

Highlights

- We aimed at conceptually replicating previous findings that challenged the Intuitive Retributivism Hypothesis: The effect of punishment (as indicated by feedback from the transgressor) affects punisher's hedonic reactions after punishment (e.g., Funk, Gollwitzer, & McGeer, 2014)
- Similar to the studies that investigated hedonic reactions, we manipulated the availability of information about the consequences of one's punishment. Specifically, participants explicitly knew whether or not they would be informed about the effect of their punishment on the transgressor
- Instead of assessing punisher's hedonic reactions, we assessed actual punishment behavior – testing whether future knowledge about the effects of punishment on the transgressor already influences punishment decisions
- Our results do not replicate the pattern of findings on hedonic reactions after punishment and as such our results do not challenge the Intuitive Retributivism Hypothesis. Just as the Intuitive Retributivism Hypothesis would predict, there were no effects of future knowledge about the effect of punishment on people's actual punishment behavior