

REVIEW

Open Access

Hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus activation contributes to neurohumoral excitation in rats with heart failure

Yu-Ming Kang^{1*}, Qing Yang¹, Xiao-Jing Yu¹, Jie Qi¹, Yan Zhang¹, Hong-Bao Li¹, Qing Su¹ and Guo-Qing Zhu²

Abstract

Heart failure (HF) is a serious cardiovascular disease and is characterized by exaggerated sympathetic activity. In this paper, we review these limited studies, with particular emphasis on examining the role of the paraventricular nucleus (PVN) in the neurohumoral excitation in HF. The PVN is an important neuroendocrine and preautonomic output nucleus, and is considered as the important central site for integration of sympathetic nerve activity. Accumulating evidences demonstrate that a number of neurohumoral processes are involved in the pathophysiology of HF, such as renin-angiotensin system (RAS), proinflammatory cytokines (PICs), neurotransmitters, and reactive oxygen species (ROS). Recent studies about neurohumoral regulation indicate that angiotensin II type1 receptor (AT₁-R) is the important product mediated by cytoplasmic nuclear factor-kappa B (NF-κB) which is up-regulated along with elevated PICs and angiotensin II (ANG II) in the PVN of HF rats. These findings suggest that the NF-κB mediates the cross-talk between RAS and PICs in the PVN in HF. The further studies indicate that the interaction between AT₁-R and NF-κB in the PVN contributes to oxidative stress and sympathoexcitation by modulating neurotransmitters in heart failure, and the superoxide activates NF-κB in the PVN and contributes to neurohumoral excitation. In conclusion, the neurohumoral excitation in HF is based on the interaction of RAS, PICs, ROS, NF-κB and neurotransmitters in the PVN; and the activated NF-κB in the PVN modulates the neurotransmitters and contributes to sympathoexcitation in rats with heart failure.

Keywords: Hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus, Neurohumoral excitation, Heart failure

Review

Introduction

Heart failure (HF) secondary to left ventricular systolic dysfunction is characterized by low cardiac output and neurohumoral excitation (NHE). In the meantime, the sympathoexcitation is considered as an important characteristic of heart failure [1]. A growing number of experimental studies suggest that interventions at the central nervous system (CNS) level are beneficial during heart failure [2,3]. Animals with HF have neurochemical abnormalities in the brain and profoundly affect sympathetic drive in heart failure. The increase in sympathetic nerve activity (SNA) in HF is due to an imbalance between inhibitory and excitatory mechanisms within

specific areas in the CNS such as the paraventricular nucleus (PVN) of the hypothalamus [4]. Some studies show that the PVN is an important central site for integration of sympathetic nerve activity [5,6] and is a significant area in cardiovascular control [7,8]. The baseline sympathetic outflow mediated by the PVN mainly depends on the spontaneous activity of preautonomic neurons, and *via* the axons project to the intermediolateral cell column (IML).

Previous studies show that angiotensin II (ANG II), angiotensin II type 1 receptor (AT₁-R), proinflammatory cytokines (PICs), NAD(P)H oxidase, and nuclear factor-kappa B (NF-κB) all appear to be potential targets for PVN interventions that might substantially reduce the adverse peripheral effects of sympathetic nerve activity and neurohumoral regulation in heart failure. So a comprehensive understanding of the PVN will enhance our ability to treat the HF condition and its cardiovascular

* Correspondence: ykang@mail.xjtu.edu.cn

¹Department of Physiology and Pathophysiology, Xi'an Jiaotong University Cardiovascular Research Center, Xi'an Jiaotong University School of Medicine, Xi'an 710061, China

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

complications, and help in reducing the deleterious effects of chronic sympathoexcitation in this disease state.

Based on evidence from other laboratories and our laboratory, this review highlights some important mechanisms in the PVN that may contribute to the exaggerated sympathetic outflow and the neurohumoral excitation commonly observed in HF.

