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Deficit of supramodal executive control of attention in schizophrenia

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**Abstract**

Although executive control of attention is one of the hallmark cognitive deficits in schizophrenia that has significant impact on everyday functioning due to its relationship with thought processing, whether the deficit occurs across modalities, i.e., is supramodal, remains unclear. To demonstrate the deficit of the supramodal mechanism in SZ, we examined cross-modal correlations between visual and auditory executive control of attention in a group of patients with schizophrenia (SZ;  $n = 55$ ) compared to neurotypical controls (NC;  $n = 55$ ). While the executive control effects were significantly correlated between the two modalities in the NC group, these effects were not correlated in the SZ group, with a significant group difference in the correlation. Further, the inconsistency and magnitude of the cross-modal executive control effects were significantly larger in the SZ group compared to the NC group. Together, these results suggest that there is a disruption of a common supramodal executive control mechanism in patients with schizophrenia, which may be related to the thought processing disorder characterizing schizophrenia.

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