

ny (DA) w jądrze półleżącym przegrody. Zwiększąc poziom tych neurotransmiterów można zmniejszyć ilość spozywanego alkoholu, co ma zastosowanie w praktyce klinicznej, stosując inhibitory wchłaniania zwrotnego (np. fluoksetynę). Pod działaniem alkoholu wzrasta ilość dopaminy w jądrze półleżącym przegrody, czego wyrazem może być zmniejszona gęstość receptorów dopaminergicznych D₂, jako mechanizm neuroadaptacyjny na długofalowe zwiększenie poziomu dopaminy.

Szczury linii P wykonują reakcję samopodania alkoholu dozołdkowo lub też bezpośrednio do struktur mózgowych, co wyklucza hipotezę, że szczury piją alkohol głównie ze względu na jego właściwości smakowe.

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Methodological problems in the experimental investigation of alcohol dependence: selected lines of ethanol-preferring animals

Summary

The ability of spontaneous alcohol drinking under conditions of free choice between 10% ethanol solution and water is shown by selected lines of rats. Such animals drink 5,0 g/kg or more of pure ethanol during 24 hours. Among the most widely known lines of rats there are: AA (Alko, Alkohol) from Finland, SP (Sardinian - Preferring) from Italy, and P (Preferring) from the United States. The animals are used for the assessment of efficacy of drugs decreasing alcohol intake, as well as in research on neurobiological factors promoting alcohol drinking.

Various studies have shown that in rats with genetically determined alcohol preference, serotonin (5-HT) levels are decreased in many cerebral structures (striatum, hippocampus, subthalamus and nucleus accumbens septi). Moreover, in the latter structure dopamine (DA) level is also decreased. By increasing levels of these neurotransmitters the amount of consumed alcohol may be reduced, by means of reuptake inhibitors (e.g. fluoxetyne) administration - which is applied in clinical practice. Due to the effect of alcohol the amount of dopamine in the nucleus accumbens septi increases, which may be reflected in a reduced density of D₂ dopaminergic receptors. The phenomenon constitutes a mechanism of neuroadaptation to long-term increment in dopamine level. Rats of line P perform the intragastric and directly intra-cerebral self-administration response. This finding allows to reject the hypothesis that alcohol is consumed by rats mainly because of its attractive taste.

Key words: ethanol / genetic determinants / alcohol-preferring lines of rats

PIŚMIENIICTWO

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