



ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

ESPS manuscript NO: 14117

Title: Auditory hallucinations: A review of the ERC "VOICE" project

Reviewer’s code: 02445261

Reviewer’s country: Italy

Science editor: Yue-Li Tian

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Date reviewed: 2014-09-26 02:37

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is, in summary, a comprehensive and selective review paper about brain mechanisms and cognitive processes implicated in auditory hallucinations. The manuscript is interesting and well-written, the author may find as follows my main comments/ suggestions. First, i suggest to add a specific Methods section that is currently lacking throughout the main text. Here, the author could specify which type of keywords have been used and in which databases the search has been conducted. Also, the criteria used for initial screening and subsequent inclusion of the main full-text articles in this manuscript needs to be clearly specified. In addition, the “Neuronal correlates of AVH” section (in particular, structural imaging section) seems to widely focus on grey matter abnormalities in AVHs whereas the author does not cite the relevance of white matter brain alterations in AVHs. The final section discussing new ways of acquiring quantitative data on the phenomenology and subjective experience of auditory hallucination going beyond standard interview questionnaires by suggesting a new iPhone app is interesting and absolutely valuable. When the author stated that glutamate is supposed to have an effect on positive symptoms associated with schizophrenia through balancing sub-cortical dopamine release, they correctly mentioned the



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prominence of dysfunctional NMDA receptors (NMDAR). NMDAR inhibition is currently used as a model for inducing a psychotic state. However, NMDAR inhibition is also associated with an antidepressant-like activity. The author should provide more insights and an expert opinion into this area of research. The manuscript is currently lacking in this regard. Similarly, when the author stated that healthy individuals who have been given ketamine and phencyclidine, these individuals showed signs and symptoms of a psychosis. According to the recent literature, there are consistent evidence suggesting that ketamine may be successfully used in refractory-depression as well as to treat suicidal ideation. I suggest to carefully review these recent references and provide a general framework in which the reader may distinguish how ketamine and other NMDAR antagonists may be differentially used in major depression as well as schizophrenia. Figure 1 is difficult to follow and needs to be replaced by a more clear figure. Finally, the manuscript needs to be revised by a native English speaker for the quality of language.



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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Hugdahl K: Auditory hallucinations: A review of the ERC "VOICE" project This is an interesting and extensive review of the literature on auditory hallucinations. Finally the author introduce a new and promising tool, an ipad/iphone application for future research. Minor comments: Page 5, line 4th: SAPS is: Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms. Page 20, line 16: the structure of the sentence is not clear.(control is doubled, or a ' is missing...) Page 21, 1st sentence is not entirely clear.



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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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ESPS manuscript NO: 14117

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well written, very good paper and the author's effort is appreciated. I have no comments.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

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Science editor: Yue-Li Tian

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

GENERAL COMMENTS 1. I think the author has attempted to cover several aspects of AVH in their review including phenomenology, cultural and mainly neurobiological aspects. The difficulty of attempting a review with such a broad focus is that certain sections, e.g. dimensions of AVH, or cultural aspects of AVH appear to be rather incomplete, and do not seem to fit in to the overall theme of neurobiology of AVH. I think that the author should consider narrowing the focus of the review and leave out sections, which may not be directly relevant to the neurobiology of AVH. 2. The referencing style is somewhat variable. I am also not sure whether it conforms to the style used by the journal. The author might want to look into this. 3. The manuscript has several grammatical mistakes, which need to be corrected. It also needs further language editing. **SPECIFIC COMMENTS**

1. In the section on "Schizophrenia and auditory hallucinations" the author mentions several advantages of studying a single symptom such as AVH. I think that the author could include another advantage, that a single symptom could also serve as an endophenotype, which can add to the genetic understanding of the broader phenotype of schizophrenia. 2. I have given some examples of the more obvious grammatical errors below. There are many more,



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which need to be corrected. Core tip Auditory hallucinations is a major symptom in schizophrenia, and the present article reviews recent research with a focus on cognitive and brain markers. - Should be: "Auditory hallucinations are .." The brain activation patterns are suggested to be reinforced through glutamate transmitter abnormality. - Should be something on the lines of: "It is proposed that these patterns of brain activation are mediated by abnormalities of the neurotransmitter glutamine." Schizophrenia and auditory hallucinations The disorder is recognized as a leading cause of morbidity both globally and in particular in the Western world, and rank as one of the most costly disorder to affect humans (Insel, 2010). - Should be: ranks In some cases, hallucinations may also pose a threat to the patient or his/her family members, and even to the society, if it takes the form of 'hearing voices' commanding the patient to commit unwanted behaviors or acts (cf. McCarthy-Jones et al., 2014). - Should be: they Auditory verbal hallucinations (AVHs) AVHs are the most characteristic symptom in schizophrenia and psychosis, and it "defines" the disorder from a clinical and phenomenological point of view. - Should be: symptoms of & they define The "voices" also has a typical negative emotional valence (Badcock et al., 2005; Waters et al., 2006), which is in addition experienced as controlling the patient (cf. Jones, 2010; Hugdahl et al., 2009; 2013), revealing a lack of executive cognitive power by the patient. - Should be: have AVHs and a dimensional approach to mental disorders AVHs should therefore be an ideal target for research from a dimensional point of view since recent studies have identified that about 4-5% of the general population experience "hearing voices" (Johns & Van Os, 2001; Sommer et al., 2008; 2010), also when excluding previous mental health problems, medication, and drug use, a.o. in this group of individuals. - What does a.o. mean? - I would avoid words such as "hallucinators" & "voice hearers"- these are stigmatizing labels The phenomenology of AVHs AVHs are phenomenologically speaking a conviction that out-of-body voices/individuals are talking to the patient despite the absence of an external acoustic signal (Stephane et al., 2001; Jones & Fernyhough, 2007; Jones, 2010, Hoffman et al., 1999). - I think the more appropriate word here & in other parts of the text should be: auditory



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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

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Reviewer's country: Germany

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<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The author reviews the state of the knowledge about auditory verbal hallucinations. I have just a few remarks: You mention the finding that normally functioning men and women report AVR. What is the difference - according to the proposed model - to patients with schizophrenia. What about the metacognitive level? Since metacognitive interventions are helpful, there may be a difference in metacognitive skills that determines whether AVH results in impaired function.