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**Research Findings from University of Arizona, Sarver Heart Center Update Understanding of Cardiovascular Research**

02/14/2011

Cardiovascular Week

"Ito et al reported low adverse events in true bifurcation lesions treated with rotational atherectomy in a recent issue of the Journal of Invasive Cardiology. However, their definition of true bifurcation lesions is not correct," scientists in the United States report (see also ).

"They defined only Medina 1,1,1 as a true bifurcation lesion. However, true bifurcation lesions are Medina 1,1,1, 1,0,1 and 0,1,1 lesions, which are all summarized as B2 lesions when using the Movahed classification," wrote M.R. Movahed and colleagues, University of Arizona, Sarver Heart Center.

The researchers concluded: "This letter discusses this important issue."


For more information, contact M.R. Movahed, University of Arizona, Sarver Heart Center, Heart Transplant Program, So Arizona VA Health Care Systems, Dept. of Medical, Division Cardiology, 1501 N Campbell Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85724, USA.

Publisher contact information for the Journal of Invasive Cardiology is: H M P Communications, 83 General Warren Blvd., Ste. 100, Malvern, PA 19355, USA.

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**Researchers from University of Arizona, Department of Physiology Describe Findings in Neurophysiology**

02/14/2011

NewsRx.com

Researchers detail in 'Developmental nicotine exposure alters neurotransmission and excitability in hypoglossal motoneurons,' new data in Neurophysiology. According to a study from the United States, "Hypoglossal motoneurons (XII MNs) control muscles of the mammalian tongue and are
rhythmically active during breathing. Acetylcholine (ACh) modulates XII MN activity by promoting
the release of glutamate from neurons that express nicotinic ACh receptors (nAChRs)."

"Chronic nicotine exposure alters nAChRs on neurons throughout the brain, including brain stem
respiratory neurons. Here we test the hypothesis that developmental nicotine exposure (DNE)
reduces excitatory synaptic input to XII MNs. Voltage-clamp experiments in rhythmically active
medullary slices showed that the frequency of excitatory postsynaptic currents (EPSCs) onto XII
MNs from DNE animals is reduced by 61% (DNE=1.7 ± 0.4 events/s; control=4.4 ± 0.6 events/s;
p<0.002). We also examine the intrinsic excitability of XII MNs to test whether cells from DNE
animals have altered membrane properties. Current-clamp experiments showed XII MNs from DNE
animals had higher intrinsic excitability, as evaluated by measuring their response to injected
current. DNE cells had high-input resistances (DNE=131.9 ± 13.7 MO, control=78.6 ± 9.7 MO,
p<0.008), began firing at lower current levels (DNE=144 ± 22 pA, control=351 ± 45 pA, p<0.003),
and exhibited higher frequency-current gain values (DNE=0.087 ± 0.012 Hz/pA, control=0.050 ±
0.004 Hz/pA, p<0.02)," wrote J.Q. Pilarski and colleagues, University of Arizona, Department of
Physiology (see also ).

The researchers concluded: "Taken together, our data show previously unreported effects of DNE
on XII MN function and may also help to explain the association between DNE and the incidence of
central and obstructive apneas."

Pilarski and colleagues published the results of their research in the Journal of Neurophysiology
(Developmental nicotine exposure alters neurotransmission and excitability in hypoglossal

For additional information, contact J.Q. Pilarski, The University of Arizona, Dept. of Physiology,
College of Medicine, PO Box 210093, Tucson, AZ 85721-0093 USA.

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Study Findings from University of Arizona Broaden Understanding of Cardiology
02/14/2011
NewsRx.com

Investigators publish new data in the report 'Diagnosis of arrhythmogenic right ventricular
cardiomyopathy/dysplasia: proposed modification of the task force criteria.' "In 1994, an
International Task Force proposed criteria for the clinical diagnosis of arrhythmogenic right
ventricular cardiomyopathy/dysplasia (ARVC/D) that facilitated recognition and interpretation of the
frequently nonspecific clinical features of ARVC/D. This enabled confirmatory clinical diagnosis in
index cases through exclusion of phenocopies and provided a standard on which clinical research
and genetic studies could be based," scientists in the United States report (see also ).

"Structural, histological, electrocardiographic, arrhythmic, and familial features of the disease were
incorporated into the criteria, subdivided into major and minor categories according to the specificity
of their association with ARVC/D. At that time, clinical experience with ARVC/D was dominated by
symptomatic index cases and sudden cardiac death victims-the overt or severe end of the disease
spectrum," wrote F.I. Marcus and colleagues, University of Arizona.

The researchers concluded: "Consequently, the 1994 criteria were highly specific but lacked
sensitivity for early and familial disease."

Marcus and colleagues published their study in Circulation (Diagnosis of arrhythmogenic right
ventricular cardiomyopathy/dysplasia: proposed modification of the task force criteria. Circulation,
Research from University of Arizona Provide New Insights into Cardiology
02/14/2011
NewsRx.com

Data detailed in 'Diagnosis of arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy/dysplasia: proposed modification of the Task Force Criteria' have been presented. According to recent research published in the European Heart Journal, "In 1994, an International Task Force proposed criteria for the clinical diagnosis of arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy/dysplasia (ARVC/D) that facilitated recognition and interpretation of the frequently nonspecific clinical features of ARVC/D. This enabled confirmatory clinical diagnosis in index cases through exclusion of phenocopies and provided a standard on which clinical research and genetic studies could be based."

