

·基础研究·

鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK缓解雌性小鼠的神经病理性疼痛

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摘要:【目的】初步探究鞘内注射2R, 6R-羟化去甲氯胺酮(2R, 6R-HNK)对慢性神经病理性疼痛(CNP)的镇痛作用及其机制。【方法】采用坐骨神经选择性损伤(SNI)诱导的CNP模型。将雌性小鼠随机分不同组:假手术或SNI术后3周或术前30 min/1 d给予溶剂、2R, 6R-HNK、S-ketamine(10 mg/kg腹腔注射或7, 21 μ mol/L鞘内注射)(每组3~7只)。采用机械缩足阈值(PWT)和镇痛效率评估2R, 6R-HNK的治疗或预防效果。再用免疫荧光和RT-PCR方法检测背根神经节(DRG)和脊髓背角中蛋白转录及表达水平,并探讨其可能的作用机制。【结果】鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK剂量依赖地缓解雌性小鼠SNI建模3周的双侧机械痛敏;其中21 μ mol/L 2R, 6R-HNK的镇痛效率达峰时间为2 d,峰值为(75.32 \pm 7.69)%。预先鞘内2R, 6R-HNK还能延迟SNI诱导双侧机械痛敏产生2~3 d。机制上,2R, 6R-HNK预处理不仅显著抑制SNI引起的双侧DRG和脊髓背角浅层神经元异常兴奋,还下调DRG内降钙素基因相关肽(CGRP)及脑源性神经生长因子(BDNF)的高表达。【结论】鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK通过抑制上行痛觉通路神经元异常兴奋并下调DRG神经元CGRP和BDNF表达从而对CNP产生镇痛作用。

关键词:神经病理性疼痛;2R, 6R-羟化去甲氯胺酮;背根神经节;降钙素基因相关肽

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Analgesic Effect of Intrathecal 2R, 6R-HNK on Neuropathic Pain in Female Mice

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Abstract:【Objective】To investigate the analgesic action and mechanism of intrathecal 2R, 6R-hydroxynorketamine (2R, 6R-HNK) on spared nerve injury (SNI)-induced chronic neuropathic pain (CNP) in female mice.【Methods】SNI was used to establish acute and chronic CNP models in female mice. The mice were randomly divided into different groups with administration of vehicle, 2R, 6R-HNK or S-ketamine (10 mg/kg intraperitoneal injection/i.p. or 7, 21 μ mol/L intrathecal injection/i.t.) at 3 weeks after or 30 min/1 d before operation ($n = 3 - 7$ mice/group). The curative or preventive effect of 2R, 6R-HNK was evaluated by mechanical paw withdrawal threshold (PWT) and the analgesic efficiency. Finally, immunofluorescence and RT-PCR of dorsal root ganglion (DRG) and spinal dorsal horn (SDH) were used to explore the possible mechanisms.【Results】Compared with vehicle, intrathecal injection of 2R, 6R-HNK largely reversed SNI-induced bilateral mechanical allodynia in a delayed-and-dose-dependent way. Among them, 21 μ mol/L 2R, 6R-HNK

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reached its maximum analgesic efficiency (75.32±7.69) % at 2 d. Pre-intrathecal delivery of 2R, 6R-HNK also delayed the development of bilateral mechanical hypersensitivity 2-3 d induced by SNI. Mechanically, 2R, 6R-HNK reversed not only the abnormal excitability of neurons in bilateral DRG and superficial SDH, but also the upregulation of calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) and brain-derived nerve growth factor (BDNF) in DRG.【Conclusion】 Intrathecal administration of 2R, 6R-HNK exerts an analgesic effect against CNP, probably via suppressing abnormal neuronal excitability in ascending pain pathway as well as down-regulating CGRP and BDNF expression in DRG neurons.

Key words: neuropathic pain; 2R, 6R-hydroxynorketamine (2R, 6R-HNK); dorsal root ganglion; calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP)

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慢性疼痛是持续或反复发作超过3个月的疼痛,它在2019年首次被归为一种疾病(ICD-11编码MG30),随后由国际疼痛研究协会(IASP)修订为原发性与继发性两大类^[1]。慢性神经病理性疼痛(chronic neuropathic pain, CNP)则被IASP定义为疾病或损伤因素作用于躯体感觉神经系统引起的慢性疼痛,是慢性继发性疼痛的第5亚类(MG30.5)^[2],其发病率在普通人群中高达10%^[3]。CNP存在初级感觉和/或投射神经元兴奋性以及突触传递效率的异常增强,进而导致痛觉超敏、触摸痛和自发性疼痛的发生,并普遍存在抑郁障碍等共病状态。目前临床上强阿片类药物、抗癫痫药、抗抑郁药以及系统局麻药都是通过降低环路兴奋性,阻止疼痛信号的传递从而实现治疗效果^[4-5]。然而,上述方案仍然存在成瘾、耐受和诱发痛敏等风险^[5]。结合抗抑郁并抑制神经元异常兴奋的药物将是未来缓解慢性疼痛的有效策略。氯胺酮是一种全身麻醉剂和N-甲基-D-天冬氨酸受体(NMDAR)拮抗剂,能有效治疗围术期和难治性慢性疼痛^[6],但其副作用(如精神活性作用、认知损害和神经毒性等)限制了临床使用。近年来,氯胺酮及其功能性代谢产物因快速抗抑郁效应而备受关注^[7]。其中2R, 6R-羟化去甲氯胺酮(2R, 6R-HNK)因极低的NMDAR亲和力($K_i > 100$)^[8]而获得了副作用豁免^[6],被视为可靠的抗抑郁药物候选^[9]。临床前研究表明,腹腔注射2R, 6R-HNK(10 mg/kg)对SNI模型小鼠的神经病理性疼痛^[10-12]、复杂区域疼痛综合征^[10]、术后疼痛^[10]和炎性疼痛^[11-12]都具有不同程度和时程的镇痛作用。而鼻饲2R, 6R-HNK(10 mg/kg)也可明显改善正常小鼠在福尔马林试验第二强直阶段的热痛敏^[13]。鉴于其镇痛及中枢抗抑郁作用,2R, 6R-HNK有望成为治疗难治性CNP合并抑郁药物,但

