CYCLIC AMP-GENERATING SYSTEMS: REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN ACTIVATION BY ADRENERGIC RECEPTORS IN RAT BRAIN

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Abstract

Catecholamine, histamine, and adenosine-mediated accumulations of radioactive cyclic AMP were assessed in adenine-labeled slices from eight rat brain regions. 2-Fluoronorepinephrine, a selective β -adrenergic agonist, elicited an accumulation of cyclic AMP in cerebral cortex, cerebellum, hippocampus, striatum, superior colliculi, thalamus, hypothalamus, and medulla-pons. In cerebral cortex and most other brain regions, the β -adrenergic-mediated response appeared to involve primarily β_1 -adrenergic receptors, while in cerebellum, there was a significant involvement of β_2 -adrenergic receptors. 6-Fluoronorepinephrine, a selective α -adrenergic agonist, elicited accumulations of cyclic AMP in all regions except cerebellum. Combinations of the two fluoro derivatives afforded in all brain regions an accumulation of cyclic AMP identical with that elicited by norepinephrine. In hypothalamus, the α - and β -adrenergic responses were significantly greater than additive. In cerebral cortex, the α -adrenergic receptor-mediated response appeared to involve α_1 -adrenergic receptors and to be nearly completely dependent on adenosine, while in other brain regions, the dependence of the α -adrenergic response on adenosine was less or absent. Combinations of 6-fluoronorepinephrine and histamine had greater than additive effects in cortex and hippocampus. The results indicate that the interactive control of cyclic AMP-generating systems by α -adrenergic, β -adrenergic, adenosine, and histamine receptors differs significantly among rat brain regions.

The regulation of cyclic AMP levels by catecholamines in the central nervous system appears to involve rather unique and certainly complex interactions of α - and β adrenergic receptors, adenosine, prostaglandins, and calcium ions. Activation of α -adrenergic receptors leads to marked accumulations of cyclic AMP in brain tissue (Daly, 1977 and references therein), which is remarkable since in most tissues, α -adrenergic agonists are inhibitory to cyclic AMP-generating systems (cf., McCarthy and deVellis, 1978; Sabol and Nirenberg, 1979). It has been proposed that activation of α -adrenergic receptors in brain tissue merely facilitates β-adrenergic, H₂-histaminergic, and A2-adenosinergic receptor-mediated activation of adenylate cyclase (Daly et al., 1980). The stimulatory α -adrenergic response appears strongly dependent on the presence of extracellular calcium ions (Schwabe and Daly, 1977), adenosine (Sattin et al., 1975; Daly et al., 1980), and prostaglandins of the E series (Partington et al., 1980). Such unique and complex regulatory interactions have been investigated thoroughly only in rodent cerebral cortical slices and there has been limited investigation of the adrenergic responses in other brain regions (Table I). The presence of α -adrenergic receptor-mediated activation of cyclic AMP systems and its interaction with β -adrenergic-sensitive, adenosine-sensitive, and histamine-sensitive cyclic AMP systems have now been surveyed in eight rat brain regions using a specific α - adrenergic agonist, 6-fluoronorepinephrine, and a specific β -adrenergic agonist, 2-fluoronorepinephrine (Daly et al., 1980), both alone, in combination, and in consort with histamine or adenosine.

Materials and Methods

Materials. dl-2-Fluoro- and 6-fluoronorepinephrine were prepared essentially as described (Kirk et al., 1979). dl-Isoproterenol·HCl, vohimbine·HCl, dl-propranolol· HCl, adenosine, 2-chloroadenosine, and adenosine deaminase were from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO; phenoxybenzamine · HCl from Smith Kline and French Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA; dl-norepinephrine HCl, l-phenylephrine, and 8-phenyltheophylline from Calbiochem Corp., San Diego, CA; butoxamine HCl from Burroughs Wellcome Co., Research Triangle Park, NC; practolol from Ayerst Laboratories, Inc., New York, NY; phentolamine. HCl, naphazoline. HCl, and metoprolol from CIBA-Geigy Corp., Ardsley, NY; prazosin·HCl from Pfizer, Inc., Groton, CO; clonidine · HCl from C. H. Boehringer and Sohn, Ingelheim, Germany; and [3H]adenine from New England Nuclear, Boston, MA. Piperoxan was provided by Dr. N. Thoa, National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, MD; 2-[(2',6'-dimethoxy)phenoxyethylamino]methylbenzodioxane 4101) by Dr. J. N. Davis, Duke University, Durham, NC; and (tert-butylamino-3-hydroxyl-2-propyl)oximino-9-flu-

TABLE I

Adrenergic receptor-mediated accumulations of cyclic AMP in rat brain slices: Relative contributions of α - and β -adrenergic mechanisms to accumulations of cyclic AMP elicited by catecholamines

Brain Region	Cyclic AMP Response to Catechola- mine	References	
	Adrenergic Receptor Type		
Cerebral cortex ^a	$\beta > \alpha$	Huang et al., 1973; Perkins and Moore, 1973; Schultz and Daly, 1973a; Skolnick and Daly, 1975, 1976	
$Cerebellum^b$	β	Palmer et al., 1973; Skolnick et al., 1976; Schwabe and Daly, 1977	
$Hypothalamus^{c}$	α, β	Palmer et al., 1973; Weissman et al., 1975; Badger and Ci- cero, 1977	
Striatum	β	Forn et al., 1974; Harris, 1976	
Limbic forebrain ^c	α, β	Vetulani et al., 1977; Mobley and Sulser, 1979	
Brain stem C-1 C-2	$\beta > \alpha$ α	Wilkening et al., 1980 Wilkening et al., 1980	
Spinal cord	$\alpha > \beta$	Jones and McKenna, 1980a, b	

 $[^]a$ In guinea pig cerebral cortical slices and in hippocampal and amygdalal slices, the response appears mediated virtually entirely by α -adrenergic receptors (Chasin et al., 1971, 1973; Schultz and Daly, 1973b; Sattin et al., 1975; Daly et al., 1980). In mouse cerebral cortical slices, the β -adrenergic component is much greater than the α -adrenergic component (Schultz and Daly, 1973a), while in human (Kodama et al., 1973) and chicken cerebral slices (Nahorski et al., 1975), only a β -adrenergic component was detected.

