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The role of glucocorticoid receptors in basolateral amygdala

Ghassem Attarzadeh Yazdi

Hormozgan University of Medical Sciences, Iran

Stress represents a wide range of physical responses and plays an important role in modulating different stages of memory including reconsolidation. Relapse to drug taking induced by exposure to stimuli or cues associated with drugs of abuse is a main challenge to the treatment of morphine addiction. We examined the effects of forced swim stress and corticosterone on reconsolidation of a drug-related memory using a conditioned place preference (CPP) procedure. The results showed that animals acquired morphine CPP after conditioning, and that this CPP was inhibited by stress given immediately after re-exposure to morphine. Corticosterone injection which leads to immediate and sudden increase in the level of glucocorticoids fails to reinstate the terminated CPP in rats. Studies on FSS-induced reinstatement show that this behavior is blocked by administration of corticotrophin-releasing hormone (CRH) antagonists. Overall, these results suggest that corticosterone plays an important role in relapse to drug seeking behavior induced by stress.

Biography

Ghassem Attarzadeh Yazdi has completed his PhD at 2006 from University of Edinburgh. He has published more than 8 papers in different journals. He is doing fellow at HUMS as a student at the moment and he would like to present his work in your conferences as poster.

gattarzadeh@yahoo.com