NSM 00830

Intraventricular microdialysis: a new method for determining monoamine metabolite concentrations in the cerebrospinal fluid of freely moving rats

Jill B Becker, Frank Adams and Terry E Robinson

The University of Michigan, Department of Psychology, Neuroscience Laboratory Building, Ann Arbor MI (US 4)

(Received 30 September 1987)

(Revised 6 January 1988)

(Accepted 8 February 1988)

Key words Cerebrospinal fluid, Dopamine metabolite, Microdialysis, Monoamine metabolite, Haloperidol, Probenecid, Adrenal medulla graft

A new method is described to estimate the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) concentrations of monoamine metabolites (dihydroxyphenylacetic acid (DOPAC) homovanilic acid (HVA) and 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (5-HIAA)) in the lateral ventricle of freely moving rats by use of in vivo microdialysis. Both the baseline concentrations of these metabolites and the rate of dopamine (DA) turnover (estimated by the accumulation of total DA metabolites after 200 mg/kg probenecid) were within the range reported when other methods were used to sample CSF. A series of preliminary studies were conducted to demonstrate that this method can be used to repeatedly sample CSF, and to show that the method is sensitive to local changes in dopaminergic activity induced by lesions, drugs or grafts (1) Unilateral 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA) lesions of the substantia nigra produced a significant decrease in the CSF concentrations of DOPAC and HVA ipsilateral to the lesion, relative to the contralateral side or to concentrations in animals without lesions (2) When left and right lateral ventricles were sampled simultaneously in animals with a unilateral 6-OHDA lesion haloperidol-induced an increase in DOPAC and HVA concentrations in CSF on both sides of the brain. Interestingly, the haloperidol-induced increase in CSF concentrations of DA metabolites was greater adjacent to the intact striatum of rats with unilateral 6-OHDA lesions than in animals with no lesion (3) Finally, in animals with adrenal medulla tissue grafted into the lateral ventricle there was an increase in the CSF concentration of DOPAC compared to pregraft values or to those of animals with control grafts.

Introduction

The concentrations of dihydroxyphenylacetic acid (DOPAC), homovanillic acid (HVA) and 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (5-HIAA) in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) are frequently used as indirect indices of brain monoamine activity (Nielsen and Moore, 1982, Nielsen et al., 1983, Hutson et al., 1984a, b, Mignot and Laude, 1985) However, our knowledge of how monoamine metabolites in the

CSF relate to brain monoamine activity is very incomplete, in part because the methods available for sampling CSF are either technically cumbersome, or have other disadantages. For example, push-pull perfusion has been used to repeatedly sample the lateral ventricles (Nielsen and Moore, 1982), but (1) extended push-pull experiments are technically difficult because of problems in maintaining an exact balance between the inflow and outflow lines for long periods of time, and the consequences of even brief blockage can be disastrous, and (2) it is difficult to accurately estimate CSF concentrations of metabolites with this method because the CSF obtained from the "pull" cannula is greatly diluted by the effluent from the

Correspondence J B Becker, The University of Michigan, Department of Psychology Neuroscience Laboratory Building, 1103 E Huron St, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104-1687, U S A

"push" cannula A second method involves withdrawing CSF using a siphoning system (Sarna et al., 1983, Kornhuber et al., 1986, De La Riva and Yeo, 1985, Mignot and Laude, 1985), but frequent withdrawal of CSF without replacing fluid may be problematic because of resultant changes in intracerebral pressure Finally, the repeated sampling of multiple sites simultaneously is difficult with previous methods

In this paper a microdialysis technique is described for the repeated sampling of monoamine metabolites in the CSF of freely moving animals, over extended periods of time (see Ungerstedt, 1984 for a review of microdialysis) This method has a number of advantages over previous methods (1) With microdialysis no fluids are introduced or withdrawn from the ventricle, so changes in intracerebral pressure are minimized (2) More than one site within the ventricular system of an animal can be sampled at the same time without increasing the risk or discomfort to the animal (3) The dialysis probes can be inexpensively constructed from readily available materials, and are reusable (4) Sterility can be maintained because bacteria do not cross the dialysis membrane (5) Many samples can be collected in succession (6) Finally, by calculating recovery in vitro prior to an experiment, it is possible to control for variability among probes and to obtain a relatively accurate estimate of the absolute concentrations of monoamine metabolites in CSF

Methods

Subjects

Adult female Long-Evans rats (Charles River Breeders) were housed individually with food and water freely available. The lights in the animal colony were maintained on a 14 10 (light dark) cycle, lights on at 08 00 h. All experiments were conducted between 12.00 and 18 00 h.

