Scale (DES). **RESULTS:** Scale scores were moderately correlated with each other. Correlation coefficient between OCDS and DES was 0.411, whereas it was 0.375 between OCDS and STAI-State and 0.459 between OCDS and STAI-Trait. In a linear regression model when DES score was taken as a dependent variable and state and trait anxiety scores were taken as independent variables, trait anxiety predicted DES score. In second step OCDS score was included in the analysis as a independent variable and it singly predicted DES score. Finally obsession and compulsion dimensions of OCDS were included in the analysis instead of OCDS total score as an independent variables. In this analysis severity of compulsive craving dimension predicted the severity of dissociative experiences together with trait anxiety in a linear regression model. **CONCLUSION:** These findings suggest that the alcohol dependent patients with higher trait anxiety may be managing their craving, particularly compulsive craving with dissociation, which originally is a defense mechanism.