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Colour vision in Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder:

A pilot visual evoked potential study

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22 **Abstract**

23 **Background:** Individuals with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are
24 reported to manifest visual problems (including ophthalmological and color perception
25 problems, particularly for blue-yellow stimuli), but findings are inconsistent. Accordingly,
26 this study investigated visual function and color perception in adolescents with ADHD using
27 VEP.

28 **Method:** Participants were 31 adolescents (aged 13-18); 16 with a confirmed diagnosis of
29 ADHD, and 15 healthy peers, matched for age, gender, and IQ. All underwent
30 ophthalmological exam, color vision testing (Mollon-Reffin Minimalist Colour Vision Test),
31 as well as electrophysiological testing (color Visual Evoked Potentials; cVEP) which
32 measured the latency and amplitude of the neural P1 response to chromatic stimuli (Blue-
33 Yellow, Red-Green).

34 **Result:** No group differences were found in clinical measure of color perception or
35 ophthalmological exam. However, significantly larger P1 amplitude was found for blue and
36 yellow stimuli, but not red/green stimuli, in the ADHD group compared to controls.

37 **Discussion:** Larger amplitude in the P1 component for blue-yellow in ADHD group
38 compared to control group may account for no difference in colour perception task. Perhaps
39 activating more resources in early sensory processing (P1) compensated for any underlying
40 problems including compromised retinal input of s-cones due to hypo-dopaminergic tone.

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42 *Keywords: ADHD, adolescent, color vision deficit, Visual evoked potential*

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46 **Introduction**

47 Attention-deficit/Hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most frequently diagnosed
48 childhood psychiatric disorders, with worldwide prevalence rates estimated at 5.3%
49 (Polanczyk & Jensen, 2008). However, despite the long history of research since its first
50 medical description in 1775 (Barkley & Peters, 2012), to date, it remains unclear what is the
51 'deficit' in ADHD. Current theories posit that executive function deficits account for ADHD
52 symptoms. However, based on substantial number of studies, ADHD is also associated with
53 visual perceptual problems that appear unrelated to any executive dysfunction (See appendix
54 table 1). Especially, ADHD is a neuro-developmental disorder which is associated with
55 delayed cortical maturation in many regions, including the occipital cortex (Shaw et al., 2007;
56 Hoekzema et al., 2012). Specifically, color perception may be altered in ADHD population
57 (see appendix table 2). For instance, in our previous study, young adults with ADHD reported
58 significantly more self-perceived visual difficulties in everyday tasks as well as poorer hue
59 discrimination specifically on blue (Kim, Chen, & Tannock, 2013). Furthermore, children
60 with ADHD have been found to score poorly on clinical tests of blue-yellow color
61 perception, but not red-green (Banaschewski et al., 2006, Roessner et al., 2008), and showed
62 decreased game performance in a virtual environment when important on-screen information
63 was displayed predominantly in blue-yellow colors compared to performance with
64 information displayed in red-green colors (Silva & Frere, 2011). Finally, several studies
65 report decreased speed in color processing in the ADHD population (Tannock et al., 2000;
66 Lawrence et al., 2004). The possibility of color perception problems in ADHD is of clinical
67 importance, given the extensive use of color in educational settings, as well as the frequent
68 use of color stimuli in many of the standard neuropsychological tests used in the assessment
69 for ADHD and related disorders (e.g. Colour-Word Stroop Test, Wisconsin Card Sorting Test,
70 A Quick Test of Cognitive Speed, Rapid Automated Naming).

71 Color vision mechanisms, particularly short-wavelength pathway, is particularly
72 vulnerable to insult from toxins, and are highly sensitive to CNS drugs and the
73 neurotransmitter, dopamine. Hence, the “retinal dopaminergic” hypothesis of color vision
74 (Tannock, Banaschewski, & Gold, 2006) proposes that a deficiency in central nervous system
75 (CNS) dopamine in ADHD may induce a hypo-dopaminergic tone in the retina, which in turn
76 would have deleterious effects on short-wavelength (S) cones, which are sensitive to blue-
77 yellow light wavelengths. S-cones are very sensitive to dopamine (as well as other
78 neurochemical agents) and relatively scarce in number, so that the purported low
79 dopaminergic tone in ADHD may affect their blue color perception. To date, tests of this
80 hypothesis in the ADHD population have relied solely on clinical tests of color perception,
81 which do not inform about mechanisms underlying poor performance on B-Y stimuli. Also,
82 most of the studies focused in testing children with ADHD (Banaschewski et al, 2006;
83 Roessner et al., 2008; Kim et al., 2013).

