

IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SOME REGULATORY PEPTIDES IN THE RAT STOMACH

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ABSTRACT

The innervation of the rat stomach has been re-analyzed using immunohistochemical localization of cholinergic markers. These include the common type of choline acetyltransferase (cChAT) and the peripheral type (pChAT), which is the product of a splice variant of ChAT mRNA and preferentially localized to peripheral cholinergic nerves. In addition we studied the immunolocalization of vesicular acetylcholine transporter (VAcHT), neuronal nitric oxide synthase (nNOS) and tyrosine hydroxylase (TH). Paraffin embedded tangential sections from the rat stomach were used to demonstrate the immunolocalization of cholinergic and nitrergic neurons and nerve fibers in the rat stomach using antibodies to pChAT, cChAT, VAcHT and nNOS. A ganglionated submucosal plexus (SP) was almost absent from the gastric wall, apart from some scattered neurons. Most myenteric plexuses (MP) in the rat stomach showed positive immunostaining for pChAT, cChAT and nNOS only, whereas VAcHT- and TH-immunoreactivities (IR) were observed in the form of varicose nerve fibers and nerve terminals in the rat gastric wall. These results indicate that in the rat gastric wall, submucosal and myenteric nerve fibers showed heterogeneous staining with regard to the examined

regulatory peptides and transmitters. The submucosal neurons were almost absent, while the myenteric neurons showed only pChAT, cChAT and nNOS immunostaining suggesting morphological evidence for the roles of cholinergic, nitrergic and adrenergic mechanisms in stomach secretory and motor functions.

Keywords: Immunohistochemistry; Choline acetyltransferase; Acetylcholine transporter; Neuronal nitric oxide synthase; Tyrosine hydroxylase; Stomach; Rat.

INTRODUCTION

The stomach, because of its location in the upper part of the alimentary canal, is exposed to many harmful substances of exogenous origin such as toxins, alcohol and drugs. The major gastric functions are under the control of the enteric nervous system (ENS). The neuronal circuits involved in this control are poorly understood in rats. Although, the neurochemical coding and projection patterns of enteric neurons have been fairly well investigated in the guinea pig stomach (*Schicho et al., 2001; Pimont et al., 2003*), relatively little is known about these in the rat stomach. Cholinergic neurons have been demonstrated in the ENS by functional and biochemical methods, but not by antibodies that provide information on the localization of the synthesizing enzymes (*Chiocchetti et al., 2003*). Although a small ganglionic submucosal plexus exists in larger animals and humans, the vast majority of enteric neurons are still located in the myenteric plexus and consequently the neurons of the MP might be involved in control of gastric motor functions as well as mucosal functions (*Keast et al., 1985; Pimont et al., 2003; Rauch et al., 2006*).

Many of the neurotransmitters found in the central nervous system (CNS) have also been identified in the ENS of many species, including humans (for reviews see: *Furness and Costa, 1982; Taylor and Bywater, 1989; Dockray, 1994; Reiche et al., 2001; Pimont et al., 2003*).

ChAT immunoreactivity (ChAT-IR) has been successfully used to visualize cholinergic neurons and their processes in the CNS, but less successfully applied to the peripheral cholinergic system (*Reiche and Schemann, 1999; Hoover et al., 2004*). A splice variant of ChAT mRNA, which lacks exons 6–9 in the DNA coding region, has been cloned from rat pterygopalatine ganglion (*Tooyama and Kimura, 2000*). Because of its predominant localization in peripheral neurons, the protein product of the mRNA variant was designated ChAT of a peripheral type (pChAT). The conventional ChAT protein, found in both central and peripheral neurons, was called ChAT of the common type (cChAT). Although the antibody against pChAT is capable of detecting some positive neurons in the CNS (*Kanayama et al., 2003; Yasuhara et al., 2003*), pChAT has proved to be a powerful marker for peripheral cholinergic structures (*Nakajima et al., 2000; Chiocchetti et al., 2003; Yasuhara et al., 2007*). In addition it is worth noting that antibody against VAcHT more clearly identifies central and peripheral cholinergic nerve fibers and terminals than does ChAT-IR, which tends to be concentrated in perikarya (Weihe et al., 1996; Li and Furness, 1998).

Tyrosine hydroxylase, the enzyme responsible for synthesis of DOPA and rate-limiting for subsequent production of catecholamines, is located at sites in the digestive tract other than sympathetic nerve endings. The existence of enteric dopaminergic neurons has also been observed in the ENS of mice and sheep (*Li et al., 2004; Mazzuoli et al.,*

2008). nNOS is the enzyme that catalyses the synthesis of nitric oxide (NO), which is a cell-derived highly diffusible and unstable gas involved in intercellular and intracellular communication in the nervous system as well as an inhibitory transmitter of motor neurons in the gut (*Arnhold et al., 2004*). As an inhibitory transmitter of non-adrenergic, non-cholinergic neurons, nitric oxide is involved in muscle relaxation, vasodilatation, acid secretion, and mucus secretion (*Brookes, 1993; Nakamura et al., 1998*) and so nNOS plays an important role in the relaxation of smooth muscles.

