Autoradiographic Localization of Serotonin Receptor Subtypes in Cat Visual Cortex: Transient Regional, Laminar, and Columnar Distributions during Postnatal Development

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Postnatal changes in the distribution of 5-HT receptor subtypes in the visual cortex of cats were assessed both qualitatively and quantitatively using in vitro autoradiographic methods. The 5-HT 1A, 1C, 2, and 3 receptor subtypes and the 5-HT uptake (5-HT_{up}) site were visualized with ³H-8-hydroxy-2(di-n-propyl-amino)tetralin, 3H-mesulergine, (2,5-dimethoxy-4-1251-iodophenyl)-2-aminopropane, 3H-BRL43694, and 3H-cyanoimipramine, respectively. Although specific labeling of 5-HT₃ receptors was not detected in the cat visual cortex at any age, each of the remaining 5-HT receptor subtypes exhibited unique temporal, regional, and laminar patterns of expression in visual cortical areas 17, 18, and 19 and lateral suprasylvian cortex (LS). 5-HT, receptors were the earliest to demonstrate visual cortex-specific changes in expression. They exhibited peak levels of expression in all visual cortical areas, predominantly in supra- and infragranular layers, between postnatal day 10 (PD10) and PD30. Their levels in all areas declined progressively with increasing age. 5-HT_{1C} receptors demonstrated their highest levels of expression in the deeper half of layer IV, but only in area 17, between PD40 and PD75. The most striking feature of their distribution throughout this period was that, in layer IV and extending into layer III, the 5-HT₁₀ receptors were concentrated in columns that were 400 μm wide and had a center-to-center spacing of about 900 μ m. This transient pattern of expression was not present beyond PD90. 5-HT2 receptors were most densely expressed in layer IV between PD40 and PD120, but they displayed a distinctly different distribution pattern. The densest binding of 5-HT₂ receptors was limited to the upper half of layer IV and found in areas 17, 18, and LS. The distribution of 5-HT, receptors along the dense band in layer IV of area 17 was discontinuous, exhibiting patches that were found in the same vertical columns as were the 5-HT₁₀ receptors. Intermediate binding levels for the 5-HT₂ receptors were found through layers I-III, the remainder of layer IV, and the subcortical white matter. The levels of 5-HT uptake sites increased gradually to reach adult levels by PD40, but with a distribution pattern that was basically homogeneous, both across cortical regions and across laminae. The complementary spatial and temporal distributions of the different classes of 5-HT receptors suggest that each receptor subtype has distinctive actions during development and that serotonergic neurotransmission may play a critical role in determining the functional columnar organization of visual cortex.

[Key words: striate cortex, lateral suprasylvian cortex, area 17, area 18, area 19, postnatal development, 5-HT_{1,A}, 5-HT_{1,C}, 5-HT₂, 5-HT₃, 5-HT transporter, columnar architecture, geniculocortical pathway]

The synaptic organization of the visual cortex of mammals is particularly susceptible to experience-dependent modifications of its functional organization during a distinct window of postnatal development. Although the intrinsic mechanisms underlying the formation and stabilization of synapses are not known, it is generally believed that the production of chemical messengers, at specific times during development, might influence the synaptic organization of visual cortex. Indeed, many neurotransmitter systems have been proposed to function in a unique capacity, during the development of the nervous system, in regulating neuronal differentiation, growth, and synaptic plasticity (for reviews, see Mattson, 1988; Lipton and Kater, 1989; Whitaker-Azmitia, 1991).

The role that neurotransmitter systems play in the development and plasticity of visual cortical connectivity has been the subject of intensive study for several decades. Noradrenergic (Kasamatsu et al., 1979), acetylcholinergic (Bear and Singer, 1986), and glutamatergic (Kleinschmidt et al., 1987; Fox et al., 1991) systems have all been proposed to be necessary for maintaining visual cortical plasticity in kittens during the critical period. Transient, region-specific increases in the distribution of neurotransmitter-specific afferents (Bear et al., 1985; Dyck et al., 1993a,b), and/or their receptors (Kasamatsu and Shirokawa, 1985; Bode-Greuel and Singer, 1989; Cynader et al., 1990; Prusky and Cynader, 1990) have been described to parallel the time course of the critical period and are thus effectively positioned to direct specific developmental processes (Cynader et al., 1990, 1991).

Recently, the potential involvement of serotonergic systems in neocortical development has been addressed using physiological and anatomical methods. Immunohistochemical and autoradiographic analyses have demonstrated a transient serotonergic hyperinnervation of the rat visual cortex, which is present

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Table 1. Summary of incubation parameters

	Receptor subtype				
	5-HT _{IA}	5-HT _{1C}	5-HT ₂	5-HT ₃	5-HT _{up}
Radioligand Concentration	³ H-8-OH-DPAT 2.0 пм	³ H-mesulergine 4.5 nm	¹²⁵ I-DOI 0.5 пм	³ H-BRL43694 2.0 пм	³ H-CN-IMI 0.3 nm
Cold displacer	10 μм 5-НТ	10 μм 5-НТ	1 μm DOB ^a	10 μм 5-НТ	1 μM citalopram
Wash and incubation buffer	170 mm Tris-HCl (pH 7.6), 4 mm CaCl ₂ , 10 μm pargylline, 0.01% ascorbate	170 mm Tris-HCl (pH 7.6), 2 μm spiperone, 0.01% ascorbate	50 mm Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 0.1% BSA, 0.01% ascorbate	50 mм HEPES (pH 7.4)	50 mm Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 5 mm KCl ₂ , 120 mm NaCl
Preincubation wash Incubation time Postincubation wash Film exposure	30 min 60 min 2 × 5 min 8 weeks	30 min 120 min 2 × 10 min 10–12 weeks	30 min 60 min 3 × 10 min 3 d	15 min 60 min 2 × 3 min 6–8 months	30 min 24 hr 1 hr 2 weeks

^a DOB, 2,5-dimethoxy-4-bromoamphetamine.

only during early postnatal life (D'Amato et al., 1987; Bennett-Clarke et al., 1991). The distribution of serotonergic terminals in the visual cortex of cats and ferrets also demonstrate age-dependent, laminar-specific changes during postnatal development (Gu et al., 1990; Voigt and De Lima, 1991b). Moreover, the developmental plasticity of ocular dominance columns in kittens has been shown to be disrupted by chronic blockade of 5-HT receptors (Gu and Singer, 1991). Although the regional distribution of several 5-HT receptor subtypes has been studied in visual cortex of the adult rat (Pazos and Palacios, 1985; Pazos et al., 1985), human (Hoyer et al., 1986a,b; Pazos et al., 1987a,b), and nonhuman primate (Rakic et al., 1988; Lidow et al., 1989; Parkinson et al., 1989), surprisingly little is known about the distribution of the different receptors responsible for the transduction of the 5-HT signal during development.

The cellular actions of 5-HT in the CNS are mediated by specific, high-affinity receptors. In the last decade, the number of different 5-HT receptor subtypes has proliferated from two to at least seven members, belonging to three major families (for recent reviews, see Peroutka, 1990; Radia et al., 1991; Zifa and Fillion, 1992). The 5-HT₁ and 5-HT₂ families belong to the G-protein-coupled receptor superfamily (Hartig, 1989) and were originally identified on the basis of their differential affinities for ³H-5-HT and ³H-spiperone (Peroutka and Snyder, 1979; Pedigo et al., 1981). The 5-HT₁ and 5-HT₂ families are further subdivided into specific subtypes. The 5-HT₁ family consists of 5-HT_{IA}, 5-HT_{IB} (Pedigo et al., 1981), 5-HT_{ID} (Heuring and Peroutka, 1987), and 5-HT $_{\rm IE}$ (Leonhardt et al., 1989) receptor subtypes. The 5-HT_{IB} and 5-HT_{ID} subtypes are considered to be homologous receptors in different species (Heuring and Peroutka, 1987). The 5-HT_{IC} receptor subtype (Pazos et al., 1984b; Yagaloff and Hartig, 1985), initially classified as a 5-HT₁ receptor, is now considered to belong together with the classical 5-HT, receptor subtype based on their similar molecular structure, second-messenger coupling, and pharmacological properties (Hoyer, 1988; Sanders-Bush, 1988; Hartig, 1989) as members of the 5-HT₂ family. The last major family of 5-HT receptors, called 5-HT₃, belongs to the ligand-gated ion channel superfamily (Kilpatrick et al., 1987; Derkach et al., 1989), and preliminary reports indicate that multiple subtypes may exist (Richardson and Engel, 1986), but their characterization has not yet been detailed.

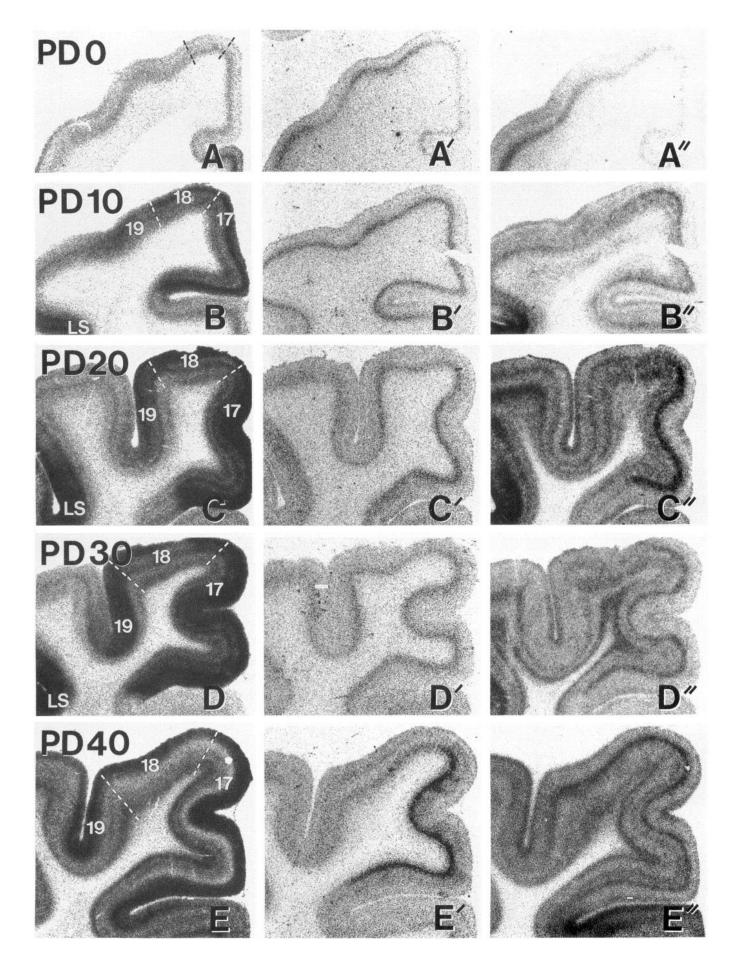
In the present study we report the results of an autoradiographic study in cats that compares the ontogenetic distributions of 5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT_{1C}, 5-HT₂, and 5-HT₃ receptors as well as the high-affinity 5-HT uptake site in visual cortical areas 17, 18, 19, and lateral suprasylvian cortex (LS). The unavailability of specific ligands and radioligands for 5-HT_{1B/D} and 5-HT_{1E} sites precluded an autoradiographic evaluation of their distribution at this time. The temporal and regional expression patterns of the 5-HT receptor subtypes that we did examine strongly indicate that 5-HT receptors are effectively positioned to mediate important functional processes at critical stages of visual cortical development.

