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Introduction

Smell is one of the oldest senses in evolution, plays a key role in development, relationships, pleasure, health, safety and survival [1]. Smell is associated with memories, moods and emotions, food preferences, pheromones, mating and parent-infant bonding. Although humans are less dependent on smell for survival than other mammals, smell is critical for detecting polluted air and water, smoke and leaking gas, and spoiled foods [2]. Despite these important functions, smell has been one of the neglected senses.

Although the sense of smell functions as early as the fetal stage, decreased olfactory function occurs with aging, with over half of those between the ages of 65 and 80 and over three quarters of those over the age of 80 experiencing this problem [3]. In a sample with olfactory disorder, 68% of the patients presented with hyposmia and 32% with anosmia [4]. Olfaction has been notably worse in men in most studies [2,5], although there are some exceptions [6]. In the latter study, lower olfaction scores were also related to lower educational status.

An inability to identify smells or tastes predates the clinical symptoms of several neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric diseases, highlighting their importance as markers for early interventions. Neurodegenerative diseases that have been associated with inferior smell identification include Parkinson's [7-12], Alzheimer's [9, 13,14] and a myotrophic lateral sclerosis [8] and the neuropsychiatric/smell disorder conditions include ADHD [15,16], anxiety disorders [17], Autism Spectrum Disorder [18-20], depression [21], eating disorders [22] and schizophrenia [23-26].

Most of the empirical studies have compared clinical and non-clinical groups on smell tests, although more recently, some longitudinal studies have documented sensory dysfunction in at-risk, first degree relatives who later show the cardinal motor signs [8,27]. The University of Pennsylvania Smell Identification Test (UPSIT) is the most frequently used test [8], although several other shorter and less expensive versions have been developed including the Sini n Sticker Test (SST) [9], the Brief Smell Identification Test (B-SIT) [28], the Odor Stick Identification Test (OSIT) [8], the San Diego Odor Identification Test (SDOIT) [28] and most recently the peanut butter smell test [14]. These tests, for example the Sini n Sticks test has been significantly correlated with a visual analogue scale in at least one study [29].

The etiology and development of these sensory dysfunctions are not known, but the dopamine, norepinephrine, serotonin, acetylcholine and orbitofrontal cortex systems have been implicated in several of the neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric conditions associated with smell dysfunction [8,38]. These include, for examples, Parkinson's and ADHD. Although sensory tests have been developed for infants and young children who are noted to have hypo or hypersensitivity as well as sensory integration problems [33], longitudinal studies have not

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of apathy relative to non-AD participants, but odor identification deficits were correlated with apathy levels, not depression, across the AD and non-AD samples [13].

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

In a study on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig's disease ALS patients' UPSIT scores were significantly lower than they were for a control group [72].

Sensory dysfunction in neuropsychiatric diseases

Sensory dysfunction is also an early marker for neuropsychiatric diseases including autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, eating disorders, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder and schizophrenia, with the lion's share of the published research being on attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and schizophrenia. And, as in neurodegenerative diseases, smell testing has been used.

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Limitations of e Literature and Future Directions

Odor identification deficits have been documented in many studies

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