The aim of this study was to identify and summarize some features of neural components within the ENS of the rat stomach. We compared the distribution patterns and staining features of pChAT and cChAT in gastric MP neurons to determine the correspondence between them and whether pChAT is a marker of neurons that have been previously been identified as cholinergic, but which are weakly immunoreactive for cChAT. VAcHT-immunoreactive (IR) neurons, nitrenergic systems (by establishing the presence of nNOS-IR) and dopamine (by establishing the presence of TH-IR) in the rat stomach, were also examined.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Procedures involving animals and their care were conducted in conformity with the standards for animal experiments in our university and are in compliance with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory *Animals (1996)*.

A total of 15 male Wistar rats, weighing 250-350 g were used in this study. Under pentobarbital anesthesia (50-80 mg/kg, i. p.), each animal was killed and the stomach removed and fixed by immersion in

neutral-buffered formalin for at least 2 days. The material was then dehydrated, cleared and embedded in paraffin wax. 5-8 μm thick sections were cut in tangential and transverse planes in relation to the outer surface of the stomach, and mounted on gelatin-coated glass slides.

Immunostaining was performed using the avidin-biotin complex (ABC) technique. Specificity, working dilution, and sources of the primary antibodies used are summarized in Table 1. After dewaxing and rehydration the paraffin sections of the stomach were treated for 30 minutes with 0.3% hydrogen peroxide in methanol at room temperature to eliminate endogenous peroxidase activity and then incubated with a primary antibody. The biotinylated secondary antibodies of an appropriate species (diluted 1:2,000; Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA, USA) were then applied for 1 h at room temperature. Later on avidin-biotinylated peroxidase complex (diluted 1:2,000; ABC Elite, Vector Laboratories) was used for 1 h at room temperature. With antibodies to pChAT, cChAT and VAcHT, sections were incubated for 3-4 days at 4°C, while with antibodies to PGP 9.5, TH and nNOS sections were reacted overnight at room temperature. Dilution of the reagents and washing sections between each step were done with phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Color was developed by treating the sections for 10 min with a mixture containing 0.02% 3,3'-diaminobenzidine (DAB), 0.0045% H_2O_2 and 0.3% nickel ammonium sulfate in 50 mM Tris- HCl buffer (pH 7.6). The stained sections were dehydrated by alcohol, cleared in xylene, and mounted in Entellan (Merck; Darmstadt, Germany). For immunohistochemical controls, either primary, secondary antiserum or the ABC reagent was omitted. No positive staining was observed in these controls.

RESULTS

pGP 9.5:

The results of the current study showed that there was a great variety in staining affinity and distribution patterns of the neuronal markers used for the various neurotransmitters. PGP, 9.5 immunostaining gave a strong positive reaction in the gastric wall as a whole with staining in the MP, in the nerve fibers supplying the muscular coat, in the submucosal nerve fibers and in some submucosal neurons (Fig. 1A, B, D). Staining with PGP, 9.5 showed that there was an almost complete absence of ganglia in the submucosa of the stomach apart from some rare submucosal neurons (Fig. 1C).

cChAT:

The common type of choline acetyltransferase (cChAT) showed positive reactivity in the MP (Figs. 2A, B), in nerve fibers supplying the muscular coat of the gastric wall (Fig. 2C), and in the nerve fibers of the submucosa (Fig. 2D). Nuclei of the cChAT-IR myenteric neurons were usually unstained.

pChAT:

The peripheral type of choline acetyltransferase (pChAT) gave a strong positive reaction in the myenteric plexuses and the submucosal nerve fibers. High proportions of nerve cell bodies in the myenteric plexuses of the rat stomach were immunoreactive for pChAT. The MP consisted of large ganglia interconnected by thick nerve bundles. These ganglia were densely packed with nerve cell bodies (perikarya), from which projections could be seen passing both up and down the plane of

the plexus and perpendicularly to the mucosa and through both muscle layers (Figs. 3A, B). The pChAT-immunoreactivity was mainly cytoplasmic with variable nuclear staining. The intensity of pChAT labeling varied considerably between neurons and did not appear to be homogeneous throughout the cytoplasm, with condensed immunoreactivity being located eccentrically in the perikarya and in particular close to the emergence of the axon. In the MP, the strongly pChAT-IR neurons, which were generally large and oval in shape, were easily identified (Fig. 3C). Relatively weak reactivity of pChAT was noticed in the nerve bundles supplying the muscular coat. In the submucosa, the positive pChAT nerves were mostly arranged around the blood vessels supplying the gastric wall and extended in between the gastric glands (as previously observed by *Nakajima et al. (2000)* (Fig. 3D).