Renin-angiotensin system in heart failure

Heart failure is a consummate example of multisystem disorder and is characterized by neurohumoral excitation. The consequences of NHE include increased sympathetic activity, enhanced renal sodium and water reabsorption, and decreased renal perfusion resulting in the activation of a number of peptides including those components of the renin-angiotensin system (RAS). The RAS is activated in HF and leads to vasoconstriction, volume accumulation and exaggerated sympathetic nerve activity. The RAS has been implicated in the central processing of sympathetic nerve activity [9-12]. Recent studies demonstrated that RAS is activated in the PVN of heart failure rats and increased ANG II causes PVN neuronal activation [13-16]. ANG II had been shown as a significant factor in the central regulation of arterial blood pressure (BP), which could bind to AT₁-R cross the weak or absent blood-brain barrier and subsequently activate the brain RAS. The permissive role of ANG II on sympathoadrenal activation is mediated by the same AT₁-R which mediates the central effects of ANG II. Because the AT₁-R is thought to be the primary receptor involved in most of the biological effects of ANG II, the degree and mechanism by which is expressed may provide important insight into the sympathoexcitatory process and the development of novel centrally acting therapeutic agents. Previous studies have demonstrated that AT₁-R is present in the PVN [15,17] and mRNA levels for the AT₁ receptor are high in the PVN. Blockade of RAS components modulates PVN neurotransmitters and decreases sympathetic activity, indicating a role for the central nervous system RAS in sympathoexcitation in HF [13,18]. Findings from our laboratory and others indicate that cytokines interact with RAS both in the central and peripheral nervous systems [13,19-21]. Brain AT₁-R may influence sympathetic activity by regulating the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines into the circulation. Cytokine blockade decreases circulating ANG II levels, conversely, RAS blockade attenuates circulating cytokine levels [22-24]. Therefore, it is plausible to suggest that an interaction between cytokine and AT₁-R within the PVN might modulate neurotransmitters and contribute to sympathoexcitation in HF.

Proinflammatory cytokines in the PVN in heart failure

A growing body of evidence suggests that heart failure is related with neurohumoral excitation as well as immune abnormal. The products of immune activation are the proinflammatory cytokines (PICs). These PICs include tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α), interleukin-1 β (IL-1 β) and IL-6, which are released into the circulation early after myocardial infarction (MI). Although several PICs are up-regulated in HF, we have focused on TNF- α , which appears early in the cytokine cascade [25], since it is generally the first cytokine that is up-regulated in diseases, and it also induces the production of several other cytokines. Findings from Felder's laboratory suggest that TNF- α increases in the blood, brain and heart within minutes after acute MI and continues to rise over the ensuing weeks, and IL-1 β has a similar pattern of early appearance after MI [26]. Chronic treatment with pentoxifylline (anti-inflammatory/anti-cytokine) inhibits PICs synthesis [27-30] and prevents the increases in TNF- α in brain, heart and plasma measured 4 weeks after MI [26]. The PVN is particularly sensitive to the influences of inflammatory stress. Injection of TNF- α into the PVN increased sympathetic activity, suggesting a direct role of TNF- α in sympathetic activity. Systemic TNF- α increases the activity of PVN neurons and contributes to increased sympathetic activity, chronic infusion of PICs synthesis blocker decreased sympathetic activity in HF rats [26,31,32]. There are two possible mechanisms for TNF- α increased expression in the PVN: (1) circulating TNF- α into the brain through the circumventricular organs (CVOs) which are specialized brain regions that lack a blood-brain barrier; (2) activated microglia in the brain can synthesize TNF- α . Blood-borne cytokines act upon receptors in the microvasculature of the brain to induce COX-2 activity and the production of prostaglandin E₂, which penetrates the blood-brain barrier to activate the sympathetic nervous system [33]. Increased TNF- α in autonomic regulatory regions of the brain alters the production of superoxide and nitric oxide, contributing to fluid imbalance and sympathoexcitation in heart failure [34]. This is also supported by our findings that PVN infusion of a TNF- α blocker pentoxifylline (PTX) or etanercept (ETN) attenuates the increase in renal sympathetic nerve activity (RSNA), decreases AT₁-R expression and modulates neurotransmitters thereby attenuating sympathoexcitation in HF rats [35].

Neurotransmitters in the PVN in heart failure

A number of excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters converge in the PVN to influence its neuronal activity [5]. Among these neurotransmitters are glutamate, norepinephrine (NE), and gamma-amino butyric acid (GABA). Glutamate is a well-known excitatory neurotransmitter in

the CNS. It has been reported that functional glutamate receptors are expressed in the PVN [36-39] and are involved in cardiovascular reflexes [40,41]. It has been shown that sympathetic hyperactivity in HF rats is associated with increased extracellular NE in the PVN [42,43]. NE plays a critical role in the pathophysiology of HF [44,45]. GABA is a well-known inhibitory neurotransmitter in the CNS. A large body of evidence suggests that GABA plays an important role in central sympathetic and cardiovascular regulation [46,47], which is a dominant inhibitory neurotransmitter within the PVN. Considerable evidence suggests that the PVN is one of the sites in which the cardiovascular effects of GABA are elicited. Studies from Patel's laboratory demonstrate that inhibitory mechanisms of sympathetic regulation within the PVN *via* GABA were reduced in HF rats [48]. The alterations seen in HF may induce an imbalance between the inhibitory and excitatory neurotransmitters in the PVN and influence sympathetic outflow [49,50]. PICs were increased in the PVN of HF rats and increased PICs in the PVN cause an imbalance in PVN neurotransmitters and contribute to sympathoexcitation in heart failure [21,35]. Rats with HF or sham-operated control (SHAM) rats were treated for 4 weeks with a continuous intracerebroventricular (ICV) infusion of the TNF- α blockers PTX, ETN or vehicle. HF rats had increased neuronal excitation accompanied by higher levels of glutamate, NE, and tyrosine hydroxylase (TH), and lower levels of GABA and 67-kDa isoform of glutamate decarboxylase (GAD67) in the PVN when compared with SHAM rats. Renal sympathetic nerve activity (RSNA) was also increased in HF rats. After the ICV treatment with low doses of PTX or ETN attenuated, and high doses prevented, increases in levels of glutamate, NE, and TH, and decreases in levels of GABA and GAD67 in the PVN of HF rats. These studies from our laboratory clearly indicate that the effects of PICs on the exaggerated sympathetic activity in HF *via* modulating neurotransmitters in the PVN.

