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Ghrelin 对大鼠摄食的影响及 orexins 信号通路的调控*

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摘要 目的:探究 Ghrelin 对大鼠摄食的影响及 orexins 信号通路的调控作用。**方法:**采用免疫组织化学染色的方法观察 Ghrelin 免疫阳性神经元轴突末梢与 orexin 神经元的突触联系以及下丘脑外侧区(LHA)内 c-fos 的表达。侧脑室注射抗-orexin-A IgG 和抗-orexin-B IgG 混合液、抗-黑色素浓集激素(MCH) IgG、NPY-1 受体拮抗剂后测量大鼠摄食量,观察其对 ghrelin 诱导摄食的影响。**结果:**Ghrelin 免疫阳性神经元轴突末梢与 orexin 神经元的突触相接触。侧脑室注射 ghrelin 可诱导 orexin 神经元内 c-fos 表达,但是没有引起 MCH 神经元内 c-fos 的表达。预先注射抗-NPY IgG 抗体,ghrelin 仍然可诱导 orexin 神经元内 c-fos 表达。侧脑室预先注射抗-orexin-A IgG 和抗-orexin-B IgG 抗体可减弱 ghrelin 促摄食作用,但是预先注射抗-MCH IgG 抗体对 ghrelin 诱导的摄食作用没有明显影响。注射 NPY 受体拮抗剂可进一步加强抗-orexin-A IgG 抗体和抗-orexin-B IgG 抗体对 ghrelin 诱导摄食的抑制效应。**结论:**ghrelin 可能与 orexin 系统相互作用共同参与摄食和能量平衡的调控。

关键词:Ghrelin; orexins; MCH; 下丘脑外侧区; 摄食

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Effect of Ghrelin on the Feeding of Rats and Regulation of Orexins Signaling Pathway*

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ABSTRACT Objective: To investigate the effect of ghrelin on the feeding of rats and the regulation of orexins signaling pathway.

Methods: Immunohistochemical staining was used to observe the synaptic connections of ghrelin immunoreactive neurons axon terminals and orexin-producing and the expression of c-fos in hypothalamic lateral area (LHA). After intracerebroventricular injection of anti-orexin-A IgG and anti-orexin-B IgG, anti-melanin-concentrating hormone (MCH) IgG, NPY-1 receptor antagonist, food intake was measured to observe its effect on ghrelin-induced food intake. **Results:** Ghrelin-immunoreactive axonal terminals made direct synaptic contacts with orexin-producing neurons. Intracerebroventricular administration of ghrelin induced c-fos expression in orexin-producing neurons but not in MCH-producing neurons. Pre-injection of anti-NPY IgG antibody, ghrelin still induced c-fos expression in orexin-producing neurons. Pretreatment with anti-orexin-A IgG and anti-orexin-B IgG, but not anti-MCH IgG, attenuated ghrelin-induced feeding. Administration of NPY receptor antagonist further attenuated ghrelin-induced feeding in rats treated with anti-orexinA-IgG and anti-orexinB-IgG. **Conclusion:** ghrelin may interact with the orexins system to participate in the regulation of feeding behavior and energy homeostasis.

Key words: Ghrelin; Orexins; MCH; The lateral hypothalamus area; Food intake

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前言

Ghrelin 最初是作为生长激素促分泌素受体(GHS-R)的同源性配体,在人类和大鼠的胃中被发现^[1]。Ghrelin 是由 28 个氨基酸组成的一种内源性神经肽,又名生长素,ghrelin 前体经转录翻译后 N 末端修饰对于其能否发挥活性至关重要。对于大鼠,无论是中枢注射 ghrelin、还是外周注射 ghrelin,都能很明显的增加生长激素(GH)的释放,说明 ghrelin 具有促进 GH 释放的

作用^[1,2]。ghrelin 直接作用于体外培养的原代垂体细胞, GH 释放量显著增加,说明 ghrelin 可直接作用于脑垂体^[3]。此外,还有研究显示注射 ghrelin 可引起大鼠摄食量和体重增加^[4]。在饥饿、胰岛素诱导的低血糖、恶病质、神经厌食症等负能量平衡条件下,ghrelin 分泌增加,但是在高血糖、肥胖等正能量平衡条件下,其分泌减少^[5,6]。有研究显示胃内 ghrelin 可通过血脑屏障进入脑中^[7]。

