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Characteristics of face recognition in deaf-mute children with different emotions: Evidence from ERP

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By using the method of event-related potential, the characteristics of the **emotional processes** including happy, sad and neutral faces in deaf-mute children and the control group were investigated. The results showed that N170 component was induced in both deaf-mute children and control children under the condition of judging happy and sad faces and neutral faces. At the initial stage of face processing, the amplitude of the deaf-mute children induced by sad and happy faces and neutral faces was higher than that of the control group. The typical emotional valence effect was observed in deaf-mute children and control children during the 400-800ms after the presentation of the stimulus, sad and happy face amplitude induced by judgment were greater than neutral faces, and the strength and scope of the judgment of the sad face is greater than that of the happy face. More importantly, the amplitude of the induced late positive component (LPC) was significantly different between deaf-mute children and control children. In the late processing stage, different brain regions were activated by the judgment of emotion between deaf and dumb children and the children in the control group. This result indicates that deaf and dumb children have defects in emotional face recognition.

Keyword: Deaf-mute children, emotional faces, ERP, LPC

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