Reactive oxygen species in the PVN in heart failure

Although there are differences in sympathetic outflow to various vascular beds in the HF state, it is generally well accepted that sympathoexcitation is a global phenomenon [51]. Furthermore, HF has been viewed as a proinflammatory state as well as a condition characterized by high levels of oxidative stress [52-54]. In patients and animals with HF, increased oxidative stress has been shown to occur in many tissues, including the heart and brain [55-59]. The NAD(P)H oxidase is a multi-subunit enzyme that catalyzes the reduction of molecular oxygen to form superoxide $O_2^{\cdot-}$. NAD(P)H oxidase function appears to be required for processes such as neuronal signaling and central

cardiovascular homeostasis, but overproduction of reactive oxygen species (ROS) contributes to neurodegeneration and cardiovascular diseases [60]. TNF- α can induce activation of NAD(P)H oxidase leading to enhance oxidative stress [61] and mediate NAD(P)H oxidase-derived superoxide production during heart failure [60]. Furthermore, overproduction of ROS within brain cardiovascular regions such as the PVN induced the overexpression of several NAD(P)H oxidase subunits including NOX-2 and NOX-4 [62]. Under pathological conditions, the excess $O_2^{\cdot-}$ in the brain made the disequilibrium of oxidation and antioxidation resulting in augmented the sympathoexcitation in heart failure.

However, studies from our laboratory indicate that the treatment with tempol (a superoxide scavenger) not only decreased sympathetic activity, but also eliminated the redundant $O_2^{\cdot-}$, restored the balance between oxidation and antioxidation, decreased the expression of RAS component AT₁-R, and ameliorated heart failure [20].

Nuclear factor-kappa B in the PVN in heart failure

The neurohumoral mechanisms and immune-mediated mechanisms have been shown to play important roles in the pathophysiology of HF, and excess PICs [14] and RAS [63] are both present in the cerebrum cardiovascular region and contribute to neurohumoral excitation in HF.

Nuclear factor-kappa B (NF- κ B) is present in central nervous system (CNS) neurons and plays an important role in inflammatory response, and is a potent inducer of PICs and oxidative stress contributes to the pathophysiology of multiple disease states [64]. The activated NF- κ B pathway has been shown to be the major regulator facilitating the synthesis of several different injury-responsive cytokines in neurons, such as TNF- α , IL1- β , IL-6 [65-67]. AT₁-R is the important product mediated by cytoplasmic NF- κ B [67]. Translocation of activated NF- κ B to nuclei regulates the synthesis of AT₁-R in neurons [68]. Furthermore, NF- κ B can mediate the cross-talk between RAS and PICs in the PVN in HF [20]. In the PVN, the activated NF- κ B also contributes to NAD(P)H oxidase-dependent oxidative stress and sympathoexcitation in HF rats [69,70]. In return, NF- κ B is up-regulated along with PICs activation in the PVN of ischemia-induced heart failure rats [71]. RAS and superoxide activate NF- κ B in the PVN and contribute to neurohumoral excitation [71-73]. In addition, oxidative stress mediates the up-regulation of brain renin-angiotensin system (RAS) in ischemia-induced heart failure [71].

Previous work demonstrated a GABA-mediated inhibitory mechanism in the PVN contributing to sympathoexcitation in HF rats [70]. Moreover, in HF, endogenous GABA-mediated inhibition is decreased,

due to the increased neuronal activity of the PVN. PVN infusion of AT₁-R blocker losartan or pyrrolidine dithiocarbamate (PDTC, a specific NF- κ B inhibitor) attenuated the decreases in GABA, and the increases in gp91^{phox} (a subunit of NAD(P)H oxidase), NF- κ B activity, glutamate and NE, in the PVN of HF rats, and also attenuated the increases in RSNA and plasma PICs and NE. Based on these studies, it is clear that interaction between AT₁-R and NF- κ B in the PVN contributes to oxidative stress and sympathoexcitation by modulating imbalance between excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters in the PVN of HF rats [74]. PVN infusion of SN50 (a competitive inhibitor of the translocation of NF- κ B to the nucleus) prevented the decreases in PVN GABA and GAD67, and the increases in RSNA and PVN glutamate, NE, TH, superoxide, gp91^{phox}, phosphorylated IKK β and NF- κ B p65 activity observed in heart failure rats. These findings suggest that the activated NF- κ B contributes to sympathoexcitation in rats with ischemia-induced heart failure [63]. Figure 1 provides a schematic overview and summarizes the relationship of PICs, ROS, RAS and NF- κ B in the PVN, which modulate sympathetic activity in heart failure.