^b In guinea pig (Chasin et al., 1971) and rabbit (Kakiuchi and Rall, 1968) cerebellar slices, only a β -adrenergic component was detected, while in mouse cerebellar slices, the response to norepinephrine was blocked completely by either α- or β-adrenergic antagonists (Ferrendelli et al., 1975).

^c In rat hypothalamic slices, the response to catecholamines was blocked completely by either α - or β -adrenergic antagonists (Palmer et al., 1973) although in a later study, only partial blockade pertained with propranolol or phenoxybenzamine (Badger and Cicero, 1977).

 d In a "microsac" preparation from rat limbic forebrain, both α- and β-adrenergic components contributed to cyclic AMP formation (Horn and Phillipson, 1976).

orene hydrochloride (IPS 339) by Dr. B. Petrack, CIBA-Geigy Corp., Ardsley, NY. All other materials were obtained from standard commercial sources. Male Sprague-Dawley rats (175 to 225 gm) were obtained from Taconic Farms, Germantown, NY.

The Krebs-Ringer bicarbonate/glucose buffer contained 122 mm NaCl, 3 mm KCl, 1.2 mm MgSO₄, 1.3 mm CaCl₂, 0.4 mm KH₂PO₄, 10 mm glucose, and 25 mm NaHCO₃. All incubations in Krebs-Ringer buffer were done with constant aeration with 95% O₂, 5% CO₂.

Assay of cyclic AMP generation in rat brain slices. Rats were sacrificed by decapitation, the brains were removed quickly, chilled in ice cold oxygenated Krebs-Ringer buffer, and dissected on a chilled glass plate, and the dissected tissue was placed in another beaker of chilled buffer. Strips of cerebral cortical gray matter from three brains, cerebellar gray matter from five brains, hippocampus from seven brains, striatum from 20 brains, superior colliculi from 20 brains, thalamus from 20 brains, hypothalamus from 20 brains, or medulla-pons from five brains were cut on a cooled McIlwain tissue slicer set at 260 μ m, the axis of the slicing block was rotated 180° and the tissue was sliced again. Then, the tissue slices were transferred to a beaker containing 15 ml of buffer aerated with 95% O_2 , 5% CO_2 at 37°C and incubated for 15 min.

The preincubated brain slices were decanted onto a piece of nylon mesh and quickly transferred to a beaker containing 10 ml of buffer containing adenine (30 µm) and [3 H]adenine (20 to 60 μ Ci) and incubated for 40 min at 37°C while gently gassed with 95% O₂, 5% CO₂. The Krebs-Ringer buffer was decanted, and the slices were washed twice with buffer and incubated for an additional 15 min in fresh buffer. Next, the buffer was decanted, and the tissue was collected on nylon mesh, divided into 12 to 14 approximately equal portions, and transferred with a stainless steel spatula to 30-ml beakers containing 10 ml of buffer and allowed to equilibrate for 5 min. Agents were added in appropriate concentrations from solutions in prewarmed, gassed buffer. After incubation for 10 min, unless otherwise stated, the buffer was decanted, and the tissue was collected on nylon mesh, transferred to conical homogenizing tubes containing 1 ml of 6% trichloroacetic acid and unlabeled cyclic AMP (0.25 µmol), and homogenized with a glass pestle. The homogenates were centrifuged for 10 min at 2000 rpm. An aliquot of the trichloroacetic acid supernatant fraction (0.05 ml) was removed and the radioactivity was measured. The cyclic [3H]AMP formed was determined in the remaining supernatant fraction by the double column method of Salomon et al. (1974). Protein was determined by the Miller (1959) adaptation of the method of Lowry et al. (1951) as further adapted for an autoanalyzer. Results are expressed as percentage of total radioactive nucleotides present as cyclic AMP (% conversion). This prelabeling technique, originally described by Shimizu et al. (1969), has afforded results completely consonant with results based on measurement of endogenous levels of cyclic AMP in brain slices (cf., Daly, 1977). An incubation time of 10 min affords stable maximal levels of cyclic AMP with virtually all agonists so far investigated in brain slices. Statistical analysis was with the Student's t test.

Results

Selective effects of fluoronorepinephrines on α - and β -adrenergic receptors in rat brain slices. 2-Fluoronorepinephrine and 6-fluoronorepinephrine appear to represent a selective β -adrenergic and a selective α -adrenergic agonist, respectively, with respect to cyclic AMP-generating systems in slices from rat cerebral cortex (Daly et al., 1980). The maximal response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine is equivalent to that of isoproterenol (Table II), while the response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine

TABLE II

Accumulations of radioactive cyclic AMP elicited in adenine-labeled slices of rat cerebral cortex by catecholamines

Slices were incubated for 10 min with 100 μ M concentrations of catecholamines and accumulations of cyclic [³H]AMP measured as detailed under "Materials and Methods." Results are means \pm SEM for 5 to 10 experiments.