84 Accordingly, this pilot study aimed to explore the B-Y color mechanism in an
85 extended population (adolescents with ADHD) using electrophysiological technique (colour
86 visual-evoked potential; VEP). VEP technique is suggested to be as a sensitive and objective
87 measure of chromatic input in visual pathways (Crognale et al., 1993). In this study, we
88 measured the neural response (P1) to chromatic and achromatic stimuli, thereby providing a
89 more direct assay of color processing in this population. The P1 component of the VEP (peak
90 latency 136-146 msec) is an early response to the visual stimuli and it is mainly generated
91 from the dorsal extrastriate cortex where color processing is localized (Luck, 2005; Di Russo
92 et al., 2001; Conway et al, 2007, 2010; Wade et al., 2002). In addition, we conducted an
93 ophthalmological exam (e.g., visual acuity, refraction, fundus exam) to test general visual
94 functions in ADHD. Finally, color perception was assessed with a test sensitive to blue-
95 yellow perceptual problems (Mollon-Reffin Minimalist Color Vision Test), but which

96 minimizes demands on attention (Shute & Westall, 2000). We hypothesized that the
97 adolescents with ADHD would show normal visual function on ophthalmological exam, but
98 altered B-Y color vision as indexed by both the clinical color vision test and by the latency or
99 amplitude of P1. Specifically, we expected ADHD group to show more error in the clinical
100 color vision test, and longer latency as well as decreased amplitude of P1 for B-Y compared
101 to control group.

102 **Methods**

103 **Participants:**

104 A total of 31 adolescents, aged 13 to 18 years, participated; 16 (81% male, mean age: 16)
105 with a confirmed DSM-IV (APA, 1994) diagnosis of ADHD (described below) and 15 (67%
106 male, mean age: 15) healthy controls matched for age, sex, and IQ. No significant differences
107 were found in age and sex between the groups. Adolescents with confirmed ADHD were
108 recruited from a larger-scale study on working memory (Canadian Institutes of Health
109 Research operating grant # 11398); those in the comparison group were recruited through
110 notices posted in the research setting (a large pediatric hospital in an urban area). All
111 adolescents participating in the study were native English speakers. Adolescents were
112 excluded if mothers reported a history of major perinatal complications such as prematurity,
113 low birth weight, any history or current presentation of psychosis, comorbid Tourette
114 syndrome, phenylketonuria, autism, or other pervasive developmental disorders. Also
115 adolescents were excluded if they had a history or current use of cocaine or other substances,
116 or had below average intellectual functioning (defined as a standard score of at least 80 on
117 either the Verbal or Performance Scale of the WISC-III).

118 The DSM-IV diagnosis of ADHD had been confirmed by a systematic and comprehensive
119 clinical diagnostic assessment conducted within the past one to two years, as a part of the

120 larger scale study. Assessment consisted of a semi-structured clinical diagnostic interview
121 [Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia for School-Age Children-Present and
122 Lifetime Version; K-SADS-PL; Kaufman et al., 1997], as well as the Conners' Rating Scales-
123 Revised (Conners, 1997), completed by parents and teachers. The K-SADS had been
124 conducted separately with the adolescent and parent, and the clinician summarized the
125 information from both informants. Diagnosis of ADHD in adolescents had been based on the
126 following algorithm: 1) met DSM-IV criteria according to the clinician summary based on
127 the K-SADS-PL interviews; and 2) met the clinical cut-offs for inattentive or
128 hyperactive/impulsive symptoms on the Conners' teacher questionnaires (t-score > 70) to
129 confirm pervasiveness of symptoms across settings.

130 For the current study, parents of all participants were asked to complete the Strengths
131 and Weaknesses of ADHD-symptoms and Normal Behavior Scale (SWAN; Swanson et al.,
132 2005), using a 7-point likert scale for each item (score of '1' indicating the child's abilities
133 were far below those of peers; score of '7' indicating abilities far above those of peers). Total
134 scores for inattention and hyperactivity/impulsivity were computed, with lower scores
135 indicating more problems. Also, parents as well as teachers completed the Strengths and
136 Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ; Goodman, 2001) to obtain standardized ratings of current
137 behaviour. Adolescents in the comparison group who had any scores in the clinical range
138 were excluded. Informed consent from the participating adolescents and their parents was
139 obtained before the test.

140 Participants with ADHD who were being treated with stimulant medication (n= 7; 35%
141 of the sample) were requested to stop any stimulant medication for at least 24 hours prior to
142 the study. However, since we had no reliable method for confirming that participants had
143 indeed ceased their treatment for more than 24 hours, we opted to classify participants with
144 ADHD into two groups: those with and without current medication treatment.

145 This study was approved by our institutional Research Ethics Board; all participants
146 provided written informed consent prior to commencing the study.

