NAME: OKEKE CHINENYE BLOSSOM

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DEPARTMENT :MEDICINE AND SURGERY

PHYSIOLOGY ASSIGNMENT

1. Discuss the long term regulation of mean arterial-blood pressure

There are several physiological mechanisms that regulate blood pressure in the long-term, the first of which is the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS).

Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System (RAAS)

Renin is a peptide hormone released by the granular cells of the juxtaglomerular apparatus in the kidney. It is released in response to:

Sympathetic stimulation

Reduced sodium-chloride delivery to the distal convoluted tubule

Decreased blood flow to the kidney

Renin facilitates the conversion of angiotensinogen to angiotensin I which is then converted to angiotensin II using angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE).

MMAngiotensin II is a potent vasoconstrictor. It acts directly on the kidney to increase sodium reabsorption in the proximal convoluted tubule. Sodium is reabsorbed via the sodium-hydrogen exchanger. Angiotensin II also promotes release of aldosterone.

ACE also breaks down a substance called bradykinin which is a potent vasodilator. Therefore, the breakdown of bradykinin potentiates the overall constricting effect.

Aldosterone promotes salt and water retention by acting at the distal convoluted tubule to increase expression of epithelial sodium channels. Furthermore, aldosterone increases the activity of the basolateral sodium-potassium ATP-ase, thus increasing the electrochemical gradient for movement of sodium ions.

More sodium collects in the kidney tissue and water then follows by osmosis. This results in decreased water excretion and therefore increased blood volume and thus blood pressure.

Anti-Diuretic Hormone (ADH)

The second mechanism by which blood pressure is regulated is release of Anti Diuretic Hormone (ADH) from the OVLT of the hypothalamus in response to thirst or an increased plasma osmolarity.

ADH acts to increase the permeability of the collecting duct to water by inserting aquaporin channels (AQP2) into the apical membrane.

It also stimulates sodium reabsorption from the thick ascending limb of the loop of Henle. This increases water reabsorption thus increasing plasma volume and decreasing osmolarity.

1. Write short notes on the following :

* Pulmonary circulation

Pulmonary circulation is the system of transportation that shunts de-oxygenated blood from the heart to the lungs to be re-saturated with oxygen before being dispersed into systemic circulation. Deoxygenated blood from the lower half of the body enters the heart from the inferior vena cava while deoxygenated blood from the upper body is delivered to the heart via the superior vena cava. Both the superior vena cava and inferior vena cava empty blood into the right atrium. Blood flows through the tricuspid valve into the right ventricle. It then flows through the pulmonic valve into the pulmonary artery before being delivered to the lungs. While in the lungs, blood diverges into the numerous pulmonary capillaries where it releases carbon dioxide and is replenished with oxygen. Once fully saturated with oxygen, the blood is transported via the pulmonary vein into the left atrium which pumps blood through the mitral valve and into the left ventricle. With a powerful contraction, the left ventricle expels oxygen-rich blood through the aortic valve and into the aorta: This is the beginning of systemic circulation

* Circle of Willis

The circle of Willis (also called Willis' circle, loop of Willis, cerebral arterial circle, and Willis polygon) is a circulatory anastomosis that supplies blood to the brain and surrounding structures.

The circle of Willis is a part of the cerebral circulation and is composed of the following arteries:[2]

Anterior cerebral artery (left and right)

Anterior communicating artery

Internal carotid artery (left and right)

Posterior cerebral artery (left and right)

Posterior communicating artery (left and right)

The middle cerebral arteries, supplying the brain, are not considered part of the circle of Willis.

The arrangement of the brain's arteries into the circle of Willis creates redundancy (analogous to engineered redundancy) for collateral circulation in the cerebral circulation. If one part of the circle becomes blocked or narrowed (stenosed) or one of the arteries supplying the circle is blocked or narrowed, blood flow from the other blood vessels can often preserve the cerebral perfusion well enough to avoid the symptoms of ischemia.

* Splanchnic circulation

The splanchnic circulation is composed of the blood flow originating from the celiac, superior mesenteric, and inferior mesenteric arteries and is distributed to all abdominal viscera. The splanchnic circulation receives over 25% of the cardiac output and contains a similar percentage of the total blood volume under normal conditions. Thus, the splanchnic circulation can act as a site of regulation of distribution of cardiac output and also as a blood reservoir

The term ‘splanchnic circulation’ describes the blood flow to the abdominal gastrointestinal organs including the stomach, liver, spleen, pancreas, small intestine, and large intestine. It comprises three major branches of the abdominal aorta; the coeliac artery; superior mesenteric artery (SMA); and inferior mesenteric artery (IMA) (Fig. 1). The hepatic portal circulation delivers the majority of the blood flow to the liver.

