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分担研究報告書

ヒト加齢脳におけるモノアミン関連遺伝子の発現分布と相互作用の解析

分担研究者 小阪憲司 日本福祉大学情報社会システム研究所 客員研究所員

研究要旨：ノルアドレナリン (NA) 系およびセロトニン (5-HT) 系の機能と維持に深く関与する脳由来神経栄養因子 (brain-derived neurotrophic factor, BDNF) の遺伝子多型解析についてブレインバンクサンプルを用いて行った。その結果、アルツハイマー病およびレビー小体病患者の脳においては有意な相関性は見られなかった。現在、うつ病との関連性についての解析を準備中である。

A. 研究目的

城川らのラット加齢脳での研究から、前頭葉や海馬におけるNA線維の機能と維持にはBDNFが重要な役割を果たしていることが示唆されている (Matsunaga et al. 2004, in press)。BDNFは5-HT線維の維持にも関与することが知られており、BDNFのモノアミン系への関与の可能性は高いと考えられる。一方、種々の抗うつ薬がBDNFの脳内動態に影響を及ぼすことが報告されていることから、抗うつ薬がBDNFを介してモノアミン系に

作用している可能性もある。この観点より、うつ病患者の脳におけるモノアミンとBDNF関連遺伝子の解析を開始した。

B. 研究方法

ブレインサンプルの遺伝子解析  
書面にて承諾を得た剖検サンプルを用いて遺伝子多型解析を行った。本年度は、BDNFの多型解析をfragment length PCR法を用いて行った。

(倫理面への配慮)

ブレインバンクに関しては、生命倫理面および個人情報管理面では、細心の注意を払っており、ヘルシンキ宣言の内容、遺伝学的検査に関するガイドライン(遺伝医学関連学会等10学会および研究会、平成15年8月)、ヒトゲノム・遺伝子解析研究に関する倫理指針(文部科学省、厚生労働省、経済産業省、平成13年4月1日施行)および疫学研究に関する倫理指針(同、平成14年7月1日施行)に準拠する。

#### C. 研究結果

##### 遺伝子多型解析

アルツハイマー病およびレビー小体病患者の脳においてはBDNF遺伝子多型に有意な相関性は見られなかった。

#### D. 考察

種々のうつ病モデル動物の海馬領域ではBDNF遺伝子の発現が低下していること、またBDNFの低下は抗うつ薬投与で阻害されることが報告されている。うつ病患者の脳サンプルにおけるBDNF関連遺伝子発現を調べ、モノアミン系の病変との関連性についての解析を計画中である。

る。

#### E. 結論

現時点で結論を導き出す事はできない。さらなる研究期間を要する。

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PE-306ニカストリン遺伝子スプライス変異と確実例アルツハイマー病の関連  
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Amyloid angiopathyを伴った  
Orthochromatic(sudanophilic)  
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第47回日本神経病理学会  
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Jun Kawamata, Kouzin Kamino, Masatoshi Takeda, Takayuki Yamamoto, Tetsuro Miki, Ikuo, Shun Shimohama, Kenji Kosaka

Variations in the Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor(BDNF) Gene in autopsy-confirmed Alzheimer's disease(AD) or Dementia with Lewy bodies(DLB) in Japan

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Novel genes transcriptionally induced in senile-plaque associated astrocytes

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Proteome analysis of choroid plexus  
in Alzheimer's disease

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astrocytes

第36回米国ニューロサイエンス  
(2006.10.14-18)

厚生労働科学研究費補助金（長寿科学総合研究事業）

分担研究報告書

高齢者および血管障害後のうつ病・認知症とモノアミンとの関連の解析

分担研究者 赤津裕康 福祉村病院長寿医学研究所 副所長

研究要旨

目的：脳卒中後うつ病(post-stroke depression: PSD)に着目し、PSDを認めた死後脳の生化学的分析によってモノアミン系の相互作用の解析を行う。

