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ONLINE ISSN: 1880-313X PRINT ISSN: 0388-6107

Biomedical Research

Vol. 25 (2004), No. 6 December pp.249-254

[PDF (119K)] [References]

Stimulation of phagocytosis in mouse peritoneal macrophages by orexin-B and orexin-A

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(Received October 12, 2004) (Accepted November 9, 2004)

ABSTRACT

To define the effects of feeding and sleep regulating peptides, orexins, in immunocompetent cells, the effects of orexin-A and orexin-B on phagocytosis in mouse peritoneal macrophages were examined. Orexin-B induced an enhancement of phagocytosis in a dose-dependent manner. Orexin-A is less effective than orexin-B. Even in Ca²⁺-free solutions, phagocytosis was enhanced by orexin-B. The potassium channel blocker quinine inhibited the enhanced phagocytosis by orexin-B; 4-aminopyridine and tetraethylammonium suppressed phagocytosis less effectively. These results suggest that orexins can enhance the phagocytosis of macrophages mediated by potassium channels.

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To cite this article:

Mitsuyuki ICHINOSE and Yasuko WATANABE; "Stimulation of phagocytosis in mouse peritoneal macrophages by orexin-B and orexin-A", *Biomedical Research*, Vol. **25**, pp.249-254 (2004).

doi:10.2220/biomedres.25.249

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