Surgery

For the experiments with freely moving animals guide cannulae constructed from 18 gauge thin wall stainless steel tubing were implanted stereotaxically above the lateral ventricle, 1 mm ventral

from skull surface Some animals also received a unilateral 6-OHDA lesion of the substantia nigra at this time, as described previously (Robinson et al., 1982). For the acute experiments animals received 6-OHDA lesions but guide cannulae were not implanted. All animals were allowed a minimum of 4 weeks for recovery prior to intraventricular microdialysis.

Construction of the microdialysis probe

The microdialysis probe consisted of a reusable assembly with a single-use microdialysis membrane that was attached to the assembly prior to each dialysis Stainless steel tubing (33 gauge 30 cm, 20 gauge 8 mm and 25 gauge thin wall 17 mm) was cut to the lengths indicated, degreased and acid etched to roughen the outer surfaces A 75 cm piece of 0 67 mm inside diameter (i d) microline tubing was washed in methanol and the surface gloss removed by roughening about 2 cm of one end with an emery board

The microdialysis assembly is illustrated schematically in Fig 1 and was constructed as follows A 26 gauge needle was inserted into the lumen of the microline tubing (Fig 1L) and then angled to pierce through the wall about 1 cm from the roughened end The 33 gauge tubing (Fig. 1M) was threaded through the needle and the needle was withdrawn leaving the 33 gauge tubing in place The 25 gauge tubing (Fig 1H) was inserted so that exactly 10 mm of 25 gauge tubing protruded from the end of the microline tubing. The 33 gauge tubing extended through the 25 gauge tubing and protruded exactly 35 mm This arrangement was then secured using 2-Ton epoxy (Fig. 1G) When the epoxy had dried the 20 gauge tubing (Fig 1I) was placed over the 25 gauge tubing and epoxied flush with the microline tubing This is the basic unit of the dialysis assembly The epoxy was allowed to cure completely before proceeding To protect the 33 gauge tubing, 0 25 mm 1 d microline tubing (Fig 1F) was threaded over the stainless steel tubing. The entire assembly end of the dialysis probe was then coated with epoxy as indicated in Fig 1 by the dotted line After the epoxy had cured a 5 mm piece of silastic tubing (0 625 mm 1 d) was applied over the epoxied end of the microline tubing (not shown)

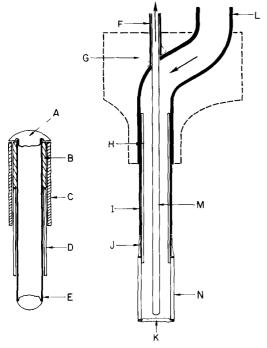


Fig 1 Schematic diagram of the guide cannula/stylet and microdialysis probe for intraventricular microdialysis (not drawn to scale) The 18 gauge (thin wall) guide cannula (D) is closed with a stylet constructed from 20 gauge tubing (E) that is beveled and sealed with epoxy. The stylet is fixed in position by 18 gauge tubing (B) crimped over the end and tygon tubing (C) to seal the connection between guide and stylet. The top opening of the stylet is sealed with epoxy (A). The dialysis probe consists of a reuseable assembly and a replaceable dialysis membrane (N). (Construction and components described in detail in the text.) Fluid enters via microline tubing (L) and exits via 33 gauge tubing (F).

