Detectability of prepulse-elicited reaction in prepulse inhibition of the acoustic startle reflex in humans

Summary / Zusammenfassung
Prepulse inhibition (PPI) refers to the attenuation of the reflexive startle reaction towards an intense pulse stimulus when its presentation is shortly preceded by a weak prepulse stimulus. PPI deficiency has been noted in a number of psychiatric conditions including schizophrenia and schizotypal personality disorder. The possibility that the prepulse stimulus typically employed in the studies of prepulse inhibition (PPI) can produce observable response has been questioned recently. Conflicting reports range from observations of prepulse-elicited startle reaction to a complete lack of detectable prepulse-elicited reactions in healthy volunteers. This controversy is subjected to critical examination in the present study.

Publications / Publikationen
Poster, Zurich Neuroscience Centre Meeting 2004, Zurich

Keywords / Suchbegriffe
attention, prepulse inhibition, schizophrenia, sensorimotor gating, prepulse detection, startle

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Funding Source(s) / Unterstützt durch
Olga Mayenfisch Foundation Zurich

In Collaboration with / In Zusammenarbeit mit
Prof. J. Feldon, Laboratory of Behavioural Neurobiology, ETH Zurich Switzerland
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Duration of Project / Projektdauer
Aug 2004 to Apr 2005