虽然 ghrelin 大部分是由胃中内分泌细胞产生^[8,9],但是也

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有少部分在下丘脑弓状核(ARC)内合成^[1],ARC是参与调控摄食的关键脑区。Ghrelin受体可广泛分布于整个脑区,例如:LHA和ARC等^[10,11],这两个脑区还包含一些合成摄食调节肽的神经元:NPY、AgRP、可卡因和安非他明转录调节因子、阿黑皮素、MCH、orexin(orexin-A和orexin-B)等神经元,其分泌的神经肽也被称为下丘脑分泌素^[12,13]。中枢注射ghrelin可能与其他神经肽相互作用共同参与调控摄食和能量平衡。Ghrelin发挥促食欲作用的机制是通过NPY和AgRP途径来实现的^[14],但是ghrelin与能量调节系统内其他神经肽的相互作用尚不清楚。

Orexin-A和orexin-B是由含有130个氨基酸的orexin前体裂解产生,具有46%氨基酸同源序列,均可促进摄食^[5]。MCH是由19个氨基酸组成的一种神经肽,中枢注射MCH也可促进大鼠摄食^[16]。本研究采用免疫组织化学染色观察orexin、MCH、ghrelin神经元的分布与神经纤维的投射;探讨中枢注射ghrelin后,orexin神经元和MCH神经元中c-fos表达情况。为了探究ghrelin和orexins、MCH、NPY之间的功能关系,我们还观察了预先注射抗-orexin-A抗体和抗-orexin-B抗体、抗-MCH抗体、NPY-1受体拮抗剂对ghrelin促摄食作用的影响。

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验动物

所有大鼠均在室温(22±1℃)、昼夜循环光照(07:00至19:00)的环境下进行饲养,给予实验室标准饮食,自由饮水。成年雄性Wistar大鼠,体质量在300-350g。所有动物实验均严格按照《青岛大学实验动物保护和使用管理办法》执行。

1.2 侧脑室置管

大鼠腹腔注射戊巴比妥钠(剂量为50mg/kg)麻醉后固定于脑立体定位仪,根据Paxinos&Watson大鼠脑图谱用微量注射仪定位^[17],以前囟为零点,定位侧脑室(前囟后0.8mm,旁开1.2mm,颅骨下3.8mm)根据先前文章描述的方法向侧脑室内植入一个不锈钢套管^[18,19]。术后大鼠给予抗生素预防术后感染。大鼠恢复一周后,进行后续实验。最后,为了检测定位是否准确,可用微量注射仪向侧脑室中缓慢注射膀胱天蓝溶液,大鼠经心脏灌注固定,快速断头取脑,制作50μm冠状冰冻切片,显微镜下观察药物注射的位置是否准确。

1.3 免疫组织荧光染色

大鼠腹腔注射10%水合氯醛^[20](3mL/Kg)麻醉,固定于脑立体定位仪上。用生理盐水和4%多聚甲醛进行灌注固定后,迅速取出大鼠脑组织放入4%多聚甲醛后固定4-6h,再将鼠脑置于30%的蔗糖溶液中直至沉入底部,采用冰冻切片连续冠状切片(Kryostat 1720, Leica, Germany),切片厚度为15μm,所有切片均放于-20℃冰箱冻存。

选取合适的切片,先后用双蒸水和0.01M PBS洗涤各3次,每次5min,之后浸入柠檬酸修复液中微波修复5min,至气泡逸出。正常驴血清封闭非特异性抗原(孵育1h),加入orexin-A抗体(羊来源;稀释浓度:1:150)和ghrelin抗体(兔来源;稀释浓度:1:500),4℃孵育过夜。0.01M PBS洗涤3次,每次5min,加入FITC-标记驴抗羊IgG抗体(稀释浓度:1:400)和Cy3-标记驴抗兔IgG抗体(稀释浓度:1:400),孵育2h。再次0.01M

