

Joint Event on
14th International Conference on
FRONTIERS IN ALTERNATIVE & TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
and
World Conference on
PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY & CLINICAL RESEARCH
November 25-26, 2019 | Valencia, Spain

Antinociceptive effects of NSAIDS injected into central nucleus of amygdala is attenuated by combined administration of opioid and cannabinoid receptor antagonists

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Pain has a strong emotional component and chronic pain is frequently associated with affective disorders. On the other hand, negative emotions can exacerbate chronic pain. The amygdala with its well-documented role in emotion processing and related disorders, such as anxiety, depression and persistent pain, strongly supports the concept that the amygdala is key player in the emotional modulation of chronic pain. The Central Nucleus of Amygdala (CeA) are particularly important for sensory and emotion processing and is now defined as the “nociceptive amygdala” because of its high content of nociceptive neurons, receiving nociceptive specific information directly from the spino-parabrachio-amygdaloid pain pathway. Here we report the role of endogenous opioid and cannabinoid receptors in modulation pain sensation by injection their antagonists into the CeA.

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