方法：福祉村病院に保存されている400例を越す剖検凍結脳を用いて、

- 1) PSDの臨床像、うつ症状およびSSRI等の服薬状況の把握を行う。
- 2) 該当患者における血液・髄液でのノルアドレナリン (NA) 系およびセロトニン (5-HT) 解析を行う。
- 3) 該当患者脳の左右複数の脳部位（前頭葉，側頭葉，後頭葉）から試料を採取し、NA, 5-HT, NA transporter, 5-HT transporter を定量し、NA系および5-HT系の相互作用について解析する。

結果：剖検脳のデータベース化を行っており、現在、脳血管障害のあった患者の臨床像におけるうつ状態の把握を進め、症例の抽出の途中である。

考察：現時点では、考察可能な結果を得ていない。

A. 研究目的

脳卒中後うつ病(post-stroke

depression: PSD)に着目し、PSDを認めた死後脳

の生化学的分析によってモノアミン系の相互作用の解析を行う。

B. 研究方法

我々はPSD症例のあった剖検症例におい



て脳実質・髄液・血液サンプルを用いて NA, 5-HT, NA transporter, 5-HT transporter を定量し、NA系および5-HT系の相互作用について解析する。

#### (倫理面への配慮)

ヒトサンプルは病理解剖時に、遺伝子解析も含めての研究利用に供される事が明記してある書面にて遺族より承諾書をとっている。その後の検体はすべて匿名化され、全ての情報は個人情報管理室にて厳重に管理されている。またヒトサンプルを用いての研究は全て福祉村病院倫理委員会の承認を得て行われている。

#### C. 研究結果

剖検脳のデータベース化を行っており、現在、脳血管障害のあった患者の臨床像におけるうつ状態の把握を進め、症例の抽出を行っている。従って、一定の結果を得るためにさらなる研究期間を要している。

#### D. 考察

現時点では、考察可能な結果を得ていな

いが、今後症例の抽出が終了すれば抽出症例の解析を行い、PSD, 加齢とモノアミン系の関連性に一定の回答を出す事が可能になると考えている。

#### E. 結論

現時点で結論を導き出す事はできない。そのためにさらなる研究期間を要する。

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Amyloid angiopathyを伴った

Orthochromatic(sudanophilic)

leukodystrophyの一例

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## 研究成果の刊行に関する一覧表

1. Ishida, Y., Okawa, Y., S. Ito, S., Shirokawa, T. and Isobe, K. Age-dependent changes in dopaminergic projections from the substantia nigra pars compacta to the neostriatum. *Neuroscience Letters*, in press.
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## Age-dependent changes in dopaminergic projections from the substantia nigra pars compacta to the neostriatum

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### Abstract

Age-dependent changes in dopaminergic (DA) innervation of the neostriatum (Str) were studied in male F344/N rats. Projections from the substantia nigra pars compacta (SNc) to the neostriatum were quantified using electrophysiological methods at age points from 6 to 24 months. The percentage of DA neurons activated antidromically by electrical stimulation (P-index) of Str increased between 18 and 24 months. Additionally, the percentage of DA neurons showing multiple antidromic latencies from striatal stimulation (M-index), which suggests axonal branching of individual DA neurons, increased significantly between 6 and 12 months and 6 and 24 months. These results suggest that DA neurons exhibit increased axonal branching in the aged brain.

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**Keywords:** Aging; Substantia nigra pars compacta; Electrophysiology; F344 rat

The substantia nigra pars compacta (SNc) is one of the dopaminergic (DA) nuclei in the central nervous system. Nigral dopaminergic neurons innervate many target regions in the brain and supply the main dopaminergic input to the neostriatum (Str) [12]. The axons of DA neurons terminate mainly in the dorsolateral region of the Str [7]. DA neurons play an important role in complex motor control [18] and exhibit decreases in their function during both the normal aging process and in neurodegenerative states such as Parkinson's disease. However, it remains unclear at present how dopaminergic innervation of the neostriatum changes throughout aging. Specifically, it is unclear as to whether the deficits in dopaminergic signaling are due to pre- and/or post-synaptic changes. To investigate the age-dependent changes in the projections from SNc to Str in the rat, we used *in vivo* electrophysiological techniques to antidromically activate their axon terminal fields in the Str to determine whether or not there are changes in the excitability of nigral dopaminergic terminals during aging.

