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The role of the chemical senses for eating behavior, in health and disease

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Chemosensory perception plays a crucial role in food choices and intake, and thus in maintaining a healthy nutritional status. These sensory aspects of a food are not only drivers of preferences and aversions, but are also important for steering appetite, signalling nutrient content and satiety processes [1, 2]. Illness and concomitant treatment however may lead to changes in smell or taste function and thereby alter flavor perception and eating behavior. I will here summarize the impact of these alterations during prominent illnesses, such as neurodegenerative disease, and cancer and chemotherapy, identify current gaps in knowledge and formulate relevant topics for future research.

1. Boesveldt, S. and C. De Graaf, The differential role of smell and taste for eating behavior. *Perception*, 2017. 46: p. 307-319.
2. McCrickerd, K. and C.G. Forde, Sensory influences on food intake control: moving beyond palatability. *Obesity Reviews*, 2016. 17(1): p. 18-29.

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