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Review article

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#### ARTICLE

# ABSTRACT

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ans in the section of copious amounts of dil The aim of this study was to review different animal models of Central Diabetes Insipidus, a neurobiological syndrome characterized by the excretion of copious amounts of diluted urine (polyuria), a consequent water intake (polydipsia), and a rise in the serum sodium concentration (hypernatremia). In rodents, Central Diabetes Insipidus can be caused by genetic disorders (Brattleboro rats) but also by various traumatic/surgical interventions, including neurohypophysectomy, pituitary stalk compression, hypophysectomy, and median eminence lesions. Regardless of its etiology, Central Diabetes Insipidus affects the neuroendocrine system that secretes arginine vasopressin, a neurohormone responsible for antidiuretic functions that acts trough the renal system. However, most Central Diabetes Insipidus models also show disorders in other neurobiological systems, specifically in the secretion of oxytocin, a neurohormone involved in body sodium excretion.

Although the hydromineral behaviors shown by the different Central Diabetes Insipidus models have usually been considered as very similar, the present review highlights relevant differences with respect to these behaviors as a function of the individual neurobiological systems affected. Increased understanding of the relationship between the neuroendocrine systems involved and the associated hydromineral behaviors may allow appropriate action to be taken to correct these behavioral neuroendocrine deficits.

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# **1. General characteristics of diabetes insipidus**

*Diabetes* refers to a wide variety of syndromes that share in common the copious production of urine (Bacic et al., 1999; Ball, 2005; Friedman et al., 1958; Holcomb, 2002; Huang and Dellmann, 1996; Ikkos et al., 1954; Laszlo and Wied, 1966; Lichardus and Ponec, 1973; Man and Hugh, 1992; O'Connor, 1950; Pickford and Ritchie, 1945; Robertson, 1995; Rose et al., 2015; Seckl and Dunger, 1992; Swaab et al., 1993; Swann, 1939 Titlebaum et al., 1996; Verbalis, 2003a,b). They include Diabetes Insipidus (DI), first described by Willis in the 17th century and characterized by the excretion of a large volume of diluted, "tasteless" urine (Ball, 2005; Deen et al., 1994; Di Iorgi et al., 2012; Fenske and Allolio, 2012; King and Agre,

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1996; Laszlo and Wied, 1966; Lichardus and Ponec, 1973; Makaryus and McFarlane, 2006; Robertson, 1983; Rose et al., 2015; Schreckinger et al., 2013; Seckl and Dunger, 1992; Seckl et al., 1987; Titlebaum et al., 1960). The incidence of this disorder is around 1: 25,000 cases, with no statistically significant differences between males and females (Ball, 2005; Blevins and Wand, 1992).

The excretory response of DI individuals and animals is behaviorally associated with the intake of large amounts of water (polydipsia) (Loh and Verbalis, 2007; Rolls, 1970; Singer and Sevilla, 2003; Smith and McCann, 1962; Tisdall et al., 2006; Valtin and Schroeder, 1964; Verbalis, 2003a,b). Thus, this abnormal increased water intake of subjects with DI is secondary to excessive urine excretion (polyuria) (Ball, 2005; Di Iorgi et al., 2012; Dlouhá et al., 1982; Fenske and Allolio, 2012; Kurokawa et al., 1998; Makaryus and McFarlane, 2006; Moses et al., 1992; Robertson, 1995; Saborio et al., 2000; Seckl and Dunger, 1992; Schreckinger et al., 2013). As a result of this retention deficit, there is an increase in the serum sodium concentration (hypernatremia) ([Table](#page-1-0) 1; Bacic et al., 1999; Bronstein et al., 2000; Friedman et al., 1958, 1962; Hollinshead, 1964; Huang and Dellman, 1996; Kavelaars et al., 2001; Kolmodin et al., 2013; Laszlo and Wied, 1996; Mahía et al., 2007c, 2013; Man and Hugh, 1992; O'Connor, 1950; Pivonello et al., 2000; Price and Kallenborn, 2000; Rolls, 1970; Saborio et al., 2000; Seckl and Dunger, 1992; Swann, 1939; Verbalis, 2003a,b). Thus, this marked loss of dilute fluid, which produces a rise in body sodium concentration, increases os

**Abbreviations:** ANP, atrial natriuretic peptide; AQP2, aquaporin-II channels; AVP, arginine vasopressin; AVPR, arginine vasopressin receptor; CDI, Central Diabetes Insipidus; DI, diabetes insipidus; hCDI, hereditary Central Diabetes Insipidus; HPA, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenocortical; Hypox, hypophysectomy; MBH, mediobasal hypothalamus; MEL, median eminence lesion; Neurohypox, neurohypophysectomy; NPII, neurophysin II; OT, oxytocin; PEG, polyethylene glycol; PSC, pituitary stalk compression; PVN, paraventricular nucleus; SON, supraoptic nucleus; tCDI, traumatic Central Diabetes Insipidus

#### <span id="page-1-0"></span>General characteristics of subjects with DI in comparison to a healthy population.



motic pressures and causes osmotic thirst and the intake of large amounts of water (see [Robertson, 1995\)](#page-13-0).

The main model studied in pre-clinical research is hereditary DI, using Brattleboro rats; however, most central DI (CDI) disorders in humans are produced by traumatic brain injury. Furthermore, CDI is almost exclusively treated with arginine vasopressinergic substances. The objective of the present study was to review existing knowledge on other animal CDI models that involve damage to specific neurobiological systems, discussing the role of the neurohormone oxytocin, among other substances. The aim was to offer additional approaches to a more complete treatment of this neuroendocrine disorder.

#### **2. Hypothalamic-neurohypophyseal system and central DI**

Hydromineral regulation disorders in DI are mainly associated with a deficit in the production of the hormone arginine vasopressin (AVP) (central/neurogenic DI) or with a partial or total resistance to its antidiuretic effects (nephrogenic DI) (Ball, 2005; Bronstein et al., 2000; Czernichow et al., 2000; Demunbrun et al., 1954; Gonzalez-Portillo and Tomita, 1998; Greger et al., 1986; Heinbecker and White,1941; Hollinshead, 1964; Huang and Dellman, 1996; Kurokawa et al., 1998; Laszlo and Wied, 1966; Macias Batista et al., 1999; Maghnie et al., 2000; Mirsky et al., 1954; Moses et al., 1992; Robertson, 1995; Saborio et al., 2000; Seckl et al., 1987; Si-Hoe et al., 2000; Holcomb, 2002; Song et al., 1999; Swaab et al., 1993; Verbalis, 2003a,b).