Agonist	Radioactive Cyclic AMP	
	% conversion	
None	0.19 ± 0.01	
Norepinephrine	3.29 ± 0.02	
Isoproterenol	1.40 ± 0.13	
2-Fluoronorepinephrine	1.56 ± 0.17	
6-Fluoronorepinephrine	0.60 ± 0.06	

is much lower and is equivalent to that elicited by a norepinephrine-propranolol combination (Table II, Daly et al., 1980). The response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine is nearly maximal at 10 μ M, with an EC₅₀ of about 5 μ M (Fig. 1). Phentolamine (10 μ M) has virtually no effect on the response, while propranolol (10 μ M) completely blocks the response elicited by 10 to 100 μ M 2-fluoronorepinephrine. The response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine does not reach a maximum even at 200 μM (Fig. 2). However, this appears to be due primarily to the emergence of a β -adrenergic component at concentrations above 100 μ M. Thus, when a dose-response curve is generated in the presence of propranolol, the response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine is nearly maximal at 50 μM with an EC₅₀ of about 30 μ M. Furthermore, in the range of 10 to 50 μM 6-fluoronorepinephrine, propranolol has no effect on the response, while phentolamine blocks the response completely. It would appear that 6-fluoronorepinephrine can be employed as a selective α -adrenergic agonist in brain slices only in concentrations of 100 µM or less. In rat cerebral cortex, the stimulation of cyclic AMP systems by the α -adrenergic agonist 6-fluoronorepinephrine was completely dependent on adenosine receptor activation, since a potent adenosine antagonist, 8-phenyltheophylline, blocked the response (Table III). The responses to β agonists such as isoproterenol and 2fluoronorepinephrine were not reduced by 8-phenyltheophylline, while the response to norepinephrine was reduced in magnitude (p < 0.05). The responses of cyclic AMP systems to norepinephrine, the fluoronorepinephrines, and isoproterenol now were examined in eight rat brain regions.

Cerebral cortex. Norepinephrine elicited an accumulation of cyclic AMP in rat cerebral cortical slices which was significantly greater (p < 0.01) than the response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine (Fig. 3B). A combination of 2-fluoronorepinephrine and 6-fluoronorepinephrine elicited an accumulation of cyclic AMP equal to that elicited by norepinephrine. The response to combinations of 2-and 6-fluoronorepinephrine was often greater than additive. However, it was not found to be significantly greater than additive (p > 0.2). The presence of adenosine deaminase significantly reduced the responses to norepinephrine (p < 0.001) in rat cerebral cortical slices and slightly reduced the response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine (p < 0.1). The response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine was no longer significant in the presence of adenosine deam-

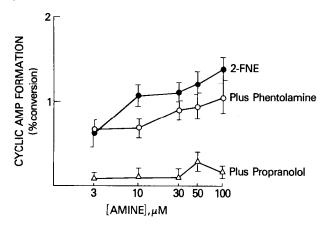


Figure 1.¹ Dose-response relationships for 2-fluoronorepinephrine-elicited accumulations of radioactive cyclic AMP in adenine-labeled rat cerebral cortical slices. Slices were incubated for 10 min with varying concentrations of 2-fluoronorepinephrine and accumulations of cyclic [³H]AMP measured as detailed under "Materials and Methods." Incubations were catecholamine alone (\bullet); in the presence of an α-antagonist, phentolamine (\circlearrowleft , 10 μM), or in the presence of a β-antagonist, propranolol (\circlearrowleft , 10 μM). Antagonists were added 2 min prior to the catecholamine. Values are means \pm SEM for six experiments.

inase (p>0.2). The response to adenosine was significantly potentiated by 6-fluoronorepinephrine in rat cerebral cortical slices (Fig. 4, p<0.05). The small but significant response to histamine (p<0.025) was greater than additive with the response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine (p<0.05). It would appear that potentiative interactions of α -adrenergic receptor mechanisms with classes of stimulatory receptors are an important characteristic of cyclic AMP systems in cerebral cortical slices. The accumulation of cyclic AMP elicited by norepinephrine and 2-chloroadenosine in the presence of adenosine deaminase was slightly greater than additive (Fig. 5, p<0.05).

The α -adrenergic response of cyclic AMP systems in rat cerebral cortical slices to a norepinephrine-propranolol combination was blocked by a variety of α -adrenergic antagonists (Fig. 6). The potency of various compounds in blocking the response to the norepinephrine-propranolol combination was as follows:

prazosin > WB 4101, phentolamine, clonidine > naphazoline, piperoxan > yohimbine

Thus, the most potent blockers were the very selective α_1 -antagonists, prazosin and WB 4101 (Langer, 1977), while the least potent blockers were the selective α_2 -antagonists, piperoxan and yohimbine (Langer, 1977). Clearly, the α -adrenergic receptors involved in activation of cyclic AMP systems in cerebral cortical slices would appear to exhibit properties characteristic of α_1 -adrenergic receptors, namely blockade by prazosin and WB 4101. Prazosin is remarkably selective for α_1 -adrenergic recep-

¹ The abbreviations used on the figures are: Ads, adenosine; 2-FNE, 2-fluoronorepinephrine; 6-FNE, 6-fluoronorepinephrine; HN, histamine

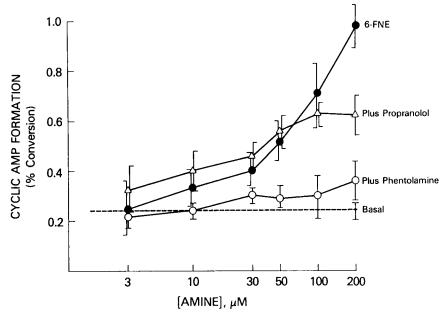


Figure 2. Dose-response relationships for 6-fluoronorepinephrine-elicited accumulations of radioactive cyclic AMP in adenine-labeled rat cerebral cortical slices. Slices were incubated for 10 min with varying concentrations of 6-fluoronorepinephrine and accumulations of cyclic [3 H]AMP were measured as detailed under "Materials and Methods." Incubations were catecholamine alone (\blacksquare); in the presence of an α-antagonist, phentolamine (\bigcirc , 10 μM); or in the presence of a β-antagonist, propranolol (\triangle , 10 μM). Antagonists were added 2 min prior to the catecholamine. Values are means \pm SEM for six experiments.

