

Role of serotonin in cue exposure-induced craving in an inpatient sample of Egyptian addicts

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This study aimed to examine whether the plasma level of serotonin 5-HT was altered during substance abuse and whether this measure would be related to craving.

The study also explored whether alterations in 5-HT activity differ between the types of cue exposure (auditory and visual) in substance-dependent patients during craving. The plasma measurements of 5-HT and assessments of craving were performed longitudinally in ten Egyptian opium-dependent patients who were hospitalized for detoxification, at baseline, after answering craving questionnaire, assessing the different craving

inducing situations and after exposing them to a video that is full of cues. These measures were compared with 5-HT levels obtained from an equal number of matched controls. The study concluded that craving can be induced by auditory as well as visual cues, both are associated with the changes in serotonin

levels which is more evident with auditory cues.

This proved that craving has biological basis.