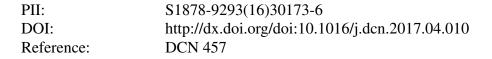
Accepted Manuscript

Title: The Impact of Atypical Sensory Processing on Social Impairments in Autism Spectrum Disorder

Authors: Melissa D. Thye, Haley M. Bednarz, Abbey J. Herringshaw, Emma B. Sartin, Rajesh K. Kana



To appear in:

 Received date:
 6-9-2016

 Revised date:
 25-2-2017

 Accepted date:
 18-4-2017

Please cite this article as: Thye, Melissa D., Bednarz, Haley M., Herringshaw, Abbey J., Sartin, Emma B., Kana, Rajesh K., The Impact of Atypical Sensory Processing on Social Impairments in Autism Spectrum Disorder.Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2017.04.010

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

SENSORY AND SOCIAL IMPAIRMENTS IN ASD

The Impact of Atypical Sensory Processing on Social Impairments in Autism Spectrum Disorder

Melissa D. Thye^{*}, Haley M. Bednarz^{*}, Abbey J. Herringshaw^{*}, Emma B. Sartin^{*}, & Rajesh K. Kana^{*}

^aDepartment of Psychology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35233

Corresponding author Rajesh K. Kana Department of Psychology UAB Civitan International Research Center, CIRC 235G 1719 6th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35233 Phone: (205) 934-3171 E-mail: rkana@uab.edu

*All authors contributed equally to this paper

ABSTRACT

Altered sensory processing has been an important feature of the clinical descriptions of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). There is evidence that sensory dysregulation arises early in the progression of ASD and impacts social functioning. This paper reviews behavioral and neurobiological evidence that describes how sensory deficits across multiple modalities (vision, hearing, touch, olfaction, gustation, and multisensory integration) could impact social functions in ASD. Theoretical models of ASD and their implications for the relationship between sensory and social functioning are discussed. Furthermore, neural differences in anatomy, function, and connectivity of different regions underlying sensory and social processing are also discussed. We conclude that there are multiple mechanisms through which early sensory dysregulation in ASD could cascade into social deficits across development. Future research is needed to clarify Download English Version:

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