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## **Early tone categorization in absolute pitch musicians is subserved by the right-sided perisylvian brain**

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Absolute pitch (AP) is defined as the ability to identify and label tones without reference to keyality. In this context, the main question is whether early or late processing stages are responsible for this ability. We investigated the electrophysiological responses to tones in AP and relative pitch (RP) possessors while participants listened attentively to sine tones. Since event-related potentials are particularly suited for tracking tone encoding (N100 and P200), categorization (N200), and mnemonic functions (N400), we hypothesized that differences in early pitch processing stages would be reflected by increased N100 and P200-related areas in AP musicians. Otherwise, differences in later cognitive stages of tone processing should be mirrored by increased N200 and/or N400 areas in AP musicians. AP possessors exhibited larger N100 areas and a tendency towards enhanced P200 areas. Furthermore, the sources of these components were estimated and statistically compared between the two groups for a set of a priori defined regions of interest. AP musicians demonstrated increased N100-related current densities in the right superior temporal sulcus, middle temporal gyrus, and Heschl's gyrus. Results are interpreted as indicating that early between-group differences in right-sided perisylvian brain regions might reflect auditory tone categorization rather than labelling mechanisms.

*L'orecchio assoluto è definito come la capacità di identificare ed etichettare le altezze senza riferimenti. In questo contesto, la questione più importante è se siano le fasi precoci o tardive dell'elaborazione le responsabili di questa abilità. I Ricercatori hanno indagato le risposte elettrofisiologiche alle altezze nei possessori di orecchio assoluto (AP) e di orecchio relativo (RP) mentre ascoltavano attentamente toni sinusoidali. Dal momento che i potenziali evocati sono particolarmente indicati per tracciare la codifica delle altezze (N100 e N200), la categorizzazione (N200) e le funzioni mnemoniche (N400), gli Autori ipotizzano che le differenze nell'elaborazione precoce dell'altezza dovrebbero risultare in un aumento delle aree collegate a N100 e P200 nei*

musicisti con AP. Al contrario, le differenze nello stadio tardivo dell'elaborazione delle altezze dovrebbero essere rispecchiate da un incremento delle aree N200 e/o N400 nei musicisti con AP. I possessori di AP mostravano una più ampia area di risposta N100 e una tendenza verso un aumento delle aree P200. Inoltre, sono state stimate le sorgenti di queste componenti e statisticamente comparate tra i due gruppi per un set di regioni di interesse definite a priori. I musicisti con AP presentavano un incremento nelle densità di corrente delle regioni correlate a N100 nel solco temporale superiore destro, nel giro mediano temporale e nel giro di Heschl. I risultati vengono interpretati come indicazione che le differenze precoci tra gruppi, nelle regioni del cervello perisilviano di destra, possano riflettere la categorizzazione delle altezze uditive piuttosto che i meccanismi di denominazione.

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## **Music therapy and physical activity to ease anxiety, restlessness, irritability, and aggression in individuals with dementia with signs of frontotemporal lobe degeneration**

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The purpose of the current study was to evaluate whether a combined intervention of physical activity and music therapy could reduce anxiety, restlessness, irritability, and aggression among individuals with severe dementia. An exploratory design was used to evaluate a combined intervention of physical activity, music therapy, and daily walking. Interventions were systematically implemented for 8 weeks. Target groups were individuals with dementia with frontal lobe symptoms in institutional care. Primary outcome measure was the Brøset Violence Checklist (BVC). Four men and two women (mean age = 84.3 years) and their primary caretakers (n = 6) participated. The most prominent symptoms among participants at baseline were confusion, irritability, and verbal threats. The individual BVC total scores indicated significant improvements (p = 0.03). Implementation of individualized music therapy combined with increased physical activity for 8 weeks was a feasible intervention that reduced anxiety, restlessness, irritability, and aggression in the current study.