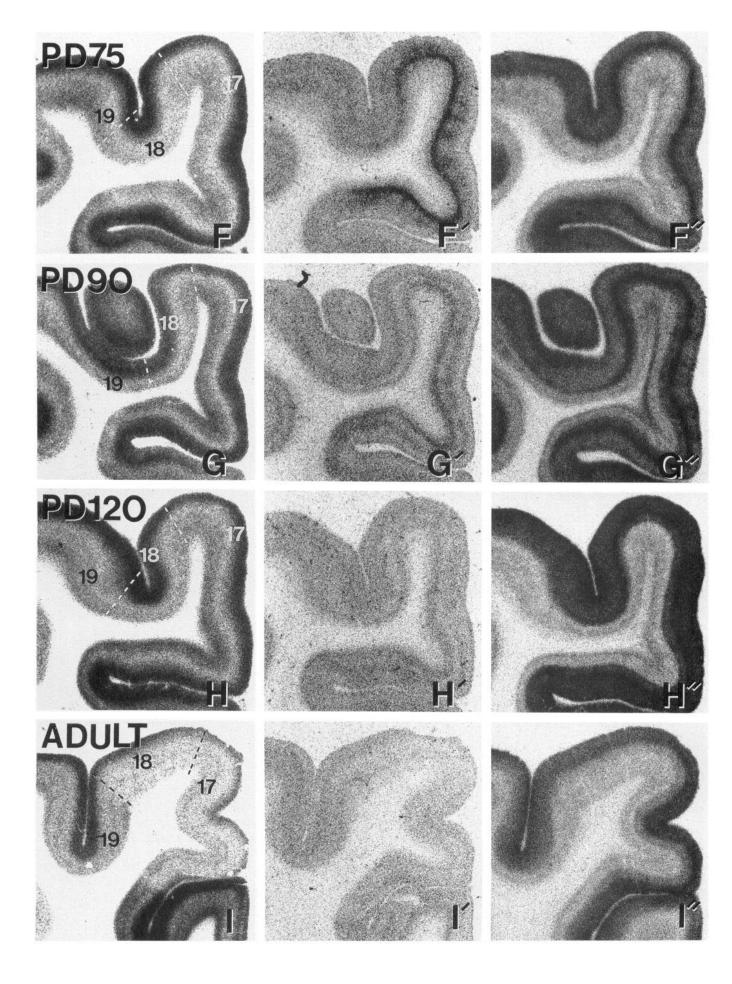
Preliminary results have been presented in abstract form (Dyck and Cynader, 1990a,b).

Materials and Methods

Animals. The normal distribution of 5-HT receptors was assessed in 24 cats at 10 ages between postnatal day 0 (PD0, day of birth) and adulthood (>PD360). At least two animals were used at every age described in the results, along with four adults and eight kittens studied at PD50. The cats were anesthetized with an overdose of sodium pentobarbital and perfused through the ascending aorta with 50-200 ml of 0.1 m phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) containing 0.9% NaCl. The brain was immediately removed, frozen in isopentane at -50°C, and then stored at -30°C prior to sectioning. In two PD50 animals, the visual cortex from one hemisphere was opened and flattened, prior to freezing, to assess the overall distribution of 5-HT receptors in the tangential plane. The other hemisphere was cut in the parasagittal plane. Serial sections were

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cut on a cryostat at -20° C at a thickness of $20~\mu m$, thaw mounted onto gelatin-coated glass slides, and stored at -20° C for not longer than 4 weeks before processing for autoradiography.

Autoradiography. At each age 5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT_{1C}, and 5-HT₂ receptors and the 5-HT uptake site (5-HT_{up}) were labeled in near adjacent sections using ³H-8-hydroxy-2(di-*n*-propyl-amino)tetralin [³H-8-OH-DPAT; 169.9 Ci/mmol; New England Nuclear (NEN)], 3H-mesulergine (78 Ci/ mmol; Amersham), (±)-1-(2,5-dimethoxy-4-125I-iodophenyl)-2-aminopropane (125I-DOI; 2200 Ci/mmol; NEN), and 3H-cyanoimipramine (3H-CN-IMI; 83.6 Ci/mmol; NEN). In preliminary studies we also assessed the utility of ³H-2,5-dimethoxy-4-bromoamphetamine (³H-DOB; NEN) to label 5-HT, receptors, and 3H-citalogram (NEN) to label 5-HT_{Up}. Although all ligands demonstrated similar regional and temporal patterns of expression, 125 I-DOI and 3H-CN-IMI proved superior, in terms of specificity and specific activity, in labeling 5-HT₂ receptors and 5-HT_{Up}, respectively, and the results presented in this study are based on the binding of these ligands. We also used 3H-BRL43694, 3H-GR65630, or ³H-quipazine in binding studies to assess the distribution of 5-HT₃ receptors during visual cortical development.

The binding procedures we used and the specificity of each radioligand for individual 5-HT receptor subtypes are based on ligand characterizations that have been described previously in rat (Pazos and Palacios, 1985; Pazos et al., 1985; Titeler et al., 1985, 1987; Kilpatrick et al., 1987, 1988; Kovachich et al., 1988; McKenna et al., 1989; Nelson and Thomas, 1989), primate (Lidow et al., 1989; Parkinson et al., 1989), and human brain (Hoyer et al., 1986a,b; Pazos et al., 1987a,b). Any deviations from the published protocols are indicated by the specific incubation parameters used (buffers, incubation times, and ligand concentrations), outlined in Table 1, and briefly described here. The frozen sections were thawed, washed for 30 min in buffer, and then incubated, in the dark, in buffer containing the appropriate radioligand. Nonspecific binding was assessed in near-adjacent sections by including an excess of nonlabeled displacer in the incubation solution. Following incubation, sections were washed in buffer to remove unbound radioligand, briefly dipped in ice-cold distilled water, dried under a stream of cool air, and then exposed against Hyperfilm-3H along with either 3H or 125I standards (Amersham). After developing the Hyperfilm, selected sections were stained with cresyl violet to facilitate the identification of cytoarchitectonic areas and cortical layers in relation to radioligand binding patterns.

Quantitative densitometry. Auotradiographic images were captured digitally using a Macintosh IIfx-based image analysis system (Cohu 4915 CCD camera, Data Translation DT-2255 quick capture board) running IMAGE software (NIH, version 1.45). This software allowed radioligand binding to be measured in calibrated units of isotope concentration (nCi/mg tissue), within individual cortical layers. Nissl-stained sections were digitally superimposed upon autoradiographic images that allowed individual regions and cortical layers to be identified and measured densitometrically. The generation of densitometric profile plots using IMAGE, and the ability to align and superimpose digital images with ADOBE PHOTOSHOP (version 2.0), facilitated precise comparisons of the relative laminar and columnar distributions of the different 5-HT receptors in near-adjacent sections.

In the youngest animals (PD0), density measurements were obtained from 100-µm-wide regions, drawn within, and corresponding to, layers I, IV, V, and VI as well as superficial and deep cortical plate (CP), and white matter from areas 17, 18, 19, and lateral suprasylvian cortex (LS). In animals older than PD0, the average density of 200-µm-wide regions drawn from layers I, II, III, superficial IV, deep IV together with superficial V, IV, and Wm was measured in each region. In all cases, four sections from each brain were used for the determination of specific ligand binding. Specific binding within an individual lamina or region was obtained by subtracting nonspecific binding, measured in near-adjacent sections incubated with unlabeled displacer, from the total bound radioligand measured in each of the four sections.

Several approaches were utilized to relate the pattern of ligand binding to laminar and regional borders. Selected sections were counterstained with cresyl violet and were then used to establish laminar borders in the various visual cortical areas based on cytoarchitectonic criteria established by Otsuka and Hassler (1962) in adult cats and Shatz and Luskin (1986) for early postnatal development. Some sections were histochemically stained for cytochrome oxidase to demarcate layer IV within areas 17 and 18 (Wong-Riley, 1979). The borders of visual cortical areas were also determined according to the electrophysiologically defined maps of Tusa et al. (1978, 1979, 1980, 1981), which describe

the relationships of regional borders and gyral patterns. Additional information was derived from comparisons to previous studies using autoradiographic markers having laminar specificity in area 17/18 of developing cat visual cortex (Shaw et al., 1984, 1986; Prusky et al., 1987).

Results

The photographs in Figure 1 illustrate the changing distributions of 5-HT_{1A} (A-I), 5-HT_{1C} (A'-I'), and 5-HT₂ (A''-I'') receptors in near-adjacent sections through visual cortical areas 17, 18, and 19 between birth and adulthood. Autoradiographic images showing the binding to these receptors in LS during development are shown in Figure 2. Presented in Figure 3 are photographs of representative sections that illustrate the binding of 3 H-CN-IMI to 5-HT_{Up} sites in PD20 (A), PD75 (B), and adult cat visual cortex (C). All sections for each ligand were processed simultaneously and exposed against the same sheet of film, and were photographed and printed under identical conditions. Within these figures, the observable changes in density across different regions and laminae reflect real changes in total bound radioligand.

Regardless of the radioligand used, and even with 6 months of film exposure, we were unable to detect specific binding to 5-HT₃ receptors in the visual cortex at any age. However, very high concentrations of 5-HT₃ receptors (best labeled using ³H-BRL43694) were found in sections through the striatum and hippocampal formation of the same brains, indicating that this 5-HT receptor subtype is not likely to be found in the visual cortex at detectable levels. The observation that the density of 5-HT₃ receptor binding sites is significantly less than that of any other 5-HT receptor class has been previously reported, and the authors also indicate that the utility of tritiated radioligands to visualize 5-HT₃ sites in the brain would be limited (Radja et al., 1991).

The photographic images generated from the autoradiograms represent the total binding (specific + nonspecific) of each radioligand. In the quantitative analyses described below, specific binding was assessed densitometrically by subtracting nonspecific (ns) from total binding. Across all ages used in this study, specific binding accounted for greater than 88.6% of total binding of 3 H-8-OH-DPAT (8.2% < ns < 11.4%), >75.5% of binding of 3 H-mesulergine (11.1% < ns < 24.5%), >88.0% binding of 125 I-DOI (8.9% < ns < 12.6%), and >84.0% of 3 H-CN-IMI (8.6% < ns < 16.0%). In the following sections, the binding data are presented in units of fmol/mg (wet weight) \pm SEM.