The neuropeptide AVP is synthesized along with its carrier protein. neurophysin II (AVP-NPII), in the perikarya of magnocellular neurons of hypothalamic supraoptic (SON), paraventricular (PVN) and accessory neurosecretory nuclei (Armstrong, 2014; Binkley, 1995). The axons of this magnocellular complex pass through the inner part of the median eminence, forming the neurohypophyseal stalk, and terminate in the posterior hypophysis or neurohypophysis (Zimmerman and [Robinson,](#page-15-0) 1976). Axonal swellings have been identified near fenestrated capillaries in the median eminence (Buma and Nieuwenhuys, 1988; Page and Dovey-Hartman, 1984; Wiegand and Price, 1980) and neurohypophysis (Armstrong, 2014; Legros, 1992; Renaud and Bourque, 1990; Saeb-Parsy et al., 2000; Swaab et al.,

1993), permitting access of this neurohormone to the bloodstream for transportation to target tissues.

Hyperosmolality, hypovolemia, and hypotension are major triggers of AVP secretion (Baylis, 1987; Dunn et al., 1973; Dyball, 1968, 1971; Huang et al., 1995; Huang and Dellman, 1996; Kadekaro et al., 1995, 1997; Robertson,1987; Schiltz et al., 1997; Stricker, 1966; Treschan and Peters, 2006). The osmotic threshold for AVP release in humans is around 280–290 mOsmol/Kg. This effective system is activated when plasmatic osmolality changes by  $\leq 1\%$ , regardless of water intake fluctuations (Baylis, 1987; Robertson, 1987).

After its release into the circulatory system, AVP acts by binding to AVP receptor 2 (AVPR2) on the basal aspect of renal collecting tubule cells (King and Agre, 1996). This triggers an intracellular signaling cascade that concludes with activation of a cyclic adenosine monophosphate kinase pathway, which increases the production and insertion of aquaporin-II (AQP2) channels into the cell membrane (Fushimi et al., 1993; King and Agre, 1996; Knepper et al., 1996; Nielsen et al., 1995, 2002; Snyder et al., 1992; Star et al., 1988; Wells, 1998). This in turn leads to passive water reabsorption from the lumen of the nephron into the cells of the collecting duct along an osmotic gradient (Dumont et al., 2005; Hansell et al., 2000; Harris et al., 1991; Layton et al., 2010; Strange and Spring, 1987). The consequent excretion of concentrated urine (Jard, 1988; Rose et al., 2015; Mahía et al., 2007c) is a survival mechanism for prolonged starvation periods. Thus, the kidneys can process urine with a concentration of 1200–1400 mOsm/L (four- or five-fold higher than serum osmolality). Conversely, diluted urine is excreted in the absence of AVP [\(Rose](#page-13-1) et al., 2015).

UNCO[RR](#page-15-0)[E](#page-1-1)C[T](#page-13-1)ED PR[O](#page-12-0)OF Besides the aforementioned vasopressinergic neurons, this magnocellular neurosecretory system also contains cells responsible for oxytocin (OT) synthesis (Armstrong, 2014; Binkley, 1995; Leng et al., 2005; Morris, 2006). Human genes for OT-neurophysin I and AVPneurophysin II are both on chromosome 20, separated by approxi-mately 12 kb of intergenic sequences (Rao et al., [1992](#page-13-2)). The chemical structure of OT is highly similar to that of AVP, being also a nonapeptide and only differing in amino acids at positions 3 and 8 (Fig. 1**)** (Barberis et al., 1998; Brownstein, 1983; Brownstein et al., 1980). As in the case of AVP, OT is generated in response to increased plasmatic osmolality (hyperosmolality and hypernatremia) (Balment et al., 1980; Blackburn et al., 1995; Cheng and North, 1987; Dyball, 1968, 1971; Fitts et al., 2003; Giovanelli et al., 1992; Huang et al., 1995; Huang and Dellman, 1996; Kadekaro et al., 1997, 1992a, 1992b, 1997; Landgraf et al., 1988; McKinley et al., 1992; Morris et al., 1984; Stricker and Verbalis, 1986; Verbalis et al., 1986; Verbalis and Dohanics, 1991; Xiong and Hatton, 1996; Windle et al., 1993) and in states of hypovolemia (Blackburn et al., 1992a,b; Chiodera et al., 1998; Lang et al., 1981; Mahon et al., 1995; Stricker and Verbalis,

<span id="page-1-1"></span>

**Fig. 1.** Chemical structure of (A) OT and (B) AVP with labeled amino acids. OT is formed by amino acids cysteine-tyrosine-isoleucine-glutamine-asparagine-cysteine-prolineleucine-glycine-NH<sub>2</sub> and AVP by cysteine-tyrosine-phenylalanine-glutamine-asparagine-cysteine-proline-arginine-glycine-NH<sub>2</sub>. In both cases, a ring of amino acids 1–6 is formed by a disulfide bond.

1986,1987; Windle et al., 1993). Finally, both neurohormones bind with high affinity to the OT receptor and AVPR2 (Han et al., 1993; Tribollet et al., 1992).

Among the regulatory processes related to hydromineral homeostasis, OT is especially involved in the excretion of body sodium (Bernal et al., 2007,2010a,b, 2015; Bourque, 2008; Conrad et al., 1986; Gimpl and Fahrenholz, 2001; Haanwinckel et al., 1995; Huang et al., 1995; Mahía et al., 2009; Sawyer, 1952; Schmidt et al., 1990; Stoeckel and Freund-Mercier, 1989; Walter et al., 2000; Windle et al., 1995, 1997), even at physiological plasma concentrations [\(Verbalis](#page-14-0) et al., [1991](#page-14-0)). This physiological secretion appears to be triggered by increases in glomerular filtration rate [\(Conrad](#page-10-0) et al., 1986) and reductions in tubular sodium reabsorption [\(Lippert](#page-12-1) et al., 2003) and also, indirectly, by cardiac secretion of atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP) ([Haanwinckel](#page-11-0) et al., 1995). Both AVP and OT have been proposed to have synergic natriuretic effects, with their combined administration exerting an effect of greater intensity and longer duration than the sum of the effects of each neurohormone [\(Fig.](#page-2-0) 2**)** (Andersen et al., 1992; Windle et al., 1995).

