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## **Serotonin-specific lesions of the dorsal raphe disrupt maternal aggression and caregiving in postpartum rats**

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### **Highlights:**

- Prepartum serotonin-specific lesions of the DRdm impaired maternal aggression
- Larger postpartum DR serotonin lesions affected both aggression and caregiving
- DR serotonin lesions did not affect postpartum anxiety
- Serotonin fibers in the anterior hypothalamus were reduced by DRdm lesions
- Serotonin from DRdm to AH may be especially involved in maternal aggression

### **ABSTRACT**

The behavioral modifications associated with early motherhood, including high aggression, caring for young, and low anxiety are all affected by acute pharmacological manipulation of

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