

# CinguloAmygdala Interactions in Surprise and Extinction: Interpreting Associative Ambiguity

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Many chapters in this volume depict the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) as a heterogeneous structure involved in the processing of both cognitive and emotional information. A vast animal and human literature supports the notion that the amygdala is a critical structure in the processing of emotional information. Given the strong reciprocal connectivity between the ACC and the amygdala, any assessment of the role of the ACC in the processing of emotional information would benefit from careful consideration of cinguloamygdala interactions. To this end, we explore the relation between electrophysiological data recorded from the rodent brain and functional neuroimaging data gleaned from studies in humans. Taken together, these data reveal a specific role for cinguloamygdala processing in the interpretation of emotional information, especially when the predictive value of biologically relevant stimuli is ambiguous.

## Goals of This Chapter

We begin by briefly describing the anatomical connections between the ACC, the anterior midcingulate cortex (amCC), and amygdala; the reader is referred to Chapter 6 for a more thorough review of amygdalocingulate circuits. We then consider studies of extinction learning in animal subjects that have delineated a particularly compelling relationship between the subgenual ACC and the amygdala. Finally, human neuroimaging reports

of cinguloamygdala interactions are reviewed that provide data consistent with the animal work. We find that amygdala responsivity to biologically relevant stimuli can routinely come under regulatory control of the ACC and aMCC. This chapter has the following specific goals:

- 1 Describe the reciprocal connectivity between ACC and different nuclei in the amygdala.
- 2 Provide a summary of experimental data on extinction learning and single-unit recordings in rat ACC.
- 3 Summarize fMRI observations in human subjects showing that a similar “extinction-like” ACC-amygdala circuitry is activated in human subjects when viewing faces with surprised expressions.
- 4 Evaluate the relationship between these data sets derived from disparate sources.
- 5 Provide a clear definition of associative ambiguity, and consider a hypothesis that reconciles these cross-species results.

### Anterior Cingulate and Midcingulate Reciprocal Connections with Basolateral Amygdala

The anatomy and connectivity of the amygdala has been reviewed for the primate (Amaral *et al.*, 1992; Chapters 6 and 15) and the rat (Pitkänen, 2000). An extensive animal literature has generated compelling evidence that the basolateral amygdala nuclei (lateral, basal, accessory basal; BLA) can be behaviorally, chemoarchitecturally, and ontogenetically dissociated from amygdala sub-structures such as the corticomедial nucleus and central nucleus/extended amygdala (Hatfield *et al.*, 1996; Killcross *et al.*, 1997; Amorapanth *et al.*, 2000; Davis and Whalen, 2001; Gallagher, 2000; Swanson and Petrovitch, 1998; Alheid, 2003). A functional model of the amygdala that has proven useful offers the lateral nucleus as a sensory input structure, the basal nuclei as convergent processing areas, and the central nucleus (Ce) as the origin of descending output to autonomic and visceral targets (Ledoux *et al.*, 1990; Pitkänen *et al.*, 1997; Ledoux, 1996). However, numerous anterograde and retrograde tract-tracing studies have revealed extensive projections originating in the BLA to frontal, insular, anterior cingulate, visual, and parahippocampal cortices (Krettek and Price, 1977; McDonald, 1991; Ghashghaei and Barbas, 2002; McDonald, 1987; Sripanidkulchai *et al.*, 1984; Amaral and Price, 1984; Petrovich *et al.*, 1996; Barbas and De Olmos, 1990; Conde *et al.*, 1995; Sarter and Markowitsch, 1984; Kita and Kitai, 1990; Bacon *et al.*, 1996; Pitkänen *et al.*, 2000; Freese and Amaral, 2005). Thus, though the Ce has a widespread (primarily descending) projection system

(Davis, 2000), the BLA has an ascending projection system of its own, and the ACC is one of its major targets.

