

# Calcium Release Mediated by Redox-Sensitive RyR2 Channels Has a Central Role in Hippocampal Structural Plasticity and Spatial Memory

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## ANTIOXIDANTS & REDOX SIGNALING

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## Resumen

**Aims:** Previous studies indicate that hippocampal synaptic plasticity and spatial memory processes entail calcium release from intracellular stores mediated by ryanodine receptor (RyR) channels. In particular, RyR-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> release is central for the dendritic spine remodeling induced by brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a neurotrophin that stimulates complex signaling pathways leading to memory-associated protein synthesis and structural plasticity. To examine if upregulation of ryanodine receptor type-2 (RyR2) channels and the spine remodeling induced by BDNF entail reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation, and to test if RyR2 downregulation affects BDNF-induced spine remodeling and spatial memory.

**Results:** Downregulation of RyR2 expression (short hairpin RNA [shRNA]) in primary hippocampal neurons, or inhibition of nitric oxide synthase (NOS) or NADPH oxidase, prevented agonist-mediated RyR-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> release, whereas BDNF promoted cytoplasmic ROS generation. RyR2 downregulation or inhibitors of N-methyl-d-aspartate (NMDA) receptors, or NOS or of NADPH oxidase type-2 (NOX2) prevented RyR2 upregulation and the spine remodeling induced by BDNF, as did incubation with the antioxidant agent N-acetyl l-cysteine. In addition, intrahippocampal injection of RyR2-directed antisense oligodeoxynucleotides, which caused significant RyR2 downregulation, caused conspicuous defects in a memorized spatial memory task.

**Innovation:** The present novel results emphasize the key role of redox-sensitive Ca<sup>2+</sup> release mediated by RyR2 channels for hippocampal structural plasticity and spatial memory.

**Conclusion:** Based on these combined results, we propose (i) that BDNF-induced RyR2-

mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> release and ROS generation via NOS/NOX2 are strictly required for the dendritic spine remodeling and the RyR2 upregulation induced by BDNF, and (ii) that RyR2 channel expression is crucial for spatial memory processes.

## Palabras clave

**Palabras clave de autor:**[BDNF](#); [reactive oxygen species](#); [Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals](#); [dendritic spines](#); [NADPH oxidase](#); [spatial memory training](#)

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