

AN ANTHOLOGY OF ACUTE STRESS DISORDER

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ABSTRACT

Acute stress disorder can start for as little as two days and last for weeks to months. It leads to the emergence of various psychiatric diseases, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and so on, after one month. It is the first trauma reaction that occurs after being exposed to trauma and stressors. The "fight-or-flight" response is linked to the stress response. By providing better therapy at the early stages of stress, such as acute stress disorder, we can prevent or reduce the likelihood of depression..

Key words: Acute stress disorder, neuroactive compounds, stressor.

INTRODUCTION

Acute stress disorder is a CNS disorder that emerges as a result of witnessing, experiencing, fabricating, or being involved in threatening fatalities, injuries, or other stressful situations. A person's reaction to acute psychological trauma is one of fear and despair. It's a condition characterized by a variety of changes in thought, behavior, and emotions. Acute stress disorder can start for as little as two days and last for weeks to months. It leads to the emergence of various psychiatric diseases, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and so on, after one month. It is a first-time trauma reaction that occurs after being exposed to trauma and stressors. Acute stress disorder (ASD) is a disorder that has a negative impact on both our mental and physical well-being[1][2].

stages of stress, such as acute stress disorder, we can prevent or reduce the likelihood of depression[3].

Causes for stress :[15][16][18]



Healthy brain vs stressed brain



Fig: 1.2

It is the first trauma reaction that occurs after being exposed to trauma and stressors. Stressors are the events and reactions that produce stress. Emotional reactions are more common in the early stages after a trauma. The "fight-or-flight" response is linked to the stress response. The fight or flight response is an important survival response that demonstrates normal human behaviour and response following any trauma or stressor exposure. However, if done frequently over a short period of time, it can be very detrimental, and long-term exposure to stressful situations can lead to anxiety and despair [4].As a result, by providing better therapy at the early

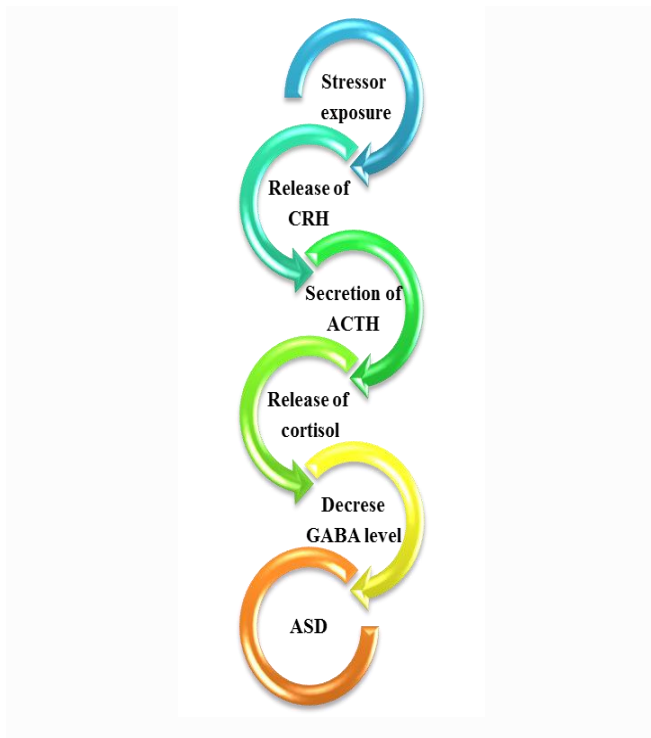
Symptoms of ASD

- Hypervigilance, Palpitation,
- Sleep disturbance, Lack of concentration,
- Chest and stomach pain [17]
- Irritable mood,
- Nausea sweating,
- Restlessness, Flashback [18]
- Depression,
- Reduced awareness of surrounding, Derealization,
- Episodes of aggressions,
- Increased arousal, Recurrent images and thoughts.
- Nightmare [19]

Development of ASD

Stress-related steroid hormones can be processed to produce neuroactive derivatives. The function of the GABA A receptor can be altered by these

neuroactive compounds. Changes in GABA A receptor subunit expression alter the steroid hormone level like stress as well as different exogenous steroid hormone administration. The activity of stress-derived steroid hormone on GABA A receptors, on the other hand, may modulate stress hormone synthesis. Corticotropin releasing hormone (CRH) regulates stress response activity, which is regulated through the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. It causes the secretion of ACTH from pituitary gland. Which initiate the release of stress hormone (cortisol) from adrenal gland [20].