It is apparent from the autoradiograms in Figures 1–3 that the specific expression of each 5-HT receptor subtype is manifested by complex temporal, regional, and laminar patterns. In order to appreciate this complexity more fully, the autoradiographic data are broken down in the following sections beginning with general temporal, regional, and laminar analyses and ending with an examination of specific laminar and intralaminar distributions.

Temporal patterns of expression

Figure 4 demonstrates the effect of age on the binding of ³H-8-OH-DPAT, ³H-mesulergine, ¹²⁵I-DOI, and ³H-CN-IMI to 5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT_{1C}, and 5-HT₂ receptors and 5-HT_{Up} sites, respectively, in postnatal cat visual cortex. These data represent the binding density of each receptor subtype averaged across areas 17, 18, 19, and LS collectively, and are plotted as a proportion of peak binding. In general, all receptor subtypes exhibited their lowest levels of expression at birth, increased with

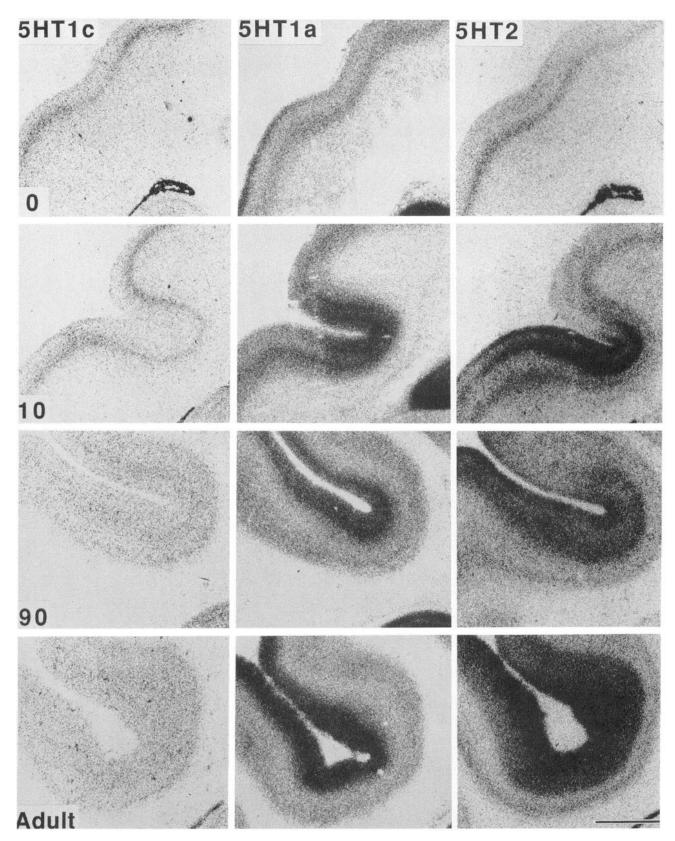
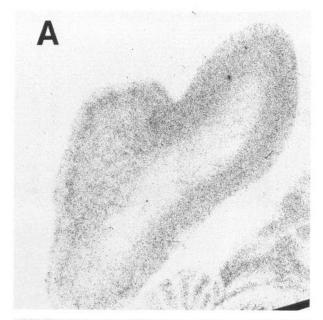
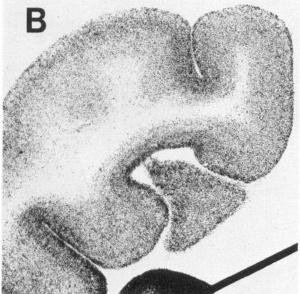
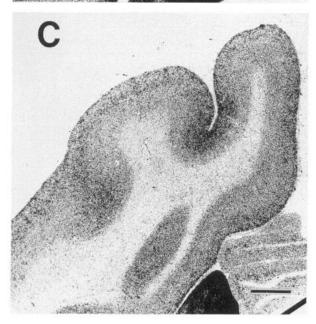


Figure 2. Autoradiographic images demonstrating differential binding patterns of ³H-8-OH-DPAT, ³H-mesulergine, and ¹²⁵I-DOI to 5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT_{1C}, and 5-HT₂ receptors in LS at PD0, PD10, PD190, and in adult cat. The levels of 5-HT_{1A}, and 5-HT₂ receptors were very high in LS at ages beyond PD10, but 5-HT_{1C} receptors were present only at very low abundance at all ages. Scale bar, 2 mm.







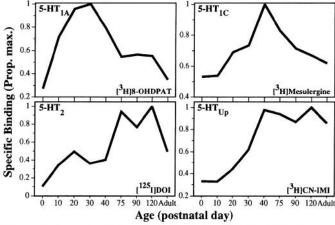


Figure 4. Age-related changes in the binding of ³H-8-OH-DPAT, ³H-mesulergine, ¹²³I-DOI, and ³H-CN-IMI to 5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT_{1C}, and 5-HT₂ receptor subtypes and 5-HT_{Up} sites, respectively, in cat visual cortex are plotted as an average for all cortical regions and layers combined. The average density of receptor binding for each ligand, expressed as a proportion of maximal binding, was typically low at birth, increased to a maximum, at a different rate for each binding site, and then declined to adult levels. The peak binding levels to individual receptor subtypes exhibited surprisingly complementary temporal distributions, with 5-HT_{1A} receptors expressed at high levels earliest in development (PD10-PD40) followed by 5-HT_{1C} receptors (PD40-PD75), and the 5-HT₂ receptor and 5-HT_{Up} sites later in development (PD75-PD120).

a different time course to temporally unique peak levels of expression, and then declined to adult levels. The 5-HT_{1A} receptors exhibited maximal levels of expression between PD20 and PD30 but dropped to near-adult levels by PD75. 5-HT_{1C} receptors also exhibited a transient peak in expression, which occurred slightly later, between PD40 and PD75, but then declined, by adulthood, to levels similar to that seen in early postnatal development. The expression of 5-HT₂ receptors and 5-HT_{Up} sites increased gradually through early postnatal development, with a very similar time course, to exhibit their highest levels between PD40 and PD75. In both cases the highest levels of expression were maintained beyond PD120, but the reduction to adult levels was much greater for the 5-HT₂ subtype than for 5-HT_{Up} sites.

Regional and laminar patterns

In addition to displaying complementary temporal patterns of expression, individual 5-HT receptor subtypes demonstrated striking regional and laminar complementarity in their distributions. Developmental changes in the levels of expression of each 5-HT receptor subtype within individual regions, averaged across laminae, are expressed in the three-dimensional plots in Figure 5. The binding data for each radioligand, within individual laminae of each visual cortical region, are presented in Figure 6. The quantitative changes in regional and laminar distributions described in the following sections can also be fol-

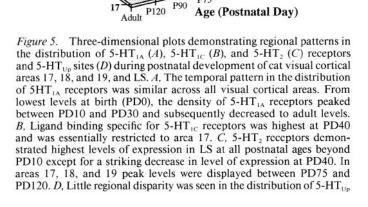
Figure 3. Autoradiographic images illustrating total binding of ${}^{3}H$ -CN-IMI to 5-HT_{Up} sites in visual cortex of PD20 (A), PD75 (B), and adult (C) cats. 5-HT_{Up} sites exhibited a general increase in density with age; however, levels were essentially homogeneous across all cortical regions and laminae throughout early development but exhibited a slight preference over superficial layers in the adult. Scale bar, 2 mm.

30

25

20

Area



lowed qualitatively in the representative micrographs presented in Figures 1–3.

5-HT1A

P₀

5-HT_{1C}

P10

5-HT2

5-HTup

P20 P10

P20

P20

P30

P30

P40

P30

P40

P90 P75

5-HT₁₄. The binding of ³H-8-OH-DPAT to 5-HT₁₄ receptors was lowest at birth (PD0), with equally low levels distributed across all visual cortical areas (Figs. 5A, 6A; area 17, $\bar{x} = 27.68$ \pm 2.85; area 18, \bar{x} = 29.06 \pm 2.67; area 19, \bar{x} = 31.17 \pm 2.70; LS, $\bar{x} = 28.39 \pm 2.66$). The majority of 5-HT_{1A} receptors in all four regions were localized to a narrow band below the CP that included layers V and VI and extended, only superficially, into the subplate (Figs. 6A, 7A). The superficial layers, including the CP and layer 1, were equally labeled, at lower levels. A sharp increase in the level of binding was realized in all four regions between PD10 and PD30 (Figs. 5A, 6A). This increase in binding density was greater in areas 17 and LS ($\bar{x} = 105.89 \pm 6.96$, 108.29 ± 7.26) than in areas 18 and 19 ($\bar{x} = 95.67 \pm 6.13$, 98.76 ± 6.22) and was manifested by increases in receptor concentration predominantly in supragranular (I-III) and infragranular (V, VI) layers, although a significant increase was present in layer IV as well (Fig. 6A). The increase in binding was clearly visual cortex specific, distinguishing these areas from directly adjacent cortical regions (Figs. 1, 2). The levels of 5-HT_{1A} receptors peaked at PD30 with higher levels than those found at any other stage in development. The subsequent decline in expression seen beyond PD40 followed a similar time course across the different cortical regions (Figs. 5A, 6A). By adulthood, in contrast, the visual cortex was conspicuously unlabeled relative to adjacent nonvisual areas. This regional disparity was due, primarily, to reduced numbers of 5-HT_{1A} receptors in cortical layers III, IV, V, and VI in areas 17/18 ($\bar{x} = 37.40 \pm 2.38$, 30.44 ± 2.67), which distinguished them from the laterally adjacent area 19 ($\bar{x} = 50.10 \pm 4.28$) and the ventromedial cingulate cortex (Figs. 1, 5). A very narrow band within layer V was labeled at intermediate levels (Fig. 1, adult). The level of binding in the subplate and subcortical white matter was low at all ages (Figs.

5-HT_{IC} ³H-mesulergine binding exhibited the greatest regional and laminar specificity of the subtypes analyzed in visual cortex (see Figs. 1, 11A). From Figures 1, 5B, and 6B, it is apparent that 5-HT_{IC} binding sites exhibited their lowest levels of expression at birth within areas 17 ($\bar{x} = 9.26 \pm 1.45$), 18 (\bar{x} = 13.22 \pm 1.45), 19 (\bar{x} = 14.51 \pm 1.45), and LS (\bar{x} = 12.76 \pm 1.45). Throughout development, the highest density of binding was limited exclusively to the middle cortical layers (Figs. 1, 6B). A denser band of receptors in the lowest portions of CP, among cells destined for the base of layer IV (Shatz and Luskin, 1986), and upper layer V was distinguished from the equally dense binding in superficial and deep layers at birth (Figs. 1, 7B). The number of receptors increased slowly with age in areas 18 ($\bar{x} = 15.98 \pm 1.45$), 19 ($\bar{x} = 17.24 \pm 1.45$), and LS ($\bar{x} = 1.45$) 17.01 ± 1.45) but doubled in area 17 ($\bar{x} = 18.55 \pm 1.45$) by PD30 (Fig. 5B). A significant increase in specific binding of ³Hmesulergine was observed at PD40 that was caused, almost entirely, by an increase in area 17 ($\bar{x} = 31.03 \pm 3.00$; Fig. 5B). Between PD30 and PD75, the pattern of ³H-mesulergine binding was characterized by a dense band located in deep layer IV/ superficial layer V, from which emerged columns of receptors

sites. 5-HT_{Up} sites demonstrated a gradual increase in numbers from PD0 to PD40 and then maintained this high level to adulthood. Note that the *left abscissa* in plots C and D is reversed to make the relative binding in LS more visible than it would be otherwise.