Neurohormonal secretion is one of the main output systems related to thirst regulation and urine production. These responses depend on the integration by SON and PVN magnocellular nuclei of signals from multiple brain structures (see Bourque, 2008 for review and Betley et al., 2015; Oka et al., 2015 for new data on thirst)

#### **3. Etiological bases of hereditary and traumatic central diabetes insipidus (CDI)**

Various genetic disorders have been implicated in the development of CDI, which can also be induced by traumatic or other brain damage to magnocellular neurosecretory structures or fibers that constitute the hypothalamic-neurohypophyseal system.

#### *3.1. Hereditary forms of CDI*

Hereditary CDIs (hCDIs) account for only 1–2% of all cases (Makaryus and [McFarlane,](#page-12-2) 2006). They are frequently related to mutations in the AVP-NPII gene, which encodes for AVP and neurophysin II and is located distally at the short arm of chromosome 20 (20p13), containing three exons (Christensen and Rittig, 2006; Lindholm, 2004; Mundschenk et al., 2001; Robertson, 1995; Si-Hoe et al., 2000).

<span id="page-2-0"></span>More than 60 mutations of the AVP gene that encodes the AVP-NPII precursor have been identified (Babey et al., 2011), with almost all showing an autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance (Di Iorgi et al., [2012\)](#page-11-1). Autosomal dominant mutations of the AVP-NPII

gene lead to an accumulation of misfolded AVP fibrillar aggregates within the endoplasmic reticulum and produce the death of magnocellular neurons of the SON and PVN of the hypothalamus (Birk et al., 2009; Makaryus and McFarlane, 2006; Phulwani et al., 2011).

some crisis of byden to the start in th The discovery in the 1960s of an animal model related to this disease was a landmark finding (Saul et al., 1968; Valtin, 1967, 1974, 1982; Valtin and Schroeder, 1964; Valtin et al., 1965; Vandesande and Dierickx, 1976). The homozygous Brattleboro strain used arose from the stock of Long-Evans hooded rats, characterized by their inability to synthesize antidiuretic hormone as an autosomal recessive trait of the AVP-NPII gene (Saul et al., 1968; Schmale and Richter, 1984). These rats are homozygous due to a single base pair deletion in the second exon of the prepro-AVP-NPII gene, resulting in a frameshift mutation in the coding sequence of NPII. The mutated allele encodes a normal AVP but an abnormal NPII, which interferes with the regular transport and processing of the AVP-NPII precursor molecule (Hendy and Bichet, 1995; Schmale and Richter, 1984) without causing the death of magnocellular neurons (Fisher et al., 1982). Homozygous Brattleboro rats, as would be expected, exhibit polyuric and polydipsic responses as well as chronic hypernatremia and hyperosmolality and are therefore considered the standard model of hCDI (Babina and Lavrinenko, 2014; Baturina et al., 2013; Brimble et al., 1991; Edwards and Larochelle, 1984; Ivanova et al., 2008; Lavrinenko and Babina, 2014; Schmale and Richter, 1984; Vandesande and Dierickx, 1976).

# *3.2. Acquired forms of CDI*

CDI syndrome can also result from traumatic brain injuries, brain neoplasms or malformations, and certain surgical procedures (Bacic et al., 1999; Bronstein et al., 2000; Hadjizacharia et al., 2008; Randall et al., 1960; Robertson, 1995; Schreckinger et al., 2013; Seckl et al., 1987; Holcomb, 2002). CDI cases generally show damage to mediobasal hypothalamus (MBH), hypophyseal stalk, infundibulum, or pituitary gland itself (Bacic et al., 1999; Ball, 2005; Bronstein et al., 2000; Robertson, 1995; Seckl et al., 1987; Verbalis, 2002, Verbalis, 2003a,b). Traumatic CDI (tCDI) can be experimentally induced in animals by surgical interventions, including median eminence lesions (MEL), sectioning of hypothalamic-neurohypophyseal tract, pituitary stalk compression (PSC), hypophysectomy (hypox), and neurohypophysectomy (neurohypox) (Antunes-Rodrigues et al., 1991; Balment et al., 1986a,b; Bernal et al., 2013; Dohanics et al., 1992; Haller et al., 1996 Huang et al., 1996; Huang and Dellmann, 1996; Mahía et al., 2007a,b, 2008, 2013; Makara et al., 1996; O'Connor, 1946; Richter and Ecker, 1935; Rolls, 1970; Smith and McCann, 1962; White and Heinbecker, 1938).



**Fig. 2.** Sodium excretion (μmol/min) before and after infusion of AVP, OT, or AVP plus OT (data obtained from [Andersen et al.](#page-10-3) (1992).

CDI manifestations can be transient, permanent, or triphasic. Transient CDI starts with an abrupt onset of polyuria and polydipsia within 24–48 h of surgery/trauma and gradually resolves over a 3–5 day period (Dumont et al., 2005; Schreckinger et al., 2013; Seckl and Dunger, 1989). In permanent CDI, polyuric and polydipsic symptoms arise immediately and remain chronic in the absence of treatment (Fenske and Allolio, 2012; Hensen et al., 1999; Nemergut et al., 2005). Triphasic CDI was first described by Fisher and [Ingram](#page-11-3) in [1936.](#page-11-3) The first phase, clinically identical to transient CDI, starts with polyuria and polydipsia within 24 h of surgery, followed by an interphase (oliguric phase), with reduction in/normalization of urine excretion volume and water intake, and finally by a persistent phase of polyuria and polydipsia (Adams et al., 2006; Bakker and Waring, 1976 ; Balment et al., 1986b; Bronstein et al., 2000; Dumont et al., 2005; Friedman et al., 1958, 1962; Hollinshead, 1964; Huang and Dellman, 1996; Laszlo and Wied, 1966; Lichardus and Ponec, 1973; O'Connor, 1946, 1950, 1952; Robertson, 1995; Rolls, 1970; Saborio et al., 2000; Seckl and Dunger, 1992; Seckl et al., 1987; Swaab et al., 1975; White and Heinbecker, 1939).

