

## AGING AND THE NEURAL CORRELATES OF EMOTIONAL PROSODY DISCRIMINATION

L.R. Demenescu<sup>1</sup>, K. Mathiak<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, University Hospital Aachen, Aachen, <sup>2</sup>Institute for Neuroscience and Medicine (INM-1), Research Center Jülich, Jülich, <sup>3</sup>JARA-Translational Brain Medicine, Aachen/Jülich, Germany

**Introduction:** Physiological aging was associated with emotion recognition deficit. Neuroimaging studies have showed that decoding of emotional prosody cues is linked to a frontotemporal network involving superior temporal gyrus and inferior frontal gyrus. However, little is known about the relationship between affective prosodic processing and age-related change in the functional brain.

**Aim:** The present study aims to investigate the aging brain of early sensory processing of affective prosody.

**Methods:** Fifty-five healthy volunteers with an age-range between 18 and 75 years old underwent functional magnetic resonance imaging, with a mismatch paradigm, while they were presented with emotional prosodic stimuli. Thus, pseudowords spoken with positive and negative emotions were randomly presented among repeated non-emotional stimuli.

**Results:** The results showed that automatic processing of changes in affective prosody involves bilateral superior temporal lobes. Furthermore, these brain areas were found to be influenced by the normal aging, *i.e.*, advancing age is associated with reduced temporal lobe response.

**Conclusion:** Together, these findings suggest the involvement of temporal lobe in detection of emotion in language; and that normal aging affects its functioning.