Conclusion

Neurohumoral excitation has been recognized as one of the hallmarks during the development of heart failure

(HF), a large number of factors such as ANG II, PICs, ROS and NF- κ B signaling are activated and cause an imbalance in PVN neurotransmitters and contribute to sympathoexcitation in heart failure. The precise mechanisms by which these factors become sensitized in HF are needed to be explored. Several possibilities, including indirect effects mediated by PICs, NAD(P)H oxidase-dependent generation of superoxide and/or up-regulation of the brain RAS, and possibly even direct effects mediated by NF- κ B signalling pathways. A clear indication of this phenomenon is illustrated in Figure 1. In the PVN, NF- κ B activation seems to play an important role in sympathoexcitation in HF. Interaction among PICs, ROS, RAS and NF- κ B in the PVN modulates sympathetic nerve activity. Targeting NF- κ B modulation and its downstream regulatory molecules in the PVN provides a roadmap for tackling possible therapeutic strategies to the improvement of central neural control of sympathetic nerve activity in HF. We conclude that increased brain PICs in HF, either directly, or *via* an interaction with RAS, ROS and NF- κ B, cause an imbalance between excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters in the PVN, thereby contributing to sympathoexcitation.

The review provided here clearly indicate the great potential for development of future therapies involving targets within the RAS, ROS, PICs, neurotransmitter and

