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**Adults with dyslexia demonstrate specific orienting deficits  
on the Attentional Network Test.**

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The performance of five adult cases of dyslexia (each demonstrating phonological impairment) was compared with a control group on a visuomotor attentional task. The task provides independent measures for the alerting, orienting and conflict components of the attentional system. Impairment of the orienting component of attention was demonstrated by all, but the attentional alerting and conflict components were generally intact. These findings suggest a specific attentional processing deficit which may be interpreted in the framework of a distributed attention model of dyslexia, that is, the tendency to engage in global rather than focused analysis of stimuli. The findings may also be interpreted from the perspective of a sluggish attentional system.