The amygdalofugal projections targeting the ACC and aMCC of the monkey originate primarily in the basal and accessory basal nuclei, and most heavily innervate areas 25, 24, and 32 (Amaral *et al.*, 1992; Chapter 6). The terminal fields of these ACC projecting amygdaloid axons are seen primarily at the border between layer I and II, as well as within layers V and VI (Amaral and Price, 1984). These projections are most likely excitatory in nature, as the typical projection neuron of the BLA is the glutamatergic pyramidal cell (McDonald, 1992). In fact, a recent study looking at hippocampal-amygdala interactions in the anesthetized rat observed short latency excitatory responses in ACC neurons following electrical stimulation of the BLA (Ishikawa and Nakamura, 2003). However, electrical stimulation of the BLA in the rat can also inhibit the activity of ACC neurons (Ishikawa and Nakamura, 2003; Perez-Jaranay and Vives, 1991), which is perhaps indicative of a feed-forward inhibition.

The ACC projections to the amygdala arise from neurons in areas 24, 32, and 25 (McDonald, 1998). Although primarily observed in the BLA, tract-tracing studies in the rat and cat have shown widespread ACC termination in the amygdala, while the projections appear to be restricted to the magnocellular subdivisions of the basal and accessory basal nuclei in the primate (Cassell and Wright, 1986; McDonald *et al.*, 1996; McDonald, 1998; Stefanacci and Amaral, 2002; Pandya *et al.*, 1981; Chiba *et al.*, 2001; Carmichael and Price, 1995; Ottersen, 1982; Hurley *et al.*, 1991; Sesack *et al.*, 1989; Takagishi and Chiba, 1991; Aggleton *et al.*, 1980; Russchen, 1982; Pandya *et al.*, 1973). Electron microscopic investigation of the synaptology of the ACC projection to amygdala found that these afferent terminals form asymmetric synapses primarily on dendritic spines (Brinley-Reed *et al.*, 1995), indicative of an excitatory ACC input to the BLA. In fact, electrical stimulation of area 32 (PL) and area 25 (IL) in the rat excites inhibitory interneurons within BLA (Rosenkranz and Grace, 2001) and reduces the excitability of Ce output neurons (Quirk *et al.*, 2003), which again suggests a feed-forward inhibitory circuitry. Similarly, chemical stimulation of the area 25/IL activates GABAergic intercalated cells in the amygdala, which inhibit BLA projections to the Ce (Barrett *et al.*, 2003). Some fibers from the ACC also appear to terminate in the substantia innominata and extended amygdala (Aggleton *et al.*, 1980; McDonald *et al.*, 1999). Thus, the ACC has the greatest reciprocal connectivity with the amygdala when compared to MCC.

The nomenclature used to delineate regions of the frontal lobe varies across species, and the analogous regions of the ACC in the rat are shown in Chapter 3. Area 32 is also referred to as PL and area 25 as IL

(McDonald *et al.*, 1996). Here we refer to area 25/IL, areas 32/PL, and area 24. The direct analogies of the rodent, monkey, and human areas in terms of the modified Brodmann nomenclature are available in Chapter 3.

### ACC-Amygdala and Fear Extinction: Electrophysiological and Behavioral Studies

The amygdala is necessary for the acquisition and expression of learned fear associations (Ledoux, 2000; Davis and Whalen, 2001; Maren and Quirk, 2004). Typically, animals learn to fear a conditioned stimulus (CS) that predicts an unconditioned stimulus (US). During auditory fear conditioning for example, following several tone-footshock pairings rats will freeze when the tone is later presented alone (Quirk *et al.*, 1995; Oler and Markus, 1998; Kim and Fanselow, 1992). Thalamic and cortical afferents communicate CS and US information to BLA (Romanski and Ledoux, 1992; Li *et al.*, 1996; Ledoux *et al.*, 1987; Shi and Cassell, 1998), where CS-US associations are thought to be formed (Rogan *et al.*, 1997; Fanselow and Ledoux, 1999). The behavioral and autonomic expression of conditioned fear, however, is thought to result from excitatory influences of the BLA on the coordinated efferent systems of Ce (Davis, 2000).

