

催产素调节焦虑症的认知与神经生理机制*

张悦彤 赵恒越 姜雨朦 冯攀**

(西南大学心理学部, 重庆, 400715)

摘要 焦虑症又称焦虑性神经症, 其特征为反复发作的焦虑情绪, 是最常见的精神障碍之一, 与脑内神经递质的改变等因素密切相关。催产素能够通过作用于下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴, 影响个体社交行为, 增加个体镇静水平; 通过作用于血清素系统, 减少社交焦虑与回避行为; 通过作用于 GABA 能系统抑制中枢神经传导, 降低杏仁核激活从而调节恐惧反应, 减轻焦虑症状。此外, 催产素能够增强心理治疗的疗效, 并能与多种药物联用以发挥协同增效作用。未来研究应确定催产素治疗焦虑症的最佳剂量频率以及起效时间窗口期, 进一步优化临床干预流程。同时, 未来研究应针对焦虑症不同亚型提出个性化、精准化、长效化的催产素干预方案。

关键词 焦虑症 催产素 认知神经机制 生理机制

1 引言

焦虑症, 又称焦虑性神经症 (anxiety disorders, AD), 是神经症中最常见的类型之一, 其特征为焦虑情绪的反复发作, 包括突然感到的强烈焦虑、恐惧或害怕, 这些情绪可能在几分钟内达到顶峰, 即惊恐发作 (Penninx et al., 2021)。根据 DSM-5 的分类, 焦虑症包括多种类型, 如特定恐惧症 (specific phobia, SP)、社交焦虑症 (social anxiety disorder, SAD)、惊恐障碍 (panic disorder, PD)、广场恐惧症 (agora phobia, AP)、广泛性焦虑症 (generalized anxiety disorder, GAD)、分离焦虑症以及选择性缄默症 (Bandelow & Michaelis, 2015)。焦虑症的全球患病率为 7.3%, 而终生患病率高达 33.7%, 是常见的精神障碍之一 (Chen et al., 2021)。近年来, 随着社会压力的增加, 焦虑症的患病率急剧上升。焦虑症通常发病较早, 起始于儿童期和青春期, 并可能持续至成年期 (Kessler et al., 2005)。焦虑症患者常伴有多种症状, 包括头晕、胸闷、心悸、呼吸困难、口干、尿频、尿急、出汗、震颤和运动性不安等。长期处于焦虑状态的患者往往会体验到过度的负性情绪。这不仅严重损害了患者的身体免疫力, 削弱

了其生活适应能力, 还极大地影响了社会功能和生活质量 (Craske et al., 2011)。

催产素 (oxytocin) 是一种在大脑中发挥神经递质作用的神经肽。它主要在下丘脑的室旁核 (paraventricular nucleus, PVN) 和视上核中产生, 并通过轴突运输到脑下垂体后叶, 然后通过毛细血管进入全身血液循环系统。催产素最初因其在分娩和母乳喂养中的生理作用而受到关注。近年来, 研究开始聚集于其在大脑的不同区域的神经调节作用, 如杏仁核、海马、腹内侧前额叶皮质和前扣带回 (Froemke & Young, 2021; Pittman et al., 1981; Swaab et al., 2005)。这些区域接收催产素神经元的投射, 参与调节情绪识别、同理心、信任、亲子互动、依恋、压力和认知等功能 (Guastella et al., 2009; Montag et al., 2020; Plasencia et al., 2019; Scatliffe et al., 2019; Szymanska et al., 2017; Ueda et al., 1994)。此外, 催产素通过作用于下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴 (hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, HPA axis)、血清素系统以及 GABA 能系统 (gamma-aminobutyric acid, GABA) 发挥抗焦虑和抗抑郁的作用, 并能提升社会认知功能 (Preckel et al., 2014)。此外, 催产素还能增强患者对心理治疗师的依恋和信任, 这可

* 本研究得到国家自然科学基金项目 (32371093)、重庆市自然科学基金项目 (CSTB2024NSCQ-MSX0523) 和中央高校基本科研业务费专项资金项目 (SWU2209238) 的资助。

** 通讯作者: 冯攀, E-mail: psychfp@163.com

DOI:10.16719/j.cnki.1671-6981.20260220

能有助于克服心理治疗中的障碍 (Hurlmann et al., 2016)。

近年来,已有大量研究证实了催产素在焦虑症治疗中的作用,本综述旨在综合认知神经机制和生理机制,以催产素调节焦虑症的核心作用机制为主线,系统分析并总结其关键治疗信息。首先,从认知、神经生物学、环境与社会心理等因素探讨了焦虑症的发病机理;其次,结合动物与人类研究,从认知、神经以及生理角度系统总结并分析了催产素影响焦虑症的作用机制,并构建了一个综合框架(如图2);再次,将催产素的机制研究与临床治疗策略相结合,深入探讨了催产素在焦虑症临床治疗中的应用。最后,对催产素在治疗焦虑症中的未来研究方向进行了展望,包括确定最佳剂量、给药频率以及与其他治疗方式的协同效应等。试图在优化治疗方案、探索催产素与心理治疗和药物治疗的联合应用以及开发个性化治疗计划等方面发挥作用,从而为焦虑症的精准治疗提供新视角。

2 焦虑症的发病机理

在深入探讨催产素的抗焦虑作用之前,全面了解焦虑症的发病机制至关重要。流行病学研究表明,焦虑症患者倾向于以悲观的方式解释负面事件,这种认知模式容易导致消极情绪和焦虑体验,且焦虑感和恐慌感与实际危险程度毫不匹配,持续时间较长,难以控制,严重干扰患者日常生活。焦虑症还会损害患者的社会功能,患者在社会认知以及情绪处理等方面的表现显著低于健康个体 (Javaid et al., 2023; Rutter et al., 2019)。焦虑症的复杂性源于其多因素的发病机制,基于前人的多项研究,我们归纳

并总结了焦虑症的发病机理,系统揭示了遗传、神经生物学、环境与社会心理因素之间的关联及其对焦虑症状的影响路径,具体见图1。

2.1 神经生物学因素

焦虑症与脑内神经递质的变化,尤其是单胺类神经递质,如5-羟色胺、多巴胺、去甲肾上腺素 (norepinephrine, NE) 等的浓度异常紧密相关,这些异常直接关联焦虑情绪的产生 (韩玲娜等, 2016; Ren et al., 2016)。5-羟色胺在海马、边缘系统、中缝核、伏隔核等与情绪调节密切相关的脑区中发挥作用 (Kumar et al., 2016)。多巴胺 (dopamine, DA) 在情绪调节和认知方面扮演着重要角色,特别是杏仁核区域。去甲肾上腺素 (NE) 主要产生于脑干,并进一步投射到杏仁核、海马、额叶皮质等参与情绪调节的脑区,通过刺激去甲肾上腺素的释放,产生明显的焦虑和恐惧症状 (Lapierre, 1996)。此外, GABA 能系统作为中枢神经系统中的抑制性神经递质系统,对维持情绪稳定和减少焦虑至关重要, γ -氨基丁酸 (GABA) 作为中枢神经系统中的抑制性神经递质,发挥着镇静、抗焦虑及抗惊厥的作用 (Ding et al., 2019; Prévot & Sibille, 2021)。

焦虑症患者的神经活动异常主要涉及边缘系统、前额叶皮质及其之间的功能连接,这些脑区在情绪的产生和调节中扮演着关键角色。在边缘系统中,杏仁核的过度激活是焦虑症的一个显著特征,这导致患者对外界刺激过于敏感,容易产生过度的警惕和恐惧感 (Stein et al., 2002)。海马在情绪调节和记忆形成中扮演着重要角色,焦虑症患者海马的结构和功能异常可能削弱情绪调节和压力应对的能力 (Chen & Etkin, 2013)。焦虑症患者的前扣带回过

