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A specific radioimmunoassay for the novel opioid peptide dynorphin

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Abstract

Dynorphin was recently isolated from porcine pituitary extracts and shown to be the most potent known opioid peptide. Antisera were prepared to synthetic dynorphin-(1-13), the biologically active NH₂-terminal fragment of the peptide. A high-titer, sensitive antiserum was characterized with fragments from dynorphin-(1-13). Leucine-enkephalin, which is contained in dynorphin, is not recognized at all by the antiserum. To study distribution in tissue, a procedure using hot acidified methanol extraction of rat pituitary neurointermediate lobe preparations was developed and validated. ¹²⁵I-labelled dynorphin-(1-13), when added to tissue, remained intact throughout this extraction procedure, and added dynorphin-(1-13) was almost completely recovered. There was no destruction of radiolabelled peptide during incubation in the radioimmunoassay. Serial dilutions of pituitary extracts yielded curves that were parallel to the dynorphin-(1-13) standard curve. The immunoreactivity from tissue was completely destroyed by papain

treatment.



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