VACHT:

The staining affinity and distribution pattern of VACHT was somewhat different from that of both cChAT and pChAT. The myenteric neurons and nerve fibers, as well as submucosal nerve fibers, showed only positive reactivity for VACHT in the form of puncta or varicose terminals around the neuronal cell bodies (Figs. 4A, B). Similar varicose fibers were noticed running in between the muscles of the gastric wall (Fig. 4C).

nNOS:

The nNOS staining and distribution pattern was localized mainly in the MP and in the nerve fibers of the smooth muscles of the *tunica muscularis*. Some of the nNOS positive fibers reached a level just below the gastric glands in the mucosa. The nNOS positive myenteric neurons

appeared polyhedral in shape with long cytoplasmic processes emerging in various directions (Fig. 5A). The extensive number of nNOS positive nerve fibers supplying the smooth muscle layer of the rat stomach showed a varicose regular appearance (Fig. 5B).

TH:

The staining affinity of TH was localized only in the submucosal nerve fibers without any positive reaction in the myenteric plexuses (Fig. 5C). The TH positive nerve fibers were also of a varicose type (Fig. 5D). In almost all preparations, there was a complete absence of TH-IR perikarya in the MP.

DISCUSSION

The ENS is larger and more complex than other regions of the PNS, reflecting its ability to regulate enteric behavior in the absence of CNS input (*Gershon et al., 1994; Furness et al., 2000; Reiche et al., 2001; Li et al., 2004*). Spatially, the intestinal ENS is divided into the myenteric and submucosal plexuses (*Lee and Nam, 2006*). The stomach, however as documented in the current study, lacks a well-developed ganglionated submucosal plexus and the perikarya of enteric neurons innervating the muscle or the mucosa appear to be localized within the MP (*Pfannkuche et al., 1998b; Schemann et al., 2001*). Since the stomach lacks a ganglionated submucosal plexus, the neurochemical code of submucosal neurons determined in the other regions of the gut, is found expectedly in some gastric myenteric neurons, i.e. in the stomach, a submucosal plexus may simply be fused and incorporated into the MP.

The enteric plexuses contain intrinsic primary afferent neurons (IPANs) and interneurons that enable the ENS, independent of the CNS, to mediate integrative responses to local stimuli. The physiological

functions of the ENS include the control of gastrointestinal motility, circulation, secretion, and mucosal transport (*Schemann et al., 2001; Li et al., 2004*). In support of previous reports, our results show that the gastric circular and longitudinal muscle layers are innervated by cholinergic, adrenergic and nitrenergic neurons located in the MP (*Michel et al., 2000; Schicho et al., 2001*). These gastric enteric plexuses, which innervate smooth muscle or mucosal layers and play important roles in regulating gastric secretion and motility (*Furness et al., 1991; Pfannkuche et al., 1998a*), receive a dense and intricate network of vagal cholinergic efferent axons (*Berthoud, 1995; Holst et al., 1997; Zheng and Berthoud, 2000; Yuan and Yang, 2002*) as confirmed by pharmacological experiments performed on isolated rat stomach (*Welsh et al., 1994*). It is widely accepted that the vagus nerve is cholinergic in nature innervating the abdominal viscera, including the stomach (*Ruggiero et al., 1993; Ferreira et al., 2001*). However, our study has been the first to compare the distribution pattern of both types of ChAT enzymes and VAChT as well as those of the pan-neural marker, PGP 9.5, and TH in the rat gastric wall. Although some differences do exist, the distribution patterns of myenteric nerve cell bodies and nerve fibers immunoreactive to the markers used in this study in the stomach of the rat are broadly similar to that described in other mammalian species. Our study shows that the vast majority of enteric neurons are located in the MP in contrast to other gut regions, which parallels observations of *Keast et al. (1985)*. Our findings were also confirmed by the results obtained from PGP 9.5 immunostaining. PGP 9.5 is a well established general marker for the majority of peripheral autonomic neurons, including enteric ones, and has been widely used in descriptive studies (*Johnson et al., 1998; Toole et al., 1998*).

