Variations in noradrenaline output with respect to stimulus frequency, train length and origin of the transmitter

J. HUGHES* and R. H. ROTH

Departments of Pharmacology, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

The release of labelled noradrenaline (NA) has been studied in the superfused rabbit portal vein. The vein was preincubated with ^{3}H-NA (2·5 μCi/ml, 20 ng/ml) for 2 h and then with ^{14}C-L-tyrosine (2·5 μCi/ml, 2·58 μg/ml) for 1 h. The tissue was set up for superfusion with Krebs solution at 37°C ; and was suspended between two platinum electrodes to allow electrical stimulation of the intramural sympathetic nerves (Hughes & Roth, 1971). The vein was stimulated at 5 or 20 Hz for 60 s after a 30 min equilibration period and the superfusate was collected for consecutive 20 s periods. Labelled NA and its methylated metabolites were isolated on Dowex-50W columns.

The efflux patterns of ^{3}H-NA and ^{14}C-NA showed a marked difference during electrical stimulation. ^{14}C-NA, which was newly synthesized from ^{14}C-tyrosine, appeared more rapidly in the superfusate than ^{3}H-NA and reached a peak outflow within 40 s, whereas the ^{3}H-NA reached a peak outflow after 60–100 s. This difference in efflux patterns was seen in four experiments. In two further experiments it was found that the specific activities of the ^{3}H-NA and of the ^{14}C-NA released during electrical stimulation were 2–3 times greater than the specific activities of the corresponding labels in the tissue.

The variation of endogenous NA output with frequency and train length was determined in the rabbit vas deferens treated with 5 μg/ml phenoxybenzamine (Hughes, 1971). The NA output per pulse increased more than fifty-fold when the number of pulses per train were increased from 10 to 300 ; for the same number of pulses however the output per pulse was always greater at 16 Hz than at 2 Hz. It was calculated that the fraction of the total tissue NA which was released per pulse varied from 4×10^{-6} to 4×10^{-4}, depending on the stimulus frequency and train length.

These results suggest that separate 'pools' of NA may be labelled by ^{3}H-NA and ^{14}C-tyrosine. Both of these 'pools' are available for release but they show temporal differences in mobilization which may reflect different functions. The mechanisms underlying the variations in fractional release with frequency and train length are unknown ; these mechanisms may represent an important means of controlling sympathetic nerve function.

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Effects of calcium and manganese on acetylcholine release from the myenteric plexus of guinea-pig and rabbit ileum

H. W. KOSTERLITZ and ANGELA A. WATERFIELD*†

Department of Pharmacology, University of Aberdeen

Morphine depresses the evoked acetylcholine (ACh) release from the myenteric plexus of the ileum of the guinea-pig but not of the rabbit (Greenberg, Kosterlitz &