When the tone CS is repeatedly presented in the absence of the US, the conditioned response will rapidly diminish, a phenomenon known as extinction (Pavlov, 1927). Behavioral studies have demonstrated that extinction does not expunge the CS-US association, but rather a new memory trace is formed, one that inhibits the previously established conditioned response (Quirk, 2002; Rescorla, 2001). The fact that extinction learning requires N-methyl-D-aspartic acid (NMDA) receptors, and is facilitated by NMDA receptor agonists, further supports the idea that extinction is much more than simple forgetting (Falls *et al.*, 1992; Walker *et al.*, 2002; Santini *et al.*, 2001). After extinction, therefore, the CS is inherently ambiguous, potentially predicting either shock or the absence of shock. This ambiguity is especially pronounced when the CS is administered in the context where both conditioning and extinction training occurred (Milad and Quirk, 2002; Quirk *et al.*, 2000).

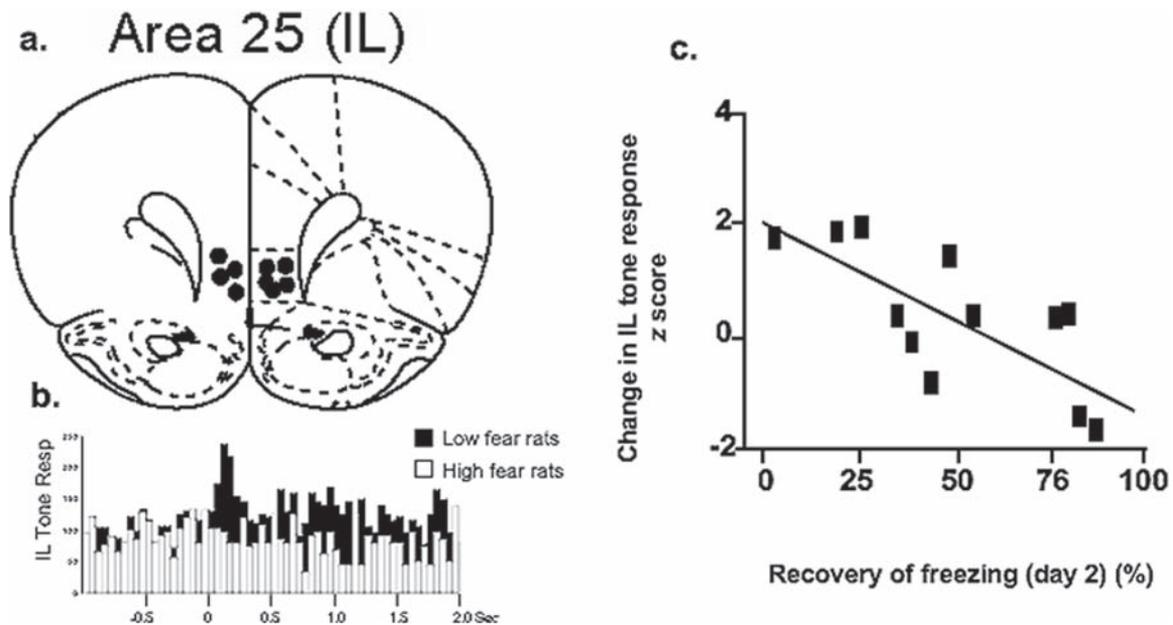
Relevant to the present discussion is the fact that lesions of the area 32/PL in rats prolong the extinction of a conditioned fear response to an explicit CS (Morgan *et al.*, 1993), while lesions of area 25/IL have little effect on the process of conditioning or extinction (Quirk *et al.*, 2000), but instead affect the ability to use this information when these stimuli are encountered in the future. For example, while neurons of area 25/IL are

not responsive to a tone CS during conditioning or extinction training, these same cells show robust CS-evoked firing when the animal is recalling extinction the following day (Milad and Quirk, 2002). The relative change in CS-evoked activity of these area 25 neurons correlates with the behavioral expression of extinction as shown in Figure 9.1. Similar findings in prefrontal cortex have been reported with evoked potentials (Herry and Garcia, 2002) and metabolic mapping techniques (Barrett *et al.*, 2003). Thus, the evidence suggests that long-term memory for extinction depends on area 25/IL and this area may be particularly important in regulating the emotional response to previously learned stimuli.

