**MUSIC – A BOON TO LIFE**

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ABSTRACT:

In this article the activation of brain by music and way how neuronal connections within the brain are stimulated while listening to music are discussed. The impact of music on the nondominant hemisphere of the brain and how music can pacify the negative thoughts in an individual have been discussed. The role of music in the recovery from neuropsychiatry disorders has also been mentioned.

**Key words**: Nondominant hemisphere, Neuropsychiatry disorders

**INTRODUCTION:**

 As cool breeze chills down your body good music soothes your soul. Music is definitely a compliment for peaceful living for all those shaken by stress in life. Peaceful music can make miracles happen in our life filled with unravelling mysteries. There are few who may not accept that music can be a therapy for people affected by mind related disorders. In this article, I like to explain the physiology behind listening to music and its innumerable beneficial effects on body and mind.

**NEURONAL CIRCUITRY BEHIND MUSIC**

The average adult brain weighs between 1400 and 1500 gms consisting of billions of neurons intricately connected to one another. Each person has their unique architecture of neurons derived from their forefathers. The internal traits of any individual are the result of electrical performances of neurons and their complex associations. There is stimulation of neuronal circuitry when we listen to music. The part of the brain that controls emotions is the limbic system. When we listen to music, neuronal connections are established between the limbic system and hypothalamus. Furthermore the neurons carry the message from hypothalamus to the pre-frontal association areas via the amygdala. Such intricate links are running between different parts of the brain. Functional neuroimaging and lesion studies show that music-evoked emotions can modulate activity in virtually all limbic and paralimbic brain structures [1]. Thus listening to harmonious music quietens the emotions and provides tranquility. When we listen to music along with the intonations in the voice we can learn the language as Wernicke’s area which is present at the junction of Temporal lobe & Parietal lobe is stimulated. This Wernicke’s Area is the area for language interpretation & Intelligence, thus stimulation of this part of the brain helps in developing linguistic skills and also helps in laying the foundation of intelligence**.** Music plays a pivotal role in establishing the core for emotional intelligence in children. Early introduction of kids to the world of music is really beneficial thus the lullabies sung by our older generation is clearly an advantage.

**INFLUENCE ON NONDOMINANT AREA**

 Nondominant area is the part of the brain that helps the individual to appreciate the esthetics and the abstract sense of things happening around him or her. For a right handed person left part of the brain is the dominant area and the other half of the brain is the non- dominant area. The artistic skills and the nuances required to learn each and every art are possessed by the neurons belonging to the nondominant area. When we sing or listen to good music, neuronal stimulation happens in the non-dominant area to grasp the language and tune of the music. Brain imaging studies have shown that the non-dominant hemisphere is preferentially stimulated when listening to music that produces an emotional experience, and that even imagining music kindles areas on this side of the brain [2]. Thus music affects the nondominant part of the brain to a greater extent and it is this part of the brain that helps in recognition of esthetic sense of things around him or her. Actually to the contrary the non-dominant part of the brain is playing a dominant role in our life.

**MUSIC IN CNS DISORDERS**

Psychiatry disorders like Schizophrenia, Mania, Depression, Bipolar disorder are due to alterations in the concentration of neurotransmitters at the synaptic junction of neurons. Deficiency or excessive presentation of neurotransmitters like Dopamine or Seratonin or any other neurotransmitter results in manifestation of neuropsychiatry issues. The health hampering effects of these diseases can be overcome by music listening as music regulates the activity of neurotransmitters like dopamine and serotonin in the brain. It also favours the release of inhibitory neurotransmitter GABA in the neurons thus producing a seducing effect in individuals prone to develop anxiety. Dysregulation of GABAnergic neurons in the brain can lead to the occurrence of neuropsychiatric disorders [3]. Thus listening to soothing music kindles the different areas of brain and produces sedation by stimulating the release of GABA from neurons. This effect will help the affected individuals to tide over their negative expressions and have an equilibrium in their emotions as emotions are to be handled delicately with care.

   Specific pathways in brain areas associated with emotional behaviours, such as the insular and cingulate cortex, hypothalamus, hippocampus, amygdala, and prefrontal cortex are found to be stimulated by music which was brought into limelight by neuroimaging studies. In addition, neurochemical studies have suggested that several biochemical mediators, such as endorphins, endocannabinoids, dopamine and nitric oxide, may be the reason for the musical experience [4]. The distressing psychological sequelae of degenerative disorders like Alzeimer’s and Parkinsonism especially anxiety, depression and aggression can be minimized by pacifying music [5]. Even music kindled the past memories in most of the patients treated by music therapy. It also produces emotional stability in people. However robust scientific data substantiating these effects are the need of the hour.

**CONCLUSION:**

From neuroimaging studies we can understand that music can kindle different emotions and produce overall tranquility in the individual who is listening to it. Thus it can be a boon for people deranged by neuropsychiatric disorders and helps in their speedy recovery and also help in mind ful living of people. Listening to music can help people re-establish their social networks and can also help in overcoming their obstacles to lead a near normal life.

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