

GAME CLINIC

media-health.ca

Neurobiology of 'Stress' (PERCEPTION
of challenge & Control—psych/pharma)

Game Clinic

Communications &
Screen
Phenomenology

Open-Science, Web-
based Data-Platforms

Why “Game”?

- Because Games “can” be addictive
- Because Games require “learning”
- Because Games require “performing” and “winning”
 - M Palaus et al (2017), Neural Basis of Video Gaming, **Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, vol 11**
 - RL Mandryk et al (2017), Toward Game-Based Digital Mental Health Interventions, ***J Med Internet Research*, vol 19:4**
 - Amado Velazquez et al (2017), Adaptive Exergame to Support Active Aging, **Pervasive and Mobile Computing, vol 34**

FIND BETTER GAMES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Experiment Setup



EXPLAIN

GAME DEMO
(5 min)

Cog test 1

LEARN IT
(10 min)

Cog test 2

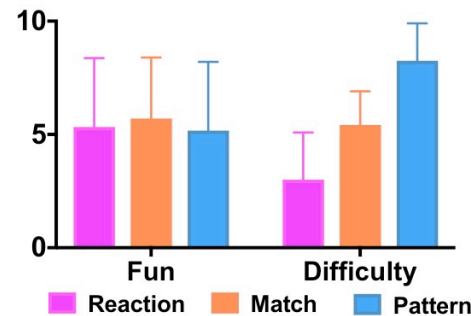
PLAY for FUN
(15 min)

Cog test 3

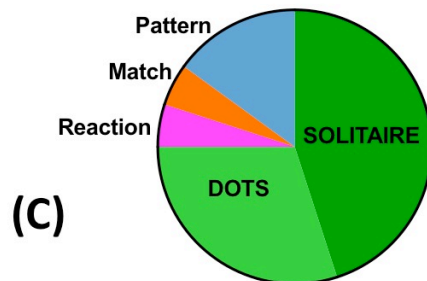
EVALUATE



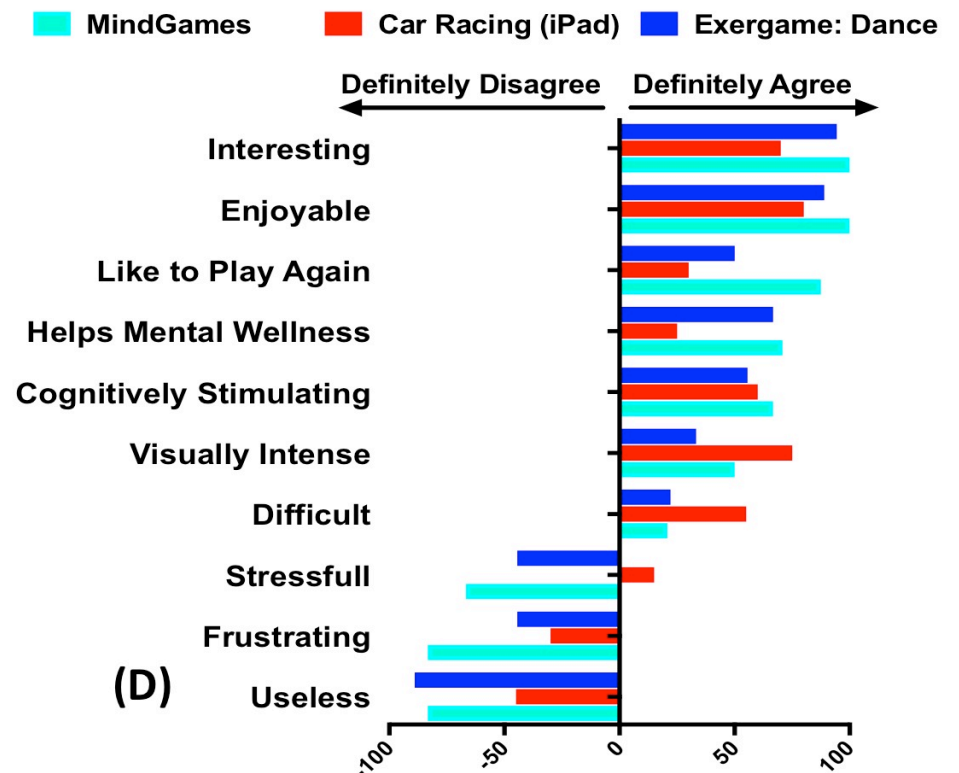
Session1: Learn MindGames



Session1: Play for fun



End of Session Survey



What do We need?