Electrical stimulation of area 25/IL is sufficient to inhibit the expression of a conditioned fear response, mimicking the effects observed following extinction training, and suggesting that the subgenual ACC can regulate the response of the amygdala to fear eliciting stimuli (Milad *et al.*, 2004). Additionally, stimulation of area 25/IL decreases the responsiveness of Ce output neurons to their afferent inputs (Quirk *et al.*, 2003), a phenomenon hypothesized to be mediated through the intrinsic inhibitory networks of the amygdala (Paré *et al.*, 2004). Conversely, activity of area 32/PL is suppressed with increases in the freezing behavior observed in response to an aversively conditioned CS, and ipsilateral lesions of the BLA attenuate this reciprocal relationship (Garcia *et al.*, 1999). The fact that acquisition inhibits, and extinction potentiates ACC activity is consistent with ACC inhibition of conditioned fear. Thus, complex interactions among the rat area 32/PL (pregenual ACC), area 25/IL (sACC), and amygdala mediate fear extinction learning and expression.

### Imaging Studies of CinguloAmygdala Interactions

Neuroimaging studies employing functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) are beginning to reveal the relationships and functional architecture of emotion and its expression in humans (Davidson and Irwin, 1999). The ACC can be subdivided (based on behavioral, electrophysiological, and imaging data) into a “cognitive” division (aMCC) and an “affective” division (ACC; Bush *et al.*, 2000; Devinsky *et al.*, 1995). In a meta-analysis of imaging studies of ACC function, Bush *et al.* (2000) convincingly demonstrate that cognitively demanding tasks (i.e., Stroop tasks, divided-attention tasks, response-selection tasks and working-memory tasks) produce activations that cluster in the aMCC, while affect-related tasks (i.e., emotional faces, symptom provocation) generate activations that cluster in the ACC. Indeed, this dichotomy in ACC function was observed within the same subjects across two studies



**Fig. 9.1** Area 25/IL tone responses are correlated with spontaneous recovery of freezing after extinction. A. Recording sites in Area 25/IL. B. Group PSTHs showing tone responses of neurons from high-recovery (12 cells) and low-recovery (19 cells) groups on day 2. The bin size was 50 ms. C. Scatter plot showing the change in tone response across days versus the percentage recovery of freezing on day 2. Firing rate 0–400 ms after tone onset was compared to pre-tone baseline rate with z-score. Each point represents the averaged response of all recorded neurons in each rat (Milad and Quirk, 2002).

(Bush *et al.*, 1998; Whalen *et al.*, 1998). Each study employed one of two Stroop-like interference tasks with differing causes of interference (i.e. one “cognitive” and one “affective”). During the cognitive version of the task (the counting Stroop), sets of up to four vertically tiled words appeared on a screen. Subjects were instructed to press a button corresponding to the number of words in each set, regardless of their meaning. Interference trials contained number words that were incongruent with the correct response (e.g. ‘three’ written four times). During the interference portion of the affective version of the task (the emotional counting Stroop), emotionally laden words were substituted for the number words (e.g. ‘murder’ written four times). Emotionally neutral words were used for comparison. As nicely depicted by Bush *et al.* (2000, Box 1, p. 218 and in Chapter 12), the cognitive version of the task activated the aMCC and the emotional version of the task activated pACC.

Neurons in the ACC and amygdala respond to both positive and negative events, stimuli that predict these events, and the devaluation or reversal of these predictive contingencies (Baxter *et al.*, 2000; Saddoris *et al.*, 2005; Rolls, 1999; Chapter 8). In this context it should be noted that reversal learning is also critically dependent upon the adjacent orbital prefrontal cortex. Thus, interactions between these regions may be especially

important for response to a change in the predictive meaning of a presented stimulus, consistent with the modulatory role the sACC appears to play in extinction (Morgan *et al.*, 1993; Quirk *et al.*, 2000). Numerous studies suggest that sensory stimuli demonstrating some predictive validity in terms of biological import (e.g., possible threat) appear sufficient to engage the amygdala, even though these stimuli may not evoke high levels of arousal (Whalen, 1998). Pictures of fearful facial expressions are a good example of such stimuli (Ekman and Friesen, 1976). An intact amygdala facilitates the perception of fear in a face (Adolphs *et al.*, 1994; Adolphs *et al.*, 2005), and fearful faces are routinely used to activate the human amygdala in the scanner (Whalen *et al.*, 2001). Indeed, though a portion of the amygdaloid complex (dorsal amygdala) is likely sensitive to the fact that fearful expressions leave the source of their elicitation ambiguous (see Whalen, 1998; Whalen *et al.*, 2001 for discussion), robust amygdala activation observed within the ventral amygdala (BLA) is likely due to unanimous agreement across subjects that fearful expressions are negatively valenced (Kim *et al.*, 2003). Given the hypothesis that cinguloamygdala circuits subservise valence calculations during extinction training, one way to observe increased cinguloamygdala interaction in an imaging study of facial expression would be to select an expression with unclear valence.