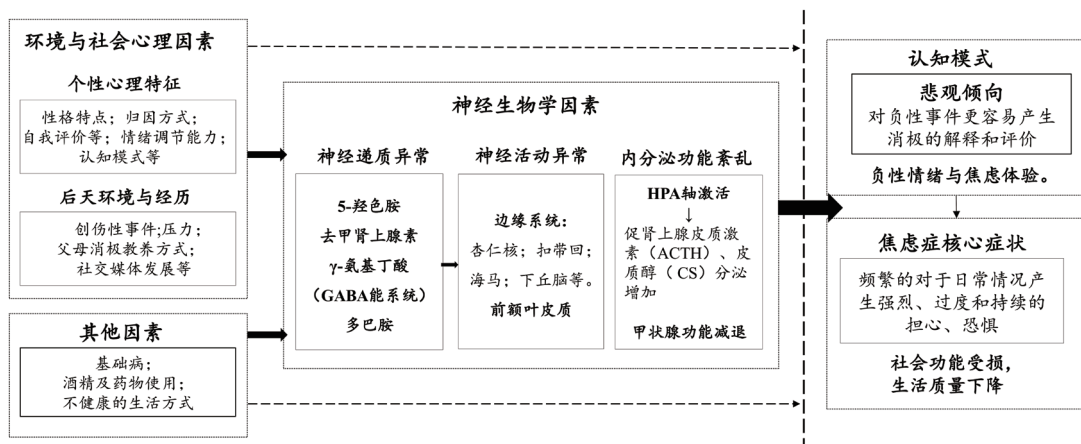


图1 焦虑症的发病机理

度激活，这种激活状态与情绪调节密切相关（Phan et al., 2005; Simmons et al., 2008）。前额叶皮质在认知控制、情绪调节和决策中发挥着核心作用。焦虑症患者前额叶皮质的活动水平较低，导致其认知控制能力下降（Mochcovitch et al., 2014）。在功能连接方面，腹内侧前额叶皮质（ventromedial prefrontal cortex, vmPFC）对杏仁核有自上而下的调节作用，有助于抑制过度的焦虑反应。然而，在焦虑症患者中，这种抑制作用可能减弱，从而导致杏仁核的过度激活（Guyer et al., 2008）。在边缘系统内部连接中，杏仁核与海马之间的功能连接在焦虑情绪的产生中扮演着关键角色，其异常功能连接可能会显著加剧焦虑症状（Voncken et al., 2021）。

同时，内分泌功能紊乱与焦虑症之间存在密切联系。下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴负责调节身体对压力的反应。当HPA轴被激活时，会促进促肾上腺皮质激素（adrenocorticotrophic hormone, ACTH）和皮质醇（cortisol, CS）分泌。焦虑症患者的ACTH血浆水平通常显著高于健康人群。HPA轴的过度激活可能导致垂体和肾上腺体积增大以及脑脊液中促肾上腺皮质激素释放因子（corticotropin-releasing hormone, CRH）浓度升高（Musselman & Nemeroff, 1996）。此外，甲状腺功能减退也与焦虑症状有关，这进一步强调了内分泌系统在焦虑症发病机制中的重要性（Bathla et al., 2016）。

2.2 环境、社会心理及其他因素

焦虑症的发病机制是多方面的，包括环境、社会心理、生活方式等其他相关因素。尽管这些因素本综述中不作为主要讨论点，但它们对于焦虑症的复杂成因同样重要。具体来说，个性心理特征，包括性格特点、归因方式、自我评价以及情绪调节能力和认知模式，都会影响个体患焦虑症的风险（Cisler et al., 2012）。此外，后天环境和经历，包括创伤性事件、疾病压力、日常生活中的压力积累以及父母消极教养方式等，也可能增加焦虑症患病风险（Liu, 2017; Struijs et al., 2021）。社会环境的复杂性，尤其是社交媒体的快速发展，也增加了焦虑风险因素（O' Day & Heimberg, 2021）。

此外，不健康的生活方式（如不良饮食习惯、缺乏运动、睡眠周期紊乱）可能通过干扰大脑的化学平衡，提升焦虑症发生风险（Bonnet et al., 2005）。潜在的身体基础疾病，例如心脏病、糖尿病、甲状腺功能亢进症、呼吸系统疾病、药物滥用及戒

断等，也与焦虑症的风险相关。据统计，部分心脏病患者伴有焦虑症（DiMartini et al., 1996; Huang et al., 2021）。

3 催产素调节焦虑症的认知及神经内分泌机制

焦虑症的复杂病理机制为催产素的潜在治疗作用提供了多样化的靶点。催产素作为一种神经肽，通过调节社交行为、信任、亲子互动及应对压力方面的功能，展现出作为焦虑症治疗药物的潜力。催产素通过作用于大脑中的特定受体，能够调节与焦虑相关的神经回路，减少应激反应，并改善社会认知功能。此外，催产素还能够调节神经递质系统，包括血清素和GABA系统，这些系统在焦虑症的发病机制中起着核心作用。近年来，催产素的抗焦虑作用被广泛研究，研究表明，外源性鼻喷给药可以减轻焦虑和抑郁症状（Preckel et al., 2014）。与传统抗焦虑药物相比，催产素在焦虑症患者的临床中表现出更低的副作用风险及药物依赖性。综合前人多项研究，我们分别从认知、神经和生理三个层面展开，对催产素影响焦虑症的作用机制进行了系统的归纳总结，具体见图2。

3.1 催产素调节焦虑症的认知机制

焦虑症症状主要表现为焦虑情绪的周期性发作，而催产素已被证实具有抗焦虑作用（Lee et al., 2020）。无论是在动物实验、健康人群研究，还是针对患者的研究中，催产素的抗焦虑作用都得到了证实（Guzmán et al., 2013; Knobloch et al., 2012; Neumann & Landgraf, 2012）。催产素在恐惧记忆的习得与消退以及对恐惧面孔的识别中，其作用表现得尤为明显。研究表明，催产素能够抑制恐惧的习得与表达，促进恐惧记忆的消退，减少个体对过去威胁性事件的持续性焦虑（冯攀等, 2022; 冯攀等, 2024; Zoicas et al., 2014）。此外，催产素能够调节个体对恐惧面孔的情绪反应，降低恐惧习得后的情绪评估指数（Kirsch et al., 2005）。具体而言，催产素提升了个体对眼睛等社会情感线索的关注度，进而影响了对恐惧面孔整体的认知处理（Petrovic et al., 2008）。

焦虑症患者常常面临社会认知方面的挑战，特别是在社交焦虑症中，这种障碍与个体在社会互动中的认知和情绪处理能力缺陷密切相关。社交焦虑症患者对社交情境往往会感到明显的恐惧或焦虑，

担心受到他人的负面评价,而这种担忧进一步加剧了他们的社会认知问题(沈忠福等, 2012; Barnett et al., 2021)。社会认知被定义为“对社交环境中信息的处理过程,涉及感知、解释和产生对他人的意图、倾向和行为的反应”(Frith, 2008),涵盖社会感知、情绪处理、心理理论和归因风格四个核心领域(Pinkham et al., 2014)。催产素给药能够显著提升患者的社会认知能力,尤其是在信息加工的早期阶段。这种改善可能与催产素增强社会情感线索的显著性有关,促使患者更多地将注意力集中于情感刺激,进而优化社交互动(Ellenbogen, 2018)。例如,催产素的单次给药能够改善患者在特定社交任务中的表现,尽管这种改善具有情境依赖性且患者可能未察觉到这种变化(Voncken et al., 2021)。此外,长期催产素给药也显示出积极效果,如减少老年女性在成年关系中的依恋回避行为,这表明催产素不仅能够改善急性症状,还可能对长期的社交和情感健康产生积极影响(Wright et al., 2023)。