PBS洗涤,防淬灭荧光封片油封片,在BX50荧光显微镜(Olympus, Tokyo, Japan)下观察实验结果。

1.4 C-fos的表达

通过侧脑室置管向大鼠中注射抗-NPY IgG抗体(0.5μg/5μL),对照组注射血清IgG抗体(0.5μg/5μL)。有研究表明,抗-NPY IgG抗体的剂量(0.5μg/5μL)能够抑制ghrelin诱导的摄食^[21,22]。3h后注射注射ghrelin(500pmol/10μL)和生理盐水(NS),90min后对大鼠进行灌注固定。大鼠灌注固定后,采用冰冻切片连续冠状切片(Kryostat 1720, Leica, Germany),厚度5μm,所有切片放于-20℃冰箱避光冻存。选取合适脑切片,用DAB法进行染色,加入c-fos抗体孵育过夜,然后,选取部分脑切片加入抗-orexin-A抗体,再选取部分脑切片加入抗-MCH抗体,孵育过夜,随后依次置于生物素化的驴抗羊IgG中2h。中性树胶进行封片,在显微镜下观察实验结果并进行拍照。

1.5 摄食量测定

抗-orexinA IgG抗体不与orexin-B发生交叉反应,抗-orexin-B IgG也不与orexin-A发生交叉反应,侧脑室同时注射抗-orexinA IgG和抗-orexin-B IgG抗体混合液。本实验分为3部分进行。

第1部分:24只大鼠随机分为4组:血清IgG抗体组(n=6);侧脑室注射血清IgG(0.5μg);抗-orexin-A IgG和抗-orexin-B IgG抗体组(n=6);侧脑室注射抗-orexin-A IgG(0.25μg)和抗-orexin-B IgG(0.25μg)混合液;抗-MCH IgG组(n=6);侧脑室注射抗-MCH IgG抗体(0.5μg);抗-NPY IgG组(n=6);侧脑室注射抗-NPY IgG抗体(0.5μg)。在19:00时,通过侧脑室置管分别向各组大鼠注射相应的药物后,测量黑暗条件下(19:00-07:00)大鼠12h摄食量。

第2部分:20只大鼠随机分为4组,每组5只:(1)对照组;(2)ghrelin+血清IgG组;(3)ghrelin+抗-orexin-A IgG和抗-orexin-B IgG组;(4)ghrelin+抗-MCH IgG组。在9:00时,通过侧脑室置管分别向各组大鼠注射抗-orexin-A IgG(0.25μg)和抗-orexin-B IgG(0.25μg)抗体混合液、抗-MCH IgG抗体(0.5μg),3h后侧脑室注射ghrelin(200pmol),对照组不注射任何药物,测量大鼠注射药物后2h摄食量。

第3部分:30只大鼠随机分为6组,每组5只:(1)血清IgG组;侧脑室注射血清IgG(0.5μg);(2)NPY-1受体拮抗剂+血清IgG组:侧脑室注射血清IgG(0.5μg),3h后注射NPY-1受体拮抗剂1229U91(30μg);(3)ghrelin+血清IgG组:侧脑室注射血清IgG(0.5μg),3h后注射ghrelin(200pmol);(4)ghrelin+NPY-1受体拮抗剂+血清IgG组:侧脑室注射血清IgG(0.5μg),3h后注射ghrelin(200pmol)的同时还注射NPY-1受体拮抗剂1229U91(30μg);(5)ghrelin+抗-orexin-A IgG和抗-orexin-B IgG组:侧脑室注射抗-orexin-A IgG(0.25μg)和抗-orexin-B IgG(0.25μg)混合液3h后,注射ghrelin(200pmol);(6)ghrelin+NPY-1受体拮抗剂+抗-orexin-A IgG和抗-orexin-B IgG组:侧脑室注射抗-orexin-A IgG(0.25μg)和抗-orexin-B IgG(0.25μg)混合液3h后,注射ghrelin(200pmol)的同时还注射NPY-1受体拮抗剂1229U91(30μg)。每组大鼠注射相应的药物后测量大鼠2h摄食量。

