REPRODUCTIVE HORMONAL STATUS AS A PREDICTOR OF PRECOGNITION

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Background: Certain measures of precognition are dependent on both gender and age. Here we test the hypothesis that reproductive hormone levels could be related to precognitive ability.

Aims: In four experiments, we examined how markers of reproductive hormonal status in women are related to implicit precognition. Specifically, we originally aimed to test the hypothesis that women of reproductive age will show opposing effects to those of men and women showing menopausal or post-menopausal symptoms. However, our test of menopausal symptoms was not correlated with actual menopause, as had been previously claimed by the authors of the test. Thus, to allow us to gain insight into the currently unknown physiological mechanisms correlated with precognitive effects, we instead compared five populations, differing from each other in hormonal state, performed on an implicit precognition task.

Method: Eventually we aim to correlate measured hormonal levels with precognitive performance, but as a first step we correlated performance on an online precognition task with presumed hormonal status given self-reported information on gender, date of last menstrual period, pregnancy, and the presence or absence of a uterus. Our task was a quick-thinking version of the retroactive-facilitation-of-recall experiment. We performed the experiment four times, recruiting a total of 2479 participants, the third and fourth experiments were pre-registered with the Koestler Parapsychology Registry. In addition to the principle aim, we examined the Big-5 personality traits and their relationship to performance across all participants.

Results: The general trend that emerged is that precognitive effects on this task are not apparent for cycling women, men, and menopausal women, while they are more regularly apparent for pregnant women and women without uteruses who do not take replacement hormones. Although this general trend was consistent across all four experiments, it was rarely statistically significant, likely due to the limited number of participants we were able to recruit in these two relatively unusual physiological states. We found weak correlations between extraversion, agreeableness and openness and measures of implicit precognition.

Conclusions: Because both pregnancy and not having a uterus are extreme hormonal states for women, the results suggest that taking into account reproductive hormone status, at least in women, can further reduce the signal-to-noise ratio of implicit precognition experiments. These results warrant follow-up with a larger participant pool in the two targeted populations (pregnant women and women who have had hysterectomies and are not taking replacement hormones)

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