

7. ottobre

I neurocircuiti che regolano l'assunzione del cibo

Non c'è umiliazione più violenta della fame.

Pranab Mukherjee

Il mantenimento del peso corporeo è regolato attraverso una complessa rete di segnali neuronali, ormoni e *interazioni intestino-cervello* che consentono l'adattamento all'assunzione di cibo e al dispendio energetico. Definire la *natura dei neurocircuiti sottostanti* e il modo in cui viene ottenuta la regolazione del feedback sono importanti per comprendere **lo sviluppo dell'obesità e le patologie ad essa correlate, come il diabete mellito di tipo 2 e le malattie cardiovascolari.**

Il metabolismo sistemico deve essere costantemente adattato alla variazione dell'assunzione di cibo e anche essere preparato ai cambiamenti previsti nella disponibilità dei nutrienti. Pertanto, il cervello integra *molteplici segnali omeostatici* con numerosi segnali che predicono future deviazioni nell'approvvigionamento energetico. Recentemente è stata rivelata la nostra comprensione dei percorsi neurali alla base di questi principi regolatori, nonché della loro convergenza nell'ipotalamo come coordinatore chiave dell'assunzione di cibo, del dispendio energetico e del metabolismo del glucosio. Questi progressi stanno cambiando la nostra visione del controllo della fisiologia metabolica dipendente dal cervello.

Esiste una popolazione sempre crescente di individui in sovrappeso e obesi che mostrano la predisposizione a una serie di disturbi associati all'obesità, come il diabete mellito di tipo 2, le malattie cardiovascolari, alcuni tipi di cancro e i disturbi neurodegenerativi.

Poiché sia *l'omeostasi energetica* che il metabolismo periferico sono coordinati attraverso il cervello, è urgentemente necessario definire *i meccanismi neurobiologici* di base della regolazione metabolica e definire come le alterazioni in questi percorsi promuovano lo sviluppo dell'obesità e l'insorgenza di disturbi metabolici associati all'obesità per ideare interventi terapeutici per questi disturbi prevalenti. malattie.



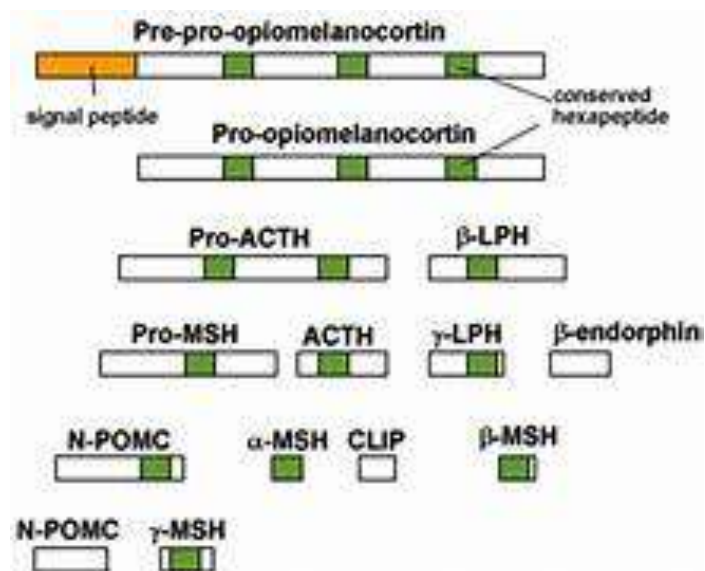
Il nucleo arcuato (ARC) dell'ipotalamo integra molteplici input ormonali e neuronali, segnalando la disponibilità di nutrienti dell'organismo. Il nucleo di questo sistema di controllo ipotalamico comprende **due popolazioni neuronali**, che esercitano funzioni quasi opposte nella regolazione del comportamento alimentare, del dispendio energetico e del metabolismo del carburante.



I neuroni del peptide correlato all'agouti (AgRP) vengono attivati in condizioni di deficit energetico, sono inibiti dai segnali di comunicazione del carburante leptina e insulina e promuovono il foraggiamento e il consumo di cibo.