Male F344/N rats (four groups; 6, 12, 18 and 24 months of age,  $n=5$  for each age group) were used. Animals were housed with food and water available ad libitum on a 12 h light/dark cycle. All animal procedures complied with the Animal Research Facilities Committee of the National Institute for Longevity Sciences. Animals were anesthetized with urethane (1.2 g/kg, i.p.). Lidocaine was applied locally to all incisions. Rectal temperature was maintained at 36.5 °C by a heating pad. The ECG and EEG were monitored continuously during these experiments. Stimulating electrodes were of the bipolar type, and consisted of two insulated stainless steel wires (diameter 200  $\mu$ m, tip separation 0.5 mm). Electrical pulses for the stimulus site were 0.5 ms in duration with currents ranging from 0.1 to 5.0 mA, and the cycle of stimulation was 1.5 s. The electrodes were stereotaxically guided into the Str (A: 1.0 from bregma, L: 3.7, D: 4.0). The electrical activity of nigral dopaminergic neurons was recorded extracellularly with glass pipette microelectrodes filled with 2 M NaCl. Electrode resistance ranged from 10 to 20 M $\Omega$ . A recording electrode was inserted from a point (A: 2.1 from lambda, L: 2.0). SNc neurons were usually encountered 6.8–8.0 mm below the cortical surface. In each animal, 21–23 SNc neurons were recorded by

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41 moving a recording electrode within about 200  $\mu\text{m}$  rostrocau-  
 42 dally or mediolaterally to avoid sampling bias. The DA neurons  
 43 in the SNc were identified according to well-established cri-  
 44 teria [4,7,14]. Briefly, nigral dopaminergic neurons exhibited  
 45 a characteristic wide spike duration ( $\sim 2$  ms), and slow spon-  
 46 taneous firing between 0.5 and 6 Hz. SNc neurons exhibited  
 47 responses from striatal stimulation considered to be antidromic  
 48 in nature provided that the following criteria were satisfied: (1)  
 49 constant latency of the initial segment spike at a low stimulation  
 50 frequency (1 Hz) (Fig. 1A), (2) ability to follow stimulation at  
 51 high frequencies ( $>200$  Hz) and (3) collision with spontaneous  
 52 or orthodromic spikes. The stimulating current was adjusted to  
 53 a value which was just sufficient to elicit an antidromic response  
 54 to every stimulus. The threshold current was measured by vary-  
 55 ing the stimulating current in 0.01 mA steps. The antidromic  
 56 latency was also measured for individual SNc neurons. A cer-  
 57 tain proportion of SNc neurons showed two or more discrete  
 58 antidromic latencies (multiple antidromic latencies) from neo-  
 59 striatal stimulation. In these SNc neurons, if the stimulus current  
 60 was increased to threshold or beyond, the long latency response  
 61 with the low threshold often abruptly jumped to short latency  
 62 responses that occurred at higher intensities (Fig. 1B). We mea-  
 63 sured the threshold current for the long latency response as well  
 64 as the short ones for all SNc neurons that responded antidromi-  
 65 cally. Fig. 1C demonstrates histologically (HE staining) that the  
 66 recording sites and the tracts of the recording electrodes were  
 67 included in the SNc.