A length of hollow fiber dialysis tubing (polysulfone, 650 μ m od, 500 μ m 1d, MW cut off 3000) approximately 12 mm long was held under a dissecting scope and the closed tips of a pair of No 5 Dumont forceps were inserted in one end of the fiber about 2 mm. The membrane was stretched slightly by allowing the forceps to open. Then, the dialysis fiber was slipped over the 25 gauge tubing and tacked in place with 5-Min epoxy (Fig. 1J). One hour later a razor blade was used to cut the dialysis membrane to a length of 4 mm (from the end of the 25 g stainless steel cannula), leaving the 33 g tubing recessed from the end of the dialysis tubing 5-Min epoxy was mixed thoroughly and

allowed to cure for 3.5 min. The end surface of the dialysis tubing was coated with epoxy and strings of epoxy were drawn over the septum until the end of the tube was closed off (Fig. 1K). After this had cured 2-Ton epoxy was layered over the 5-Min epoxy on the tip of the probe, to make the epoxy seal water resistant. Probes were tested the next day by gently pushing filtered water (0.2 μ m filters) through the microline tubing. If liquid emerged from the 33 gauge stainless steel tubing, the probe was viable. Probes were stored in 0.4% hypochlorite in the refrigerator until needed. Prior to use, the probes were thoroughly flushed with filtered water in order remove the glycerin that permeates the dialysis fiber.

Intraventricular microdialysis

An artificial CSF was prepared fresh daily in boiled HPLC grade water (2% sodium bicarbonate, 2 mM phosphoric acid with 120 0 mM NaCl, 1 25 mM CaCl₂, 4 8 mM KCl, and 1 2 mM MgCl₂, pH 7 3) and was pumped through the dialysis probe at 1 0 μ l/min using a syringe pump (CMA/100, Carnegie Medicin-Bioanalytical Systems) In order to estimate the CSF concentrations of monoamine metabolites, the recovery of known concentrations of these compounds was determined in vitro for each probe immediately prior to use (Ungerstedt, 1984) After it had been determined that recovery was satisfactory for a given probe (15–25%) they were inserted into the lateral ventricle

Chronic dialysis procedure Animals were lightly anesthetized with ether and the stylet was removed from the guide cannula After the guide cannula was cleared by the insertion of a dummy cannula, the dialysis probe was inserted until the guide cannula contacted the microline tubing. The probe was secured in place by the silastic tubing, which fit snugly over the guide cannula To prevent the dialysis probe from being subjected to the torque created when the animal moved, the rat was fitted with a harness that was attached to a liquid commutator by a flexible hollow stainless steel tether (through which the dialysis probe inlet line was fed) Dialysate was collected into 200 µl tubes mounted on the cable just above the harness Samples were collected over 15 min in tubes

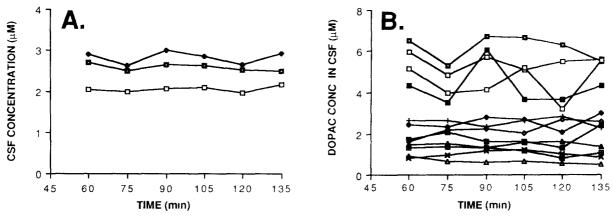


Fig 2 Basal concentrations (μ M) of monoamine metabolites in CSF (corrected for recovery) determined from in vivo microdialysis Samples were collected over 15 min intervals for 90 min with a flow rate of 1 μ l/min A average basal concentrations of DOPAC (solid squares), 5-HIAA (diamonds) and HVA (open squares) in CSF (n=12) B concentrations of DOPAC in CSF for individual animals contributing to the means depicted in A (above)

containing 15 μ l of a stabilizing solution (0 05 M HClO₄ with 2 mM EDTA, 0 1 mM metabisulfite and 40 pg/ μ l of dihydroxybenzylamine (DHBA) as an internal standard) Concentrations of monoamine metabolites in the dialysate were measured by HPLC-EC (Becker et al , 1984) All values for CSF concentrations of monoamine metabolites were corrected for probe recovery as determined in vitro At the end of the dialysis procedure, the probe was removed and the guide cannula was resealed with the stylet At the conclusion of the experiment, striatal tissue was assayed for DA content by HPLC-EC (Robinson et al , 1982), all lesions were > 95% DA depletion