147

148 **Measures:**

149 Ophthalmological exam: a comprehensive vision exam, conducted by a trained

150 ophthalmologist, included the following measures:

151 - *Contrast sensitivity* (Pelli, Robson & Wilkins 1988): Contrast sensitivity as measured by the
152 Pelli-Robson Contrast Sensitivity Test which provides a quick, reliable and widely accepted
153 method used in clinical setting. Higher scores indicate better contrast sensitivity (i.e. can
154 discriminate fainter letters better on a white chart). The highest possible score is 2.25.

155 - *Visual acuity* (Vistech Consultants, Inc. Dayton, USA): It was measured with the logMAR
156 crowded test. Lower scores indicate better visual acuity/resolution. Lowest score is -0.3.

157 - *Refraction* (Saunders et al., 1992): It was measured using a near retinoscopy technique.
158 Spherical correction and cylindrical correction are reported for left, right, and both eyes.

159 Since uncorrected refractive error might confound the results, adolescents with uncorrected
160 refractive error greater than 3.00 diopters spherical correction, or 1.50 diopters cylindrical
161 correction was excluded from the study.

162 - *Fundus exam*: A basic fundus examination was carried out with the ophthalmoscope to
163 determine the ocular media, posterior pole and macular area of the retina.

164 Mollon-Reffin Minimalist Color Vision Test (M-RM): M-RM was chosen for its sensitivity
165 and a good specificity for tritan (blue-yellow) errors, particularly with young participants
166 (Shute et al., 2000). M-RM requires the individual to identify a single colored cap from 5
167 grey caps of varying lightness. Three sets of test caps were used that coincide with tritan
168 (blue-yellow), protan (red), deutan (green) confusion axis. For each set, the number of the

169 least saturated caps (1 to 3) that the participant correctly identifies is used as the participant's
170 score.

171 Visual Evoked Potentials (VEP; NeuroScan Acquire 4.0 program): VEP is an objective, non-
172 invasive technique that particularly reflects cone activity in the central 6-10 degrees in the
173 retina (Regan, 1989). It permits recording of an occipital lobe brain wave in response to
174 visual stimulation that begins in the retina and ends at the visual cortex (Young, Eggenberger,
175 Kaufman, 2012). In the current study, three types of stimuli were used. The first, the
176 achromatic grating was a white-gray luminance stimulus to verify that meaningful VEP
177 signals could be collected. The second was an isoluminant grating for long and medium
178 wavelength color mechanisms (red-green). The third type was an isoluminant S-grating
179 specific for S-cone activation-deactivation (blue-yellow). Achromatic and chromatic stimuli
180 were presented in a patterned onset-offset presentation. This means that the stimulus
181 alternated between "on" (for 100 ms) and "off" (for 400 ms) at a repeated rate of 2Hz, until
182 60 sweeps were collected. The time of luminance presentation consistently occurred between
183 chromatic stimuli so as not to saturate the colour vision system.

184 Stimulus parameters were selected to optimize the chromatic response and differentiate
185 between the chromatic and achromatic VEP response (see Elia et al., 2005 for the details).
186 Chromatic and achromatic stimuli were produced using Vision Research Graphics (VRG)
187 software (Durham, NH). Specifically, the red-green color grating consisted of vertical bars
188 varying from red to green with respective chromaticity coordinates of $x=0.3574$, $y=0.3099$
189 and $x=0.3064$, $y=0.3372$. The violet to yellow-green grating consisted of alternating violet
190 ($x=0.2893$, $y=0.2496$) and yellow-green ($x=0.3409$, $y=0.3523$) bars. Each of the color stimuli
191 pairs: red and green or blue or yellow were isoluminant. This was to ensure that the cortical
192 responses being recorded arose predominantly from color selective cortical cells and not from
193 luminance-responsive cells (Suttle & Harding, 1999). These stimuli were presented on a 21-

194 inch RGB color graphics monitor (FlexScan f930; Eizo, Cypress, CA) with 26° X 20° field
195 dimensions.

196 We positioned 6-mm diameter gold disc electrodes (Genuine F-F5GH; Grass Instrument
197 Division, Astro-Med, Inc., West Warwick, RI) with protected terminals (Safelead; Grass) on
198 the scalp, as stated in the international 10-20 system of electrode placement, on the visual
199 occipital cortex in positions Oz, O1, and O2 along with two additional electrodes on
200 nonvisual areas of the cortex at Pz (ground) and Cz (reference), to obtain cortical responses to
201 color stimuli. Color VEPs were recorded at a viewing distance of 75 cm. Each participant
202 was tested binocularly.

