Somatostatin Presynaptically Inhibits Both GABA and Glutamate Release Onto Rat Basal Forebrain Cholinergic Neurons

Toshihiko Momiyama1,2 and Laszlo Zaborszky3

1Division of Cerebral Structure, National Institute for Physiological Sciences, Okazaki; 2Core Research for Evolutional Science and Technology, Japan Science and Technology Corporation, Kawaguchi, Japan; and 3Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey

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Somatostatin pre-synaptically inhibits both GABA and glutamate release onto rat basal forebrain cholinergic neurons. J Neurophysiol 96: 686–694, 2006; doi:10.1152/jn.00507.2005. A whole cell patch-clamp study was carried out in slices obtained from young rat brain to elucidate the roles of somatostatin in the modulation of synaptic transmission onto cholinergic neurons in the basal forebrain (BF), a region that contains cholinergic and GABAergic corticopetal neurons and somatostatin (SS)-containing local circuit neurons. Cholinergic neurons within the BF were identified by in vivo prelabeling with Cy3 IgG. Because in many cases SS is contained in GABAergic neurons in the CNS, we investigated whether exogenously applied SS can influence GABAergic transmission onto cholinergic neurons. Bath application of somatostatin (1 μM) reduced the amplitude of the evoked GABAergic inhibitory presynaptic currents (IPSCs) in cholinergic neurons, SS also reduced the frequency of miniature IPSCs (mIPSCs) without affecting their amplitude distribution. SS-induced effect on the mIPSC frequency was significantly larger in the solution containing 7.2 mM Ca2+ than in the standard (2.4 mM Ca2+) external solution. Similar effects were observed in the case of non-NMDA glutamatergic excitatory postsynaptic currents (EPSCs). SS inhibited the amplitude of evoked EPSCs and reduced the frequency of miniature EPSCs dependent on the external Ca2+ concentration with no effect on their amplitude distribution. Pharmacological analyses using SS-receptor subtype–specific drugs suggest that SS-induced action of the IPSCs is mediated mostly by the sst2 subtype, whereas sst subtypes mediating SS-induced inhibition of EPSCs are mainly sst1 or sst3. These findings suggest that SS presynaptically inhibits both GABA and glutamate release onto BF cholinergic neurons in a Ca2+-dependent way, and that SS-induced effect on IPSCs and EPSCs are mediated by different sst subtypes.

INTRODUCTION

The basal forebrain (BF) is a region in the forebrain that contains cholinergic and GABAergic corticopetal neurons in addition to various local circuit neurons (Zaborszky and Duque 2000, 2003). Loss of BF cholinergic neurons and concomitant deficits in cholinergic markers in the cortex constitute a hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) (Price et al. 1986). Studies combining EEG, juxtacellular labeling of recorded neurons with subsequent identification of their transmitter in anesthetized rats (Duque et al. 2000; Manns et al. 2000), or selective lesioning of the cholinergic neurons in combination with EEG monitoring during the sleep–wake cycle (Kapas et al. 1996) indicate that the generation of neocortical activation critically depends on cholinergic inputs from these regions.

Alterations in somatostatin (SS) levels and SS neuronal morphology have been observed in the cortex and BF of AD patients (Candy et al. 1983; Davies and Terry 1981; Francis et al. 1987; Kowall and Beal 1988; Roberts et al. 1985; Rossor et al. 1980). Behavioral experiments in rats suggests that mnemonic functions are impaired by depleting SS from central stores and this effect is mediated in part through the BF cholinergic system (Haroutunian et al. 1989). Intracerebroventricular application or microinjection of SS-receptor agonists in forebrain areas result in sleep suppression (Obal and Krueger 2003).