* Coronary circulation

Coronary circulation is the circulation of blood in the blood vessels that supply the heart muscle (myocardium). Coronary arteries supply oxygenated blood to the heart muscle, and cardiac veins drain away the blood once it has been deoxygenated. Because the rest of the body, and most especially the brain, needs a steady supply of oxygenated blood that is free of all but the slightest interruptions, the heart is required to function continuously. Therefore its circulation is of major importance not only to its own tissues but to the entire body and even the level of consciousness of the brain from moment to moment. Interruptions of coronary circulation quickly cause heart attacks (myocardial infarctions), in which the heart muscle is damaged by oxygen starvation. Such interruptions are usually caused by ischemic heart disease (coronary artery disease) and sometimes by embolism from other causes like obstruction in blood flow through vessels.

Coronary arteries supply blood to the myocardium and other components of the heart. Two coronary arteries originate from the left side of the heart at the beginning (root) of the aorta, just after the aorta exits the left ventricle. There are three aortic sinuses (dilations) in the wall of the aorta just superior to the aortic semilunar valve. Two of these, the left posterior aortic sinus and anterior aortic sinus, give rise to the left and right coronary arteries, respectively. The third sinus, the right posterior aortic sinus, typically does not give rise to a vessel.

* Cutaneous circulation

The cutaneous circulation is the circulation and blood supply of the skin. The skin is not a very metabolically active tissue and has relatively small energy requirements, so its blood supply is different to that of other tissues.

Some of the circulating blood volume in the skin will flow through will flow through arteriovenous anastomoses (AVAs) instead of capillaries. AVAs serve a role in temperature regulation. In this article we shall consider the different adaptations of the cutaneous circulation, and its role in body temperature control.

Arteriovenous Anastomoses

AVAs are low-resistance connections between the small arteries and small veins that supply and drain the skin. These allow the shunt of blood directly into the venous plexus of the skin, without it passing through capillaries. Since AVAs contain no capillary section, they are not involved in transport of nutrients to/from the tissues, but instead play a major role in temperature regulation.

1. Discuss the cardiovascular adjustment that occurs during exercise

During exercise, there is an increase in metabolic needs of body tissues, particularly the muscles.

Various adjustments in the body during exercise are aimed at:

* Supply of various metabolic requisites like nutrients and oxygen to muscles and other tissues involved in exercise
* Prevention of increase in body temperature

AEROBIC AND ANAEROBIC EXERCISE

Based on the type of metabolism involved, exercise is classified into two types:

* Aerobic exercise
* Anaerobic exercise

1. Aerobic exercise

Involves activities with lower intensity which is performed for a longer period. The energy is obtained by utilizing nutrients in the presence of oxygen. At the beginning, the body obtains energy by burning glycogen stored in liver. After 20 mins when stored glycogen is exhausted the body starts burning fat. Body fat is converted into glucose which is utilized for energy .

Aerobic exercise required large amount of oxygen to obtain the energy needed for prolonged exercise

Examples include : fast walking, jogging, running, skiing etc

1. Anaerobic Exercise

Involves exertion of short periods followed by periods of rest. It uses the muscle at Hugh intensity and a hug rate of work for a short period.

Body obtains energy by burning glycogen stored in the muscles without oxygen.

Burning glycogen without oxygen liberated lactic acidosis: Accumulation of lactic acidosis leads to fatigue. Examples include: pull-ups, push-ups etc

**METABOLISM IN ANAEROBIC AND AEROBIC EXERCISES**

When a person starts doing some exercises like jogging or swimming, the muscles start utilizing energy. In order to have quick energy during the first few minutes, the muscles burn glycogen stored in them. During this period, fat is not burnt. Only glycogen is burnt, it is burnt without using oxygen. This is anaerobic metabolism. Lactic acidosis is produced during this period. Presence of lactic acid causes some sort of burning sensation in the muscles particularly the muscles of arm legs and back.

Muscles burn all the muscle glycogen within 3 to 5 minutes. If the person continues the exercise beyond this, glycogen stored in the liver converted into glucose which is transported to muscles through blood , this is aerobic metabolism. The glucose obtained in liver is burnt in the presence of oxygen. No more lactic acid is produced. So the burning sensation disappears