



Corrigendum: Memory Reinforcement and Attenuation by Activating the Human Locus Coeruleus via Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation

Niels Hansen*

Department of Neurodegenerative Diseases and Geriatric Psychiatry, Neurology, University of Bonn Medical Center, Bonn, Germany

Keywords: auricular transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation, memory, locus coeruleus, noradrenaline, hippocampus

A Corrigendum on

Memory Reinforcement and Attenuation by Activating the Human Locus Coeruleus via Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation

by Hansen, N. (2019). *Front. Neurosci.* 12:955. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2018.00955

OPEN ACCESS

Edited and reviewed by:

Ali Yadollahpour,
Ahvaz Jundishapur University of
Medical Sciences, Iran

*Correspondence:

Niels Hansen
niels.hansen@ukb.uni-bonn.de

Specialty section:

This article was submitted to
Neural Technology,
a section of the journal
Frontiers in Neuroscience

Received: 21 January 2019

Accepted: 15 February 2019

Published: 13 March 2019

Citation:

Hansen N (2019) Corrigendum:
Memory Reinforcement and
Attenuation by Activating the Human
Locus Coeruleus via Transcutaneous
Vagus Nerve Stimulation.
Front. Neurosci. 13:186.
doi: 10.3389/fnins.2019.00186

In the original article, there was an error. The stimulation intensity and the atVNS effects on anxiety extinction, were incorrectly stated.

A correction has been made to the section **Locus Coeruleus Activation via Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation**, subsection **Facilitation of Learning Fear Extinction and the Attenuation of Fear Learning**:

“Neuronal assemblies between the amygdala, hippocampus, anterior cingulate cortex, and ventromedial prefrontal cortex are important for consolidating and extinguishing fear memory (Fullana et al., 2018; Marek and Sah, 2018). A neuronal correlate of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is impaired fear-memory extinction. Noradrenaline plays a major role in the pathogenesis of PTSD (Hendrickson and Raskind, 2016). AtVNS via LC activation might strengthen the impaired LC-dependent noradrenergic transmission in PTSD modulating fear-memory extinction. Experimental animal evidence suggests that extinction-memory impairment in rats with PTSD-like behavior is reversible by applying iVNS. In addition, PTSD-like behavior in rats (e.g., hyperarousal) can be attenuated by iVNS (Noble et al., 2017). However, to date, the atVNS effect on extinction memory has only been investigated in healthy subjects. Extinction memory can be facilitated in healthy subjects, as two recent studies showed (Burger et al., 2016, 2017). Similar concha cymba-atVNS parameters were utilized in both studies (25 Hz, ≤ 0.5 mA) (Burger et al., 2016, 2017), and fear-extinction learning in healthy students was facilitated (Burger et al., 2016) (Figure 1). However, the storage of extinction memory one day later was unaffected by atVNS (Burger et al., 2016). Another working group demonstrated no atVNS-dependent modulation of anxiety extinction (Genheimer et al., 2017) being likely based on various stimulation parameter such as mean intensity (1.2 mA) (Genheimer et al., 2017) and timing of atVNS. Overall, these studies reveal promising potential for atVNS as a tool for modulating extinction memory in anxiety disorders”.

The authors apologize for this error and state that this does not change the scientific conclusions of the article in any way. The original article has been updated.

REFERENCES

- Burger, A. M., Verkuil, B., Fenlon, H., Thijs, L., Cools, L., Miller, H. C., et al. (2017). Mixed evidence for the potential of non-invasive transcutaneous vagal nerve stimulation to improve the extinction and retention of fear. *Behav. Res. Ther.* 97, 64–74. doi: 10.1016/j.brat.2017.07.005
- Burger, A. M., Verkuil, B., Van Diest, I., Van der Does, W., Thayer, J. F., and Brosschot, J. F. (2016). The effects of transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation on conditioned fear extinction in humans. *Neurobiol. Learn. Mem.* 132, 49–56. doi: 10.1016/j.nlm.2016.05.007
- Fullana, M. A., Albajes-Eizagirre, A., Soriano-Mas, C., Vervliet, B., Cardoner, N., Benet, O., et al. (2018). Fear extinction in the human brain: a meta-analysis of fMRI studies in healthy participants. *Neurosci. Biobehav. Rev.* 88, 16–25. doi: 10.1016/j.neubiorev.2018.03.002
- Genheimer, H., Andreatta, M., Asan, E., and Pauli, P. (2017). Reinstatement of contextual conditioned anxiety in virtual reality and the effects of transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation in humans. *Sci. Rep.* 7:17886. doi: 10.1038/s41598-017-18183-3
- Hendrickson, R. C., and Raskind, M. A. (2016). Noradrenergic dysregulation in the pathophysiology of PTSD. *Exp. Neurol.* 284 (Pt-B), 181–195. doi: 10.1016/j.expneurol.2016.05.014
- Marek, R., and Sah, P. (2018). Neural circuits mediating fear learning and extinction. *Adv. Neurobiol.* 21, 35–48. doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-94593-4_2
- Noble, L. J., Gonzalez, I. J., Meruva, V. B., Callahan, K. A., Belfort, B. D., Ramanathan, K. R., et al. (2017). Effects of vagus nerve stimulation on extinction of conditioned fear and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in rats. *Transl. Psychiatry* 7:e1217. doi: 10.1038/tp.2017.191

Copyright © 2019 Hansen. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.