Acute dialysis procedure Animals were anesthetized with ethyl urethane (2000 mg/kg, 1 p) and dialysis probes were inserted into the lateral ventricle using standard stereotaxic procedure. The probes were cemented in place with dental acrylic After the dental acrylic had hardened, animals were removed from the stereotaxic apparatus and body temperature was maintained at 37°C with a Deltaphase isothermal heating pad Preliminary experiments indicated that injury-induced release had subsided in anesthetized animals by this time Samples were collected (as described above) as soon as animals were removed from the stereotaxic instrument and body temperature was stable Animals did not recover from anesthesia following

the acute procedure, striatal tissue was assayed for DA content as described above

Materials

All stainless steel tubing was obtained from Small Parts (Miami, FL) Microline tubing was obtained from Cole-Palmer Instrument (Chicago, IL) Silastic tubing was obtained from Dow Corning (Midland, MI) Dialysis tubing (H1P3-20) was obtained from Amicon (Danvers, MA) Epoxy used was made by Devcon (Danvers, MA) All chemicals used were HPLC grade or reagent grade Standards for monoamines and metabolites were obtained from Sigma (St. Louis, MO)

Statistics

Data were analyzed by analysis of variance and subsequent pairwise comparisons using Stat View 512 + on a Macintosh Plus

Results

Experiment 1 Basal efflux of monoamine metabolites into CSF

After waiting 1 h for injury-induced release to subside samples were collected at 15 min intervals As illustrated in Fig. 2A, the average concentra-

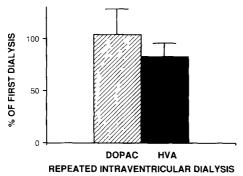


Fig 3 Variability in CSF concentrations of DOPAC and HVA across two dialysis sessions separated by 2-6 weeks Baseline concentrations (mean of 6 baseline dialysis samples collected as described in legend to Fig 2) obtained during the second dialysis session are expressed as a percent of the first session (no change = 100%) Bars indicate the standard error of the mean

tions of DOPAC, HVA and 5-HIAA in the CSF remained relatively constant over the 90 min period There was, however, considerable individual variation in monoamine metabolite concentrations, as illustrated in Fig. 2B. For 8 of 12 animals, DOPAC values were within a fairly close range $(0.65 \pm 0.06 \text{ to } 2.58 \pm 0.21 \mu\text{M}, \text{ individual animal})$ means $\pm S E M$), but in 4 other animals DOPAC values were significantly higher than this (4 265 \pm 0 366 to 6 177 \pm 0 251 μ M) Similar individual variation was found for HVA and 5-HIAA Animals with higher concentrations of one monoamine metabolite also tended to have higher concentrations of the other two metabolites The correlation between DOPAC and HVA concentrations was r = 0.833 (P < 0.005) and between DOPAC and 5-HIAA r = 0.832 (P < 0.005) Interestingly, the highest correlation was between the concentrations of HVA and 5-HIAA (r =0.999, P < 0.001)

In 5 animals the dialysis procedure was repeated 2–6 weeks later and the mean concentrations of DOPAC and HVA in 6 baseline samples were compared across the two test sessions. In Fig 3 the mean baseline release rate during the second dialysis session is expressed as a percent of the first test session. There was no significant effect of test session on the concentrations of DOPAC and HVA in the CSF.

Experiment 2 DA turnover

To estimate the rate of brain DA turnover, the accumulation of total DA metabolites was measured after probenecid treatment. After obtaining one dialysis sample to determine baseline concentrations in the CSF, animals received probenecid (200 mg/kg, 1 p) and samples were collected over 20 min intervals for 1 h (n = 3) Samples were collected with 03 M HClO₄ replacing the 0 05 M HClO₄ in the stabilizing solution and with the addition of dithiothreitol (0.1 mM) to the stabilizing solution Half of each sample was assayed for TOTAL DOPAC and HVA after heating at 90°C for 45 min to hydrolyze conjugated metabolites (adapted from the method of Nagel and Schumann, 1980) Conditions were modified to achieve the highest concentrations of DOPAC and HVA in dialysate samples after hydrolysis and MHPG SO₄ was included in each sample to verify that hydrolysis had occurred The other half of each sample did not undergo hydrolysis and was assayed for free (i.e. not conjugated) DOPAC + HVA The 5-HIAA in standards was not stable under the conditions of the hydrolysis, so values for 5-HIAA are not reported

