

Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0165-1781(16)32105-9
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.04.040>
Reference: PSY10466

To appear in: *Psychiatry Research*

Received date: 12 December 2016
Revised date: 19 April 2017
Accepted date: 21 April 2017

Cite this article as: Susana Da Silva, Sarah Saperia, Ishraq Siddiqui, Gagan Fervaha, Ofer Agid, Jeff Z. Daskalakis, Arun Ravindran, Aristotle N. Voineskos, Konstantine K. Zakzanis, Gary Remington and George Foussias, Investigating consummatory and anticipatory pleasure across motivation deficits in schizophrenia and healthy controls, *Psychiatry Research*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.04.040>

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Investigating consummatory and anticipatory pleasure across motivation deficits in schizophrenia and healthy controls

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Abstract

Anhedonia has traditionally been considered a characteristic feature of schizophrenia, but the true nature of this deficit remains elusive. This study sought to investigate consummatory and anticipatory pleasure as it relates to motivation deficits. Eighty-four outpatients with schizophrenia and 81 healthy controls were administered the Temporal Experience of Pleasure Scale (TEPS), as well as a battery of clinical and cognitive assessments. Multivariate analyses of variance were used to examine the experience of pleasure as a function of diagnosis, and across levels of motivation deficits (i.e. low vs. moderate. vs. high) in schizophrenia. Hierarchical regression analyses were also conducted to evaluate the predictive value of amotivation in relation to the TEPS. There were no significant differences between schizophrenia and healthy control groups for either consummatory or anticipatory pleasure. Within the schizophrenia patients, only those with high levels of amotivation were significantly impaired in consummatory and anticipatory pleasure compared to low and moderate groups, and compared to healthy controls. Further, our results revealed that amotivation significantly predicts both consummatory and anticipatory pleasure, with no independent contribution of group. Utilizing study samples

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