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EFFECT OF MUSIC IN SPATIAL MEMORY IN RODENTS

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Abstract

Music can be used as a therapeutic tool and has several effects in cognitive and physiological functions. The aim of this work was to evaluate the effect of different musical pieces in spatial memory in adult male rats. A T maze was used to investigate spatial memory, with 2 and 6h inter trial interval between training and testing phases. Before the training, the animals were exposed to an active or relaxing musical stimulus corresponding to rock and classical pieces. It was found that in the experiment with 2hs interval, animals explore more the novel arm in comparison of the known arm, which indicated that animals still had a good spatial memory. This was not observed in rats that were exposed to the

relaxing rock piece, which could indicate that this stimulus diminished memory. With the 6h interval the rats explored both arms equally, except animals that were exposed to the activating rock piece of music which indicated a slightly enhance in memory. Thus, there were found different effects of music corresponding to the time of interval and the stimulus characteristics. This data provides information for the use of music as a possible treatment for memory modulation.

Key Words: Memory; T maze; activating music; relaxing music.