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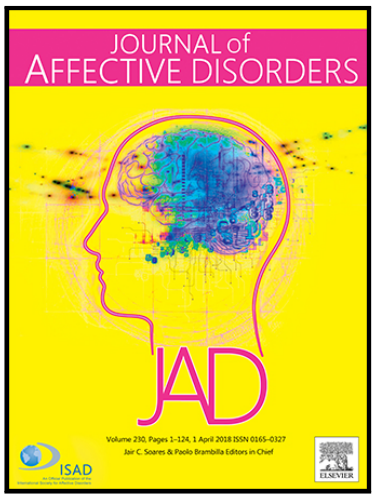

Short-term escitalopram treatment normalizes aberrant self-referential processing in major depressive disorder

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PII: S0165-0327(17)32281-4
DOI: 10.1016/j.jad.2018.04.096
Reference: JAD 9751

To appear in: *Journal of Affective Disorders*

Received date: 13 November 2017
Revised date: 25 March 2018
Accepted date: 8 April 2018

Please cite this article as: Emma Komulainen , Roope Heikkilä , Lauri Nummenmaa , Tuukka T. Raij , Catherine J. Harmer , Erkki Isometsä , Jesper Ekelund , Short-term escitalopram treatment normalizes aberrant self-referential processing in major depressive disorder, *Journal of Affective Disorders* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.jad.2018.04.096

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Highlights

- Depressed patients were randomized to receive one week of escitalopram or placebo
- fMRI revealed attenuated self-referential processing in the escitalopram group
- Escitalopram increased responses to positive self-processing in the MPFC/ACC
- There was yet no mood improvement, suggesting a direct effect of escitalopram
- This early change may have a role in antidepressants' mechanism of action

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