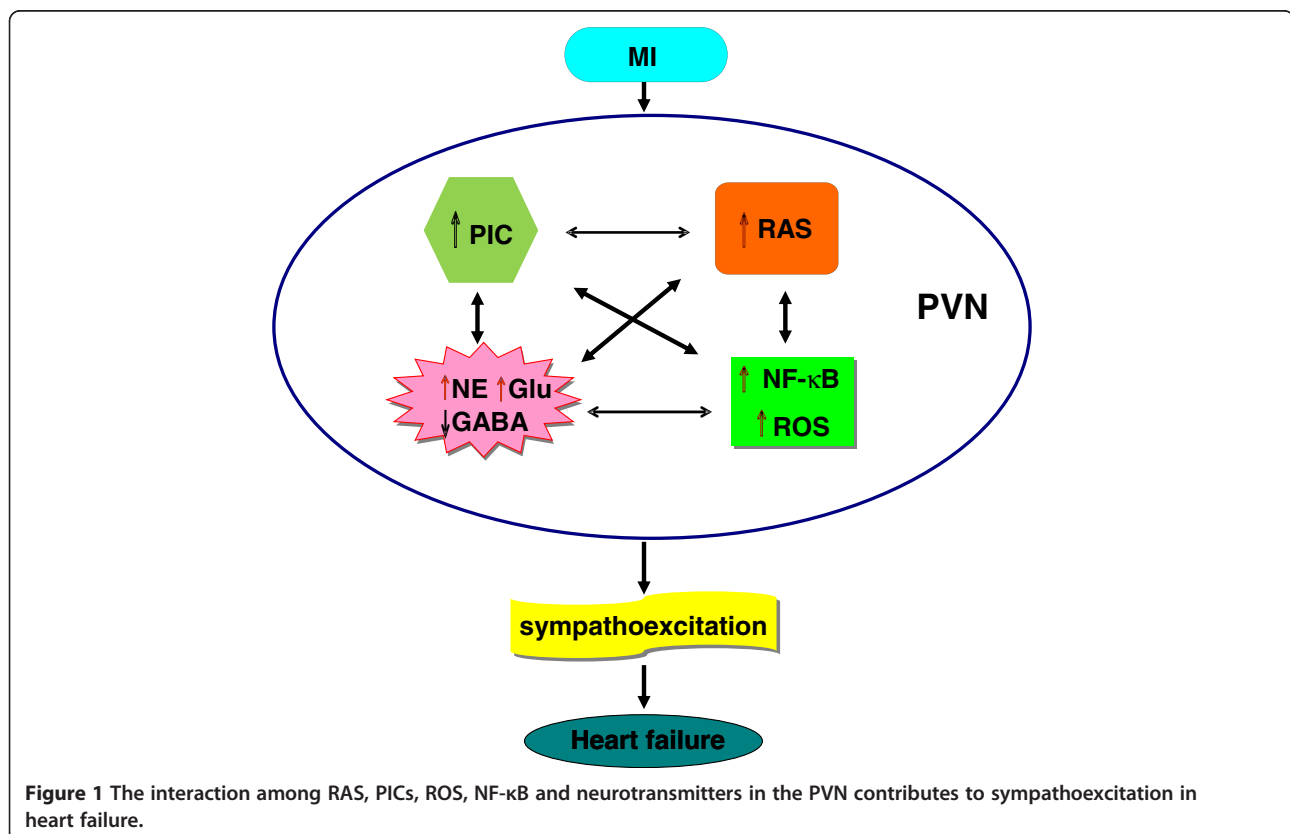


Figure 1 The interaction among RAS, PICs, ROS, NF- κ B and neurotransmitters in the PVN contributes to sympathoexcitation in heart failure.

NF- κ B. Further studies are needed to elucidate the significance of these mechanisms that may contribute but are not yet appreciated. And the functional neurons for the sympathoexcitation in the PVN in heart failure, such as the microglia, are needed to be investigated in the further studies.

Competing interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contribution

YMK and GQZ conceived and designed the manuscript. YMK, QY, XJY, JQ, YZ, HBL and QS drafted the manuscript. YMK and GQZ revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (Nos. 81170248, 81070199, 31171095), and Research Fund for the Doctoral Program of Higher Education of China (No. 20101417110002).

Author details

¹Department of Physiology and Pathophysiology, Xi'an Jiaotong University Cardiovascular Research Center, Xi'an Jiaotong University School of Medicine, Xi'an 710061, China. ²Department of Physiology, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing 210029, China.