As illustrated in Fig 4, there is a rapid accumulation of TOTAL DOPAC + HVA (free + conjugated metabolites) following probenecid

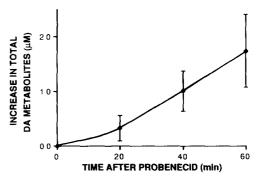
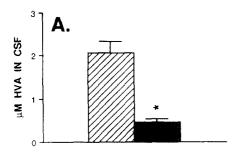
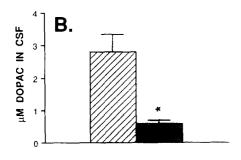


Fig 4 The probenecid-dependent accumulation of DA metabolites in the CSF Probenecid (200 mg/kg) was injected at time zero. Dialysate underwent acid hydrolysis to remove conjugated groups from DOPAC and HVA (see text for details) and the increase in TOTAL DOPAC+HVA in each of 3 successive 20 min samples is illustrated (TOTAL DOPAC+HVA in the baseline sample (time zero) was subtracted from values after probenecid, bars indicate ± S E M)

blockade of acidic metabolite efflux. There was also a significant elevation in the CSF concentrations of free DOPAC and HVA after probeneous administration ($P=0\,006$). In addition, the amount of TOTAL DOPAC or HVA was greater than values obtained for the non-hydrolyzed samples indicating that conjugated DOPAC and HVA





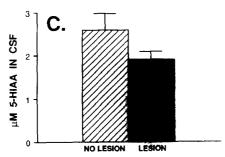


Fig 5 The effect of a unilateral 6-OHDA lesion of the substantia nigra on CSF concentrations of the monoamine metabolites HVA (A), DOPAC (B) and 5-HIAA (C) Each bar represents the mean \pm S E M from 12 animals Samples were obtained from the lateral ventricle of animals with no lesion (hatched bars) and from the lateral ventricle ipsilateral to a unilateral 6-OHDA lesion (darker hatched bars) * Differs from animals with no lesion (P < 0.001)

are also collected in dialysate from the lateral ventricle. For example, the concentration of free DOPAC was $1.50 \pm 0.42~\mu\text{M}$ while the concentration of TOTAL DOPAC was $2.52 \pm 0.83~\mu\text{M}$ (P < 0.005)

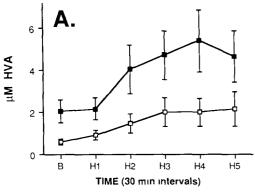
Experiment 3 The influence of 6-OHDA lesions on CSF concentrations of monoamine metabolites

Baseline concentrations of monoamine metabolites in the lateral ventricle, ipsilateral to a 6-OHDA lesion (n=12), were significantly lower than in animals without lesions (n=12, Fig 5) DOPAC concentrations in the lateral ventricle adjacent to a DA-depleted striatum were 79% lower and the HVA concentrations 78% lower than in control animals. The basal concentrations of 5-HIAA were not significantly affected by a unilateral 6-OHDA lesion (Fig 5C)

Experiment 4 Haloperidol-induced increase in CSF concentrations of DA metabolites

Chronic dialysis procedure After a 45 min stabilization period, CSF concentrations of DOPAC and HVA were measured bilaterally in freely moving animals Baseline concentrations (mean of two 20 min samples) of DOPAC and HVA were signifiantly lower on the DA-depleted side than contralateral to the lesson (all animals had > 95% DA depletion) The percent decrease (lesioned side compared to the non-lesioned side) in DOPAC was $58.35 \pm 8.02\%$ (P = 0.0084) and for HVA, $54.81 \pm 12.39\%$ (P < 0.001) In response to haloperidol (2 mg/kg) the CSF concentrations of DOPAC and HVA increased at the same rate on both the lesion and intact sides as indicated by a significant effect of both side and time with no interaction (effect of side $F_{1.5} = 16.01$, P < 0.001, time $F_{1.5} = 3.02$, P = 0.013, side × time interaction $F_{5,132} = 0.581$, P = 0.71, Fig. 6)