Neurons expressing SS constitute a peptidergic interneuronal system in the septum, striatum, hippocampus, and cerebral cortex (Chesselet and Graybiel 1986; Forloni et al. 1990; Kohler and Eriksson; 1984; Vincent et al. 1985). In BF areas, patches of SS fibers and axons of local SS neurons were observed in close vicinity to cholinergic neurons (Zaborszky and Duque 2000), indicating a potential effect of SS on cholinergic neurons. Cholinergic neurons receive GABAergic input in BF areas (Zaborszky et al. 1986) and SS perikarya have been shown to be coexpressed with γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA) in many forebrain areas (Esclapez and Houser 1995; Hendry et al. 1984; Kosaka et al. 1988; Somogyi et al. 1984). A direct glutamate effect on cholinergic neurons is suggested by the presence of Vglut1- and Vglut2-type synapses on BF cholinergic neurons (Zaborszky et al. 2003). Although these morphological data raise the possibility of interactions among acetylcholine (ACh), SS, glutamate, and GABA, little information has been available regarding the functional role of SS in BF regions. Therefore using whole cell patch-clamp technique in forebrain slices of young rats, we investigated the effect of exogenously applied SS on GABAergic and glutamatergic transmission onto BF cholinergic neurons. Cholinergic neurons were identified by in vivo prelabeling with Cy3-192IgG, a selective marker of p75 neurotrophin receptor–expressing neurons (Wu et al. 2000). Preliminary data were previously published in abstract form (Momiyama and Zaborszky 2002, 2004).

METHODS

Labeling of BF cholinergic neurons with Cy3-192IgG for electrophysiology

All experiments were carried out in accordance with the Guiding Principles for the Care and Use of Animals in the Field of Physiol-
logical Sciences of the Physiological Society of Japan (1998) and the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Young rats (10- to 14-days-old) were anesthetized with pentobarbital (50 mg/kg, administered intraperitoneally) and then mounted into a stereotaxic apparatus. Cy3-192IgG (3–4 μl; 0.4 mg/ml) was injected unilaterally into the lateral ventricle of each rat using a Hamilton syringe (22-gauge needle) at a rate of 0.5 μl/min (Wu et al. 2000). The coordinates of the lateral ventricle used were 0.9 mm posterior from bregma, 1.1–1.2 mm lateral from midline, and 4 mm below from the dura.

Slice preparation for patch-clamp recordings

Three to six days after intracerebroventricular injection of Cy3-192IgG, rats were killed by decapitation under deep halothane anesthesia and coronal slices, containing the basal forebrain regions including the substantia innominata (SI) and the horizontal limb of the diagonal band (HDB), were cut (300 μm thick) using a microslicer (DTK-1000 or PRO7, Dosaka, Kyoto, Japan) in ice-cold oxygenated cutting Krebs solution of the following composition (in mM): NaCl, 124; KCl, 3; CaCl₂, 0.5; MgCl₂, 6; NaH₂PO₄, 1; NaHCO₃, 26; and d-glucose, 10; pH adjusted with 95% O₂–5% CO₂. Slices were incubated in a holding chamber at room temperature (21–26°C) for 1 h before recording.

