

Perturbations in Effort-Related Decision Making Driven by Acute Stress and Corticotropin-Releasing Factor

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Supplementary Methods

Initial lever training

Lever training commenced following at least 5 days of food restriction. Approximately 20 sugar pellets were placed into the rat's cage on the day prior to the first exposure to the operant chamber. On the first day of lever training one of two levers was extended and 2-3 crushed sugar pellets were positioned on this lever prior to placing the rat into the operant chamber. Rats were first trained under a fixed-ratio 1 (FR1) to a criterion of 60 presses in 30 minutes on one lever. When the criterion was met FR1 training was conducted on the other lever, ensuring that both levers were experienced.

For rats that were to be trained on the decision making tasks, after initial training on an FR1 schedule, they were subsequently trained on a simplified version of the full task, requiring rats to press the retractable lever within 10 seconds of extension to receive one pellet or the trial was counted as an omission (90 trials/session, 40 s ITI). Sessions consisted of 90 training trials with a 40 second inter-trial interval (ITI). Rats were trained for ~ 5 days to a criterion of 80 successful trials (i.e. < 10 omissions) for 2 consecutive days.