

# THE EFFECTS OF STRESS ON THE MEMORY TRADE-OFF

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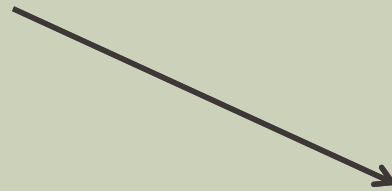
# WEAPONS FOCUS EFFECT/EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY



# EMOTION-INDUCED MEMORY TRADE-OFF



Vivid  
Memory



Forgetting

Kensinger, Garoff-Eaton, Schacter (2007)

# METHODS

Study

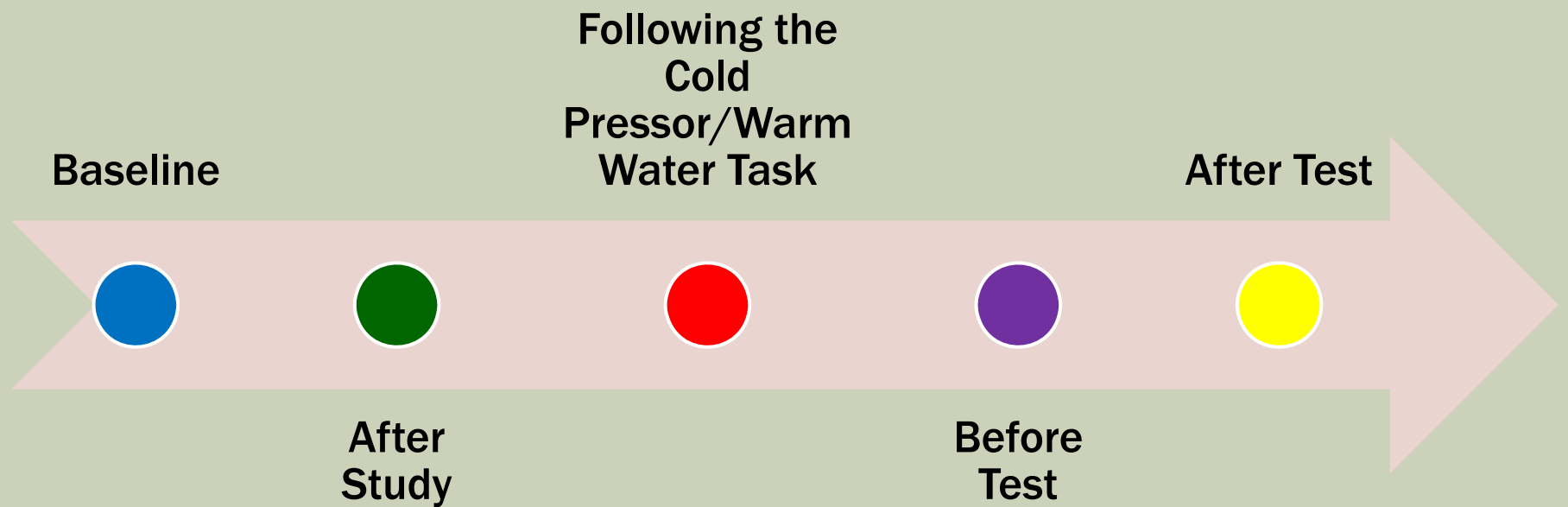


