Author's Accepted Manuscript

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www.elsevier.com/locate/psychres

PII: S0165-1781(16)30309-2

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2016.09.009 DOI:

PSY9943 Reference:

To appear in: Psychiatry Research

Received date: 18 February 2016 8 September 2016 Revised date: Accepted date: 8 September 2016

Cite this article as: Bettina Heike Bewernick, Anne Sarah Urbach, Arndt Bröder Sarah Kayser and Thomas Eduard Schlaepfer, Walking away from Depression Motor Activity Increases Ratings of Mood and Incentive Drive in Patients witl Depression, Psychiatry Major Research http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2016.09.009

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Walking away from Depression-Motor Activity Increases Ratings of Mood and Incentive Drive in Patients with Major Depression

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Abstract

Reduced motor activity is associated with depression. Lewinsohn's cognitive behavioural model of depression assumes a lack of positive experience due to a reduced level of activity as a key aspect of depression. The acute relationship between motor activity and mood as well as between motor activity and incentive drive (the motivation to engage in activities) is unknown. An augmentation of mood and incentive drive could precede or follow motor activity. We examined (1) whether motor activity would be correlated with the course of depression and (2) the temporal relationship between motor activity and acute changes in mood and incentive drive. Motor activity was measured with actigraphy in 12 patients with depression for one week. Severity of depression was assessed before and at the end of the study with depression rating scales. The patients reported mood and incentive drive once per

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