Altering Consciousness   
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**Altering Consciousness**

There are various drugs that are currently in practice which are used to alter the consciousness of an individual. Lysergic acid diethylamide is a psychedelic drug that is used to induce an altered condition of consciousness. The interest in this specific group of drug is growing from the past few years due to the extraordinary clinical applications and also their altered neural conditions. In this research paper by using various neuroimaging methods it has been described thata direct link is present between the cartico-striato-thalamo-cortical regions and the LSD drugs along with the specific role of serotonin 2A receptor. These drugs have shown a change in the state of consciousness by inducing mood swings, alterations in thoughts and also a sense of self. Therefore it is effective to study the state of consciousness by using these drugs.

The CSTC model presents the idea that the thalamus of the brain plays an important role in the overall regulation of information to the cortex region thus it is critically involved in the regulation of consciousness. The results of this study suggest that the drug lysergic acid changes the connectivity within the specific pathway in humans and also in other animal models which suggest that the breakdown of information which process within these networks and loops is essential for the psychedelic state that is also called as altering consciousness. The LSD also improves the connectivity from the thalamus to the lower cortex in such a way that involves the activation of the serotonin 2A receptors. These results are helpful in understanding the mode of action of the drug LSD and also its effect on the consciousness of the individual. It is important in the formation of other therapeutics and also our understanding of the efficiency of the various drugs that are used during surgeries to change the consciousness of the individuals (Preller et al., 2019).

**References**

Preller, K. H., Razi, A., Zeidman, P., Stämpfli, P., Friston, K. J., & Vollenweider, F. X. (2019). Effective connectivity changes in LSD-induced altered states of consciousness in humans. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, *116*(7), 2743–2748. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1815129116