其镇痛机制仍未被阐明。我们将通过对比腹腔与鞘内注射两种给药方法来观察2R, 6R-HNK对神经病理性疼痛模型SNI的镇痛效果并探讨其分子机制,为慢性疼痛的临床治疗提供潜在策略。

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验动物

研究表明,氯胺酮在雌鼠中具有更强的抗抑郁作用^[14-15]。此外,给予相同水平的氯胺酮和去甲氯胺酮时,雌性小鼠大脑中的2R, 6R-HNK水平约比雄性高3倍^[16]。因此本研究选用SPF级C57BL/6J雌性小鼠84只,8~10周龄(19~21 g),购于广东省医学实验动物中心(广州)生产许可证:SCXK(粤)2022-0002;使用许可证:SYXK(粤)2022-0002。小鼠置于SPF级动物实验室中饲养,5只/笼位,环境温度为22~24℃,昼夜节律为12/12 h,相对湿度为40%~70%,且所有笼具、饲料、饮水、垫料均严格消毒。动物使用协议和动物处理程序获得了中山大学实验动物管理与使用委员会(IA-CUC)的批准:(SYSU-IACUC-2022-B0849)。

1.2 实验材料及仪器

2×TSINGKE Master qPCR Mix (SYBR Green I, 擎科生物公司); 2R, 6R-HNK 盐酸盐(SML1873, Sigma公司); Donkey anti-Mouse IgG Alexa Fluor-647(A31571, Life Technologies公司); Donkey anti-Rabbit IgG Alexa Fluor-555(A31572, Life Technologies公司); Evo M-MLV RT Premix for qPCR(艾科瑞生物公司); Mouse anti-CGRP(ab81887, Abcam公司); qPCR引物(生工公司); Rabbit anti-c-Fos(2250, CST公司); Rabbit anti-p-ERK(4370, CST公司); Triton X-100(Sigma公司);

Trizol试剂(Sigma公司);冰冻切片机(Leica公司);多聚甲醛(Sigma公司);含Dapi的抗荧光淬灭封片剂(Southern Biotech公司);驴血清(天骏生物公司);三氯甲烷(Thermofisher公司);糖原(阿拉丁公司);乌拉坦(Sigma公司);异氟烷(瑞沃德公司);S-ketamine盐酸注射液(Esketamine,恒瑞医药公司);von-Frey纤维丝(Aesthesio,Danmic公司);普通荧光显微镜(EVOS FL,Thermo公司);实时荧光定量PCR系统(CFX 96 touch3,BIO-RAD公司)。

1.3 坐骨神经选择性损伤(SNI)模型建立与鞘内给药

1.3.1 动物分组 采用随机数法将小鼠分为假手术[Sham 3 weeks (3~w)]+溶剂(10 μ L Saline)对照组,SNI 3-w+溶剂模型组,SNI 3-w+腹腔注射2R,6R-HNK(10 mg/kg)治疗组,SNI 3-w+鞘内注射2R,6R-HNK(7,21 μ mol/L)治疗组,溶剂+Sham对照组,溶剂+SNI模型组,鞘内注射2R,6R-HNK(7,21 μ mol/L)+SNI预防组,鞘内注射S-ketamine(7,21 μ mol/L)+SNI预防组,每组5或7只小鼠。其中,鞘内注射2R,6R-HNK(21 μ mol/L)的剂量在药物动力学上近似等效于腹腔注射(10 mg/kg)^[17]。

1.3.2 模型建立 采用1%~3%异氟醚吸入诱导并维持小鼠麻醉状态,剃去左侧腿部毛发。消毒后在腠窝处切开皮肤,钝性分离肌肉并暴露左侧坐骨神经及其三个分支。对胫神经和腓总神经行轴切开术和近端/远端结扎术,避免损伤并保留腓肠神经。在Sham组中,小鼠仅切开皮肤并暴露坐骨神经。最后,将小鼠肌肉和皮肤分层缝合后放回原笼饲养。手术过程中动作应轻柔迅速,避免神经长时间暴露、过度牵拉和损伤。

1.3.3 鞘内注射 采用1%~3%异氟醚吸入诱导并维持麻醉小鼠,剔除骶尾部毛发并进行局部消毒。左手固定小鼠身体尤其髋部,右手拇指与食指辅助定位,在平行于髂后上棘的脊柱节段触及尾骨上方凸起的第1或第2个棘突。在相应的棘突间隙用10 μ L微量注射器连接胰岛素针头,与水平面成60°倾斜进针。小鼠出现明显甩尾反应提示针头成功进入硬膜内,单次注射体积为10 μ L(0.5 μ L \cdot g⁻¹,唤醒后即刻评估小鼠肌无力程度,以保证注射质量),注射速度为20 μ L \cdot min⁻¹,注射完成后针头应留置1~2 min再拔出。

1.4 机械痛阈测定实验

正式实验前,小鼠应连续3 d在测试网架上10

cm \times 10 cm \times 10 cm隔离室中适应30 min。正式实验时,至少由2名测试员在不知道分组的情况下,使用von-Frey纤维丝套件(0.02~2.0)g垂直作用于小鼠足底。在长达5 s/五个重复刺激中至少产生一次缩足反应则记为阳性,继而使用up-down法确定小鼠机械缩足阈值(paw-withdrawal threshold, PWT)。事前应排除术前基础阈值(Bas)小于0.6 g的小鼠^[18],且每组不少于5只小鼠。此外,我们采用镇痛效率等指标来评估药物的镇痛效能:小鼠PWT的变化率(%) = $[\ln 2 - \ln(\text{PWT})] / (\ln 2 - \ln 0.02) \times 100$,镇痛效率(%) = (模型组PWT变化率-治疗组PWT变化率)/模型组PWT变化率 $\times 100$ 。

