# Article information:

Oxytocin receptor is not required for social attachment in prairie voles - ScienceDirect  
<https://www-sciencedirect-com.libproxy.ucl.ac.uk/science/article/pii/S0896627322010844>

# Article summary:

1. Prairie voles exhibit social attachment behavior, commonly referred to as pair-bonding, and neuropeptide signaling has long been known to control the display of social behaviors across diverse species.

2. Comparative studies between socially monogamous and non-monogamous vole species revealed striking differences in oxytocin receptor (Oxtr) expression in brain regions thought to be important for social attachment and implicated natural variation within species in specific aspects of pair-bonding and attachment behaviors.

3. To test the genetic requirement of Oxtr in pair-bonding and parental behaviors, a CRISPR-based approach was employed to generate mutant prairie voles null for this receptor. Surprisingly, male and female prairie voles homozygous for each of the three distinct loss-of-function Oxtr alleles displayed pair-bonding, indicating that Oxtr is not required for social attachment in prairie voles.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article "Oxytocin receptor is not required for social attachment in prairie voles" reports on a study that aimed to investigate the role of the oxytocin receptor (Oxtr) in pair-bonding and parental behaviors in prairie voles. The authors used CRISPR-based gene targeting to generate multiple null alleles of Oxtr and found that male and female prairie voles homozygous for each of the three distinct loss-of-function Oxtr alleles displayed pair-bonding and were capable of raising pups to weaning, contrary to previous assumptions.

Overall, the article presents a clear and concise summary of the study's findings. However, there are some potential biases and limitations to consider.

Firstly, the article focuses solely on the findings of this one study without acknowledging any potential limitations or counterarguments. For example, while the study found that Oxtr is not required for pair-bonding and parental behaviors in prairie voles, it does not necessarily mean that Oxt signaling has no role in these behaviors. Additionally, it is possible that other neural pathways or signaling molecules may compensate for the lack of Oxtr function.

Secondly, the article does not provide much context or background information on previous research into pair-bonding and parental behaviors in prairie voles or other species. This makes it difficult for readers who are unfamiliar with this area of research to fully understand the significance of these findings.

Thirdly, there is some promotional language used throughout the article that suggests a bias towards highlighting the importance of this study's findings. For example, phrases such as "fascinating," "striking differences," and "critical role" imply that these findings are particularly groundbreaking or significant.

Finally, there is no discussion of any potential risks or ethical considerations associated with using CRISPR-based gene targeting in animals. While this may not be directly relevant to the study's findings, it is important to acknowledge the potential ethical implications of this type of research.

In conclusion, while the article provides a clear summary of the study's findings, there are some potential biases and limitations to consider. It would have been helpful to provide more context and background information on previous research in this area, acknowledge any potential limitations or counterarguments, and discuss any ethical considerations associated with using CRISPR-based gene targeting in animals.

# Topics for further research:

* Previous research on oxytocin and pair-bonding in prairie voles
* Neural pathways involved in social attachment and parental behaviors
* Role of oxytocin in other species' social behaviors
* Limitations of CRISPR-based gene targeting in animal research
* Ethical considerations in animal gene editing
* Potential compensatory mechanisms for loss of Oxtr function in prairie voles

# Report location:

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