Characterizing the mechanisms of altered gaze processing in psychosis & bipolar disorder using drift diffusion modeling & EEG

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Processing of social information – like eye gaze – is disrupted in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, contributing to poor functional outcomes. But the latent mechanisms are poorly understood, impeding the design of targeted interventions.

The Present Study

N = 100 with schizophrenia (SZ), bipolar disorder (BD), or controls (HC)

Neural Correlates of Decision Processes:

Stimuli:

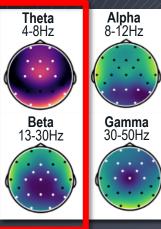
Task:
"looking at me?" (y/n)



Latent Decision Processes:



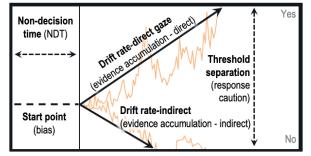
EEG: TF Analysis Stim-evoked power:



RTs & Choices:

Hierarchical Bayesian Drift Diffusion Model (DDM)

Ratcliffe, 1978

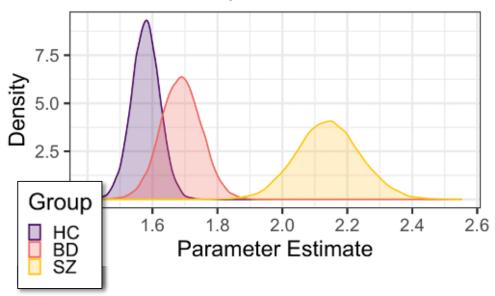


DDM Results

SZ and BD accumulated evidence less efficiently than HC for indirect gaze

SZ had ↑ response caution than BD and HC

Threshold Separation



EEG Results

Theta power:

A) ↓ in SZ and BD

Grove et al 2020, Lasagna et al 2023

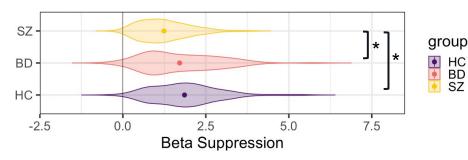
B) ↑ theta related to ↑ efficiency of evidence accumulation

Beta suppression:

A) ↓ in SZ
Grove et al 2020

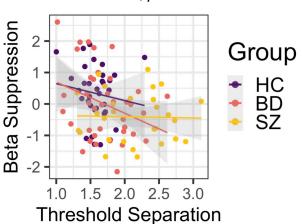
B) ↑ beta power suppression related to ↓ response caution

A) Group Diffs: Beta Suppression



B) Correlations: Beta Suppression & Threshold Separation

Rho =
$$-0.30$$
, $p = .003$



Conclusions

It is possible that altered evidence accumulation/theta power in SZ and BD and altered response caution/beta power in SZ are each jointly signaling a common underlying abnormality. Future work will examine/model this directly.

Thank you

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Poster session today from 5:30-6:30pm:

"Characterizing the mechanisms of altered gaze processing in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder using drift diffusion modeling and EEG"

Funding:









