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# Extinction of Drug Cue Reactivity in Methamphetamine-

## **Dependent Individuals**

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### Abstract

Conditioned responses to drug-related environmental cues (such as craving) play a critical role in relapse to drug use. Animal models demonstrate that repeated exposure to drug-associated cues in the absence of drug administration leads to the extinction of conditioned responses, but the few existing clinical trials focused on extinction of conditioned responses to drug-related cues in drug-dependent individuals show equivocal results. The current study examined drug-related cue reactivity and response extinction in a laboratory setting in methamphetamine-dependent individuals. Methamphetamine cue-elicited craving was extinguished during two sessions of repeated (3) within-session exposures to multi-modal (picture, video, and in-vivo) cues, with no evidence of spontaneous recovery between sessions. A trend was noted for a greater attenuation of response in participants with longer (4-7 day) inter-session intervals. These results individuals, offering promise for the development of extinction- based treatment strategies.

#### Keywords

methamphetamine addiction; drug cues; cue exposure; cue exposure therapy

### INTRODUCTION

Consistent with a Pavlovian conditioning theory, cues associated with drug using (e.g. paraphernalia, locations where drug is used) acquire the capacity to elicit conditioned responses, such as craving, as a consequence of repeated pairings between the cues and the central nervous system effects of the drug (i.e. activation of reward pathways in the brain; Pavlov, 1927). This conditioned association has been systematically examined in human laboratory settings using paradigms in which participants are exposed to cues related to the

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use of nicotine (LaRowe, Saladin, Carpenter, & Upadhyaya, 2007; McClernon et al., 2007; Tiffany, Cox, & Elash, 2000), alcohol (Glautier & Drummond, 1994; Monti et al., 1993; Szegedi et al., 2000), heroin (Moring & Strang, 1989; Sell et al., 2000; Yu et al., 2007), and cocaine (Avants, Margolin, Kosten, & Cooney, 1995; Robbins, Ehrman, Childress, & O'Brien, 1999; Saladin, Brady, Graap, & Rothbaum, 2006), and subjective, behavioral, and physiological responses are recorded. Several studies have shown that craving is related to relapse to drug-taking behavior (Back, Brady, Sonne, & Verduin, 2006; Brady et al., 2006; Cooney, Litt, Morse, Bauer, & Gaupp, 1997; Drummond & Glautier, 1994; Killen & Fortmann, 1997; Rohsenow et al., 1994), and conditioned responses to drug cues play a critical role in relapse during abstinence, when craving is likely to be elevated (Childress, McLellan, Ehrman, & O'Brien, 1988; O'Brien, Childress, Ehrman, & Robbins, 1998; Sinha, Fuse, Aubin, & O'Malley, 2000).

While craving and reactivity to cocaine-associated cues is reliable and robust (Coffey et al., 2002; Robbins et al., 1999; Saladin et al., 2006; Sinha et al., 2000), relatively little attention has been given to methamphetamine (METH), a related psychostimulant with high abuse and dependence liability. Emerging evidence suggests that craving to METH cues can be reliably measured in METH-dependent individuals (Bruehl, Lende, Schwartz, Sterk, & Elifson, 2006; Newton et al., 2006; Tolliver et al., 2010) and cue-elicited craving is a strong predictor of subsequent METH use (Hartz, Frederick-Osborne, & Galloway, 2001). Accordingly, cue-elicited METH craving should be viewed as a clinically important phenomenon.

Animal models demonstrate that repeated exposure to drug-associated cues in the absence of drug administration leads to the extinction of conditioned responses (Barr et al., 1983; Neisewander, O'Dell, Tran-Nguyen, Castaneda, & Fuchs, 1996; See, 2002). Early work applying these principles to drug-dependent clinical populations showed promise in reducing reactivity to drug-associated cues and improving drug-use related outcomes (e.g. Childress, McLellan, & O'Brien, 1986; O'Brien, Childress, McLellan, & Ehrman, 1990). Nevertheless, the limited number of studies employing such techniques in clinical settings have had mixed results (e.g. Cooney et al., 1997; Drummond & Glautier, 1994; Monti et al., 1993; Rohsenow et al., 2001). Recent studies of experimentally-controlled acquisition, extinction, and renewal of conditioned appetitive responses have elucidated nuances of extinction and renewal, including the importance of context and expectation (Thewissen, Snijders, Havermans, van den Hout, & Jansen, 2006; Van Gucht, Vansteenwegen, Beckers, & Van der Bergh, 2008); however, if and how to integrate these subtleties into treatmentoriented extinction paradigms is not vet clear. A recent review of the use of cue extinction paradigms in drug-dependent clinical populations (Conklin & Tiffany, 2002) discussed the disconnect between the theoretical promise of this type of intervention and the use of extinction training in clinical practice. The authors cited the lack of clear optimal parameters for conducting cue extinction studies as one possible contribution to the inconsistent results. In addition, the time course and parameters influencing extinction may differ across substances, as use patterns tend to vary across classes of drugs of abuse. Thus, further research to characterize drug cue extinction is warranted. The purpose of this study is to explore extinction of craving response to METH-related cues following repeated exposure in METH-dependent individuals.

#### **METHODS**

#### Subjects

Men and women aged 18-50 who met DSM-IV criteria for METH dependence within the past six months were eligible to participate. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Medical University of South Carolina. All participants provided

written informed consent after being fully informed of potential risks of participation before any study assessments/procedures were undertaken. Both treatment-seeking and nontreatment-seeking participants were recruited through referrals from local substance abuse treatment clinics or advertisements in the community and were compensated with vouchers for their participation. All subjects were required to maintain abstinence from METH, alcohol, and all other drugs of abuse except nicotine as confirmed by breathalyzer and urine drug screening on the day of test assessments. Exclusion criteria included a history of or current psychotic disorder, bipolar affective disorder, or major depressive disorder requiring antidepressant pharmacotherapy or presenting with significant suicidal risk. Subjects with current severe anxiety disorders including panic disorder, posttraumatic disorder, or generalized anxiety disorder were excluded due to potential interference with the measurement of cue reactivity. Current treatment with benzodiazepines, ß-blockers, antiarrhythmic agents, psychostimulants or any other agents known to interfere with heart rate and skin conductance monitoring was exclusionary. Subjects with significant hematologic, endocrine (including diabetes mellitus), cardiovascular, pulmonary, renal, gastrointestinal, or neurological disease were also excluded.

#### **Study Design**

All study procedures were conducted at the research clinic of Behavioral Health Services in Pickens, South Carolina, a NIDA Clinical Trials Network site. After giving informed consent, potential participants were screened using the MINI International Neuropsychiatric Interview (Sheehan et al., 2003), a structured interview based on the DSM-IV for assessment of psychiatric and substance use symptoms. Quantitative METH and other substance use data for the past 90 days were assessed using the Time-Line Follow-Back (TLFB), a calendar-based instrument used to assess daily self-reported substance use (Sobell & Sobell, 1992) and breathalyzer and urine drug screening was conducted to assess recent substance use. Once all inclusion/exclusion criteria were satisfied, subjects were eligible to begin cue exposure sessions.

#### **Cue Reactivity Procedures**

Participants were administered three 20-minute sequences of multi-modal METH cue exposure over each of two one-hour sessions, resulting in exposure to a total of six cue exposure sequences. Multi-modal METH cues were counterbalanced for order of presentation, and consisted of photographs and video of individuals procuring and using METH and "in vivo" paraphernalia and simulated METH. Baseline craving ratings and physiologic measures were collected 20 minutes and 5 minutes prior to initial cue exposure for each session and subsequently during each cue sequence. The intervals between the two cue exposure sessions varied from 1 day to 7 days. Subjects were required to provide a negative urine drug screen prior to each cue exposure session. Self-reported baseline and cue-induced craving were assessed using a modification of the Within-Session Rating Scale (Childress et al., 1986), a visual analog scale (0-10) assessment of subjective desire to use METH. Physiologic data [heart rate (BPM) and skin conductance (micro-Seimans)] were collected using Ag/AgCl electrodes interfaced to a Biopac MP-100 data acquisition system and analyzed using AcKnowledge software (Biopac, Goleta, CA). Two electrodes were placed on the second phalanx of the first and third fingers of the non-dominant hand for the measurement of skin conductance, and additional electrodes were placed on the anterior chest and left abdomen to record heart rate; participants were instructed not to move during recordings to limit movement artifact.

#### **Statistical Analysis**

Standard descriptive statistics were used to summarize the general demographic and clinical data. Descriptive statistics are denoted as Mean  $\pm$  Standard Error of the Mean (SEM) for

In order to establish that the selected cues were effective in eliciting a conditioned craving response, the Wilcoxon Signed Rank test was used to analyze the difference between craving scores at baseline and those reported during the first cue sequence. The first and second session baseline values were also compared to assess whether non-cue-elicited craving was reduced across sessions.

Extinction of craving response was assessed via covariance pattern models, which account for the correlation across repeated measures as well as data that are missing at random. A type III sums of squares F-test for the sequence effect was used to determine whether significant decreases in conditioned craving occurred over the course of the six cue sequences. To assess whether baseline craving level impacted extinction, secondary analyses included a between-group comparison between those participants who did and those who did not report craving at baseline (i.e., prior to cue presentations in session 1). These comparisons were made by fitting repeated measures ANOVA with craving Group assignment, Sequence, and the interaction between Group and Sequence as the factors of interest. Secondarily, to track the possible extinction of elevated heart rate and skin conductance in response to the cues, similar models as described above were fit with the within-sequence mean heart rate and skin conductance data.

The number of days varied between Sessions 1 and 2 among study participants. Similar repeated measures ANOVAs were used to determine whether the amount of time between cue exposure sessions affected the process of extinction. Baseline group comparisons were done using the Wilcoxon 2-Sample Rank Sum Test Statistic for continuous variables and the Pearson Chi-Square test for categorical characteristics.

All statistical analyses were performed using the SAS System version 9.2. A type I error rate was controlled at 0.05 for all analyses; reported *p*-values were not corrected for multiple comparisons.

#### RESULTS

Twenty-eight subjects were enrolled in the study; four subjects dropped out and multiple cue-sequence extinction data was collected for 24 of subjects. The descriptive and clinical data for the participants are listed in Table 1. The participants had a mean age of  $32.1 (\pm 7.4)$  years and were mostly female (79.2%). The majority of the participants smoked cigarettes (83.3%) and were currently in drug treatment (79.2%); less than 1/3 of the subjects were currently employed full-time (29.2%). Baseline craving values represent the mean of the two craving ratings taken 20 & 5 minutes prior to cue presentation. The two baseline craving ratings for session 1 were not statistically different from one another (20 min:  $1.75 \pm 2.40$ , 5 min:  $1.96 \pm 2.69$ ; p = 0.375).

To establish that the selected METH-related cues activated craving, the change in craving scores before and after exposure to the initial cue sequence was evaluated. The participants reported a mean craving score at baseline of  $1.85 \pm 0.51$ , and following cue sequence 1 reported a craving level of  $4.03 \pm 0.65$  (p < 0.001). The mean craving (and standard deviations) for the two session 2 baselines were  $0.67 \pm 2.04$  and  $0.54 \pm 1.89$ , which are not significantly different p = 0.75. The averaged session 2 baseline craving score was  $0.60 (\pm 0.39)$ , which was significantly lower than the session 1 baseline (p = 0.031).

To assess extinction of cue-elicited responses after repeated exposure, the within-subject effect of cue sequence (6 sequences over 2 sessions) was assessed. The main effect of sequence was significant (F(5,21) = 7.82, p < 0.001), indicating a decrease in craving response to the cues at an average rate of 0.65 per sequence (Figure 1). There was a decrease from  $4.03 \pm 0.65$  following sequence 1 to  $0.85 \pm 0.35$  following sequence 6. Twenty of the 24 participants reported craving for METH following the initial cue sequence (response > 0). Of these 20 participants, the mean % change in craving score through the end of the last cue sequence was -84.4% and 11 (of the 20) participants reported no craving at the end of sequence 6.

Similar analyses were run on the physiologic data (heart rate and skin conductance) and no significant changes were identified. Neither the heart rate nor the skin conductance patterns mirrored those seen for craving ratings.

#### **Baseline Cravers versus Non Cravers**

Following the primary full-cohort analysis, the participants were grouped according to their initial baseline craving. The groupings consisted of 14 participants who had no baseline craving for METH and 10 participants who reported craving at baseline  $(4.45 \pm 0.58)$ . The two groups did not differ with respect to age (non cravers  $31.4 \pm 1.7$  vs. cravers  $33.2 \pm 2.8$ ; p = 0.58), baseline heart rate ( $80.4 \pm 3.8$  vs.  $77.2 \pm 3.6$ ; p = 0.87), baseline skin conductance ( $2.6 \pm 0.3$  vs.  $2.4 \pm 0.6$ ; p = 0.34), percent current smokers (78.6 % vs. 90.0 %; p = 0.62), or percent currently in treatment (85.7% vs. 70.0%; p = 0.62).

The participants that failed to crave at baseline  $(0 \pm 0)$  reported a minimal response to the initial cue  $(1.8 \pm 0.44; p = 0.002)$  while those that did crave METH at baseline rated their craving at 7.1 ± 0.62 following cue sequence 1, an increase of 2.6 ± 0.73 (p = 0.012). Of the ten participants who reported craving at session 1 baseline, only 3 reported craving at the session 2 baseline. Of the 14 participants who reported no craving at session 1 baseline, all continued to report a lack of craving at the session 2 baseline.

The effect of baseline craving groups, sequences, and the interaction of the two were examined for statistical significance. The interaction of sequence and craving group was not significant (F(5,21) = 1.65; p = 0.190). The overall effect of sequence in the model remained significant (F(5,21) = 10.34; p < 0.001) as did the effect of the grouping (F(1,21) = 15.19; p = <0.001), which was to be expected due to the dichotomization on the craving at baseline. Extinction of the conditioned craving response to METH cues was then analyzed independently for those individuals who did and did not report baseline craving. There was a significant effect of sequence (F(5,8) = 11.34; p = 0.001) in the group of baseline cravers, in which craving response to the cues decreased at an average rate of 1.12 per cue exposure sequence (decreasing from  $7.13 \pm 0.62$  to  $1.60 \pm 0.75$ ). Similarly, those who did not crave at baseline showed a significant decrease in cue-elicited craving over the course of the six cue exposure sequences (F(5,65) = 2.69; p = 0.028) with an average decrease of 0.32 per sequence (decreasing from  $1.81 \pm 0.44$  to  $0.31 \pm 0.21$ ; see Figure 1).

#### Effect of Inter-session Interval

Each subject was assigned an inter-session interval (ISI) between 1 and 7 days (median = 2 days). Extinction rates of the individuals with  $\leq 3$  days between cue exposure sessions (n=17) were compared with those that had  $\geq 4$  days between sessions (n=7). Mean baseline craving values did not differ between the ISI Groups (1.79 ± 0.62 for  $\leq 3$  days vs. 2.00 ± 1.00 for  $\geq 4$  days; p = 0.86), nor did their rate of response extinction (F(5,21) = 1.95; p = 0.13). There was also no significant difference in craving response between the two ISI groups (F(1,21) = 0.07; p = 0.796). However, in an *unadjusted* nonparametric (Wilcoxon

Rank Sums) analysis of the total decline in craving from sequence 1 to sequence 6, a trend toward significance was found (p = 0.06), showing a slightly greater average decrease in conditioned craving in the group with > 4 days between session 1 and session 2 (See Table 2).

#### DISCUSSION

In this laboratory study of cue-elicited response extinction in METH users, we have shown that multi-modal METH cues elicit a robust craving response that can be extinguished with multiple presentations of the cues in the absence of METH administration. Several study parameters and subject characteristics were examined to determine their impact on extinction of responses to METH-associated cues. To our knowledge, these are the first data to be published concerning extinction of cue-induced craving in this population of drug-dependent individuals.

The multi-modal cue presentation utilized in this study involved pictures and video of the procurement and use of drug, as well as the 'in vivo' cues of simulated drug and paraphernalia associated with METH use. Similar paradigms have been shown to be effective in eliciting robust craving responses in previously published studies of cocaine-dependent individuals (Childress, McLellan, Ehrman, & O'Brien, 1987; Childress et al., 1986; Robbins et al., 1999; Waldrop et al., in press). Characterization of factors contributing to the elicitation of subjective and physiological responses to different cue modalities in METH users have been detailed and published elsewhere (Tolliver et al., 2010). In an analysis of the clinical and demographic factors contributing to initial METH cue reactivity in the entire study cohort, the strongest predictor of METH cue reactivity was baseline craving (Tolliver et al., 2010).

Of those participants that completed the extinction procedures, 58% did not report any baseline craving while 42% reported some level of craving for METH before exposure to the cues. Most (83%), but not all, participants had a positive craving response to the METH cues, which is consistent with (or even higher than) reports of cue-induced craving among individuals dependent on a number of abused substances (Avants et al., 1995; Coffey et al., 2002; Monti et al., 1993). Because baseline craving was strongly predictive of initial cue reactivity in the larger cohort, we anticipated that this factor might also influence the extinction of response to METH cues. However, both individuals who reported baseline craving and those who did not exhibited significant increases in craving after the initial cue presentation compared to baseline craving levels, as well as a significant decreases of craving response to cues across six sequences of cue exposures (see Figure 1).

A well-established phenomenon associated with extinction of a conditioned response in animal studies is 'spontaneous recovery,' whereby a previously extinguished response is emitted when cues are reintroduced (cf., Pavlov, 1927; Rescorla, 2004a). This has been demonstrated in a number of animal models of extinction of conditioned response to drug-associated stimuli (Di Ciano & Everitt, 2002; Meil & See, 1996), and may play a role in relapse to drug-taking behavior in long-abstinent drug-dependent individuals (Childress et al., 1988; Cooney et al., 1997; Kosten et al., 2006; Sinha & Li, 2007). In this study, no spontaneous recovery of the extinguished response was evident. As the majority of study participants were in drug treatment and had not used METH in the month prior to initiation of extinction, this is consistent with evidence that spontaneous recovery is less likely when the interval between conditioning and extinction training is long (Rescorla, 2004b). There were no increases in cue-elicited responses during the second session, which was conducted a variable number of days after session one, indicating that the METH cues were no longer salient enough to elicit significant craving for the drug. In addition, the level of craving

exhibited during the baseline measure of session 2 was significantly lower than the baseline craving rating in session 1, indicating that no increase in ambient craving had occurred between the cue sessions. The lack of spontaneous recovery suggests that the extinction procedures during the first session had sustained effects. Future studies focused on the demonstration of spontaneous recovery in human laboratory paradigms might be of interest as this might guide the timing of exposure session to maximize extinction.

Since the time between cue exposure sessions has been shown to be relevant in general models of extinction of conditioned responses (Bouton, 1993; Rescorla, 2004b), we varied the length of time between sessions to determine whether this might impact the rate or level of extinction to METH cues; it is important to note that none of our subjects relapsed to METH use between sessions 1 and 2. While the rate of extinction did not vary between those that had shorter ( $\leq 3$  days) versus longer ( $\geq 4$  days) inter-session intervals, there was a trend for those that had the longer inter-session interval to exhibit a greater degree of extinction of the craving response (see Table 2). This finding is generally consistent with recent well-controlled animal studies of extinction of responses to cues associated with different classes of drugs, as use patterns may govern whether spaced versus massed exposure trials are more effective (Wagner, Siegel, & Fein, 1967).

While this experiment has established that elicitation and extinction of METH cue craving response can be established in a laboratory setting, there are limitations to be acknowledged. Without a control group, in which there was no cue exposure and craving data was collected at identical time-points, it is impossible to conclude definitively that the reduction in craving ratings seen in the cue-exposed participants was not merely the result of repeated questioning over time, nor whether the trend in inter-session interval impact on extinction was due to time itself, an effect of time on memory consolidation, or something else. To enable more definitive conclusions, future studies investigating extinction would benefit by including such control conditions.

The lack of relationship between the subjective and physiological responses is troublesome, but not necessarily surprising. A number of drug cue exposure studies have reported a similar lack of correlation between subjective and physiologic response to drug-related cues (for review, see Tiffany & Conklin, 2000), including those that examined extinction of response to drug cues (Childress et al., 1986; Robbins et al., 1999). A number of hypotheses have been proposed for this phenomenon, including discrepancies in whether drug-conditioned cues elicit drug-like (Robinson & Berridge, 1993) or drug-withdrawal (Ludwig & Wikler, 1974) effects, or that cue-elicited responses represent something altogether different, such as a form of cognitive dissonance (Tiffany & Conklin, 2000).

While the current findings are preliminary in nature, they offer promise for the treatment of METH-dependent individuals by demonstrating an intact ability to extinguish conditioned responses in a population in which drug-associated cognitive deficits are commonly reported (for review, see Cruickshank & Dyer, 2009). Recently, the cognitive processes of extinction have become better understood; for example, instead of 're-learning' associations, extinction is now believed to involve the development of new associations (Santini, Muller, & Quirk, 2001; for review, see Lovibond, 2009), a finding that may guide the development of more effective extinction procedures. Cue exposure therapy for anxiety disorders is based on the same behavioral tenets as those used to explain the extinction of conditioned responses to drug cues. However, exposure therapy in the treatment of anxiety disorders has been much more extensively studied and has been used clinically with a great deal of success (Krijn, Emmelkamp, Olafsson, & Biemond, 2004; Rothbaum & Schwartz, 2002; Zinbarg, 1993). In contrast, extinction training is not widely used in the clinical treatment of addictions.

Despite the opposite motivational valence of fear and drug cue conditioning, recent evidence suggests that the brain circuits for extinction of fear and drug addiction may overlap (Peters, Kalivas, & Quirk, 2009). Therefore, repeated non-reinforced exposure to METH-related cues, perhaps in adjunct with more active therapeutic modalities (e.g. cognitive behavioral therapy), may result in a newly-learned response which would enable METH-dependent individuals to better resist the use formerly associated with drug-related cues outside of the laboratory setting.

In conclusion, this study demonstrates robust extinction of conditioned craving response to drug-related cues in METH-dependent individuals over the course of two extinction sessions. These findings have relevant clinical implications that warrant further exploration to establish the effectiveness of extinction training as a component of treatment in METH-dependent populations.

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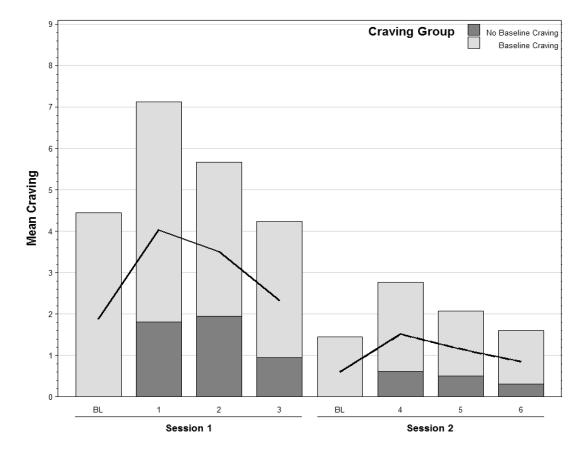
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#### Figure 1.

Mean craving score by sequence across session 1 and session 2 for all subjects and dichotomized by METH craving status at study baseline. The solid line represents the overall mean (n=24).

# Table 1

Demographic and clinical characteristics for all subjects and dichotomized by METH craving status at study baseline.

Demographics and Characteristics <sup>†</sup>	•	All Subjects	cts	B	Baseline Non Cravers	uo	Bas	<b>Baseline Cravers</b>	avers	P Value <sup>§*</sup>
	n	Mean	Std Err	n	Mean	Std Err	r	Mean	Std Err	
Age (yrs)	24	32.1	1.5	14	31.4	1.7	10	33.2	2.8	0.58
HR at Baseline (BPM)	22	79.2	2.7	14	80.4	3.8	×	77.2	3.6	0.87
Skin Cond at Baseline(µS)	24	2.5	0.3	14	2.6	0.3	10	2.4	0.6	0.34
Craving at Baseline	24	1.9	0.5	14	0	0	10	4.5	0.6	<0.01
% Male	24	20.8	8	14	7.1		10	40.0	0	0.12
% Smoker	24	83.3	3	14	78.6	5	10	90.06	0	0.62
% Currently Employed	24	29.2	7	14	21.4	4	10	40.0	0	0.39
% High School Edu	24	37.5	5	14	21.4	<del></del>	10	60.0	0	0.07
% in Treatment	24	79.2	5	14	85.7	4	10	70.0	0	0.62
% Craving At Baseline	24	41.7	7		NA			NA	_	

§ Continuous Variables were compared by use of the Wilcoxon 2-Sample Test Statistic and Categorical Variables were compared by use of the 2-Sided Fisher Exact Test Statistic.

 $\dot{r}$  Continuous V ariables are listed as mean and standard deviation while categorical variables are listed as percentages.

# Table 2

Inter-session Interval Group craving scores (mean  $\pm$  SE) during session 1 baseline, session 1 and 2 by sequence, as well as the absolute change from baseline to the last cue sequence.

	Change 1	Deceline	Session 1			Session 2		
dnoro	From BL	Dasculle	IS	S2	S3	S1	$\mathbf{S2}$	<b>S</b> 3
$\leq 3 Days$	$2.43\pm0.67$	$\leq 3 \ Days  \left[ \begin{array}{c c} 2.43 \pm 0.67 \\ \end{array} \right] 1.79 \pm 0.62  \left[ \begin{array}{c c} 3.55 \pm 0.78 \\ \end{array} \right] 3.25 \pm 0.71  \left[ \begin{array}{c c} 2.31 \pm 0.61 \\ \end{array} \right] 1.73 \pm 0.62  \left[ \begin{array}{c c} 1.49 \pm 0.54 \\ \end{array} \right] 1.12 \pm 0.48  \left[ \begin{array}{c c} 3.55 \pm 0.78 \\ \end{array} \right] 3.25 \pm 0.71  \left[ \begin{array}{c c} 3.31 \pm 0.61 \\ \end{array} \right] 1.73 \pm 0.62  \left[ \begin{array}{c c} 3.49 \pm 0.54 \\ \end{array} \right] 1.12 \pm 0.48  \left[ \begin{array}{c c} 3.49 \pm 0.61 \\ \end{array} \right] $	$3.55\pm0.78$	$3.25\pm0.71$	$2.31\pm0.61$	$1.73\pm0.62$	$1.49\pm0.54$	$1.12\pm0.48$
$\geq 4 Days$	$5.00\pm1.12$	$ \label{eq:2.1} \ensuremath{ > 4 \ Days} \ensuremath{ \ \ \ } 5.00 \pm 1.12 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ } 2.19 \pm 1.18 \ensuremath{ \ \ } 4.10 \pm 1.47 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ } 2.33 \pm 1.20 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ } 1.00 \pm 0.74 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ } 0.33 \pm 0.22 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ } 0.19 \pm 0.12 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ } 2.19 \pm 0.12 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ \ \ } 0.19 \pm 0.12 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ \ \ } 0.19 \pm 0.12 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ \ \ \ } 0.19 \pm 0.12 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ } 0.19 \pm 0.12 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ } 0.19 \pm 0.12 \ensuremath{ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ } 0.19 \pm 0.12  \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \$	$5.19\pm1.18$	$4.10\pm1.47$	$2.33 \pm 1.20$	$1.00\pm0.74$	$0.33\pm0.22$	$0.19\pm0.12$
P-Value * 0.06	0.06	0.86	0.23	0.64	0.99	0.30	0.13	0.16

2 Sample Wilcoxon Rank Sums test p value.