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**Instructions for use**

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Difficulty of discrimination modulates attentional capture by regulating attentional focus

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Introduction

P3a reflects the neural response regarding attentional capture for deviant events.

Attentional capture for distractor is enhanced by difficulty of discrimination between standard and target in the three-stimulus oddball paradigm.

Hypothesis: attentional capture is modulated by top-down controlled attentional focus.

Methods

Participants: 12 students (7m, 5f; 21-26 yrs.)

Task: Visual three-stimulus oddball task

Stimuli:

Target P3b Amplitude & Latency:
Amplitude: Easy > Difficult (both conditions)
Latency: Easy < Difficult (both conditions)

Distractor P3a Amplitude:
Central condition: Easy < Difficult
Surrounding condition: Easy > Difficult

Conclusion

Attentional capture for distractor is modulated by top-down controlled attentional focus.

Acknowledgments: Risa Sawaki is now at the Center for Mind and Brain, UC Davis, 267 Cousteau Place, Davis, CA, 95618.