30 min delay  
Stress or Control

Test

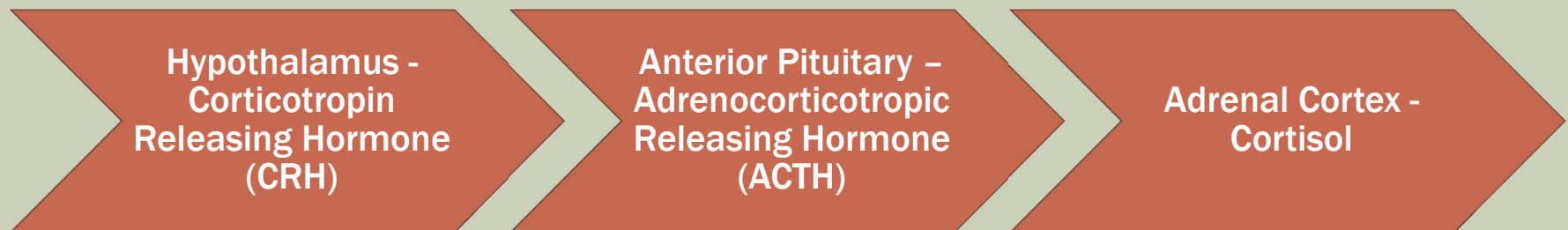


# CORTISOL - TIME POINTS



# STRESS AND CORTISOL

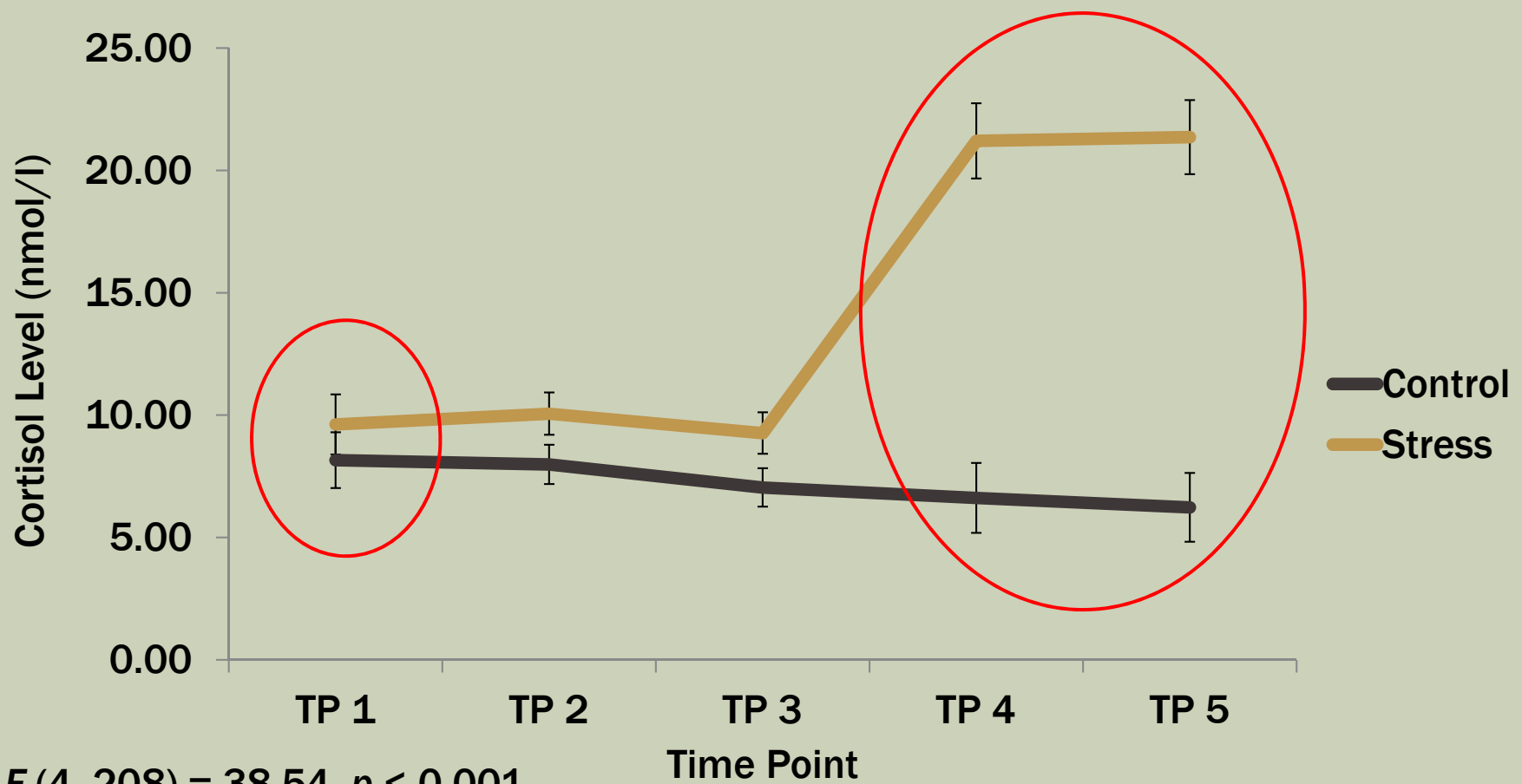
- Stress interacts with several regions of the brain
- Previous studies show men have higher cortisol reactions
- Stress and cortisol elevations may impair memory retrieval
  - Examples: test taking, stress on witness stand, etc.