203 For VEP data analysis, waveforms were recorded for achromatic, L-M and S patterns.
204 Sixty presentations were acquired and averaged for each stimulus, which was presented twice.
205 Thus, a total of 120 presentations per each condition were recorded. We measured both VEP
206 latency as well as amplitude. Since latency of VEP waveform generated by chromatic stimuli
207 (both red-green and blue-yellow) is typically negative wave, in adults (Porciatti & Sartucci,
208 1998), the latency of chromatic onset-offset VEP data was measured from pattern onset to the
209 first negative component. Peak amplitudes were measured from the trough of the first
210 negative wave to the peak of the preceding positive wave for wave generated by chromatic
211 stimuli (Figure 1 shows an example for a male participant in this study).

212 **Analysis:**

213 Data points (behavioural and ERP) with SD's >3 were regarded as outliers and adjusted using
214 a winsorizing technique (Tabachnick, B., & Fidell, L., 2001). This was applied to a total of
215 seven data points: one data point from Left Acuity, Left contrast sensitivity, right spherical
216 correction, Left cylindrical correction, Right cylindrical correction, and 2 data points from
217 Red-Green Latency. Also, 3 control participants were excluded from VEP tests due to weak
218 VEP signals and very low motivations (observed tiredness, boredom and lack of sleep). We

219 used relative amplitude (difference in luminance to chromatic amplitude) to control for inter-
220 individual variability. Planned orthogonal contrast analyses were used to test the
221 hypothesized group differences in color perception and other visual functions. We first
222 compared the ADHD and control groups, and then the medicated versus non-medicated
223 ADHD groups. Effect sizes (ES) were calculated using Cohen's *d* (Cohen, 1989).
224 Conventionally, Cohen's *d* ranging 0.2-.03 is considered to be a small effect size, 0.5 as
225 medium and 0.8 as large, respectively.

226 **Results**

227 Sample characteristics and performance on vision measures are summarized in Tables 1 and
228 2, respectively. As expected, adolescents with ADHD showed significantly more inattentive
229 [$t(27) = -6.627, p = .000$] and hyperactivity symptoms [$t(27) = -2.990, p = .006$] than control
230 adolescents based on parent's report on SWAN, but the two ADHD subgroups did not differ.
231 Also, ADHD group showed significantly more overall difficulties in school [$t(27) = -4.233,$
232 $p = .000$] as well as in home settings [$t(27) = 3.304, p = .003$].

233 There were no group differences in general vision based on the ophthalmological tests
234 including visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, and refraction. Clinical notes on the fundus exam
235 suggested that the fundus was within normal limits for virtually all participants except 1
236 participant in each ADHD and Control group (see appendix 3 for detail). Moreover, the
237 ADHD and comparison groups did not differ in color perception, as measured with M-RM
238 (see Table 2).

239 On VEP measures, no significant group differences were found for the P1 latency, but
240 the ADHD group (both medicated and non-medicated participants) showed significantly
241 larger P1 amplitude in response to blue-yellow stimuli than did the comparison group [$t(25)$
242 $= 2.35, p < .05$; Cohen's $d = .80$, see figure 2], but the groups did not differ in either latency or
243 amplitude in terms of the P1 response to red-green stimuli [$t(24) = .183, p = .86$; Cohen's $d =$

244 0.11]. The group differences in P1 amplitude in response to blue-yellow stimuli appear to be
245 driven primarily by the 'medicated' ADHD group, since their P1 amplitude was significantly
246 larger compared to that of the non-medicated subgroup [$t(25) = 2.18, p < .05$; Cohen's $d = .77$].

247 Inattentive symptoms from parent rating of SWAN were significantly correlated with P1
248 amplitude in response to B-Y stimuli [$r(27) = -.386, p = .046$] but not for R-G stimuli [$r(27)$
249 $= -.195, p = .330$], indicating that more severe inattention was related to greater P1 amplitude
250 for B-Y (see scatter plot in figure 3). By contrast, there was no significant relationship
251 between hyperactivity/impulsivity scores and the P1 amplitude for either B-Y [$r(27) = -$
252 $.286, p = .146$ or R-G stimuli [$r(27) = -.132, p = .495$]

253 Discussion

254 This study represents the first attempt to use VEP as well as a clinical test to assay color
255 perception in adolescents with ADHD. Moreover, we conducted ophthalmological testing to
256 allow us to disaggregate color perception problems from problems in vision. The major
257 findings in this pilot study were that: 1) the ADHD group showed a much larger P1
258 amplitude in response to blue-yellow stimuli than did the comparison group, but did not
259 differ in terms of the P1 latency, and there were no group differences in the P1 amplitude or
260 latency in response to red or green stimuli; 2) inattention significantly correlated with the P1
261 amplitude, but only for B-Y stimuli; and 3) there was no evidence of either
262 ophthalmological or color perception problems in the ADHD group based on the clinical
263 measures

