

Emotional identification in binge drinking: a crossmodal approach

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Context & Aims: Binge drinking (BD), an alcohol consumption pattern characterized by episodic but intense intakes leading to drunkenness, is highly prevalent in adolescents and young adults. However, research on potential emotional identification impairments in this population is scarce. This study aims to explore emotional identification deficits in BD, using an innovative approach combining unimodal and crossmodal stimuli from multiple sensory modalities (faces, bodies, voices)

Methods: The study comprises three emotional identification tasks, respectively related to the identification of the emotion presented by faces, body postures and voices. Stimuli are sourced from validated databases, encompassing seven emotions (anger, disgust, fear, happiness, neutral, sadness and surprise).

Results & Conclusion: Preliminary findings suggest that facial emotions are generally better recognized, while emotions conveyed by body postures are the least well recognized across both groups. No significant differences were observed between groups in terms of accuracy, response times, or sex-related performance correlations.

In conclusion, identifying emotions from body postures appears to pose greater challenges compared to faces or voices. BD does not seem to affect emotional identification abilities when compared to controls across the assessed modalities. However, further research is necessary to confirm these observations and explore the impact of comorbidities (among which tobacco use disorder) on emotional identification.