Whole cell recording and data analysis

For recording, slices were transferred to the recording chamber, held submerged, and superfused with standard Krebs solution (bubbled with 95% O₂–5% CO₂) at a rate of 3–4 ml min⁻¹. Neurons in the SI or HDB were visually identified with a 60× water-immersion objective attached to an upright microscope (BX50WI, Olympus Optics, Tokyo, Japan). Images were detected with a cooled CCD camera (CCD-300T-RC, Nippon Roper, Tokyo, Japan) and displayed on a video monitor (LC-150M1, Sharp, Osaka, Japan). Cy3-192IgG–labeled neurons were visualized using the appropriate fluorescence filter. Patch pipettes were made from standard-walled borosilicate glass capillaries (1.5 mm OD; Clark Electromedical, Reading, UK). For the recording of evoked or miniature synaptic currents, patch pipettes were filled with an internal solution of the following composition (in mM): CsCl, 140; NaCl, 9; Cs-EGTA, 1; Cs-HEPES, 10; Mg-ATP, 2 (pH adjusted with 1 M CsOH). Whole cell recordings were made from neurons labeled with Cy3-192IgG (Fig. 1, A and B) using a patch-clamp amplifier (Axopatch 200B, Axon Instruments, Foster City, CA). For the recording of the membrane properties and action potentials of the labeled neurons, another internal solution of the following composition (in mM) was used: KMeSO₄, 135; KCl, 5; NaCl, 5; CaCl₂, 0.1; K-EGTA, 1; K-HEPES, 5; Mg-ATP, 5; and Na₃-GTP, 0.5 (pH adjusted with 1 M KOH). The cell capacitance and the series resistance were measured from the amplifier. The access resistance was monitored by measuring capacitative transients obtained in response to a hyperpolarizing voltage step (5 mV, 25 ms) from the holding potential of −65 mV. No correction was made for the liquid junction potentials (calculated to be 5.0 mV by pCLAMP7 software, Axon Instruments). Synaptic currents were evoked by delivering voltage pulses (0.2–0.4 ms in duration) of suprathreshold intensity at 0.2 Hz extracellularly by a stimulating electrode, made from the same glass capillary as for the recording pipette and filled with 1 M NaCl. The stimulating electrode was placed within a 50- to 120-μm radius of the recorded neuron. The position of the stimulating electrode was varied until a stable response was evoked in the recorded neuron. All the inhibitory and excitatory postsynaptic currents (IPSCs and EPSCs, respectively) were evoked at a holding potential of −65 mV. Experiments were carried out at room temperature (21–26°C).

Data were stored on digital-audio tapes using a DAT recorder (DC 10 kHz; Sony, Tokyo, Japan). Evoked IPSCs and EPSCs were digitized off-line at 10 kHz (low-pass filtered at 2 kHz with an eight-pole Bessel filter) using pCLAMP8 software (Axon Instruments). The effects of SS or SS-receptor (sst) agonists on the evoked IPSCs or EPSCs was assessed by averaging the amplitude of IPSCs or EPSCs for 100 s (20 traces) during the peak response to each agonist and comparing this value with the averaged amplitude of 20 traces just before the agonist application. Miniature IPSCs and EPSCs (mIPSCs and mEPSCs, respectively) were filtered at 2 kHz and digitized at 20 kHz using pCLAMP8 software. The analyses of mIPSCs and mEPSCs were carried out using N software provided by Dr. S. F. Traynelis (Emory University). The effect of SS on mIPSCs or mEPSCs was assessed by comparing the frequency and amplitude distribution of the events for 5–10 min during the peak responses to SS with those obtained just before drug application. Statistical analysis was carried out using both Student’s t-test (two-tailed) and a nonparametric Mann–Whitney U test. The Kolmogorov–Smirnov (K-S) test was used for comparison of cumulative probability distribution of mIPSCs and mEPSCs. In all statistics, a P value of 0.05 was used as the confidence limit. Data are expressed as means ± SE.

Drugs

Cy3-192IgG was custom synthesized by Advanced Targeting Systems (San Diego, CA). Other drugs were stored in frozen stock solution and dissolved in the perfusing solution just before application.
in the final concentration indicated. All drugs were applied in the bath. Somatostatin was purchased from Peptide Institute (Osaka, Japan). 6-Cyano-7-nitroquinoxaline-2,3-dione (CNQX), d-(-)-2-amino-5-phosphophonopentanoic acid (d-AP5), octreotide, seglitide, and CYN 164806 were from Tocris Cookson (Bristol, UK). Bicuculline methochloride and strychnine were from Sigma (St. Louis, MO). Tetrodotoxin (TTX) was from Sankyo (Tokyo, Japan).

Results

Cell identification

Whole cell recordings were made from a total of 94 Cy3-192IgG-stained neurons within the HDB or SI of the BF region. Figure 1, A and B shows a BF neuron under IR-DIC and stained with Cy3-192IgG. Membrane properties and action potential firing were examined in the current-clamp mode or voltage-clamp mode with KMeSO₄-based internal solution in 28 of these 94 neurons. In current clamp, hyperpolarizing current injections produced inward rectification and depolarizing current injection evoked action potentials in all of the 18 neurons tested (Fig. 1D). The inwardly rectifying currents were also observed in the voltage-clamp mode in all of the 10 neurons tested (Fig. 1D). Electrophysiological properties of all these 28 neurons (Fig. 1, C and D) agreed with those previously reported on cholinergic neurons within the BF region (Bengtson and Osborne 2000; Wu et al. 2000). Therefore Cy3-192IgG-positive cells were identified as cholinergic neurons and used in the following experiments on SS-induced modulation of synaptic currents.