Since ChAT is accepted to be the most reliable marker for cholinergic structures and it has been recognized that most ChAT antibodies fail to identify cholinergic nerves in peripheral tissues (*Arvidsson et al., 1997; Hoover et al., 2004; Yasuhara et al., 2007*) we used the pChAT and VAcHT antibodies to re-evaluate them in the gastric wall of rat. Immunoreactivity to the cholinergic marker of both types of ChAT in neural elements innervating smooth muscle, submucosal blood vessels and mucosa of rat stomach were largely similar indicating that pChAT can be a reliable alternative cholinergic marker for those neurons and nerve fibers showed cChAT immunoreactivity.

pChAT immunoreactivity was detected in the majority of neurons in the gastric MP, in scattered submucosal neurons, in nerve fibers innervating the blood vessels and in gastric glands. In agreement with these findings, an abundant expression of pChAT-IR in the ileum (in rat, pig and guinea pig) and in the stomach and duodenum (in guinea pig) has been described (*Brehmer et al., 2004; Nakajima et al., 2000; Chiocchetti et al., 2003; Yuan et al., 2005*). Previous studies have indicated that the IPANs have weak immunoreactivity for cChAT (*Li and Furness 1998; Chiocchetti et al., 2003*) whereas IPANs were strongly immunoreactive for pChAT in the current study. This implies that pChAT is a major enzyme for ACh synthesis in these neurons (Chiocchetti et al., 2003). The pChAT-IR varicose fibers were seldom seen in the interganglionic connectives, in the ganglia or in the mucosa in the current study. In parallel, *Chiocchetti et al. (2003)* identified prominent non-varicose pChAT fibers in the guinea pig ileum.

The cChAT immunoreactivity was mainly cytoplasmic and no nuclear staining was observed in our study. Similar results were reported in the guinea pig MP of the small intestine (*Li and Furness, 1998; Neunlist et al., 2001; Chiocchetti et al., 2003; Xu et al., 2005*), and in

rat ileum (*Mann et al., 1999; Harrington et al., 2007*). Most myenteric neurons of guinea pig stomach contain ChAT or NOS (*Schemann et al., 1995; Vanden Berghe et al., 1999; Iino, 2000*). In further agreement cholinergic neurons have been described in the myenteric, but not the submucosal plexus of the rat stomach, and were immunoreactive for cChAT (*Furness et al., 2000*). Moreover ChAT-IR nerve fibers were observed in thick-walled blood vessels in the submucosa, and in some cases, at the inner lining of the blood vessel as well as in neurons within the myenteric plexus. They were also observed in the circular muscle and in the neurons situated in ganglia subjacent to the gastric epithelium (*Adami et al., 2002*). On the contrary, *Yuan et al., (2001)* observed dense ChAT-IR fibers surrounding the gastric ganglionic cells without ChAT immunoreactivity in the cytoplasm. The ChAT-IR fibers may represent vagal preganglionic fibers, which are of central origin and, together with the ChAT-IR myenteric neurons, are involved in excitatory pathways, i.e., secretomotor neurons, though some are thought to be IPANs supplying the mucosal epithelium (*Pfannkuche et al., 1998a, 2000; Sang and Young, 1996; Mann et al. 1999; Yuan et al., 2001, 2002; Harrington et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2005; Dun et al., 2006*).

We demonstrated that the MP was also immunoreactive for the vesicular acetylcholine transporter (VACHT). In accordance with our results, VACHT-IR was described in nerve fibers of the MP, circular muscle, submucosal arterioles and the deep muscular plexus of rat ileum (*Harrington et al., 2007*), but not in the perikarya (*Li and Furness, 1998; Li et al., 1998*). The presence of VACHT in varicosities in all terminal fields of the IPANs implies that all such terminals release acetylcholine. This has particular implications for the mucosal terminals. Acetylcholine is a stimulant of the mucosal epithelial cells and promotes water and electrolyte secretion (*Li and Furness, 1998*).

In the present study, the nNOS-IR was localized mainly in the MP and in the nerve fibers within the *tunica muscularis*, including those reaching the level of the gastric glands in the mucosa. This agrees with studies showing fibers expressing nNOS that were present predominantly in the external muscle layer and the *muscularis mucosae* of the stomach wall (*Toole et al., 1998; Young et al., 2002; Schicho et al., 2004*). In rats, the axonal projections of nNOS-IR gastric myenteric neurons provide an extensive network of fibers running within the circular smooth muscle layer in a higher proportion than cholinergic ones (*Berthoud, 1995; Jarvinen et al., 1999; Schemann et al., 2001*). In addition, in the guinea pig, the gastric circular and longitudinal muscle layers receive ascending excitatory cholinergic innervation and descending inhibitory nitrenergic innervation (*Schemann and Schaaf, 1995; Michel et al., 2000; Schemann et al., 2001; Arnhold et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2005; Sarna, 2007; Harrington et al., 2007*), whereas in the small intestine two types of neurons express NOS: motor neurons to the muscle and descending interneurons (*Chiocchetti et al., 2003*). Consistent with this, nNOS-IR neurons being inhibitory motor neurons, supply numerous terminals in the circular muscle of the rat small intestine (*Aimi et al., 1993*), but relatively few in the myenteric ganglia and are not observed in the perivascular plexuses and are very rare in the mucosa of mouse intestine (*Sang and Young, 1996; Arnhold et al., 2004*) and human gastric antrum and jejunum (*Miller et al., 2001*). The activation of gastric myenteric neurons is mediated by vagal nicotinic pathways and includes cholinergic and NOS synthesizing neurons, suggesting a central regulation of both excitatory and inhibitory myenteric pathways during acute cold exposure and may form an integral part of the neural alarm and protection system in the stomach as a protective mechanism against acid induced injury of the mucosa (*Yuan*