"Structural, histological, electrocardiographic, arrhythmic, and familial features of the disease were incorporated into the criteria, subdivided into major and minor categories according to the specificity of their association with ARVC/D. At that time, clinical experience with ARVC/D was dominated by symptomatic index cases and sudden cardiac death victims-the overt or severe end of the disease spectrum," wrote F.I. Marcus and colleagues, University of Arizona (see also ).

The researchers concluded: "Consequently, the 1994 criteria were highly specific but lacked sensitivity for early and familial disease."

Marcus and colleagues published their study in European Heart Journal (Diagnosis of arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy/dysplasia: proposed modification of the Task Force Criteria. European Heart Journal, 2010;31(7):806-14).

For additional information, contact F.I. Marcus, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ USA.

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thinkThin CEO to Speak at 20th Annual Dynamic Women in Business Conference at Harvard Business School
02/14/2011
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thinkproducts, creators of the thinkThin® family of deliciously natural nutrition bars, announced that Lizanne Falsetto, founder and CEO of thinkproducts, will speak at the 20th Annual Women in Business Conference at the Harvard Business School, Feb. 5th, 2011, in Cambridge, Mass. Every year, the Women’s Student Association (WSA) conference at Harvard Business School brings together over 1,000 women, including students, alumnae, faculty, distinguished business leaders and community members, to explore the opportunities and challenges facing women in today's business world (see also ).

Participating in the "Entrepreneurship Panel: Pounding the pavement - What does it REALLY take to build a business?" from 9:50 a.m. -11:10 a.m., Lizanne and fellow panelists will explore the strategies and methods founders employ to sell their idea to customers, investors and the business world. Moderating the panel is Janet Kraus, Senior Lecturer of Business Administration, Harvard Business School.
"There has never been a more exciting time for women entrepreneurs, and I am delighted to meet with the outstanding students of Harvard Business School as well as the many prestigious conference participants," said Ms. Falsetto. "I look forward to learning from them and sharing a range of lessons learned - from starting a company out of my kitchen, to self financing its nationwide growth, to ongoing product development and marketing focused on healthy, natural nutrition."

Ms. Falsetto’s pathway to entrepreneurship started when she recognized an unmet market opportunity to blend the natural, healthy and weight management categories. Early as a student athlete, then as a professional fashion model and later as a mom juggling business and parenthood, she used her knowledge of nutrition to take real food in a convenient format everywhere in her very active life. Like any good entrepreneur, she turned that creativity into a company.

Bringing together the natural and weight management worlds and doing it deliciously have been at the heart of Ms. Falsetto’s vision. From day one, as a classic home kitchen start-up, she built the company on a simple, unwavering formula: high protein, low to no sugar and gluten free. Today, thinkThin is the no. 1 ranked weight management bar in the natural energy bar category.

Besides being a businesswoman and mother of two, Ms. Falsetto is a passionate philanthropist dedicated to fighting and creating awareness for diseases like obesity and diabetes. She has also raised considerable funds for research and education related to cancer and other epidemics. In 2010, Ms. Falsetto was awarded the prestigious Leadership Award from The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO-LA) for outstanding leadership in 2009. She is also a member of the Yong Presidents’ (YPO) Association and a board member of the Arizona Cancer Center.

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Reports from University of Arizona, Department of Physiology Advance Knowledge in Neurophysiology
02/14/2011
Pain & Central Nervous System Week

Researchers detail in ‘Common synaptic input to the human hypoglossal motor nucleus,’ new data in Neurophysiology. "The tongue plays a key role in various volitional and automatic functions such as swallowing, maintenance of airway patency, and speech. Precisely how hypoglossal motor neurons, which control the tongue, receive and process their often concurrent input drives is a subject of ongoing research," investigators in the United States report (see also ).

"We investigated common synaptic input to the hypoglossal motor nucleus by measuring the coordination of spike timing, firing rate, and oscillatory activity across motor units recorded from unilateral (i.e., within a belly) or bilateral (i.e., across both bellies) locations within the genioglossus (GG), the primary protruder muscle of the tongue. Simultaneously recorded pairs of motor units were obtained from 14 healthy adult volunteers using tungsten microelectrodes inserted percutaneously into the GG while the subjects were engaged in volitional tongue protrusion or rest breathing. Bilateral motor unit pairs showed concurrent low frequency alterations in firing rate (common drive) with no significant difference between tasks. Unilateral motor unit pairs showed significantly stronger common drive in the protrusion task compared with rest breathing, as well as higher indices of synchronous spiking (short-term synchrony). Common oscillatory input was assessed using coherence analysis and was observed in all conditions for frequencies up to ~ 5 Hz. Coherence at frequencies up to ~ 10 Hz was strongest in motor unit pairs recorded from the same GG belly in tongue protrusion," wrote C.M. Laine and colleagues, University of Arizona, Department of Physiology.
The researchers concluded: "Taken together, our results suggest that cortical drive increases motor unit coordination within but not across GG bellies, while input drive during rest breathing is distributed uniformly to both bellies of the muscle."


For additional information, contact C.M. Laine, The University of Arizona, Dept. of Physiology, College of Medicine, Tucson, AZ 85721-0093 USA.

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