3.2 催产素调节焦虑症治疗的神经机制

催产素通过与其在大脑中的受体结合发挥关键作用,显著影响个体的情绪调节和焦虑行为(李玉洁等, 2022)。在大脑边缘系统中,杏仁核是情绪加工的核心区域,其过度激活是焦虑症的显著特征之一。催产素通过降低杏仁核和背侧前扣带回的活动水平,降低了恐惧习得过程中的情绪评估指数,有效抑制了恐惧的习得和表达(Cavalli et al., 2017; Petrovic et al., 2008)。例如,在患有广泛社交焦虑障碍(generalized social anxiety disorder, GSAD)患者中,研究发现了催产素能够调节他们面对恐惧、愤怒和快乐面孔时的杏仁核活动。具体来说,与健康对照组相比,GSAD患者在接受了催产素治疗后,其在面对恐惧面孔时杏仁核的激活程度显著降低(Gorka et al., 2015)。催产素的这种调节作用与个体的特质焦虑水平有关。在高焦虑特质的个体中,催产素可能通过降低杏仁核活动来促进情绪调节;而在低焦虑特质的个体中,催产素可能对情绪加工的调节作用较弱(Kou et al., 2022)。除杏仁核外,催产素还能够显著影响边缘系统其他关键脑区,包括扣带回和海马,这些区域在情绪调节、记忆形成以及社交行为中扮演着重要角色。催产素通过激活扣带回,有助于情绪调节、威胁评估和注意力控制,进一步减轻焦虑感,提高个体在应对压力的能力(Li et al., 2021)。此外,催产素还能增强海马活

动,促进神经元的生长和突触可塑性,有助于空间记忆和情感记忆的形成,进一步促进个体的社交行为(Zagrean et al., 2022)。

在前额叶皮质中,催产素通过激活 γ -氨基丁酸能神经元来发挥抗焦虑作用,特别是在内侧前额叶皮质和前扣带皮质,这些区域与情绪调节和社会行为密切相关。研究表明,催产素通过增强前额叶皮质的活动,提升个体的认知控制能力,并改善患者对恐惧条件反射的抑制能力(Lueken et al., 2013)。例如,面对社交压力时,催产素能够显著增强前额叶皮质的激活水平,从而提升个体的情绪调节能力(Heinrichs et al., 2003)。此外,催产素不仅与前额叶皮质共同参与社会行为的调节,促进社会接近行为,还能够增强个体在社交互动中的正向情感反应(Macdonald & Macdonald, 2010)。功能连接分析显示,焦虑症患者的前额叶皮质与杏仁核之间的功能连接往往过于活跃。催产素通过增强这些区域之间的功能连接,提高个体对情绪刺激的认知控制能力(Di Simplicio et al., 2009)。

3.3 催产素调节焦虑症的神经内分泌机制

3.3.1 HPA轴

HPA轴,即下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴(hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis)是人体内分泌系统中的关键组成部分,在应激反应和情绪调节中发挥着至关重要的作用。在面临压力和焦虑等情绪刺激时,HPA轴的激活会导致肾上腺皮质激素的释放,如糖皮质激素,从而帮助身体应对压力。这一过程由促肾上腺皮质激素释放因子(corticotropin-releasing hormone, CRH)、促肾上腺皮质激素(adrenocorticotrophic hormone, ACTH)和皮质类固醇共同介导(Goldstein & Kopin, 2007; Selye, 1950)。

催产素对HPA轴的调节作用之一是通过增强负反馈机制,减少CRH的释放以及HPA轴的激活。这种调节作用有助于维持皮质醇水平的稳定,减少长期应激反应。此外,催产素还通过调控GABA释放以及抑制CRH基因转录的共激活因子CRHC3来抑制CRH的表达(Jurek et al., 2015)。例如,在动物研究中,通过脑室内注射催产素,观察到剂量依赖性降低焦虑行为及HPA轴对急性应激的反应,包括减少下丘脑CRH的表达(Lightman et al., 2001)。

催产素对HPA轴在急性应激和慢性应激状态下

的不同影响也值得关注。在急性应激时，催产素的释放增加，有助于快速响应压力变化。而在慢性应激状态下，催产素可能通过长期的调节作用，减少HPA轴的过度激活，从而减轻慢性应激对机体的损害（Neumann et al., 2000; Windle et al., 2004）。此外，催产素还可以与社会支持共同作用，有助于降低应激时的唾液皮质醇水平，提高镇静度并减少焦虑，这表明辅助催产素治疗可能比单独使用社会支持更有效（Heinrichs et al., 2003; Janeček & Dabrowska, 2019）。

3.3.2 血清素系统

血清素系统（5-羟色胺系统），作为调节情感和焦虑的关键神经递质系统，在焦虑症的治疗中占据核心地位。催产素通过促进大鼠脑内5-羟色胺的释放，发挥其抗焦虑作用。催产素与下丘脑受体结合，能够刺激脑下垂体释放催产素和血清素，进而影响神经系统和行为，缓解焦虑症状。研究表明，催产素通过刺激血清素的释放，调节情绪状态并发挥抗焦虑作用。催产素和血清素共享受体，并相互作用以调节情绪和行为反应，在焦虑和抑郁等情绪障碍中扮演重要角色（Yoon & Kim, 2020）。此外，催产素能调节5-羟色胺受体信号，影响焦虑反应。研究人员发现，催产素可以增强5-羟色胺受体信号通路的活性，提高5-羟色胺受体的磷酸化水平，减少焦虑行为。同时，催产素还能抑制5-羟色胺转运体的功能，减少5-羟色胺的再摄取，从而增强5-羟色胺受体的信号（Uvnäs-Moberg et al., 1999）。

在焦虑症治疗中，已发现选择性5-HT再摄取抑制剂（SSRIs）和去甲肾上腺素抑制剂具有显著效果（Boccia et al., 2013）。催产素与这些药物的联合使用可能增强5-羟色胺信号传导，从而为患者带来更快的疗效和更少的副作用（Dölen et al., 2013）。

3.3.3 GABA能系统

γ -氨基丁酸（gamma-aminobutyric acid, GABA）能系统是中枢神经系统中的关键抑制性神经递质系统，对于维持神经兴奋与抑制的平衡至关重要。这一系统在调节情感和焦虑方面发挥着核心作用。催产素对GABA能神经元的影响为情绪调节提供了新的视角，尤其是在焦虑症的治疗中（Huber et al., 2005）。

催产素可增强中央杏仁核内的GABA能传递，这一作用与GABA能活性增加以及杏仁核激活的改变密切相关（Sabihi et al., 2017）。此外，催产素

受体通过作用于GABA能中间神经元，提升皮质GABA水平（Lonstein et al., 2014）。在杏仁核和下丘脑室旁核（PVN）中，催产素的外源性给药与抗焦虑效果相关联（Sabihi et al., 2021）。催产素通过抑制GABA的再摄取，增加了突触间隙中GABA的浓度，从而加强了其抑制性作用。在焦虑样行为中，催产素对GABA系统的调节作用尤为关键。

尽管催产素通过作用于GABA能系统为焦虑症治疗提供了新的思路，但其具体机制和作用方式仍需要进一步的研究和探讨。此外，为了确保临床应用的安全性和有效性，未来的研究需要进行充分的临床试验和安全性评估。

综上所述，先前研究通过外源性催产素给药，探索了其对改善患者情绪识别障碍、焦虑等症状的效果。催产素通过作用于下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴（HPA轴），减少应激激素的释放，提高个体的镇静水平，降低应激反应；通过作用于血清素系统，促进血清素释放，抑制杏仁核活动，发挥抗焦虑作用，同时减少社交焦虑以及适应不良的回避行为。此外，有研究发现催产素可以通过影响GABA能系统，抑制中枢神经传导，调节个体的恐惧反应，进一步改善情绪调节能力。在神经活动方面，焦虑症患者的异常神经活动主要涉及边缘系统、前额叶皮质及其之间的功能连接，这些区域对情绪产生和调节至关重要。催产素通过降低杏仁核的活动水平，降低恐惧习得过程中的情绪评估指数，有效抑制了恐惧的习得和表达，通过增强海马活动，促进神经元的生长和可塑性，改善空间记忆和情感记忆的形成，进一步促进个体的社交行为。前额叶皮质在认知控制、情绪调节和决策制定中发挥着核心作用，催产素通过增强前额叶皮质的活动，提高认知控制能力，进而改善患者对恐惧条件反射的抑制能力。基于上述作用机制，催产素被发现通过抗焦虑、增强依恋信任及减少回避行为的多重作用，增强患者对心理治疗过程的参与，促进焦虑症的心理治疗（如图2）。