It has been proposed that the anatomical arrangement of hypothalamic-neurohypophyseal fibers may explain the regulatory and behavioral symptoms of DI animals. Thus, lesions located ventrally to the median eminence may cause CDI with only transient polydipsia (Heinbecker and White, 1941 ; O'Connor, 1946; Zimmeman et al., 1984), possibly due to secretion of the hormonal contents of SON and magnocellular PVN into the median eminence area (Buma and Nieuwenhuys, 1988; Page and Dovey-Hartman, 1984). Distinct effects are observed after damage to the whole hypothalamic-neurohypophyseal tract, which results in a consistently increased water intake from the onset (permanent CDI) (Heinbecker and White, 1941; Hollinshead, 1964; O'Connor, 1952). Finally, the presence of intact/ preserved axons or the release of AVP by degenerating terminals is considered responsible for the oliguric interphase in tri-phasic CDI (Bronstein et al., 2000; Brooks and Pickford, 1958; Heinbecker and White, 1941; Hollinshead, 1964; Laszlo and Wied, 1966; Lipsett et al., 1956; O'Connor, 1946, 1952; Robertson, 1995).

## **4. Hereditary and acquired CDI in animals: preserved regulatory capacities and importance of OT**

A lack of AVP is initially critical for the hydromineral regulation changes in both hereditary and acquired CDI. However, there are important differences among CDI types in the neurobiological systems involved and in behavioral manifestations. Thus, they appear to involve distinct neuroendocrine systems, particularly but not exclusively related to OT, generating the differential features of each neuropathological syndrome (see below).

#### *4.1. Brattleboro homozygous rats*

Brattleboro rats offer one of most specific CDI models due to their preponderant AVP synthesis deficit, although AVPR2 is preserved and is therefore reactive to AVPR2 agonists. They compensate for this deficit and the consequent excretion of excessive diluted urine by consuming large amounts of water (Fuller and Fitzsimons, 1998) and by reducing consumption and preference thresholds for salty solutions ([Yirmiya](#page-14-1) et al., 1988). Nephrectomy, which prevents renal water loss, eliminates the polydipsic response of Brattleboro rats after hypertonic NaCl administration, evidencing the secondary character of drinking behavior in these animals ([Fuller and Fitzsimons, 1988\)](#page-11-4).

Nonetheless, the renal regulatory capacity and hydromineral behavior of Brattleboro homozygous rats can be modified by subjecting them to different hydromineral challenges, indicating that non-vasopressinergic mechanisms likely also participate in this type of regulatory response.

Wilke et al. [\(2005\)](#page-14-2) reported reductions in urine volume and increases in urine osmolality and AQP2 channels in both Brattleboro and control rats after 72 h of food deprivation. The increased water reabsorption in Brattleboro rats under these conditions has been considered an adaptive response of the kidney to long periods of food deprivation, which may take place via AVP-independent mechanisms or, alternatively, through action on AVPR2 (Bennett and Gardiner, 1987). This preserved regulatory capacity even affects the habitual polydipsic behavior of Brattleboro rats. Thus, Wideman and Murphy (1991) observed a drastic fall in the water intake of homozygous Brattleboro rats after food restriction, while hypertonic NaCl administration was reported to markedly increase their urinary osmolality (Balment et al., 1980; Brimble et al., 1991; Edwards and La Rochelle, 1984), natriuresis (Balment et al., 1980; Brimble et al., 1991; McCann et al., 1997), and water intake [\(Fuller and Fitzsimons, 1988](#page-11-4)).

With respect to the possible neuroendocrine correlates that may explain these preserved regulatory capacities, it is well documented that Brattleboro rats show a sustained increase in OT mRNA in PVN and SON and increased OT plasma levels, especially under dehydration conditions (Balment et al., 1980, 1986a,b; Brimble et al., 1991; Bundzikova et al., 2008; Cheng and North, 1987; Dogterom et al., 1977; Horn et al., 1985; North et al., 1982; Pow and Morris, 1990; Sherman et al., 1988; Zelena et al., 2013). The importance of OT in dehydrated Brattleboro rats was elegantly demonstrated [\(Brimble](#page-10-5) et al., 1991) by blocking the natriuretic response of neurohypophysectomized Brattleboro animals after hypertonic NaCl administration and then largely re-establishing this response with subsequent OT administration (Fig. 3**)**. This suggests that the natriuresis of Brattleboro rats after hypertonic NaCl administration may be related to OT availability in these animals.

S. Schocking of al., 1903. Savin and Wille ville of al. (2003) royered reductions in time solution of all sol Various studies on the effect of OT administration in Brattleboro rats have evidenced: a marked antidiuresis; increased urine osmolality; increases in AQP2, phosphorylated AQP2, and AQP3 levels in the inner and outer medulla plus cortex; and increases in the glomerular filtration rate and effective filtration fraction (Brimble et al., 1991; Chou et al., 1995a,b; Conrad et al., 1986, 1993; Li et al., 2008; Lyness et al., 1985; Pouzet et al., 2001). These OT-induced effects were blocked by treatment with the AVPR2 antagonist SR121463B (Chou et al., 1995a,b; Li et al., 2008; Lyness et al., 1985; Pouzet et al., 2001) but not by treatment with the OT receptor antagonist GW796679X [\(Li](#page-12-3) et al., 2008). These studies suggest that, at least under certain experimental conditions, OT may act on AVPR2, which may be relevant in antidiuresis (Adrogué and Madias, 2000; Lyness et al., 1985; Pittman, 1963; Potter, 1964; Sasaki, 2008; Wang et al., 2000). In intact animals, the antidiuretic effect of OT was accentuated in hypovolemic conditions, e.g., under states of hydromineral deficit induced by polyethylene glycol (PEG) administration ([Bernal](#page-10-6) et al., 2015). This result may be comparable to the antidiuretic response of Brattleboro rats after PEG administration (Bennett and [Gardiner,](#page-10-7) 1986). In other words, the antidiuretic effect observed in Brattleboro rats with the endogenous OT available after PEG administration is reproduced by OT administration in PEG-treated intact rats.