CNS Pathways of Splenic Autonomic Output after Stress

The cerebral cortex, limbic system, basal ganglia, hypothalamus, thalamus, and medulla are all involved in central control of the autonomic nervous system, which involves very complicated reciprocal connections. Focusing on the splenic innervation pathway, retrograde pseudorabies virus labelling and c-Fos immunohistochemistry can provide a more complete description of the central sympathetic circuits involved for splenic innervation. Because it is retrogradely carried from nerve terminals to cell bodies, the Pseudorabies virus can be utilised to monitor brain circuits. This virus has an advantage over other retrograde tracers in that it may cross synapses, allowing multi-synaptic circuits to be traced. The immediate early gene c-fos is activated, resulting in the production of C-Fos .

Enhanced expression of the c-Fos protein indicates increased brain activation or metabolism. There are numerous particular brain regions that are active under stress (c-Fos+) and that innervate the spleen (pseudorabies virus+) using these techniques. After splenic peripheral injection, some brain areas are typically among the first to contain virus . The A5 cell group, ventromedial medulla, rostral ventrolateral medulla, and caudal raphe magnus are among the medial parvocellular subdivisions of the paraventricular hypothalamic nucleus (medial parvocellular subdivisions of the paraventricular hypothalamic nucleus autonomic subnuclei). Additionally, pseudorabies virus was found to be rapidly contained following splenic injection in Barrington's nucleus and the locus ceruleus, locations not typically assumed to be directly engaged in peripheral sympathetic nervous system modulation.

The "central sympathetic circuit" is made up of brain nuclei with intimate synaptic connections to peripheral sympathetically innervated targets. Importantly, manipulation of nuclei within this circuit has been shown to impact splenic nerve activity and immune function, implying that the

central sympathetic circuit plays a functional and regulatory role in splenic sympathetic and immunological modulation. The paraventricular nucleus's dorsal parvocellular cap, ventral pontine reticular nucleus, alpha region of the gigantocellular reticular nucleus, periaqueductal zone, raphe pallidus, and lateral paragigantocellular nucleus are among these locations. [51]

Risk-factors

Many psychobiological illnesses stem from acute stress disorder. A growing body of research suggests that stressful situations, as well as how an organism assesses them, can evoke quantitatively different physiological and emotional reactions. Threat and negative social evaluation, like uncontrollability assessments, have been found to elicit distinct psychological and bodily responses. Acute stress disorder affects the entire body system and is characterised by a distinct set of symptoms. It is a risk factor for the development of a variety of disorders, including:

Post-traumatic stress disorder

Cause :-

Trauma exposure

Symptoms :-

Depressed mood, hyper alertness or exaggerated startle response, Guilt, memory impairment, lack of concentrating, avoidance of activities that arouse recollection of the traumatic event, intensification of symptoms by exposure to events that symbolize or resemble the traumatic event, palpitation, Initial, middle, or terminal sleep disturbance; [26]

Treatment :-

Cognitive behaviour therapy, SSRIs, tricyclic antidepressants, monoamine oxidase inhibitors, Buspirone, mood stabilizers, antipsychotic agents or neuroleptics ("major tranquilizers"), adrenergic agents, opiate antagonists.[27]

Anxiety

Causes :-

Stress

Symptoms :-

excessive worry, intrusive thoughts, sweating , increase heart rate, hyperventilation.[28]

Treatment :-

Counselling, anti-anxiety, anti-depressants, SSRIs, sedatives.[29]

Depression

Cause :-

Stress, genetics, medication.[28]

Symptoms :-

Restlessness, loss of interest

Treatment :-

Anti-depressants, anxiolytics, SSRIs.[30]

Personality disorder

Causes :-

Childhood stress, genetic.

Symptoms :-

Wide mood swings, difficulty in controlling emotions.[32]

Treatment :-

DBT, Schema-focussed therapy, psychiatric treatment.[31]

Panic attacks

Causes :-

Trauma and stress, family history

Symptoms :-

Palpitation, hot flashes, uncomfortable physical symptoms.