1.5 免疫荧光染色实验

腹腔注射10%乌拉坦麻醉小鼠,用20 mL PBS(4 $^{\circ}$ C)经左心室灌注冲净血液,继续灌注20 mL 40 g/L多聚甲醛(PFA,4 $^{\circ}$ C)作为前固定。解剖并提取L4 DRG和L4~5脊髓,浸泡在PFA中后固定4 h,转至30%蔗糖(in PBS,4 $^{\circ}$ C)脱水2~3 d。经冷冻切片法将所有组织切片成16(DRG)或18(脊髓) μ m薄片,继而转移到载玻片上。经PBS洗涤3次后,将载玻片在室温(RT)下用含有5%驴血清的0.3% Triton X-100封闭1 h,加入一抗混合物在4 $^{\circ}$ C摇床上孵育18 h。再经PBS洗涤3次,加入二抗混合物在RT下孵育1 h。最后经PBS洗涤3次,滴加含DAPI的抗淬灭剂,封片后使用普通荧光显微镜拍摄。各组DRG或脊髓在同一载玻片上进行免疫荧光染色,同一荧光信号应在同一曝光条件拍摄。每组3只小鼠,且每只以荧光强度最强的2个截面纳入统计。结果分析遵循先前的研究^[19]:随机选择来自每只动物的L4 DRG或L4~5脊髓背角,并对组别实施盲法,通过Image J软件计数分析10 \times 免疫荧光片中阳性细胞数或相对光密度(ReI-OD),后者以Sham组均值为100%进行标准化。

1.6 实时荧光定量PCR(RT-PCR)实验

腹腔注射10%乌拉坦麻醉小鼠,用20 mL PBS(4 $^{\circ}$ C)经左心室灌注冲净血液,解剖并提取L4 DRG和L4~5脊髓背角,在Trizol中混匀并研磨成浆。采用Trizol提取法分离制备总RNA,测试浓度后稀释成10 ng \cdot μ L⁻¹,在混合5 \times Evo M-MLV逆转录预混液的反应体系(10 μ L)中制备cDNA:37 $^{\circ}$ C 15 min,85 $^{\circ}$ C 5 s。再经合适比例稀释后,在混合2 \times SYBR Green I扩增预混液的反应体系(10 μ L)中进行RT-PCR:95 $^{\circ}$ C 30 s;95 $^{\circ}$ C 5 s,60 $^{\circ}$ C 30 s,循环40

次。最后进行熔解分析,检测 β -actin(上游引物:CCACACCCGCCACCAGTTCG,下游引物:TA-CAGCCCGGGGAGCATCGT), *Bdnf*(上游引物:TACCTGGATGCCGCAAACAT,下游引物:AGTTG-GCCTTTGGATACCGG), *Calca*(上游引物:AAGGGAGCACGTGTTATGGT,下游引物:TC-CATTCTGAATTGAGGGTGGG)和*Calc β* (上游引物:CTCTCAGCACGATATGGGTCC,下游引物:GCAAGAGATGTTTTTCTGGTCG)的表达情况。每组6只小鼠。以RT-PCR过程中荧光信号到达设定阈值时所经历的循环数为Ct值,以 β -actin为内参基因对目的基因表达水平进行标准化处理,计算算式为: $\Delta Ct = \text{目的基因平均Ct值} - \text{内参基因平均Ct值}$; $\Delta\Delta Ct = \Delta Ct_{\text{sample}} - \Delta Ct_{\text{control}}$; $R = 2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 。

1.7 统计学方法

所有数据以均值 \pm 标准误(means \pm SEM)表示,为正态分布的计量结果。图1~2行为学、图3~4免疫荧光及图5 RT-PCR结果均采用双因素方差分析(two-way ANOVA)处理,数据符合正态分布且方差齐时采用 two-way ANOVA,差异有统计学意义时采用 Tukey's multiple comparisons test 进行两两比较。所有数据采用 GraphPad Prism 版本 8.3.0 (GraphPad Software, LLC, CA, USA) 进行分析。 $P < 0.05$ 表示差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 鞘内注射 2R, 6R-HNK 的延迟镇痛作用强于腹腔注射,且时间更长

为明确 2R, 6R-HNK 在 CNP 中的作用并探究机理,我们首先在传统腹腔注射的基础上创新地采用鞘内注射给药,并评估其在 SNI 模型动物中的镇痛效率及特征。机械灵敏度(Von Frey)痛行为学试验显示,与假手术对照组(Sham, 图1黑色)相比,SNI 3-w 小鼠的同侧(Ipsi-, 图1左,红色)与对侧(Contr-, 图1右)的机械缩足阈值(PWT)均显著下降,提示建模成功。与此同时,我们在 SNI 3-w 模型中单次腹腔注射相同剂量的 2R, 6R-HNK 仅在给药后 6 h 至 1 d 部分逆转同侧($P < 0.05$)和对侧($P < 0.05$)PWT 的下降(图1,紫色)。有趣的是,2R, 6R-HNK(7, 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, 图2浅蓝色或深蓝色)单次鞘内注射却能在给药后 6 h 至 3~4 d 显著升高双侧的 PWT($P < 0.05$),且表现出明显的浓度依赖