Received: 14 August 2013 Accepted: 24 October 2013

Published: 8 January 2014

References

- Mancia G: Sympathetic activation in congestive heart failure: reproducibility of neuroadrenergic markers. *Eur J Heart Fail* 1990, **11**:3–11.
- Patel KP: Neural regulation in experimental heart failure. *Baillieres Clin Neurol* 1997, **6**:283–296.
- Zucker IH, Wang W, Brändle M, Schultz HD, Patel KP: Neural regulation of sympathetic nerve activity in heart failure. *Prog Cardiovasc Dis* 1995, **37**:397–414.
- Patel KP, Zheng H: Central neural control of sympathetic nerve activity in heart failure following exercise training. *Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol* 2012, **302**:H527–H537.
- Swanson LW, Kuypers HJGM: The paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus: cytoarchitectonic subdivisions and organization of the projections to the pituitary, dorsal vagal complex, and spinal cord as demonstrated by retrograde fluorescence double-labeling methods. *J Comp Neurol* 1980, **194**:555–570.
- Swanson LW, Sawchenko PE: Paraventricular nucleus: a site for the integration of neuroendocrine and autonomic mechanisms. *Neuroendocrinology* 1980, **31**:410–417.
- Saper CB, Loewy AD, Swanson LW, Cowan WM: Direct hypothalamo-autonomic connections. *Brain Res* 1976, **117**:305–312.
- Strack AM, Sawyer WB, Platt KB, Loewy AD: CNS cell groups regulating the sympathetic outflow to adrenal gland as revealed by transneuronal cell body labeling with pseudorabies virus. *Brain Res* 1989, **491**:274–296.
- Kumagai K, Reid IA: Losartan inhibits sympathetic and cardiovascular responses to carotid occlusion. *Hypertension* 1994, **23**:827–831.
- Quillen EW Jr, Reid IA: Intravertebral ANG II effects on plasma renin and Na excretion in dogs at constant renal artery pressure. *Am J Physiol* 1995, **268**:F296–F301.
- Reid IA: Interactions between ANG II, sympathetic nervous system, and baroreceptor reflexes in regulation of blood pressure. *Am J Physiol* 1992, **262**:E763–E778.
- Xu L, Brooks VL: ANG II chronically supports renal and lumbar sympathetic activity in sodium-deprived, conscious rats. *Am J Physiol* 1996, **271**:H2591–H2598.
- Zhang ZH, Francis J, Weiss RM, Felder RB: The renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system excites hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus neurons in heart failure. *Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol* 2002, **283**:H423–H433.
- Zhang ZH, Wei SG, Francis J, Felder RB: Cardiovascular and renal sympathetic activation by blood-borne TNF- α in rat: the role of central prostaglandins. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol* 2003, **284**:R916–R927.
- Kang YM, Zhang ZH, Xue B, Weiss RM, Felder RB: Inhibition of brain proinflammatory cytokine synthesis reduces hypothalamic excitation in rats with ischemia-induced heart failure. *Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol* 2008, **295**:H227–H236.
- Bains JS, Ferguson AV: Paraventricular nucleus neurons projecting to the spinal cord receive excitatory input from the subfornical organ. *Am J Physiol* 1995, **268**:R625–R633.
- Aguilera G, Young WS, Kiss A, Bathia A: Direct regulation of hypothalamic corticotropin-releasing-hormone neurons by angiotensin II. *Neuroendocrinology* 1995, **61**:437–444.
- Dampney RA, Horiuchi J, Killinger S, Sheriff MJ, Tan PS, McDowall LM: Long-term regulation of arterial blood pressure by hypothalamic nuclei: some critical questions. *Clin Exp Pharmacol Physiol* 2005, **32**:419–425.
- Guggilam A, Patel KP, Haque M, Ebenezer PJ, Kapusta DR, Francis J: Cytokine blockade attenuates sympathoexcitation in heart failure: cross-talk between nNOS, AT₁-R and cytokines in the hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus. *Eur J Heart Fail* 2008, **10**:625–634.
- Kang YM, Ma Y, Elks C, Zheng JP, Yang ZM, Francis J: Cross-talk between cytokines and renin-angiotensin in hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus in heart failure: role of nuclear factor- κ B. *Cardiovasc Res* 2008, **79**:671–678.
- Kang YM, He RL, Yang LM, Qin DN, Guggilam A, Elks C, et al: Brain tumor necrosis factor- α modulates neurotransmitters in hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus in heart failure. *Cardiovasc Res* 2009, **83**:737–746.
- Patel KP: Role of paraventricular nucleus in mediating sympathetic outflow in heart failure. *Heart Fail Rev* 2000, **5**:73–86.
- Gao L, Wang WZ, Wang W, Zucker IH: Imbalance of angiotensin type 1 receptor and angiotensin II type 2 receptor in the rostral ventrolateral medulla: potential mechanism for sympathetic over activity in heart failure. *Hypertension* 2008, **52**:708–714.
- Kleiber AC, Zheng H, Schultz HD, Peuler JD, Patel KP: Exercise training normalizes enhanced glutamate-mediated sympathetic activation from the PVN in heart failure. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol* 2008, **294**:R1863–R1872.
- Chrousos GP: The stress response and immune function: clinical implications. The 1999 Novera H. Spector Lecture. *Ann N Y Acad Sci* 2000, **917**:38–67.
- Francis J, Beltz T, Johnson AK, Felder RB: Mineralocorticoids act centrally to regulate blood-borne tumor necrosis factor- α in normal rats. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol* 2003, **285**:R1402–R1409.
- Cole RL, Sawchenko PE: Neurotransmitter regulation of cellular activation and neuropeptide gene expression in the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus. *J Neurosci* 2002, **22**:959–969.
- Dhabhar FS, McEwen BS, Spencer RL: Stress response, adrenal steroid receptor levels and corticosteroid-binding globulin levels - a comparison between sprague-dawley, Fischer 344 and Lewis rats. *Brain Res* 1993, **616**:89–98.
- Voisin L, Breuille D, Ruot B, Ralliere C, Rambourdin F, Dalle M, et al: Cytokine modulation by PX differently affects specific acute phase proteins during sepsis in rats. *Am J Physiol* 1998, **275**:R1412–R1419.
- Kimura T, Funiyu T, Ohta M, Yamamoto T, Ota K, Shoji M, et al: The role of GABA in the central regulation of AVP and ANP release and blood pressure due to angiotensin and carbachol, and central GABA release due to blood pressure changes. *J Auton Nerv Syst* 1994, **50**:21–29.
- Francis J, Morgan DA, Weiss RM, Mark AL, Felder RB: Pentoxifylline reduces brain TNF- α (TNF) production and attenuates sympathoexcitation in heart failure rats [Abstract]. *FASEB J* 2003, **17**:A403.
- Francis J, Zhang ZH, Weiss RM, Felder RB: Differential regulation of heart, brain and circulating cytokines by the autonomic nervous system in rats with ischemia-induced heart failure. *Circulation* 2003, **108**(Suppl):242–242.
- Hoffman WE, Schmid PG: Cardiovascular and antiinflammatory effects of central prostaglandin E₂. *J Physiol* 1979, **288**:159–169.
- Guggilam A, Cardinale JP, Mariappan N, Sriramula S, Haque M, Francis J: Central TNF inhibition results in attenuated neurohumoral excitation in heart failure: a role for superoxide and nitric oxide. *Basic Res Cardiol* 2011, **106**:273–286.
- Kang YM, Wang Y, Yang LM, Elks C, Cardinale J, Yu XJ, et al: TNF- α in hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus contributes to sympathoexcitation in heart failure by modulating AT₁ receptor and neurotransmitters. *Tohoku J Exp Med* 2010, **222**:251–263.

