OBJECTIVE
To examine whether stress impacts people’s ability to accurately perceive their partner’s negative emotions and whether empathic accuracy is affected whether or not support transactions between couples are actually perceived as effective.

METHOD
1. Results based on analyses of 123 cohabiting couples (51% women, M,age = 9 yrs, SD=1.08; M,age = 35 yrs).
2. Conditions in which either one (Nonconcurrent) or both (Concurrent) partners undergo a version of the Trier Social Stress Test.

RESULTS
1. Stress & Support Provision. Figure 1
   a. Support transactions between cohabiting couples
   b. In the concurrent condition, partner B’s perception of support given to partner A (M = 1.57, SD = 0.81) was significantly less than partner B’s perception of support given to partner A (M = 5.21, SD = 0.77) in the nonconcurrent condition (p ≤ 0.02).
   c. There were no significant differences between concurrent (M = 5.45, SD = 0.60) and nonconcurrent (M = 0.31, SD = 0.90) conditions in terms of partner A’s perception of the amount and the quality of the support they received from partner B respectively.

DISCUSSION
1. People who experienced a stressor alongside their partner said they provided less support to their partner than those who weren’t experiencing a stressor, yet their partners’ perception of the amount and amount of support they received did not differ regardless of whether or not they experienced a stressor.
2. People with romantic partners who are less accurate at inferring their positive emotions receive slightly more satisfactory support than those with partners who are more accurate at inferring their positive emotions.