OT does not appear to be the only endocrine agent involved in the antidiuretic effects observed in Brattleboro rats. [Morrissey](#page-13-3) et al. (2001) reported that prolactin, an adenohypophyseal hormone that contributes to neurohormone secretion regulation [\(Vega](#page-14-4) et al., 2010), reduced urinary excretion volume in Brattleboro rats with AVP deficit but not in control rats.

<span id="page-4-0"></span>

**Fig. 3.** Sodium excretion (μmol) induced by NaCl administration in Long-Evans, intact (i) Brattleboro, neurohypophysectomized (n) Brattleboro and neurohypophysectomized treated with Oxytocin (nOT) Brattleboro rats (data obtained from [Brimble et al.](#page-10-5) (1991).

#### *4.2. Neurohypophysectomy (neurohypox) and pituitary stalk compression (PSC)*

Neurohypox interrupts the secretion of both AVP and OT, increases the flow of urine, and reduces the excretion of sodium ([Balment et al., 1986b\)](#page-10-8).

In neurohypophysectomized dogs, OT administration raised renal clearances [\(Demunbrun](#page-11-5) et al., 1954) and AVP plus OT administration increased sodium excretion (Brooks and Pickford, 1958). In neurohypophysectomized rats, Balment et al. (1986b) also found that OT administration at plasma levels within the physiological range enhanced the natriuretic response to AVP, reversing their renal sodium excretion deficit. Moreover, the combined use of lower OT and AVP doses, which individually do not promote the excretion of significant amounts of body sodium, revealed a marked synergetic natriuretic effect superior to the sum of their individual effects (Fig. 4). Hence, the reduced natriuretic capacity of neurohypox animals appears to be at least in part a consequence of the lack of both AVP and OT.

<span id="page-4-1"></span>Given the technical difficulty of specific neurohypophysectomy, some authors use PSC to produce a selective deafferentation of the neurohypophysis. In these cases, compression of the pituitary stalk elicits a triphasic increase in water consumption (Dohanics et al., [1992\)](#page-11-6) and urine excretion (Elias et al., 2004), and an increase in cerebrospinal fluid AVP and OT content (Haller et al., 1996). Due to the formation of an ectopic neurohypophysis, the contents of AVP and OT are redirected from the neural lobe to the pituitary stalk (portal blood), contributing to the central but not peripheral regulation of salt-water homeostasis ([Makara et al., 1995\)](#page-12-4).

In fact, hypertonic NaCl administration in PSC animals significantly increases their plasma osmolality but not their plasma AVP and OT levels (Dohanics et al., 1992; Elias et al., 2004). We highlight that, after salt loading, this neurosecretory deficit is maintained for 21 days post-surgery (stable phase), ruling out the possible role of hypothalamic-neurohypophyseal fiber regeneration ([Raisman, 1973\)](#page-13-4).

#### *4.3. Hypophysectomy (hypox)*

Sodium excretion is depressed in hypox animals [\(Balment](#page-10-10) et al., 1986a), but hypertonic NaCl injection into the third ventricle stimulates their sodium excretion and an antidiuretic response (Dorn et al., 1970; Morris et al., 1976). Conversely, urinary sodium output is reduced in hypox animals on low-sodium diets (Fregly and [Rowland,](#page-11-9) 1989). When the neurohumoral pathway is interrupted, the parvocellular component of PVN, among others, may modulate urinary sodium and water excretion by controlling the sympathetic system *via* efferent/descending neural pathways (Johns, 2002; Nishi et al., 2015; Schramm et al., 1993; Yang and Coote, 2007). These results suggest that hypox animals maintain marked hydromineral regulation capacities in the presence of homeostatic challenges.

The intake behavior of hypox animals has been analyzed in choice tests with fluids at different osmotic concentrations. Hypox rats consumed larger amounts of NaCl solutions (and also water) than intact rats, although there were no significant differences between them in preference threshold or maximum concentrations. These data are consistent with the functional integrity of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system ([Fregly and Rowland, 1989\)](#page-11-9).



**Fig. 4.** Sodium excretion (μmol) in Control, neurohypophysectomized (n) and neurohypophysectomized rats treated with OT (nOT), AVP (nAVP), or OT *plus* AVP (n OT + AVP) (data obtained from Balment et al. (1986a,b).

From a neuroendocrine perspective, this surgery interrupts the hormonal secretion of both AVP and OT (Balment et al., 1984, 1986a). The administration of neurohypophyseal extracts was found to produce a major increase in the sodium excretion of hypophysectomized rats [\(Brunner](#page-10-11) et al., 1956). However, although combined AVP-OT treatment has synergic natriuretic effects, the peak sodium excretion of hypox animals treated with both neurohormones remains below that in intact rats (Balment et al., 1984, 1986a). Consequently, it has been proposed that the deficit produced in some adenohypophyseal hormones, such as prolactin (with its antidiuretic/hydromineral/regulatory effects in animals lacking AVP [\(Morrissey](#page-13-3) et al., 2001)), may be relevant in this type of CDI, given that its administration maintained plasma osmolality and plasma Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>−</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels in hypox fish ([Jackson et al., 2005](#page-11-10)).

#### *4.4. Median eminence lesions (MEL)*

MEL interrupts both AVP and OT secretions (McCann et al., 1997; Morris et al., 1976) and generate animal models with triphasic polyuric and polydipsic CDI (see Fig. 5A) (Mahía and Puerto, 2006; Mahía et al., 2008, 2013; Rolls, 1970). This polydipsic behavior of MEL animals does not seem to depend exclusively on the loss of body fluid. A study by Smith and McCann (1962) demonstrated that the polydipsic response induced by MEL was not blocked in rats whose renal water loss was prevented by previous nephrectomy; i.e., a polydipsic response appears even in the absence of polyuria in this type of CDI.