TABLE III

Accumulations of cyclic [³H]AMP elicited in adenine-labeled slices of rat cerebral cortex by catecholamines in the presence of a potent adenosine antagonist, 8-phenyltheophylline

Slices were incubated with catecholamines at 100 μ M concentrations in the presence and absence of 8-phenyltheophylline (10 μ M) for 10 min and accumulations of cyclic [3 H]AMP were measured as detailed under "Materials and Methods." Results are means \pm SEM for three experiments.

Catecholamine	8-Phenyl- theo- phylline	Cyclic [³ H]AMP Formation
		% conversion
None	_	0.16 ± 0.02
	+	0.13 ± 0.01
Norepinephrine	_	3.10 ± 0.30
	+	2.10 ± 0.30
Isoproterenol	_	1.10 ± 0.20
	+	1.30 ± 0.30
2-Fluoronorepinephrine	_	1.10 ± 0.30
	+	1.60 ± 0.10
6-Fluoronorepinephrine	_	0.41 ± 0.05
	+	0.17 ± 0.03^a

[&]quot;Not significantly greater than control p > 0.1.

tors in brain membranes (U'Prichard et al., 1978b). Furthermore, since piperoxan and yohimbine are not particularly selective ligands for central α_1 - and α_2 -adrenergic receptors (U'Prichard et al., 1977), it appears likely that the blockade of responses to the norepinephrine-propranolol combinations in rat cerebral cortical slices by *high* concentrations of these compounds involves blockade of

 α_1 -adrenergic receptors rather than providing evidence for involvement of α_2 -adrenergic receptors. However, it is also clear that the central α -adrenergic receptors involved in control of cyclic AMP are unique. Thus, the α2-adrenergic agonists, clonidine and naphazoline (Langer, 1977), act as antagonists rather than as agonists (Fig. 6, Skolnick and Daly, 1975). Clonidine and naphazoline are highly selective ligands for the α_2 -adrenergic receptor in brain membranes (U'Prichard et al., 1977), but it would appear the concentrations required to block the α-adrenergic response in cortical slices (Fig. 6) are far greater than the expected for interaction with an α_2 adrenergic receptor. The estimated IC₅₀ values of the various antagonists versus the response of cyclic AMP systems to 30 µm 6-fluoronorepinephrine in rat cerebral cortical slices were as follows:

prazosin $(0.05 \mu M) > WB 4101 (0.3 \mu M) > piperoxan (1 \mu M) > phentolamine (2 <math>\mu M) > yohimbine (5 \mu M)$

(data not shown). Propranolol at 10 μ M and practolol or butoxamine at 100 μ M had no significant effect on the response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine. It should be noted that in binding studies with rat cerebral cortical membranes, 6-fluoronorepinephrine, like norepinephrine, has higher affinity for α_2 - than for α_1 -adrenergic receptors (Nimit et al., 1980).

The β -adrenergic response to isoproterenol in rat cerebral cortical slices was blocked completely by 100 μ M practolol or 10 μ M propranolol while being virtually unaffected by 100 μ M butoxamine (Fig. 7C). Thus, a relatively specific β_1 -adrenergic antagonist, practolol (cf., U'Prichard et al., 1978a), is quite effective in blocking the

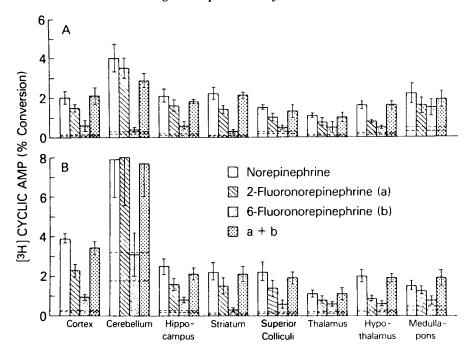


Figure 3. Effect of catecholamines on accumulations of radioactive cyclic AMP in adenine-labeled rat brain slices. Slices were incubated for 10 min with norepinephrine, 2-fluoronorepinephrine (a), 6-fluoronorepinephrine (b), or a combination of 2-and 6-fluoronorepinephrine (a+b) and accumulations of cyclic [3 H]AMP were measured as detailed under "Materials and Methods." The amines were present at $100~\mu\text{M}$. A, Adenosine deaminase ($10~\mu\text{g/ml}$) added 2 min prior to catecholamine. B, Control. Values are means \pm SEM for three to seven experiments. Basal values are indicated by the horizontal dashed lines (upper line is the mean + SEM, lower line is the mean – SEM). Statistical significance of difference is discussed in the text.

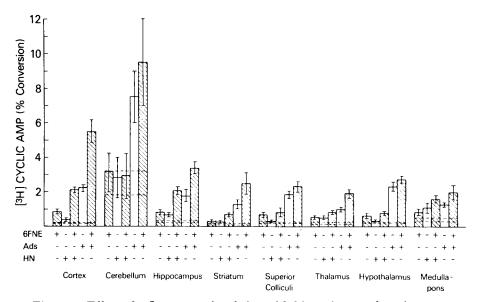


Figure 4. Effect of 6-fluoronorepinephrine with histamine or adenosine on accumulations of radioactive cyclic AMP in adenine-labeled rat brain slices. Slices were incubated for 10 min with 6-fluoronorepinephrine, histamine, adenosine, or combinations of agents and accumulations of cyclic [3 H]AMP were measured as detailed under "Materials and Methods." All agents were present at 100 μ M. Values are means \pm SEM for three experiments. Basal values are indicated by the horizontal dashed lines (see legend to Fig. 3). Statistical significance of differences is discussed in the text.

