

Comparison of Negative, Self-Referential Schemas Between Depressed, Remitted, and Healthy Controls

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GOALS



Assessing the presence of **negative self-schematization outside** of a current depressive episode

1. Drift Rate
2. Number of negative words endorsed



Evaluating **the stability of the SRET** task over time

METHODS

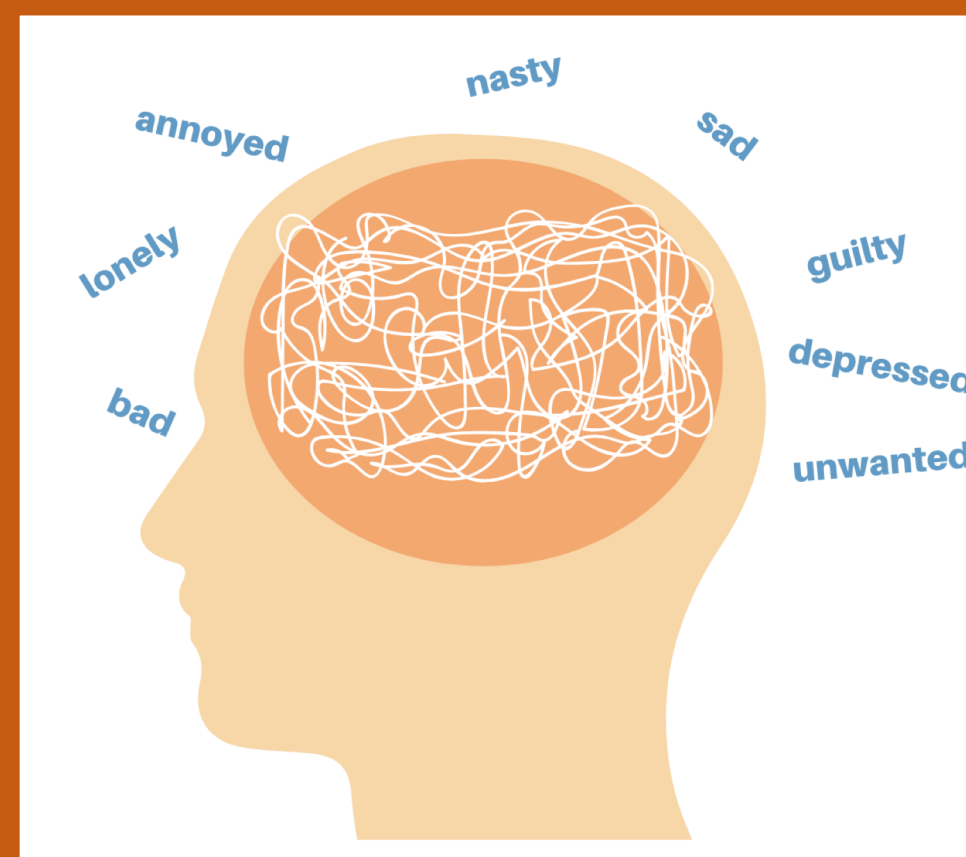
1. N = 172 (currently depressed, MDD = 51, remitted depressed, RM = 73, healthy controls, HC = 48).
2. Diagnoses were assessed using the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI) for DSM-5. Self-referential processing was measured using number of negative words endorsed and drift rate from the Self-Referential Encoding Task (SRET).
3. We used the Wilcoxon rank sum test and Spearman's rank correlation rho to compare differences in these outcomes.

RESULTS

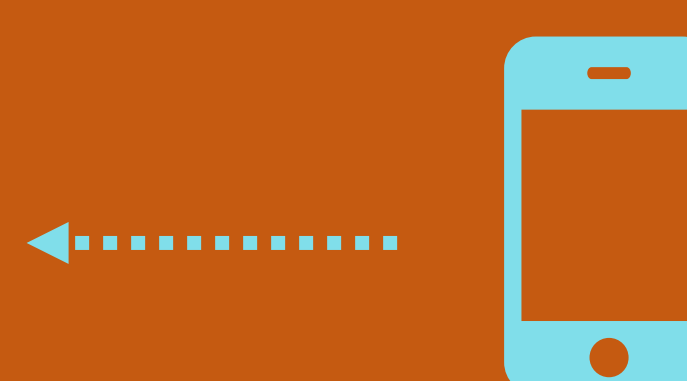
- Both number of negative words endorsed and drift rate differed significantly among groups.
- All three groups had relatively stable performances for both metrics across a one-week period.

DISCUSSION

- Our results suggest that test-retest reliability, as indexed by the SRET, is adequate across different clinical groups.
- RM individuals endorsed negative words faster and more frequently than HC participants, but not at the levels found in MDDs.



This study suggests that two metrics of self-referential schemas are relatively stable across a one-week period, and that stability is unaffected by diagnostic status. Additionally, negative self-schemas associated with MDD may be persistent during remission, though not to the extent found within a depressive episode.



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Table 1: Test-Retest Reliability of Drift Rate and Number of Negative Words Endorsed (Spearman's Rank Correlation Rho)

Group	Drift Rate		Number of Negative Words Endorsed	
	rho	p-value	rho	p-value
MDD	0.722	2.255e-09	0.808	7.6e-13
RM	0.728	2.884e-13	0.708	2.444e-12
HC	0.746	1.178e-09	0.734	2.847e-09

Table 2: Number of Negative Words Endorsed: Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test with Continuity Correction

Comparison	Median	W	r	p-value (Bonferroni corrected)
MDD v RM	MD 13 D RM 8	1123.5	-.334	0.00053
MDD v HC	MD 13 D HC 2	290.5	-.658	1.8 e -10
RM v HC	RM 8 HC 2	945.5	-.390	5.5e -05

Table 3: Drift Rate for Negative Words: Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test with Continuity Correction

Comparison	Median	W	r	p-value (Bonferroni corrected)
MDD v RM	MDD -0.058 RM -0.512	1264	-.272	0.00730
MDD v HC	MDD -0.058 HC -1.550	371	-.600	7.2e-09
RM v HC	RM -0.512 HC -1.550	985	-.369	0.00015