A distinctive characteristic of MEL animals is their hyperphagia, likely attributable to damage to MBH nuclei (Bernal et al., 2013; Mahía and Puerto, 2006; Mahía et al., 2008, 2013). This suggests that food intake may be a determining factor in the hydromineral regula

<span id="page-5-0"></span>

**Fig. 5.** DI-causing median eminence lesions. Triphasic polydipsic/polyuric pattern of the injured animals (broken line) (A). Photomicrograph of coronal brain section stained with cresyl violet at approximately −2.56 mm caudal to Bregma (B). Sequential series of schematic drawings of the smallest (gray areas) and largest (hatched areas) MEL in a representative ME-lesioned rat according to the atlas of [Paxinos](#page-13-5) and Watson (1986) (C–F). Scale bar, 1 mm (Arc, arcuate nucleus; DM, dorsomedial nucleus; ME, median eminence; VMH, ventromedial nucleus). From [Bernal](#page-10-12) et al. (2013) and Mah[í](#page-12-5)a et al. [\(2008\)](#page-12-5) (with permission from Elsevier). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

tion processes of MEL animals ([Fig.](#page-5-0) 5B–F; Bernal et al., 2013; Mahía et al., 2008).

This relationship between food/water intake and urinary output in MEL animals has been analyzed in food-deprivation studies, demonstrating a drastic reduction in their urinary output and polydipsic behavior under these conditions (Bernal et al., 2013; Mahía et al., 2008, 2013). This inhibitory effect appears to depend upon the timing of the food deprivation. Thus, while deprivation during the first days post-surgery significantly reduced the magnitude of the polyuric and polydipsic response of MEL animals, deprivation during the stable DI phase completely annulled their polyuria and polydipsia ([Fig.](#page-6-0) 6; [Bernal](#page-10-12) et al., 2013). Moreover, the elevated blood glucose levels (diabetes mellitus) in Brattleboro rats would further increase their water intake, supporting the proposition that the polydipsia-polyuria in the late phase of the MEL model is attributable to metabolic factors rather than to the absence of AVP-OT ([Zelena et al., 2006](#page-14-6)).

The sodium present in the diet may be crucial in MEL DI animals, because low-sodium diets reduce their water intake and plasma sodium concentration (Mah[í](#page-12-6)a et al., [2013\)](#page-12-6). In other words, the increased food/sodium intake of these animals may not only exacerbate their polydipsic disorder but also increase their osmolality/plasma sodium concentration. These results are in agreement with earlier studies that established a close relationship between the sodium intake and polydipsic response of CDI animals (Curtis, 1924; Palmieri and Taleisnik, 1969; Swann, 1939; Titlebaum et al., 1960). When MEL animals could choose between a 1.5% sodium chloride solution and water, they preferentially chose (82% of total liquid consumed) the hypertonic saline solution (Mahía et al., 2008). Nevertheless, the dehydration induced by intraventricular hypertonic saline administration did not produce the expected increase in natriuretic and antidiuretic responses in MEL animals (Morris et al., 1976). This suggests the interruption of both neurohumoral pathways and activity of the autonomous nervous system (Johns, 2002; Nishi et al., 2015; Schramm et al., 1993; Yang and Coote, 2007).

<span id="page-6-0"></span>Considering that MEL interrupts both AVP and OT secretion (McCann et al., 1997; Morris et al., 1976), the possibility of counteracting their deficit by OT administration has been explored. Peripheral administration of this neurohormone was found to enhance sodium excretion and to reduce the urine excretion and habitual polydipsic response of MEL animals (Bernal et al., 2013). This effect of OT is transient in *ad lib*-fed MEL animals with sodium available in their food, whereas it generates long-lasting reductions in food-deprived MEL rats [\(Bernal](#page-10-12) et al., 2013), suggesting that CDI may be modifiable by early intervention and the manipulation of food availability.

In this line, it should be taken into account that the plasma levels of other humoral factors, such as prolactin and β-endorphin, are also increased in animals with MBH lesions ([Kiem et al., 1995\)](#page-12-7).

#### *4.5. Comparative analysis of the different CDI models*

The specific neurobiological systems that appear to be affected in different types of DI animals may explain their differential behaviors, correlates, and treatments (see Table 2). Thus, a common disorder such as renal water loss deficit was prevented by nephrectomy in Brattleboro rats, suppressing their polydipsic response [\(Fuller](#page-11-4) and [Fitzsimons,](#page-11-4) 1988), but not in MEL animals (Smith and McCann, [1962\)](#page-14-5). This supports a more specific vasopressinergic circuit disorder and the preponderant secondary character of polydipsic behavior in Brattleboro animals.

Thus, choice tasks with solutions at different osmotic concentrations have revealed that Brattleboro rats preferentially consume water [\(Yirmiya](#page-14-1) et al., 1988), whereas hypox (Fregly and Rowland, 1989) and MEL (Mah[í](#page-12-5)a et al., 2008) animals consume larger amounts of both water and NaCl solutions in comparison to controls.

Besides fluid intake, a further differential behavior among CDI animal models is the hyperphagia developed by MEL (Bernal et al., 2013; Mahía and Puerto, 2006; Mahía et al., 2008, 2013) but not Brattleboro (Murphy and Wideman, 1991) or hypox ([Wyndham](#page-14-7) et al., 1987) rats.

However, it is likely that one of the most important differential factors observed is related to OT, which is available in Brattleboro (Balment et al., 1980, 1986a,b; Brimble et al., 1991; Bundzikova et al., 2008; Cheng and North, 1987; Dogterom et al., 1977; Horn et al., 1985; North et al., 1982; Pow and Morris, 1990; Sherman et al., 1988; Zelena et al., 2013) but not in neurohypox ([Balment](#page-10-8) et al., 1986b), PSC (Dohanics et al., 1992), hypox ([Balment](#page-10-10) et al., 1986a), or MEL animals (McCann et al., 1997; Morris et al., 1976).