Effect of SS on the evoked IPSCs

After whole cell configuration was made from BF neurons stained with Cy3-192IgG, synaptic currents were evoked by focal stimulation in the presence of CNQX (5 μM), d-AP5 (25 μM), and strychnine (0.5 μM) to block non-NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate), NMDA, and glycinergic current components, respectively. The amplitude of the evoked synaptic currents was $-369.9 \pm 33.6$ pA (n = 26). These synaptic currents were reversibly blocked by bath application of bicuculline (10 μM) in all of the four neurons tested (Fig. 2, A1 and A2), confirming that they were GABAₐ-receptor–mediated IPSCs. Bath application of somatostatin (SS, 1 μM) gradually reduced the amplitude of the evoked IPSCs, and the effect reached its steady state in several minutes (Fig. 2, B1 and B2). The IPSCs recovered to the control level after 5- to 10-min washout of SS (Fig. 2, B1 and B2). The magnitude of inhibition of the evoked IPSCs by SS (1 μM) was $34.4 \pm 2.14\%$ (n = 16, Fig. 7A). SS had no effect on the holding current with the present CsCl-based internal solution at the holding potential of $-65$ mV.

Effect of SS on the spontaneous mIPSCs

To dissect out whether the site of SS-induced action was presynaptic or postsynaptic, the effect of SS on the mIPSCs was examined in the presence of tetrodotoxin (TTX, 0.5 μM) in addition to CNQX (5 μM), d-AP5 (25 μM), and strychnine (0.5 μM). The frequency of mIPSCs was $0.65 \pm 0.10$ Hz (n = 15) in normal
Ca\(^{2+}\) (2.4 mM) external solution. Bath application of SS (1 μM) reduced the frequency of mIPSCs and the effect reached its steady state in 3–5 min (Fig. 3, A and B). The magnitude of inhibition of the mIPSC frequency by SS was 44.1 ± 3.72% \((n = 10)\) in normal (2.4 mM) Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration. On the other hand, SS had no significant effect on the amplitude distribution or mean amplitude of mIPSCs (Fig. 3, C and D). The relative amplitude of mIPSCs during application of SS was 102.3 ± 3.59% \((n = 10)\) of the control value in the 2.4 mM Ca\(^{2+}\)-containing solution.

**Effect of SS on the evoked EPSCs**

Synaptic currents were evoked in Cy3-192IgG–labeled BF neurons by focal electrical stimulation in the presence of bicuculline (10 μM), strychnine (0.5 μM), and d-AP5 (25 μM) to block GABA\(_A\)-, glycine-, and NMDA-receptor–mediated current components, respectively. The amplitude of the evoked synaptic currents was −104.5 ± 11.2 pA \((n = 16)\). As shown in Fig. 4, A1 and A2, these synaptic currents were reversibly blocked by bath application of CNQX (5 μM) in all of the four neurons tested, confirming that they were non-NMDA glutamatergic EPSCs. Similarly to the case of IPSCs, bath application of SS (1 μM) also inhibited the amplitude of evoked EPSCs in a reversible manner (Fig. 4, B1 and B2). The magnitude of inhibition of the evoked EPSCs by SS (1 μM) was 34.1 ± 2.62% \((n = 15, \text{Fig. 7Bb})\).

