

**P18 CONTINUOUS TRACKING TASK (CTT): THE RELATIONSHIP OF TIME ON TASK TO THE EFFECTS OF SEDATIVE DRUGS**

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The continuous tracking task (CTT) is a psychomotor task assessing sensorimotor coordination and divided attention. CTT tasks have been shown to be sensitive to the impairing effects of psychoactive drugs and are often used in studies assessing behaviour following drug administration. The aim of this retrospective study was to investigate the relationship between test duration (7.5 or 10 min) and CTT performance following administration of alprazolam, lorazepam, promethazine and placebo. The results showed that alprazolam, lorazepam, and promethazine impaired performance on the CTT at 7.5 min and that a plateau was reached by 10 min for promethazine. In contrast, following placebo, performance on the CTT was stable at 7.5 min but had deteriorated by 10 min. These data suggest that performance on CTT tasks should take account of "time-on-task" as this appears to separate out drug induced impairment from task fatigue.