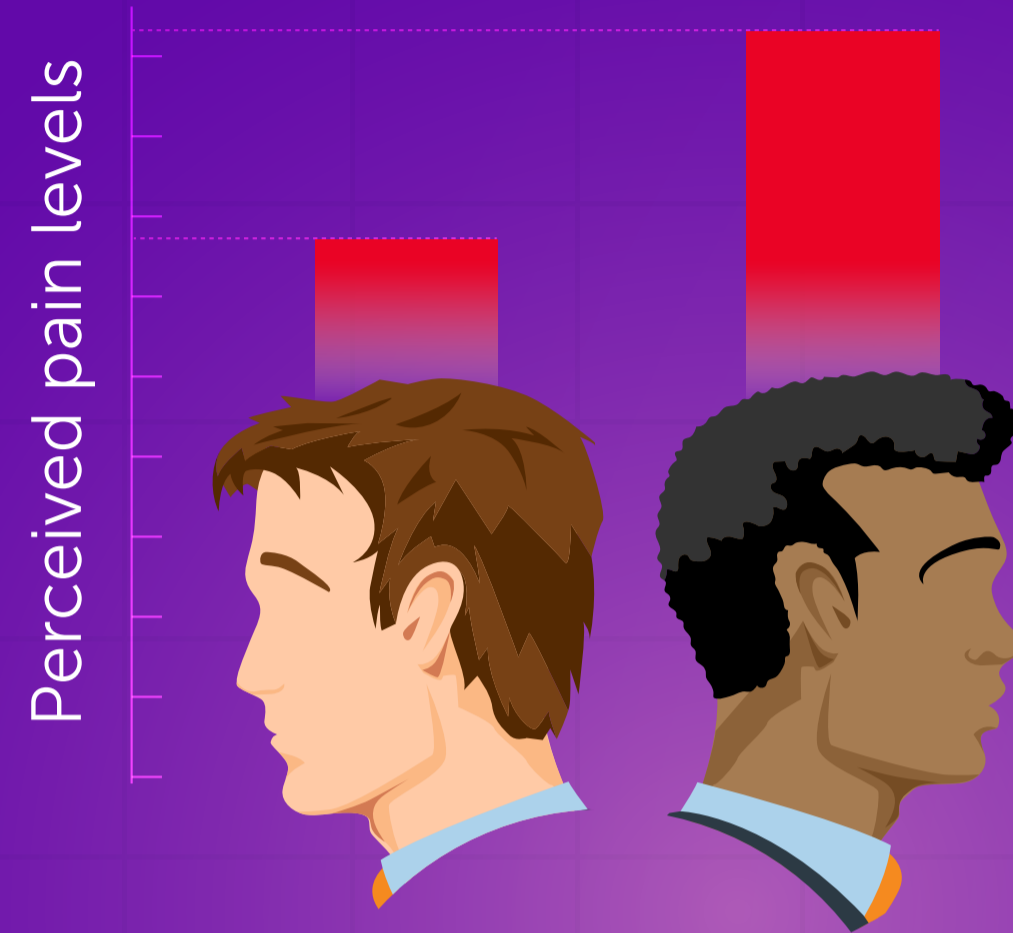
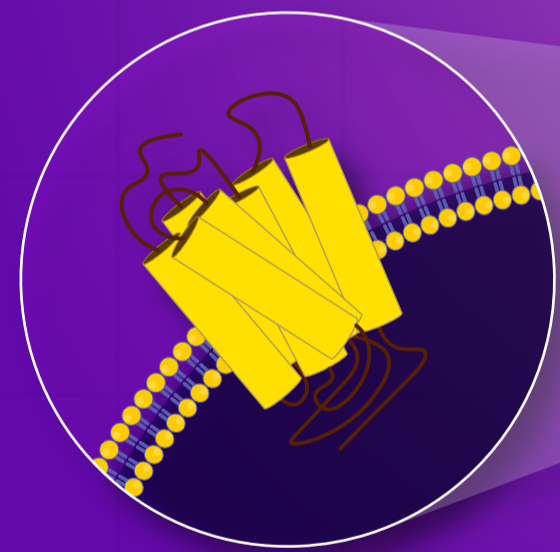


Ethnic Disparities in Pain Perception: Role of μ -opioid Receptors

Ethnic differences in pain perception are well documented...



...but their underlying mechanisms are not



μ -opioid receptors (MORs) are an important system regulating pain processing



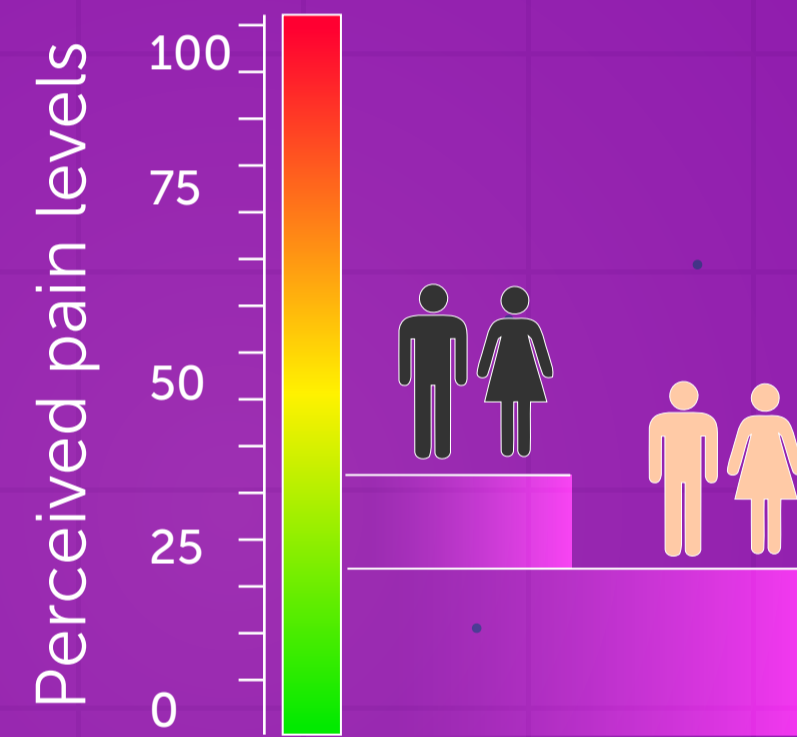
Does physiology of MORs contribute to the ethnic disparity in pain sensitivity?

27 Non-Hispanic Black (NHB) 27 Non-Hispanic White (NHW)

Self-reported rating of pain every 5 minutes

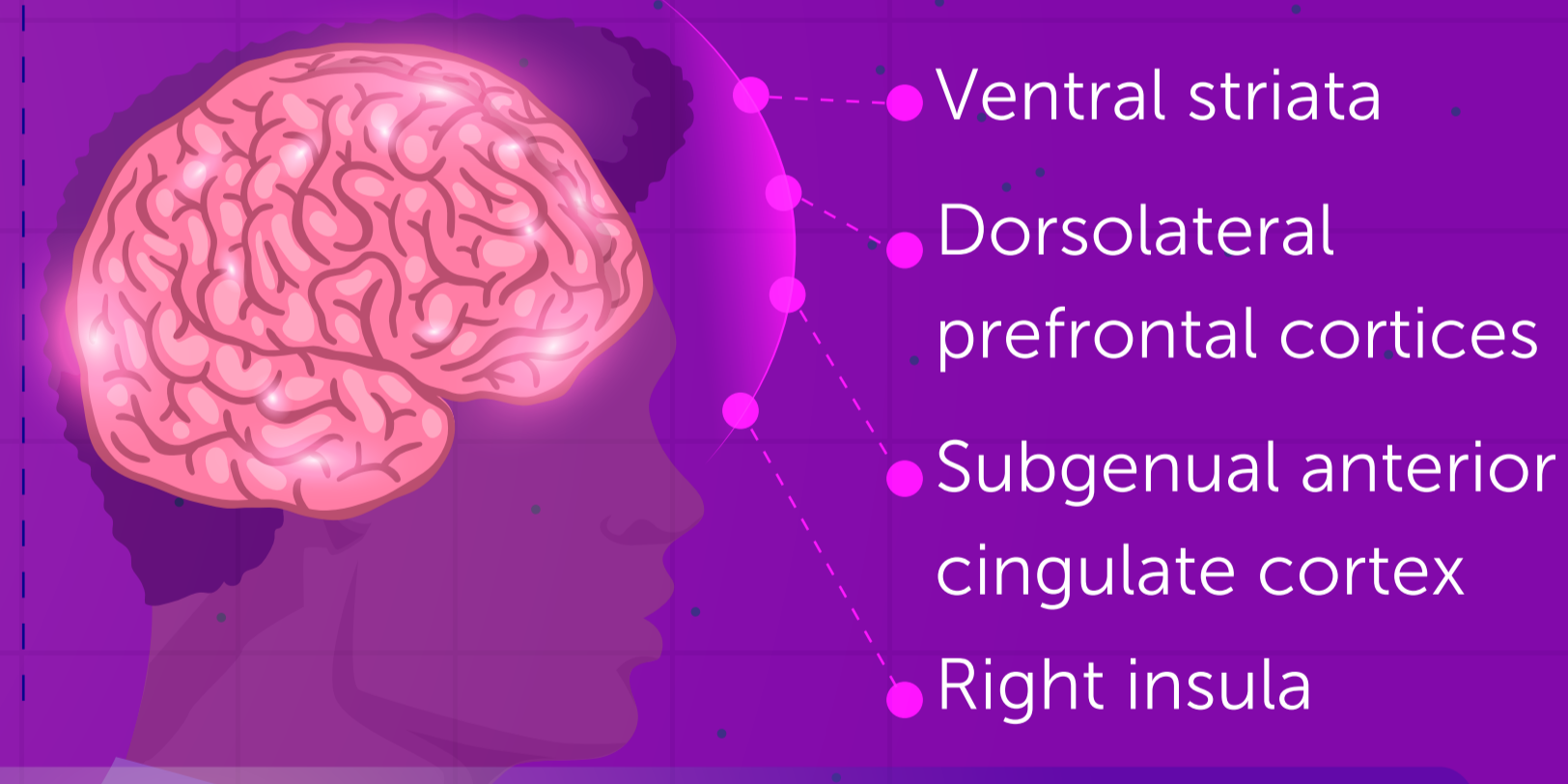
Pain test (10% capsaicin) Control (painless cream)

μ -selective agonist binding potential (BP_{ND}) using PET scan



NHB patients reported higher pain levels than NHW

After controlling for capsaicin-related pain and psychosocial factors, NHB individuals had greater MOR BP_{ND} in...



Ethnic variation in the density of unoccupied μ -opioid receptors may be associated with disparities in pain perception

Ethnic disparities in pain processing among healthy adults: μ -opioid receptor binding potential as a putative mechanism

Letzen et al. (2019) | Pain

DOI: 10.1097/j.pain.0000000000001759

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