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## **A Controlled Analysis of Subjective Paranormal Experiences in Temporal Lobe Dysfunction in a Neuropsychiatric Population**

### **Results:**

This research extended to a neuropsychiatric population findings by Neppe and by Persinger that subjective paranormal experiences (SPEs) are associated with temporal lobe dysfunction (TLD) in the brain. The sample consisted of 100 of Neppe's patients. TLD was defined by 4 diagnostic criteria: (a) symptomatology as measured by 16 TLD-specific items from Neppe's INSET questionnaire; (b) predisposing conditions (recreational drugs, brain damage); (c) anomalous electroencephalographic (EEG) activity; and (d) response to anti-convulsant drugs. SPEs were measured by questions on the INSET referring to ESP, apparitional, and out-of-body experiences. TLD criteria and SPEs were coded independently by 2 raters. 60 patients classified as having TLD had more SPEs than 27 patients who were not ( $p < .05$ , one-tailed). 13 borderline patients on TLD were removed. Supplementary regression analyses revealed that this result was due entirely to symptoms (INSET) as predictor ( $p < .001$ ). Females reported significantly more TLD symptoms and SPEs than males, but this confound did not destroy the INSET-SPE relationship. Phone interviews of 20 patients reporting SPEs confirmed that the great majority had at least one credible ESP experience. Secondary analyses using as predictors specific INSET items and EEG variables indicated that ESP experiences were positively associated with right-side lateralization (left-hemisphere dominance), and high scores on auditory/visual hallucinations and jamais vu. ESP experiences were most common among females with relatively high-frequency EEG abnormalities in the left temporal (and to a lesser degree) left frontal brain areas, but that were not generalized. This effect significantly reversed for males.

### **Published Work:**

Palmer, J., Neppe, V. M., Nebel, H., & McGill, S. (2001). A controlled analysis of subjective paranormal experiences in temporal lobe dysfunction in a neuropsychiatric population. *Proceedings of Presented Papers: The Parapsychological Association 44th Annual Convention*, pp. 218-234.

Palmer, J., & Neppe, V. M. (2003). A controlled analysis of subjective paranormal experiences in a neuropsychiatric population. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 67, 75-97.

Palmer, J., & Neppe, V. M. (2004). "Exploratory analyses of refined predictors of subjective ESP experiences and temporal lobe dysfunction in a neuropsychiatric population". *European Journal of Parapsychology*, 19, 44-65.

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