

## ? Opioid receptor-mediated depression of activity evoked in convergent dorsal horn cells by thermal and non-thermal noxious stimulation

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The response of convergent dorsal horn cells to tonic and phasic noxious heating and to noxious pinching was studied and after topical application of a solution (30 nmol) of the ? agonist U-50,488H to the dorsal surface of the spinal cord. U-50,488H depressed the discharge of convergent units evoked by thermal and mechanical nociceptive stimuli. The opiate antagonist WIN 44,441-3 reversed the effect of U-50,488H. It is concluded that ? opioids are effective in preventing the depolarization of convergent dorsal horn neurons evoked by either thermal or non-thermal noxious stimuli. © 1990.