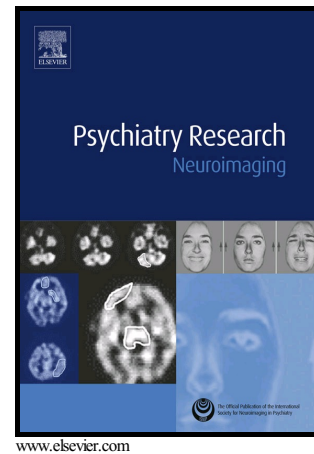


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Self-Referential Processing in Unipolar Depression: Distinct Roles of Subregions of the Medial Prefrontal Cortex

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Abstract

Self-concept is used to explain emotional disturbance or other behavioural and psychological problems associated with depression. Self-referential processing generally reflects self-concept in different domains. Cortical midline structures, such as the medial prefrontal cortex (MPFC), are critical for self-referential processing both in healthy controls and depressive patients. However, the role of subregions of the MPFC in self-referential processing in depression remains uncertain. In this study, we aimed to explore the neural basis of self-referential processing in depressive patients and the activation-deactivation patterns of subregions of the MPFC. Nineteen depressive patients and 21 controls completed the classic self-referential task with two different judgement conditions: self-referential processing and semantic processing. In the self-referential condition, with analysis of the two sample t-test unipolar patients showed significantly higher activation of the central MPFC and significantly lower activation of the dorsal MPFC, relative to controls. The results substantially

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