



Autonomic Nervous System Introduction and Neurotransmitters By DR. Muhammad Sarwar

Steps in Neurohumoral Transmission;

- > Synthesis of the neurotransmitters.
- Storage of the neurotransmitters.
- Release.
- > Diffusion across Synapse.
- Combination with Post junctional Receptors.
- Production of the Post junctional Potentials.
 - EPSP (Excitatory post-synaptic (depolarization) potentials)
 - IPSP (Inhibitory post-synaptic (*hyperpolarization*) potentials)
- > Initiation of Post junctional Activity.
- Destruction or Dissipation of the Transmitter.





Synthesis & storage of Neurotransmitter;

- Neurotransmitter is synthesized in the axonal terminal and stored in the vesicles.
- Cholinergic neuron;
 - Transport of choline into nerve terminal by a Na+ dependent membrane choline transporter.
 - Rate limiting step, blocked by research drug hemicholinium.



• Storage of Ach.

- > Ach. is stored in the vesicles.
 - Smaller clear vesicles (1000 50000) contain most of the Ach.
 - A small number of **dense core vesicles** contain a high concentration of peptide cotransmitters.



• Adrenergic neuron.

- **Tyrosine** is transported into cytoplasm of adrenergic neuron.
- Hydroxylated to **DOPA** by tyrosine hydroxylase.
- Decarboxylated to form **dopamine**.
- Hydroxylated on the side chain by dopamine β hydroxylase to form norepinephrine.
- Methylated to form **epinephrine in adrenal medulla.**



Release of the Neurotransmitter;

- With the arrival of the nerve action potential at the axonal terminal, there is Influx of calcium ion.
- Influx of calcium ions (Ca++)
 triggers the interaction between
 - Proteins associated with the vesicle's membrane (VAMPs, vesicle associated membrane protein--- synaptobrevin, synaptotagmin) and



- Proteins associated with the nerve ending membrane (SNAPs, synaptosome associated proteins --- SNAP25, syntaxin and others).
- Vesicular membrane
 fuses with the terminal
 membrane.
- Discharge of contents of vesicles in the synaptic cleft by process of exocytosis.



Release of the Neurotransmitter;

Cholinergic Neuron;

- Somatic motor nerves several hundreds quanta of ACh.
- Autonomic ganglia --- small amount released by one depolariztion.
- Several cotransmitters are released at the same time.
- Botulinum toxins alter these proteins to prevent the release process.





Adrenergic neuron;



Combination with Post junctional Receptors.

• Neurotransmitters released in the synaptic cleft diffuse through the cleft and combine their specific postsynaptic receptors ----- activating or inhibiting them, thus producing EPSP or IPSP.

Postjunctional potentials; EPSP or IPSP.



Thank You