TEST OBE 2

A new computer-based and easy-to-use tool for the assessment of motivational states in humans

Background

The experimental methods currently used for assessing motivational processes in humans have two major limitations. Some of them rely on global subjective assessments while others evaluate these processes using food-related tasks often coupled with functional neuroimaging techniques that have however limited availability and important associated costs. Here we propose a novel experimental computer-based and easy-to-use tool primarily based on the presentation of food images and designed to provide a quantitative and objective measurement of motivational states in humans.

Assay principle

Two computer-generated tasks evaluating respectively visual and time discrimination capacities have been developed. They are both registered under the French agency for the protection of computer software. They are tested on a sample of 30 healthy subjects, which are invited to perform both tasks in either fasting or satiety.

Assay Information

Biological models	Humans
Methods	Computer-based test using visual and time discrimination tasks
Readouts	Ability to: • provide a quantitative and objective measurement of motivational states in human reward-related pathologies (obesity, depression…) • examine the motivational responses to the standard therapeutic interventions classically proposed
Standard reference	Normal healthy subjects ; 30 subjects per group
Turn around time	10-15 min/task

Persons in charge

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