Acute dialysis procedure In urethane-anesthetized animals with unilateral 6-OHDA lesions (> 95% DA depletion) the baseline concentrations of DOPAC + HVA in the CSF were $82.2\pm3.9\%$ lower on the lesioned side than on the intact side There was not a statistically significant asymmetry in baseline (or stimulated) concentrations of DOPAC and HVA in the sham operated controls (mean different in basal concentrations between



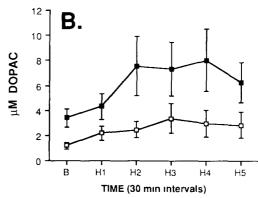


Fig 6 Haloperidol-induced increase in CSF concentrations of DA metabolites CSF concentrations of DA metabolites were measured bilaterally in freely moving rats with a unilateral 6-OHDA lesion of the substantia nigra during baseline (B, mean of two 20 min samples) and following haloperidol (2 mg/kg, H1-H5 samples were collected over 30 min) Probe adjacent to intact striatum closed symbols Probe adjacent to DA depleted striatum open symbols A HVA concentration (μ M) in CSF (mean \pm S F M, n=12) B DOPAC concentrations in CSF

the two sides $21.1 \pm 20.7\%$) and therefore the values were averaged for comparison with 6-OHDA lesion group

As would be predicted from the results in freely moving animals, DOPAC and HVA concentrations in CSF increased bilaterally following haloperidol treatment (0.5 mg/kg) in animals with 6-OHDA lesions ($F_{1.10} = 29.43$, P < 0.005, Fig. 7) However, there was also a significant side × time interaction ($F_{1.10} = 18.86$, P = 0.0015), indicating that the rate of the haloperidol-induced increase in DOPAC + HVA was greater on the no lesion side than on the lesion side (Fig. 7)

Interestingly, in the animals with 6-OHDA lesions, the response of the intact side to haloperidol was also different from that of the non-lesioned control animals ($F_{1.16} = 5.66$, P < 0.03, main effect, $F_{1.16} = 3.886$, P = 0.066, interaction) Haloperidol elevated DOPAC + HVA concentrations on the intact side of animals with 6-OHDA lesions to a greater extent than in control animals with no lesion (P < 0.03, Fig. 7)

Experiment 5 Baseline concentrations of monoamine metabolites in the CSF of animals before and after adrenal medulla or control grafts

In 18 freely moving rats with unilateral 6-OHDA lesions of the substantia nigra baseline measures of DA metabolites in the CSF were obtained as described above Following the dialy-

sis procedure, animals received grafts of adrenal chromaffin cells or adrenal cortex tissue. Adrenal medulla tissue from 2 donor rats of the same strain (n = 7) or an equal volume of adrenal cortex tissue (n = 8) was inserted into the lateral ventricle via a chronically implanted cannula aimed at the

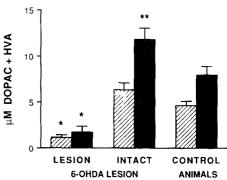


Fig 7 Effect of haloperidol on the mean CSF concentration (μM) of DOPAC+HVA in urethane anesthetized animals with a unilateral 6-OHDA lesion of the substantia nigra (n=6) and in control animals (n=6) In animals with 6-OHDA lesions values are given for both the side ipsilateral to the lesion (Lesion) and contralateral to the lesion (Intact) Values from the two hemispheres were pooled for the no lesion controls (control animals) BASAL EFFLUX, hatched bars, PEAK EFFLUX POST-HALDOL darker hatched bars * Significantly less than the concentrations of DOPAC+HVA in CSF from the lateral ventricle adjacent to the intact side ** The haloperidol-induced increase in DOPAC+HVA was significantly greater than control values on the intact side (P < 0.05)