### Facial Expression of Surprise

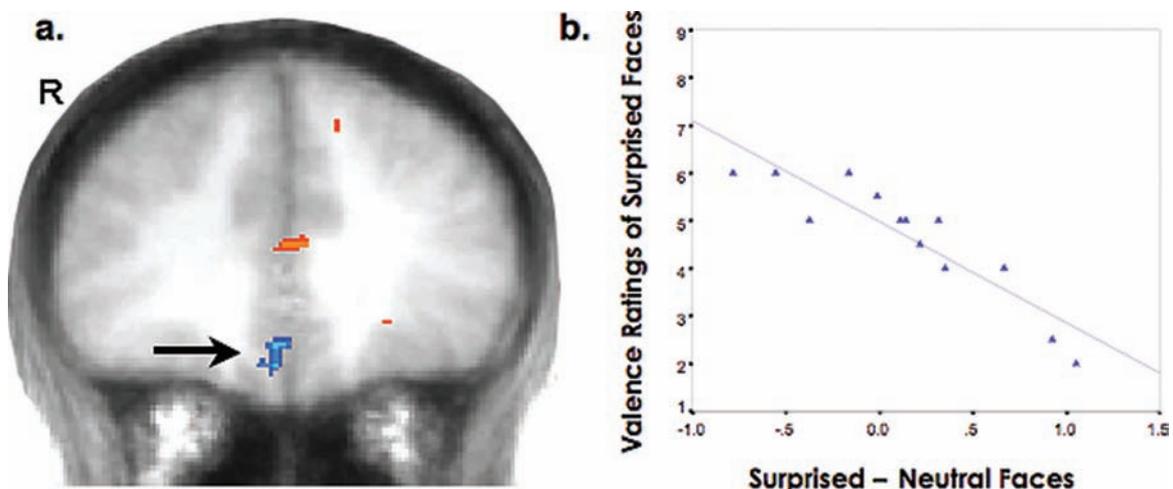
Surprised expressions provide an important comparison expression for fear. Though neither expression (fear or surprise) indicates the exact nature of their eliciting event, fearful expressions do provide additional information concerning the predicted negative valence. Surprise, on the other hand, can be interpreted either positively or negatively (Tomkins and Mccarter, 1964). For example, a surprised expression might be observed in response to an oncoming car (negative) or an unexpected birthday party (positive). Thus, surprised facial expressions can be used to reveal important individual differences in both a) the propensity to subjectively ascribe positive or negative valence to an ambiguous stimulus and b) the relationship between these subjective ratings and fMRI signal changes in the amygdala and ACC.

Indeed, a recent neuroimaging study showed that the relative differences in the level of sACC and amygdala signal changes to surprised versus neutral faces were related to a given subject's interpretation of ambiguously valenced surprised faces as negative or positive (Kim *et al.*, 2003). Valence ratings (i.e., 1 = very positive, 9 = very negative) of surprised facial expressions were positively correlated with fMRI responses to surprised versus neutral faces in the right amygdala. That is, more negative interpretations of surprised faces were associated with amygdala signal levels that were higher to surprised faces (compared to neutral), while more positive interpretations were associated with