4 催产素在焦虑症临床治疗中的应用

4.1 催产素剂量与给药频率效应

作为潜在的抗焦虑治疗剂，催产素的剂量和给药频率是影响其疗效的重要因素。研究表明，催产素起效快，鼻内给药后能在短时间内观察到其效果。具体来说，24国际单位（IU）催产素的药效在给药后的45至70分钟内达到峰值，这一发现为临

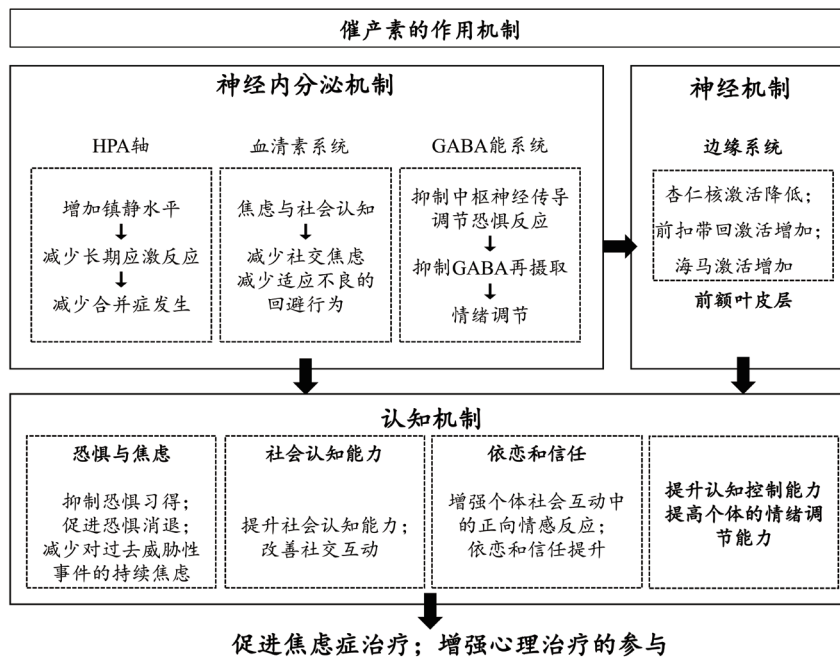


图2 催产素影响焦虑症的作用机制

床应用提供了重要的时间窗口 (Alvares et al., 2012; Spengler et al., 2017)。

在单剂量给药研究中, 尽管存在一定的疗效, 但结果并不一致。一些研究指出, 单剂量鼻喷催产素能够减弱杏仁核对威胁刺激的反应, 而其他研究则发现催产素可能增加了杏仁核对恐惧面孔的反应性 (Liu et al., 2015; Xin et al., 2020)。此外, 一些研究表明单次给药可能增加杏仁核活动, 提高患者对外界的敏感性, 可能加剧焦虑水平 (Mizzi et al., 2022)。这些发现表明催产素的抗焦虑作用可能存在复杂的剂量 - 反应关系。

慢性给药研究表明, 与单次给药相比, 长期给药策略可能更为有效, 特别是在降低杏仁核对面刺激的反应方面。例如, 在广泛性焦虑症 (GAD) 患者中, 连续三周每天给予催产素能够显著改善焦虑症状 (Myers et al., 2014)。长期给药的策略在治疗其他精神疾病, 如创伤后应激障碍 (PTSD) 和抑郁症中也显示出潜在疗效 (Thornton et al., 2021)。因此, 催产素的给药频率和剂量需要精确调整以达到最佳治疗效果。此外, 有研究证实, 间隔给药策略在某些情况下可能优于连续给药, 这表明给药模式也可能影响催产素疗效 (Kou et al., 2022)。

4.2 催产素与心理治疗的增效作用

催产素作为一种有潜力的辅助治疗剂, 在焦虑

症心理治疗中展现出独特的协同效应。心理治疗的效果受到患者依从性、与治疗师的关系等多种因素影响, 而这些因素导致只有约 50% 的焦虑症患者的症状得到显著改善, 且治疗后的复发率约为 14% (Levy et al., 2021; Morina et al., 2023)。催产素在心理治疗中的作用不仅促进治疗联盟的形成, 还包括作为个体适应社会环境的重要物质, 改善信念更新与共情能力, 尤其在社会适应不良的个体中更为显著 (岳童等, 2018)。

催产素能促进患者与治疗师之间的信任和情感联系, 提高依从性和治疗效果, 成为提高心理治疗成功率的关键因素 (王天宇等, 2020; Zilcha-Mano et al., 2020)。例如, 在团体治疗给药中, 冰毒成瘾患者的心理治疗参与度提升, 对于冰毒的渴望减少 (Stauffer et al., 2020)。此外, 催产素的应用增强了治疗效果, 特别是在社交焦虑症的治疗中, 减少了患者的回避行为, 提高社会适应能力, 显示出其可行性、安全性和初步疗效 (Bajbouj et al., 2022)。

认知行为疗法 (CBT) 是焦虑症治疗中最常用的心理治疗方法, 其核心成分包括暴露疗法、认知重构和应对策略 (Springer et al., 2018)。催产素调节大脑中与情绪处理和认知控制相关的区域, 如前扣带回皮质和额叶边缘的功能连接性, 这有助于改善患者的感知和情绪反应 (Morina et al., 2023)。它通过影响焦虑症个体神经元兴奋性和突触传递, 调

节杏仁核和前额叶皮质等与认知控制相关的脑区，提升个体的认知控制能力。催产素通过作用于 HPA 轴增加镇静、减少应激期间的焦虑水平，并通过作用于血清素系统减少个体回避行为，增强 CBT 效果（Ulrike Lueken et al., 2013）。催产素与心理动力学疗法、焦点解决短期疗法等结合，也显示出不同的增效作用（Clarici et al., 2015; Milrod et al., 2016）。

4.3 催产素与其他药物联用的增效潜力

研究揭示了催产素与其他药物联合治疗在焦虑症治疗中所具有的潜力。首先，催产素与选择性 5-羟色胺再摄取抑制剂（SSRIs）的联合使用，通过增强 5-羟色胺信号传导，对情绪和行为产生影响，可能为患者带来更快速的疗效和更少的副作用。临床研究证据表明，这种联合用药在改善焦虑症状方面效果显著，在社交焦虑症患者中，与单独使用 SSRIs 相比，联合使用催产素和 SSRIs 能更快地起效并提供更好的疗效（Uvnäs-Moberg et al., 1999）。此外，对于 SSRIs 反应不佳的患者，催产素的辅助治疗可能有助于改善症状，尽管这一点仍需更多的随机对照试验来进一步验证。

其次，催产素与其他非典型抗焦虑药物的联合使用也是一个值得探索的领域。例如，催产素与亚甲二氧基甲基苯丙胺（3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine, MDMA）的联合给药提升了大鼠的亲社会行为（Ramos et al., 2013）。未来研究应关注催产素与其他药物的联合使用，如苯二氮卓类药物，这类常用于抗焦虑的药物通过增强 GABA 受体的活动来产生镇静效果。由于催产素对 GABA 能系统的影响，它可能与苯二氮卓类药物产生协同作用，从而增强抗焦虑效果。未来的研究可以进一步探索这种联合用药的疗效和安全性。

