食品生理学研究室ニュース3

New of Laboratory of Food and Physiological Sciences:

Vol. 3. 23-June-2016

★当研究室の平成27年度

卒業生(澁谷恵理さん・竹鼻志織さん・関口健太君)



の研究成果が "Brain Research Bulletin" に掲載されました!!!

Research report

Research Bulletin 124 (2016) 262-268

Local administration of resveratrol inhibits excitability of nociceptive wide-dynamic range neurons in rat trigeminal spinal nucleus caudalis

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Abstract

Although we recently reported that intravenous administration of resveratrol suppresses trigeminal nociception, the precise peripheral effect of resveratrol on nociceptive and non-nociceptive mechanical stimulation-induced trigeminal neuron activity in vivo remains to be determined. The aim of the present study was to investigate whether local subcutaneous administration of resveratrol attenuates mechanical stimulation-induced excitability of trigeminal spinal nucleus caudalis (SpVc) neuron activity in rats, in vivo. Extracellular single-unit recordings were made of SpVc wide-dynamic range (WDR) neuron activity in response to orofacial mechanical stimulation in pentobarbital-anesthetized rats. Neurons responded to non-noxious and noxious mechanical stimulation applied to the orofacial skin. Local subcutaneous administration of resveratrol (1-10 mM) into the orofacial skin dose dependently and significantly reduced the mean number of SpVc WDR neurons firing in response to both non-noxious and noxious mechanical stimuli, with the maximal inhibition of discharge frequency in response to both stimuli being seen within 5 min. These inhibitory effects were no longer evident after approximately 20 min. The mean magnitude of inhibition by resveratrol (10 mM) of SpVc neuron discharge frequency was almost equal to that of the local anesthetic 1% lidocaine (37 mM). These results suggest that local injection of resveratrol into the peripheral receptive field suppresses the excitability of SpVc neurons, possibly via inhibition of Na+ channels in the nociceptive nerve terminals of trigeminal ganglion neurons. Therefore, local subcutaneous administration of resveratrol may provide relief of trigeminal nociceptive pain, without side effects, thus contributing to the suite of complementary and alternative medicines used as local anesthetic agents.

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ハイライト: 赤ワインの成分で知られるレスベラトロールは静脈内投与による鎮痛および炎症性疼痛抑制作用の他に、新らたに局所麻酔薬としての効果が明らかとなりました。通常臨床の場で使用される1%リドカインと同等の局所麻酔効果が動物実験で明らかとなり、副作用のない局所麻酔薬として補完代替医療で使用の可能性を示唆しています。