**Effect of SS on the spontaneous mEPSCs**

The effect of SS on the mEPSCs was also examined in the presence of TTX (0.5 μM) in addition to bicuculline (10 μM), d-AP5 (25 μM), and strychnine (0.5 μM). The frequency of mEPSCs was 1.17 ± 0.23 Hz \((n = 11)\) in normal Ca\(^{2+}\) (2.4 mM) external solution. Bath application of SS (1 μM) reduced the frequency of mEPSCs and the effect reached its steady state in 3–5 min (Fig. 5, A and B). The inhibition of the mEPSC frequency by SS was 50.1 ± 2.95% \((n = 11)\) in normal (2.4 mM) Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration. Similarly to the case of mIPSCs, SS had no significant effect on the amplitude distribution or mean amplitude of mIPSCs (Fig. 5, C and D). The relative amplitude of mIPSCs during application of SS was 97.8 ± 2.72% \((n = 11)\) of the control value, in 2.4 mM Ca\(^{2+}\)-containing solution.

**Ca\(^{2+}\) dependency of SS-induced effects on mIPSCs and mEPSCs**

The present results concerning SS-induced effects on mIPSCs and mEPSCs suggest that SS’s action is presynaptically mediated. To investigate whether the presynaptic action of SS is targeted at Ca\(^{2+}\) entry into the presynaptic terminal, we next examined the external Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration dependency of SS-induced effect on the mIPSCs and mEPSCs. After confirming SS-induced effect and recovery with washout in normal (2.4 mM) Ca\(^{2+}\)-containing solution, the external Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration was raised to 7.2 mM in the same neuron and SS was applied again. Furthermore, in this series of experiments, sucrose was added in the normal solution to make it isotonic with the high-Ca\(^{2+}\) solution. The frequency of mIPSCs increased from 0.68 ± 0.13 Hz \((n = 6)\) to 1.61 ± 0.46 Hz \((n = 6)\) when external Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration was raised to 7.2 mM. In the solution containing 7.2 mM Ca\(^{2+}\), SS inhibited the frequency of mIPSCs by 74.6 ± 3.32% \((n = 6)\) of control, significantly \((P < 0.05)\) larger than that in normal Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration (44.7 ± 2.54%, \(n = 6, \text{Fig. 6A})\). The relative amplitude of mIPSCs during application of SS was 100.8 ± 4.04% \((n = 6)\), and 101.9 ± 1.91% \((n = 6)\) of the respective control value, in 2.4 and 7.2 mM Ca\(^{2+}\)-containing solution, respectively.

Similarly to the case of mIPSCs, the frequency of mEPSCs increased from 0.99 ± 0.17 Hz \((n = 6)\) in normal Ca\(^{2+}\) (2.4 mM) solution to 1.95 ± 0.73 Hz \((n = 6)\) in the high-Ca\(^{2+}\) (7.2 mM) external solution. The inhibition of the mEPSC frequency by SS was 47.6 ± 1.87% \((n = 6)\) of control, significantly \((P < 0.05)\) larger than that in normal Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration (44.7 ± 2.54%, \(n = 6, \text{Fig. 6B})\). SS-induced inhibition of mEPSC frequency was significantly \((P < 0.05)\) larger in 7.2 mM Ca\(^{2+}\)-containing solution than in normal Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration (Fig. 6B). The
relative amplitude of mEPSCs during application of SS was 99.1 ± 4.68% (n = 6), and 101.7 ± 2.33% (n = 6) of the respective control value, in 2.4 and 7.2 mM Ca^{2+}-containing solution, respectively.

Pharmacological identification of SS-receptor subtypes

Although there is a lack of highly selective SS-receptor–related drugs, some drugs are available for elucidating SS-