5 研究展望

焦虑症作为一种高发病率疾病，其症状严重影响患者的日常生活。催产素因其在抗焦虑方面的潜力而受到广泛关注。作为一种潜在的治疗辅助药物，催产素能够影响 HPA 轴、血清素系统和 GABA 能系统，并可能通过抑制杏仁核活动和增强前额叶皮质活动来发挥镇静和减少焦虑恐惧的作用。尽管催产素与焦虑的关系已被广泛研究，但目前的研究结果并不完全一致，且不同结果背后的原因尚未被深入探究。因此，催产素在临床应用中的具体应用还亟待考察，未来研究应着重

考虑以下几个方面：

首先，确定催产素在临床治疗焦虑症中的最佳剂量和起效时间窗口至关重要。应通过随机对照试验（RCTs）评估不同剂量和频率的催产素治疗对焦虑症患者的疗效差异，并探索从低剂量开始逐渐增加剂量的策略以及连续给药与间歇给药的效果差异。同时，需要关注治疗的起效时间窗口，即催产素在治疗过程中发挥作用的最佳时机，并根据患者的反应调整治疗方案。

其次，深入研究催产素与其他药物或心理治疗的协同作用。未来的研究可以评估催产素在认知行为疗法（cognitive behavioral therapy, CBT）中的辅助作用，并优化治疗组合以提高患者的依从性和治疗效果。此外，探索催产素与选择性 5-羟色胺再摄取抑制剂（SSRIs）、苯二氮卓类药物或其他新兴抗焦虑药物的联合使用效果，实现更精准和有效的临床干预。

再次，应该进一步探讨催产素作用于焦虑症核心症状的神经基础和认知神经机制。催产素影响焦虑症的神经机制复杂多样，未来的研究需要利用神经影像学技术和电生理学方法进一步揭示催产素在大脑中的确切作用路径。研究可以关注催产素如何调节大脑中与焦虑相关的神经网络，如杏仁核、前额叶皮质和海马的活动；催产素如何影响神经递质系统的平衡以及这些变化如何转化为焦虑症状的改善。

最后，未来研究可以开展催产素影响不同亚型焦虑症的研究，并考虑个体差异以开发个性化治疗策略。在社交焦虑症（SAD）患者中，催产素给药已被证明可以减少回避行为并提高社会适应能力。然而，在广泛性焦虑症（GAD）或惊恐障碍（PD）患者中，催产素的效果可能有所不同，这可能与这些亚型独特的病理生理机制有关。目前，尽管针对社交焦虑症和分离焦虑的研究已取得一定进展，但其他焦虑症亚型尚未被充分研究，因此无法制定全面的个性化治疗方案。未来的研究需要探讨催产素对不同类型焦虑症患者的治疗效果是否存在差异，并考虑个体遗传背景、性别、年龄和生理状态等因素的影响。可以利用基因组学和蛋白质组学的方法来识别影响催产素反应的生物标志物，并通过亚组分析确定不同患者群体对催产素治疗的反应差异，以便制定个性化治疗方案（Myers et al., 2014）。

参考文献

- 冯攀, 杨可, 冯廷勇. (2022). 催产素影响恐惧习得和消退的认知神经机制. *心理科学进展*, 30(2), 365–374.
- 冯攀, 赵恒越, 姜雨朦, 张悦彤, 冯廷勇. (2024). 催产素影响条件化恐惧情绪的认知机制及神经基础. *心理科学进展*, 32(4), 557–567.
- 韩玲娜, 王春雷, 张莉. (2016). 外侧缰核中 5-HT(2C) 受体在帕金森病模型大鼠焦虑行为中的调节作用及其机制. *吉林大学学报: 医学版*, 42(3), 473–480.
- 李雨洁, 叶冰露, 杜唯佳, 刘志强. (2022). 催产素调控焦虑情绪及其行为的神经生物学机制研究进展. *同济大学学报 (医学版)*, 43(6), 889–894.
- 沈忠福, 贾蕊. (2012). 催产素在社交焦虑症中的治疗作用. *现代生物医学进展*, 12(30), 5962–5964.
- 王天宇, 陈旭. (2020). 催产素对不安全依恋者人际适应性的影响. *心理科学进展*, 28(3), 465–475.
- 岳童, 黄希庭, 刘光远. (2018). 催产素对共情反应的影响及其作用机制. *心理科学进展*, 26(3), 442–453.
- Alvares, G. A., Chen, N. T., Balleine, B. W., Hickie, I. B., & Guastella, A. J. (2012). Oxytocin selectively moderates negative cognitive appraisals in high trait anxious males. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 37(12), 2022–2031.
- Bajbouj, M., Bergmann, N., Boege, K., Graesser, S., Hahn, E., Hahne, I., Hartter, N., Ta, T. M. T., Von Eisenhart-Rothe, V., Wohlthau, J., & Zierhut, M. (2022). The effect of intranasal oxytocin application and mindfulness-based group therapy for patients with schizophrenia spectrum disorders - A study protocol. *European Psychiatry*, 65(S1), S763–S763.
- Bandelow, B., & Michaelis, S. (2015). Epidemiology of anxiety disorders in the 21st century. *Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience*, 17(3), 327–335.
- Barnett, M. D., Maciel, I. V., Johnson, D. M., & Ciepluch, I. (2021). Social anxiety and perceived social support: Gender differences and the mediating role of communication styles. *Psychological Reports*, 124(1), 70–87.
- Bathla, M., Singh, M., & Relan, P. (2016). Prevalence of anxiety and depressive symptoms among patients with hypothyroidism. *Indian Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 20(4), 468–474.
- Boccia, M. L., Petrusz, P., Suzuki, K., Marson, L., & Pedersen, C. A. (2013). Immunohistochemical localization of oxytocin receptors in human brain. *Neuroscience*, 253, 155–164.
- Bonnet, F., Irving, K., Terra, J. L., Nony, P., Berthezene, F., & Moulin, P. (2005). Anxiety and depression are associated with unhealthy lifestyle in patients at risk of cardiovascular disease. *Atherosclerosis*, 178(2), 339–344.
- Cavalli, J., Ruttorf, M., Pahi, M. R., Zidda, F., Flor, H., & Nees, F. (2017). Oxytocin differentially modulates pavlovian cue and context fear acquisition. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 12(6), 976–983.
- Chen, A. C., & Etkin, A. (2013). Hippocampal network connectivity and activation differentiates post-traumatic stress disorder from generalized anxiety disorder. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 38(10), 1889–1898.
- Chen, H., Fang, Y., Lu, M., Man, J., Yang, X., Yang, L., Yin, X., & Zhang, T. (2021). Global, regional and national burden of anxiety disorders from 1990 to 2019: Results from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences*, 30, e36.
- Cisler, J. M., & Olatunji, B. O. (2012). Emotion regulation and anxiety disorders. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 14(3), 182–187.
- Clarici, A., Pellizzoni, S., Guaschino, S., Alberico, S., Bembich, S., Giuliani, R., Short, A., Guarino, G., & Panksepp, J. (2015). Intranasal administration of oxytocin in postnatal depression: Implications for psychodynamic psychotherapy from a randomized double-blind pilot study. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6, 426.
- Craske, M. G., Rauch, S. L., Ursano, R., Prenoveau, J., Pine, D. S., & Zinbarg, R. E. (2011). What is an anxiety disorder? *Focus*, 9(3), 369–388.
- Di Simplicio, M., Massey-Chase, R., Cowen, P. J., & Harmer, C. J. (2009). Oxytocin enhances processing of positive versus negative emotional information in healthy male volunteers. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 23(3), 241–248.
- DiMartini, A. F., Trzepacz, P. T., & Daviss, S. R. (1996). Prospective study of FK506 side effects: Anxiety or akathisia? *Biological Psychiatry*, 40(5), 407–411.
- Ding, J., Johnson, J., Chu, Y. F., & Feng, H. (2019). Enhancement of γ -aminobutyric acid, avenanthramides, and other health-promoting metabolites in germinating oats (*Avena sativa* L.) treated with and without power ultrasound. *Food Chemistry*, 283, 239–247.
- Dölen, G., Darvishzadeh, A., Huang, K. W., & Malenka, R. C. (2013). Social reward requires coordinated activity of nucleus accumbens oxytocin and serotonin. *Nature*, 501(7466), 179–184.
- Ellenbogen, M. A. (2018). Oxytocin and facial emotion recognition. *Current Topics in Behavioral Neurosciences*, 35, 349–374.
- Frith, C. D. (2008). Social cognition. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 363(1499), 2033–2039.
- Froemke, R. C., & Young, L. J. (2021). Oxytocin, neural plasticity, and social behavior. *Annual Review of Neuroscience*, 44, 359–381.
- Goldstein, D. S., & Kopin, I. J. (2007). *Evolution of concepts of stress*. *Stress*, 10(2), 109–120.
- Gorka, S. M., Fitzgerald, D. A., Labuschagne, I., Hosanagar, A., Wood, A. G., Nathan, P. J., & Phan, K. L. (2015). Oxytocin modulation of amygdala functional connectivity to fearful faces in generalized social anxiety disorder. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 40(2), 278–286.
- Guastella, A. J., Carson, D. S., Dadds, M. R., Mitchell, P. B., & Cox, R. E. (2009). Does oxytocin influence the early detection of angry and happy faces? *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 34(2), 220–225.
- Guyer, A. E., Lau, J. Y. F., McClure-Tone, E. B., Parrish, J., Shiffrin, N. D., Reynolds, R. C., Chen, G., Blair, R. J. R., Leibenluft, E., Fox, N. A., Ernst, M., Pine, D. S., & Nelson, E. E. (2008). Amygdala and ventrolateral prefrontal cortex function during anticipated peer evaluation in pediatric social anxiety. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 65(11), 1303–1312.
- Guzmán, Y. F., Tronson, N. C., Jovasevic, V., Sato, K., Guedea, A. L., Mizukami, H., Nishimori, K., & Radulovic, J. (2013). Fear-enhancing effects of septal oxytocin receptors. *Nature Neuroscience*, 16(9), 1185–1187.
- Heinrichs, M., Baumgartner, T., Kirschbaum, C., & Ehlert, U. (2003). Social support and oxytocin interact to suppress cortisol and subjective responses to psychosocial stress. *Biological Psychiatry*, 54(12), 1389–1398.
- Huang, C. W., Wee, P. H., Low, L. L., Koong, Y. L. A., Htay, H., Fan, Q., Foo, W. Y. M., & Seng, J. J. B. (2021). Prevalence and risk factors for elevated anxiety symptoms and anxiety disorders in chronic kidney disease: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *General Hospital Psychiatry*, 69, 27–40.
- Huber, D., Veinante, P., & Stoop, R. (2005). Vasopressin and oxytocin excite distinct neuronal populations in the central amygdala. *Science*, 308(5719), 245–248.
- Hurlemann, R., & Scheele, D. (2016). Dissecting the role of oxytocin in the