68 We employed two electrophysiological measurements  
 69 [1,10,13,17] to quantify the density of SNc axons: (1) the  
 70 percentage of SNc neurons activated antidromically from Str (P-  
 71 index: number of SNc neurons with antidromic latencies/number  
 72 of recorded SNc neurons) and (2) the ratio of SNc neurons that  
 73 showed two or more discrete antidromic latencies from Str at  
 74 different intensities of stimulus currents (M-index: number of  
 75 SNc neurons with multiple antidromic latencies/number of SNc  
 76 neurons with antidromic latencies). In many systems, these mul-  
 77 tiple antidromic latencies are regarded as the activation of two or  
 78 more different axonal branches. Since high frequency stimula-  
 79 tion often leads to the blockage of impulse conduction at branch  
 80 points in invertebrates, we used a frequency of stimulation low  
 81 enough to avoid impulse conduction failure. In the present study,  
 82 the stimulus currents (0.1–5.0 mA) always produced 100% SNc  
 83 antidromic responses, with no instances of impulse conduction  
 84 failure. The data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.E., and were com-  
 85 pared by one-way analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA) with  
 86 a Bonferroni/Dunn post-hoc analysis.

87 The total number of SNc neurons recorded from five animals  
 88 for each age group are as follows: 6 months of age (6 months),  
 89  $n = 108$ ; 12 months,  $n = 107$ ; 18 months,  $n = 108$ ; 24 months,  
 90  $n = 107$ . To quantify a change in the density of SNc projections in  
 91 Str, we first focused on the percentage of SNc neurons activated  
 92 antidromically from electrical stimulation of the Str (P-index).  
 93 Fig. 2A shows that the mean P-index was maintained between  
 94 6 ( $57.4 \pm 6.0\%$ ) and 12 months of age ( $58.0 \pm 3.1\%$ ), and then  
 95 the P-index decreased slightly between 12 and 18 months of age  
 96 ( $50.0 \pm 6.2\%$ ). Unexpectedly, we observed a marked increase  
 97 in the P-index at 24 months of age ( $71.9 \pm 3.9\%$ ). The mean P-

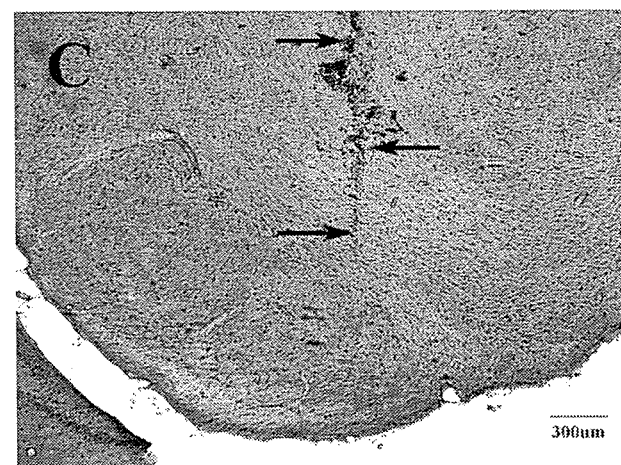
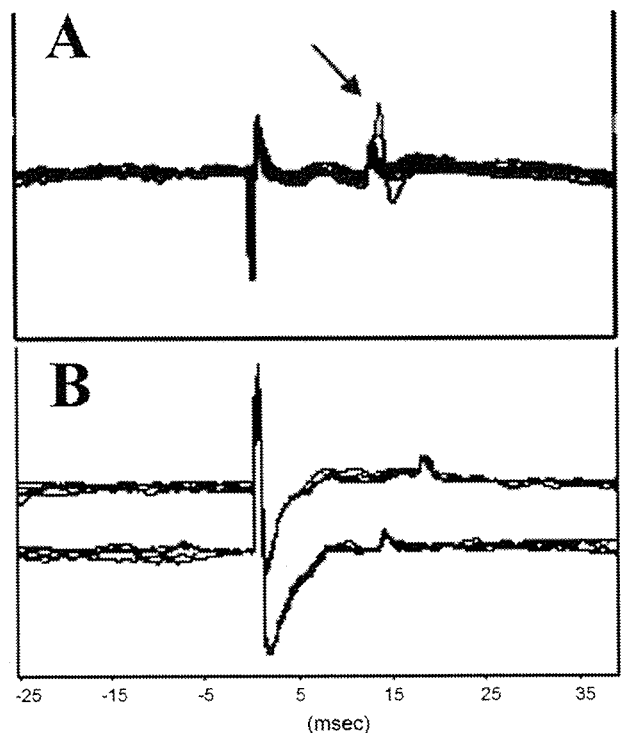