FIG. 4. Effect of SS on the evoked non-NMDA glutamatergic excitatory postsynaptic currents (EPSCs). A1: time course of blockade of the evoked synaptic currents by CNQX (5 μM). Synaptic currents were evoked by focal stimulation in the presence of D-AP5 (25 μM), bicuculline (10 μM), and strychnine (0.5 μM) to block NMDA glutamatergic, GABA<sub>A</sub>-receptor–mediated, and glycinergic components, respectively. Holding potential was −65 mV. Each point in the time course shows the amplitude of the synaptic currents evoked at 0.2 Hz (every 5 s). CNQX applied in the bath during the indicated period reversibly blocked the synaptic currents, suggesting that these synaptic currents were non-NMDA glutamate receptor–mediated EPSCs. A2: superimposed averaged traces of 20 consecutive responses evoked during the periods indicated in A1 (a–c). B1: time course of inhibition of the EPSCs (evoked in another BF neuron stained with Cy3-192IgG) by SS. Each point in the time-course plot represents the mean amplitude of 5 consecutive EPSCs evoked at 0.2 Hz. Bath application of SS (1 μM) during the indicated period gradually suppressed the EPSCs and the effect reached a steady state in 5 min. EPSCs recovered from SS-induced inhibition after 7-min washout. B2: averages of 20 consecutive EPSCs during the indicated periods in B1 (a–c). In this neuron, SS (1 μM) inhibited the EPSCs by 35.9%. Superimposed traces of a and c in B2 show that the recovery was perfect. Pooled data from 15 cells yielded the inhibition of 34.1 ± 2.62% (means ± SE) by 1 μM SS.

FIG. 5. Effect of SS on the spontaneous miniature non-NMDA glutamatergic EPSCs (mEPSCs). mEPSCs were recorded in 2.4 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>-containing external solution in the presence of TTX (0.5 μM), bicuculline (10 μM), d-AP5 (25 μM), and strychnine (0.5 μM). Holding potential was −65 mV. A: consecutive traces recorded before and 5 min after application of 1 μM SS. B and C: cumulative probability distribution of interevent intervals (B) and peak amplitudes (C) of mEPSCs from the same neuron shown in A, comparing distributions in the absence (open symbols) and presence (filled symbols) of SS. Control data contain 501 events per 5-min period; data in the presence of SS contain 217 events per 5-min period. Interevent interval was increased (i.e., the frequency was decreased), whereas the distribution of mEPSC amplitude was unaffected by SS, suggesting that SS presynaptically inhibits glutamate release. D: averaged mEPSCs in control (501 events) and during application of SS (217 events). Mean amplitude of mEPSCs was unaffected by SS.
of IPSCs and EPSCs. Octreotide is not expected to mimic the actions of SS if they are mediated by sst<sub>1</sub> or sst<sub>4</sub> subtypes, whereas seglitide will not mimic sst<sub>1</sub>-mediated actions (Hannon et al. 2002; Raynor et al. 1993). CYN154806 should block only sst<sub>2</sub> subtype (Hannon et al. 2002; Mastrodimou et al. 2006; Nunn et al. 2002).

**IPSCs.** First, the effects of octreotide and seglitide on the amplitude of IPSCs were compared with those on SS (Fig. 7A). Octreotide at a concentration of 1 μM inhibited IPSCs by 29.2 ± 5.11% (n = 6, Fig. 7A). Seglitide (1 μM) also inhibited the IPSCs by 30.2 ± 10.1% (n = 5, Fig. 7A). The effect of octreotide or seglitide was not significantly (P > 0.05) different from that of SS (34.4 ± 2.14%, n = 16, Fig. 7A). These results suggest that SS-induced action on the IPSCs is not mediated by sst<sub>1</sub> or sst<sub>4</sub> subtypes. To further examine this possibility, the effect of CYN 154806 (1 μM) on SS (1 μM)-induced inhibition of IPSCs was examined (Fig. 8A). After confirming the effect of SS and recovery on washout, the antagonist was applied for 10 min, and then SS was applied again in the presence of the antagonist. Application of CYN 154806 itself had no effect on the IPSCs in any of six neurons tested. In the presence of CYN 154806, SS-induced inhibitory effect on the IPSCs was reduced to 11.2 ± 1.21% (n = 6, Fig. 8A), which was significantly (P < 0.05) smaller than that of SS alone obtained in the corresponding six neurons (39.4 ± 3.64%, Fig. 8A). These results suggest that SS-induced action of the IPSCs is mediated mostly by the sst<sub>2</sub> subtype.

