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Effects of Oxytocin on Cortisol Reactivity and Conflict Resolution Behaviors among Couples with Substance Misuse

Julianne C. Flanagan^a*, Melanie S. Fischer^a, Paul J. Nietert^a, Sudie E. Back^{a,b}, Megan Moran-Santa Maria^a, Alexandra Snead^a, & Kathleen T. Brady^{a,b}

^aMedical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC ^bRalph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Charleston, SC

*Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Julianne C. Flanagan, Medical University of South Carolina, 5 Charleston Center Drive, Suite 151, Charleston, SC, 29455. Phone: 843-792-5569. Email: Hellmuth@musc.edu. Facsimile: 843-792-5932. Dr. Fischer is now affiliated with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Ms. Snead is now affiliated with the University of Houston in Houston, Texas.

Abstract

Social stress, particularly in the form of dyadic conflict, is a well-established correlate of substance use disorders (SUD). The neuropeptide oxytocin can enhance prosocial behavior and mitigate addictive behaviors. These effects may be, in part, a result of oxytocin's ability to attenuate hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis dysregulation. However, only one study to date has examined the effects of oxytocin on neuroendocrine reactivity or conflict resolution behavior among couples. Participants (*N*=33 couples or 66 total participants) were heterosexual

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