Effects of Immobilization Stress and Adrenomedullin on Interleukin-10 Levels in Some Rat Tissues

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ABSTRACT

Background: Immobilization stress known to stimulate sympathetic activity, as well as the hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal axis (HPA), produces a significant increase in adrenomedullin (AdM) levels, suggesting a regulatory or protective role for AdM in counteracting HPA activation that follows a variety of stressors. Stressors can modulate the secretion of proinflammatory cytokines. Interleukin (IL)-10 is a potent activator of the HPA and appears to play a pathogenic role in conditions related to stress.

Objective: The aim of this study was to evaluate and validate the effects of AdM administration and immobilization stress treatment on IL-10 levels in rat liver, lung, brain and heart tissues.

Materials and Methods: The study was carried out on twenty-four male albino rats (8 months old, 190–240 g). The animals were divided into 4 groups of 6 rats each group. Group A: control group. Group B: AdM-treated group, rats received intraperitonealy (i.p.) injection of AdM (2000 µg/g body weight) once daily for 1 week. Group C: immobilized stress group, (rats were immobilized by keeping them into transparent plastic jars with 5 holes for 4hrs per day for 1 week). Group D: immobilized stress + AdM group. Rats were immobilized by keeping them into transparent plastic jars with 5 holes for 4hrs a day for 1 week and were given AdM i.p at a single dose of 2000 µg/g body weight for a week. At the end of the experiment, the concentration of IL-10 was determined using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit.

Results: The results of the present study showed that IL-10 levels increased in all tissues in immobilized stress group when compared to control, also IL-10 levels were increased in AdM treatment group in all tissues when compared to control. IL-10 levels were decreased in the immobilization stress + AdM treatment group in all tissues when compared to the stress group, increased IL-10 levels in brain and lung tissue but decreased in heart and liver tissues in the immobilization stress + AdM treatment group when compared to the AdM treatment group.

Conclusion: The results suggest that immobilization stress may induce increase of rat proinflammatory cytokine IL-10 and AdM may play a regulatory or protective role for immobilization stress.

Key words: Immobilization stress; Adrenomedullin; Interleukin 10.
INTRODUCTION

Stress has been defined as a state of disrupted homeostasis (1). Stressors that challenge homeostasis can be divided into three general categories: physical e.g. restraint and exercise, psychosocial e.g. isolation, anxiety, fear, or mental frustration, and metabolic e.g. hypoglycemia and hemorrhage (2). Stress has been further classified according to duration into acute (single or intermittent exposure) and chronic (prolonged intermittent or continuous exposure). Immobilization stress can be considered a mixture of physical and psychological stressors, restricting movement and isolating the individual from its group (3). During stress, an adaptive response originating in the hypothalamus–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis is activated to sustain homeostasis (4). This axis in particular has been considered the central mediator of the stress response (5). Inappropriate responses to stressors, such as inadequate, excessive, and or prolonged reactions, may turn deleterious and contribute to disease. In addition, chronically imposed or severe stressors can impair various physiologic functions (6). Psychological and physiological stressors in particular can disturb neuroendocrine, reproductive, and metabolic functions (7). Stress affects various aspects of immune function, depending on the nature and duration of the stress (8),(9). For example, stressors can directly affect the cells of the immune system and modulate the secretion of proinflammatory cytokines (10). Cytokines are small secreted proteins released by cells have a specific effect on the interactions and communications between cells (11). Cytokines include lymphokine (cytokines made by lymphocytes), monokine (cytokines made by monocytes), chemokine (cytokines with chemotactic activities), and interleukin (cytokines made by one leukocyte and acting on other leukocytes) (12),(13). Cytokines are made by many cell populations, but the predominant producers are helper T cells (Th) and macrophages. (14). Major anti-inflammatory cytokines include interleukin (IL)-1 receptor antagonist, IL-4, IL-10, IL-11, and IL-13. Among all the anti-inflammatory cytokines, IL-10 is a cytokine with potent anti-inflammatory properties (14). In addition, IL-10 can up-regulate endogenous anti-cytokines and down-regulate pro-inflammatory cytokine receptors. Thus, it can counter-regulate production and function of pro-inflammatory cytokines at multiple levels. (15). Chronic stress is associated with dysregulation of the hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis, with consequent increase in the production of the hormone cortisol, and elevated levels of norepinephrine (NE) and epinephrine (E), which are catecholamines released from the adrenal medulla and the neurons of the sympathetic nervous system (SNS) as well as the HPA axis, produces a significant increase in adrenomedullin (AdM) levels in the pituitary gland, plasma and adrenal glands, all of which are the key components of the HPA axis (16). AdM is implicated as a mediator of several pathologies, such as cardiovascular and renal disorders,
sepsis, inflammation, diabetes and cancer, etc. (17). AdM is expressed in a variety of tumours, where it aggravates several of the molecular and physiological features of malignant cells (18). As stress is increasing in our life day by day. The aim of this study was to evaluate and validate the effects of AdM administration and immobilization stress on IL-10 levels in rat liver, lung, brain and heart tissues.