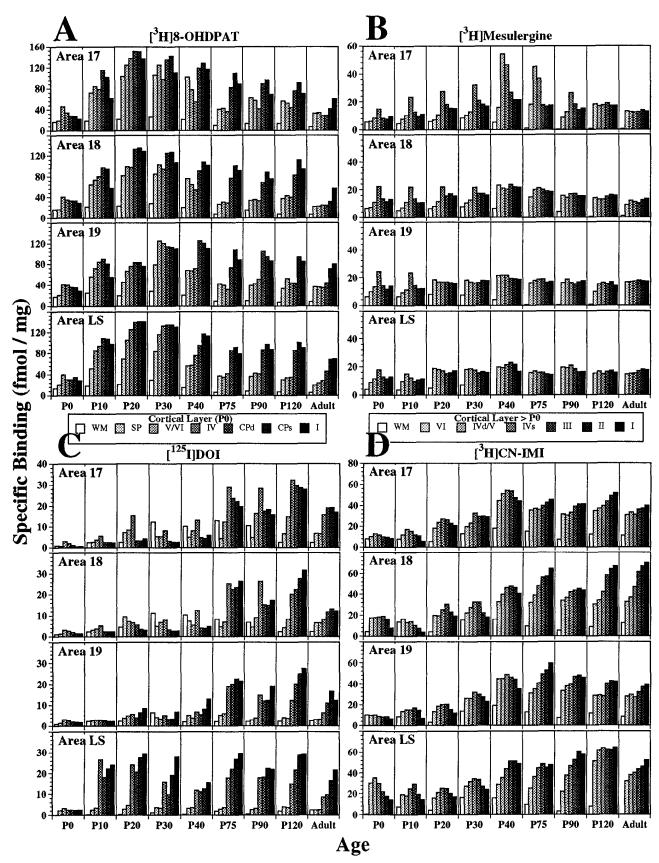


Figure 6. The bar graphs illustrate temporal changes in specific binding of ³H-8-OH-DPAT (A), ³H-mesulergine (B), ¹²⁵I-DOI (C), and ³H-CN-IMI (D) in individual laminae within visual cortical areas 17, 18, 19, and LS. A detailed description of their expression levels and patterns can be found in the text (see Results).

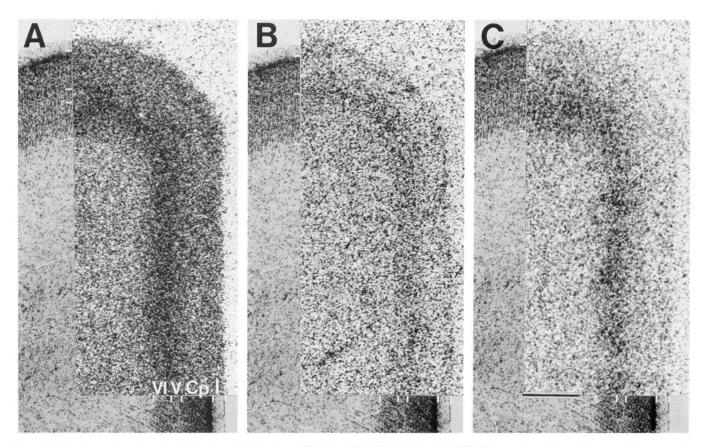


Figure 7. Photomontage showing the laminar distribution of 5-HT_{1A} (A), 5-HT_{1C} (B), and 5-HT₂ (C) receptor subtypes in near-adjacent sections from kitten visual cortex (areas 17 and 18) at birth (PD0). Autoradiographic images are inset within a photomicrograph of the same tissue section stained with cresyl violet in order to indicate laminar boundaries. Peak expression of 5-HT_{1A} (A) and 5-HT₂ (C) receptors was limited to a single band within infragranular cortical layers (V-VI). 5-HT_{1C} receptors (B) were also limited to a single band that was, however, positioned more superficially, extending from upper layer V to deeper levels of the cortical plate (Cp). Scale bar, 500 μ m.

extending vertically into parts of layer III (Figs. 1, 6B). These high regional and laminar levels in the expression of 5-HT_{IC} receptors were developmentally transient, peaking at PD40 and becoming reduced through PD75 ($\bar{x} = 13.02 \pm 0.97$) to near adult levels by PD90 ($\bar{x} = 15.95 \pm 1.46$). The reduction of columnar binding appeared gradual; remnants of 5-HT_{IC} receptor columns were present only at the layer III/IV border at PD90 (Fig. 1*G*'). At ages beyond PD120, the distribution of 5HT_{IC} receptors in visual cortex was adult-like, essentially homogeneous across all layers (Figs. 1, 6B).

5-HT2. The binding patterns of 125I-DOI binding displayed the greatest complexity in regional (see Figs. 1, 5C, 11C) and laminar (Fig. 6C) distributions, compared to that of the three 5-HT binding sites examined. The highest levels of 5-HT₂ receptors, visualized with 125 I-DOI, distinguished LS from adjacent cortical areas between PD10 ($\bar{x} = 16.15 \pm 2.06$) and PD75 $(\bar{x} = 17.11 \pm 2.14)$. Except for a transient decrease at PD40 $(\bar{x} = 17.11 \pm 2.14)$. = 9.64 \pm 1.05), their level of expression remained high through PD120 ($\bar{x} = 16.98 \pm 2.17$), after which they declined to adult levels ($\bar{x} = 8.38 \pm 1.42$). The level of 5-HT₂-specific binding in areas 17, 18, and 19 was lowest at birth ($\bar{x} = 1.22 \pm 0.23$, $1.91 \pm .025$, 2.14 ± 0.14) and then increased to intermediate levels by PD40 ($\bar{x} = 6.73 \pm 0.72$, 6.28 ± 0.67 , 7.07 ± 0.64). Although at very low levels at birth, the expression of 5-HT₂ receptors in lower cortical laminae appeared inhomogeneous and patchy (Fig. 7C). Through early postnatal development (PD0-PD40), the highest concentrations of 5-HT, receptors in

areas 17, 18, and 19 were localized to the deeper cortical layers (IV, V, VI; Figs. 1, 6C). The highest laminar-specific density of receptors in areas 17/18 was found in a band restricted to layer V/VI at birth (Fig. 7C) but highest in layer IV from PD10 to PD40 (Fig. 6C). A striking augmentation in the numbers of 5-HT, receptors in all visual cortical regions occurred between PD40 and PD75. They increased to peak levels, to values that were the highest of all cortical regions, in areas 17/18 by PD75 $(\bar{x} = 18.46 \pm 1.79, 14.52 \pm 1.95)$ and continuing through PD120 $(\bar{x} = 23.25 \pm 2.23, 18.22 \pm 2.24)$, before declining to adult levels ($\bar{x} = 11.19 \pm 1.52$, 7.47 ± 0.94). The laminar pattern of expression changed significantly over this period, becoming predominant in superficial layers. In areas 17 and 18, the highest density of binding was always localized to a band within superficial levels of layer IV (Fig. 6C). Among the different 5-HT subtypes, the 5-HT₂ receptors were found unusual in demonstrating high levels of expression in white matter (Figs. 1, 6C). The binding in subcortical white matter was transient, reaching its highest levels at PD30 within a narrow band directly subadjacent to layer VI (Fig. 1). This localization of 5-HT2 receptors was observable through PD90 but was never seen in the adult.

 $5\text{-}HT_{Up}$. The expression of $5\text{-}HT_{Up}$ sites closely matched the regional and temporal trends described for the $5\text{-}HT_2$ receptors (Fig. 5D); however, unlike all other 5-HT receptors subtypes, the distributions of $5\text{-}HT_{Up}$ did not exhibit a great degree of laminar disparity (Figs. 3, 6D). In the later stages of postnatal development there were discernably higher levels of expression

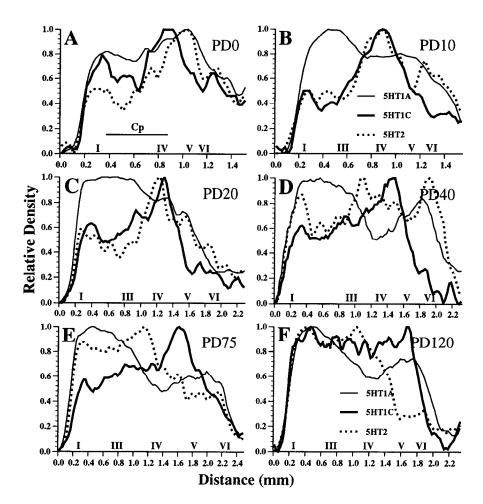


Figure 8. These densitometric profile plots illustrate the changing levels of 5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT_{1C}, and 5-HT₂ receptors as a function of postnatal development. For each age, specific binding density is displayed as a proportion of peak binding. The positions of cortical laminae are indicated by Roman numerals (I-VI); Cp, cortical plate.

in supragranular layers, particularly in area 18 (Figs. 3, 6D). It is apparent from Figure 5D that, at early postnatal ages, the highest density of 5-HT_{Up} was localized to LS ($\bar{x} = 21.58 \pm$ 2.24), with the lowest in area 19 ($\bar{x} = 9.30 \pm 1.14$) followed by area 17 ($\bar{x} = 9.98 \pm 0.94$) and area 18 ($\bar{x} = 14.39 \pm 1.11$). The levels of expression increased progressively in all areas and by PD40 uptake sites were found at high levels, across all cortical areas (17, 44.61 \pm 2.46; 18, 38.40 \pm 2.82; 19, 40.47 \pm 2.12; LS, 39.37 ± 2.47). These levels of expression were essentially maintained throughout the remainder of postnatal visual cortical development (Fig. 5D). The general trend for all regions to exhibit decreases in receptor expression between PD120 and adult was maintained for the 5-HT $_{Up}$ site, but to a far lesser degree, in areas 17, 19, and LS (Fig. 5D). In fact, as is apparent in Figures 5D and 6D, the density of 5-HT_{Up} sites increased slightly in area 18 from PD120 ($\bar{x} = 43.48 \pm 3.94$) to adult levels ($\bar{x} = 46.66 \pm 3.94$).

