

Abstract

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Pain threshold and morphine activity in vitamin D-deficient rats.

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BACKGROUND: In rats, vitamin D-deficiency increases basal pain threshold and the analgesic effect of morphine (hot plate test).

RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS: Cholecalciferol (1000 I.U./Kg/day s.c.x 5 days) restores pain sensitivity in vitamin D-deficient rats and brings the analgesic effect of morphine back to normal. On the other hand, tolerance to morphine develops faster in vitamin D-deficient rats, this effect too being prevented by cholecalciferol treatment.

CONCLUSION: These data suggest a role for vitamin D status in pain sensitivity and opiate activity.

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