



Gap junction-mediated intercellular communication in the adrenal medulla: An additional ingredient of stimulus-secretion coupling regulation

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Résumé en anglais	<p>The traditional understanding of stimulus-secretion coupling in adrenal neuroendocrine chromaffin cells states that catecholamines are released upon trans-synaptic sympathetic stimulation mediated by acetylcholine released from the splanchnic nerve terminals. Although this statement remains largely true, it deserves to be tempered. In addition to its neurogenic control, catecholamine secretion also depends on a local gap junction-mediated communication between chromaffin cells. We review here the insights gained since the first description of gap junctions in the adrenal medullary tissue. Adrenal stimulus-secretion coupling now appears far more intricate than was previously envisioned and its deciphering represents a challenge for neurobiologists engaged in the study of the regulation of neuroendocrine secretion. This article is part of a Special Issue entitled: The Communicating junctions, composition, structure and characteristics.</p>
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