

Cytochrome oxidase activity in the nucleus of the tractus solitarius of the cat

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Abstract

We studied the cytochrome oxidase (CO) activity in the nucleus of the tractus solitarius (NTS) of normal cats and in animals subjected to unilateral removal of vagal and glossopharyngeal afferents. In normal cats CO activity was higher in the ventrolateral, dorsolateral, interstitial and ventral NTS subnuclei. The dorsal, medial, commissural and gelatinosus subdivisions showed lower levels of CO activity. The peripheral deafferentation up to 47 days did not reduce the CO activity, suggesting an important role for the central inputs in determining the neural activity of the NTS.