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Insular connectivity in autistic versus neurotypical development

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There is increasing evidence for altered interoceptive processing in individuals diagnosed with autism (AUT), compared to neurotypical individuals (NT). At a neural level, there is some preliminary evidence of altered functional and structural connectivity patterns of interoceptive cortices in autism, though developmental patterns of these differences are unclear. To better examine the role of age in interoceptive connectivity patterns in autism, we used a cross-sectional approach to examine interoceptive connectivity across a wide age range. N=28 individuals with autism (ages 8-54) and N=45 neurotypical individuals (ages 8-41) completed a resting-state fMRI scan. From these resting state scans, we analyzed seed-based functional connectivity of primary interoceptive cortex in the posterior insula between group. Age by diagnostic group interactions in seed-based connectivity patterns are reported.

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