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Out of body, out of space: Impaired reference frame processing in eating disorders

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Running head: IMPAIRED SPATIAL REFERENCE FRAME PROCESSING IN EDs

Out of body, out of space: impaired reference frame processing in eating disorders Silvia Serino<sup>a 1</sup>, Antonios Dakanalis<sup>b,c</sup>, Santino Gaudio<sup>d</sup>, Giuseppe Carrà<sup>e</sup>, Pietro Cipresso<sup>a</sup>, Massimo Clerici<sup>c</sup>, Giuseppe Riva<sup>a,g</sup>

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## Abstract

A distorted body representation is a core symptom in eating disorders (EDs), though its mechanism is unclear. Allocentric lock theory, emphasizing the role of reference frame processing in body image, suggests that ED patients may be (b)locked to an (allocentric) representation of their own body stored in long-term memory (e.g., my body is fat) that is not updated (modified) by the (real-time egocentric) perception-driven experience of the physical body. Employing a well-validated virtual reality-based procedure, relative to healthy controls,

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