Binge-eating disorder (BED) has recently been recognised as a distinct psychiatric condition (DSM-5, May 2013)

It is characterised by recurring bouts of intense hyperphagia, usually of highly palatable food

RenaSci have established a rat model of BED which exploits chocolate as a hedonistic food to stimulate binge-eating

Key features of the model are:

- Rats are given free access to normal rat diet and irregular access to chocolate for limited periods (2 h)
- After 3-4 weeks, robust binge-eating develops with concomitant decreases in standard diet intake
- Intermittent chocolate bingeing has no effect on body weight mirroring BED without associated obesity

RenaSci: Rat Model of Binge-eating Disorder

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We have tested lisdexamfetamine, the first and only drug approved by the FDA for the specific treatment of BED, in our rodent model. Lisdexamfetamine preferentially reduced intake of highly-palatable food in rats trained to binge-eat

Effect of Acute Administration of Lisdexamfetamine on Food Intake During a Binge Episode

Effect of Acute Administration of Sibutramine on Food Intake During a Binge Episode

Effect of Chocolate Binge-eating on Body Weight in Rats