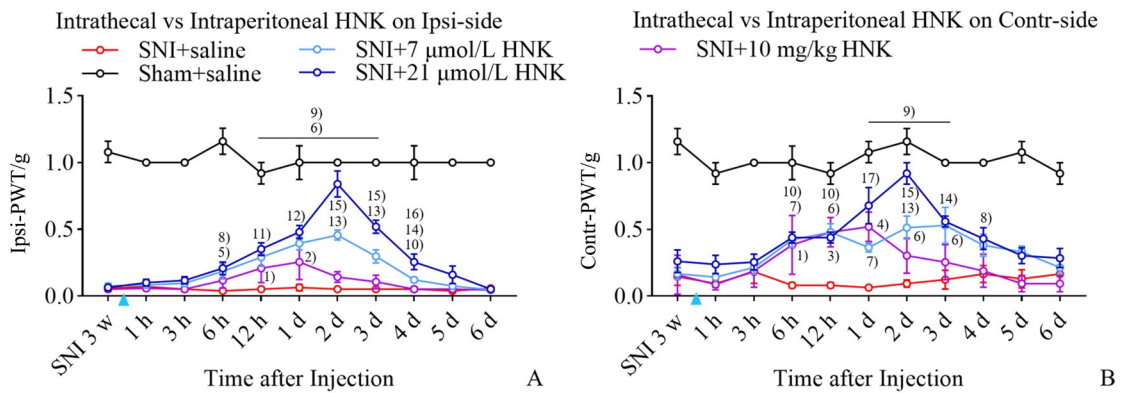
性($P < 0.05$)。值得注意的是,鞘内注射 2R, 6R-HNK(21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)相比药物动力学上剂量近似等效的腹腔注射(10 mg/kg)在 6 h 至 4 d 能更好地缓解机械痛觉超敏($P < 0.05$)。此外,腹腔给药后 1 d 达峰,同侧镇痛效率峰值为(40.63 \pm 13.8)%;鞘内给药后 2 d 达峰,峰值为(58.93 \pm 5.44)%(7 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)或(75.32 \pm 7.69)%(21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)。鞘内注射 2R, 6R-HNK 也在对侧产生类似的浓度依赖性镇痛效果。上述结果表明,鞘内 2R, 6R-HNK 能产生比腹腔给药更强更持久的延迟镇痛效应,且呈明显剂量依赖性;提示 DRG 与脊髓可能是 2R, 6R-HNK 发挥作用的关键靶部位。

2.2 预先鞘内注射 2R, 6R-HNK 延缓 SNI 诱导的痛觉异常产生,而 S-ketamine 无此作用

接下来,我们将观察鞘内注射同剂量的 2R, 6R-HNK 与 S-ketamine (Ket)对 SNI 诱导 CNP 发生上的影响。与假手术对照组相比(图2黑色),SNI 模型在术后第 1 d 起逐渐降低双侧的机械 PWT(图2红色),第 3 d 痛阈最低,并维持至实验观察结束。术前 30 min 鞘内注射 2R, 6R-HNK(7, 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, 图2浅蓝色或深蓝色)均能明显延缓 SNI 模型 1~2 d 产生双侧机械痛觉异常($P < 0.05$),且在同侧呈现一定的剂量依赖性($P < 0.05$)。但鞘内注射相同剂量的 S-ketamine 对 SNI 模型的疼痛发展过程没有影响(图2浅绿色或深绿色),也就提示该剂量的 S-ketamine 无鞘内镇痛作用。综上所述,鞘内注射 2R, 6R-HNK 对 SNI 诱导的 CNP 急、慢性过程都有延迟的镇痛作用,并有明显剂量效应。

2.3 鞘内 2R, 6R-HNK 预处理显著降低 SNI 诱导的上行痛觉通路神经元过度兴奋

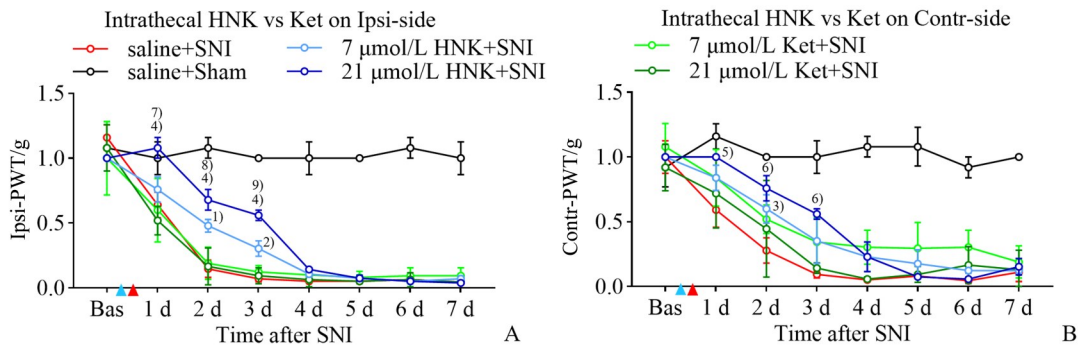
基于上述行为学结果以及他人报道显示 2R, 6R-HNK 的延迟镇痛效应,后续机制研究中鞘内注射调整为 SNI 术前 1 天进行。我们将从感觉神经元损伤早期即急性疼痛角度去进一步探讨 2R, 6R-HNK 缓解 CNP 的具体作用机制,采用神经元兴奋性标志物——磷酸化胞外信号调节蛋白激酶(*p*-ERK)和 *c*-Fos 两种信号来观察 2R, 6R-HNK 对痛觉通路神经元兴奋性的影响。免疫荧光染色结果显示,SNI 在术后 3 h 不仅引起了双侧 L4 DRG 神经元 *p*-ERK 表达增多($P < 0.001$, 图3 A, B),而且显著诱导双侧 L4~5 脊髓背角 I~II 板层中 *c*-Fos 的高表达($P < 0.000 1$, 图3 C, D)。有趣的是,预先 1 d 鞘内注射 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ 2R, 6R-HNK 能显著逆转



Von-Frey test showed that the decreases in the ipsilateral (Ipsi-) and contralateral (Contr-) paw withdrawal thresholds (PWT) induced by SNI were reversed by intrathecal (7, 21 μmol/L, 10 μL) or intraperitoneal (10 mg/kg) 2R, 6R-HNK (HNK) at 3-w after surgery. Blue triangles indicated the time point of drug appliance. $n = 5$ or 7 . All data were shown by means \pm SEM, and were analyzed by two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons test. Ipsi PWT: $F = 81.44, P < 0.000 1$; Contr PWT: $F = 44.07, P < 0.000 1, n = 5$ or 7 . 1) $P < 0.05$, 2) $P < 0.01$, 3) $P < 0.001$, 4) $P < 0.000 1$ between SNI+saline and SNI+10 mg/kg HNK, 5) $P < 0.05$, 6) $P < 0.000 1$, 7) $P < 0.01$ between SNI+saline and SNI+7 μmol/L HNK, 8) $P < 0.05$, 9) $P < 0.000 1$, 10) $P < 0.01$ between SNI+saline and SNI+21 μmol/L HNK, 11) $P < 0.05$, 12) $P < 0.001$, 13) $P < 0.000 1$, 14) $P < 0.01$ between SNI+10 mg/kg HNK and SNI+21 μmol/L HNK, 15) $P < 0.000 1$, 16) $P < 0.05$, 17) $P < 0.01$ between SNI+7 μmol/L HNK and SNI+21 μmol/L HNK.

