

References

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Relationship between clonidine test and suicidal behavior

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Key words: Clonidine test; Depression; Suicidal behavior

The current main neurochemical theories of the biological correlates of suicidal behavior involve serotonergic and to a lesser extent dopaminergic systems (Pitchot et al., 1992). Few data are available about the possible implication of the noradrenergic function. In the present study, we assessed the growth hormone (GH) response to clonidine, a specific α 2-adrenergic agonist, in 16 DSM-III-R major depressive inpatients with a history of suicide attempts, compared to 16 age- and gender-matched major depressive inpatients without history of suicidal behavior. Mean GH peak responses to clonidine were significantly lower in the group of suicide attempters than in the control group: 2.88 ± 2.76 ng/ml vs 7.63 ± 7.95 ng/ml ($t = 225$, $df = 1.30$, $p < 0.05$). Therefore, these results suggest that a blunted GH response to clonidine could be a biological correlate of suicidal behavior.

References

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Growth hormone response to apomorphine test in retarded vs agitated depressed patients

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Key words: Apomorphine; Dopamine; Psychomotor retardation

Several lines of evidence suggest a role for dopamine in the pathophysiology of depression (Willner, 1985). Data from cerebrospinal fluid studies are consistent with the hypothesis of a relationship between impaired dopamine activity and psychomotor retardation. The aim of the present study was to assess the dopamine function at the postsynaptic level, with the apomorphine test (0.5 mg s.c.), in retarded depressed patients. Twelve inpatients meeting RDC for a retarded major depressive disorder were matched for gender, age, and, in the case of women, menopausal status with 12 RDC agitated depressed patients. Mean growth hormone peak responses to apomorphine were significantly lower in the group of retarded