Fig. 1. Antidromic responses of DA neurons to electrical stimulation of Str. (A) At a current of 0.88 mA, an antidromic response with a single antidromic latency was evoked at a latency of 11.4 ms in a 12-month-old rat. Ten consecutive sweeps were superimposed in the noncollision trials. The majority of the antidromic action potentials consist of the initial segment spike only, but one consists of a full initial segment-somatodendritic spike (arrow). (B) The multiple antidromic response to Str stimulation of a single DA neuron in a 12-month-old rat. At a current of 1.25 mA, antidromic response was evoked at a latency of 17.4 ms (upper trace), where at a current of 3.58 mA the latency abruptly jumped to 13.6 ms (lower trace). Five consecutive sweeps were superimposed in the noncollision trials. The stimulus was applied at time 0. (C) The tracts of the recording electrodes (arrows) were included in the substantia nigra pars compacta. Scale bar, 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

index obtained at the age of 24 months was significantly higher  
 than that at 18 months. The utility of the M-index was based on  
 the view that these multiple antidromic latencies resulted from  
 the activation of two or more different axonal branches around a  
 single stimulus locus. Therefore, the M-index provided a phys-

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103 biological index of axonal branching of individual SNc neurons. 143  
104 Fig. 2B shows the time-course of changes in the M-index in the 144  
105 Str. In Str, we observed a marked increase in the average M-index 145  
106 between 6 ( $31.4 \pm 0.6\%$ ) and 12 months of age ( $69.7 \pm 7.8\%$ ). 146  
107 The mean M-indices obtained at the age of 12 months were sig- 147  
108 nificantly higher than that at 6 months. The M-index slightly 148  
109 leveled off at 18 months of age ( $48.9 \pm 3.4\%$ ) and then slightly 149  
110 increased at the age of 24 months ( $58.4 \pm 5.9\%$ ). The increase 150  
111 in the average M-index at 12 or 24 months was significantly 151  
112 higher than that at 6 months. These results suggested that nigral 152  
113 dopaminergic neurons exhibit increased axonal branching in the 153  
114 Str during aging. 154

115 We classified axon terminals of nigral dopaminergic neu- 155  
116 rons into three types based on their antidromic responses: 156  
117 (1) single-threshold terminals with single antidromic latency 157  
118 (single-threshold), (2) low threshold terminals with long latency, 158  
119 and (3) the high threshold terminals with short latency. To investi- 159  
120 gate the age-dependent changes in the physiological properties 160  
121 of axon terminals of individual SNc neurons, we compared the 161  
122 threshold-latency relationship of each terminal type in SNc. 162  
123 Based on our analysis of the threshold-latency relationship 163  
124 of DA neurons (Table 1), we concluded that the dominant 164  
125 terminals varied with advancing age; the single-threshold ter- 165  
126 minals were dominant until 6 months, then the dominance in 166  
127 threshold shifted from single to low/high after 12 months. The 167  
128 age-dependent changes observed in the excitability of nigral 168  
129 dopaminergic neuron terminals during aging suggests that there 169  
130 may be changes in the excitability of individual terminals during 170  
131 aging. 171

132 In the present study, we found age-dependent changes in the 172  
133 excitability of dopaminergic terminals strongly suggestive of 173  
134 changes in the DA innervation of Str over time. Specifically, 174  
135 these results suggest an increase in axonal branching between 6 175  
136 and 12 months, and an increase in innervation density between 176  
137 18 and 24 months. The variance seen in Fig. 2A (and also in 2B) 177  
138 differs among individual age groups, but we think these vari- 178  
139 ances are not the result of sampling bias but rather the age-related 179  
140 effect on the animals. In the young animals, there was some vari- 180  
141 ance which decreased at 18 months and finally increased at 24 181  
142 months. We observed the same trends in our previous work [10] 182

and the work by Suzuki's group [22]. Thus, we speculate the 143  
variability among individual age groups may be related to the 144  
age-dependent effect on the animals. 145

