

The aim of the study was to investigate the effect of light stimulation on the ultrastructural characteristics of LPO neurons in the hypothalamus of old rats.

The experiments were performed on 24 old white male rats. The test material was fixed in a 2.5% solution of glutaraldehyde prepared on the basis of phosphate buffer with a pH of 7.2–7.4. Next, post-fixation was performed in a 1% solution of osmium tetroxide and dehydrated in propylene oxide, after which it was poured into a mixture of epoxy resins. Ultrathin sections made on an ultramicrotome LKB-3 were contrasted with uranium acetate and lead citrate according to the Reynolds method and studied under an electron microscope PEM - 125K.

Electron microscopic examinations of LPO of the hypothalamus under standard light regime at 2 pm found cell nuclei of round or elliptical shape with clear contours of the nuclear membrane, which can form shallow intussusception, the perinuclear space is not expanded. The cytoplasm of neurons contains moderately developed tubules of the granular endoplasmic reticulum (EPR) and cisterns of the Golgi complex (GC). There are mitochondria with clearly contoured cristae and a moderately osmophilic matrix.

At the same time, the neurons of the LPO of the hypothalamus under the conditions of the standard mode of illumination at 2 am contain nuclei with uneven contours, sometimes with rather deep indentations. The neuroplasm contains well-developed tubules of granular EPR with ribosomes fixed on their membranes. GC cisterns are small and localized paranuclear, but many vesicles and microbubbles are found. Mitochondria rounded, small, with moderately pronounced cristae.

A study of the ultrastructure of LPO of the hypothalamus at 2 pm under light stimulation showed the presence of "dark" neurons. The detected cells contain osmophilic karyo- and neuroplasm. The nuclei of the cells are pyknotic, electron-dense, and contain a nuclear membrane intussusception. The cytoplasm of cells is compacted, it is poorly defined organelles that are destructively altered. In the cytoplasm of cells, dilated tubules of granular EPR and CG cisterns are visualized, with the formation of vacuole-like structures. Mitochondria are also destructively altered, vacuolated with partially reduced cristae.

A study of the ultrastructure of LPO of the hypothalamus under light stimulation at 2 am showed that the neurons contain a rounded nucleus with electron-dense karyoplasm and uneven contours of the nuclear membrane, which forms deep intussusception. The hyaloplasm is also compacted, the EPR tubules are determined, which are locally expanded with the formation of vacuole-like structures. Mitochondria are small in size, vacuolated, with an enlightened matrix and reduced cristae.

Thus, we can conclude that the neurons of the LPO of the hypothalamus of old rats show increased functional activity in the dark. Light stimulation leads to hypertrophic and initial destructive changes in the nuclei and organelles of the neurons of the LPO of the hypothalamus.

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