

**Publication****Affective reactivity in heroin-dependent patients with antisocial personality disorder****JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)****ID** 1195185**Author(s)** Walter, Marc; Degen, Bigna; Treugut, Constanze; Albrich, Jürgen; Oppel, Monika; Schulz, André; Schächinger, Hartmut; Dürsteler-Macfarland, Kenneth M; Wiesbeck, Gerhard A**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Wiesbeck, Gerhard A.](#) ; [Walter, Marc](#) ;**Year** 2011**Title** Affective reactivity in heroin-dependent patients with antisocial personality disorder**Journal** Psychiatry research**Volume** 187**Number** 1-2**Pages / Article-Number** 210-3**Keywords** Addiction, Antisocial personality disorder, Heroin, Opioid maintenance treatment, Startle reflex

The Antisocial personality disorder (ASPD), one of the most common co-morbid psychiatric disorders in heroin-dependent patients, is associated with a lack of affective modulation. The present study aimed to compare the affect-modulated startle responses of opioid-maintained heroin-dependent patients with and without ASPD relative to those of healthy controls. Sixty participants (20 heroin-dependent patients with ASPD, 20 heroin-dependent patients without ASPD, 20 healthy controls) were investigated in an affect-modulated startle experiment. Participants viewed neutral, pleasant, unpleasant, and drug-related stimuli while eye-blink responses to randomly delivered startling noises were recorded continuously. Both groups of heroin-dependent patients exhibited significantly smaller startle responses (raw values) than healthy controls. However, they showed a normal affective modulation: higher startle responses to unpleasant, lower startle responses to pleasant stimuli and no difference to drug-related stimuli compared to neutral stimuli. These findings indicate a normally modulated affective reactivity in heroin-dependent patients with ASPD.

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