264 The present study yielded several novel findings, including evidence of greater
265 amplitude in the P1 component of the neural response to B-Y chromatic stimuli in the
266 ADHD group, together with a significant positive relationship between severity of
267 inattention symptoms and the P1 amplitude for B-Y stimuli. The magnitude of this group
268 difference in P1 amplitude was notably larger for blue-yellow chromatic stimuli compared

269 to that for red-green stimuli (e.g., Cohen's d for B-Y was .80; and for R-G was .11).
270 Although the group difference in the P1 amplitude for B-Y stimuli appears to be driven
271 primarily by the adolescents with ADHD who were being treated with stimulant medication,
272 there are several reasons why we do not believe that the group difference can be attributed
273 to the effects of stimulant medication per se. First, P1 amplitude correlated positively with
274 the SWAN inattention scores (see Figure 3) and the two ADHD subgroups did not differ in
275 SWAN scores (see Table 1). Second, participants in the 'medicated' group had been asked
276 to stop their medication for at least 24 hours before the test session and indicated that they
277 had done so, although we were unable to confirm this was the case. Thus, we believe that
278 the finding does indicate that the ADHD group had greater P1 amplitude for B-Y stimuli
279 than controls, but did not differ in P1 latency or amplitude for R-G stimuli. This
280 interpretation is further supported by the specific and positive correlation between the
281 severity of inattention and P1 amplitude for B-Y stimuli.

282 A differential neural response to B-Y and R-G stimuli can be explained by different
283 visual pathways that blue-yellow (Short wavelength-cones) and red-green (Medium-Long
284 wavelength cones) retinotopic information are connected to (Figure 4). Specifically, B-Y
285 information is transmitted to koniocellular layer of the LGN, and from LGN, they are
286 directly projected to Middle temporal area (MT) and the parietal bypassing V1 (Martin,
287 White, Goodchild, Wilder, & Sefton, 1997; Roy et al., 2009; White, Wilder, Goodchild,
288 Sefton, & Martin, 1998; Jayakumar, Dreher, & Vidyasagar, 2013). By contrast, the smaller
289 parvocellular ganglion cells, which are linked to long and medium wavelength cones (L-M
290 cones or "red" and "green" cones), project to area V1 of the primary visual cortex, through
291 V2 and V4 to areas of the inferior temporal lobe (Lamme, Super, & Spekreijse, 1998). The
292 dorsal visual stream, to which B-Y pathways project, is suggested to be closely linked to
293 attention mechanism due to the anatomical proximity with areas that operate spatial

294 attention (posterior parietal lobe; pulvinar nucleus of the thalamus and superior colliculus)
295 such as directing attention with and without saccadic movement (Posner & Peterson, 1990;
296 Williams et al., 1994; Posner, 1988). Furthermore, area MT has been found to modulate
297 attention-dependent responses and direct attention in the early visual cortex (Bisley &
298 Pasternak, 2000; Saalman, Pigarev, & Vidyasagar, 2007) Interestingly, the pathway
299 carrying B-Y signals, being presumptively an early evolutionary invention is thought to be
300 co-opted to aid in focal-spatial attention (Jayakumar et al., 2013). Children with ADHD
301 were found to have problem in directing attention (Swanson et al., 1991). In the presence of
302 impaired attention and a hypo-dopaminergic state in retina in individuals with ADHD, it is
303 possible that the greater P1 amplitude in ADHD reflects a compensatory over-activation of
304 the extrastriate cortex, especially in response to B-Y chromatic stimuli. We can speculate
305 that adolescents with ADHD were challenged in processing colour information, hence
306 required greater activation in extrastriate area.

307 Notably, our null findings in colour vision perception in clinical tests are in
308 contradistinction with findings from previous studies reporting more errors in blue-yellow
309 color perception in the ADHD group compared to controls (Banaschewski et al., 2006;
310 Roessner et al., 2008). A methodological difference may account for this discrepant
311 outcome. The Farnsworth-Munsell 100 Hue Test: (FMT), used in previous studies, requires
312 the participant to arrange the caps in the best colour order (i.e. from yellowish green to
313 turquoise green). This process involves both accurate movement execution and sustained
314 attention, which are known to be impaired in ADHD. Furthermore, color perception and
315 motor impairments have been associated (although not causal) with FMT errors scores in
316 patients with Parkinson's disease (Haug et al., 1995). By contrast, the M-RM, used in the
317 current study, does not place large demands on attention ability (Shute et al., 2000). Thus,
318 on the one hand, previous findings of B-Y color perception differences may be attributable

319 in part to group differences in attention or motor control. On the other hand, the M-RM
320 assesses blue-gray discrimination and not blue-yellow contrast, which we speculate is what
321 may be impaired by a dopamine deficit in the ADHD population. Thus, future studies might
322 want to give greater consideration to the choice of color perception tests and to incorporate
323 other approaches to assaying color vision.