Complementary patterns of expression. A recurring theme in the developmental distribution of the multiple 5-HT receptor subtypes was complementarity of laminar expression. This feature was found to be most conspicuous in area 17. In Figure 8, the profile plots illustrate densitometric changes in binding of ³H-8-OH-DPAT, ³H-mesulergine, and ¹²⁵I-DOI across cortical laminae within area 17 expressed as a proportion of peak binding for six representative ages between PD0 and adulthood. The distributions of 5-HT_{UP} sites did not exhibit significant laminar variation in area 17 and were not included to simplify visual comparisons. At PD0, only the 5-HT_{IC} receptors exhibited a specific laminar distribution (layer IV) that would be main-

tained through subsequent stages in development. While 5-HT_{IC} receptors were predominant deep within the cortical plate, among prospective layer IV cells (Figs. 7B, 8A), the 5-HT_{IA} (Fig. 7A) and 5-HT₂ (Fig. 7C) receptors were concentrated within the same, deeper, infragranular laminae (Fig. 8A). Beginning at PD10 (Fig. 8B) and continuing throughout the remainder of postnatal development, the highest levels of 5-HT_{IA} receptors were concentrated in supragranular laminae (I-III). On the other hand, the highest levels of 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptors were consolidated in layer IV. Between PD10 (Fig. 8B) and PD20 (Fig. 8C) they were localized to the same laminae, but by PD40 (Fig. 8D) their relative distributions were changed. 5-HT_{1C} receptors were maintained in deeper strata of layer IV, but the 5-HT, receptors were now concentrated in upper layer IV. This relationship was maintained beyond PD75 (Fig. 8E), as long as both receptor subtypes were present. By PD120 the distribution of 5-HT_{1C} receptors was essentially homogeneous across different cortical laminae but the highest density of 5-HT, receptors was distributed through layers I–IV (Fig. 8F). The strong overall tendency in all the panels of Figure 8 is for the concentration of each binding site to peak in different layers and at different cortical depths. The complementarity in the laminar binding profile is most pronounced during intermediate ages examined (Fig. 8C-E, PD20-PD75).

Columnar distribution of 5-HT receptors

Between PD30 and PD90, 5-HT_{IC} and 5-HT₂ receptors were augmented in a periodic manner within layer IV of area 17. Although the patterned expression of these receptors was first

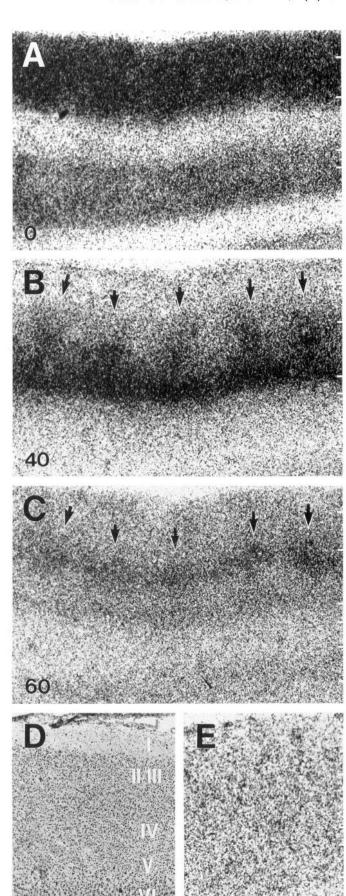
apparent at PD30, it was weak and not always readily demonstrable until after PD40, at ages when both receptor subtypes were found in greater abundance in area 17. Because of this developmental profile, we chose to concentrate on PD50 kittens to study the columnar distributions of 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptor subtypes.

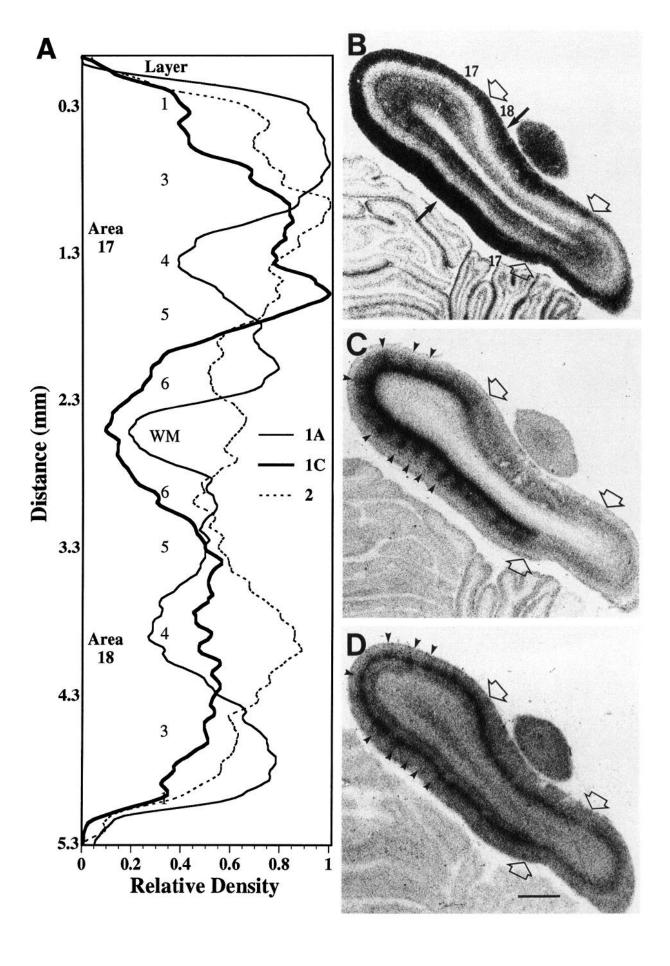
Columns of 5-HT_{1C} receptors emerged from a dense band of 5-HT_{1C} receptors at the layer IV/V interface and extended radially, through the entire extent of layer IV, and up into the deepest levels of layer III (see Figs. 9B, 10C). This distinct distribution of 5-HT_{1C} receptors was strictly limited to area 17 (see Fig. 10C). The patterned distribution of 5-HT₂ receptors resembled beady excrescences radiating from a dense band, more so than columns (see Figs. 9C, 10D). This band was consolidated within upper strata of layer IV and lower strata of layer III (see Fig. 9C) in area 17 and area 18 (see Fig. 10D). However, the bead-like pattern of expression was not readily apparent in area 18.

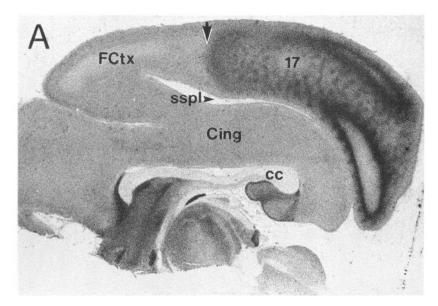
The spatial relationship between the patchy $5\text{-HT}_{1\text{C}}$ and 5-HT_2 receptor distributions is apparent in Figure 10, C and D, and at higher magnification in the serially adjacent sections in Figure 9, B and C. The patches of increased $5\text{-HT}_{1\text{C}/2}$ receptor density were found to be precisely in register, within the same vertical column (Fig. 9B, C, arrows). Although the highest density of each of these 5-HT receptor subtypes was centered within different substrata of layer IV, their patchy pattern of expression was precisely coaligned, where they were overlapped in upper layer IV (Figs. 9B, C; 10C, D, arrowheads).

The overall columnar distributions of 5-HT receptors in area 17 are best appreciated in parasagittal (Fig. 11) and tangential (Fig. 12) sections through layer IV of a PD50 kitten. The patchy distribution of 5-HT_{IC} receptors at this age was strictly limited, in the neocortex, to visual cortical area 17 (Figs. 11A, 12). In sections tangential to the unfolded cortical surface (Fig. 12), patches of 5-HT_{IC} receptors, with an average diameter of approximately 400 μ m ($\bar{x} = 418 \pm 18$), were found distributed throughout area 17 with an average center-to-center spacing of approximately 900 μ m ($\bar{x} = 909 \pm 211$). In addition to dis-

Higher-magnification photomicrographs demonstrating laminar and intralaminar relationships in the distributions of 5-HT_{IA} (A), 5-HT_{1C} (B), and 5-HT₂ (C) receptors and 5-HT_{Up} (E) sites in nearadjacent sections from PD50 kitten visual cortex (area 17). 5-HT_{IA} receptors were densely distributed throughout supragranular (I-III) and to a lesser degree in infragranular (V-VI) cortical laminae. The highest densities of 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptors were found in middle layers. In addition to displaying a complementary laminar arrangement with 5-HT_{1A} receptors, 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptors demonstrated an intralaminar complementarity with the highest density of 5-HT_{IC} receptors located within deeper levels of layer IV and 5-HT2 receptors predominant in superficial layer IV. Moreover, both receptor subtypes exhibited a patchy appearance within layer IV. These patches were $\sim 400 \ \mu m$ in diameter and spaced ~900 µm apart and were localized to the same vertical column (B and C, arrows). The columnar expression of 5-HT_{IC} and 5-HT₂ receptors also extended into the deeper portions of layer III. In addition to peak levels in superficial strata of layer IV, 5-HT, receptors exhibited intermediate levels of expression in layers I-III, lower layer IV, and subcortical white matter (wm). E shows that the distribution of 5-HT_{Up} sites was essentially uniform across all cortical laminae. The borders of cortical laminae (I-VI) and subcortical white matter (wm) are indicated at the edge of each panel with reference to the Nisslstained section (D). B and C are from serially adjacent sections. The distance of each section from that in A is indicated (µm) in the lower left of each figure. D and E are from the same section that was Nisslstained following autoradiographic processing. Scale bar, 1.0 mm.







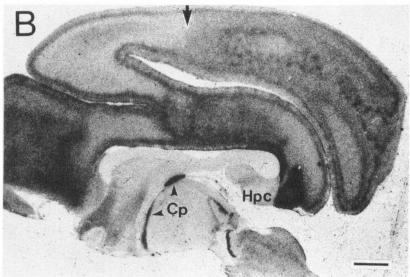


Figure 11. The distribution of 5-HT_{IC} receptors, labeled with 3H-mesulergine (A), and 5-HT2 receptors, labeled with ¹²⁵I-DOI (B) in adjacent, parasagittal sections through PD50 kitten brain. Each of these subtypes of the 5-HT, receptor family exhibited distinctly different regional and laminar localizations. In area 17, high levels of both 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptors exhibited a periodic distribution. However, while the highest density of 5-HT_{IC} receptors was limited to visual cortical area 17 at this age, 5-HT2 receptors were more broadly distributed within other cortical (e.g., FCtx, frontal cortex; Cing, cingulate cortex; Hpc, hippocampus) and subcortical regions. The arrows indicate the anterior extent of visual cortical area 17. Cp, choroid plexus; cc, corpus callosum; sspl, suprasplenial sulcus. Scale bar, 3 mm.

