**INTRODUCTION**

- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder characterized by symptoms that include flashbacks, emotional and social withdrawal and irritability.
- About 60% of Americans have experienced a traumatic event in their life, and of these about 13.3% will eventually suffer from this disorder.1
- Women have a higher likelihood of developing PTSD than men even though men are exposed to trauma more often.  
- To further understand the discrepancy between the rate of developing PTSD in men and women, we use a previously validated robust model of PTSD and compare the behavior of male and female rats in various anxiety tests.

**METHODS**

**Behavior**

- Start of Vaginal Smearing and Tracking of Estrous Cycle (30 Days)  
- Pre-shock testing procedures  
- Post-shock testing procedures  
- The shock procedure did not influence the estrous cycle.

**RESULTS**

Assessment of thigmotaxis: Female rats are generally less anxious than males.

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**REFERENCES**

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