PRELIMINARY COMMUNICATION

EXPRESION OF PROENKEPHALIN (PENK) mRNA IN INFLAMMATORY LEUKOCYTES DURING EXPERIMENTAL PERITONITIS IN SWISS MICE

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Zymosan- or thioglycollate-induced experimental peritoneal inflammation in mice may serve as a convenient model for investigations of involvement of opioid peptides derived from exudatory leukocytes in the inflammatory processes. During peritonitis, the influx of neutrophils and monocytes/macrophages correlated with a sequential appearance of proinflammatory cytokines (IL-1β and TNFα). After both kinds of stimulation, the expression of PENK mRNA was much higher in exudatory peritoneal leukocytes than its basal level in steady state.

Key words: peritoneal inflammation, cytokines, exudatory leukocytes, opioids, pain

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