

The devil you don't know: startle potentiation to uncertain threat attenuated by alcohol regardless of intolerance of uncertainty

BACKGROUND

Alcohol has been shown to reduce startle potentiation during uncertain threat [1]. Women report greater panic symptoms compared to men and have demonstrated greater startle to uncertain threat [2]. Intolerance of uncertainty (IU) has been shown to be positively correlated with startle potentiation during situations of increased uncertain threat [3].

METHOD

N = 128 undergraduate students from the University of Wisconsin

64 in no alcohol beverage group

64 in alcohol beverage group



Intolerance of Uncertainty (Intolerance of Uncertainty Scale [IUS])



self-report

Sex

Startle Potentiation to Uncertain Shock Threat



General Linear Model (additive and interactive models)

Future work should ask...

Is there a relationship between the way biological females are socialized and higher levels of defensive reactivity?

FINDINGS