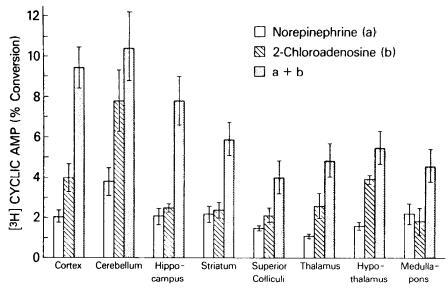


Figure 5. Effect of norepinephrine and 2-chloroadenosine on accumulations of radioactive cyclic AMP in adenine-labeled rat brain slices. Slices were incubated for 10 min with norepinephrine (a), 2-chloroadenosine (b), or a combination of norepinephrine and 2-chloroadenosine (a + b) and accumulations of cyclic [3 H]AMP were measured as detailed under "Materials and Methods." Stimulatory agents were present at 100 μ M and adenosine deaminase (10 μ g/ml) was added 2 min prior to the stimulatory agent. Values are means \pm SEM for three experiments. For basal values see Fig. 3A. Statistical significance of differences is discussed in the text.

response to isoproterenol, while a relatively specific β_2 adrenergic antagonist, butoxamine, has little effect. Another β_1 -adrenergic antagonist, metoprolol (cf., Minneman et al., 1979), at 10 μm blocked the isoproterenol response by 60%, while another β_2 -adrenergic antagonist, IPS 339 (Leclerc et al., 1977), at 10 µM had no significant effect (data not shown). However, at 100 µM, IPS 339 did cause a 60% inhibition of the isoproterenol response. The results indicate that β_1 -adrenergic receptors are predominant in control of cyclic AMP systems in rat cerebral cortex in agreement with binding data on the nature of β -adrenergic receptors in rat cerebral cortical membranes (Minneman et al., 1979). The response to 30 μ M 2-fluoronorepinephrine was markedly antagonized by 10 µM propranolol and 100 µm practolol but only slightly affected by 100 μ M butoxamine (Fig. 7A) or by α -antagonists such as phentolamine, prazosin, piperoxan, or yohimbine, each at 10 μ M (data not shown). Another β_1 adrenergic antagonist, metoprolol, at 10 µm blocked the response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine by 90%. It should be noted that in binding studies with rat brain membranes 2-fluoronorepinephrine has about a 10-fold higher affinity for β_1 - than for β_2 -adrenergic receptors (Nimit et al., 1980), while isoproterenol is equipotent at both types of central receptors (cf., U'Prichard et al., 1978b). The IC₅₀ values versus 30 μm 2-fluoronorepinephrine in rat cerebral cortical slices were estimated as follows:

propranolol (0.5 μ M) > practolol (20 μ M) >> butoxamine (>200 μ M)

(data not shown). β_1 -Adrenergic receptors have been shown recently to be primarily involved in activation of adenylate cyclase in cat cerebral cortical membranes (Dolphin et al., 1979). In chicken cerebral slices, the receptor-mediating cyclic AMP accumulations appeared

to have β_2 -adrenergic character (Nahorski and Smith, 1977).

Cerebellum. In rat cerebellar slices, very high and variable basal values for cyclic AMP render difficult the investigation of receptors controlling cyclic AMP systems (cf., Daly, 1977). The presence of adenosine deaminase causes a profound reduction and stabilization of basal values of cyclic AMP in cerebellar slices (Fig. 3, A and B). Responses to norepinephrine and 2-fluoronorepinephrine were nearly equivalent in rat cerebellar slices. 6-Fluoronorepinephrine had no effect in the presence or absence of adenosine deaminase (Fig. 3, A and B) nor did 6-fluoronorepinephrine increase the response to adenosine (Fig. 4). Histamine had no effect on cyclic AMP levels in the presence or absence of 6-fluoronorepinephrine. Responses to a combination of norepinephrine and 2-chloroadenosine were not greater than additive (Fig. 5). There appeared to be a tendency for 6fluoronorepinephrine to reduce the response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine but this was not significant (p > 0.5).

Isoproterenol elicited an accumulation of cyclic AMP which was not significantly greater than that elicited by norepinephrine (data not shown). Propranolol at 10 μ M blocked the response to isoproterenol completely, while butoxamine at 100 μ M caused a 30% reduction and practolol had no effect (Fig. 7D). Another β_2 -adrenergic antagonist, IPS 339, at 10 and 100 μ M blocked the response to 10 μ M isoproterenol by 35 and 60%, respectively (data not shown). Another β_1 -adrenergic antagonist, metoprolol, at 10 μ M had no effect on the isoproterenol response, while at 100 μ M metoprolol, a 30% blockade was manifest. It thus appeared that unlike cerebral cortical slices, both β_1 - and β_2 -adrenergic receptors were involved in control of cyclic AMP systems in cerebellar slices. The response