Treatment :-

Anti-anxiety drugs, deep breathing and yoga.[33][34][35]

CVD

Causes :-

Long term stress

Symptoms :-

Chest pain, palpitation, heart attack, high blood pressure [44]

Treatment :-

medication, surgery, pacemaker.[45]

Role of GABA in acute stress disorder

GABA (Gamma aminobutyric acid) is a non-protein amino acid that is widely distributed in the body. It can be found in fungi, mammals, plants, and microbes, among other things. It works as an inhibitory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system of animals, acting through the GABA receptor. Recent research suggests that plants may have GABA A-like receptors that share some characteristics with animal receptors, based on genetic and physiological evidence.

The presence of a suitable concentration of GABA in our bodies aids us in escaping various stresses such as environmental, intellectual, and career-related stress. Plants, like animals, have evolved chemical responses to relieve stress. Other environmental stressors like mild, hot, cold, wind, rain etc increases cellular level calcium ions which stimulates the GABA synthesis and calmodulin-dependent glutamate decarboxylase activity. Exposure of stressor and trauma induce stress responses through the sympathetic-adrenal-medullary (SAM) axis and hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis.

The stress-derived steroidal hormones synchronize the function and expression of GABA A receptors (GABA Rs)[21][22][23][24][25].

- Neurotransmission
- Action cascading
- Neurodegenerative diseases
- Circadian rhythm
- Pain perception
- Insomnia
- Epilepsy
- Reproduction

Effect of ASD on brain

Hippocampus

Alteration in neurochemicals, disbalance the level of neurotransmitters, increases neural activity and synaptic plasticity. It may cause Long term damage of hippocampus which cause memory loss.[36]

Amygdala

Stress induce GABAergic inhibition and cause many Neuro-psychiatric diseases.[37]

Medial prefrontal cortex

Loss of spine and dendrites and cause blunted emotional response.[38]

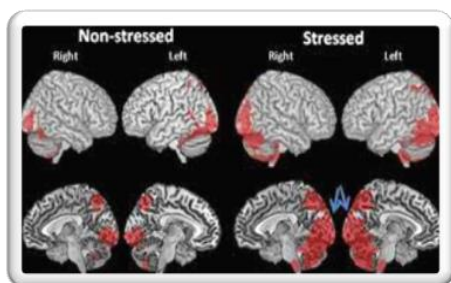


Fig: 1.2

Impact of ASD on physiological functions

Impact on the autonomic nervous system :-

The fight-or-flight response was discovered in 1930s by Walter Cannon's. After this, many researchers investigate the effects of stressful life experience on the sympathetic adrenomedullary system Cannon discovered that exposure to emergency situations results in the release of the hormone epinephrine from the adrenal medulla. Two major components of autonomic nervous system are:

- Parasympathetic nervous system that controls involuntary resting functions.
- Sympathetic nervous function that comes into play in threatening situations and increases involuntary process.

The spleen appears to be the last location of stress-induced immunomodulation, according to evidence. Various researches shows that exposure of different stressors and traumatic events may activates this system, and increase the release of epinephrine and non-epinephrine, it results in the "adrenaline rush". Release of epinephrine is initiated by the discharge of neurotransmitter norepinephrine at various organ sited from sympathetic nervous system.

A hallmark of the acute stress response is SNS stimulation. The activation of the SNS has a number of physiological effects that work together to increase the "fight/flight" response. Th1 cells, B cells, or monocytes/macrophages/dendritic cells, receive intense SNS innervation and express adrenergic receptors (2ADR) in most main and secondary lymphoid tissues (including the spleen). There is evidence that the SNS contributes to the stress-induced inhibition of the KLH Ig response if we focus on the involvement of the SNS in stress-induced immunomodulation (14). The sympathetic nervous system, for example, is stimulated in the central nervous system, suppressing the antibody response to KLH. [51].

Impact on the hypothalamic pituitary-adrenal axis :-

Exposure to a variety of psychological stressor for relatively short durations, can increase the level of hormone cortisol in the blood, saliva, and urine. Cortisol is increased due to activation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis. There are different neural pathways that links stressful stimulus to an integrated response in the hypothalamus, this stimulus results in the secretion of corticotropin-releasing hormone, this hormone stimulates the pituitary gland which release adrenocorticotropic hormone, it travels through the blood stream and causes the adrenal cortex (the outer layer of the adrenal gland) to release cortisol (in rodents this hormone is called corticosterone).

