Brain responses to facial expressions by adults with different attachment–orientations

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Behavior studies demonstrate that the attachment^orientation difference is a powerful predictor for emotional processing in children and adults, with anxious individuals being hyperactive and avoidant individuals being deactive to emotional stimuli. This study used the event-related potential technique to explore brain responses to facial expressions by adults with anxious, avoidant, or secure attachment^orientation. Differences were found in N1, N2, P2, and N400 components between the groups of participants, suggesting that adults with different attachment^orientations have differences in both earlier, automatic encoding of the structural properties of faces and later, more elaborative retrieval of emotional contents. *NeuroReport* 19:437^441 © 2008 Wolters Kluwer Health | Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Keywords: attachment^orientation, backward masking, emotional processing, event-related potential, facial expression

Introduction

1. et al. 2 3. 4. 5. 6. 7,8.

Methods

Participants

(2,27)=1.31, P>0.1 , (4,54)=2.13, P>0.1 , (4,54)=4.3, P<0.05 . (−5.67 µ) (−7.87 µ) (−8.5 µ). (P>0.1).

The P2 component

(2,54)=17.58, P<0.001 (3.12 µ)

w w
(−2.75 −1.55 μ) (−7.33
−6.43 μ) (−5.35
−

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