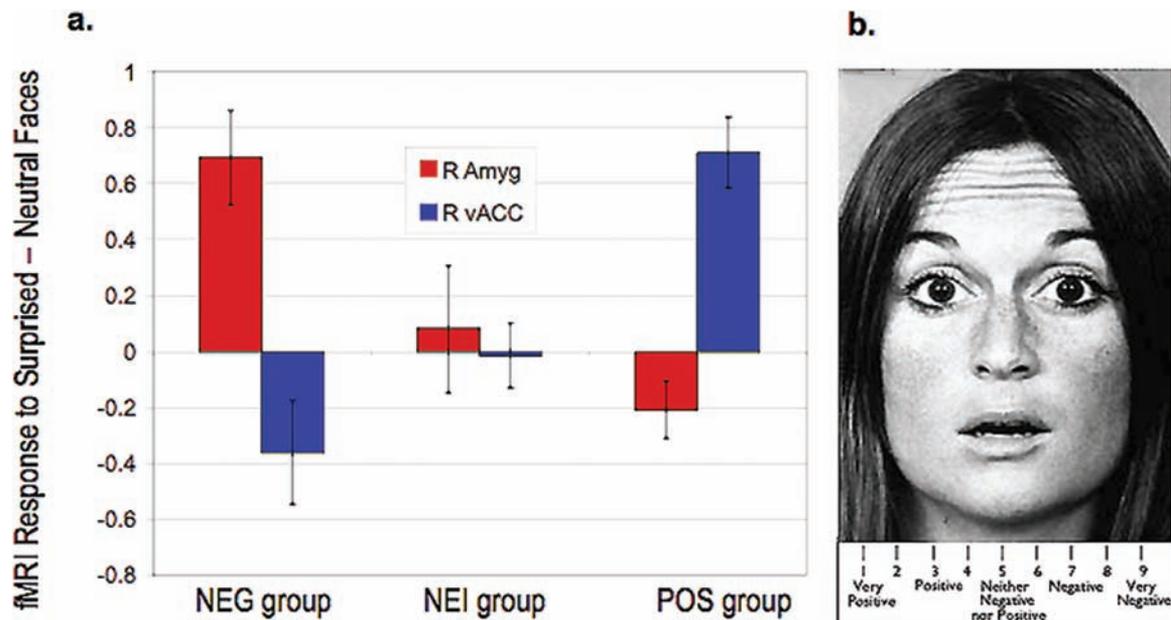
lower signal levels (compared to neutral). Voxels displaying this correlation were located within the anterior, lateral, and ventral amygdala, within the confines of the BLA region in the human (Mai *et al.* 2003). No significant correlation was observed within the left amygdala.

In this same study, areas 25 and 32 in sACC displayed the opposite relationship with valence ratings of surprised faces (compared to amygdala). Figure 9.2 presents voxels within the sACC where more positive interpretations of surprised faces were associated with signal levels that were higher to surprised faces (compared to neutral), while more negative interpretations were associated with lower signal levels (compared to neutral). To summarize the results, a region of right ventral amygdala and bilateral regions of sACC showed an inverse relationship with valence ratings of surprised faces. Accordingly, evidence of functional connectivity between these regions in response to surprise was also observed. That is, there was a significant inverse correlation between signal changes within amygdala and these sACC loci. Figure 9.3 presents a categorical breakdown of the percent signal-change data based upon subjective valence ratings offered by the subjects. Thus, it is the case that subjects who offered more negative ratings showed higher amygdala and lower ACC signal intensities, while subjects offering more positive interpretations showed the inverse pattern.

Other structures that correlated with ratings of surprised expressions are clear candidates for inclusion in a greater circuitry involved in the assessment and/or



**Fig. 9.2** Subgenual ACC signal changes to surprised faces vary as a function of individual differences in the interpretation of these expressions. A. fMRI signal change to surprised versus neutral faces (activations thresholded at  $p < 0.01$  and superimposed on T1-weighted high-resolution anatomical images averaged across all subjects). R = right. B. In the graph, the ordinate presents fMRI signal change to surprised versus neutral faces for the ACC cluster depicted with an arrow. The abscissa presents the valence rating scale from 1 - 9. 1 = very positive, 3 = positive, 5 = neither negative nor positive, 7 = negative, 9 = very negative. Thus, greater activation of sACC is observed to a positive interpretation of the predictive stimulus (similar to an extinguished tone-CS, see Fig. 9.1).

