PHARMACOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF BRAIN SEROTONIN RECEPTOR SUBTYPES INVOLVED IN BOMBESIN-INDUCED FREQUENT URINATION IN RATS

Hypothesis/aims of study
Stress plays an important role in exacerbation of urinary bladder dysfunction including overactive bladder and bladder pain syndrome. Stress-related information is conveyed to the brain, and then the brain recruits neuronal and neuroendocrine systems for adaptation to stressful conditions. However, the brain pathophysiological mechanisms underlying stress-induced effects on bladder function are unclear. Recently, we reported that bombesin (BB)-like peptides, which are stress-related neuropeptides, centrally induce facilitation of the micturition reflex in rats [1]. Under stress conditions, brain BB-like peptides can modulate activity of the serotonergic nervous system [2], which has also been shown to modulate micturition [3]. In this study, therefore, we examined the brain mechanisms for the BB-induced frequent urination in rats, focusing on serotonin (5-HT) receptor subtypes, 5-HT1A, 5-HT2, and 5-HT7, reported to control micturition in the central nervous system [3].

Study design, materials and methods
In urethane anesthetized (1.0-1.2 g/kg, ip) male Sprague-Dawley rats (300-350 g), a catheter was inserted into the bladder from the dome in order to perform cystometry (12 ml/h saline infusion). Three hours after the surgery, BB or each 5-HT receptor antagonist was icv administered. Saline infusion into the bladder, and intercontraction intervals (ICI) and maximal voiding pressure (MVP) were evaluated 1 hour before the icv administration. (1) In some rats, p-chlorophenylalanine (PCPA), which depletes brain 5-HT by inhibiting of the rate-limiting enzyme for 5-HT biosynthesis, was administered (200 mg/kg, ip) once a day for 2 days. After a day of the second administration, BB was administered (0.03 nmol/rat, icv). (2) WAY-100635 (WAY, a 5-HT1A receptor antagonist, 0.3 µg/rat, icv), ritanserin (Ri, a 5-HT2 receptor antagonist, 0.3 or 1 µg/rat, icv) or SB269970 (SB, a 5-HT7 receptor antagonist, 0.3 or 1 µg/rat, icv) was pretreated 30 min before BB administration (0.01 or 0.03 nmol/rat, icv).

Results
(1) In PCPA untreated rats, icv administered BB (0.03 nmol/rat) significantly reduced ICI without affecting MVP compared to the pre-treatment of BB (-10-0 min) (Fig. 1). On the other hand, in PCPA treated rats, the BB-induced reduction in ICI was significantly suppressed compared to PCPA untreated rats (Fig. 1). (2) BB at a lower dose (0.01 nmol/rat, icv) showed no significant effect on ICI compared to the pre-treatment of BB (-10-0 min), while the BB significantly reduced ICI compared to the pre-treatment of BB (-10-0 min) after central pretreatment with WAY (Fig. 2), indicating that WAY significantly potentiated the BB-induced effect on ICI (Fig. 2). Central pretreatment with SB significantly suppressed the BB (0.03 nmol/rat, icv)-induced reduction in ICI; however, Ri had no significant effect on the BB-induced response (Fig. 3).

Interpretation of results
(1) It has been reported that the administration condition of PCPA described above resulted in about 95% depletion of 5-HT in the brain. Our results therefore suggest that centrally administered BB induces frequent urination through the brain serotonergic nervous system as evidenced by the attenuation of the BB-induced ICI shortening in PCPA treated rats. (2) 5-HT1A receptors are well known as autoreceptors, involved in negative feedback control of 5-HT release [3]. In rats centrally pretreated WAY, which can cause an increase in 5-HT release by blockade of these autoreceptors, centrally administered BB induced ICI shortening even at a dose which alone had no effect on ICI. These lines of evidence further suggest that the brain serotonergic nervous system is involved in the BB-induced frequent urination. In addition, our results of experiments using Ri and SB suggest that at least brain 5-HT7, but not 5-HT2, receptors are involved in the BB-induced frequent urination. 5-HT7 receptors are highly expressed in the brain regions including the hypothalamus, amygdala and cerebral cortex, where BB-like peptides are released by stress exposure. Because these brain regions innervate the midbrain periaqueductal grey matter (PAG), a site coordinating activity of the pontine micturition center, brain BB-like peptides might stimulate these pathways to the PAG through 5-HT7 receptors, thereby inducing frequent urination.

Concluding message
The brain BB system is involved in facilitation of the rat micturition reflex to induce bladder overactivity through the brain serotonergic nervous system, and the frequent urination is mediated at least by brain 5-HT7 receptors. Thus, brain BB and 5-HT7 receptors might be useful targets for alleviation of stress-induced exacerbation of urinary bladder dysfunction such as overactive bladder and bladder pain syndrome.
References


Disclosures

Funding: NIH Grant (DK088836), Grant from the Department of Defense (W81XWH-12-1-0565), JSPS KAKENHI Grant (#26460909) Clinical Trial: No Subjects: ANIMAL Species: Rat Ethics Committee: The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the University of Pittsburgh