图1 鞘内2R, 6R-HNK对SNI诱导异常机械痛的延迟镇痛作用比腹腔注射更明显

Fig. 1 Intrathecal 2R, 6R-HNK produced a more significant delayed analgesic effect on SNI-induced mechanical allodynia than intraperitoneal injection



Von-Frey test showed that pre-intrathecal administration of 2R, 6R-HNK rather than S-ketamine (Ket) at the same dosages (7, 21 μmol/L) delayed SNI-induced acute mechanical pain. 2R, 6R-HNK, S-ketamine or saline was intrathecally delivered 30 min before SNI. Red triangles showed sham operation or SNI delivered to left sciatic nerve. $n = 5$. All data were shown by means \pm SEM, and were analyzed by two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons test. Ipsi PWT: $F = 25.78, P < 0.000 1$; Contr PWT: $F = 13.07, P < 0.000 1, n = 5$. 1) $P < 0.000 1$, 2) $P < 0.01$, 3) $P < 0.05$ between saline+SNI and 7 μmol/L HNK+SNI, 4) $P < 0.000 1$, 5) $P < 0.01$, 6) $P < 0.001$ between saline+SNI and 21 μmol/L HNK+SNI, 7) $P < 0.000 1$, 8) $P < 0.05$, 9) $P < 0.01$ between 7 μmol/L HNK+SNI and 21 μmol/L HNK+SNI.

图2 预先鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK延缓SNI诱导的神经病理性疼痛产生

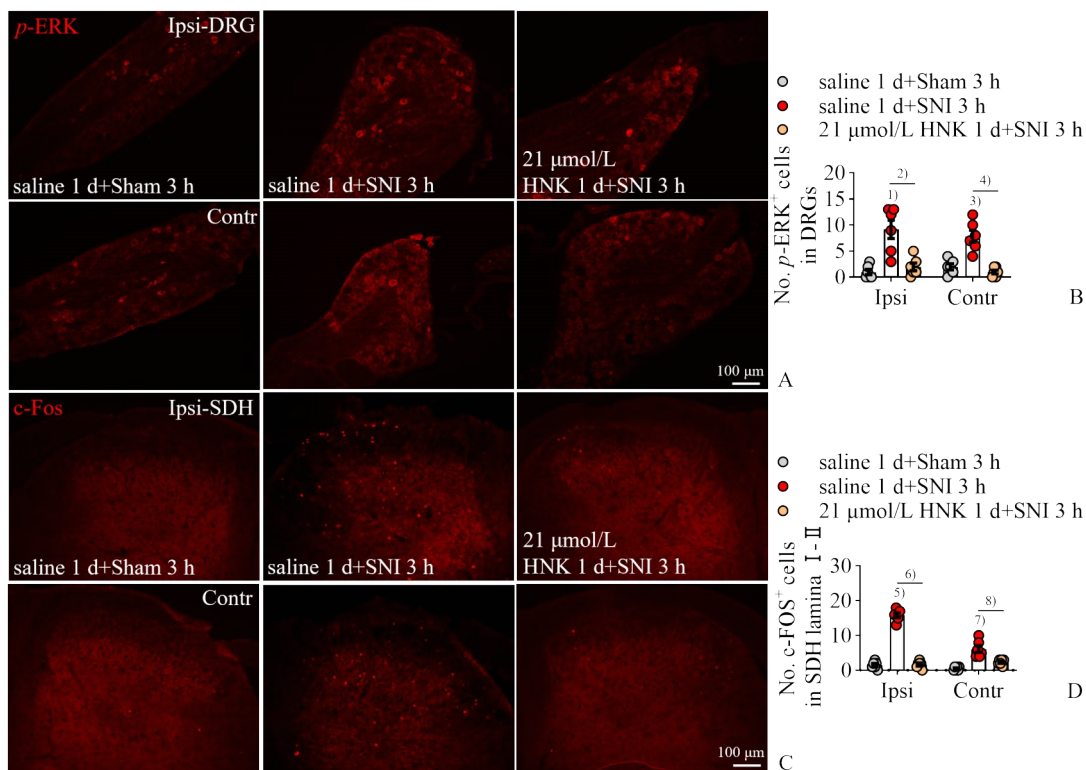
Fig. 2 Pre-intrathecal injection of 2R, 6R-HNK delayed the induction of neuropathic pain by SNI

SNI诱导的早期p-ERK与c-Fos表达的增加($P < 0.001$;图3)。这些结果表明,鞘内2R, 6R-HNK通过直接抑制上行痛觉传导通路中的神经元快速过度兴奋而发挥镇痛作用。

2.4 预先鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK抑制SNI引起的DRG神经元CGRP表达增加

接下来,我们将观察鞘内2R, 6R-HNK的镇痛

机制是否与影响CGRP的表达有关。免疫荧光染色结果显示(图4 A),CGRP常规表达在DRG的中等和小直径神经元中。与p-ERK以及c-Fos异常信号部分一致的是,SNI术后3 h时CGRP仅在同侧DRG中表达显著增多($P < 0.000 1$,图4 A,B),但在双侧脊髓背角浅层的中枢端末梢中表达显著增多($P < 0.000 1$,图4 C,D)。这表明损伤刺激能



Representative images and quantification of the number of $p\text{-ERK}^+$ or $c\text{-Fos}^+$ cells in dorsal root ganglion (DRG) or spinal dorsal horn (SDH). A-B: 3 h after SNI, bilateral L4 DRG, $\times 10$; C-D: 3 h after SNI, bilateral L4 ~ 5 SDH, $\times 10$. Fig. 3 showed that 2R, 6R-HNK pretreatment 1 d before surgery suppressed the increases of $p\text{-ERK}$ expression in the bilateral DRGs and $c\text{-Fos}$ expression in lamina I ~ II of SDHs at 3 h after SNI. All data were shown by means \pm SEM, and were analyzed by two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons test for each group ($F = 68.17$, $P < 0.0001$ in B; $F = 184.0$, $P < 0.0001$ in D). $n = 3$, 2 slices/mouse. 1) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 2) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+SNI 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 3) $P < 0.001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 4) $P < 0.0001$ saline 1 d+SNI 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 5) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 6) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+SNI 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 7) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 8) $P < 0.001$ between saline 1 d+SNI 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h.

