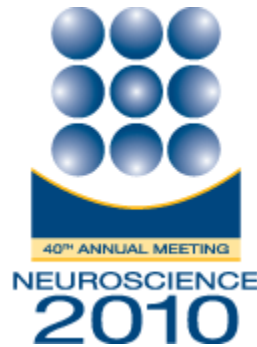


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## Presentation Abstract

Program#/Poster#: 192.9/FFF13

Title: Unreliable and delayed astrocytic calcium response does not support the hypothesis of calcium-dependent astrocytic regulation of blood flow

Location: Halls B-H

Presentation Time: Sunday, Nov 14, 2010, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

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Abstract: It has been proposed that vascular dilation in response to an increase in neuronal activity is mediated by astrocytes<sup>1, 2</sup>. According to this hypothesis, astrocytes respond to neuronal activation by an increase in metabolism accompanied by a rise in intracellular calcium concentration that, in turn, triggers synthesis and release of vasoactive gliotransmitters. However, the onset of the putative stimulus-evoked astrocytic calcium response<sup>3, 4, 5</sup> is significantly delayed relative to the known kinetics of stimulus-evoked vasodilation<sup>6, 7</sup>. Moreover, the reliability of the astrocytic calcium transients temporally locked to the stimulus presentation is unclear. We used 2-photon laser scanning microscopy to measure calcium activity in neurons and astrocytes, and diameter changes of cerebral arterioles and capillaries down to 500 um in rat and mouse primary somatosensory cortex. Calcium indicator OGB-1 was microinjected at the center of neuronal response determined by surface potential mapping immediately before the injection. Astrocyte-specific fluorescent dye SR101 was applied topically. We varied the stimulus (different durations of whisker or forepaw stimulus, tactile or electrical) and method of anesthesia (a-chloralose, urethane,

isofluorane, or ketamine/xylazine). Our data indicate that astrocytes do not exhibit reliable calcium transients temporally locked to the stimulus. When observed, the astrocytic calcium response to stimulus was considerably delayed relative to the arteriolar/capillary dilation. These results challenge the idea that astrocytes trigger vasodilation and the associated blood flow response to somatosensory stimulation through calcium-dependent mechanisms.

Key words: 2-photon microscopy, cerebral cortex, arteriole, capillary, sensory  
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Disclosures: **K.W. Nizar**, None; **L. Reznichenko**, None; **Q. Cheng**, None; **S. Sakadzic**, None; **D.A. Boas**, None; **E. Masliah**, None; **A.M. Dale**, None; **G.A. Silva**, None; **A. Devor**, None.

Keyword(s): 2-photon microscopy  
cerebral cortex  
arteriole

Support: NIH Grant NS054736  
NIH Grant NS051188  
NIH Grant NS057198  
NIH Grant EB009118

[Authors]. [Abstract Title]. Program No. XXX.XX. 2010 Neuroscience Meeting Planner. San Diego, CA: Society for Neuroscience, 2010. Online.

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