36. Butcher KS, Cethetto DF: Receptors in lateral hypothalamic area involved in insular cortex sympathetic responses. *Am J Physiol* 1998, **275**:H689–H696.
37. Hermes ML, Coderre EM, Buijs RM, Renaud LP: GABA and glutamate mediate rapid neurotransmission from suprachiasmatic nucleus to hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus in rat. *J Physiol* 1996, **496**:749–757.
38. Miyawaki T, Minson J, Arnolda L, Chalmers J: Role of excitatory amino acid receptors in cardiorespiratory coupling in ventrolateral medulla. *Am J Physiol* 1996, **271**:R1221–R1230.
39. Tasker JG, Boudaba C, Schrader LA: Local glutamatergic and GABAergic synaptic circuits and metabotropic glutamate receptors in the hypothalamic paraventricular and supraoptic nuclei. *Adv Exp Med Biol* 1998, **449**:117–121.
40. Antonaccio MJ, Kerwin L, Taylor DG: Reductions in blood pressure, heart rate and renal sympathetic nerve discharge in cats after the central administration of muscimol, a GABA agonist. *Neuropharmacology* 1978, **17**:783–791.
41. Brennan TJ, Haywood JR, Ticku MK: GABA receptor binding and hemodynamic responses to ICV GABA in adult spontaneously hypertensive rats. *Life Sci* 1983, **33**:701–709.
42. Swedberg K, Bergh CH, Dickstein K, McNay J, Steinberg M: The effects of moxonidine, a novel imidazoline, on plasma norepinephrine in patients with congestive heart failure. Moxonidine Investigators. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2000, **35**:398–404.
43. Van Kerckhoven R, Van Veen TAB, Boomsma F, Saxena PR, Schoemaker RG: Chronic administration of moxonidine suppresses sympathetic activation in a rat heart failure model. *Eur J Pharmacol* 2000, **397**:113–120.
44. Plotsky PM, Cunningham ET Jr, Widmaier EP: Catecholaminergic modulation of corticotropin-releasing factor and adrenocorticotropin secretion. *Endocr Rev* 1989, **10**:37–58.
45. Szafarczyk A, Malaval F, Laurent A, Gibaud R, Assenmacher I: Further evidence for a central stimulatory action of catecholamines on adrenocorticotropin release in the rat. *Endocrinology* 1987, **121**:883–892.
46. Chen QH, Haywood JR, Toney GM: Sympathoexcitation by PVN injected bicuculline requires activation of excitatory amino acid receptors. *Hypertension* 2003, **42**:725–731.
47. Sun AY, Li DX: Cardiovascular responses to intracerebroventricular injection of GABA in renovascular hypertensive rats. *Acta Pharmacol Sin* 1994, **15**:136–138.
48. Zelazowski P, Patchev VK, Zelazowska EB, Chrousos GP, Gold PW, Sternberg EM: Release of hypothalamic corticotropin-releasing hormone and arginine-vasopressin by interleukin 1 beta and alpha MSH: studies in rats with different susceptibility to inflammatory disease. *Brain Res* 1993, **631**:22–26.
49. Borkowski KR, Finch L: Cardiovascular changes in anaesthetised rats after the intra-hypothalamic administration of adrenaline. *Clin Exp Hypertens* 1978, **1**:279–291.
50. Dampney RAL: Functional organization of central pathways regulating the cardiovascular system. *Physiol Rev* 1994, **74**:323–364.
51. Zucker IH, Patel KP, Schultz HD: Neurohumoral stimulation. *Heart Fail Clin* 2012, **8**:87–99.
52. Khaper N, Bryan S, Dhingra S, Singal R, Bajaj A, Pathak CM, et al: Targeting the vicious inflammation-oxidative stress cycle for the management of heart failure. *Antioxid Redox Signal* 2010, **13**:1033–1049.
53. Khullar M, Al-Shudiefat AA, Ludke A, Binopal G, Singal PK: Oxidative stress: a key contributor to diabetic cardiomyopathy. *Can J Physiol Pharmacol* 2010, **88**:233–240.
54. Robinson T, Smith A, Channer KS: Reversible heart failure: the role of inflammatory activation. *Postgrad Med J* 2011, **87**:110–115.
55. Castro PF, Greig D, Pérez O, Moraga F, Chiong M, Diaz-Araya G, et al: Relation between oxidative stress, catecholamines, and impaired chronotropic response to exercise in patients with chronic heart failure secondary to ischemic or idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy. *Am J Cardiol* 2003, **92**:215–218.
56. Francis J, Yu L, Guggilam A, Sriramula S, Zucker IH: Atorvastatin attenuates oxidative stress and improves neuronal nitric oxide synthase in the brain stem of heart failure mice. *Circulation* 2007, **116**:157.
