# Neural mechanisms of Oxytocin in human social-emotional behaviour in males and females

Published: 13-03-2009 Last updated: 06-05-2024

To gain insight in the neurobiological mechanisms behind oxytocin effects on human social-

emotional behaviour.

Ethical reviewApproved WMOStatusRecruitment stoppedHealth condition typeOther conditionStudy typeInterventional

# **Summary**

#### ID

**NL-OMON39969** 

Source

ToetsingOnline

**Brief title** 

neural mechanisms of OT

#### Condition

Other condition

#### **Synonym**

nvt

#### **Health condition**

geen, fundamenteel onderzoek

#### **Research involving**

Human

### **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Universiteit Utrecht

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

#### Intervention

Keyword: fMRI, oxytocin, peptides, social behaviour

#### **Outcome measures**

#### **Primary outcome**

Differences in blood oxygen level dependent (BOLD) response between OT administration and placebo will be measured.

#### **Secondary outcome**

2 questionaires

# **Study description**

#### **Background summary**

Extensive animal literature point to a pivotal role of oxytocin in social-emotional behaviour in evolutionary distant species. This leads to the prediction that these peptides which mechnisms are at least partly conserved in humans still exert its functions in human social-emotional behaviour. An important question is to what amount these mechanisms play a role in humans. By applying oxytocin administration together with neuro-imaging we try to unravel the underlying neurobiological mechanisms in humans.

#### **Study objective**

To gain insight in the neurobiological mechanisms behind oxytocin effects on human social-emotional behaviour.

#### Study design

A within subjects, double blind placebo controlled OT administration study.

#### Intervention

The participants will self administer nasal OT spray and placebo on two separate days. The order of administration (e.g. OT on the first day/ placebo on the second day) will be counterbalanced.

#### Study burden and risks

Administration of OT is not known to lead to any adverse side-effects as shown in previous studies (e.g. Kosfeld et al., 2005), so it is unlikely that our participants will experience adverse phenomenological alterations. FMRI is a non-invasive technique, so there is no need for special preparation for the subject. There are no known risks associated with fMRI acquisition. If pathology is noticed, and medical treatment is indicated, the subject will be notified. The benefit of the present experiment is increased understanding of underlying neurobiological mechanisms of human social emotional processing.

## **Contacts**

#### **Public**

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# **Trial sites**

#### **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

#### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

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Elderly (65 years and older)

#### Inclusion criteria

healthy, right-handed, age between 18-30, females only using single phase oral contraceptives

#### **Exclusion criteria**

- unremovable metal in or around the body
- oversensitivity for OT or carrier
- use of psychotropic medication of recreational drugs
- alcohol use 24 prior to testing
- habitiual smoking
- psychiatric treatment
- neurological treatment
- endocrinological treatment
- history of closed head injury
- history of epilepsy
- claustrophobia

# Study design

## **Design**

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model: Crossover

Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Double blinded (masking used)

Control: Placebo

Primary purpose: Other

#### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 06-01-2012

Enrollment: 78

Type: Actual

## Medical products/devices used

Product type: Medicine

Brand name: oxytocin

Generic name: oxytocinum

Registration: Yes - NL outside intended use

# **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 13-03-2009

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht (Utrecht)

Approved WMO

Date: 05-02-2010

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht (Utrecht)

Approved WMO

Date: 24-04-2014
Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht (Utrecht)

# **Study registrations**

## Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

## Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

# In other registers

Register ID

EudraCT EUCTR2008-006002-42-NL

CCMO NL25014.041.08