1.6 统计学分析

数据的统计分析使用 Prism5.0, 实验中数据以 $\bar{X} \pm SEM$ 表示, 两组间使用 t 检验, 以 $P < 0.05$ 为有差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 Ghrelin 和 orexin 的定位

Ghrelin 神经元主要分布在下丘脑弓状核 (ARC), 然而 orexin 神经元主要集中分布在 LHA(图 1A)。ARC 内发现大量 ghrelin 神经纤维和少量 orexin 神经纤维(图 1A)。在 LHA 内也发现 ghrelin 神经纤维(图 1B)。在 LHA 中 ghrelin 免疫阳性神经元轴突末梢与 orexin 神经元直接接触(图 1B)。

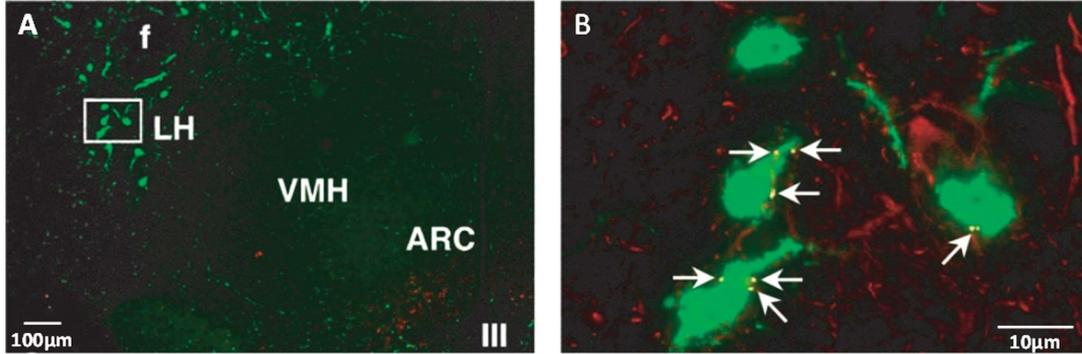


图 1 Ghrelin 免疫阳性神经元轴突末梢与 orexin 神经元突触联系

A 和 B: ARC 和 LHA 内的 ghrelin 神经元轴突末梢(红色荧光)和 orexin 神经元(绿色荧光)的分布。ARC: 下丘脑弓状核; f: 穹窿周区; VMH: 下丘脑腹内侧核; III: 第三脑室。

Fig.1 Ghrelin immunoreactive neurons axon directly contact with orexin neurons

A and B: Neurons (red fluorescence) and orexin-producing neurons (green fluorescence) are localized to the ARC and LHA. ARC: Arcuate nucleus; f: fornix; VMH: ventromedial hypothalamus; III: third ventricle.

2.2 侧脑室注射 ghrelin 对 LHA 内 orexins 神经元和 MCH 神经元中 c-fos 表达的影响

侧脑室注射 ghrelin 后, 在 LHA 内可观察到 c-fos 免疫阳性神经元。通过免疫组织化学染色实验, 我们发现: 侧脑室 ghrelin 可诱导 orexin 免疫阳性神经元内出现 c-fos 的表达 (图

2A), 但是侧脑室注射 ghrelin 不会引起 MCH 免疫阳性神经元内 c-fos 表达 (图 2B)。各组预先注射抗 -NPY IgG 抗体和血清 IgG 抗体, 但是 ghrelin 仍然可诱导 orexins 免疫阳性神经元内 c-fos 表达(图 2 C, D)。