146 Though the P- and M-indices of DA neurons changed with 147  
age, other parameters of antidromic responses such as thresh- 148  
old and latency were retained during aging (Table 1). It has 149  
also been suggested that there are no significant differences in 150  
the electrophysiological parameters such as firing rate, firing 151  
rate distribution and firing pattern between 3 months and 24-28 152  
months F344 rats [5]. In addition, the number of TH-positive 153  
neurons does not change between 3 and 6 months and 19 and 154  
21 months in F344 rats using unbiased stereology [2]. Thus, we 155  
hypothesize that the properties of DA neurons in the SNc may be 156  
retained during aging and the age-related changes observed may 157  
be due to changes in axonal properties in target regions such as 158  
the neostriatum. 159

160 The tissue levels of DA and its metabolites in the Str over 161  
time still remain to be elucidated. Some reports showed DA and 162  
its metabolites levels were decreased in the Str of aged F344 163  
rats [6,8,15]. Others showed no significant differences in DA 164  
and its metabolites levels in the Str between young and aged 165  
F344 rats [9,16,21]. However, a decrease in DA receptors in the 166  
Str of aged F344 rats has been consistently observed [19,22]. 167  
Thus, the sprouting of dopaminergic axon terminals in the Str 168  
might be in response to the loss of DA receptors with increasing 169  
age. 170

171 Recently, we reported age-dependent changes in the nora- 172  
drenergic (NA) innervation of frontal cortex and hippocampus 173  
of F344 rats that suggested a decrease in density between 7 174  
and 15 months, and increased axonal branching between 15 and 175  
24 months [10,11]. Quantitative autoradiography reflecting the 176  
binding of ligands specific for noradrenergic receptor subtypes 177  
in frontal cortex and hippocampus showed no significant differ- 178  
ences for any receptor subtype between young and aged-normal 179  
rats [3]. Only the binding of ligands for beta-1 receptors in cere- 180  
bral cortex and hippocampus was likely to decrease between 5 181  
and 24 months. These are partially consistent with our previ- 182  
ous data. However, by using inhibitors of NA uptake and NA 183  
release in pre-synaptic terminals of LC axons, we found that 184  
the release activity mediated by the pre-synaptic autoreceptor 185

Table 1  
The age-dependent changes in mean antidromic latency, and the number of latency jumps of DA neurons

|                         | 6 months    | 12 months   | 18 months   | 24 months   |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mean latency (ms)       |             |             |             |             |
| Single                  | 11.7 ± 1.0  | 13.6 ± 0.6  | 13.6 ± 1.0  | 12.5 ± 0.6  |
| Multiple-short          | 12.2 ± 0.7  | 11.9 ± 0.5  | 12.5 ± 0.4  | 12.1 ± 0.5  |
| Multiple-long           | 14.2 ± 0.8  | 14.4 ± 0.6  | 15.0 ± 0.6  | 15.1 ± 0.6  |
| Mean threshold (mA)     |             |             |             |             |
| Single                  | 2.24 ± 0.29 | 2.40 ± 0.32 | 2.58 ± 0.26 | 2.77 ± 0.43 |
| Multiple-high           | 2.16 ± 0.40 | 2.47 ± 0.22 | 3.10 ± 0.30 | 2.75 ± 0.22 |
| Multiple-low            | 1.13 ± 0.24 | 1.24 ± 0.17 | 1.62 ± 0.22 | 1.63 ± 0.22 |
| Number of latency jumps | 20          | 41          | 27          | 44          |

No significant difference are obtained as follows: Bonferroni/Dunn-test. single latency  $F(3,16)=1.28$ ,  $P=0.31$ ; multiple-short latency,  $F(3,16)=0.21$ ,  $P=0.89$ ; multiple-long latency,  $F(3,16)=0.47$ ,  $P=0.71$  single-threshold,  $F(3,16)=0.47$ ,  $P=0.71$ ; multiple-high threshold,  $F(3,16)=1.86$ ,  $P=0.18$ ; multiple-low threshold,  $F(3,16)=1.39$ ,  $P=0.28$ .