Materials and Methods

Adult male albino rats were chosen as an animal model for this study. Rats were brought from animal house, Faculty of Medicine, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt, and were maintained on a balanced diet with free water supply in clean containers. They were kept for two weeks. Under this condition to adapt the laboratory conditions before the start of the experiment. The study was carried out on twenty-four male albino rats (8 months old, 190–240 g). The animals were divided into 4 groups of 6 each.

Group A: Served as control group (n = 6).
Group B: AdM treated group (n = 6). The AdM-treated groups received an intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection of AdM (2000 µg/g body weight) daily for 1 week. AdM was obtained from (Sigma Chemical Co., St Louis, MO, USA).
Group C: immobilized stress group (n = 6) (Rats of this group were immobilized by keeping them into transparent plastic jars with 5 holes for 4hrs daily for 1 week and were given AdM i.p. at a single dose of 2000 µg/g body weight for a week, this was done 30 min before every exposure to immobilization stress.
At the end of the experiment, the rats were killed by i.p. injection of Na+ thiopental (120 mg/kg) and the liver, lung, brain and heart were removed immediately. Liver, lung, brain and heart tissues were homogenized in ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline (pH 7.4). The homogenate was sonified with an ultrasonifier by six cycles. The homogenate was centrifuged (15 000 g per min at 4°C for 10 minutes) and the supernatant was subjected immediately to enzyme assays. IL-10 levels was determined using ELISA mouse/rat interleukin 10 assay kits (Quantikine, R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA) (Catalog No. KRC00 81).

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis of the difference between groups was done by One way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan's multiple range test for differences between means. The quantitative data were presented in the form of mean ± standard error (S.E). A value of P<0.05 were used as the limit for statistical significance.

RESULTS

The results clearly showed that IL-10 levels were significantly increased (P<0.05) in all tissues in immobilization stress group when compared to control (P < 0.05) as shown in table 1. Also, IL-10 levels were increased in AdM treatment group in liver, brain and
heart and lung tissue as shown in table 1, when compared to control (P < 0.05). The increase in IL-10 were obvious and significant with the immobilization stress group (P < 0.001) when compared to AdM treatment group in lung, brain and liver while the increase in IL-10 were obvious in heart in AdM treatment group (P < 0.001) when compared to the immobilization stress group. The results of this study showed that rats exposed to immobilization stress in addition to AdM administration associated with significant increase in IL-10 levels in brain, lung and heart tissue but decreased in liver tissues when compared to control rats but IL-10 levels were decreased in the immobilization stress + adrenomedullin treatment group, in lung, heart tissues, liver and brain tissues when compared to the stress group (P < 0.05) as shown in table 1. The results of this study showed that rats exposed to immobilization stress in addition to AdM administration showed increased IL-10 levels in brain and lung tissue but decreased in heart and liver tissues when compared to the AdM treatment group (P < 0.05), as shown in table 1.

**DISCUSSION**

This study set out with the aim of assessing the effects of AdM administration on IL-10 levels in liver, lung, brain and heart tissues in response to immobilization stress in rats. All living organisms respond to stress changes in the environment in various ways. Activation of the stress system leads to behavioural and peripheral changes to improve the ability of the organism to adjust homeostasis and increase its chances for survival (19). The physiological components of stress response are metabolic, circulatory and hormonal. (20). Different physiological stressors show a somewhat specific neuroendocrine response profile; the response of the pituitary–adrenal and sympatho–medulлю–adrenal axes, however, are common to almost all stressors (21). Stress enhances the synthesis and release of catecholamines in the peripheral sympathetic system as well as in the brain, adrenal medulla and heart (22).

