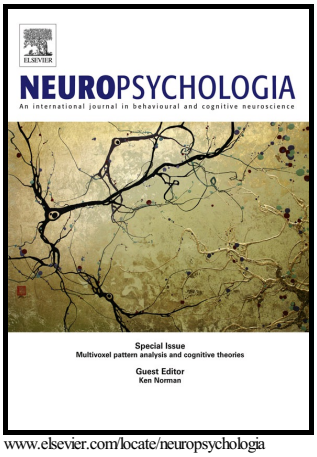

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Good to be stressed? Improved response inhibition and error processing after acute stress in young and older men

Angelika Margarete Dierolf [1], Daniela Schoofs [2], Eve-Mariek Hessas [1], Michael Falkenstein [3], Tobias Otto [1], Marcus Paul [1], Boris Suchan [4], Oliver T. Wolf [1,*]

[1] Cognitive Psychology, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, Ruhr-University Bochum 44780 Bochum, Germany

[2] Department of Psychiatry, Social Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Hannover Medical School, Germany

[3] Institute for Work, Learning and Ageing (ALA), Hiltroper Landwehr 136, D-44805 Bochum, Germany.

[4] Clinical Neuropsychology, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, Ruhr-University Bochum 44780 Bochum, Germany

* Correspondence: Tel.: +49 (0)234 32 28670. E-mail address: oliver.t.wolf@ruhr-uni-bochum.de

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Abstract

While aging and stress are both known to affect cognitive functions, little is known on whether and how age modulates stress effects on executive functions and their neural correlates. The current study investigated the effect of acute stress on response inhibition and error processing and their underlying cortical processes in younger and older healthy men, using EEG. Forty-nine participants (30 young) were stressed with the Trier Social Stress Test (16 young, 9 older) or underwent a friendly control procedure (14 young, 10 older) and subsequently performed a Go/No-Go task with two levels of task difficulty while performance (reaction time, error rate), stimulus-locked (N2, P3) and