La proteina correlata all'agouti (AgRP), chiamata anche peptide correlato all'agouti , è un neuropeptide prodotto nel cervello dal neurone AgRP/NPY. È sintetizzato in corpi cellulari contenenti neuropeptide Y (NPY) situati nella parte ventromediale del nucleo arcuato nell'ipotalamo. [5] AgRP è co-espresso con NPY e agisce per aumentare l'appetito e diminuire il metabolismo e il dispendio energetico. È uno degli stimolatori dell'appetito più potenti e duraturi. Negli esseri umani, il peptide correlato all'agouti è codificato dal gene AGRP .

I neuroni pro-opiomelanocortina (POMC) si attivano negli stati di bilancio energetico positivo e nei cambiamenti ormonali associati e riducono l'assunzione di cibo e aumentano il dispendio energetico. Un'intensa ricerca negli ultimi 20 anni ha rivelato che le alterazioni in questo circuito sono causalmente collegate allo sviluppo dell'obesità nei modelli murini e negli esseri umani. e il metabolismo del carburante.



La pro-opiomelanocortina (POMC) è un proormone che con opportuni tagli (effettuati tramite proconvertasi) di modificazione e maturazione proteolitica origina vari tipi di ormoni peptidici quali ACTH (corticotropina), β -lipotropina, γ -lipotropina, α -MSH, β -MSH e β -endorfina. Il suo

processamento avviene nella ghiandola pituitaria (ipofisi): più precisamente nel lobo anteriore maturano ACTH e β -lipotropina e nel lobo intermedio vengono sviluppati gli altri ormoni nominati in precedenza.

I recenti sviluppi di *metodi di sequenziamento dell'RNA a singola cellula* e a singolo nucleo ad alto rendimento hanno consentito la definizione di sottopopolazioni cellulari con una risoluzione molecolare senza precedenti. L'applicazione di queste tecnologie ha recentemente portato all'identificazione di numerose popolazioni di cellule neuronali e non neuronali che regolano l'assunzione di cibo e il metabolismo nell'ipotalamo.

In parallelo, gli approcci ai sistemi molecolari funzionali hanno consentito di delineare non solo il ruolo funzionale di questi tipi cellulari appena identificati nel controllo del metabolismo, ma anche la definizione dell'organizzazione della rete neuronale e la valutazione della loro attività negli animali che si comportano liberamente.

Questi esperimenti hanno rivelato che i neuroni regolatori del metabolismo sono modulati su diverse scale temporali, inclusa la percezione sensoriale dei segnali alimentari, segnali postgestivi che provengono dal tratto gastrointestinale e mediatori ormonali più a lungo termine. L'integrazione di questi segnali serve a mettere a punto l'adattamento metabolico e i comportamenti associati in modo allostatico.

Questi studi hanno ampiamente fatto avanzare la nostra conoscenza dei principi fondamentali del controllo del metabolismo dipendente dal sistema nervoso centrale. Hanno inoltre consentito la definizione di nuove strategie per combattere le malattie metaboliche.