**EPSCs.** Similarly to IPSCs, the effects of octreotide and seglitide on the amplitude of EPSCs were examined. Unlike the case of IPSCs, octreotide- or seglitide-induced inhibitory effect was not prominent. The inhibition of EPSCs by octreotide (1 μM) or seglitide (1 μM) was 8.12 ± 5.11% (n = 6) or 8.83 ± 2.92% (n = 6), respectively, which was significantly (P < 0.05) smaller than that by SS (1 μM, 34.1 ± 2.62%, n = 15, Fig. 7B). Furthermore, even in the presence of CYN 154806 (1 μM), SS still inhibited the EPSCs by 32.9 ± 4.66% (n = 6, Fig. 8B), which was not significantly (P > 0.05) different from the value with SS alone in the corresponding six neurons.

**FIG. 6.** Ca<sup>2+</sup> dependency of SS-induced effect on the frequency of mIPSCs and mEPSCs. Histograms summarizing the inhibitory effect of SS on the frequency of mIPSCs (A) and mEPSCs (B) in 2.4 and 7.2 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup>. A: values for 2.4 and 7.2 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> were 44.7 ± 2.54% (n = 6) and 74.6 ± 3.32% (n = 6), respectively. Effect in 7.2 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> (*, significant (P < 0.05) larger than that in 2.4 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup>. B: effect in 7.2 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> (69.7 ± 2.81%, n = 6, *), was significantly (P < 0.05) larger than that in 2.4 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> (47.6 ± 1.87%, n = 6).

**FIG. 7.** Effects of octreotide (OCT) and seglitide (SEG) on the IPSCs and EPSCs. All IPSCs or EPSCs were evoked at 0.2 Hz at the holding potential of −65 mV. A: inhibitory effects of OCT and SEG on the IPSCs. Each trace in Aa and Ab is the superimposed averages of 20 consecutive synaptic currents before (control) and during agonist application (OCT or SEG). Ab and Bb: histograms summarizing the mean inhibitory effects of OCT, SEG, and somatostatin (SS) on the IPSCs (Ab) and EPSCs (Bb). Error bars indicate SE. Concentration of each agonist was 1 μM. Ab: values for OCT and SEG were 29.2 ± 5.11% (n = 5) and 30.2 ± 10.1% (n = 5), respectively, which were not significantly (P > 0.05) different from that of SS (34.4 ± 2.14%, n = 16). Bb: values for OCT and SEG were 8.12 ± 5.11% (n = 6) and 8.83 ± 2.92% (n = 6), respectively, which were significantly (P < 0.05) smaller than that of SS (34.1 ± 2.62%, n = 15).
are mainly receptor subtypes mediating SS-induced inhibition of EPSCs by different subtypes of SS presynaptically inhibits both GABA and glutamate release onto BF cholinergic neurons. The present electrophysiological results show that exogenously applied SS presynaptically inhibits both GABA and glutamate release onto BF cholinergic neurons. They also suggest that SS-induced inhibition of GABA and glutamate release is mediated by different subtypes of SST receptors. The present results on the mIPSCs and mEPSCs suggest that SS action on the transmission is mediated in a calcium-dependent way. It remains to be elucidated whether activation of presynaptic SST receptors actually leads to blockade certain types of calcium channels. Although presynaptic modulation by SS has been reported in several central excitatory or inhibitory synapses, including hippocampus (Boehm and Betz 1997; Tallent and Siggins 1997), sensory thalamus (Leresche et al. 2000), hypothalamus (Lanneau et al. 2000), and the reticular thalamic nucleus (Sun et al. 2002), a potential role for SS in the modulation of BF synaptic transmission has been demonstrated for the first time in the present study. Indeed, the modulatory role of SS for inhibiting both GABA and glutamate release onto the BF cholinergic neurons should be unique.

GABAergic and glutamatergic afferents to BF cholinergic neurons

Cholinergic neurons in the ventral pallidum and substantia innominata receive heavy GABA input (Zaborszky et al. 1984) that originates in part from GABAergic neurons of the nucleus accumbens (Zaborszky and Cullinan 1992). An additional source of GABA input to cholinergic neurons may be local collaterals of parvalbumin-containing projection neurons. Indeed, it has been shown that juxtacellularly filled parvalbumin neurons give off axon collaterals in BF areas (Zaborszky and Duque 2000).

