FUNCTIONAL INTERACTION BETWEEN MEDIAL PARABRACHIAL REGION AND THE HYPOTHALAMIC DEFENCE AREA: ROLE OF ANGIOTENSIN II.

Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaga, Spain.

We have previously demonstrated the functional interaction between the hypothalamic defence area (HDA) and the medial parabrachial region (mPB) in the cardiorespiratory response evoked to HDA electrical stimulation (Díaz-Casares et al., 2009, 2012). The aim of this work is characterise the role of angiotensin II (AngII) in this interaction.

On spontaneously breathing anaesthetised rats (sodium pentobarbitone, 60mg/kg, n=6), the cardiorespiratory response evoked by electrical stimulation of the HDA (1ms pulses, 20-50 µA, at 100Hz, 5s) was analysed before and 10 minutes after the microinjection of AngII into the mPB (50pmol, 50nl, 5s).

An increase of heart rate (from 398 ± 13.1 to 430 ± 11.8 bpm, p<0.05) and a decrease of respiratory rate (from 124 ± 10.7 to 96 ± 10.6 cpm, p<0.05) were observed after the microinjection of AngII into the mPB. No changes were observed in mean arterial pressure (from 98 ± 4.5 to 104 ± 4.1 mmHg). The amplitude of the tachycardia evoked by HDA stimulation decreased after the microinjection of AngII within the mPB (from 26.8 ± 4.5 to 11.8 ± 3.0 bpm p<0.01). No changes were observed in the amplitude of the pressor response and tachypnoea.

These data indicate that AngII receptors from mPB have an important role in mediating the cardiorespiratory activity in resting conditions. The decrease of the heart rate component of the defence reaction suggests also its importance modulating the cardiac component the baroreceptor reflex.


Amelia Díaz Casares
e-mail: adcasares@uma.es