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Cognitive Science C126
4/10/17

Presubmission Enquiry #2: Vasovagal Syncope Syndrome on Perception

In early January 2017, I had my blood drawn for the first time for my annual physical exam. During my appointment, I sat upright and avoided looking at the needle, but still took a peek at the needle and felt squeamish shortly after. After the nurse finished drawing my blood, I felt lightheaded and my vision got blurry. I began to see the world in colored dots, and quickly my sight went black. I thought I was going blind. I told the nurse I can't see anything and the nurse quickly tilted my head forward, allowing blood to flow to my head. I slowly began to see things normally again. Afterwards, I went to my physician and he said I experienced Vasovagal Syncope. Vasovagal Syncope occurs as a response to a number of different triggers, such as the sight of blood, blood drawn, or sometimes quickly standing up from a lower position, and the individual reacts by lowering her blood pressure and heart rate. As a result, an individual experiences fainting, blurry vision, or confusion due to the lack of blood reaching her brain. I've experienced Vasovagal Syncope in the past when I was ill and dehydrated. During one illness, I got up too quickly from my bed and my vision went from blurry to completely black. My plans for further exploration are to test, given the same trigger, how individuals' visions change. Is the progression from seeing colored dots or blurriness to seeing completely black? Or is the experience varied amongst individuals based on their health conditions? I would also test how long the effect lasts before any intervention, such as tilting an individual's head forward. We could also test if individuals do not get this effect if they lay down during the blood test, allowing the blood flow to their brains more easily. In this course, we said a large portion of our brain is dedicated to our vision. My experience shows that a lack of blood to the brain impairs our vision.