et al., 2001). In the ENS, nitric oxide (NO) is regarded as an important messenger for the non-adrenergic and non-cholinergic neurotransmission and synthesized mainly by the NOS (*Arnhold et al., 2004*). NOS-IR neurons project selectively to the gastric fundus and may be involved in vagal reflexes controlling gastric distension (*Guo et al., 2001; Brehmer et al., 2004*).

The current study has documented that the staining affinity of TH is localized only in the submucosal varicose nerve fibers without any positive reaction in the myenteric plexuses. In partial agreement with the present findings, *Dawirs et al. (1992)* (in the gerbil), *Toole et al. (1998)* (in golden hamster) and *Li et al. (2004)* (in mouse and guinea pig stomach and intestine) found TH-IR varicose axons forming a dense network in the enteric plexuses with a few number of TH-IR neurons in the myenteric and submucosal plexus. In addition, rare varicose and non-varicose TH-IR nerve fibers were also described projecting without branching through ganglia and interganglionic connectives of the myenteric and submucosal plexuses of guinea pig intestine (*Browning et al., 1999; Wang et al., 2005; Iino, 2000*). Despite this, Rauch et al. (2006) described a constant presence of TH-IR in myenteric ganglionic cells of human gut when comparing pre- and post-natal samples. Arterioles of all digestive tract regions had greater densities of TH-IR innervation than VAcHT-IR innervation (*Li et al., 1998*). Dopamine (DA), synthesized by TH, in the gastrointestinal tract stimulates exocrine secretions, inhibits gut motility, modulates sodium absorption and mucosal blood flow (*Kurosawa et al., 1991; Flemström et al., 1993; Finkel et al., 1994; Haskel et al., 1994*), and is protective against gastroduodenal ulcer disease (*Mezey and Palkovits 1992; Glavin and Hall, 1995; Mezey et al., 1996*). The discrete population of TH-IR neurons projecting to the body of the stomach may comprise the preganglionic motor neurons

involved in gastric relaxation obtained via withdrawal of cholinergic tone or could constitute a subpopulation of dopaminergic neurons involved in the attenuation of stress or chemically induced ulcers (*Guo et al., 2001*). Additionally, studies performed on MP neurons of the sheep abomasal descending neurons controlling the pyloric sphincter showed that they were predominantly NOS-IR, moderately ChAT and very little TH-IR (*Mazzuoli et al., 2008*).

It may be concluded that the functions of gastric muscles and mucosa are under the control of the ENS, which contains distinct populations of neurochemical peptides responsible for motor and secretory activity. One of the intriguing findings was that, unlike in the guinea-pig ileum, the longitudinal muscle of the stomach received a polarized innervation consisting of ascending excitatory and descending inhibitory neurons. The most likely explanation for this innervation pattern might be related to the specialized function of the stomach as a storage organ. In the stomach it has been shown that both muscle layers contract and relax at a given locus at the same time (*Sarna, 1993*). This synchronous motor activity has to be crucial for a hollow organ like the stomach (*Schemann et al., 2001*). Further investigations need to be undertaken to establish the origin, contribution and significance of pChAT in the ENS of the stomach.

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Table (1): Primary antibodies used.

Primary Antibodies	Species	Type	Clone/serum	Source	Dilution
Protein gene product, 9.5 (PGP 9.5)	Mouse	Monoclonal	13C4	UltraClone, UK	1: 2000
Choline acetyltransferase of peripheral type (pChAT)	Rabbit	Polyclonal		Kind gift of H. Kimura	1:50,000
Choline acetyltransferase of common type (cChAT AB144p)	Goat	Polyclonal	AB144P	Chemicon, USA	1:500
Vesicular acetylcholine transporter (VAChT)	Goat	Polyclonal	AB1578	Chemicon, USA	1:10,000
Nitric oxide synthase (nNOS)	Mouse	Monoclonal	NOS1 (A11)	Santa Cruz Biotechnology, CA	1:2000
Tyrosine hydroxylase (TH)	Mouse	Monoclonal	MAB318	Chemicon, USA	1:2000

LEGENDS TO FIGURES

Figure (1): Light micrograph of PGP 9.5 immunoreactivity in the rat stomach.