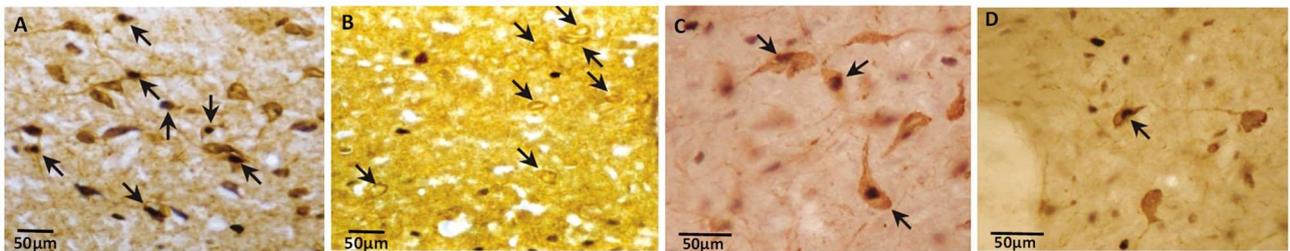


图 2 侧脑室注射 ghrelin 对 LHA 内 c-fos 表达的影响

A: ghrelin 诱导 orexin 神经元内 c-fos 表达; B: 注射 ghrelin 后 MCH 神经元内无 c-fos 表达; C: 预先注射抗 -NPY IgG 抗体后 ghrelin 诱导 orexin 神经元内 c-fos 表达; D: 预先注射血清 IgG 抗体后 ghrelin 诱导 orexin 神经元内 c-fos 表达。

FIG. 2. C-fos expression determined by immunohistochemistry in the LHA following icv administration of ghrelin

A: Co-staining of c-fos and orexin in the neurons of rats. B: c-fos is not expressed in MCH-containing neurons following ghrelin administration. C: Co-staining of c-fos and orexins neurons in ghrelin-treated rats following anti-NPY IgG administration. D: Co-staining of c-fos with orexin in ghrelin-treated rats following control IgG administration.

2.3 orexins、MCH、NPY 对黑暗阶段大鼠摄食的影响

抗 -orexin-A IgG 和抗 -orexin-B IgG 抗体混合液可阻断 orexin-A 和 orexin-B 的活性, 抗 -MCH IgG 抗体、抗 -NPY IgG 抗体分别可阻断 MCH 和 NPY 的作用。我们首先观察抗 -orexin-A IgG 和抗 -orexin-B IgG 抗体混合液、抗 -MCH IgG 抗体对大鼠摄食的影响。与血清 IgG 组相比, 侧脑室注射抗 -orexin-A IgG 和抗 -orexin-B IgG 抗体混合液、抗 -MCH IgG 抗体、抗 -NPY IgG 抗体均可减低黑暗条件下(19:00-07:00)大鼠摄食量(图 3, $P < 0.05$)。

2.4 Orexins 和 MCH 对 ghrelin 诱导摄食的影响

我们进一步研究了内源性 orexins、MCH 对 ghrelin 诱导摄食的影响。与对照组相比, 大鼠侧脑室注射血清 IgG 抗体, 3 h 后再注射 ghrelin, 大鼠 2 h 摄食量显著增加(图 4, $P < 0.05$)。与血清 IgG+ghrelin 组相比, 预先注射抗 -orexin-A IgG 和抗 -orexin-B IgG 抗体混合液后, 再注射 ghrelin, 实验结果表明, 抗 -orexin-A IgG 和抗 -orexin-B IgG 抗体混合液可显著抑制 ghrelin 促摄食作用(图 4, $P < 0.05$)。但是, 预先注射抗 -MCH IgG 对 ghrelin 促摄食作用无显著影响(图 4, $P > 0.05$)。

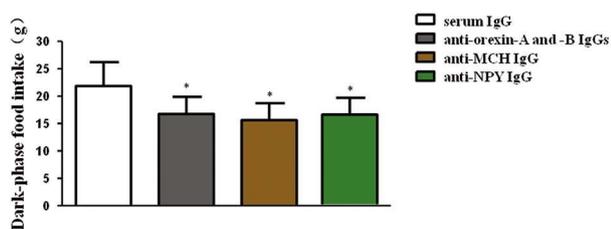


图3 侧脑室注射抗-orexin-A IgG和抗-orexin-B IgG混合液、抗-MCH IgG、抗-NPY IgG对黑暗条件下大鼠12h摄食量的影响
*P<0.05,与对照组相比。

Fig. 3 The effect of icv administration of anti-orexin-A and-B IgGs, anti-MCH IgG, anti-NPY IgG on 12-h dark phase food intake
*P<0.05, compared with the control group.

