

Make American Ginseng Great (Again)

Company

Naturex

Problem/opportunity

A series of clinical trials by Scholey and colleagues have demonstrated cognitive benefits from Asian ginseng (*Panax ginseng*) [1-6]. American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius L.*) contains a different balance of ginsenosides - the active components of Ginseng - to Asian ginseng (*Panax ginseng C.A.Mey*). Could these have cognitive benefits?

Solution

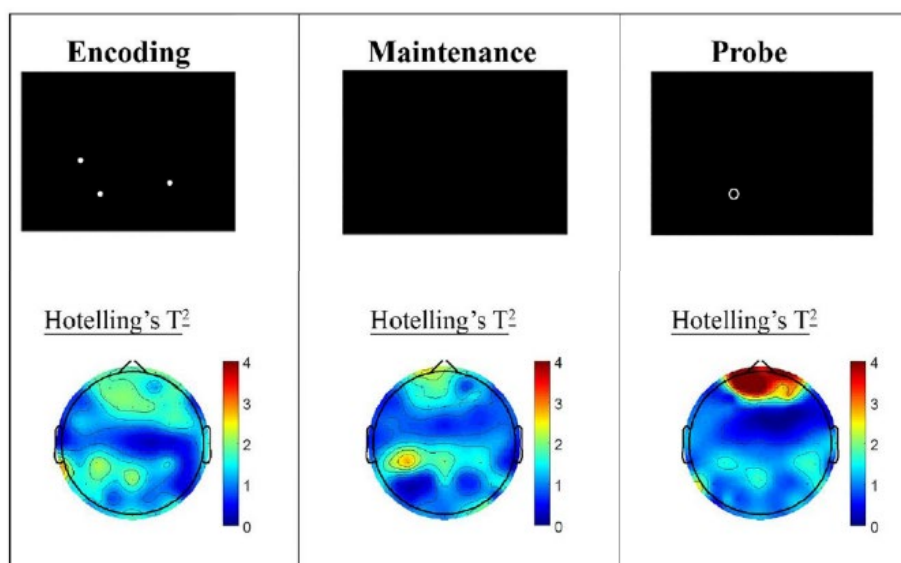
Two randomised placebo-controlled trials examining the mood and cognitive effects of a *Panax quinquefolius* extract.

Our role

We oversaw two studies of the mood and cognitive effects of a high quality extract of American ginseng (Cereboost®). One in healthy young adults [7] leading to a second study in healthy middle-aged adults [8] (including neuroimaging in a subset of participants [9]).

Outcomes

- We found improvements to working memory and mood in healthy young adults [7] in comparison with placebo in the Cereboost® arm.



- In a follow-up study in middle aged adults, we confirmed improvements to working memory [8], demonstrating that the benefit generalises to a slightly different population.
- The follow-up study also demonstrated increased activation of frontal regions in the ginseng condition [9] (below) when participants used spatial working memory to remember locations.
- Cereboost® is now used in a number of functional foods for brain health including a Nature's Own product in Australia.

References

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Tags

Cereboost®, American ginseng, *Panax quinquefolius*, working memory, mood, clinical trial, neuroimaging, Naturex