# HYPOTHESES

- 1. Memory Trade-off Effect
- 2. Memory retrieval for emotional and neutral items, and backgrounds:
  - Stress Group = ↓ Memory
  - Control Group = No memory change
- 3. Different effects of stress on memory for males and females.

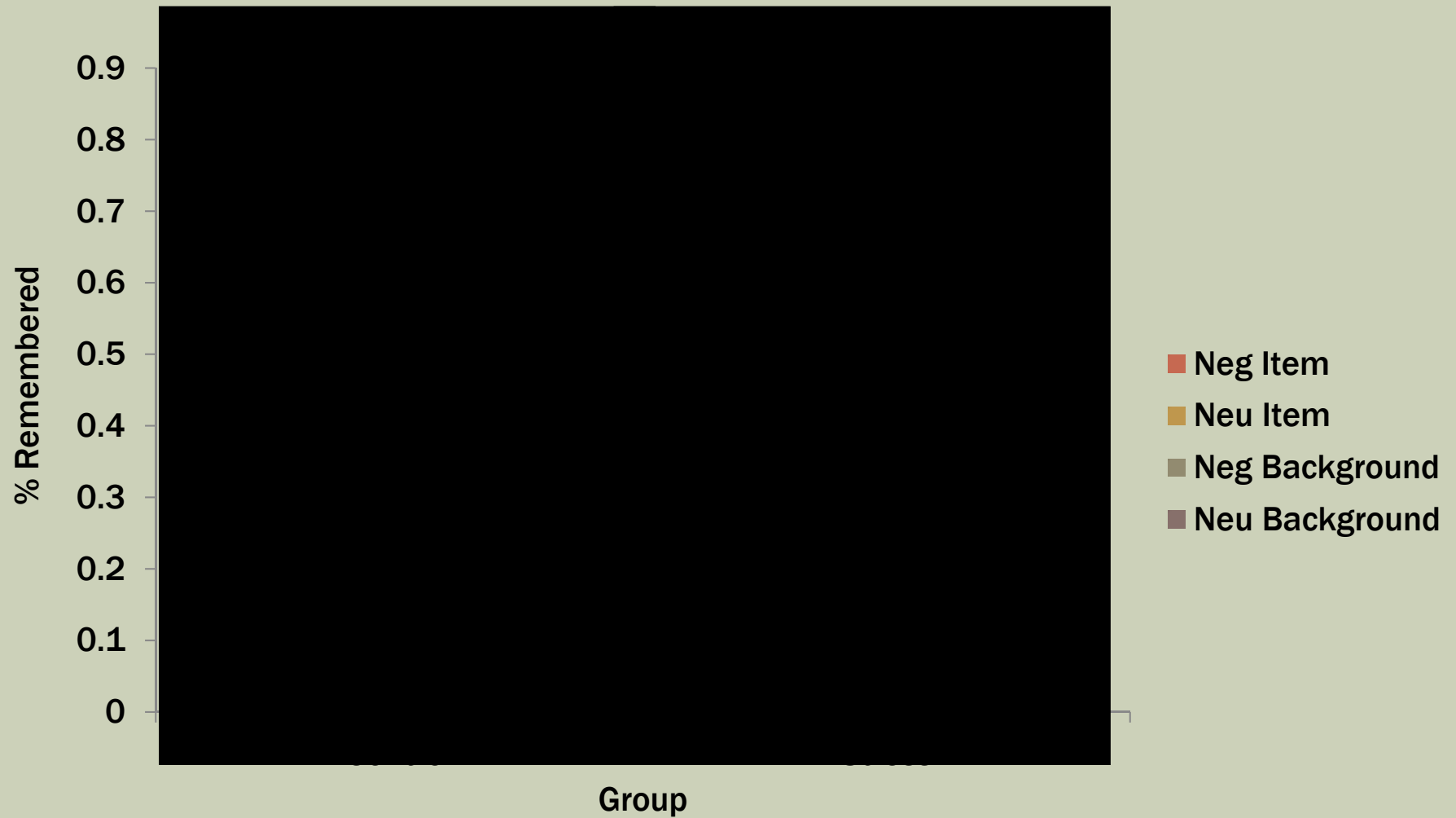
# DID THE STRESSOR INCREASE CORTISOL?