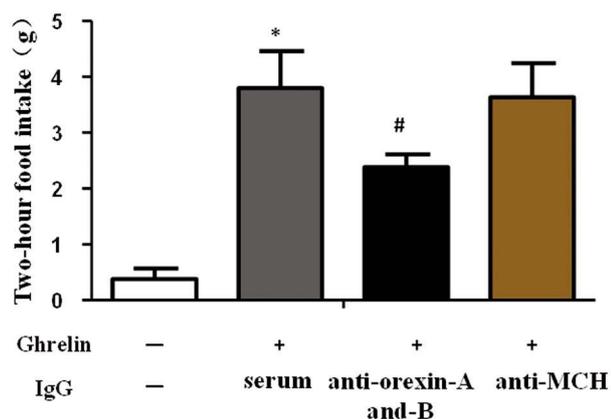


图4 Orexins和MCH对ghrelin诱导摄食的影响

*P<0.05,与对照组相比;#P<0.05,与ghrelin+血清IgG组相比

Fig. 4 Effect of Orexins and MCH on ghrelin-induced feeding

*P<0.05, compared with the control group; #P<0.05, compared with the ghrelin+ control IgG group

2.5 Orexins和NPY对ghrelin诱导摄食的影响

与血清IgG组相比,预先注射NPY-1受体拮抗剂,大鼠2h摄食量无显著改变(图5, P>0.05)。与ghrelin+血清IgG, ghrelin+NPY-1受体拮抗剂+血清IgG组和ghrelin+抗-orexin-A和抗-orexin-B IgG组大鼠摄食量均显著减少(图5, P<0.05)。与ghrelin+NPY-1受体拮抗剂+血清IgG组大鼠相比, ghrelin+NPY-1受体拮抗剂+抗-orexin-A IgG和抗-orexin-B IgG混合液组大鼠摄食量降低80%(图6, P<0.05)。

3 讨论

本研究结果表明大鼠下丘脑中ghrelin神经元轴突与orexin神经元存在突触联系。此外,ghrelin与orexin之间相互作用共同参与调控摄食。侧脑室注射ghrelin可促进GH分泌和摄食^[14]。Ghrelin诱导的摄食和GH分泌是两个相互独立的过程,有文献报道,在自发性GH分泌缺陷的大鼠中,侧脑室注射ghrelin仍然可促进大鼠摄食^[4]。Ghrelin通过NPY、AgRP,以及位于ARC神经元内的促食欲神经肽的释放发挥其摄食作用^[23]。有研究表明,在ARC内NPY/AgRP神经元内存在ghrelin受体mRNA的表达^[24]。还有文献报道中枢注射ghrelin可诱导40%NPY/AgRP神经元内出现c-fos的表达,同时增加NPY和AgRP mRNA水平^[14]。ARC中也存在Ghrelin神经元,同时NPY、AgRP也存在于ARC中,Ghrelin神经元的神经纤维可作

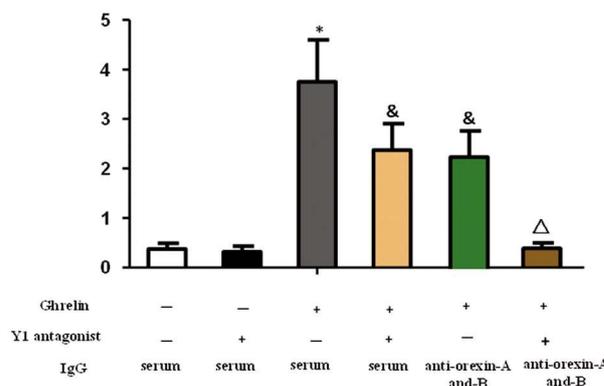


图5 Orexins和NPY对ghrelin诱导摄食的影响

*P<0.05,与血清IgG组相比;△P<0.05,与ghrelin+血清IgG组相比; &P<0.05,与ghrelin+NPY-1受体拮抗剂+血清IgG组相比