324 We acknowledge the limitations of this pilot study, which need to be taken into account
325 when interpreting the findings. Sample sizes were small particularly for the comparison of
326 the two ADHD groups, which limits the generalizability of the findings and necessitate their
327 replication in larger samples. Also, although we were able to confirm which participants
328 were being treated with medication, we were unable to confirm whether they had stopped
329 medication at least 24 hours prior to the study as requested. Moreover, we acknowledge that
330 this duration of washout may not be sufficient to eliminate any residual central (or retinal)
331 effects of medication. We attempted to deal with the possible confound of medication by
332 comparing those who were and were not being treated with medication. However, observed
333 differences in the P1 response to B-Y stimuli in the two ADHD groups cannot be
334 attributable to the effects of medication, because it is quite possible that those receiving
335 medication differ in a systematic way from those not receiving medication. Also, it is
336 possible that the VEP latency and amplitude measured in occipital lobe may not capture the
337 impairment at a receptor level caused by hypo-dopaminergic condition in ADHD group.
338 Multifocal electroretinogram, a tool to detect and quantify central cone function, especially
339 in disease stages with no or subtle visible retinal changes, might be an option. This way, we
340 can directly observe the effect of low dopamine condition in retina particularly to blue and
341 yellow cones.

342 Despite the limitations, we believe our preliminary findings provide foundations for
343 future investigations on this topic. Future studies should include different age groups and

344 more precise and effective tests to assess neural and behavioral components of colour
345 perception, and to investigate the effects of covert attention on color perception of B-Y
346 versus R-G chromatic stimuli.

347

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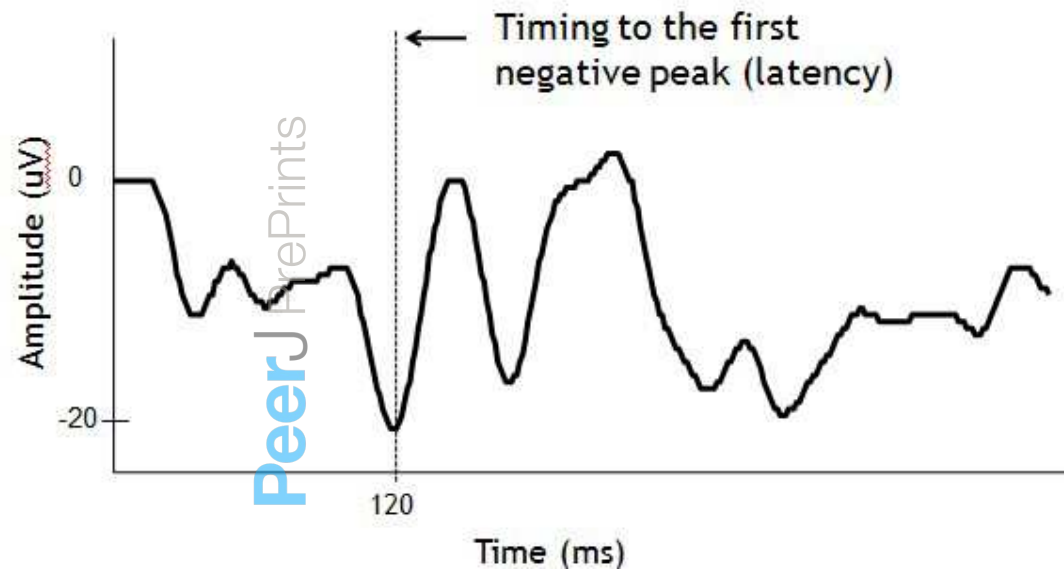
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Figure 1. A color VEP data of a participant from blue-yellow (S-cone onset) stimuli.



Latency (time of response to stimulus) for S response onset is measured from pattern onset (time of stimulus presentation) to the trough of the first large negative wave. Amplitudes of the waveforms were measured from the trough of the first negative wave to the peak of the positive wave.

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Figure 2. Amplitude (uV) of the VEP response to chromatic onset stimuli (left=Blue-Yellow, right=Red-Green)

