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Nitroxidergic and Calretinin-Containing Non-Pyramidal Neurons of the Rat Hippocampus

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Hippocampal interneurons, unlike pyramidal neurons, are a heterogeneous group of neurons that differ in morphological, cytochemical, and functional characteristics. The research was aimed at comparative morphological analysis of nitroxidergic (NOS⁺) and calretinin-containing (CR⁺) non-pyramidal neurons of the rat hippocampus CA1 and CA3 zones using immunohistochemical methods. Qualitative and quantitative differences between the populations of NOS⁺ and CR⁺ non-pyramidal neurons in different layers of the hippocampal CA1 and CA3 zones were demonstrated. Also it was shown the differences in quantitative composition of the interneurons under study in two subregions of the hippocampus, which correspond to the dorsal and intermediate hippocampus. It was found that NOS⁺ interneurons are more common in the dorsal hippocampus, while a greater number of CR⁺ interneurons are present in the intermediate hippocampus. The data obtained may contribute to understanding the role of non-pyramidal neurons in the formation of functional specialization of different hippocampal areas.

Keywords: hippocampus, interneurons, NO-synthase, calretinin, immunohistochemistry