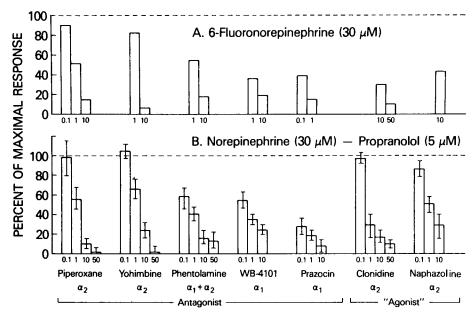


Figure 6. Effect of α-adrenergic antagonists on the accumulation of radioactive cyclic AMP elicited by (A) 6-fluoronorepinephrine or (B) a combination of norepinephrine and propranolol in adenine-labeled rat cerebral cortical slices. Slices were incubated for 10 min with 30 μM 6-fluoronorepinephrine or 30 μM norepinephrine plus 5 μM propranolol in the absence or presence of indicated micromolar concentrations of the α-adrenergic antagonists, piperoxan, yohimbine, phentolamine, WB-4101, and prazosin, and the so-called "agonists," clonidine and naphazoline, and accumulations of cyclic [3 H]AMP were measured as detailed under "Materials and Methods." The percent inhibitions of the response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine (A) are averages for two experiments while for norepinephrine-propranolol (B), they are means ± SEM for three to five experiments.

to 30 μ M 2-fluoronorepinephrine was blocked by 10 μ M propranolol and partially blocked by 100 μ M practolol or 100 μ M butoxamine (Fig. 7B). A combination of practolol and butoxamine each at 100 μ M did not cause a complete blockade of the response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine (data not shown). Metoprolol at 10 μ M caused a 70% blockade of the response of 2-fluoronorepinephrine. 2-Fluoronorepinephrine is probably a relatively weak β_2 -adrenergic agonist (cf., Nimit et al., 1980) so that the blockade by 10 μ M metoprolol might be due, in part, to competition at β_2 - rather than β_1 -adrenergic receptors.

It appeared possible, since α -adrenergic receptors did not activate cyclic AMP-generating systems in cerebellar slices, that such receptors, if present, might be inhibitory as is the case in certain cultured cells of central origin (McCarthy and deVellis, 1978). However, phenylephrine at 100 µm did not reduce the response to 10 µm isoproterenol in rat cerebellar slices (data not shown). In addition to the apparent lack of involvement of α -adrenergic mechanisms in the control of cyclic AMP systems, rat cerebellar slices are unique in exhibiting a significant contribution from β_2 -adrenergic receptor mechanisms to the response of cyclic AMP systems to β -adrenergic agonists. The latter finding is in agreement with binding data indicative of a high proportion of β_2 -adrenergic receptors in membranes from this brain region in contrast to other regions where β_1 -adrenergic receptors are predominant (Minneman et al., 1979). In cat cerebellar membranes, β_2 -adrenergic receptors appeared primarily responsible for activation of adenylate cyclase (Dolphin et al., 1979), as was previously suggested for rabbit cerebellar membranes (Cote and Kebabian, 1978).

Hippocampus. Norepinephrine elicited an accumulation of cyclic AMP in rat hippocampal slices which appeared slightly greater (p < 0.1) than the response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine (Fig. 3**B**). 6-Fluoronorepinephrine elicited a much smaller response and a combination of the two fluoronorepinephrines elicited a response similar to that of norepinephrine. These results were similar to those of cerebral cortex. However, unlike cerebral cortex, the presence of adenosine deaminase did not significantly reduce the response to norepinephrine nor did the deaminase eliminate the response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine which still elicited a small accumulation of cyclic AMP (p < 0.05). It would appear that in this brain region, α -adrenergic receptor-mediated responses are not totally dependent on the presence of endogenous adenosine. The response to a combination of adenosine and 6-fluoronorepinephrine was not greater than additive (Fig. 4). However, a combination of norepinephrine and 2-chloroadenosine did appear to elicit a slightly greater than additive response in the presence of adenosine deaminase (Fig. 5, p < 0.1). The response to histamine also appeared to be potentiated by 6-fluoronorepinephrine (Fig. 4, p < 0.05). The hippocampal preparation seems to present a situation intermediate between cortex where α -adrenergic responses are virtually dependent on adenosine and other brain regions (see below) where α -adrenergic and adenosine responses appear virtually independent. The responses to 30 μ M 2-

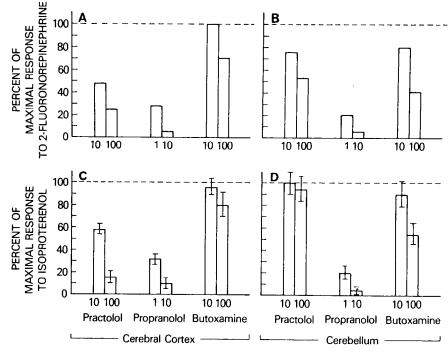


Figure 7. Effect of β -adrenergic antagonists on the accumulation of radioactive cyclic AMP elicited by 2-fluoronorepinephrine in adenine-labeled (A) cerebral cortical slices or (B) cerebellar slices or by isoproterenol in adenine-labeled (C) cerebral cortical slices or (D) cerebellar slices. Slices were incubated for 10 min with 30 μ M 2-fluoronorepinephrine (A and B) or 10 μ M isoproterenol (C and D) in the presence or absence of indicated micromolar concentrations of the β -adrenergic antagonists, practolol (β_1), propranolol ($\beta_1 + \beta_2$), and butoxamine (β_2), and accumulations of cyclic [3 H]AMP were measured as detailed under "Materials and Methods." The percent inhibitions of the response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine (A and B) are averages for two experiments, while for isoproterenol (C and D), they are means \pm SEM for three experiments.

fluoronorepinephrine was completely blocked by propranolol (10 μ M) and virtually blocked by metoprolol (10 μ M) in hippocampal slices (data not shown). In cat hippocampal slices, β_1 -adrenergic receptors are primarily responsible for activation of adenylate cyclase by catecholamines (Dolphin et al., 1979).

