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A NEW BATTLE FRONT AGAINST NEUROPATHIC PAIN

Jorge Armando Bernal Zamora

Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores
de Monterrey, Mexico

Central Sensitization is a phenomenon of neuroplasticity that has been characterized by the presence of spontaneous or persistent pain, expansion of areas affected by pain, and qualitative sensory disorders that include allodynia and hyperalgesia. The Central Sensitization results from a series of functional and anatomical alterations in the CNS, some of them potentially irreversible, which may be responsible, at least in part, for the persistence of pain after the resolution of the triggering tissue injury. Clinical and experimental evidence shows that noxious stimuli can sensitize the central structures of the nerves involved in the perception of pain. Many outstanding clinical examples of these effects include amputees with pains in a phantom limb that are similar or identical to those felt in the limb before it was amputated, and patients after surgery who have benefited from preventive analgesia that blocks the limb afferent alluvium induced by surgery and/or its central consequences, chronic low back pain, diabetic neuropathy and degenerative osteoarthritis. The experimental evidence of these changes is illustrated by the development of sensitization, by a phenomenon called WIND up that translates as winding or pushing the expansion of the receptive fields of the neurons of the central nervous system, as well as by the improvement of flexion reflexes and the persistence of pain or hyperalgesia after the contributions of the injured tissues. The perception of pain is not simply a moment-to-moment analysis of noxious afferent input, but involves a dynamic process that is influenced by the effects of past experiences. Sensory stimuli act on neuronal systems that have been modified by previous inputs, and behavior that is significantly influenced by previous memory events. A better understanding of the changes induced by central and peripheral lesions on harmful stimulation should lead to a new and improved clinical treatment for the relief and prevention of pathological pain and not only anti-inflammatory or narcotic analgesics in the treatment of chronic pain. Today we know the phenomenon of central sensitization and its role in the perpetuity of chronic neuropathic pain like phenomenon reversible and modifiable related to neuropathic pain, we have some medicines that help successful in the treatment of neuropathic pain.

berzamja@gmail.com