

FLASH VISUAL EVOKED RESPONSE P2 LATENCY INCREASES WITH AGING

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In a recent study of 27 healthy volunteers [1] we found a significant positive correlation between the latency of the P2 component of the flash visual evoked response (VER) and age, and a significant negative correlation between P2 latency and visual memory span. We now have studied another 42 healthy subjects, bringing the total to 69. Using all the data, the correlation between P2 latency and age again is found to be significant (latency=86.92+1.08 age; Pearson $r=0.584$; $p<0.0001$), but the negative correlation between P2 latency and visual memory span is now nonsignificant ($r=0.241$; $p<0.064$). Previously we had speculated that flash P2 latency would correlate negatively with visual memory span and might be a prodromal sign of impending Alzheimer's dementia. That speculation is only weakly supported by the present results, and clarification must await further research.

[1] Moore NC, Vogel RL, Tucker KA, Khairy NM, Coburn KL. P2 flash visual evoked response delay may be a marker of cognitive dysfunction in healthy elderly volunteers. International Psychogeriatrics (submitted).

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