METHODS

BACKGROUND & AIMS

Anxiety operates on multiple time scales, including (1) transient responses to acute, threat-related cues (e.g., emotional faces) and (2) sustained responses to contexts associated with uncertain danger (shock-threat). Although both processes are clinically important, the neurobiology of sustained anxiety has received little attention and is poorly understood.

**Aim 3a: Confirm unpredictable threat-of-shock elicits anxiety, indexed by ratings(1).**

**Aim 3b: Establish the neural bases of sustained responses to uncertain threat cues.**

**Aim 4: Identify regions that are engaged on both time-scales.**

Here, we used fMRI, ratings, and objective measures of arousal (galvanic skin response [GSR]) to validate a novel paradigm for dissociating transient and sustained responses to potential threat in 61 healthy adults.

**METHODS**

**Participants**

- 61 young adults recruited from the University of Maryland.
- Mean age: 20.7 years (SD = 2), 52.45% Male (n=32).

**CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

- These preliminary analyses provided insight into the brain regions that are responsive to uncertain threat in humans.
- Ongoing analyses of this data set focus on individual differences, relations between brain activity and eye-tracking measures of attention, and more sophisticated brain network models.
- Collectively, this work provides a framework for understanding the mechanisms that contribute to anxiety disorders and fundamental aspects of human emotion.

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**REFERENCES**