As reported above, there is a significant increase in plasma OT levels and in urinary osmolality and natriuresis in Brattleboro rats after hypertonic NaCl administration (Balment et al., 1980; Brimble et al., 1991; Edwards and La Rochelle, 1984; McCann et al., 1997), and OT appears responsible for the sodium excretion observed in this situation (Brimble et al., 1991). However, these hydromineral adjustments are independent of an increase in OT levels in PSC (Dohanics et al., 1992; Elias et al., 2004) and hypox (Dorn et al., 1970; Morris et al., 1976) animals. In other words, the natriuretic responses induced by NaCl solutions can be generated in the absence of AVP, OT, or anterior pituitary hormones. By contrast, no natriuresis or antidiuresis was observed in MEL animal after hypertonic NaCl administration



**Fig.** 6. Water intake (ml) of MEL and sham-operated animals after 24 or 48 h of food deprivation during the initial phase (days 1–2) and stable phase (days 21–22) (data obtained from [Bernal et al.](#page-10-12) (2013).

#### <span id="page-7-0"></span>**Table 2**

Neuroendocrine correlates, behavior, hypertonic NaCl, and treatment effects in animals and humans with CDI.



ANP: atrial natriuretic peptide; AQP2: aquaporin-II channels; AVP: arginine vasopressin; CDI: central diabetes insipidus; HPA: pituitary-adrenocortical; Hypox: hypophysectomy; MEL: median eminence lesion; NDI: nephrogenic diabetes insipidus; Neurohypox: neurohypophysectomy; pACTH plasma adrenocorticotropin; pNa plasma sodium; pOT: plasma oxytocin; pOsm: plasma osmolality; PRO: prolactin; PSC: pituitary stalk compression; PVN: paraventricular nucleus; SON: supraoptic nucleus; Uosm: urine osmolality; Uv: urine volume; UvNa: natriuresis.

([Morris](#page-13-6) et al., 1976). This suggests that MBH lesions may affect neurobiological systems whose damage interrupts the function of hypophyseal and extrahypophyseal factors, significantly reducing renal adjustment after hypertonic NaCl administration (see Antunes-[Rodrigues et al., 2004\)](#page-10-14).

Despite the differences among these animal models of CDI, OT administration appears to exert beneficial hydromineral effects in all of them (Brattleboro, neurohypox, hypox, and MEL animals). However, the potential therapeutic capacity of this neurohormone may de pend on the type of CDI and the neurohormonal tissue affected in each case. Analysis of the synergic effects of OT and AVP in the different tCDI animal models demonstrates that their combined administration reverses renal sodium excretion deficit in neurohypophysectomized animals lacking both AVP and OT ([Balment](#page-10-8) et al., 1986b) but does not completely counteract sodium excretion deficits in hypox animals with neuro- and adeno-hypophyseal hormone deficits ([Balment](#page-10-10) et al., [1986a\)](#page-10-10).

It therefore appears to be well established that CDI-induced abnormalities decisively involve the AVP system in all cases. Nevertheless, the different hydromineral disorders caused cannot be easily explained if only this neurohormonal system is considered. Finally, the use of AVP exclusively can be controversial, because its chronic administration may interrupt axonal regeneration of the hypothalamic-neurohypophyseal tract ([Herman et al., 1987\)](#page-11-14).

## **5. Acquired human CDI: similarities and differences with respect to diverse animal models**

Fluid deprivation and hypertonic NaCl administration tests are habitually used for CDI diagnosis in humans (see Fenske and [Allolio,](#page-11-12) [2012](#page-11-12) for review). CDI is evidenced when the urine concentration fails in response to dehydration (Ball, [2005\)](#page-10-15) and is diagnosed when urine osmolality is <300 mOsm/kg, i.e., lower than plasma osmolality ([Di](#page-11-1) Iorgi et al., 2012; Makaryus and [Mcfarlane,](#page-11-1) 2006). In addition, urine flow is persistent and natriuresis is lower during saline infusion in CDI cases (see Fenske and [Allolio,](#page-11-12) 2012). These biological responses show a greater similarity to those recorded in MEL animals (Antunes-Rodrigues et al.,, 2004; Morris et al., 1976) than in other animal models of CDI **(**see Tables 2 and 3).

In general, the treatment of choice for CDI patients (see Qureshi et al., [2014](#page-13-9) for review) is usually desmopressin (1-deamino-8-d-AVP), a synthetic analog of AVP that is selective for AVPR2 and exerts an even more potent regulatory effect than that of the neurohormone itself (Cheetham and Baylis, 2002; Fjellestad-Paulsen et al., 1993; Greger et al., 1986; Holcomb, 2002; Maghnie et al., 2000; Nemergut et al., 2005; Rembratt et al., 2004; Saborio et al., 2000; Seckl et al., 1987; Sheehan et al., 2006; Singer et al., 1997). However, other substances are also under investigation, including AC-94544 (Del Tredici et al., [2008\)](#page-11-15) and OPC-51803 (Nakamura et al., 2000a), which are agonists with higher selectivity for AVPR2 but not for AVPR1a, AVPR1b, or OT receptors. Their potential usefulness in humans with CDI was suggested by observations of a dose-dependent reduction in urine volume after administration of AC-94544 in Brattleboro rats (see Del [Tredici](#page-11-15) et al., 2008). In the case of OPC-51803, it not only reduced polyuria but also increased urine osmolality and reduced water intake in these rats, and its repeated administration for 4 weeks sustained an antidiuretic action similar to that of chronic treatment with AVP or AVP agonists ([Nakamura et al., 2000b\)](#page-13-11).

Results of research in Brattleboro rats may only be partially applicable to CDI in humans, because most hCDI human mutations involve most of the AVP gene and its regulatory sequences in the intergenic region between AVP and OT genes, which encodes the OT prohormone, affecting its secretion (Christensen et al., 2013). There have been reports of a CDI family with linkage to chromosome 20p13 but without mutations in the AVP-NPII gene (e.g. Ye et al., 2005). Likewise, in contrast to the recessive defect in the Brattleboro rat, the neurotoxicity in human hCDI denigrates the magnocellular neurons and results in dominant inheritance. Moreover, all mutations are missense, nonsense, or deletions in human hCDI, in contrast to the reading frame shifts and preserved neurons observed in Brattleboro rats (Kim and [Schrier, 1998](#page-12-9)).