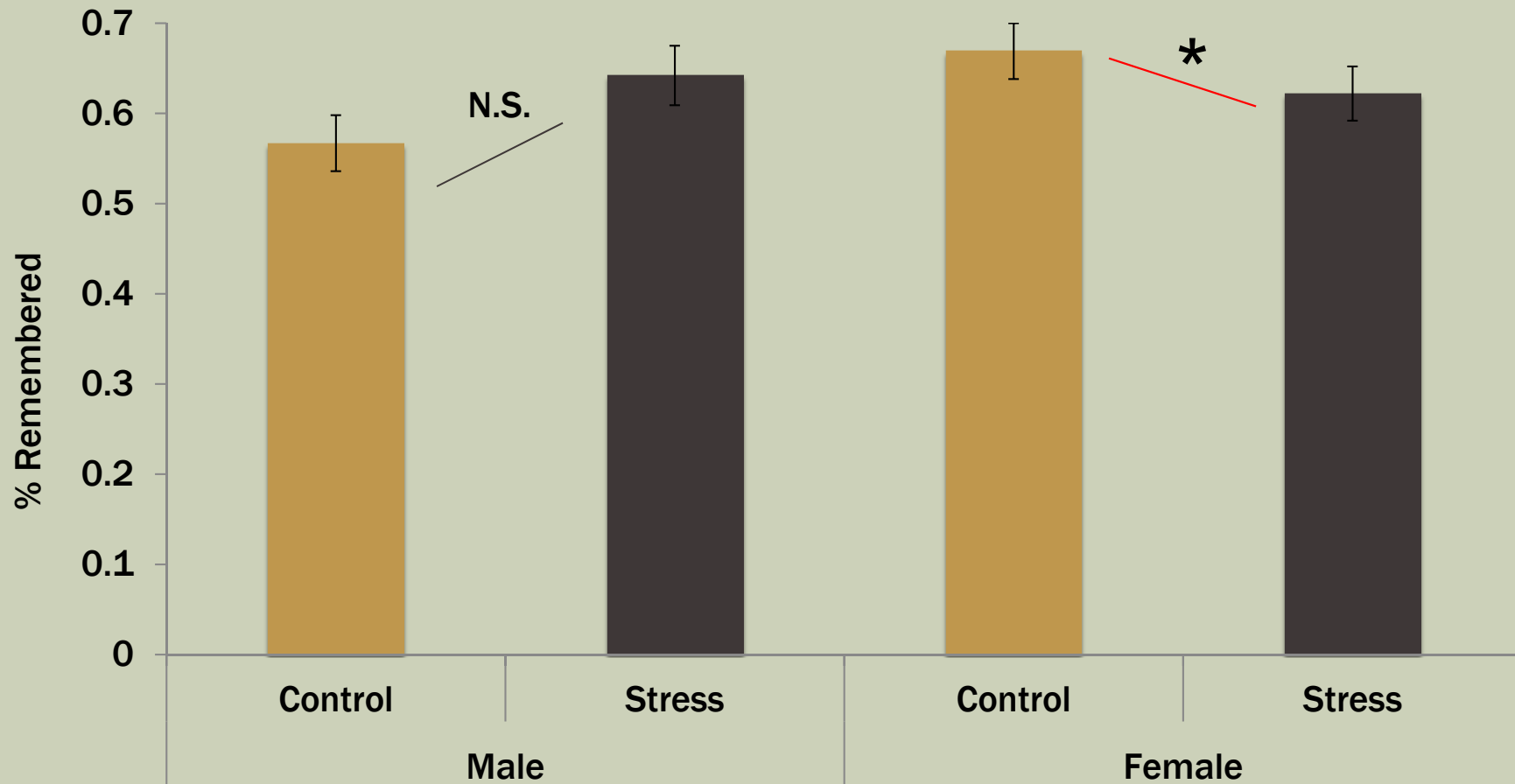
# MEMORY TRADE-OFF?



# STRESS GROUP = ↓ MEMORY ?



# DIFFERENT EFFECTS OF STRESS ON MEMORY FOR MALES AND FEMALES



# CONCLUSION

- A memory trade-off occurred for both stress and control groups.
- Females showed that stress impairs memory at retrieval, which is the effect we hypothesized.
- Memory results were similar for both stress and control groups, which has implications for the use of eyewitness testimony in the court room.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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