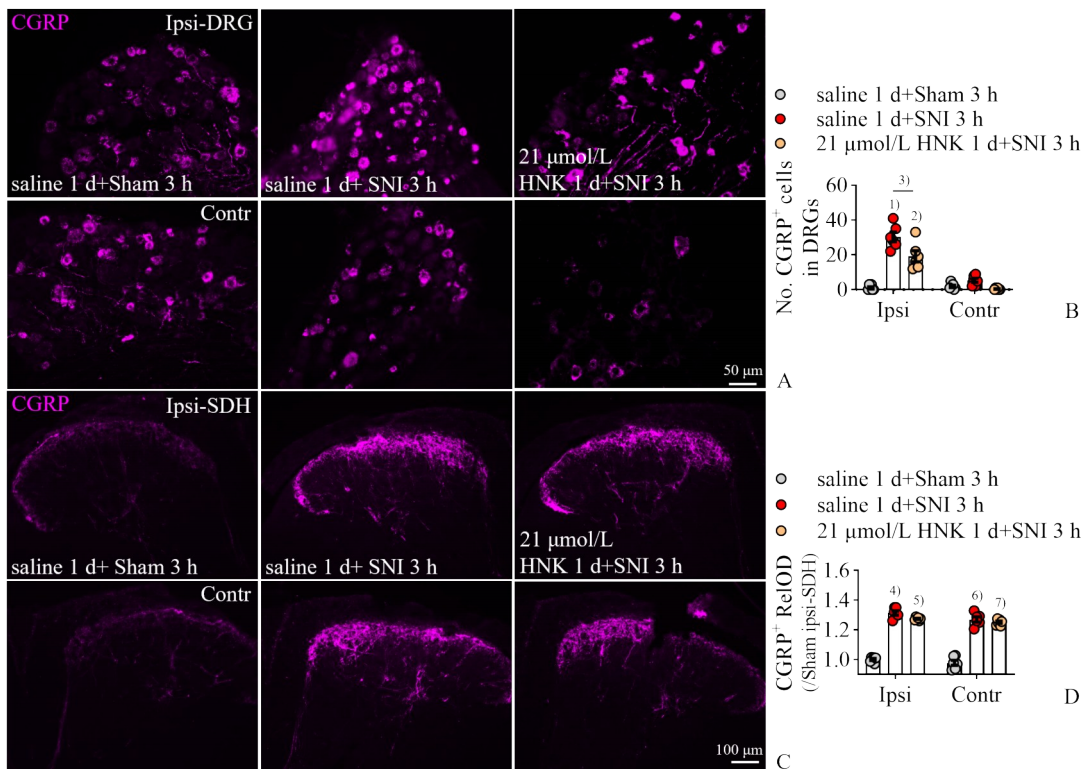
图3 预先鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK抑制SNI诱导的上行痛觉通路神经元过度兴奋

Fig. 3 Intrathecal pretreatment of 2R, 6R-HNK inhibited SNI-induced neuronal hyperexcitability in the ascending pain pathway

迅速引起受损感觉神经元中CGRP快速增加及脊髓末梢释放。尤其特别的是,预先1 d鞘内注射21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ 2R, 6R-HNK显著抑制SNI诱导的同侧DRG早期CGRP⁺细胞数增加($P < 0.01$, 图3 A, B),且以小直径神经元降低最为明显。但2R, 6R-HNK并不影响SNI引起的双侧脊髓背角浅层CGRP⁺末梢表达增加(图4 C, D)。这些结果初步表明,鞘内2R, 6R-HNK可能部分通过抑制感觉神经元CGRP的表达而介导镇痛效应。

由于鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK对SNI术后3 h时DRG内CGRP表达的单侧抑制情况与同期双侧神经元的兴奋性变化并不一致,也与后续双侧痛行为学的镇痛效应不吻合,我们使用RT-PCR法检测建

模后各组CGRP和BDNF的mRNA表达水平变化加以探索验证。RT-PCR结果显示:①在Sham组DRG与脊髓样品中,CGRP α 基因 $Calca$ 的循环定量(Cq)值要明显低于 β 基因 $Calc\beta$ ($P < 0.05$, 图5 A, C),表明 α 基因在DRG和脊髓背角神经元内CGRP的转录与表达过程中起主导作用;②SNI术后3 h发生双侧DRG中 $Calca$ mRNA的表达上调($P < 0.05$),而预先鞘内给予2R, 6R-HNK对此均存在抑制作用($P < 0.01$, 图5 B)。据此,2R, 6R-HNK预防性给药缓解疼痛的效应主要来源于对CGRP过表达的逆转。③SNI 3 h后对侧DRG中 $Bdnf$ mRNA表达明显增加($P < 0.001$),而预防性2R, 6R-HNK能翻转其异常表达($P < 0.0001$),这可能



Representative images and quantification of the number of CGRP⁺ cells in DRG or average fluorescence intensity of CGRP⁺ nerve endings in SDH. A–B: 3 h after SNI, bilateral L4 DRG, $\times 20$; C–D: 3 h after SNI, bilateral L4 ~ 5 SDH, $\times 10$. Fig. 4 showed that only CGRP upregulation in ipsilateral DRGs at 3 h after SNI was inhibited by 2R, 6R-HNK applied at 1 d before surgery. All data were shown by means \pm SEM, and were analyzed by two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons test for each group ($F = 40.32$, $P < 0.0001$ in B; $F = 363.8$, $P < 0.0001$ in D). $n = 3$, 2 slices/mouse. 1) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 2) $P < 0.01$ between saline 1 d+SNI 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 3) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 4) $P < 0.0001$ saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 5) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 6) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 7) $P < 0.0001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h.

