

## **Abstract**

The present study examined the time course of attentional bias for angry faces among adolescents. In that, we studied the pattern of which a threat-related attentional bias was moderated by different durations of threat exposure. Sixty-four secondary school adolescents aged 12 to 20 were recruited and divided into anxiety group and control group according to their scores on a self-report anxiety measure. With the use of a visual-probe task, adolescents were presented with angry faces paired with neutral faces for seven exposure durations, varied from 30 ms to 1500 ms. Results revealed that adolescents with high anxiety showed attention towards threat at 1000ms and 1500ms of exposure, while no attention bias was detected in non-anxious control. The differences in attentional bias scores were significant between the anxiety and control group. No attentional bias was revealed under other conditions of exposure duration. Further analysis found that, at 1000ms, the attentional bias towards threat in the anxiety group reflected both facilitated engagement to threat and delayed disengagement from threat. At 1500ms, the attentional bias reflected delayed disengagement only. The threat-monitoring and vigilance-avoidance hypothesis of attentional bias was discussed in relation to present findings.