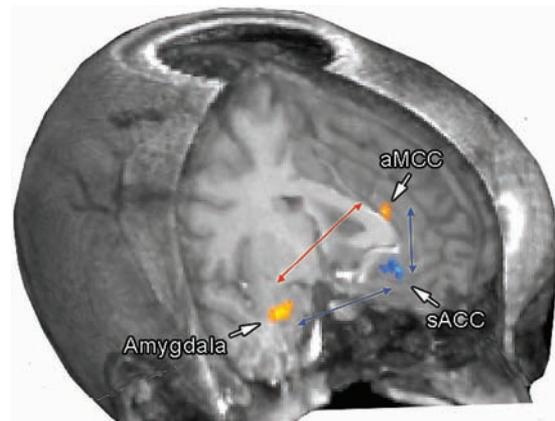


**Fig. 9.3** The amygdala and the sACC display an inverse functional relationship. A. The bar graph shows the fMRI response for the regions in Kim *et al.* (2003) while subjects viewed blocks of surprised and neutral faces (surprised – neutral). The red bars depict the levels of activation in the right amygdala, and the blue bars activation of the right ventral ACC (see Fig. 9.4 for loci). Subjects who rated the surprised faces as “negative” showed increased amygdala response and decreased activity in sACC. Subjects rating the same stimuli as “positive” displayed the opposite pattern of brain activity. Subjects who rated the faces a “neither positive nor negative” produced fMRI changes that were not significantly different from baseline in either structure. NEG = negative, NEI = neither positive or negative, POS = positive. B. An example of one of the surprised faces used in this task. Reprinted with permission from Ekman and Friesen, (1976).

determination of their valence. Specifically, aMCC, like the amygdala, showed a positive correlation with valence ratings (this locus is visible in Figure 9.4, dorsal to the sACC locus). These cingulate voxels also showed evidence of functional connectivity with the activated amygdala voxels, showing a positive relationship. This finding may be relevant to previous studies discussed above, demonstrating complementary but separate roles for aMCC and sACC in the evaluation of predictive biologically relevant stimuli. The aMCC locus showing a positive correlation with valence ratings (as well as amygdala response) is consistent with the locus showing responsivity to affectively laden words during the emotional Stroop task (Whalen *et al.*, 1998).

The three activations depicted in Figure 9.4 were identified in terms of their correlations with ratings of surprised facial expression blocks; the amygdala and aMCC demonstrated positive correlations with these ratings, while the sACC showed a negative correlation. It is important to note that these activations represent final averaged relationships after numerous presentations of surprised faces. Thus, though they offer evidence of functional connectivity, they do not necessitate direct connectivity, and they tell us little about the nature (e.g., excitatory, inhibitory, etc.), direction

(amygdala to ACC, or the reverse, etc.), order (which areas respond first, how do they change over time), or weighting (are some connections ‘heavier’ or more prominent in determining this behavioral effect) of



**Fig. 9.4** Three-dimensional reconstruction showing the loci of activation revealed in Kim *et al.* (2003) produced by voxel-wise correlations with surprised faces valence ratings. The amygdala and aMCC were positively correlated with the valence ratings, while the sACC was negatively correlated with the same ratings. Red arrow indicates a positive correlation between loci of activation, and blue arrows indicate negative correlations between loci.

these putative connections. Still, they are consistent with models of prefrontal-limbic regulation (Baxter *et al.*, 2000; Damasio, 1994; Morgan *et al.*, 1993; Quirk *et al.*, 2000; Rolls, 1999; Schoenbaum *et al.*, 1999), they parallel the animal extinction literature, and they provide candidate structures that can be investigated in future studies. In fact, fMRI studies of fear conditioning and extinction learning in humans reveal similar activations through these regions of cingulate cortex and the amygdala (see Figures 2b and 3a in Phelps *et al.*, 2004).

The animal and human data described above leads us to the following working hypothesis: upon encountering the expression of surprise, the amygdala initially sends a “first pass” message categorizing these faces as “potentially threatening” in all subjects (Halgren, 1992; Ledoux, 1996; Davis and Whalen, 2001). The ACC, based upon additional inputs from multiple brain regions providing information about past experiences or present context, could then communicate alternative hypotheses back to the amygdala, including the “potential positivity” of these faces. Thus, individual differences in the strength of this ACC “override” message would account for the final averaged inverse differences in signal level observed between the amygdala and sACC.