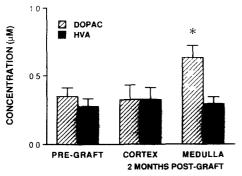


Fig. 8 The concentrations of DOPAC and HVA in the CSF (μM) of animals prior to (PREGRAFT, n=18) and 2 months after intraventricular grafts of either adrenal cortex tissue (CORTEX, n=8) or adrenal medulla tissue (MEDULLA, n=7) *There was a significant increase in CSF concentrations of DOPAC (P<0.02) in animals with adrenal medulla grafts compared to either pregraft values or to values obtained from the CSF of control animals Bars indicate the standard error of the mean

rostral horn (3 animals did not complete the experiment for various reasons) Two months after the adrenal tissue had been implanted, the dialysis procedure was repeated

There was a significant increase in the baseline concentrations of DOPAC in the CSF of animals with adrenal medulla grafts (P < 0.02) but no change in the concentration of HVA compared to pregraft values (Fig. 8) In contrast, there was no change in the CSF concentrations of DOPAC or HVA in animals with control grafts of adrenal cortex tissue. The concentration of DOPAC in the CSF of animals with adrenal cortex grafts was not different from pregraft values and significantly lower than the concentrations of DOPAC in the CSF of animals with adrenal medulla grafts (P < 0.02)

Discussion

Microdialysis in the lateral ventricle is a simple and reliable new method for the determination of CSF concentrations of monoamine metabolites in freely moving animals. The baseline concentrations of these metabolites were found to be stable both within a 90 min test session and between test sessions separated by weeks to months. The

method was also shown to be sensitive to local changes in monoamine metabolite concentrations induced by a unilateral lesion, by changes in DA activity produced by pharmacological agents, or following implantation of adrenal medulla grafts

The baseline concentrations of monoamine metabolites in CSF estimated by microdialysis were very close to values reported for CSF withdrawn from the lateral ventricle of anesthetized rats For example, Mignot and Laude (1985) reported DOPAC concentrations to be 1 28 \pm 0 17 μ M (mean \pm S E M), HVA 0 96 \pm 0 24 μ M, and 5-HIAA $1.83 \pm 0.28 \mu M$ In comparison, the mean \pm S E M values from Experiment 1 reported here were $2.83 \pm 0.22 \, \mu M$ DOPAC, 2.05 ± 0.11 μM HVA, and 2.05 ± 0.11 μM 5-HIAA It is important to note that the values reported here were corrected for the rate of recovery, determined for each dialysis probe prior to use. If values had not been corrected for recovery they would be 5-7 times lower (recovery was 15-25%) than those seen in CSF samples In addition, the rate of DA turnover determined here also agrees with values obtained by other methods of sampling CSF These results suggest that the rate of recovery estimated in vitro provides a good index of the rate of recovery obtained in vivo

The finding that unilateral 6-OHDA lesions of the substantia nigra result in a unilateral decrease in lateral ventricle CSF concentrations of DOPAC and HVA (with no change in 5-HIAA) illustrates the potential of this technique for measurements of regional variability in dopaminergic or serotonergic activity However, it should be pointed out that even though animals had > 95%DA depletion in the striatum the decrease in DOPAC and HVA in the CSF of freely moving animals was less than 60% A similar finding has been reported by Hutson and Curzon (1986), who found that in freely moving animals with bilateral striatal DA depletions of 68%, the cisterna magna CSF concentrations of DOPAC + HVA were decreased by only 30% In contrast, we also found that when CSF concentrations were measured bilaterally in urethane-anesthetized animals the decrease in CSF concentrations of metabolites (82 2 \pm 3 9%) was much closer to the decrease in striatal DA concentrations (96 8 \pm 1 38%) However, the striatal DA depletion was still significantly greater (P < 0.01) than the depletion in the CSF concentrations of DA metabolites

