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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Influence of *COMT Val*¹⁵⁸*Met* polymorphism on emotional decision-making: a sexdependent relationship?

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Abstract

The biological underpinnings of sex-related differences in decision-making are still under-explored. The *COMT* gene is related to sexual dimorphism and with different choices made under uncertainty, albeit no study has specifically investigated a moderation effect of sex on the association between the *COMT* gene and the performance on decision-making paradigms. In this study, we investigated the influence of the *COMT Val*¹⁵⁸*Met* polymorphism on Iowa Gambling Task (IGT) performance depending on sex in a healthy adult sample. Participants were 192 healthy adults (84 men and 108 women). The first 40 choices in the IGT were considered decisions under ambiguity and the last 60 choices decisions under risk. To test our moderation hypothesis we used a separate regressions approach. The results revealed a sexdependent effect of *COMT* Val158Met polymorphism on decision-making as measured by the IGT. Val/Val women showed the best performance in the last trials of the IGT. Therefore, the

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