图4 预先鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK抑制SNI诱导DRG神经元CGRP表达增加

Fig. 4 SNI-induced CGRP overexpression in DRG neurons was suppressed by pre-intrathecal 2R, 6R-HNK

是SNI小鼠对侧痛觉过敏变化的原因。此外,脊髓背角中除同侧*Bdnf* mRNA在SNI术后3 h增加外并无其他显著变化(图5 D)。综上所述,鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK可能通过抑制DRG神经元内CGRP的异常高水平表达来实现对CNP的镇痛作用。

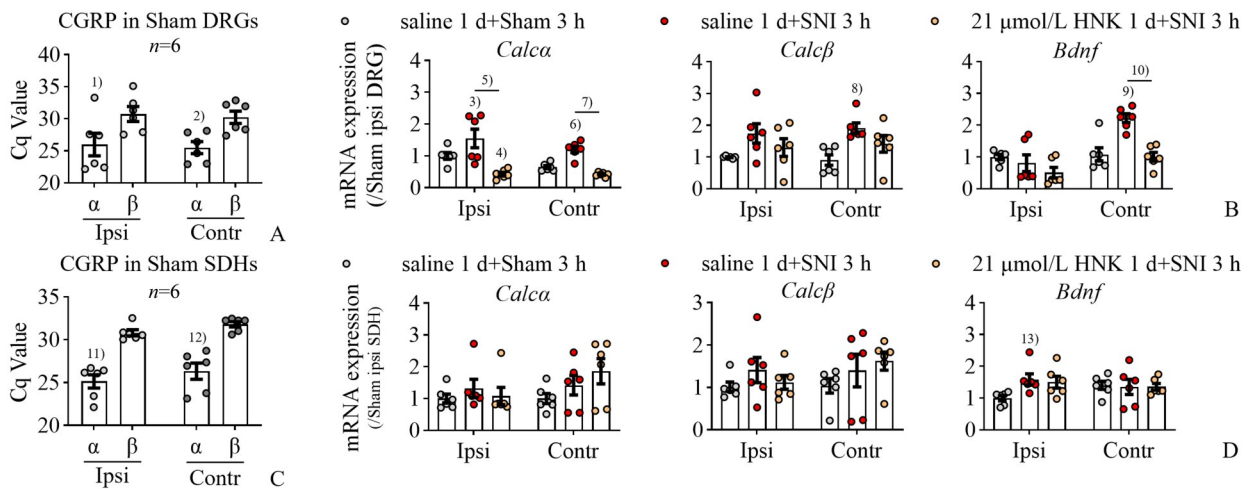
3 讨论

本研究采用经典SNI术建立神经损伤性CNP动物模型^[20],进一步证实2R, 6R-HNK对神经病理性疼痛具有镇痛作用,同时还有三方面的发现:①与腹腔注射相比,鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK具有更强更持久的镇痛作用;②初步显示2R, 6R-HNK主要的镇痛部位为DRG与脊髓背角上行痛觉通路;③

揭示鞘内2R, 6R-HNK通过抑制DRG的CGRP高表达从而发挥镇痛效应。

3.1 鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK通过作用于DRG和脊髓背角发挥强效持久的抗神经病理性疼痛作用

尽管2R, 6R-HNK系统性给药已被证明是对抗CNP的有效镇痛方式^[10-12],然而,迄今为止2R, 6R-HNK镇痛作用的关键部位以及分子机制仍未阐明。有研究认为皮下注射2R, 6R-HNK(10, 30 $\text{mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)不具备镇痛效应^[21];亦有研究认为单次鼻饲2R, 6R-HNK(10 mg/kg)给药30 min后即可达到最大镇痛效应^[13]。考虑到鼻饲是一种具备无创性且可透过血脑屏障和血脑脊液屏障的给药方式^[22],结合不同给药方式的效果差异,我们推测2R, 6R-HNK很可能通过直接作用于神经系统发挥镇痛作



A, C: PCR cycle quantification (Cq) value of *Calcα*, *β* mRNA in bilateral sham L4 DRGs or L4 ~ 5 SDHs; B, D: RT-PCR analysis of *Calcα*, *β* and *Bdnf* mRNA in bilateral DRGs and SDHs at 3 h after surgery. Fig. 5 A-B showed that *Calcα* mRNA was dominant in DRG, and the elevated mRNA levels of contralateral *Bdnf* and bilateral *Calcα* at 3 h after SNI were reversed by intrathecal 2R, 6R-HNK; Fig. 5 C-D showed that, although *Calcα* mRNA was still dominant, such effects of 2R, 6R-HNK didn't take place in SDH. All data were shown by means \pm SEM, and were analyzed by two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons test for each group ($F = 14.21$, $P < 0.01$ in A; $F = 23.79$, 7.872 , 9.536 , $P < 0.000$ 1, 0.001 , 0.001 in B; $F = 71.69$, $P < 0.000$ 1 in C). $n = 6$. 1) $P < 0.05$ between Ipsi *Calcα* and *β*, 2) $P < 0.05$ between Contr *Calcα* and *β*, 3) $P < 0.05$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 4) $P < 0.000$ 1 saline 1 d+SNI 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 5) $P < 0.05$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 6) $P < 0.05$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 7) $P < 0.01$ between saline 1 d+SNI 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 8) $P < 0.01$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 9) $P < 0.001$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h, 10) $P < 0.000$ 1 between saline 1 d+SNI 3 h and 21 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ HNK 1 d+SNI 3 h, 11) $P < 0.000$ 1 between Ipsi *Calcα* and *β*, 12) $P < 0.000$ 1 between Contr *Calcα* and *β*, 13) $P < 0.05$ between saline 1 d+Sham 3 h and saline 1 d+SNI 3 h.