The PGP, 9.5 immunostaining was positive in the myenteric plexus (arrows in A), large thick bundles (thick arrows in C and D) and thin bundles supplying the muscular coat of the rat stomach (thin arrows in A and D). A few scattered submucosal neurons were noticed in the submucosa of the rat gastric wall (thin arrow in C). In the rat intestinal wall (in B) there was a distinct submucosal plexus as well as myenteric plexus with positive PGP, 9.5 nerve fibers in the muscular coat (arrows in B). Mc, mucosa; Sb, submucosa; Ms, Muscular tunic; MP, myenteric plexus.

Figure (2): Light micrograph of cChAT immunoreactivity showed positive neurons of myenteric plexus (MP), nerve fibers supplying the muscular coat of gastric wall and in the nerve fibers of the submucosa (arrows in D). Mc, mucosa; Sb, submucosa; Ms, Muscular tunic; MP, myenteric plexus.

Figure (3): Light micrograph of the pChAT immunoreactivity showed a strong positive reaction in the myenteric ganglionic plexus (MP) and nerve fibers (arrows in B). In the myenteric plexus, pChAT-IR neurons were large and oval in shape with either negative nuclei (thick arrows in C) or positive nuclei (thin arrow in C). pChAT-IR nerves ran around the blood vessels (Bv in D) supplying the gastric wall and extended in between the gastric glands (D). Mc, mucosa; Sb, submucosa; Ms, Muscular tunic.

Figure (4): Light micrograph of VAcHT-IR in myenteric ganglionic plexus (MP), nerve fibers of blood vessels (BV), and in the nerve fibers of the muscular coat. Positive VAcHT reaction was in the form of varicose terminals around the myenteric neuronal cell bodies (MG in B) and punctate or varicose fibers in the muscular coat (arrows in C). Sb, submucosa; Ms, muscular tunic.

Figure (5): Light micrograph of nNOS (A and B) and TH (C and D) immunoreactivity. nNOS-IR neurons of myenteric plexus (MP in A) were polyhedral in shape with long cytoplasmic processes emerging from them and running in between them. The nerve fibers of the *Tunica muscularis* were of a varicose type (B). TH immunoreactivity was localized only in the submucosal nerve fibers in varicose type fibers (arrows in C and D). Mc, mucosa; Sb; submucosa; Ms, muscular tunic.

Fig. (1):

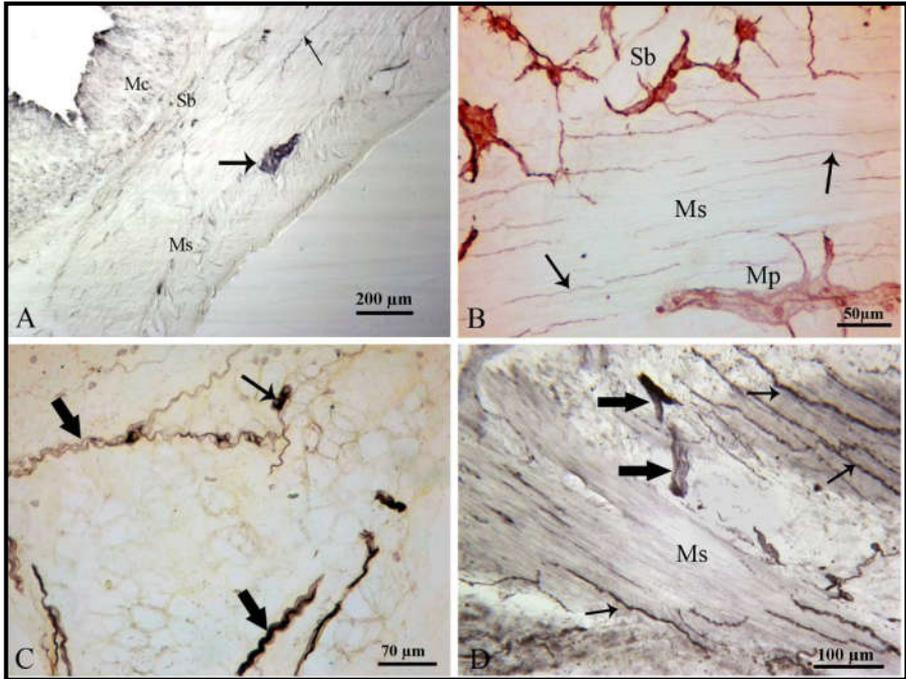


Fig. (2):