Striatum. Norepinephrine elicited a slightly greater response than 2-fluoronorepinephrine in rat striatal slices especially in the presence of adenosine deaminase (Fig. 3, A and B, p < 0.1). 6-Fluoronorepinephrine elicited a very small response which appeared significant only in the presence of adenosine deaminase (p < 0.01). A combination of adenosine and 6-fluoronorepinephrine did not elicit a greater than additive response (Fig. 4) nor did a combination of 2-chloroadenosine and norepinephrine elicit a greater than additive response in the presence of adenosine deaminase (Fig. 5). While neither 6-fluoronorepinephrine or histamine elicited a significant accumulation of cyclic AMP in rat striatal slices, a combination of the two amines elicited a significant accumulation (Fig. 4, p < 0.025) which, however, is not greater than what might be expected from additive effects. The striatum thus appears to represent a region in which potentiative interactions of α -adrenergic receptors with β -adrenergic, histaminergic, or adenosine receptor-elicited accumulations of cyclic AMP are absent or are relatively

insignificant. Indeed, the α -adrenergic response itself was relatively minor in striatal slices.

The response to 2-fluoronorepinephrine (30 μ M) was completely blocked by propranolol (10 μ M) and metoprolol (10 μ M) in rat striatal slices (data not shown). Dopamine did not elicit a significant accumulation of cyclic AMP in striatal slices nor for that matter in slices from any of the eight brain regions (data not shown). Dopamine has been reported to elicit accumulations of cyclic AMP in rat striatal slices, but the presence of a phosphodiesterase inhibitor was requisite (Forn et al., 1974).

Superior colliculi. Norepinephrine elicited a slightly greater response than 2-fluoronorepinephrine in slices of rat superior colliculi, but as in striatum, this difference was significant only in the presence of adenosine deaminase (Fig. 3, A and B, p < 0.1). Adenosine deaminase did appear to reduce the magnitude of the responses to the amines, but the reduction was not significant (p > 0.2). 6-Fluoronorepinephrine elicited a small but significant accumulation of cyclic AMP both in the presence and absence of adenosine deaminase (p < 0.1). Potentiative interactions between 6-fluoronorepinephrine or norepinephrine and 2-chloroadenosine or histamine were not manifest in slices of superior colliculi (Figs. 4 and 5). Histamine had no effect either in the absence or presence of 6-fluoronorepinephrine. Serotonin also had no effect

(data not shown) although this brain region has been reported to contain serotonin-sensitive adenylate cyclases (Von Hungen et al., 1974). The response to 30 μ M 2-fluoronorepinephrine was blocked by propranolol (10 μ M) and virtually blocked by the β_1 -adrenergic antagonist metoprolol (10 μ M) in slices of rat superior colliculi (data not shown).

Thalamus. Norepinephrine elicited a relatively small response in rat thalamic slices (Fig. 3, A and B). 2-Fluoronorepinephrine and 6-fluoronorepinephrine elicited smaller responses. Adenosine deaminase had little effect on the magnitude of the responses. The response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine was no longer significant in the presence of deaminase (p > 0.2) even though the magnitude of the response appeared unaffected. 6-Fluoronorepinephrine did not appear to potentiate responses to histamine or adenosine (Fig. 4) and the response to a combination of norepinephrine and 2-chloroadenosine was not greater than additive (Fig. 5). The response to $30~\mu$ M 2-fluoronorepinephrine was completely blocked by propranolol ($10~\mu$ M) and by the β_1 -adrenergic antagonist metoprolol ($10~\mu$ M) in thalamic slices (data not shown).

Hypothalamus. Norepinephrine elicited a significantly greater response in rat hypothalamic slices than did 2fluoronorepinephrine both in the presence of adenosine deaminase (p < 0.01) and in its absence (p < 0.05) (Fig. 3, A and B). The response to norepinephrine appeared to be slightly reduced by the presence of deaminase, but this apparent reduction was not found to be significant (p > 0.2). The response to 6-fluoronorepinephrine was small but significant both in the presence and absence of adenosine deaminase (p < 0.01). In hypothalamic slices, a potentiative interaction of 6-fluoronorepinephrine and 2-fluoronorepinephrine was clearly manifest (Fig. 3, A and B, p < 0.05). 6-Fluoronorepinephrine did not, however, potentiate the response to adenosine in hypothalamic slices (Fig. 4) and the response to a combination of norepinephrine and 2-chloroadenosine was merely additive (Fig. 5). Histamine had no effect on cyclic AMP levels in either the absence or presence of adenosine deaminase. It would appear that in hypothalamus, as in striatum, superior colliculi, and thalamus, that α-adrenergic mechanisms are not linked to a major extent with adenosine responses. The hypothalamus is unique in being the only brain region in which potentiative interactions between α -adrenergic and β -adrenergic mechanisms were found to be significant. This may well explain a prior report that either α - or β -adrenergic antagonists completely blocked responses to catecholamines in hypothalamic slices (Palmer et al., 1973). However, while the response to 30 µm 2-fluoronorepinephrine was inhibited 90% by 10 μ M metoprolol, prazosin (10 μ M) had virtually no effect on the response (data not shown).