### CinguloAmygdala Interactions in Resolving Biologically-Relevant Ambiguity

Resolving *associative* ambiguity is a complex process requiring access to memory, temporal contexts, spatial contexts, and visceral contexts in order to make a probabilistic “guess” as to the best course of action. More than simple uncertainty, where one doesn’t yet have a working hypothesis about predicted outcomes, the term ‘associative ambiguity’ very specifically refers to a situation where a given predictive stimulus, based upon prior learning, has more than one potential meaning. Here we consider the role of cinguloamygdala interactions in determining which valence representation (positive or negative) will be invoked in a particular circumstance. Stimuli with inconsistent reinforcement histories (like extinguished tones and surprised faces) are inherently ambiguous, potentially predicting either a positive or negative outcome, and this cinguloamygdala circuit appears to subservise the calculation and/or retrieval of this information.

The ACC is ideally situated for this function given its access to working memory (Goldman-Rakic, 1988), spatial (hippocampal; posterior cingulate cortex) function, visceral inputs, as well as outputs able to override subcortical fear expression centers (Van Hoesen *et al.*, 1993). Each of the divergent brainstem autonomic and somatic

targets of the amygdala Ce also receives a projection from the sACC, most of which are inhibitory (Vertes, 2004; Hopkins and Holstege, 1978; Smith *et al.*, 2000). This arrangement effectively gives the ACC “veto power” over subcortical conditioned responses allowing the organism to respond appropriately based on recent experience.

Failure to resolve associative ambiguity appropriately can lead to pathological outcomes, and the ACC has been implicated in a variety of affective disorders (Drevets *et al.*, 1998; Bush *et al.*, 1999; Shin *et al.*, 2005; Mayberg, 1997; Bishop *et al.*, 2004), as well as the genetic predisposition to inappropriate or pathological expression of affect (Pezawas *et al.*, 2005; Meyer-Lindenberg *et al.*, 2005). For example, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is characterized by an inability to suppress fear responses to stimuli that were once associated with trauma but now no longer predict danger. Consistent with impaired cortical regulation of the amygdala, PTSD patients show decreased volume (Rauch *et al.*, 2003) and decreased activity (Shin *et al.*, 2001; Shin *et al.*, 2004; Bremner, 2002; Britton *et al.*, 2005; Chapter 21 in ACC, coupled with increased amygdala activity (Rauch *et al.*, 2000). A similar area of the ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC) was recently shown to correlate (in thickness) with memory for fear extinction in normal subjects (Milad *et al.*, 2005), suggesting that PTSD patients are deficient in the neural circuitry underlying extinction. Thus, similar to those subjects showing a negative bias in the interpretation of surprised faces, subjects with a thin vmPFC tended to interpret conditioned stimuli that had been extinguished (and were therefore ambiguous) as dangerous.

The complementary animal and human findings discussed in this chapter are consistent with a role for ACC in the regulation of amygdala responsivity during the subjective interpretation of ambiguous stimuli. Indeed, these results join a diverse list of experimental paradigms implicating the ACC in regulatory control when stimuli are associatively ambiguous. Associative ambiguity is high following extinction, when conflicting facts about a CS are learned (Labar *et al.*, 1998; Bouton, 2002; Barrett *et al.*, 2003; Garcia *et al.*, 1999; Milad and Quirk, 2002; Morgan *et al.*, 1993; Morgan and Ledoux, 1995; Herry and Garcia, 2002). Associative ambiguity is also high during reversal learning, set-shifting, and other situations requiring behavioral flexibility (Bechara *et al.*, 1999; Hariri *et al.*, 2003; Hariri *et al.*, 2000; Beauregard *et al.*, 2001; Ochsner *et al.*, 2002; Schaefer *et al.*, 2002; Dias and Aggleton, 2000; Li and Shao, 1998; De Bruin *et al.*, 1994; Fellows and Farah, 2003; Killcross and Coutureau, 2003). Taken together, these studies support the more generalized involvement of frontotemporal

interactions in behavioral flexibility. As more unified theories of limbic function advance, such theories must include a role for cinguloamygdala integration and regulatory control of biologically relevant information processing, particularly when contingencies are ambiguous.

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