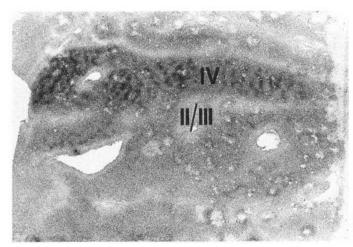
tinctive distributions in visual cortices (Fig. 10*D*), high levels of 5-HT₂ receptors were observed across a number of different cortical (e.g., FCtx, Cing, Hpc) and subcortical regions in the kitten brain (Fig. 11*B*). Measurements of area 17 from the two hemispheres that were opened and flattened indicate that the surface area of area 17 in PD50 kittens is approximately 312 mm² (306, 318), which is similar to values previously published in the adult (Tusa et al., 1978; Van Essen and Maunsell, 1980; Olavarria and Van Sluyters, 1985). The total number of 5-HT_{1C}-rich patches within area 17 of each hemisphere was 296 and 315, respectively, which suggests a packing density of approx-

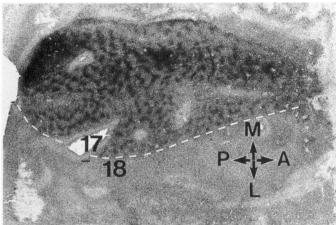
imately 1 patch/mm². These patches did not appear to be aligned along any particular axis, nor was their periodicity significantly different across area 17.

Discussion

The results of this study reveal that four 5-HT receptor subtypes are expressed in unique and complementary temporal, regional, laminar, and intralaminar patterns in developing cat visual cortex. 5-HT_{IA} receptors reached peak levels between PD10 and PD30 and were concentrated in superficial (I-III) and in deep (V, VI) laminae of all visual cortical areas. The 5-HT_{IC} and

Figure 10. Autoradiographic images showing the regional and laminar complementarity of 5-HT_{1A} (B), 5-HT_{1C} (C), and 5-HT₂ (D) receptors in near-adjacent sections from PD50 visual cortex. The profile plot in A, generated from a densitometric slice through cortical areas 17 and 18 at the level of the solid arrows in B, compares laminar changes in binding density among the three receptor subtypes. 5-HT_{1A} receptors were most highly concentrated in supragranular layers and of intermediate density within infragranular layers. A high density of 5-HT₂ receptors was demonstrated in supragranular layers of both areas 17 and 18, with a band of peak binding limited to superficial levels of layer IV. Peak expression of 5-HT_{1C} receptors was localized to the deeper half of layer IV, and was limited to area 17. Both 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptor subtypes exhibited a patchy distribution, but within different strata of layer IV, in the same vertical column (arrowheads indicate coincident columnar localizations). The borders of areas 17 and 18 are indicated by the open arrows. Scale bar, 2.0 mm.





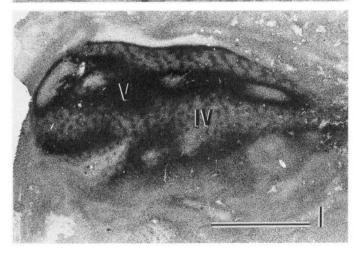


Figure 12. The tangential distribution of 5-HT_{IC} receptors in visual cortex at PD50, in sections taken at 400, 640, and 1000 μ m (top, middle, bottom panels, respectively) from the surface of a flattened right hemisphere. The overall patchy distribution of 5-HT_{IC} receptors in the neocortex was limited to visual cortical area 17. Patches of 5-HT_{IC} receptors averaged 400 μ m in diameter and were separated by an average center-to-center spacing of 900 μ m. It is apparent from these sections that columns of 5-HT_{IC} receptors extended from deeper levels of layer III (top) through the entire extent of layer IV and disappeared in a dense band of binding at the layer IV/V border (bottom). The broken line indicates the approximate position of the area 17/18 border. M, ventromedial; L, dorsolateral; A, anterior; P, posterior. Scale bars: 10 mm and 2 mm.

5-HT₂ receptor subtypes displayed their highest levels between PD40–PD75 and PD75–PD120, respectively, within different strata of layer IV. While 5-HT_{1C} receptors were restricted to area 17, 5-HT₂ receptors were highly expressed in area 17, 18, and LS. Although 5-HT_{Up} sites exhibited significant increases in level of expression throughout postnatal development, they did not demonstrate notable regional or laminar disparity until adulthood.

A striking result of these studies was the finding that peak concentrations of 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptors demonstrated transient columnar distribution within layer IV of area 17 in developing visual cortex. Additionally, their differential intralaminar and regional distributions offered novel evidence regarding a potential relationship of their columnar organization in visual cortex to functional afferent pathways. These results are discussed, in the following sections, with regard to comparative 5-HT receptor–specific binding studies and the functional anatomy of the developing visual cortex.

Methodological considerations

The ligand concentrations and incubation parameters we used were determined from previously published studies that had characterized these ligands in a number of different species, but predominantly in adult animals. As a consequence, we cannot be certain whether the variations in binding density that we observed reflect changes in receptor number (B_{max}) or in changes in receptor affinity (K_d) . Other studies, which have characterized developmental changes in 5-HT receptor expression, have reported ontogenetic changes in binding to be exclusively due to changes in their number, and not affinity (Gross-Isseroff et al., 1990; Biegon, 1991). However, this cannot simply be assumed to be true in cats as well. Regardless of which of these possibilities is correct, the densitometric changes in receptor binding that we have described are likely to reflect, at some level, the efficacy with which each receptor subtype binds to the endogenous ligand. However, a complete pharmacological characterization of these ligands at each age studied would be required to address these possibilities definitively.

The pharmacological and molecular characteristics of 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT, receptors are very similar, and several studies have indicated that currently available ligands lack subtype specificity (Closse, 1983; Glennon et al., 1992). However, the reported lack of specificity of ³H-mesulergine for 5-HT_{IC} receptors in rats (Closse, 1983; Pazos et al., 1988) differs from studies in human and porcine brain, where the binding of 3H-mesulergine was 5-HT_{IC} specific (Paos et al., 1984a, 1988; Lyon and Tietler, 1988). Several lines of evidence indicate that the specificity of ³H-mesulergine and ¹²⁵I-DOI binding for the 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ subtypes, respectively, holds true in cats as well. First, the distinctly different temporal and spatial distributions of ³H-mesulergine and 125I-DOI binding indicate that these ligands label different populations of receptors. The inclusion of spiperone, which has a 1000-fold lower affinity to 5-HT_{1C} than 5-HT₂ receptors, in the incubation medium has been used to confer greater specificity of ³H-mesulergine for 5-HT-_{1C} receptors. In the present study, we found no differences in the regional and temporal binding patterns exhibited by 3H-mesulergine binding in cat visual cortex, with or without the inclusion of spiperone. Finally, the temporal and regional patterns in the expression of 5-HT, sites were identical when either 125I-DOI or 3H-DOB was used. These data do not, however, rule out the possibility that ³H-mesulergine and ¹²⁵I-DOI differentiate different affinity states

of the 5-HT_{1C} and/or the 5-HT₂ receptor, or the existence of additional subtypes within the 5-HT₂ family (Lyon and Titeler, 1988; Leonhardt and Teitler, 1989; Pierce and Peroutka, 1989; Hartig et al., 1990; Titeler et al., 1990). Further pharmacological characterization, complemented by *in situ* hybridization studies, is required to address these issues fully.

Columnar segregation

Perhaps the most significant implication that emerges from the results of this study relates to the transient columnar expression of 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptors in area 17 and, consequently, the potential role they may play in the formation of functional cortical columns, such as those related to ocular dominance, orientation, or some other columnar property of visual cortex during development.

Other columnar markers. Despite abundant physiological evidence for the existence of functionally similar columnar compartments among primates and carnivores, endogenous, anatomical markers of any columnar organization in nonprimate striate cortex had not been described (see LeVay and Nelson, 1991, for review). The discovery that cytochrome oxidase (CO) blobs are present in the visual cortex of adult cats (Murphy et al., 1990) and ferrets (Cresho et al., 1992), combined with evidence of a columnar distribution of 5'-nucleotidase (Schöen et al., 1990), CO (Dyck and Cynader, 1992, 1993), AChE (Dyck and Cynader, 1992, 1993), and synaptic zinc (Zn) (Dyck and Cynader, 1990a,b, 1993), and synaptic zinc (Zn) (Dyck and Cynader, 1989, 1992, 1993; Dyck et al., 1993a,b) in young kittens, indicates that this is no longer the case.

The distribution of synaptic zinc, a vesicular component of a subset of glutamatergic terminals in cat visual cortex (Beaulieu et al., 1992), is enriched in columns within layer IV of area 17 (Dyck et al., 1993). When compared in serially adjacent sections, Zn-rich columns are precisely coaligned with the 5-HT_{IC} receptor columns described here (Dyck and Cynader, 1992, 1993). Moreover, we have recently demonstrated that CO blobs in kitten visual cortex are coaligned with patches of increased staining for AChE, and that the distribution of these CO/AChE blobs is precisely complementary to 5-HT receptor/Zn columns (Dyck and Cynader, 1992, 1993).

The distribution of numerous columnar markers, and their relationships to CO blob or interblob zones, and to the functional organization of visual cortex, have been extensively studied in primate striate cortex (see LeVay and Nelson, 1991, for review), but functional correlates of cortical columns in the cat have not yet been described. We have recently demonstrated that Zn is also distributed inhomogeneously in primate striate cortex in a manner that is, both tangentially and laminarly, precisely complementary to CO (Dyck and Cynader, 1992, 1993; Dyck et al., 1993b). In combination with the demonstration that the serotonergic innervation of striate cortex is more abundant outside of CO blobs (Hendrickson, 1985), these studies indicate the possibility that a phylogenetic conservation of columnar markers in striate cortex may also reflect parallel functional compartmentalizations. A key question concerns the nature and properties of the columnar system(s) demarcated by the 5-HT receptors. In primates the CO blobs have been associated with several distinct functional and anatomical properties, including color specificity, ocular dominance, zones of low orientation selectivity, and differential inputs and output connectivity (Livingstone and Hubel, 1984a,b). Since the 5-HT receptor columns reported here are precisely complementary to the CO

blobs of the cat cortex, some of the same functional properties may be defined by the 5-HT system in development. Of the various features in primate, color specificity is the least likely candidate to be defined by 5-HT receptors in cats. This is because cats have rather poor color vision (Daw, 1973), and also because of evidence from nocturnal primates that indicates the presence of CO blobs, even in the absence of color selectivity (Condo and Casagrande, 1990).