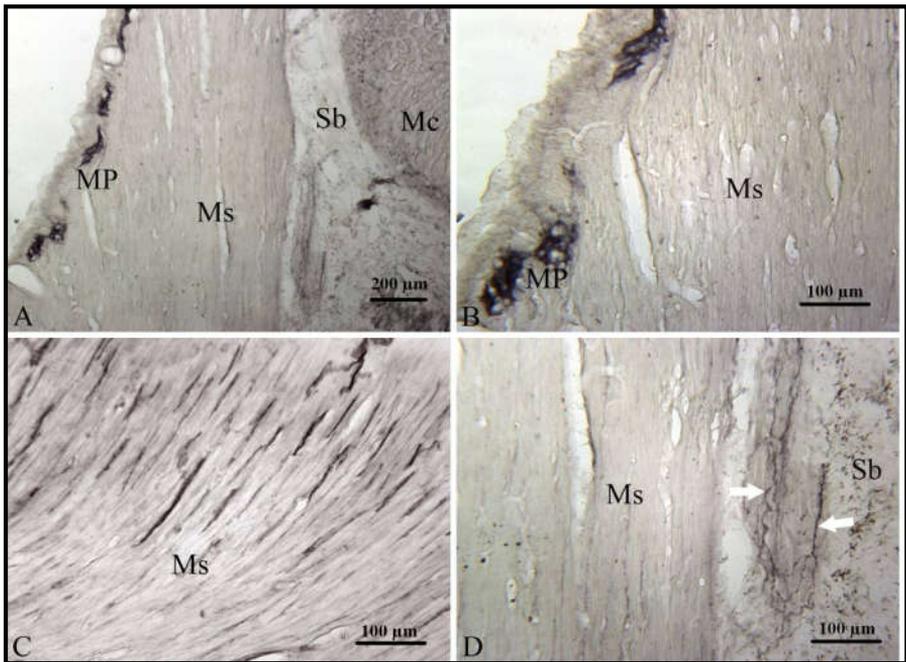


Fig. (3):

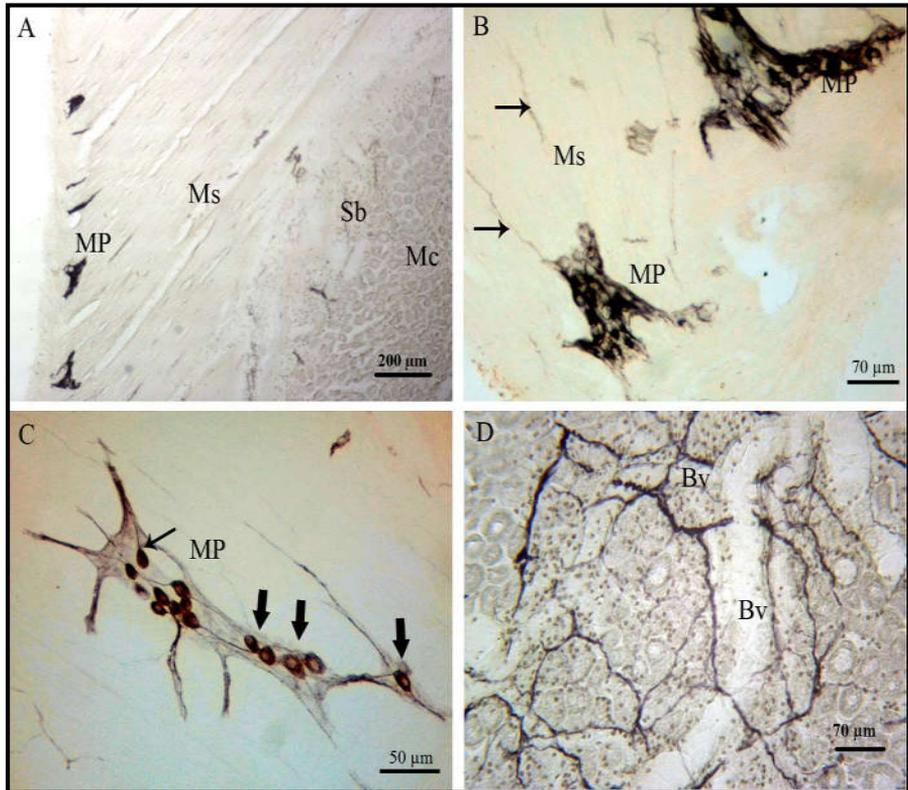


Fig. (4):