There are a number of factors that could account for the difference in the effect of 6-OHDA lesions on striatal DA concentrations vs CSF concentrations of DA metabolites The relatively high concentrations of metabolites in CSF could reflect the contribution of extrastriatal DA neurons to metabolites in the CSF, as suggested by Hutson and Curzon (1986) This idea is not supported, however, by preliminary results from this lab In a subset of the animals that contributed to this report, we measured the concentration of DA in the nucleus accumbens plus olfactory tubercle (ACC + TUB) in addition to striatum There was not a significant correlation between the percent difference in the concentrations of DA metabolites in the CSF ((intact – lesion)/intact \times 100%) and the percent difference in striatal (r = 0.411) or ACC + TUB (r = 0.445) DA concentrations Forexample, in one animal with a 99 8% DA depletion in striatum and a 93 9% depletion in ACC + TUB, the CSF concentration of DOPAC + HVA on the lesioned side was only decreased by 35 2% compared to the intact side. In contrast, the animal with the greatest decrease in CSF concentrations of DOPAC + HVA (81 5%) had a 96 2% DA depletion in striatum (the smallest lesion in this group of animals) and only a 42 4% depletion in ACC + TUB Therefore, CSF concentrations of DA metabolites in the lateral ventricle do not simply reflect the tissue concentrations of DA in adjacent brain regions, but further investigation is required to determine their origin

Another possible explanation for the relatively high concentrations of dopamine metabolites in CSF ipsilateral to a 6-OHDA lesion is that there is increased activity in the remaining DA neurons on the lesioned side. This idea is supported by the results of a related microdialysis study. Animals with unilateral 6-OHDA lesions have relatively normal concentrations of DA in striatal extracellular fluid on the lesioned side, even when that side is depleted up to 99% (Robinson and Whishaw, 1988). The normalization of extracellular DA in striatum following recovery from a lesion is probably due to a number of compensatory responses,

including an increase in DA synthesis and release from the remaining terminals, and the loss of DA reuptake sites (Hefti et al., 1985, Robinson and Whishaw, 1988, Zigmond et al., 1986) It is possible, therefore, that the concentrations of DA metabolites in the CSF reflect in part this compensatory increase in the activity of the remaining DA neurons in the striatum

In urethane-anesthetized animals the haloperidol induced increase in DA metabolites was potentiated in the ventricle contralateral to a 6-OHDA lesion, compared to the response in sham-operated control animals. This suggests that a unilateral 6-OHDA lesion alters dopaminergic activity in the striatum both on the side contralateral to the lesion as well as the lesioned side (Fig 7) The idea that there is increased dopaminergic activity in the striatum contralateral to a 6-OHDA lesion is generally consistent with the concept of reciprocal regulation of the two nigrostriatal DA systems and the observation that a nigral lesion results in increased DA release from the contralateral striatum (Nieoullon et al., 1977, Robinson and Whishaw, 1988, Zetterstrom et al, 1986) This interpretation is also consistent with reports that unilateral damage to the nigrostriatal DA system results in a persistent decrease in the spontaneous activity of striatal cells on the side contralateral to the lesion (Garcia-Rill et al., 1980, Hull et al., 1974), and with behavioral evidence for a small down-regulation of DA receptors on that side (Costall et al., 1983)

Finally, in animals with adrenal medulla grafts, there was an increase in the baseline concentrations of DOPAC compared to either pre-graft or control graft concentrations of DOPAC whereas there was no change in the baseline concentration of HVA. These findings illustrate that with this method, concentrations of monoamine metabolites in the CSF are stable over time following control manipulations. In addition selective changes in CSF concentrations of these metabolites can be detected following implantation of a catecholamine secreting tissue. Interestingly, in animals with adrenal medulla grafts, DA was not detected in the CSF (norepinephrine and epinephrine were also not detectable). These results

will be reported in greater detail elsewhere (Becker and Freed, 1988)

In conclusion, the use of microdialysis to measure CSF concentrations of monoamine metabolites in freely moving rats provides a valuable new technique for exploring the relations between brain activity and the neurochemical constituents of the CSF. This method allows the CSF to be continuously sampled without the introduction or withdrawal of fluids, and it can be used to easily sample multiple regional sites simultaneously.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank CJ Moore, KM Bentgen and J-H Cha for their technical assistance This research was supported by a grant from the NIH to JBB (NS22157) The development of the dialysis system was supported in part by grants from the HH Rackham Graduate School and the Scottish Rite to TER We thank Merrell-Dow Pharmaceuticals for the gift of the desimipramine Dr Becker is supported by Research Career Development Award NS01056 Dr Robinson is supported by Research Career Development Award NS010844

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