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nel report

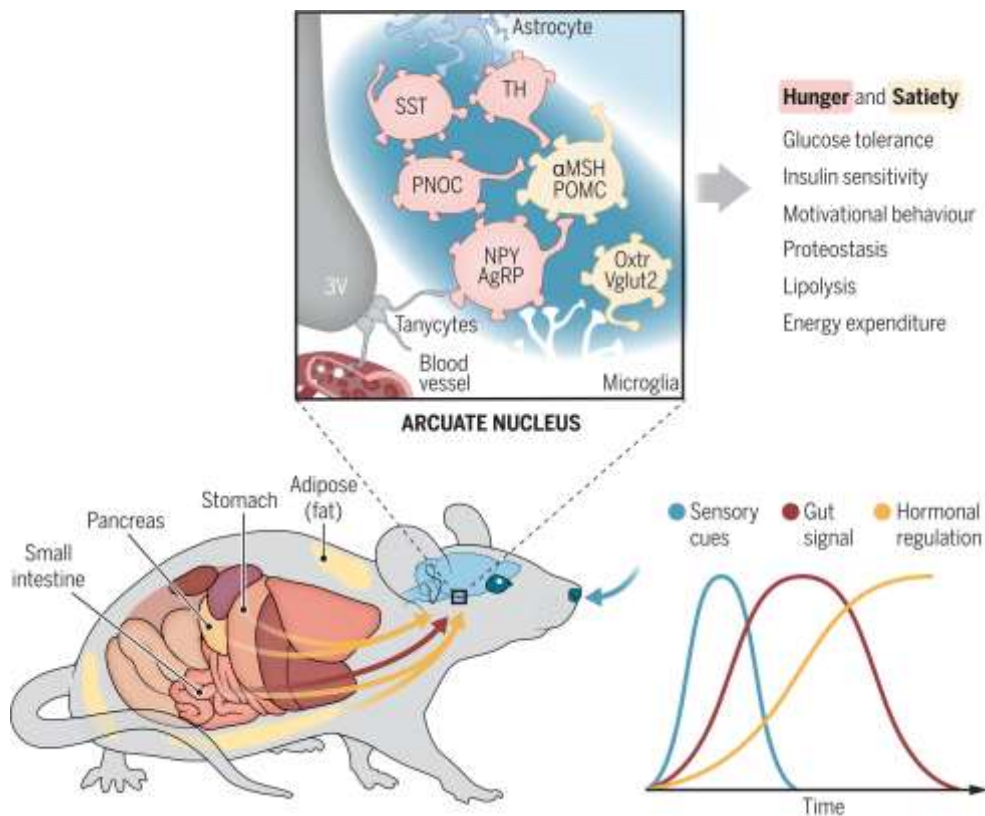
Brüning JC, Fenselau H.

Integrative neurocircuits that control metabolism and food intake.

Science. 2023 Sep 29;381(6665):eabl7398

Descrivono i percorsi che sono alla base dell'assunzione di cibo, del dispendio energetico e del metabolismo sistemico, in alcuni modelli murini e discutono di come questa conoscenza fornisca nuovi bersagli terapeutici per trattare l'obesità nell'uomo

Integrazione ipotalamica dei segnali legati al cibo nel controllo metabolico.



I principali tipi di cellule neuronali che promuovono la fame e la sazietà nell'ipotalamo integrano segnali correlati ai nutrienti in diversi tempi: (i) sulla percezione sensoriale del cibo, (ii) segnali post-ingestivi derivati dall'intestino e (iii) segnali ormonali che comunicano lo stato energetico dell'organismo. Oltre all'alimentazione, questi neurocircuiti adattano anche molteplici comportamenti e altri parametri fisiologici nei tessuti periferici in base allo stato energetico dell'organismo.

Conclusioni

L'ulteriore espansione di questi sviluppi consentirà una visione più olistica dei tipi cellulari regolatori del metabolismo e dei neurocircuiti conservati non solo nei modelli di roditori ma anche negli esseri umani.

Queste nuove conoscenze aiuteranno a definire come la loro deregolamentazione sia legata allo sviluppo di disturbi metabolici. Inoltre, tali studi aiuteranno a chiarire la modalità d'azione di nuove e promettenti terapie anti-obesità.

Questi includono gli **agonisti del recettore del glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1)** e i **poliagonisti di nuova concezione** per diversi recettori dei peptidi derivati dall'intestino, per i quali studi clinici hanno fornito prove di un'efficacia promettente nella riduzione del peso corporeo e nel miglioramento metabolico.

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MINIMALISMO FOSSE

L'autore, drammaturgo e poeta norvegese **Jon Fosse** è stato nominato vincitore del Premio Nobel per la letteratura. Il presidente del comitato Nobel Anders Olsson ha detto è

"uno scrittore fantastico in molti modi". "Ti tocca così profondamente quando lo leggi, e quando hai letto un'opera devi continuare"

"Ciò che lo rende speciale è la vicinanza nella sua scrittura. Tocca i sentimenti più profondi che provi - ansie, insicurezze, domande sulla vita e sulla morte - cose con cui ogni essere umano si confronta fin dall'inizio."

"In questo senso penso che arrivi molto lontano e che ci sia una sorta di impatto universale in tutto ciò che scrive. E non importa se si tratta di teatro, poesia o prosa: ha lo stesso tipo di fascino su questo argomento fondamentale." umanità."



I suoi romanzi, ha detto l'accademia, sono "fortemente ridotti a uno stile che è diventato noto come 'minimalismo Fosse'