This entire system takes a very short time for activation i.e. 20 to 40 minutes from the onset of acute stressors. The HPA axis and inflammatory response patterns to acute stress are linked, as is basal HPA axis activity. Better habituation and stronger responsiveness to acute stressors are connected to patterns of basal cortisol activity that have been linked to beneficial health outcomes. This is a crucial step toward comprehending the long-term health consequences of acute stress reactivity. Longitudinal designs should be used in future studies to better establish the direction of these connections. To explore the specifics of the dynamic system, mechanistic research of the HPA axis should be done, taking into account the interplay of different levels of this system. [41]

Impact on the immune system

Stressful life experiences like job loss, exam etc can diminish the numerous immune. These experiences reduce the levels of classes of immunological cells called lymphocytes and cause the inhibition of various functions of lymphocytes. Some major functions of lymphocytes are produce immune response such as wound healing. Stress exposure can also initiate immune processes as well as it increases the circulating levels of cytokines that promote inflammation. However, inflammation is a response to exposure to a pathogen that produce systemic and local changes.

This physiological system is interlinked with each other and one system is affected by another. For example the lymphatic cell products act on brain causing alteration in mood and potentially contributing to depression and anxiety. Similarly, the hormonal secretions also affect our brain mostly the

secretion of neurotransmitters. These neurotransmitters are responsible for signal transmission throughout our body. So, any disbalance in the level of neurotransmitters may cause different psychological disorders. Now a days acute stress disorder becomes very common. [42][43]

Anti-inflammatory cytokines are responsible to maintain homeostasis and cytokines such as IL-2, IL-4 or IL-10 counter the effects of pro-inflammatory cytokines. The release of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6, macrophage inhibitory factor (MIF), interleukin-1 (IL-1), and tumour necrosis factor (TNF) is part of the systemic inflammatory response to trauma (TNF). Some signal transcription factors of pro- and anti-inflammatory signals plays a major role in the expression and synthesis of cytokines. Pro-inflammatory signal transcription factors affected by protein-beta (c/EBP-beta) binding, protein binding can be enhanced by signal transducer and activator or transcription (STAT-3 and -5) and CCCAT enhancer.

Anti-inflammatory effect was exerted by the suppression of signal transcription factors which cause the suppression of cytokine signaling (SOCS-1, SOCS-2, SOCS-3). Expression and secretion of T-cell (RANTES) belongs to the group of signal transcription factors that shows anti-inflammatory effect by:- Suppressing pro-inflammatory cytokine expression e.g. SOCS-3 and Regulating T-cell function e.g. RANTES[53].

Substantive Domain Response to Chronic and Acute Stress

It was found that women are more vulnerable to acute stress than men. The typical severe chronic stress is more strongly related to depression than the typical severe acute stress, but this does not employ that the chronic stress is more important than acute stress. The emotional consequences of acute stress such as rape, are undoubtedly more severe than the effect of many chronic stresses. Chronic stress is a better predictor than acute stress for both men and women [54].

Effect of stress on different body system

Cardio vascular system

Stress may cause long-term problems for heart and blood vessels e.g. Increase in heart rate and blood pressure.

Digestive system

Stress involves in increasing risk of developing type 2 diabetes, upset digestive system, it cause heartburn or acid reflux and stomach pain. [46]

Respiratory system

In stress, rate of breathing becomes faster in an effort to quickly distribute oxygen-rich blood to your body.[47]

Central nervous system

Stress can shrink the prefrontal cortex, and increase the size of the amygdala, which makes the brain more receptive to stress.[48]

ANS

Stress increases the levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines.[49]

Reproductive system

Stress reduce male and female fertility and also affect the process of reproduction. [50]

Nervous system

Exposure of any trauma release flood of cortisol and adrenaline which cause muscle tighten, rise in heart rate and blood pressure. [49]

Endocrine system

Stress cause the in the serum level of many hormones like glucocorticoids, catecholamines, growth hormone and prolactin etc which alter different physiological function of body.[52]