57. Lindley TE, Infanger DW, Rishniw M, Zhou Y, Doobay MF, Sharma RV, et al: Scavenging superoxide selectively in mouse forebrain is associated with improved cardiac function and survival following myocardial infarction. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol* 2009, **296**:R1–R8.
58. Infanger DW, Cao X, Butler SD, Burmeister MA, Zhou Y, Stupinski JA, et al: Silencing nox4 in the paraventricular nucleus improves myocardial infarction-induced cardiac dysfunction by attenuating sympathoexcitation and periinfarct apoptosis. *Circ Res* 2010, **106**:1763–1774.
59. Gao L, Wang W, Li YL, Schultz HD, Liu D, Cornish KG, et al: Sympathoexcitation by central ANG II: roles for AT1 receptor upregulation and NAD(P)H oxidase in RVLM. *Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol* 2005, **288**:H2271–H2279.
60. Infanger DW, Sharma RV, Davisson RL: NADPH oxidases of the brain: distribution, regulation, and function. *Antioxid Redox Signal* 2006, **8**:1583–1596.
61. Nishiyama A, Fukui T, Fujisawa Y, Rahman M, Tian RX, Kimura S, et al: Systemic and regional hemodynamic responses to tempol in angiotensin II-infused hypertensive rats. *Hypertension* 2001, **37**:77–83.
62. Paravicini TM, Touyz RM: Redox signaling in hypertension. *Cardiovasc Res* 2006, **71**:247–258.
63. Francis J, Wei SG, Weiss RM, Felder RB: Brain angiotensin-converting enzyme activity and autonomic regulation in heart failure. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol* 2004, **287**:H2138–H2146.
64. La Rosa G, Cardali S, Genovese T, Conti A, Di Paola R, La Torre D, et al: Inhibition of the nuclear factor-kappaB activation with pyrrolidine dithiocarbamate attenuating inflammation and oxidative stress after experimental spinal cord trauma in rats. *J Neurosurg Spine* 2004, **1**:311–321.
65. Valen G, Yan ZQ, Hansson GK: Nuclear factor kappa-B and the heart. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2001, **38**:307–314.
66. Kang YM, Gao F, Li HH, Cardinale JP, Elks C, Zang WJ, et al: NF-kappaB in the paraventricular nucleus modulates neurotransmitters and contributes to sympathoexcitation in heart failure. *Basic Res Cardiol* 2011, **106**:1087–1097.
67. Cowling RT, Gurantz D, Peng J, Dillmann WH, Greenberg BH: Transcription factor NF-kappa B is necessary for up-regulation of type 1 angiotensin II receptor mRNA in rat cardiac fibroblasts treated with tumor necrosis factor-alpha or interleukin-1 beta. *J Biol Chem* 2002, **277**:5719–5724.
68. Chen ZJ, Parent L, Maniatis T: Site-specific phosphorylation of IkkappaBalpha by a novel ubiquitination-dependent protein kinase activity. *Cell* 1996, **84**:853–862.
69. Van Den Berg R, Haenen GR, Van Den Berg H, Bast A: Transcription factor NF-kB as a potential biomarker for oxidative stress. *Br J Nutr* 2001, **86**:S121–S127.
70. Zhang K, Li YF, Patel KP: Reduced endogenous GABA-mediated inhibition in the PVN on renal nerve discharge in rats with heart failure. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol* 2002, **282**:R1006–R1015.
71. Kang YM, Zhang ZH, Johnson RF, Weiss RM, Beltz TG, Johnson AK, et al: Oxidative stress mediates activation of NF-kB and upregulation of brain renin-angiotensin system (RAS) in ischemia-induced heart failure. *Circulation* 2005, **112**(Suppl.):U134–U134.
72. Gregg D, Rauscher FM, Goldschmidt-Clermont PJ: Rac regulates cardiovascular superoxide through diverse molecular interactions: more than a binary GTP switch. *Am J Physiol Cell Physiol* 2003, **285**:C723–C734.
73. Kang YM, Ma Y, Zheng JP, Elks C, Sriramula S, Yang ZM, et al: Brain nuclear factor-kappa B activation contributes to neurohumoral excitation in angiotensin II-induced hypertension. *Cardiovasc Res* 2009, **82**:503–512.
74. Yu XJ, Suo YP, Qi J, Yang Q, Li HH, Zhang DM, et al: Interaction between AT1 receptor and NF-kB in hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus contributes to oxidative stress and sympathoexcitation by modulating neurotransmitters in heart failure. *Cardiovasc Toxicol* 2013, **13**:381–390.

doi:10.1186/2050-490X-2-2

Cite this article as: Kang et al.: Hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus activation contributes to neurohumoral excitation in rats with heart failure. *Regenerative Medicine Research* 2014 **2**:2.