Tab. (1): Mean ± SD of interleukin 10 in different tissue homogenate in different studied groups at end of experiment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Liver</th>
<th>Lung</th>
<th>Brain</th>
<th>Heart</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Control</strong></td>
<td>170 ± 3.7</td>
<td>50 ± 2.50</td>
<td>30 ± 2.70</td>
<td>120 ± 2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adm</strong></td>
<td>240 ± 4.8 **, #</td>
<td>55 ± 3.40*</td>
<td>45 ± 2.90*, #</td>
<td>400 ± 5.2 ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immobilization Stress</strong></td>
<td>360 ± 5.6***</td>
<td>130 ± 4.56 ***</td>
<td>60 ± 3.70***</td>
<td>350 ± 4.80 ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immobilization stress + Adm</strong></td>
<td>140 ± 3.5***</td>
<td>60 ± 3.80*</td>
<td>50 ± 3.60*, #</td>
<td>150 ± 2.90**, ###</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The effect of immobilization stress and adrenomedullin treatment on interleukin-10 levels in rat tissues. * P <0.05, ** P <0.01, *** P <0.001 compared to control; # P < 0.05 compared to the stress (analysis of variance by One way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan's multiple range test, *# P < 0.05).
Stress-induced activation of the sympathto–adrenal medulla and the HPA axis, and this stimulates secretion of catecholamine (noradrenalin and adrenalin) and glucocorticoids, which are capable of modulating immune cells and further modulating cytokine production (23). Cytokines play a key role in bidirectional communication between the neuroendocrine and immune systems. The interplay between hormones and cytokines during immobilization stress may influence immune homeostasis in response to environmental challenges. Stress affects various aspects of immune function, depending on the nature and duration of the stress (24). The results of this study showed an increase in IL-10 levels in immobilization stress group in all tissues when compared to control. This finding is in agreement with findings of Yüksel et al (30) which showed that externally applied AdM produces an increase in IL-10 in isolated stressed rats. The results of this study showed that rats exposed to immobilization stress in addition to AdM administration showed increase in IL-10 levels in brain, lung and heart tissue but decreased in liver tissues when compared to normal control rats. The increase in IL-10 were obvious and significant with the immobilization stress group (P< 0.001) when compared to AdM treatment group in lung, brain and liver while the increase in IL-10 were obvious in heart in AdM treatment group (P< 0.001) when compared to the immobilization stress group . This finding is in agreement with the results obtained by Yüksel et al (31) who reported that application of AdM in addition to restrain stress increases IL-10 levels in brain, lung and heart tissue but decreased in liver tissue of rabbits and this can be occurred via AdM receptors on different end-organs and causes altered metabolic regulation taking partial or total occupation of AdM receptors, stimulated in response to restrain stress application (Yüksel S, Akbay A and Yürekli M (32) . also Yüksel et al (33) studied whether light or dark stress is involved in the endogenous AdM production systems and showed that keeping the rats in a constant light/dark vicinity for a long time altered AdM synthesis and secretion from the plasma or other tissues. The
differences in results between different tissues may be due to differences in tissues composition. Isumi et al. (34) found that AdM is a rapid and extraordinarily potent regulator of IL-10 production and a peptidergic regulator of inflammation. Ueda et al. (35) found increased plasma levels of AdM in patients with systemic inflammatory response syndrome. In the present study, results showed that AdM administration in immobilized stressed rats increased IL-10 levels in brain and lung tissue but decreased in heart and liver tissues when compared to the AdM treatment group. Although, these results differ from some published studies (Averina T.M (36) they are consistent with those of (Hideyuki N, et al(37)) who reported that administration of AdM increased IL-10 levels in brain and lung tissue but decreased in heart and liver tissues in isolated stressed rats. In the present study results showed that AdM decreased IL-10 levels in all tissues in immobilized stressed rats compared to the stress group. Hideyuki N, et al (38) suggested that administration of AdM was found to decrease IL-10 levels in all tissues in isolated stressed rats but induced decrease in IL-2 levels (Schoder H et al(39)). In conclusion, One of the issues that emerges from these findings is that immobilization stress induced increase of IL-10 in rat liver, lung and brain and heart tissues. These results imply that stress may result in dysregulation of the Th1/Th2 cytokine profiles, break the Th1/Th2 balances and then affect immune response (40). It is known that, under stress conditions, the HPA axis is stimulated and catecholamine production is increased. (41). The results of our study suggest that AdM may play an important role in the continuity of homeostasis as antagonist substances to stress conditions. Sympathetic neuronal system and immune system are affected by AdM and cytokines after stress exposure. Future studies on the current topic are therefore recommended to understand the exact role of AdM in response to immobilization stress. The study of stress is a broad topic, and further research should be done to investigate further mechanism of regulation initially on the suggested rat model.