*Lo scopo di questo studio era quello di valutare se un intervento combinato di attività fisica e musicoterapia potesse ridurre l'ansia, l'ipercinesia, l'irritabilità e l'aggressività tra i pazienti con demenza severa. È stato utilizzato un disegno esplorativo per valutare la combinazione di interventi di attività fisica, musicoterapia e camminata quotidiana. Gli interventi sono stati implementati sistematicamente per 8 settimane. I gruppi target erano individui con demenza e sintomi di degenerazione dei lobi frontali, ospitati in un istituto di cura. La misura dell'outcome primario era la scala Brøset Violence Checklist (BVC). Quattro uomini e due donne di età media di 84,3 anni e i loro 6 assistenti hanno partecipato allo studio. I sintomi prominenti tra i partecipanti all'inizio erano confusione mentale, irritabilità e minacce verbali. Il punteggio totale BVC indicava significativi miglioramenti (p = 0.03). In questo studio, l'implementazione di una musicoterapia individualizzata, combinata con un incremento dell'attività fisica per 8 settimane, era un intervento fattibile che riduceva tutti i sintomi presenti all'inizio.*

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## **Impact of positive and negative motivation and music on jump shot efficiency among NAIA Division I College Basketball Players**

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The objective of this study was to determine whether music, positive feedback, and/or negative feedback impacted jump shooting performance in NAIA Division I male and female basketball players. Using a cross-over design, participants (N=20) took 50 shots from 15 feet and 50 shots from the 3-point line under four conditions (silence, music, positive feedback, negative feedback). The number of shots made were recorded and a one-way ANOVA was used to determine differences between gender. Repeated measures ANOVAs were used to determine differences between conditions in shooting performance and to identify differences in gender by condition. Analysis yielded no significant ( $p > .05$ ) differences between gender or gender by condition. However, significant differences ( $p < .05$ ) between conditions were noted, as participants had better shooting percentages in silence and music conditions compared to positive and negative reinforcement for shots from 15 feet. Participants also had better shooting percentages in the music condition compared to negative and positive feedback. Silence and music yielded significantly better shooting percentage compared to positive and negative feedback; however, these conditions did not necessarily mimic in-game conditions. Further research must be conducted on player performance during game time situations with negative and positive feedback from the crowd (i.e. home crowd versus away crowd).

*Lo scopo di questo studio era quello di determinare se la musica, il feedback positivo o negativo potessero avere un impatto nella performance del tiro a canestro di giocatori di pallacanestro di entrambi i sessi della prima divisione NAIA. Usando un disegno di studio crossover, 20 partecipanti hanno fatto 50 tiri da 15 piedi (4,60 m) e 50 tiri dalla linea dei tre punti in 4 condizioni diverse (silenzio, musica, feedback positivo, feedback negativo). I tiri sono stati registrati e i risultati sono stati analizzati con ANOVA a una via per determinare le differenze di genere. L'ANOVA per misure ripetute è stata utilizzata per capire le differenze tra le varie condizioni sperimentali nella performance del tiro. Non sono state identificate variazioni significative di genere o di genere per condizione sperimentale, ma si è visto invece che i partecipanti avevano una miglior performance dai 15 piedi ( $p < .05$ ) in condizioni di silenzio o musica rispetto alle condizioni di feedback positivo o negativo, e inoltre avevano migliori risultati in condizioni di musica rispetto a entrambe le condizioni di feedback. Silenzio e musica portavano mediamente a una migliore percentuale di canestri, ma queste non necessariamente erano condizioni che rispecchiavano le condizioni di gara. È necessario fare ulteriori ricerche per capire l'effetto del tifo del pubblico sulla performance dei giocatori (ad esempio pubblico in casa e fuori casa).*

**Int J Occup Saf Ergon** 2019 Feb 13:1-5

### **The effects of background music on the work attention performance between musicians and non-musicians**

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For occupational safety and ergonomics, the relationship between work attention performance and background music is a trend for the future. Attention performance may be influenced by some personal factors, such as experience of music training. This investigation explores the difference between the attention performance of musicians and that of non-musicians based on a quasi-experimental design to gain a preliminary understanding of the possible effect of background music the attention performance of both groups. This study found that a musician's attention performance is

better than a non-musician's and that background music tends to improve the attention performance of both musicians and non-musicians, but to a greater extent for musicians.

*Per le ricerche sull'ambiente di lavoro, la relazione tra l'attenzione sul lavoro e la presenza o meno della musica di background è un trend per il futuro. La performance dell'attenzione può essere influenzata da alcuni fattori personali, come l'esperienza e il training musicale. Questa indagine esplora la differenza tra la performance dell'attenzione dei musicisti e quella dei non musicisti, basandosi su un disegno quasi-sperimentale, per ottenere i primi indizi su un possibile effetto della musica di sottofondo sull'attenzione di entrambi i gruppi. In tale studio si osserva che la performance dell'attenzione di un musicista è globalmente migliore di quella di un non musicista e che la musica di background tende a migliorare l'attenzione di entrambi i gruppi, ma in modo più marcato nei musicisti.*

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