

Poster Exhibition (abstracts)

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Preattentive and Attentive Information Processing in Schizophrenia with Cannabis Abuse: An ERP Study

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Cannabis abuse is discussed as an independent risk factor for schizophrenia and it is well known that cannabis abuse worsens the course of disease. Little is known about the influence of cannabis on the disrupted information processing in schizophrenia. In a preliminary study we have measured sensory gating at four different stages of information processing in schizophrenic patients with and without cannabis use and healthy controls with and without cannabis use in an auditory evoked potential study. No group differences were seen in the preattentive (P50), early (N100) and part of the late attentive (P200) sensory gating. However, we found a partial deficit in the late phase of attentive sensory gating (N200) in the cannabis users compared to the schizophrenic non-users. Thus, cannabis use might worsen information processing in healthy people, but might improve it in schizophrenic patients.