Acute stress and plants

Heavy metals, drought, salt, low temperature, and other abiotic stressors are all key factors that affect crop productivity and yield. These stressors are linked to the development of harmful chemical entities known as reactive oxygen species (ROS), such as hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), superoxide radical (O₂⁻), and hydroxyl radical (OH[•]), among others. ROS

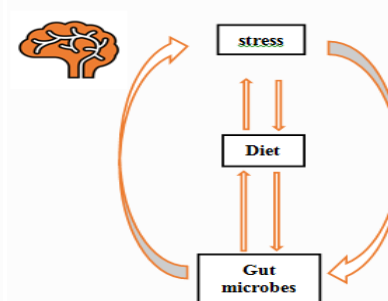
can cause cellular damage by degrading proteins, inactivating enzymes, altering gene expression, and interfering with a variety of metabolic pathways. With breakthroughs in plant molecular biology, where the basic understanding of ROS chemical activity is better understood, our understanding of ROS in response to abiotic stress has been revolutionised.

Identifying the factors involved in ROS formation, as well as their potential involvement during abiotic stress, is critical for identifying ways to control plant growth and metabolism under acute stress circumstances. The key to understanding stress-related toxicity is ROS-mediated oxidative stress, which has been extensively researched in various plants, with the results clearly revealing that oxidative stress is the primary symptom of toxicity. To deal with both enzymic and non-enzymic ROS, plants have their own antioxidant defence systems. These antioxidants' coordinated activities regulate ROS detoxification and minimise oxidative stress in plants.

Though ROS are often thought to have a negative influence on plants, some research suggest that they are helpful in regulating key cellular functions; nonetheless, there are few such reports in plants. New paths for understanding ROS metabolism and signalling have opened up thanks to molecular techniques to understanding its crucial role in abiotic stress. ROS also serves as a secondary messenger, indicating important biological functions such as cell growth, apoptosis, and necrosis.[57]

Acute stress and microorganisms

Stress and depression can revolutionise the gut bacteria's constituents through brain chemicals, inflammation, and autonomic alterations. In turn, the gut microbial discharge metabolites, toxins, and neurohormones that can affect eating behaviour and mood. Stress reactivity and mood are influenced by gut microorganisms. Finally, stresses, mood, and food, in combination with gut bacteria, can affect immune function and health [59].



Microorganisms are significantly more sensitive to heavy metal stress than soil, animals or plants growing on the same soils. In effect, laboratory investigations assess reactions to quick, acute toxicity (disturbance), whereas field experiment monitoring measures responses to long-term chronic toxicity (stress), which builds up over time.[58]

Guidelines for management of ASD

American Psychiatric Association:-

Practice guideline for the treatment of patients with ASD and PTSD.[10]

Australian Center for Post-traumatic Mental Health:-

Australian guidelines for the treatment of adults with ASD and PTSD[11]

National Child Traumatic Stress Network and National Center for PTSD:-

Psychological first aid field operations guide[12]

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Department of Defence:-

Clinical practice guidelines for management of posttraumatic stress. [13][14]

Diagnosis of ASD

Acute stress disorder is defined in DSM-4 as on the one hand depicting an array of relatively common pathological initial response after the exposure

of stressor and trauma. According to DSM-5, after the traumatic event acute stress disorder last from 3 days to 1 month. DSM (diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorder), classify the mental disorders according to standard criteria.

It is the official manual published by American Psychiatric Association. The diagnosis of acute stress disorder was introduced to describes the initial reactions after the trauma exposure which is known as acute stress reaction (ASR)[5][6][7][8][9].



Treatment

Eye movement desensitization [11].

Cognitive behaviour therapy.

GABA A receptor agonist e.g. diazepam.

GABAA receptor 1-selective agonist e.g. zolpidem[55].

selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs).Antidepressants [56].

CONCLUSION

Witnessing, experiencing, fabricating, being involved in threatened fatalities, harm, and so on can cause acute stress disorder. On the one hand, it is depicting a range of rather common pathological first responses after exposure to stressors and trauma. The systemic inflammatory response to stress causes changes in the structure and function of various important organs such as the muscle, heart, liver, and immune system, resulting in catabolism, hypermetabolism, and protein breakdown. The existence of a sufficient amount of GABA in our bodies aids us in escaping various stresses.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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