- formation and loss of social relationships. *Biological Psychiatry*, 79(3), 185–193.
- Janeček, M., & Dabrowska, J. (2019). Oxytocin facilitates adaptive fear and attenuates anxiety responses in animal models and human studies—potential interaction with the corticotropin–releasing factor (CRF) system in the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BNST). *Cell and Tissue Research*, 375(1), 143–172.
- Javaid, S. F., Hashim, I. J., Hashim, M. J., Stip, E., Samad, M. A., & Ahbabi, A. A. (2023). Epidemiology of anxiety disorders: Global burden and sociodemographic associations. *Middle East Current Psychiatry*, 30(1), 44.
- Jurek, B., Slattery, D. A., Hiraoka, Y., Liu, Y., Nishimori, K., Aguilera, G., Neumann, I. D., & van den Burg, E. H. (2015). Oxytocin regulates stress-induced crf gene transcription through creb-regulated transcription coactivator 3. *The Journal of Neuroscience: The Official Journal of the Society for Neuroscience*, 35(35), 12248–12260.
- Kessler, R. C., Berglund, P., Demler, O., Jin, R., Merikangas, K. R., & Walters, E. E. (2005). Lifetime prevalence and age-of-onset distributions of DSM-IV disorders in the national comorbidity survey replication. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 62(6), 593–602.
- Kirsch, P., Esslinger, C., Chen, Q., Mier, D., Lis, S., Siddhanti, S., Gruppe, H., Mattay, V. S., Gallhofer, B., & Meyer-Lindenberg, A. (2005). Oxytocin modulates neural circuitry for social cognition and fear in humans. *The Journal of Neuroscience: The Official Journal of the Society for Neuroscience*, 25(49), 11489–11493.
- Knobloch, H. S., Charlet, A., Hoffmann, L. C., Eliava, M., Khrulev, S., Cetin, A. H., Osten, P., Schwarz, M. K., Seeburg, P. H., Stoop, R., & Grinevich, V. (2012). Evoked axonal oxytocin release in the central amygdala attenuates fear response. *Neuron*, 73(3), 553–566.
- Kou, J., Zhang, Y., Zhou, F., Sindermann, C., Montag, C., Becker, B., & Kendrick, K. M. (2022). A randomized trial shows dose–frequency and genotype may determine the therapeutic efficacy of intranasal oxytocin. *Psychological Medicine*, 52(10), 1959–1968.
- Kumar, J. R., Rajkumar, R., Lee, L. C., & Dawe, G. S. (2016). Nucleus incertus contributes to an anxiogenic effect of buspirone in rats: Involvement of 5-HT1A receptors. *Neuropharmacology*, 110(Pt A), 1–14.
- Lapierre, Y. D. (1996). Handbook of depression and anxiety: A biological approach. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 41, 289–290.
- Lee, M. R., Shnitko, T. A., Blue, S. W., Kaucher, A. V., Winchell, A. J., Erikson, D. W., Grant, K. A., & Leggio, L. (2020). Labeled oxytocin administered via the intranasal route reaches the brain in rhesus macaques. *Nature Communications*, 11(1), 2783.
- Levy, H. C., O' Bryan, E. M., & Tolin, D. F. (2021). A meta-analysis of relapse rates in cognitive–behavioral therapy for anxiety disorders. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, 81, 102407.
- Li, X. H., Matsuura, T., Xue, M., Chen, Q. Y., Liu, R. H., Lu, J. S., Shi, W., Fan, K., Zhou, Z., Miao, Z., Yang, J., Wei, S., Wei, F., Chen, T., & Zhuo, M. (2021). Oxytocin in the anterior cingulate cortex attenuates neuropathic pain and emotional anxiety by inhibiting presynaptic long-term potentiation. *Cell Reports*, 36(3), 109411.
- Lightman, S. L., Windle, R. J., Wood, S. A., Kershaw, Y. M., Shanks, N., & Ingram, C. D. (2001). Peripartum plasticity within the hypothalamo–pituitary–adrenal axis. *Progress in Brain Research*, 133, 111–129.
- Liu, N., Hadj-Bouziane, F., Jones, K. B., Turchi, J. N., Averbach, B. B., & Ungerleider, L. G. (2015). Oxytocin modulates fMRI responses to facial expression in macaques. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(24), E3123–E3130.
- Liu, R. T. (2017). Childhood adversities and depression in adulthood: Current findings and future directions. *Clinical Psychology: A Publication of the Division of Clinical Psychology of the American Psychological Association*, 24(2), 140–153.
- Lonstein, J. S., Maguire, J., Meinschmidt, G., & Neumann, I. D. (2014). Emotion and mood adaptations in the peripartum female: Complementary contributions of GABA and oxytocin. *Journal of Neuroendocrinology*, 26(10), 649–664.
- Lueken, U., Straube, B., Konrad, C., Wittchen, H. U., Ströhle, A., Wittmann, A., Pfeiderer, B., Uhlmann, C., Arolt, V., & Jansen, A. (2013). Neural substrates of treatment response to cognitive–behavioral therapy in panic disorder with agoraphobia. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 170(11), 1345–1355.
- Lueken, U., Straube, B., Konrad, C., Wittchen, H. U., Ströhle, A., Wittmann, A., Pfeiderer, B., Uhlmann, C., Arolt, V., Jansen, A., & Kircher, T. (2013). Neural substrates of treatment response to cognitive–behavioral therapy in panic disorder with agoraphobia. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 170(11), 1345–1355.
- Macdonald, K., & Macdonald, T. M. (2010). The peptide that binds: A systematic review of oxytocin and its prosocial effects in humans. *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*, 18(1), 1–21.
- Milrod, B., Altemus, M., Gross, C., Busch, F., Silver, G., Christos, P., Stieber, J., & Schneier, F. (2016). Adult separation anxiety in treatment nonresponders with anxiety disorders: Delineation of the syndrome and exploration of attachment-based psychotherapy and biomarkers. *Comprehensive Psychiatry*, 66, 139–145.
- Mizzi, S., Pedersen, M., Lorenzetti, V., Heinrichs, M., & Labuschagne, I. (2022). Resting-state neuroimaging in social anxiety disorder: A systematic review. *Molecular Psychiatry*, 27(1), 164–179.
- Mochcovitch, M. D., da Rocha Freire, R. C., Garcia, R. F., & Nardi, A. E. (2014). A systematic review of fMRI studies in generalized anxiety disorder: Evaluating its neural and cognitive basis. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 167, 336–342.
- Montag, C., Schöner, J., Speck, L. G., Just, S., Stuke, F., Rentzsch, J., Gallinat, J., & Majić, T. (2020). Peripheral oxytocin is inversely correlated with cognitive, but not emotional empathy in schizophrenia. *PLoS ONE*, 15(4), e0231257.
- Morina, N., Seidemann, J., Andor, T., Sondern, L., Bürkner, P. C., Drenckhan, I., & Buhlmann, U. (2023). The effectiveness of cognitive behavioural therapy for social anxiety disorder in routine clinical practice. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 30(2), 335–343.
- Musselman, D. L., & Nemeroff, C. B. (1996). Depression and endocrine disorders: Focus on the thyroid and adrenal system. *The British Journal of Psychiatry. Supplement*(30), 123–128.
- Myers, A. J., Williams, L., Gatt, J. M., McAuley-Clark, E. Z., Dobson-Stone, C., Schofield, P. R., & Nemeroff, C. B. (2014). Variation in the oxytocin receptor gene is associated with increased risk for anxiety, stress and depression in individuals with a history of exposure to early life stress. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 59, 93–100.
- Neumann, I. D., Krömer, S. A., Toschi, N., & Ebner, K. (2000). Brain oxytocin inhibits the (re)activity of the hypothalamo–pituitary–adrenal axis in male rats: Involvement of hypothalamic and limbic brain regions. *Regulatory Peptides*, 96(1), 31–38.
- Neumann, I. D., & Landgraf, R. (2012). Balance of brain oxytocin and vasopressin:

- Implications for anxiety, depression, and social behaviors. *Trends in Neurosciences*, 35(11), 649–659.
- O' Day, E. B., & Heimberg, R. G. (2021). Social media use, social anxiety, and loneliness: A systematic review. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*, 3, 100070.
- Penninx, B. W., Pine, D. S., Holmes, E. A., & Reif, A. (2021). Benzodiazepines for the long-term treatment of anxiety disorders?—Authors' reply. *The Lancet*, 398(10295), 120.
- Petrovic, P., Kalisch, R., Singer, T., & Dolan, R. J. (2008). Oxytocin attenuates affective evaluations of conditioned faces and amygdala activity. *The Journal of Neuroscience: The Official Journal of the Society for Neuroscience*, 28(26), 6607–6615.
- Phan, K. L., Fitzgerald, D. A., Cortese, B. M., Seraji-Bozorgzad, N., Tancer, M. E., & Moore, G. J. (2005). Anterior cingulate neurochemistry in social anxiety disorder: 1H-MRS at 4Tesla. *NeuroReport*, 16(2), 183–186.
- Pinkham, A. E., Penn, D. L., Green, M. F., Buck, B., Healey, K., & Harvey, P. D. (2014). The social cognition psychometric evaluation study: Results of the expert survey and RAND panel. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, 40(4), 813–823.
- Pittman, Q. J., Blume, H. W., & Renaud, L. P. (1981). Connections of the hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus with the neurohypophysis, median eminence, amygdala, lateral septum and midbrain periaqueductal gray: An electrophysiological study in the rat. *Brain Research*, 215, 15–28.
- Plasencia, G., Luedicke, J. M., Nazarloo, H. P., Carter, C. S., & Ebner, N. C. (2019). Plasma oxytocin and vasopressin levels in young and older men and women: Functional relationships with attachment and cognition. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 110, 104419.
- Preckel, K., Scheele, D., Kendrick, K. M., Maier, W., & Hurlmann, R. (2014). Oxytocin facilitates social approach behavior in women. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 8, 191.
- Prévot, T., & Sibille, E. (2021). Altered GABA-mediated information processing and cognitive dysfunctions in depression and other brain disorders. *Molecular Psychiatry*, 26(1), 151–167.
- Ramos, L., Hicks, C., Kevin, R., Caminer, A., Narlawar, R., Kassiou, M., & McGregor, I. S. (2013). Acute prosocial effects of oxytocin and vasopressin when given alone or in combination with 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine in rats: Involvement of the V1A receptor. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 38(11), 2249–2259.
- Ren, Y., Zhou, L., Wu, H., Shang, J., & Jiangsu, N. (2016). Research Progress of the antidepressants targeting the monamine receptors and glutamate system. *Pharmacy Information*, 05(02), 38–44.
- Rutter, L. A., Scheuer, L., Vahia, I. V., Forester, B. P., Smoller, J. W., & Germine, L. (2019). Emotion sensitivity and self-reported symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder across the lifespan: A population-based sample approach. *Brain and Behavior*, 9(6), e01282.
- Sabihi, S., Dong, S. M., Maurer, S. D., Post, C., & Leuner, B. (2017). Oxytocin in the medial prefrontal cortex attenuates anxiety: Anatomical and receptor specificity and mechanism of action. *Neuropharmacology*, 125, 1–12.
- Sabihi, S., Goodpaster, C., Maurer, S., & Leuner, B. (2021). GABA in the medial prefrontal cortex regulates anxiety-like behavior during the postpartum period. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 398, 112967.
- Scatliffe, N., Casavant, S., Vittner, D., & Cong, X. (2019). Oxytocin and early parent-infant interactions: A systematic review. *International Journal of Nursing Sciences*, 6(4), 445–453.
- Selye, H. (1950). Stress and the general adaptation syndrome. *British Medical Journal*, 1(4667), 1383–1392.
- Simmons, A., Matthews, S. C., Feinstein, J. S., Hitchcock, C., Paulus, M. P., & Stein, M. B. (2008). Anxiety vulnerability is associated with altered anterior cingulate response to an affective appraisal task. *NeuroReport*, 19(10), 1033–1037.
- Spengler, F. B., Schultz, J., Scheele, D., Essel, M., Maier, W., Heinrichs, M., & Hurlmann, R. (2017). Kinetics and dose dependency of intranasal oxytocin effects on amygdala reactivity. *Biological Psychiatry*, 82(12), 885–894.
- Springer, K. S., Levy, H. C., & Tolin, D. F. (2018). Remission in CBT for adult anxiety disorders: A meta-analysis. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 61, 1–8.
- Stauffer, C. S., Moschetto, J. M., McKernan, S., Meinzer, N., Chiang, C., Rapier, R., Hsiang, E., Norona, J., Borsari, B., & Woolley, J. D. (2020). Oxytocin-enhanced group therapy for methamphetamine use disorder: Randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 116, 108059.
- Stein, M. B., Goldin, P. R., Sareen, J., Zorrilla, L. T. E., & Brown, G. G. (2002). Increased amygdala activation to angry and contemptuous faces in generalized social phobia. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 59(11), 1027–1034.
- Struijs, S. Y., de Jong, P. J., Jeronimus, B. F., van der Does, W., Riese, H., & Spinhoven, P. (2021). Psychological risk factors and the course of depression and anxiety disorders: A review of 15 years NESDA research. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 295, 1347–1359.
- Swaab, D. F., Pool, C. W., & Nijveldt, F. (2005). Immunofluorescence of vasopressin and oxytocin in the rat hypothalamo-neurohypophyseal system. *Journal of Neural Transmission*, 36, 195–215.
- Szymanska, M., Schneider, M., Chateau-Smith, C., Nezelof, S., & Vulliez-Coady, L. (2017). Psychophysiological effects of oxytocin on parent-child interactions: A literature review on oxytocin and parent-child interactions. *Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*, 71(10), 690–705.
- Thornton, J. L., Everett, N. A., Webb, P., Turner, A. J., Cornish, J. L., & Baracz, S. J. (2021). Adolescent oxytocin administration reduces depression-like behaviour induced by early life stress in adult male and female rats. *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry*, 110, 110279.
- Ueda, T., Yokoyama, Y., Irahara, M., & Aono, T. (1994). Influence of psychological stress on suckling-induced pulsatile oxytocin release. *Obstet Gynecol*, 84(2), 259–262.
- Uvnäs-Moberg, K., Björkstrand, E., Hillegaard, V., & Ahlenius, S. (1999). Oxytocin as a possible mediator of SSRI-induced antidepressant effects. *Psychopharmacology*, 142(1), 95–101.
- Voncken, M. J., Dijk, C., Stöhr, F., Niesten, I. J. M., Schruers, K., & Kuypers, K. P. C. (2021). The effect of intranasally administered oxytocin on observed social behavior in social anxiety disorder. *European Neuropsychopharmacology*, 53, 25–33.
- Windle, R. J., Kershaw, Y. M., Shanks, N., Wood, S. A., Lightman, S. L., & Ingram, C. D. (2004). Oxytocin attenuates stress-induced c-fos mRNA expression in specific forebrain regions associated with modulation of hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal activity. *The Journal of Neuroscience: The Official Journal of the Society for Neuroscience*, 24(12), 2974–2982.
- Wright, K. A., Polk, R., Lin, T., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N. C. (2023). Four-week intranasal oxytocin administration reduces attachment avoidance in older women. *Hormones and Behavior*, 155, 105413.
- Xin, F., Zhou, X., Dong, D., Zhao, Z., Yang, X., Wang, Q., Gu, Y., Kendrick, K. M., Chen, A., & Becker, B. (2020). Oxytocin differentially modulates amygdala