A potential direct source of glutamatergic input to BF cholinergic neurons may be amygdalofugal axons because such axons have been found to form asymmetric synapses on cholinergic neurons in the ventral pallidum (Zaborszky et al. 1984); and amygdaloid lesions have been found to result in decreased glutamate uptake in the substantia innominata (Francis et al. 1987). In addition, it has been suggested that putative glutamatergic afferents from the mesopontine tegmentum could affect cortical ACh release by basal forebrain cholinergic neurons (Rasmussen et al. 1994), although no direct morphological evidence supports this notion. Furthermore, glutamatergic afferents to BF cholinergic neurons may originate from local Vglut2 neurons (Hur and Zaborszky 2005).

Mechanism of SS action on GABA and glutamate release

The present electrophysiological results show that exogenously applied SS presynaptically inhibits both GABA and glutamate release onto cholinergic neurons in the BF. Electrophysiological properties of the BF neurons identified by Cy3-192IgG well agreed with those reported previously (Bengtson et al. 2000), confirming that Cy3-192IgG is a good marker for the identification of cholinergic neurons in the BF (Wu et al. 2000).

The functional effects of SS are exerted by G-protein-coupled receptors. There are five cloned subtypes of SST receptors (SST1−5) in the CNS (Dournaud et al. 2000). In previous studies using subtype-specific antibodies, abundant SST1 and SST2A immunoreactivity was seen in nerve processes in the substantia innominata and in the area ventral to HDB (Dournaud et al. 2000; Hervieu and Emson 1998), suggesting that the presynaptic action of SS on GABA and glutamate release may be mediated through presynaptic SST1−2 receptors located on GABAergic or glutamatergic axons impinging on cholinergic neurons.
neurons in these BF regions. The present pharmacological analyses using sst-receptor–specific drugs could provide more detailed insights that SS-induced inhibition of GABA and glutamate release is mediated by different sst subtypes; SS-induced inhibition of GABA release is mediated by mostly sst2 receptors, whereas the inhibition of glutamate release is mainly mediated by sst1 or sst4 receptors. The present finding of sst2-receptor–mediated inhibition of GABA release well agrees with a recent study by Bassant et al. (2005). The work has demonstrated that GABAergic neurons in the medial septum/diagonal band of Broca express sst2A receptors, activation of which by octreotide inhibits the activities of the GABAergic neurons. The present data suggest that SS has a role in modulating the excitability of BF cholinergic neurons by inhibiting both inhibitory and excitatory transmissions, as reported in the case of dopamine (Momiyama and Sim 1996; Momiyama et al. 1996). Thus it is likely that SS acts to balance between excitatory and inhibitory inputs to BF cholinergic neurons. Although no postsynaptic effects were observed in the present electrophysiological studies using CsCl-based internal solution, we have observed in our preliminary experiments using K-based internal solution that SS (1 μM) hyperpolarized the membrane of putative cholinergic neurons in the BF in a similar time course to that required to reduce transmitter release (unpublished observations). Detailed mechanisms underlying postsynaptic effects of SS remain to be elucidated to construct a complete picture of SS’s role in controlling the excitability of BF cholinergic neurons.

At present the mechanism of how endogenous SS release can influence GABA or glutamate release onto cholinergic neurons is unclear. Actually, the present study does not show that synaptically released SS can affect transmission. Thus it seems unlikely that synaptically released SS would inhibit excitatory and inhibitory transmission onto the same neuron to the same extent. With respect to the functional interpretation of SS action on cholinergic neurons, it is important to know whether the SS terminals on cholinergic neurons coexpress GABA. The most detailed study of GABA and SS coexistence to date has been done in the hippocampus (Esclapez and Houser 1995; Kosaka et al. 1988). According to these studies, 30–50% of dentate hilar GABA neurons contain SS, whereas the rest of GABA neurons contain other peptides.

Behavioral significance of SS/cholinergic interaction in the basal forebrain


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