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Abnormal self-schema in semantic memory in major depressive disorder: evidence from event-related brain potentials

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Highlights

- Event-related potentials (ERPs) are a real-time measure of functional brain activity
- N400 ERP measures strength of association between concepts in semantic memory (SM)
- MDD patients/controls saw “I am...” followed by positive/negative/neutral adjectives
- Patients had abnormally small N400s only for negative adjectives
- This suggests aberrant neural links between self-concept and negative features in SM

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