Ocular dominance. In old-world monkeys, CO blobs are in the centers of ocular dominance columns and the same relationship may apply in cats. The temporal characteristics of the patchy distribution of 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptors parallel the time course for the developmental plasticity of ocular dominance columns. The first signs of 5-HT_{IC} columns are evident around PD30, shortly after the eye-specific geniculate afferents begin to segregate in layer IV (LeVay et al., 1978), and their columnar expression is highest through the developmental period during which ocular dominance columns are most sensitive to manipulations of visual input (Hubel and Wiesel, 1962; Cynader et al., 1980; Olson and Freeman, 1980; Jones et al., 1984). However, the spatial distributions of 5-HT receptor columns are not consistent with a direct relationship to ocular dominance. Anatomical and physiological studies indicate that ocular dominance columns are spaced about 0.5 mm center-to-center, fully one-half that of 5-HT receptor columns (Shatz et al., 1977; LeVay et al., 1978; Shatz and Stryker, 1978; Löwel and Singer, 1987; Anderson et al., 1988), a result that is substantiated by quantitative data showing that each cortical hemisphere contains approximately 600 ocular dominance columns (Anderson et al., 1988). Instead, we estimate that each visual cortex contains around 300 5-HT receptor columns. Moreover, 5-HT_{1C} receptors are only found in area 17, while ocular dominance columns are represented in areas 17 and 18. Finally, we have shown by direct comparison, in the same cortical section, that the distributions of synaptic Zn-rich columns, which are coaligned with 5-HT receptor columns in area 17, are not explicitly related to ocular dominance columns labeled transneuronally by intraocular injections of ³H-proline (Dyck and Cynader, 1992, 1993).

Orientation. In terms of their average center-to-center spacing, 5-HT receptor columns appear to be more closely related to the orientation column system in cats (Hubel and Wiesel. 1962; Löwel et al., 1988). However, metabolic mapping studies of the orientation column system in cat visual cortex using 14Cdeoxyglucose describe a regular system of parallel bands whose trajectory is orthogonal to the area 17/18 border (Löwel et al., 1987; Swindale et al., 1987). We do not find that 5-HT receptor columns are found in bands, nor do they appear oriented along any preferred axis (see Fig. 12). However, previous studies have indicated singularities in the cat and monkey cortical orientation maps, zones where different orientation bands coalesce and which contain broadly tuned neurons (Blasdel and Salama, 1986; Swindale et al., 1987; Bonhoeffer and Grinvald, 1991). These singularities are thought to be associated with CO blobs in monkeys (Blasdel, 1992) and may well have the same association in cat cortex. Since the 5-HT receptor columns are complementary to the CO blobs, these results imply that 5-HT receptor columns distinguish neurons in the visual cortex that may show a relatively high degree of orientation tuning.

Parallel processing streams. In the primate, the segregation of cortical compartments into CO blobs and interblobs has been functionally related to the hierarchical processing of color and

form perception, which are, furthermore, related to similarly segregated geniculocortical pathways (Hubel and Livingstone, 1987; Livingstone and Hubel, 1987a,b; but see Condo and Casagrande, 1990). The lateral geniculate innervation of cat visual cortex arises from three major classes of neurons (X-, Y-, and W-cells), which also form functionally, and anatomically separable processing streams (for review, see Sherman, 1985). The differential distributions of 5-HT_{1C} receptors appear to mirror the X-cell innervation of visual cortex, while the 5-HT₂ distribution appears to reflect non-X-cell geniculocortical projections. Like the peak distributions of 5-HT_{1C} receptors, terminals of all X-cell axons are restricted to area 17, predominantly within deeper levels of layer IV, but with lesser projections to lower layer III and layer V (Ferster and LeVay, 1978; Humphrey et al., 1985). Areas 18, 19, and LS, which receive no X-cell input, also do not contain high levels of ³H-mesulergine binding. Similar to the distribution of 5-HT₂ receptors, Y/W-cell projections arborize within upper levels of layer IV and lower layer III of areas 17 and 18 (Humphrey et al., 1985). Finally, high levels of 5-HT₂, but not 5-HT_{1C}, receptors transiently demarcate LS, which receives input from several classes of Y-cells but not from X-cells (Berson, 1985) and only a transient, sparse innervation from cells in the A laminae (Tong et al., 1991). Furthermore, the development of visual response properties of suprasylvian cortex develop between PD9 and PD15 (McCall et al., 1988; Price et al., 1988), an age when 5-HT₂ receptors exhibit a striking increase in their levels of expression.

Intracortical projections. Corticortical connections among pyramidal neurons in layers II/III and V in the visual cortex of primates and nonprimates are periodically distributed at 1 mm intervals in the tangential plane (see Katz and Callaway, 1992, for review). When related to CO blobs in primate visual cortex, intrinsic cortical connections appear to be made reciprocally among CO-rich patches or CO-poor regions, but not between them (Livingstone and Hubel, 1984b). Preliminary studies indicate that this relationship among CO blobs holds true for intracortical connections in cat striate cortex as well (Boyd and Matsubara, 1992). This patchy pattern of intrinsic connections emerges early in development from an immature, homogeneous distribution (Luhmann et al., 1986; Price, 1986; Callaway and Katz, 1990), by a process of axon elimination, which is activity dependent (Callaway and Katz, 1991; Löwel and Singer, 1992). Based on the interrelationship between the patchy distribution of 5-HT receptors and CO blobs in cat cortex, it is possible that the transient columnar distribution of 5-HT receptors is related to the process of refining cortical interconnections during development. This is substantiated by the observation that the critical period for the refinement of corticocortical projections ends by 14 weeks (Dalva et al., 1992), at the same time that 5-HT receptor patches disappear.

Comparative studies

5-HT₁ receptors. Among the numerous 5-HT receptor subtypes, the 5-HT_{1A} subtype has been the most intensively studied, primarily as a result of the development of the highly selective radioligand ³H-8-OH-DPAT (Gozlan et al., 1983). Its specificity has been demonstrated to be identical in the neocortex of species as diverse as rat, pig, and human (Hoyer et al., 1985, 1986a). Using ³H-8-OH-DPAT we have shown that 5-HT_{1A} receptor sites are highly regulated in the cat visual cortex during development. Consistent with our results, levels of 5-HT_{1A} receptors in the cortex of developing rats (Daval et al., 1987) and humans

(Bar-Peled et al., 1991) exhibit transient, three- to fourfold higher densities than in the adult. In the rat, levels increased markedly during the first 3 weeks after birth, compared to the cat visual cortex, where the highest levels of 5-HT_{1A} receptors were demonstrated between 2 and 5 weeks postnatally. In human brain, the highest densities of 5-HT_{1A} receptors were found in the fetal neocortex, between the 16th and 22nd weeks of gestation (Bar-Peled et al., 1991). Unlike the rat, where levels remain essentially stable through the remainder of the animals' lifespan (Daval et al., 1987; Gozlan et al., 1990), our observations of a progressive reduction of ³H-8-OH-DPAT binding density are consistent with results obtained in the aging human cortex (Middlemiss et al., 1986; Cross et al., 1988; Dillon et al., 1991).

The ontogenetic expression of 5-HT receptors in cat visual cortex, analyzed with ³H-5-HT, is virtually identical to that of 5-HT_{1A} receptors, suggesting that the 5-HT_{1A} subtype may be the predominant subtype of the 5-HT₁ family found in cat visual cortex. During postnatal development of the kitten visual cortex, levels of ³H-5-HT binding in tissue homogenates increased from low levels at birth, to a peak at 4 weeks of age, and then subsequently declined to adult levels (Jonsson and Kasamatsu, 1983). In rat visual cortex, by contrast, the transient increase of ³H-5-HT binding was apparent during the first postnatal week followed by a progressive decline with increasing age (Uzbekov et al., 1979; Zifa et al., 1988; but see Uphouse and Bondy, 1981; Zilles et al., 1985). Although providing circumstantial support, the usefulness of ³H-5-HT in studies of 5-HT receptor subtypes is obviously constrained by its demonstrated lack of specificity.

The temporal and laminar patterns of the distribution of 5-HT_{1A} receptors did not vary significantly between the different visual cortical regions examined. Except for the early postnatal period, 5-HT_{IA} receptors were highest in supragranular cortical layers and lowest in middle layers, and attained intermediate levels in infragranular layers. Comparable laminar and ontogenetic analyses of the distribution of 5-HT_{IA} receptors in visual cortex of other species have not yet been reported. Unlike the cat, the highest levels of 3H-8-OH-DPAT binding in the rat are localized to deeper cortical layers (Marcinkiewicz et al., 1984; Pazos and Palacios, 1985). On the other hand, the laminar pattern of 5-HT_{IA} receptors among nonstriate neocortical regions appears similar between adult cat and humans, but a detailed description of human visual cortex findings was not presented (Dillon et al., 1991; Pazos et al., 1987a, 1991). The laminar pattern of 5-HT_{1A} receptors, which differentiates striate from the immediately adjacent, extrastriate visual cortical areas in the adult macaque, appears identical to the results presented here (Parkinson et al., 1989). In the cat, this distinct pattern develops between PD120 and adulthood as a result of a laminarand region-specific reduction in ³H-8-OH-DPAT binding. Developmental studies in the striate cortex of primates are required to evaluate possible ontogenetic similarities between these species.

The resolution of *in vitro* autoradiography is not sufficient to visualize the cell bodies of neurons or to determine the subcellular localization of receptors. However, indirect evidence provided by neuron-specific lesions indicates that the 5-HT_{1A} receptors are localized entirely on neurons intrinsic to the kitten visual cortex (R. H. Dyck and M. S. Cynader, unpublished observations). The regional colocalizations of 5-HT_{1A} mRNA, assessed with *in situ* hybridization, combined with *in vitro* autoradiography, in the adult rat brain, support the idea that 5-HT_{1A}

receptors have a predominantly somatodendritic location (Chalmers and Watson, 1991; Pompeiano et al., 1992).

5-HT₂ receptors. The mature distributions of 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptor subtypes have been extensively studied in the rodent, porcine, and primate brain (Pazos et al., 1984a, 1985, 1987a,b, 1991; Pazos and Palacios, 1985; Hoyer et al., 1986b; Blue et al., 1988; Rakic et al., 1988; Lidow et al., 1989; McKenna et al., 1989; Gross-Isseroff et al., 1990). Consistent with the results presented here, 5-HT_{1C} binding sites were reported to be present at low levels, with a slight preference in the middle layers reported in the adult human and rat occipital cortex (Pazos and Palacios, 1985; Hoyer et al., 1986b; Pazos et al., 1987a, 1991). The localization of mRNA encoding the 5-HT_{1C} receptor in adult rodents has confirmed and extended these results (Hoffman and Mezey, 1989; Molineaux et al., 1989; Mengod et al., 1990a).