- Age-***appropriate*** exer-games
 - Familiar music not Lady Gaga
 - Hip/Knee friendly movements
 - Realistic ‘coaches’ that are not ‘dressed like pimps and ‘prostitutes’ (*I am quoting!*)
 - Duo-Dances like Cha-Cha
 - More rewarding feedback (make it less difficult to nail a movement)
 - Instructions that are clear but not ‘*patronizing*’

Scientific Background

- Hippocampal-related memory function (e.g. memorizing a set of pictures and trying to recall them later) is affected by “stress” hormones.
 - Psychological Stress by threatening ‘ego’
 - Pharmacological Stress by a drug



- You see pictures in stack A; some of which are repeated.
- Press “M” as soon as you “recall” a picture.
- Try to remember all of them because after a few hours/days:
- You see pictures in stack B; some of which are repeated from stack A. Press “M” as soon as you “recall” a picture.

PERFORMANCE metrics:

Hits, False Alarms and Misses (time-outs), reaction time

DESIGN FEATURES

Change stack, change stack size, Change time-out , feedback

REWARD (player): % Hits



SEEN BEFORE? PRESS M!



Effect of Psychological Stress

330 KHALILI-MAHANI ET AL.

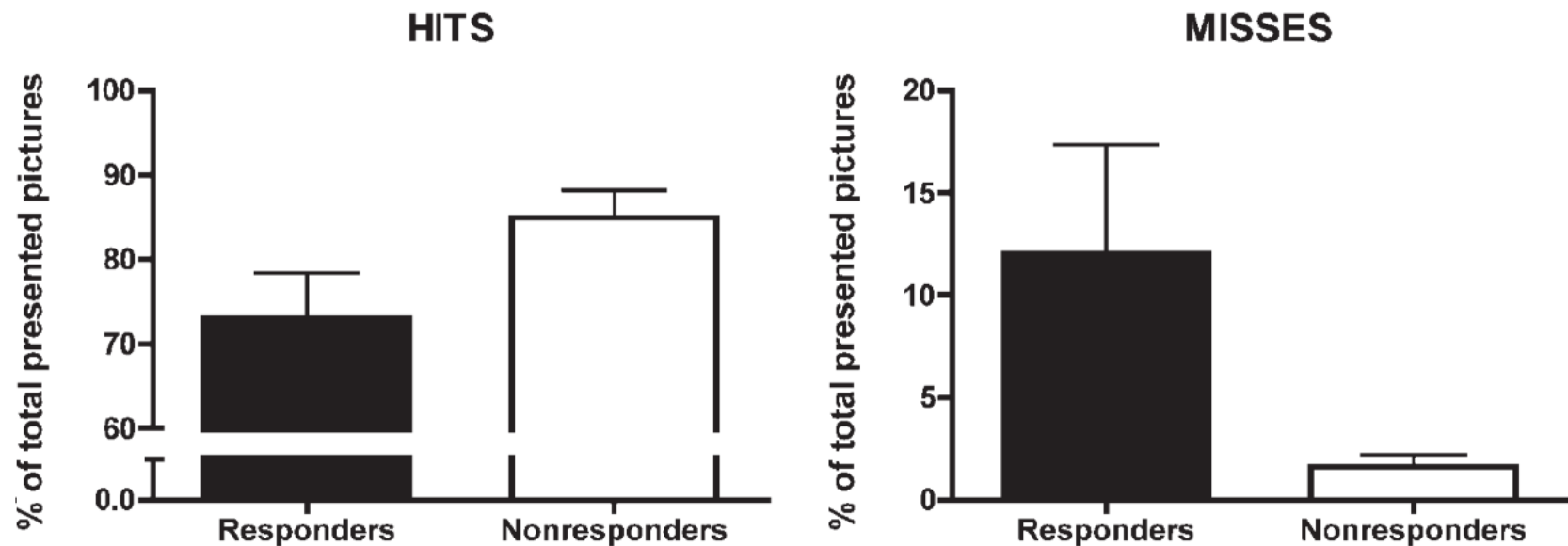
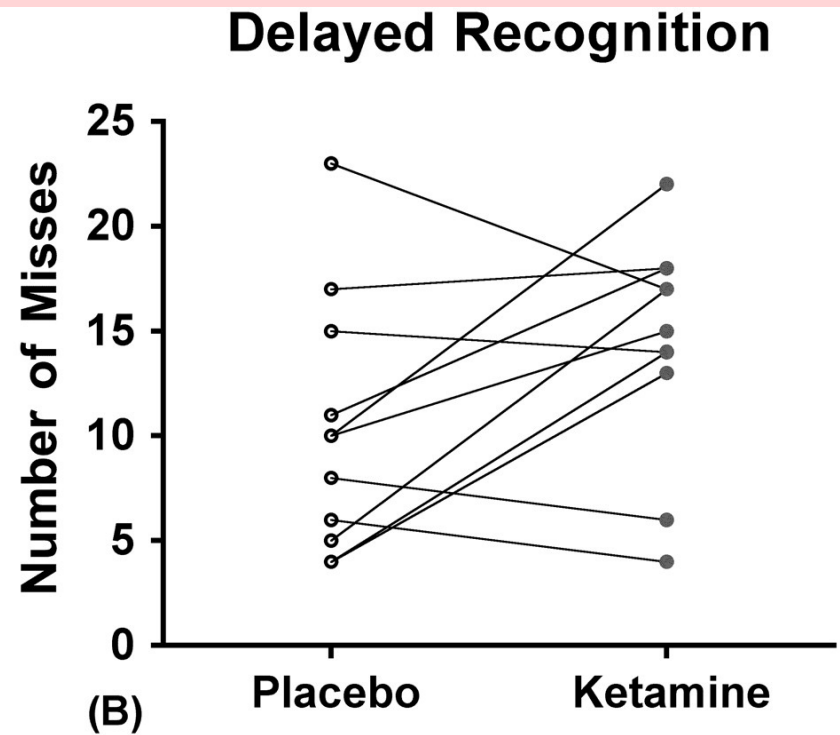
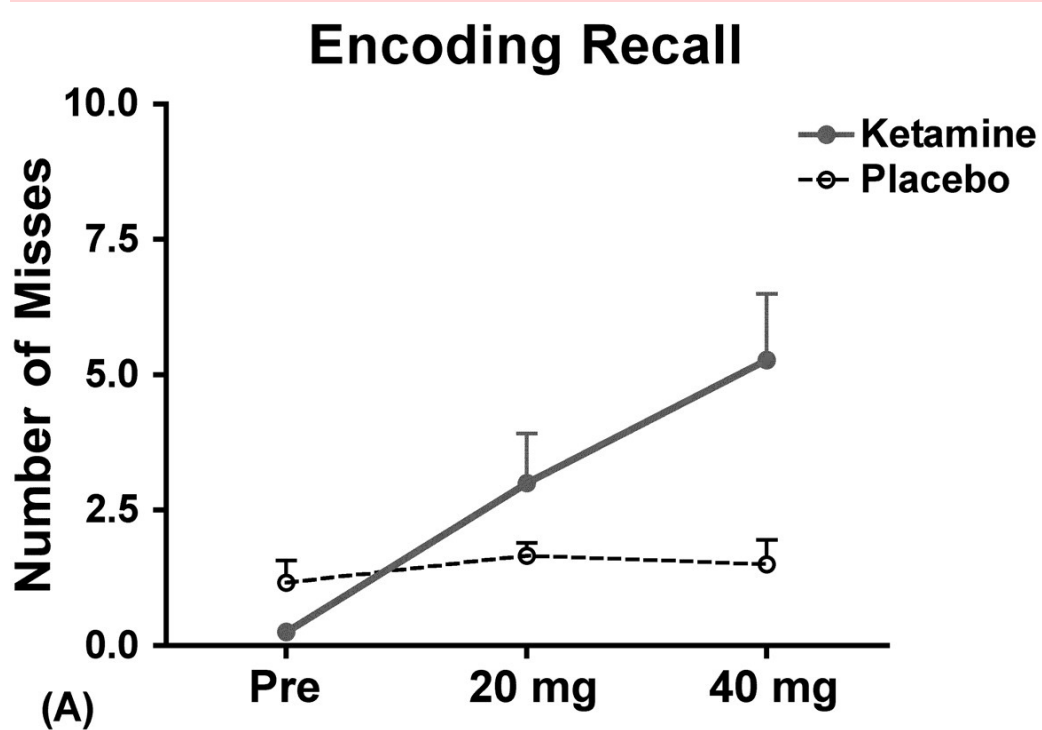


FIGURE 5. Differences in recognition performance between responders and nonresponders. A hit corresponds to a correct recognition. A miss corresponds to no answer or timeout. Responders have statistically significant higher number of misses.

Effect of Pharmacological Stress



What do we need?

1. For science:

- An easy way to allow people play this 'game' at home and record their performance
- Log the scores and the time of the day, and maybe a little 'mood' assessment survey.

2. For fun And Science:

- Allow players to change the level of difficulty (speed, content similarity)
- Allow players to 'dump' their photo albums in the app.