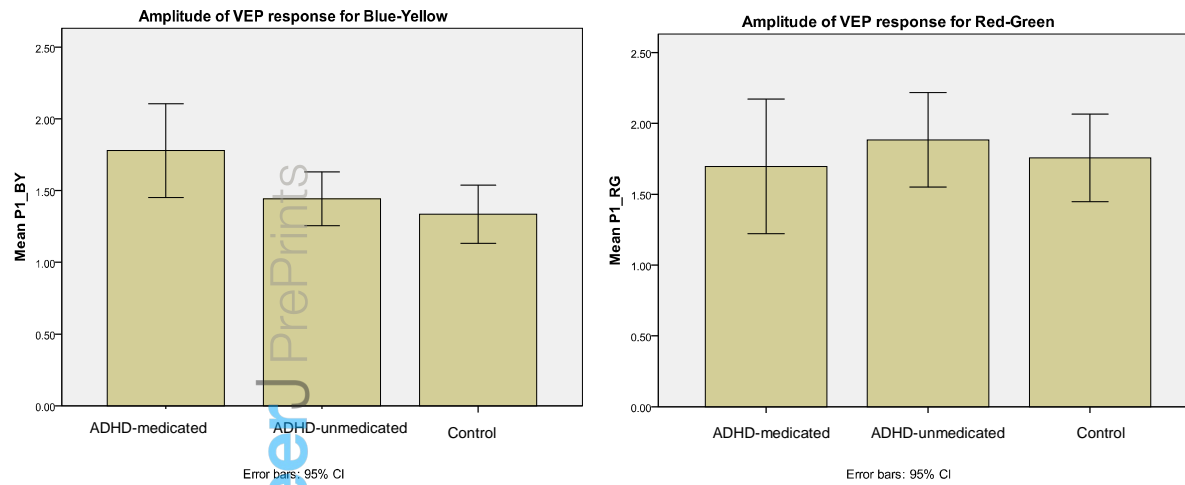
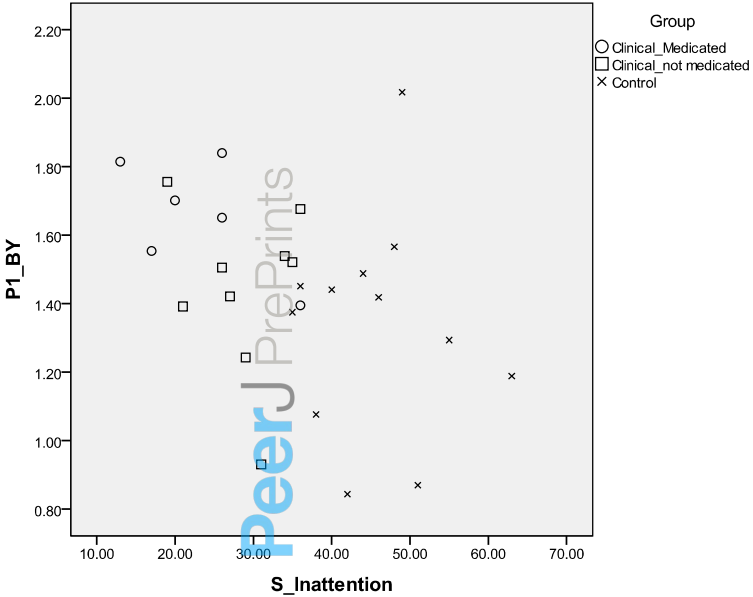


Figure 3. Scatter plot between Inattentive symptom on SWAN and P1 amplitude (uV) on Blue-Yellow.