Medulla-pons. Norepinephrine, 2-fluoronorepinephrine, and 6-fluoronorepinephrine elicited accumulations of cyclic AMP in slices of rat medulla-pons (Fig. 3, A and B). Remarkably, in slices of this brain region, the presence of adenosine deaminase appeared to increase rather than decrease responses to the amines. Although this apparent increase was not found to be significant (p > 0.2), it is under further investigation. A histamine response was also manifest in slices of medulla-pons,

both in the absence (Fig. 4) and in the presence (data not shown) of adenosine deaminase. In other brain regions in which a small but significant response to histamine was detected, namely cortex, hippocampus, and thalamus (Fig. 4, p < 0.025), the presence of adenosine deaminase blocked the response (data not shown). In slices of medulla-pons, the response to histamine actually appeared slightly greater in the presence of adenosine deaminase. The slices from medulla-pons are also somewhat exceptional in that adenosine deaminase does not cause a reduction in basal levels of cyclic AMP. Adenosine deaminase also had no effect on basal levels of cyclic AMP in slices of superior colliculi. In other regions, the presence of adenosine deaminase tends to cause (striatum, thalamus, hypothalamus) or clearly causes (cortex, cerebellum, hippocampus) a reduction in basal levels of cyclic AMP. No indications of potentiative interactions among adenosine, histamine, and catecholamines were manifest in slices from rat medulla-pons (Figs. 4 and 5).

The response to 30 μ M 2-fluoronorepinephrine was completely blocked by propranolol (10 μ M) and metoprolol (10 μ M) in slices of medulla-pons, while the response to 30 μ M 6-fluoronorepinephrine was inhibited 75% with 10 μ M prazosin (data not shown).

Discussion

The nature of receptors which activate cyclic AMPgenerating systems has been surveyed in slices from eight rat brain regions and possible potentiative interactions between such receptor mechanisms have been probed. It is clear that in all eight brain regions, β -adrenergic receptors and adenosine receptors activate marked accumulations of cyclic AMP. The β -adrenergic receptor-mediated responses appear to involve predominantly β_1 adrenergic mechanisms except in cerebellum where β_2 adrenergic mechanisms make a significant contribution to the response. The selectivity of β_1 - and β_2 -adrenergic antagonists (practolol, metoprolol, butoxamine, IPS 339) did not appear sufficient (J. W. Daly, W. Padgett, C. R. Creveling, D. Cantacuzene, and K. L. Kirk, unpublished data) to easily quantitate the relative contributions of β_1 - and β_2 -adrenergic mechanisms to the response of cyclic AMP systems in cerebral cortical and cerebellar slices.

Activation of α -adrenergic receptors elicits small but significant accumulations of cyclic AMP in all brain regions except cerebellum. The α -adrenergic response is very small in striatum. In rat cerebral cortex, the α adrenergic response clearly exhibits α_1 -adrenergic character (cf., Skolnick et al., 1978). Prazosin, a highly specific α_1 -adrenergic antagonist, also blocked responses to 6fluoronorepinephrine in medulla-pons. Characterization of the very small response to 30 μ M 6-fluoronorepinephrine in other brain regions proved difficult. Recently it has been reported that in certain rat brain stem nuclei, the epinephrine response is very effectively blocked by phentolamine and by the α_2 -adrenergic antagonist vohimbine (Wilkening et al., 1980). In rat spinal cord, the α -adrenergic component of the norepinephrine response is effectively blocked by α_1 - but not by α_2 -adrenergic antagonists (Jones and McKenna, 1980b). Further characterization of the nature of the α -adrenergic response in different brain regions will be necessary.

Histamine elicits small but significant accumulations of cyclic AMP in medulla-pons > hippocampus, thalamus, and cortex. In the last three regions, the histamine response is no longer significant (p > 0.2) in the presence of adenosine deaminase (data not shown). The nature of the responses to histamine have not been investigated and indeed such responses contrast with some reports on the lack of histamine responses in slices from rat brain (see Daly, 1977). A histamine response has been reported for rat hippocampal slices (Dismukes et al., 1976). Dopamine and serotonin had no significant effect in any brain region (data not shown).

Potentiative interactions between adenosine and amines are clearly evident only in cerebral cortical slices, where α -adrenergic receptor activation augments the adenosine responses. Indeed, the α -adrenergic response appears virtually dependent on adenosine in rat cerebral cortical slices (Table III). In this region, potentiative interactions between α-adrenergic agonists and histamine (Fig. 4) and between α -adrenergic and β -adrenergic agonists (Fig. 3B) also appear to pertain. In other brain regions, potentiative interactions between amines and adenosine are not clearly manifest except for the response to a combination of norepinephrine and 2-chloroadenosine in hippocampal slices. It appears that adenosine is not requisite to α -adrenergic responses in brain regions other than cerebral cortex. Whether other substances such as peptides (cf., Quik et al., 1978) or prostaglandins (cf., Dismukes and Daly, 1975; Partington et al., 1980) may be requisite for the α -adrenergic responses in subcortical tissue is worthy of investigation. It has been reported recently that α -adrenergic receptor-mediated accumulations of cyclic AMP in rat spinal cord slices are independent of adenosine (Jones and McKenna, 1980b). Adenosine and histamine interactions were not investigated in detail, but the adenosine response in cortex, hippocampus, and thalamus appeared to be significantly potentiated by histamine while in medulla-pons, the response to an adenosine-histamine combination was not greater than additive (data not shown). In other regions, histamine had no effect in the absence or presence of adenosine. Serotonin did not significantly affect the adenosine response in any brain region (data not shown). Potentiative amine-amine interactions were also not clearly manifest in brain regions other than cerebral cortex with the exception of a potentiative interaction of the α-adrenergic agonist and histamine in hippocampal slices and a potentiative interaction of α - and β -adrenergic agonists in hypothalamic slices. The present data indicate that potentiative interactions of biogenic amines with adenosine and of amines with other amines do not occur uniformly throughout brain and may well represent subtle and important control mechanisms at only certain sites of the central nervous system.

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