Fig. 5 Effect of Orexins and NPY on ghrelin-induced feeding

*P<0.05, compared with serum IgG group; &P<0.05, compared with ghrelin+serum IgG group; △P<0.05, compared with ghrelin+NPY-1R antagonist+serum IgG group

用NPY、AgRP神经元,可刺激其表达,达到促进摄食的目的。

LAH中也存在ghrelin受体的表达,LHA主要参与摄食和能量平衡的调控。电损毁LHA大鼠可出现摄食减少^[4],在饱腹状态下,电刺激LHA可促进大鼠摄食^[38]。有文献报道,orexin和MCH均是在LHA内合成的促食欲神经肽^[12,15,16,27,28]。Ghrelin神经纤维投射并作用于orexin免疫阳性神经元的突触。本实验中,我们发现侧脑室注射ghrelin可诱导orexin神经元出现c-fos表达,但是不会引起MCH神经元内c-fos的表达。这个实验结果与最近报道的研究结果一致,即侧脑室注射GHRP-6可诱导类似神经元内c-fos表达,GHRP-6是一种人工合成的生长激素释放肽,与ghrelin受体结合^[29]。这些研究结果表明ghrelin促进摄食可能通过orexin和NPY/AgRP通路。

NPY神经纤维可直接投射并作用于orexin神经元^[30],侧脑室预先注射抗-orexinA抗体后,可显著减弱NPY诱导的摄食^[31],以上的研究结果表明NPY和orexin既存在解剖学联系,也存在功能联系。有研究显示ghrelin通过激活NPY系统参与调控摄食,我们试图探究ghrelin激活orexin神经元是否也是通过NPY系统。我们观察了抗-NPY IgG抗体对ghrelin诱导的orexin神经元内fos表达的影响,实验结果显示预先注射anti-NPY IgG,ghrelin仍然可诱导orexin神经元内fos的表达,表明ghrelin激活orexin神经元与NPY神经通路相独立。

Orexin不仅参与调控摄食和能量平衡,还参与调节睡眠/觉醒周期、内环境稳态、自主神经功能等^[15,28,32]。Ghrelin可引起orexin神经元内出现fos的表达。Ghrelin的促摄食作用可被脂肪组织产生的瘦素抑制,33%的orexin免疫阳性神经元是葡萄糖敏感神经元^[33],这些神经元也表达瘦素受体^[30],并且在脂肪细胞内产生饱腹信号,orexins神经元可能在摄食和能量平衡调控中发挥着重要作用。

在本研究中,为了研究ghrelin和orexin或MCH之间的功能联系,我们观察了抗-orexin-A IgG和抗-orexin-B IgG抗体、抗-MCH IgG抗体对ghrelin诱导摄食的影响。本研究中,预先注射抗-orexin-A IgG和抗-orexin-B IgG抗体可显著减弱ghrelin促摄食作用,但是抗-MCH IgG抗体对ghrelin诱导的摄食

作用无明显影响。这些实验数据表明 ghrelin 可通过 orexin 系统参与调控摄食。到目前为止,已经发现的 NPY 受体(Y1-Y6) 压型有 6 种^[34]。NPY 促进摄食主要是通过 Y1 受体实现^[22,35]。侧脑室注射 NPY-1 受体拮抗剂可显著降低 ghrelin 诱导的摄食。此外,预先注射抗-orexin-A IgG 和抗-orexin-B IgG 抗体,再共同注射 ghrelin 和 NPY-1 受体拮抗剂,则可增强 NPY-1 受体拮抗剂对 ghrelin 诱导摄食的抑制效应。因此,ghrelin 可能与 NPY、orexin 相互作用共同参与调控摄食。

摄食行为是学习、记忆、认知、情感、躯体感觉等各方面共同协调完成。侧脑室注射 ghrelin 可明显引起下丘脑,脑干、海马内 c-fos 的表达^[21]。中枢注射 ghrelin 参与调节摄食不仅通过 orexin 和 NPY 神经通路的激活,可能还通过影响学习和记忆、情绪状态等方面。进一步研究 ghrelin 与其他神经元相互作用将会为摄食和能量平衡的调控机制的研究提供一个新思路。

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