For almost a century, parallels have been drawn between negative symptoms in schizophrenia and those associated with frontal lobe lesions. Studies using neuroimaging techniques have generally but not invariably supported this association. An established cognitive function of dorsolateral prefrontal cortex is its role in spatial working memory, which has been linked to the integrity of dopaminergic neurotransmission in this region. Spatial working memory deficits have recently been reported in schizophrenia. We used a computer-presented spatial working memory task with 0- and 8-second delays to test the hypothesis that spatial working memory deficits in schizophrenia would correlate with negative symptoms. Eighteen unmedicated outpatients were tested and compared with controls. Symptoms were rated using the BPRS and either the NSA or the SANS. Patients showed a greater increase in errors with delay, consistent with previous findings in medicated patients. As predicted, patients' negative symptom scores correlated significantly with the increase in errors with delay (r = 0.52, p = 0.03). The specificity of this relationship must be considered preliminary, however, as total BPRS, and BPRS positive symptom scores also showed nonsignificant trends towards correlating with working memory performance. All three symptom measures were highly intercorrelated in this relatively remitted group of outpatients. The implications of these findings for the pathophysiology of negative symptoms in schizophrenia will be discussed.

160. EXPECTANCY EFFECTS AND ATTENTIONAL CONTROL IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

C. Carter, L. Robertson, T. Nordahl, M. Chaderjian, L. O'Shora-Celaya, & A. Henik

Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh, and Departments of Psychiatry and Neurology, University of California at Davis, CA

The Stroop Color Naming task is a paradigmatic measure of selective attention which has been used to study cognition in schizophrenia for over 30 years. Recent studies using single-trial versions of the task have reported that the facilitation effect (the reaction time advantage when naming the color of a color-congruent word such as RED printed in red) is enhanced in schizophrenia. We administered a single-trial version of this task, which manipulated the subject's expectancy for color-relevant stimuli by varying the proportion of neutral stimuli in a block of trials. Consistent with previous studies, normal subjects showed less interference (the slowing of reaction time when naming the color of a color incongruent stimulus, e.g., the word RED printed in blue) when 75% of stimuli were color words and more interference when only 25% of stimuli were color words. Facilitation did not vary with expectancy. Also consistent with previous studies, schizophrenia patients showed increased facilitation effects compared to normals. Schizophrenia patients were also distinguished from controls by failing to relax their criterion for responding under conditions of low expectancy for color words, with the result that these patients showed less interference than controls in the 25% color word condition. This apparently superior performance of schizophrenia patients will be discussed in terms of a failure of planning and strategy formation in individuals with this illness.

161. ATTENTION, SEMANTIC PROCESSING, AND SYMPTOMS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA


Clinical Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Establishing relationships between symptoms and patterns of cognitive impairment can help shed light on the pathophysiology of schizophrenia symptomatology. Enhanced Stroop facilitation (faster response times color naming color-congruent words, e.g., RED printed in red) has been reported in schizophrenia. This is most evident in patients with prominent disorganization and negative symptoms. Two models linking symptoms and cognitive dysfunction could account for this: 1) Enhanced facilitation is associated with negative symptoms and a failure to initiate attentional control in a task relevant manner; 2) enhanced facilitation reflects increased automatic spreading activation in semantic networks, a phenomenon believed to be tapped by semantic priming tasks and increased in thought-disordered patients in some studies. We studied 40 patients and replicated our previous finding of increased facilitation. The magnitude of the facilitation effect correlated positively with disorganization but not negative symptoms. One semantic priming measure, lexical decision time at short SOAs, also correlated with disorganization. This measure (but not Stroop facilitation) correlated even more strongly with medication dosage. There were no correlations between Stroop measures and priming effects. This suggests that increased Stroop facilitation is related to thought disorder but not via the mechanism of increased automatic spreading activation. These results also suggest that increased automatic semantic priming effects in schizophrenia may reflect the effects of neurotransmitters rather than an illness specific pathophysiological process. A further analysis in a larger group using partial correlations will be presented to address the relative contributions of medication dosage and thought disorder to both Stroop and priming effects.

162. FUNCTIONAL ANATOMY OF SELECTIVE ATTENTION IN NORMALS AND SCHIZOPHRENIA

C. Carter, J. Cohen, & M. Mintun

Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Abnormal selective attention in schizophrenia is reflected by increased facilitation on single-trial versions of the Stroop Color Naming Task. We measured regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) during this task using H215O PET. Our design included two novel elements: 1) We mixed neutral and color words (incongruent in the interference condition, congruent in the facilitation condition) ensuring subjects did not read during the facilitation condition; 2) scan order was counterbalanced across subjects but fixed within subjects, to assess time on task effects. Contrasting incongruent and neutral conditions (interference) rCBF increased in left lateral prefrontal, right anterior cingulate, and orbital frontal, and inferior parietal cortex, and decreased in two extrastriate areas. Contrasting congruent and neutral conditions (facilitation) rCBF increased in left superior temporal gyrus and subcortical regions (right caudate and thalamus). Contrasting incongruent and congruent conditions revealed differences in prefrontal and inferior parietal cortex and a third extrastriate region. Preliminary analysis of time on task effects showed initially anterior cingulate and extrastriate changes predominating, but with time on task prefrontal and, for interference, parietal changes predominating. These results are consistent with findings in cognitive psychology suggesting that neither early or late selection models adequately account for attentional effects observed during Stroop performance. Rather, they conform to connectionist predictions that modular systems representing multiple aspects of word reading and color naming interact to determine Stroop performance. Data from schizophrenia patients studied using this procedure will be presented, and the functional neural correlates and pathophysiological underpinnings of