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Title: Something to talk about: gossip increases oxytocin levels in a near real-life situation

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## **Something to talk about: gossip increases oxytocin levels in a near real-life situation**

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Natascia Brondino designed the study, collected data, performed data analyses, and wrote the manuscript.

Laura Fusar-Poli participated in data collection, in data analysis, and in the writing of the manuscript

Pierluigi Politi critically revised the design of the study and participated in drafting and reviewing the manuscript

### **Highlights**

- Gossip is a worldwide social behavior
- Gossip increases oxytocin levels compared to emotional non-gossip conversation
- Psychological characteristics do not mediate the effect of gossip on oxytocin

### **Abstract**

Gossip is a pervasive social behavior. Its evolutionary survival seems related to its social functions, such as establishing group rules, punishing trespassers, exercising social influence through reputational systems, and

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