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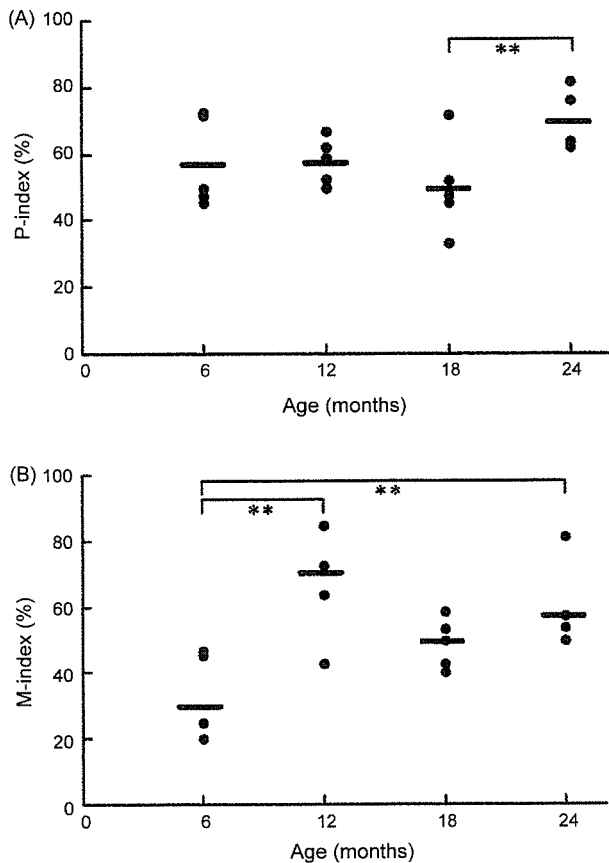


Fig. 2. (A) Age-dependent changes in P-indices (number of DA neurons with antidromic latencies/number of recorded DA neurons) in Str. Each age group consisted of five animals (filled circles). Horizontal bar indicates the mean P-index for each age group. The mean P-indices (mean  $\pm$  S.D.) in Str did not change between 6 and 12 months. The mean P-indices declined gradually between 12 and 18 months. The P-indices obtained at 24 months were significantly higher than those at 18 months (Bonferroni/Dunn-test: 18 months vs. 24 months,  $**P < 0.01$ ). (B) Age-dependent changes in M-indices (number of LC neurons with multiple antidromic latencies/number of DA neurons with antidromic latencies) in Str. Each age group consisted of five animals (filled circles). Horizontal bar indicates the mean M-index for each age group. The mean M-indices in Str increased significantly between 6 and 12 months, and then slightly declined at 18 months (Bonferroni/Dunn-test, 6 months vs. 12 months,  $**P < 0.01$ ). The M-indices increased gradually between 18 and 24 months. Finally, the M-index increased significantly between 6 and 24 months (Bonferroni/Dunn-test, 6 months vs. 24 months,  $**P < 0.01$ ).

183 did not change with age, but the uptake activity mediated by the  
184 NA transporter declined with age in the axon terminals of LC  
185 neurons [20]. In addition, the activity of DA transporters in the  
186 Str decreased significantly between young (6 and 12 months)  
187 and aged (18 and 24 months) F344 rats [8]. These are also  
188 approximately consistent with the timing of the axonal branching  
189 of DA neurons. Thus, we speculate that the age-related  
190 changes in the innervation of DA or NA neurons correspond  
191 most with changes in their respective transporters. Further stud-  
192 ies are needed to examine the changes in the expression of  
193 the DA transporter in the terminal field of DA neurons during  
aging.

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