Locating the Source of ESP in the Brain

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Background

Although researchers do not agree about the existence of extrasensory perception (ESP), those who believe ESP is a real phenomenon are eager to locate the source of these abilities in the brain. Mapping ESP abilities to specific brain regions would provide an existence proof as well as providing the foundation for further studies in psychic abilities. The term ESP covers a range of abilities including telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition. This study will focus on the ability to predict events before they occur, a skill known as precognition.
Task

Subjects will be asked to select a given pattern that they believe will be presented prior to the stimulus appearing.
Stimuli

Five different patterns will be used to test precognition abilities. One stimulus at a time will be presented to subjects and the stimulus patterns will be presented in random order.

![Pattern Images]
Expected Results

- Brain activation when guesses are correct will match that for when the stimulus is presented. When a guess is incorrect, activation during guessing will differ from that during presentation of the stimulus (Lizardo, 1984).

- Activation for correct responses should be located in the basal ganglia and limbic areas, whereas that for incorrect responses should be located in medial prefrontal cortex (Bigboote, 1984).