- responses during top-down and bottom-up aversive anticipation. *Advanced Science*, 7(16), 2001077.
- Yoon, S., & Kim, Y. K. (2020). The role of the oxytocin system in anxiety disorders. *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology*, 1191, 103–120.
- Zagrean, A. M., Georgescu, I. A., Iesanu, M. I., Ionescu, R. B., Haret, R. M., Panaitescu, A. M., & Zagrean, L. (2022). Chapter three – oxytocin and vasopressin in the hippocampus. In G. Litwack (Ed.), *Vitamins and hormones* (pp. 83–127). Academic Press.
- Zilcha-Mano, S., Shamay-Tsoory, S., Dolev-Amit, T., Zagoory-Sharon, O., & Feldman, R. (2020). Oxytocin as a biomarker of the formation of therapeutic alliance in psychotherapy and counseling psychology. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 67(4), 523–535.
- Zoicas, I., Slattery, D. A., & Neumann, I. D. (2014). Brain oxytocin in social fear conditioning and its extinction: Involvement of the lateral septum. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 39(13), 3027–3035.

The Effects of Oxytocin on the Cognitive and Neurophysiological Mechanisms of Anxiety Disorders

Zhang Yuetong, Zhao Hengyue, Jiang Yumeng, Feng Pan
(Southwest University, Chongqing, 400715)

Abstract Anxiety disorders, also known as anxiety neuroses, are characterized by recurrent episodes of anxiety. They are one of the most common mental disorders, with causes including neurobiological, environmental, and psychosocial factors, among others. Their prevalence has risen sharply in recent years as social pressures have increased. Anxiety disorders have an early onset, usually begin in childhood or adolescence and continue into adulthood. Chronic anxiety and the excessive experience of negative emotions can greatly impair a patient's social functioning and quality of life, in addition to damaging the body's immunity and adaptability to life.

Oxytocin (oxytocin) is a neuropeptide that acts as a neurotransmitter in the brain. Initially known for its peripheral physiological role in labor and breastfeeding, it has recently been emphasized because it is also released in the central nervous system and exerts neuromodulatory functions in various brain regions associated with facial emotion recognition, empathy, trust, parent-child interaction, attachment, stress, and cognition. The anxiolytic effects of oxytocin have been extensively studied, in which exogenous nasal spray administration reduces anxiety and depressive symptoms. Compared with anxiolytic drugs, oxytocin is expected to be an adjunctive drug in the treatment of anxiety disorders because of its low side effects and low likelihood of drug dependence when applied to the clinical management of patients with anxiety disorders. Oxytocin affects people's social behaviors and increases the level of individual sedation by acting on the HPA (hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenergic) axis, acting on the hypothalamus through the ventricular system and the circulation in the body. Oxytocin combines with the receptor to release adrenocorticotrophic hormone, reduce social anxiety and avoidance behaviors by acting on the serotonin system and stimulating the release of serotonin, modulate fear responses, and alleviate anxiety symptoms in individuals with anxiety disorders by acting on the GABA system to inhibit central neurotransmission and reduce amygdala activation. In addition, oxytocin, as a potential adjunctive therapeutic agent, exhibits unique synergistic effects in the psychotherapy of anxiety disorders. Oxytocin is able to act as a synergist for psychotherapy by influencing parts of the therapeutic alliance, belief renewal, and empathy. When oxytocin is synergized with other medications, it has also been found that co-medication strategies show great potential in treating anxiety disorders.

Although the role of oxytocin has been confirmed by several studies, the current findings are not entirely consistent and the reasons behind the different results have not been deeply explored. In addition, the specific use of oxytocin in clinical applications is yet to be examined, and future research should focus on the following aspects. First, it is crucial to determine the optimal dosage of oxytocin and the window of time for onset of action in the clinical treatment of anxiety disorders. The dose and frequency of administration of oxytocin, a potential anxiolytic therapeutic agent, are important factors influencing efficacy. The efficacy of oxytocin treatment at different doses and frequencies in patients with anxiety disorders can be assessed by randomized controlled trials (RCTs). Second, the synergistic effects of oxytocin with other medications or psychotherapies should be thoroughly investigated to enrich the understanding of oxytocin's mechanism of action and to achieve more precise and effective clinical interventions. Third, the neurological basis and cognitive neural mechanism of oxytocin's effect on the core symptoms of anxiety disorders should be further explored, and neuroimaging and electrophysiological methods should be utilized to further reveal the exact pathways of oxytocin's action in the brain. Finally, studies on oxytocin's effects on different subtypes of anxiety disorders can be carried out to consider individual differences and develop personalized treatment strategies.

Key words anxiety disorder, oxytocin, cognitive mechanisms, neurophysiological mechanisms