Low SWAN inattention scores = greater attention problems

Figure 4. Separate visual pathways for Red and Blue retinotopic information

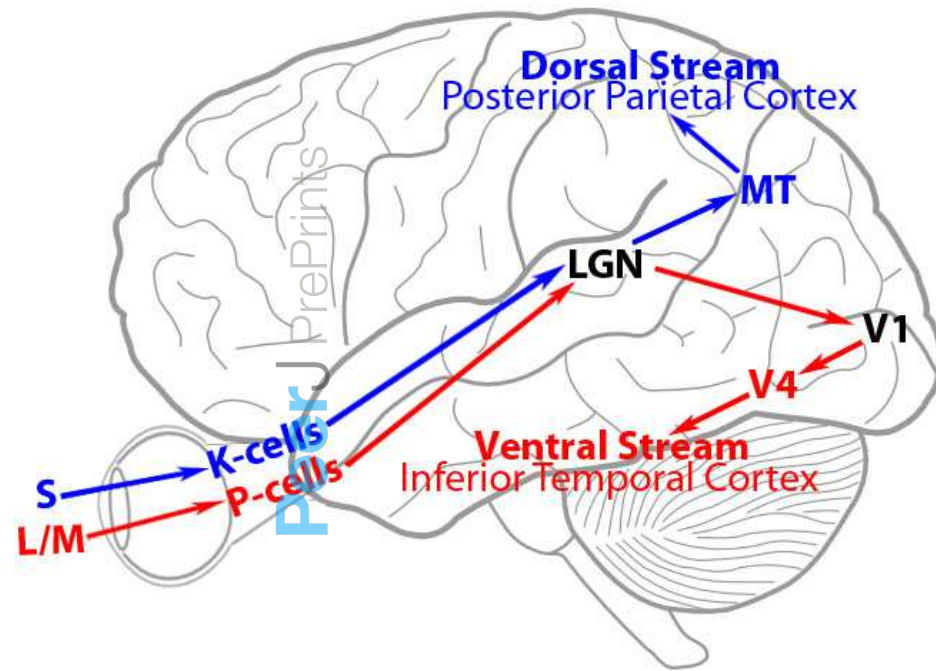


Table 1. ADHD symptoms for ADHD and Control group

		Descriptives								Planned Orthogonal Contrast analysis	
		Medicated ADHD (N=7)		Non Medicated ADHD (N=9)		ADHD (N=16)		Controls (N=15)		Med. ADHD(N=7) vs. Non Med. ADHD(N=9)	ADHD (N=16) vs. Control (N=15)
Measures		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean diff.(sig.)	Mean diff.(sig.)
SWAN-	Inattention	23.00	8.15	28.67	6.02	26.40	7.26	44.27	8.07	-5.67	-17.87***
Parent	Hyperactivity	32.00	15.32	35.56	9.77	34.13	11.90	45.73	9.38	-3.56	-11.60**
SDQ-	Total	15.14	6.04	15.22	6.08	15.19	5.86	7.33	4.02	0.08	7.86***
Teacher	Problem										
SDQ-	Total	13.33	7.23	11.00	4.21	11.93	5.50	5.73	4.99	2.33	6.2**
Parent	Problem										

*** $P < .001$, ** $P < .01$

1) SWAN rating scale: The Strengths and Weaknesses of ADHD-symptoms and Normal-behavior (Swanson et al., 2005)

2) SDQ questionnaire: Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (Goodman, 1997) 3) Med. ADHD: Medicated ADHD, 4) Non Med: Non medicated ADHD

Table 2. Summary scores on Vision

Measures	Descriptives								Planned Orthogonal Contrast analysis	
	Med. ADHD (N=7)		Non Med. ADHD (N=9)		ADHD (N=16)		Controls (N=12)		ADHD (N=16) Vs. Control (N=12)	Med. ADHD (N=7) Vs. Non Med. (N=8)
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean difference	Mean difference
Vision										
Contrast sensitivity(R)	1.69	.08	1.65	.09	1.67	.09	1.64	.06	.03	.04
Contrast sensitivity(L)	1.70	.10	1.66	.09	1.68	.09	1.66	.07	.03	.04
Contrast sensitivity(Bi)	1.85	.10	1.79	.11	1.82	.10	1.81	.09	.01	.06
Visual Acuity (R)	-.11	.10	-.08	.16	-.09	.13	-.04	.15	-.05	-.03
Visual Acuity (L)	-.09	.10	-.12	.09	-.11	.09	-.09	.08	-.02	-.03
Visual Acuity (Bi)	-.16	.05	-.18	.08	.07	.02	-.15	.08	-.02	.02
Spherical correction (R)	-.38	1.05	-.09	.94	-.21	.96	-.16	1.32	.05	-.29
Cylindrical correction (R)	.08	.20	.03	.28	.05	.24	-.07	1.04	-.02	.05
Spherical correction (L)	-.25	.88	-.19	1.67	-.21	1.34	-.01	1.60	-.21	-.06
Cylindrical correction (L)	.17	.26	.09	.19	.13	.21	.17	.41	-.04	.08
Colour vision										
Red Tritan (L)	1.00	.00	1.11	.33	1.06	.25	1.00	.00	.06	-.11
Green Tritan (L)	1.00	.00	1.00	.00	1.00	.00	1.07	.26	-.07	.00

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Blue Tritan (L)	1.00	.00	1.11	.33	1.06	.25	1.07	.26	-.01	-.11
Red Tritan (R)	1.14	.38	1.00	.00	1.06	.25	1.13	.35	-.05	.14
Green Tritan (R)	1.00	.00	1.00	.00	1.00	.00	1.00	.00	.00	.00
Blue Tritan (R)	1.29	.49	1.22	.44	1.25	.45	1.13	.35	.12	.07
VEP										
Blue-Yellow latency (ms)	145.54	4.66	149.56	10.20	147.80	8.27	152.42	9.22	-4.62	-4.02
Red-Green latency (ms)	140.55	9.08	143.13	6.17	142.00	7.42	141.36	6.30	.64	-2.58
Blue-Yellow Amplitude(μ V)	1.78	.35	1.44	.24	1.59	.33	1.34	.32	.25*	.34*
Red-Green Amplitude (μ V)	1.70	.45	1.88	.43	1.81	.43	1.76	.49	.05	-.18

* $P < .05$

1) R: Right eye only

2) L: Left eye only

3) Bi: Binocular vision

