

Can body odour and facial symmetry indicate potential sexual rivalry in men?

BODY ODOUR

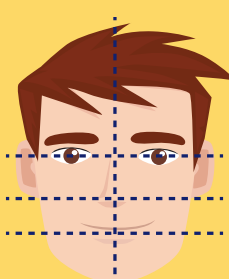
can tell a lot about your



- Personality
- Health
- Dominance
- Mate choice

SYMMETRICAL TRAITS

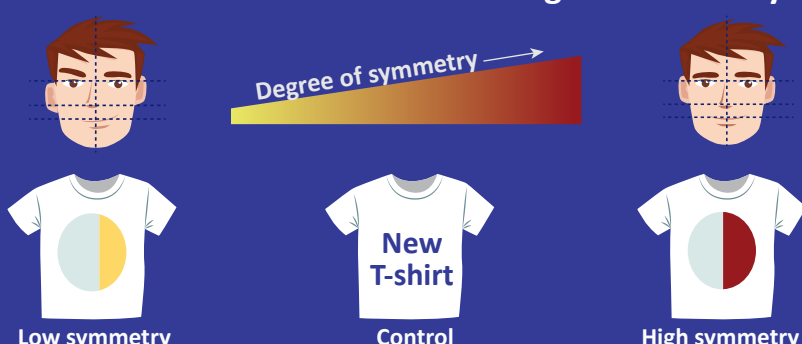
are known indicators of



- Good health
- Personality
- Attractiveness
- Development

Women tend to prefer the odour of men with symmetrical traits

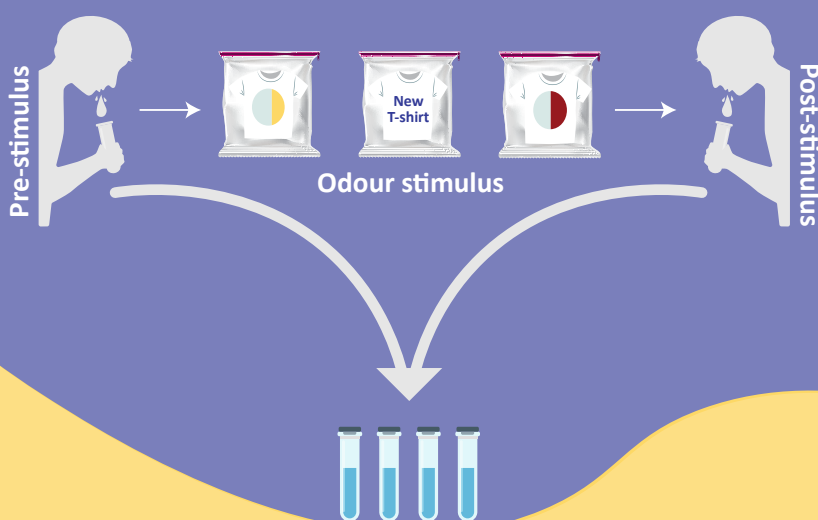
Odour donors were selected based on degree of facial symmetry



They wore fresh T-shirts for 2 consecutive nights and observed **dietary** and **behavioural restrictions**

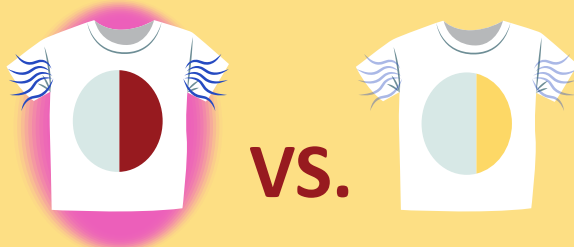


Volunteers evaluated odour samples and donated saliva samples *before* and *after* stimulus to measure changes in testosterone levels

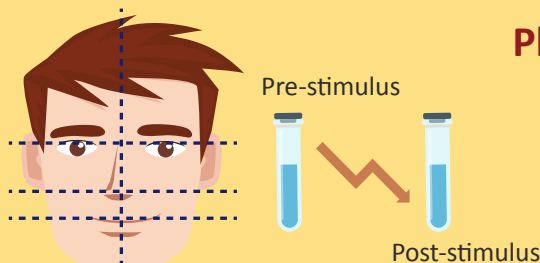


Odour Perception

Odour of symmetrical men was perceived as more **intense**, **pleasant**, and **attractive**



Physiological Response



Testosterone levels **decreased** in symmetrical men after perceiving the odour of asymmetrical men

It is likely that testosterone levels decreased because odour of asymmetrical men was perceived as non-threatening. This could have inhibited behavioural responses like...

Dominance



Aggression



Mate poaching



Men can gauge sexual competitiveness of other men through odour perception, which can vary with facial symmetry.

Testosterone level changes after perceiving the body odour of a possible rival in human males: the role of facial symmetry

Borráz-León et al. (2017) | DOI:10.1163/1568539X-00003437