图5 2R, 6R-HNK逆转SNI诱导DRG内*Cgrp*和*Bdnf*mRNA升高

Fig. 5 The increases of *Cgrp* and *Bdnf* mRNA in DRG by SNI were reversed by 2R, 6R-HNK

用。由此,我们首先对比腹腔与鞘内注射等效剂量2R, 6R-HNK的镇痛效率。据研究发现,在SNI 11-d模型中腹腔注射2R, 6R-HNK(10 mg/kg)仅在24 h时(而非4 h或48 h)能升高PWT并发挥延迟镇痛作用^[11]。而类似的,我们在SNI 3-w模型中通过腹腔注射等效剂量2R, 6R-HNK实现了6 h至1 d双侧PWT的升高。然而与腹腔注射相比,在SNI 3-w模型小鼠中单次鞘内给予2R, 6R-HNK能维持缩足阈值升高直至4 d(图1)。鞘内给药这种更强且持久的镇痛效应远远超其他报道中腹腔和鼻饲给药的作用时程^[11]。此外,这种长程作用明显超过2R, 6R-HNK在组织富集和经肝药酶正常代谢的周期^[19],提示2R, 6R-HNK的镇痛效应可能与鞘内给药后直接作用靶部位和/或作用于痛觉通路的可塑性有关。值得一提的是,2R, 6R-HNK在小鼠大脑中的半衰期约为1 h^[16],而在血浆中为30 min^[23],这也表明2R, 6R-HNK经鞘内注射后的代谢与外周循环代谢不同。鉴于鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK可直接进入蛛网膜下腔,那2R, 6R-HNK的

镇痛靶点可能在邻近的DRG和/或脊髓。尽管鞘内注射2R, 6R-HNK的起效时间(6 h)较前报道中鼻饲给药(30 min)明显延迟^[13],但以小鼠体质量20 g计算,鼻饲10 mg/kg的剂量近似于鞘内注射浓度约73 $\mu\text{mol/L}$;超过3倍的等效浓度差距很可能是导致鞘内注射较鼻饲给药起效较慢的原因。

氯胺酮中主要有效组分S-ketamine通过其短暂伤害性感受抑制效应而发挥镇痛作用^[11-12],广泛适用于临床前和临床镇痛^[24-25]。我们发现2R, 6R-HNK预先鞘内注射能显著延缓SNI术后疼痛的发生(图2),而同等浓度的S-ketamine无效,这可能与其(10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)对DRG神经元的直接激活有关^[26]。S-ketamine和2R, 6R-HNK分别有着氯胺酮及代谢物家族中最强($K_i = 0.69 \pm 0.09$)和最弱的NMDAR亲和力^[8],这基本排除了2R, 6R-HNK通过作用于NMDAR实现镇痛的可能性。已知痛觉神经通路中p-ERK和c-Fos被认为是神经元兴奋性以及疼痛的标志物;而鞘内2R, 6R-HNK预处理显著降低SNI 3 h诱导的双侧DRG的p-ERK以及脊髓

背角的c-Fos增加(图3)。这表明2R,6R-HNK能快速抑制SNI诱导的上行痛觉通路神经元的早期过度兴奋,也进一步确证了DRG和/或脊髓背角可能是2R,6R-HNK鞘内给药镇痛的靶部位。本研究只在雌性小鼠中观察了鞘内给药的镇痛效果,但之前有研究证实2R,6R-HNK在腹腔注射中不存在镇痛效果的性别差异^[12]。综上所述,本研究报道了2R,6R-HNK经鞘内给药对CNP表现出强且持久的镇痛效应,提示其作为鞘内镇痛组分的潜在应用价值。

3.2 2R,6R-HNK抑制SNI引起DRG中CGRP表达增加

已知2R,6R-HNK可通过增加谷氨酸释放和 α -氨基-3-羟基-5-甲基-4-异恶唑丙酸受体(AMPA)表达,增强AMPA依赖的突触传递从而发挥抗抑郁作用^[16,27]。近期亦有研究发现是AMPA而非阿片受体参与了2R,6R-HNK迟发镇痛的起始机制^[11]。但由于这些研究使用的拮抗性工具药均经腹腔内系统性给予,并不能提供2R,6R-HNK直接作用机制的有效证据。降钙素基因相关肽(CGRP)是广泛于中枢和外周神经系统合成和释放的神经肽^[28],参与痛觉传递的生理病理过程^[29]。鉴于DRG中CGRP在CNP中起到关键作用^[30],我们后续又观察了2R,6R-HNK鞘内注射对DRG内CGRP表达的影响。预先鞘内注射2R,6R-HNK能显著抑制SNI早期DRG中CGRP蛋白(图4)尤其mRNA水平(图5)的增加。这也进一步提示2R,

6R-HNK镇痛的关键机制可能与DRG初级感觉神经元有关。同时模型出现了双侧脊髓背角CGRP⁺神经纤维末梢的显著增多,而RT-PCR结果提示脊髓背角CGRP信号表达上调很可能是源于DRG分泌而非脊髓本身产生。有趣的是,在SNI术后3h,2R,6R-HNK对脊髓背角异常升高的CGRP信号并无显著影响,这与后续痛行为学的改变不一致,提示2R,6R-HNK对CGRP可塑性的调控具有滞后性。我们同样也注意到,2R,6R-HNK抑制了对侧DRG中*Bdnf* mRNA的异常升高(图5)。BDNF是调控CGRP合成的重要分子,伴随小胶质细胞的双侧广泛激活可促进脊髓背角CGRP⁺末梢异常生长^[18]。故而SNI模型中对侧疼痛的产生以及2R,6R-HNK的缓解作用可能均来源于对BDNF异常表达的影响。在同侧BDNF的这一作用时程可能较对侧更为迅速,故而在SNI 3h时未能观测到类似改变。本研究结果提示,DRG神经元中的CGRP可能是2R,6R-HNK镇痛的关键靶点,但SNI模型的双侧疼痛机制还有待进一步探究。

本研究通过鞘内给药揭示2R,6R-HNK预处理部分通过抑制DRG-脊髓背角这一上行痛觉通路神经元过度兴奋以及DRG神经元中CGRP高表达而发挥强效持久镇痛作用的机制。这一发现扩大了2R,6R-HNK在临床实践中的预防和治疗范围,为鞘内缓释泵技术在CNP中的应用提供了新的策略。

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