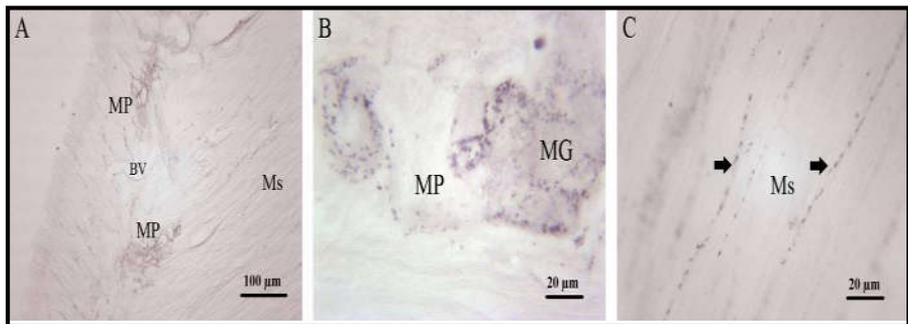
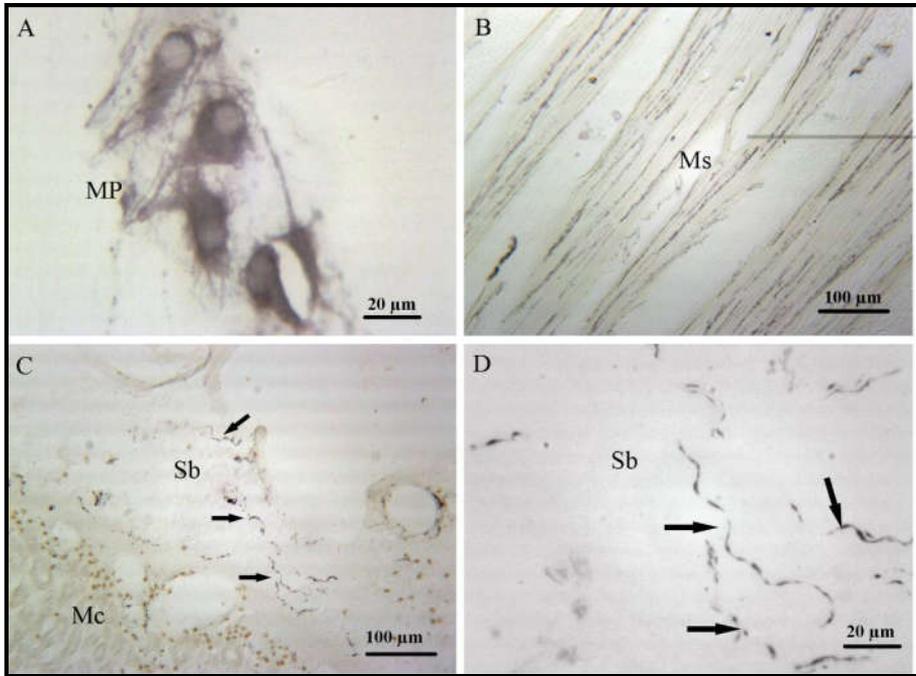


Fig. (5):



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توزيع المناعة النسجوكيميائية لبعض الببتيدات المنظمة في معدة الفئران

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أجريت هذه الدراسة لإعادة تقييم التغذية العصبية لمعدة الفئران وذلك عن طريق تحديد المناعة النسجوكيميائية لبعض الواصمات الكولينية والتي شملت النوع الشائع من إنزيم الأسيتيل كولين الناقل والنوع الطرفي منه والذي يتواجد في الأعصاب الكولينية الطرفية بصفة خاصة. علاوة على ذلك فقد تمت دراسة التواجد المناعي للإنزيم الناقل لحويصلات الأسيتيل كولين والنوع العصبى من إنزيم تخليق أكسيد النترريك وإنزيم التيروسين هيدروكسيليز. وتم ذلك باستخدام مقاطع برفاين من معدة الفئران ومعاملتها بأجسام مضادة للأنزيمات المشار إليها. وقد أظهرت النتائج غياب شبه تام للصفيرة العصبية بالطبقة تحت المخاطية في جدار المعدة باستثناء بعض الخلايا المتفرقة. معظم الخلايا العصبية التي بالصفائر العصبية العضلومعوية أظهرت تفاعل إيجابى لكل من إنزيمى الأسيتيل كولين الناقل بنوعيه وإنزيم تخليق أكسيد النترريك بينما تواجدا تفاعل المناعى للإنزيم الناقل لحويصلات الأسيتيل كولين وإنزيم التيروسين هيدروكسيليز فى أعصاب متوسعة ونهايات عصبية فى جدار المعدة. وتظهر هذه النتائج أنه فى جدار معدة الفئران هناك تباين فى التفاعل مع الببتيدات المختبرة والناقلات العصبية. فبينما غابت الصفيرة العصبية بالطبقة تحت المخاطية فقد تفاعلت الخلايا العصبية بصفيرة العضلومعوية مع كل من إنزيمى الأسيتيل كولين الناقل الشائع والطرفي وإنزيم تخليق أكسيد النترريك مفترضاً دليل شكلى على دور كل من الأعصاب الكولينية والنتروجينية والمحاكى الودى على وظائف المعدة الإفرازية والحركية.