**Eating disorders:**

**Neurobiology of anorexia and bulimia nervosa**

Anna Cañete Pellicer
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**INTRODUCTION**

Eating disorders are disabling and usually chronic conditions characterized by aberrant patterns of feeding and weight regulation. They have a complex etiology involving social and biological factors, and parallel with severe neuroendocrine dysfunctions. Brain reward systems are suggested to play a major role in the development and/or maintenance of eating disorders.

**OBJECTIVES**

Do we understand the physiological dysregulation that lies beneath symptomatology? → Improvement of therapeutic approaches and outcomes.

**REGULATION OF FEEDING**

Food consumption can be caused by:
- Energy imbalance
- A cognitive decision ↔ reward

**Eating disorders and reward**

Anorexia Nervosa (AN): ascetic traits, ability to delay reward
Bulimia Nervosa (BN): novelty – seeking & reward seeking behaviors

**Dopamine signaling in eating disorders:**

BN, obesity and substance abuse might share dopamine D2 receptor vulnerabilities (lower D2 – R availability / function)

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**INTEGRATION OF FOOD AND FOOD – RELATED STIMULI:***

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**CONCLUSIONS**

Eating disorders have yet to be completely understood. That said, reward and self – control might be as important as the energy balance component.

**MAIN REFERENCES**

Baik J.H. Dopamine signaling in reward – related behaviors. Front Neural Circuits. 2013; 7: Article 152