Magnetic resonance neuroimaging studies have revealed an attenuation of the intensity of the signal emitted by the posterior lobe of the hypophysis in individuals with diverse types of acquired CDI (Czernichow et al., 2000; Fujisawa, 2004; Fujiwara and Bichet, 2005; Maghnie et al., 2000; Saborio et al., 2000). Little research has been published on the contribution of the OT-neurophysin complex to this magnetic resonance signal, but the decreased signal intensity of the

posterior lobe may also be caused by depletion of the neurosecretory vesicles that contain the OT complex ([Fujisawa,](#page-11-11) 2004). Hence, the neuroendocrine correlates of human CDI may involve disorders that may be more similar to those in animals with tCDI than in Brattleboro rats (see Tables 2 and 3).

system is considered Finally the use of may be more similar to those in animals with CDI has in Bettisburge and the more system is considered from the system in the system is the considered from the system in the system i Various studies have reported the regulatory benefits of OT administration, although the natriuretic capacity of this neurohormone in humans (Andersen et al., 1998; Kostoglou-Athanassiou et al., 1994) has been questioned (Rasmussen et al., 2003; Williams et al., 1986). [Rasmussen](#page-13-12) et al. (2004) subsequently confirmed that, although the excretion of body sodium is not greater in OT- versus vehicle-treated humans, this neurohormone reduces the volume of urine excretion, thereby increasing urinary osmolality and decreasing plasma sodium concentration. Accordingly, OT may be useful to counteract at least some of the symptoms of CDI due both to its antidiuretic action ([Sasaki,](#page-13-13) 2008) and to its hyponatremic effect (Adrogué and Madias, [2000\)](#page-10-17).

Joo et al. [\(2004\)](#page-11-13) compared the effects of OT and desmopressin administration in CDI patients. Both treatments appear to have positive effects on urine flow reduction, serum sodium concentration, and osmolality and to increase urine osmolality and urinary AQP2 excretion without altering the urinary excretion rate of electrolytes or osmolar excretion. Four decades before Vigneaud chemically synthesized OT (du Vigneaud et al., 1953), CDI patients were treated with Pituitrin, an extract of bovine posterior pituitary hormones that contains OT and AVP (see Qureshi et al., 2014). Some authors have reported that the administration of minute amounts of Pituitrin appears to control and produce a superior fluid status with minimal adverse reactions (e.g. Holcomb 2002).

The therapeutic effects of food deprivation or low-sodium diets may also be potentially useful in CDI patients, given the above-reported findings in all animal models. In fact, low-sodium diets are frequently prescribed for patients with AVP- resistant CDI ([Makaryus](#page-13-8) and McFarlane, 2007; Rivkees et al., 2007) and could be ordered for CDI patients in combination with their habitual pharmacological treatments.

Furthermore, among other possible preventive measures against CDI, Rajaratnam et al. (2003) observed that a decrease in the perioperative dose of hydrocortisone (a synthetic cortisol used for steroid cover in surgery) reduces by nearly 50% the incidence of tCDI after pituitary resection. This effect has been related to the capacity of this synthetic cortisol to inhibit AVP release ([Aubry et al., 1965](#page-10-18)).

## **6. Other neurobiological systems differentially involved in animal and humans CDI syndromes**

The main objective of this review was to examine evidence on the hydromineral regulatory capacities that are preserved in animals and humans with CDI and the neurohormonal mechanisms involved. We highlight the role of OT, although this neurohormone is not the only endocrine agent with potential relevance in CDI.

Other substances co-localized with AVP or OT in magnocellular neurons have been involved in hydromineral regulation (see Bundzikova et al., 2008 for a review). Thus, there have been diverse reports on the involvement of ANP, co-localized with OT, in natriuretic processes, especially after isotonic volume expansion ([Chriguer](#page-10-20) et al., 2001; Jirikowski et al., 1986). In addition, ANP appears necessary to stimulate OT release in hyperosmolality conditions ([Chriguer](#page-10-20) et al., 2001). After its release, OT may act by stimulating the release of ANP in right atrium and natriuresis [\(Haanwinckel](#page-11-0) et al., 1995). ANP secretion is inhibited in MEL animals [\(Antunes-Rodrigues](#page-10-13) et al., [1991\)](#page-10-13) and humans with CDI (Kamoi et al., 1990; Elias et al., 1997), but not in Brattleboro rats (Laulin and [Brudieux,](#page-12-2) [1990\)](#page-12-2) ([Table](#page-7-0) 2). This is another instance of the differences between humans with CDI and Brattleboro rats and the greater similarity of the former with tCDI animals (e.g., MEL rats) ([Table 3](#page-9-0)**)**.

Besides the aforementioned neurohypophyseal deficits, animals and humans with CDI often show abnormalities that affect the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenocortical (HPA) axis. In Brattleboro rats, resting adrenocorticotropin (ACTH) plasma levels is normal but the HPA response is reduced ([Zelena](#page-15-0) et al., 2009). Baseline ACTH levels are also normal in humans with CD [\(Elias](#page-11-17) et al., 1997), but their HPA response is enhanced (Mazza et al., 1994; Elias et al., 1997). In contrast, elevated baseline ACTH levels and HPA axis upregulation are observed in PSC animals [\(Elias](#page-11-7) et al., 2004). Finally, both basal plasma ACTH levels and HPA axis regulation are normal in MBH-lesioned animals ([Makara](#page-12-8) et al., 2001). Hence, each of these four types of CDI has specific features in relation to the HPA axis **(**see Tables 2 and 3).

In summary, the symptoms and characteristics of animals with tCDI indicate the involvement of differential factors alongside the habitual lack of AVP, which appear to be related to the neurobiological systems affected in each case. Nevertheless, the results reviewed in this paper suggest that all types of CDI may benefit from the administration of OT and perhaps from the combination of low doses of AVP and OT.

#### <span id="page-9-0"></span>**Table 3**

Main differences among CDI models in animals and humans (see Table 2 for details).

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↑ high; ↓ low; = normal; ANP: atrial natriuretic peptide; CDI: central diabetes insipidus; HPA: hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenocortical; Hypox: hypophysectomy; MEL: median eminence lesion; Neurohypox: neurohypophysectomy; pACTH: plasma corticotrophin; pOT: plasma Oxytocin; UvNa: natriuresis.

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