Possibly due to the greater availability of 5-HT₂-specific ligands, the distribution of 5-HT₂ receptors has been more extensively studied, particularly in striate cortex. In adult cats, we found that the highest densities of 5-HT₂ sites are equally distributed across layers I-IV in striate cortex, and predominantly in superficial layers in extrastriate regions. In rats, the highest concentration of 5-HT₂ receptors was demonstrated in the middle cortical layers (III, IV, and V), with highest concentrations at the layer IV/V border (Pazos et al., 1985; Blue et al., 1988; Mengod et al., 1990b). In human and primate material, there are concentrations in layers III, IVa, and IVc (Pazos et al., 1987b, 1991; Rakic et al., 1988; Lidow et al., 1989; Parkinson et al., 1989; Gross-Isseroff et al., 1990). It is possible that these inconsistencies can be attributed to species-specific localization patterns. Alternatively, the majority of these studies used 5-HT₂ antagonists (e.g., 3H-ketanserin, 125I-LSD), which have been shown to label more than one population of 5-HT, receptors (McKenna and Peroutka, 1989; Pierce and Peroutka, 1989) and/ or differential affinity states of multiple receptor subtypes (Lyon et al., 1987; Leonhardt and Titeler, 1989).

Very little is known of the ontogenesis of 5-HT₂ receptor family in other species or cortical areas. In this report we have demonstrated that the distributions, and levels, of 5-H T_{IC} and 5-HT₂ receptors are robustly regulated in the kitten visual cortex during postnatal development. The ontogenetic regulation of 5-HT₁₀ and 5-HT₂ receptors has also been studied in rat and human brain, but has not been determined with regional specificity. In the whole rat brain, Roth and coworkers have reported that transient increases in 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ sites during early development (Roth et al., 1991b) were accompanied by parallel increases in the corresponding mRNA (Roth et al., 1991a) that became markedly reduced with age. A marked reduction of 5-HT₂ receptors in aged rats has also been reported by others (Battaglia et al., 1988; Gozlan et al., 1990). In addition, although studies of early development have not been reported, age-dependent reductions of 5-HT₂ receptors have been reported to occur in the human brain, beyond adolescence, during normal aging and in age-related disease (Marcusson et al., 1984; Reynolds et al., 1984; Wong et al., 1984; Cross et al., 1988; Gross-Isseroff et al., 1990; Biegon, 1991).

The cellular localization of 5-HT_{1C} and 5-HT₂ receptors in the adult rodent brain has been inferred, using *in situ* hybridization and lesion studies, to reside predominantly on non-serotonergic neurons that are intrinsic to the neocortex (Fischette et al., 1987; Hoffman and Mezey, 1989; Molineaux et al., 1989; Mengod et al., 1990a,b). However, based on lesion

studies, and the effects of input manipulations reported previously (Dyck et al., 1991), it would appear that, at least during a distinct phase of postnatal development, 5-HT_{1C} receptors are associated with axonal terminals of lateral geniculate neurons or possibly with glial cells. In addition, the transient, high levels of 5-HT₂ receptors distributed within the subcortical white matter suggest that a significant proportion of these binding sites are localized to glial cells. The resolution of the autoradiographic technique is not sufficiently fine to determine this with certainty. A detailed analysis of these receptors using techniques providing cellular resolution are necessary.

As in other species (Pazos et al., 1984b; Yagaloff and Hartig, 1985; Hoyer et al., 1986b; Zilles et al., 1986), we also found very high concentrations of ³H-mesulergine binding sites in the choroid plexus at all stages of development. Our results also indicate high levels of ¹²⁵I-DOI binding in the choroid plexus of the cat brain (see Fig. 11), which are consistent with previous findings (McKenna et al., 1989).

5-HT₃ receptors. As mentioned in the Results, the presence of 5-HT₃ receptors in the developing kitten visual cortex was not detected using currently available tritiated ligands. Consistent with binding studies in other species (Kilpatrick et al., 1988; Kilpatrick et al., 1989; Waeber et al., 1989; Barnes et al., 1992), we did find dense labeling in limbic structures, indicating that the lack of binding in visual cortical areas was not due to lack of sensitivity, or other methodological issues. The development of radioligands with higher specific activity may help to allow autoradiographic localization of the low levels of 5-HT₃ sites that the cortex may yet possess.

5-HT uptake. A robust developmental regulation of 5-HT_{Up} sites has been previously described for the rat visual and somatosensory cortex (D'Amato et al., 1987). We also found that 5-HT_{Up} sites were developmentally regulated in the postnatal kitten visual cortex. Unlike the kitten, where we observe a gradual increase in expression until adulthood, which is essentially homogeneous across cortical laminae, 5-HT_{Up} sites in the developing rat are transiently expressed, during the early postnatal period, at very high levels within layer IV in primary sensory areas (D'Amato et al., 1987). These 5-H T_{Up} sites are presumably localized on axon terminals of serotonergic neurons that arise from the raphe nuclei (D'Amato et al., 1987; Bennett-Clarke et al., 1991). Apart from the apparent lack of a transient increase in expression during early development, our descriptions of the regional and laminar distributions of 5-HT_{Up} sites in the adult cat are consistent with those found in human (Duncan et al., 1992), primate (Lidow et al., 1989), and rat (Kovachich et al., 1988; Duncan et al., 1992) visual cortices. In each of these studies, the distribution of high-affinity 5-HT_{Up} sites was correlated with the density of serotonergic innervation. The relationship of 5-HT receptor subtypes to serotonergic innervation of visual cortex is discussed in greater detail below.

Relationship to serotonergic innervation

Although the ontogeny of the serotonergic innervation of visual cortex has been investigated in rats (Descarries et al., 1975; Lidov et al., 1980; D'Amato et al., 1987; Papadopoulos et al., 1987; Bennett-Clarke et al., 1991; Nakazawa et al., 1992), ferrets (Voigt and De Lima, 1991a,b), cats (Mulligan and Törk, 1988; Gu et al., 1990), and primates (Morrison et al., 1982, 1984; Foote and Morrison, 1984; Kosofsky et al., 1984; de Lima et al., 1988), corresponding data regarding 5-HT receptors during early postnatal development are only available for the rat.

In the rat, a transient hyperinnervation of primary sensory areas by raphe neurons (D'Amato et al., 1987; Bennett-Clarke et al., 1991; Nakazawa et al., 1992) is accompanied by corresponding levels of 5-HT $_{Up}$ sites (D'Amato et al., 1987) and 5-HT_{1B} receptors (Leslie et al., 1992). Somewhat similar to the rat, the expression of 5-HT_{Up} sites in kitten visual cortex appears to be loosely correlated with its serotonergic innervation. In the second postnatal week (the earliest age studied), 5-HT-immunoreactive fibers were equally and sparsely distributed across cortical laminae I-V (Gu et al., 1990), but by postnatal week 6 appeared adult-like, with fiber densities greatest in superficial laminae, less dense in lamina V, and sparse in laminae IV and VI (Mulligan and Törk, 1988; Gu et al., 1990). Among the different 5-HT receptor subtypes investigated, the laminar distribution of 5-HT_{1A} receptors in the cat visual cortex most closely resembled the pattern of its serotonergic innervation. Although their spatial distributions through postnatal development were similar, the marked increases of 5-HT_{IA} receptors between PD20 and PD40, followed by a reduction to adult levels, do not appear to be reflected by a corresponding change in fiber density (Gu et al., 1990). Biochemical analyses indicate a marked increase in the endogenous concentrations of 5-HT in the developing kitten visual cortex between the third and fifth postnatal weeks (Jonsson and Kasamatsu, 1983), with a parallel transient increase throughout the brain (Daszuta et al., 1979), which is identical to the autoradiographic data, but in conflict with the available immunocytochemical results (Gu et al., 1990). Furthermore, the ontogenesis of serotonergic fibers in the ferret, a related carnivore whose cortical histogenesis is nearly identical to that of the cat, demonstrates an increased density of serotonergic fibers during the equivalent postnatal period (Voigt and De Lima, 1991b). These results suggest that this period of postnatal development is potentially critical for the phenotypic maturation of serotonergic neurons.

The relationship between 5-HT receptors, and particularly the 5-HT_{1A} subtype, with the serotonergic innervation of visual cortex appears more clearly defined in the adult cat. Immunocytochemical studies in the adult cat indicate that the arbors of serotonergic axon terminals are mostly restricted to the superficial laminae (I–III) and layer V (Mulligan and Törk, 1988; Gu et al., 1990). The predominantly superficial distribution of fibers is consistent with the highest levels of the 5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT₂, and 5-HT_{UP}, but only the 5-HT_{1A} receptor exhibits a higher level of expression specific to layer V. Although not reported in these studies, it would be interesting to see whether the decreased density of 5-HT_{1A} receptors in areas 17 and 18, relative to the directly adjacent cortical regions, is reflected by a similarly sharp transition in the density of innervation by serotonergic fibers.

The serotonergic innervation of the mammalian visual cortex arrives via two parallel ascending projections, which are morphologically distinct, and originate from neurons in either the dorsal or median raphe nuclei (Moliver, 1987; Mulligan and Törk, 1988). Their differential distributions and their relative contribution to the innervation of the visual cortex of cats during development are not known, which precludes an analysis of their relative distribution to that of 5-HT receptor subtypes. However, the laminar pattern of 5-HT₂ receptors in the neocortex of rats has been described to be associated with the fine axon projection that arises from the dorsal raphe nucleus (Blue et al., 1988). Similarly, 5-HT axons (Morrison et al., 1982; Kosofsky and Molliver, 1987) and synapses (de Lima et al., 1988) in primate striate cortex are present in all cortical layers but form

especially prominent, dense bands of arborizing fibers from midlayer III through IVC α (Morrison et al., 1982; Morrison and Foote, 1986; Kosofsky and Molliver, 1987), which is reflected by the distribution of 5-HT₂ receptors (Rakic et al., 1988; Lidow et al., 1989; Parkinson et al., 1989). However, without the development of a method with improved cellular resolution, which is compatible with double label studies (e.g., 5-HT receptorspecific antibodies), this relationship cannot be ascertained, or extended to studies in the cat.

The data presented here indicate that the regulation of serotonergic innervation and 5-HT receptors are independently controlled during cortical development. Furthermore, the existence of two pharmacologically and anatomically separate ascending serotonergic systems, combined with a multiplicity of receptors to activate, provides a diverse range of responses that may be necessary to guide the multiple processes involved in visual cortical development.

Conclusions

In the present study we have described the comparative distributions of the 5-HT 1A, 1C, 2, and 3 receptor subtypes, as well as the 5-HT uptake site, in the kitten visual cortex during postnatal development. The temporal and spatial complementarity of their respective distributions indicate that 5-HT might play multiple roles in different visual cortical regions and layers at different times during development. Furthermore, this first demonstration that specific 5-HT receptors are transiently organized in columns of kitten visual cortex argues for a specific role for 5-HT to participate in processes that determine the synaptic development and functional organization of columnar systems in visual cortex. Investigations of the physiological consequences of activating specific 5-HT receptor subtypes in the visual cortex during postnatal development, together with anatomical studies to determine their precise cytological localization, are underway to address fully this role for 5-HT.

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