References


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تأثيرات ضغط عدد الحركة والادرينوموديولين على معدل انترولوكين 10 في بعض أنسجة الفنران

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خلفية البحث: من المعلوم أن ضغط عدد الحركة يؤدي إلى استنارة نشاط الجهاز السيميتيويو وأيضا منحوت غدة المهاد والنخامية والكلظرية وهذا يؤدي إلى زيادة كبيرة في معدلات الادرينوموديولين وهذا يثبت أن له دور تنظيمي ووقائي في مواجهة نشاط حورة غدة المهاد والنخامية والكلظرية الناتج عن مجموعة متنوعة من الضغوطات . الضغوطات يمكن أن تعدل من افرار السيتوكنينات التي تسرب الالتهابات . انترولوكين 10 منشط قوي لمحور غدة المهاد والنخامية والكلظرية ولله دور مرضي في الحالات المرتبطة بالضغوط .

الهدف من البحث: إن الهدف من هذه الدراسة هو تقييم ومعرفة تأثيرات تعاطي الادرينوموديولين وضغط عدد الحركة على معدلات الانترولوكين 10 في أنسجة الكبد والرئة والمخ والقلب .

طريقة البحث: تمت الدراسة على 24 فأرا أبضأ ذكور عمرها 8 شهور وزنها يتراوح ما بين 190-240 جم. وقد قسمت الفنران إلى أربع مجموعات(كل مجموعة 6 فنران) المجموعة الأولى ضابطة و المجموعة الثانية مجموعة الادرينوموديولين(تم حقن الادرينوموديولين لهذه المجموعة داخل الصفاق بجرعة 2000 ميكروجرام لكل جم من وزنها) مرة واحدة يوميا لمدة أسبوع أما المجموعة الثالثة فهي مجموعة ضغط عدد الحركة وهذه المجموعة خضعت لقيود حركتها بوضعها في جارات بلاستيكية شفافة لها خمس فتحات لمدة أربع ساعات يوميا لمدة أسبوع والمجموعة الرابعة مجموعة الادرينوموديولين + ضغط عدد الحركة وقد تم حقنها بالادرينوموديولين داخل الصفاق بجرعة 2000 ميكروجرام لكل
جُم من وزنها مرة واحدة يوميا لمدة أسبوع. وفي نفس الوقت خضعت أيضًا لتقيد حركتها بوضعها في جارات بلاستيكية شفافة لها خمس فتحات لمدة أربع ساعات يوميا وفي نهاية التجربة بعد مضي أسبوع تم قياس تركيز الأنتروكينين في أنسجة الكبد والرئة والمخ والقلب.

النتائج: لقد أظهرت نتيجة البحث ارتفاع معدل الأنتروكينين 10 في كل الأنسجة (القلب والرئة والمخ والكبد) في المجموعة التي خضعت لضغط عدم الحركة مقارنة بالجموعة الضابطة. كما أظهرت الدراسة ارتفاع معدل الأنتروكينين 10 في كل الأنسجة في مجموعة الأدرنوموديولين مقارنة بالجموعة الضابطة. وقد لوحظ أيضا أن الارتفاع في الأنتروكينين كان واضحا وكبيرا في المجموعة التي خضعت لضغط عدم الحركة مقارنة بمجموعة الأدرنوموديولين في أنسجة الرئة والمخ والكبد أما في نسيج القلب فقد وجد أن الارتفاع في معدل الأنتروكينين 10 كان أكبر في مجموعة الأدرنوموديولين مقارنة بالجموعة التي خضعت لضغط عدم الحركة. وقد أظهرت نتائج هذه الدراسة أيضًا انخفاض معدل الأنتروكينين 10 في كل الأنسجة في المجموعة التي خضعت لضغط عدم الحركة وتم إعطاءها الأدرنوموديولين (مجموعة ضغط عدم الحركة + الأدرنوموديولين) مقارنة بالجموعة التي خضعت لضغط عدم الحركة فقط. كما أظهرت الدراسة ارتفاع معدل الأنتروكينين 10 في نسيج القلب والمخ وانخفاض معدل الأنتروكينين في المجموعة التي خضعت لضغط عدم الحركة وتم إعطاءها الأدرنوموديولين (مجموعة ضغط عدم الحركة + الأدرنوموديولين) مقارنة بمجموعة الأدرنوموديولين.

الاستنتاج: لقد أدى ضغط عدم الحركة إلى ارتفاع معدل الأنتروكينين 10 في أنسجة الفئران وكان للأدرنوموديولين دور منظم ووظائي لضغط عدم الحركة.