Fornix & Stria Terminalis

Virtual Neuroanatomy 10/21/2014

Background: Limbic System



Interconnected cortical and subcortical regions that link visceral states and emotion to cognition and behavior.

Catani et al. 2013

Background: Limbic System



Interconnected cortical and subcortical regions that link visceral states and emotion to cognition and behavior.

Catani et al. 2013

Background: Visceral Regulation

Neuroendocrine

Autonomic



Background: Key Limbic Regions are Visceral





Background: The Fornix



Catani et al. 2013

Background: Another limbic bundle --Stria Terminalis





Catani et al. 2013



Background: BNST is Visceral, too









Bruni and Montemurro 2009

Fornix: Afferents/Efferents

Fimbria



Bruni and Montemurro 2009

Fornix: Afferents Efferents





Nieuwenhuys 2007

Bruni and Montemurro 2009

Fornix: Afferents/Topography

- Precommissural fornix septal area, basal and medial forebrain, hypothalamic areas
- Postcommissural fornix mammillary bodies; anterior and midline thalamus; bed nucleus of the stria terminalis



Nieuwenhuys 2007

Fornix: Afferents/Topography

Fornix CC LV VHC SFO Fi Adelmann et al. 1996

Nieuwenhuys 2007

- Septo-hippocampal (precommissural fornix) - ventricular
- 2. Commissural projections (dentate gyrus/CA3 efferents) ventral hippocampal commissure (VHC)/ pial surface
- Entorhinal cortex (crossed) ventricular

Fornix: Neurophysiology/Neurochemistry



Adelmann et al. 1996

Fornix: Neurophysiology/Neurochemistry



Adelmann et al. 1996

Fornix: Behavioral Correlates

Memory

Fornix appears to be necessary for memory (acquisition and retention). (Sutherland and Rodriguez 1989, Galani 2002, Cassel 1998, Nilsson 1987)



Fornix: Behavioral Correlates Fear Conditioning



Phillips and LeDoux 1995

Fornix: Physiological Correlates Corticosterone (Neuroendocrine) Response to Operant Conditioning



Fornix: Physiological Correlates

- Stimulation in humans with involuntary movement problems (Doi et al. 1968)
 - ~2 degree decrease in body temperature
 - Flushing/perspiration
 - Dilated pupils
- Stimulation of dorsal fornix in rabbits (Cragg and Hamlyn 1959)
 - Decreased blood pressure
 - Increased respiration

Fornix: Physiological Correlates

Fornix transection made rats resistant to high glucocorticoid feedback signal (Sapolsky et al. 1989)





Fornix: Clinical Pathologies Temporal Lobe Epilespy

Epilepsy patient Normal autopsy в CA1 CA2 Dg 🏂 CA4 CA3 Myelin degeneration

Fornix

Ozdogmus et al. 2009

Fornix: Clinical Pathologies

Temporal Lobe Epilespy/Mesial Temporal Sclerosis



Concha et al. 2010

Fornix: Clinical Pathologies

Cognitive Deficits: Alzheimer Disease



Figure 17 Alzheimer disease: (A) series of ¹⁸FDG-PET images showing bilateral temporal lobe hypoperfusion (arrows); (B) axial T2-weighted image of the brain showing diffuse cortical atrophy; (C) coronal T1 image showing advanced bilateral hippocampal atrophy (arrows); (D) arterial spin-labeling (ASL) perfusion imaging also shows the temporal lobe hypoperfusion (arrows). ¹⁸FDG-PET, fludeoxyglucose-positron emission tomography.

Lovblad et al. 2014



Stria Terminalis: Afferents/Topography

- 1. Precommissural/ supracommissural/dorsal
- 2. Commissural
- 3. Postcommissural/ preoptic/ventral





- 1. Precommissural/supracommissural/dorsal olfactory areas, nucleus accumbens, BNST, ventromedial hypothalamus
- 2. Commissural contralateral BNST
- 3. Postcommissural/preoptic/ventral ventromedial hypothalamus

Stria Terminalis: Topography, Amygdala-to-BNST



Dong and Swanson 2001







Stria Terminalis: Neurophysiology/Neurochemistry

A. Prototypical cortico-striatopallidal circuit Cortical plate Olfactory, gustatory, visceral, prefrontal, agranular insular, hippocampal Cortical subplate GLU Striatum MEA, CEA, AAA GABA Pallidum BST GABA GLU THAL **BRAINSTEM/CORD MOTOR SYSTEM**

B. Differentiations



Dong and Swanson 2001

Stria Terminalis: Neurophysiology/Neurochemistry

Neuropeptide-containing pathway:

- Enkephalin (Uhl 1978)
- Neuropeptide-Y (Allen 1984)
- Neutotensin (Uhl 1979)
- Sensitive to estrogen and testosterone (Takeo 1995, Kendrick 1979)

Stria Terminalis: Behavioral Correlates Memory

When memory is modulated experimentally (epinephrine, glucocorticoids, cholecystokinin, etc.) ST lesions block or facilitate those effects (Torras-Garcia 1998, Packard 1996, Roozendaal 1996, Flood 1995)



Stria Terminalis: Behavioral/Physiological Correlates

Homeostatic functions

- Food intake
 - Bilateral transections induce weight gain in female rats (King et al. 2003, Rollins 2006)
- Sexual activity
 - Lordosis in females (Takeo 1995)
 - Copulatory behavior in males (Lehman 1983, Tsutsui 1994))
- Neuroendocrine function
 - ST lesions completed inhibit adrenocortical responses to olfactory stimulation (Feldman and Conforti 1980)

Stria Terminalis: Clinical Pathologies

Translational Implications of the Amygdala–Stria Terminalis Model for the Clinical Anxiety Disorders



Ballenger 1989

Double Dissociation Studies Michael Davis

Light-enhanced startle – Acoustic startle response enhanced in the presence of bright light *Unconditioned Fear*

Fear-potentiated startle – Acoustic startle response enhanced in the presence of cues previously paired with shock – *Conditioned Fear*

Stria Terminalis: Clinical Pathologies

Central Amygdala Lesions



BNST Lesions



Stria Terminalis: Clinical Pathologies

Because BNST lesions abolish Light-Enhanced Startle, which is unconditioned, it is thought to be more relevant to Generalized Anxiety Disorders, whereas Amygdala (central and basolateral nuclei) may be more relevant to disorders like PTSD.

Implicates Stria Terminalis in anxiety disorders