

# Developmental process of SHR, SHRSP, and M-SHRSP, and their experimental data



Prof. Hideaki Higashino  
Japan

# “Developmental process of SHR, SHRSP, and M-SHRSP and their experimental data”

By Hideaki HIGASHINO, M.D. & Ph.D.

1. When, by whom, where, how were SHR strains developed ?
2. What were reactive characteristics in artery of SHRs ?
3. Upper shift of the set point in the thermocenter causes hyperthermia in SHRSP
4. Beneficial effects of voluntary long term exercise on blood pressure and vascular inflammatory parameters in stroke-prone SHR
5. Catecholamine and corticoid secretion and gene expression of the synthesizing enzymes in adrenal glands of SHRSP and WKY in response to cold stress
6. Protection of the vascular functional impairment caused in malignant type of stroke-prone spontaneously hypertensive rat (M-SHRSP) by using trichloromethiazide (one of thiazides)
7. Whole rat DNA array survey for candidate genes related to hypertension in kidneys from three spontaneously hypertensive rat substrains at two stages of age and with hypotensive induction caused by hydralazine hydrochloride



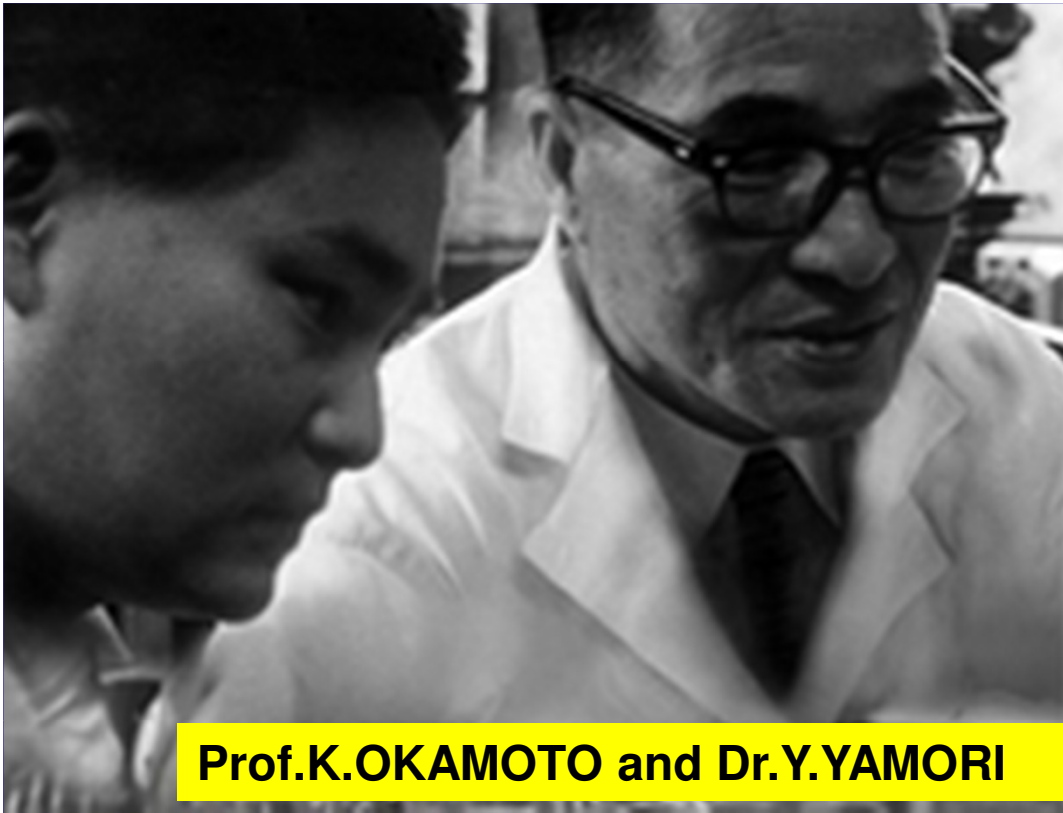
## Prof.Kozo OKAMOTO who developed SHR strains

**1972**

ありし日の岡本耕造先生  
(昭和47年 学士院賞受賞当時)

**Died  
at  
2005**





**Prof.K.OKAMOTO and Dr.Y.YAMORI**



**Raising room in Kyoto University where SHR was developed about 50 years ago**





SHR 開発記念碑 『人類への贈物』

高血圧は現代社会で最も多い病態で、三大死因の一つ、脳卒中や、寝たきり、認知症の主要因である。ヒトと類似の高血圧、脳卒中を自然発症する高血圧自然発症ラット (SHR)、脳卒中易発症ラット (SHRSP) は20世紀後半 (1963年、1973年) 岡本耕造名誉教授・青木久三博士はじめ、京都大学医学部病理学教室の多くの共同研究者の尽力により開発された。

このモデル動物のおかげで、高血圧・脳卒中など成人血管病の病因、病態解明も進み、多くの降圧剤が世界中で新たに開発され、栄養などで脳卒中の予防が可能であることも実証された。脳卒中を必発する遺伝子を保有していても、その遺伝子を検出し、遺伝子の発現を制御して疾患の発症を予知し予防する、「病む人なき未来医学」の夢がここに誕生したのである。

2009年11月10日 岡本耕造先生生誕100年記念

京都大学医学部病理学教室・高血圧関連疾患モデル学会・SHR等疾患モデル共同研究会・(財)成人血管病研究振興財団・世界健康フロンティア研究会

Monument of SHR development in Kyoto Univ.: 2009



## Monument of SHR development [A Gift to the Human Being]

Hypertension is the most frequent pathological states in this modern society, and main factor causing cerebral apoplexy, bedridden states, and non-cognitive states which are the three in main death causes. **Spontaneously hypertension rats (SHR) and stroke-prone SHR (SHRSP)** cause hypertension and cerebral apoplexy resemble to human being were developed through many colleagues as **Emeritus Professor Kozo OKAMOTO, Dr.Kyuzo AOKI** et al. belonged to the Department of Pathology in Kyoto University School of Medicine **at 1963 and 1973**, respectively, in the latter half of 20th century, Owing to this animal model development, it has been proved as follows. That is, **solution of pathogenesis and pathophysiology regarding vascular diseases such as hypertension and cerebral apoplexy caused in adult ages were advanced, many types of antihypertensive drugs in the world were developed, and the preventive therapies for cerebral apoplexy became possible through an improvement in nutrition.**

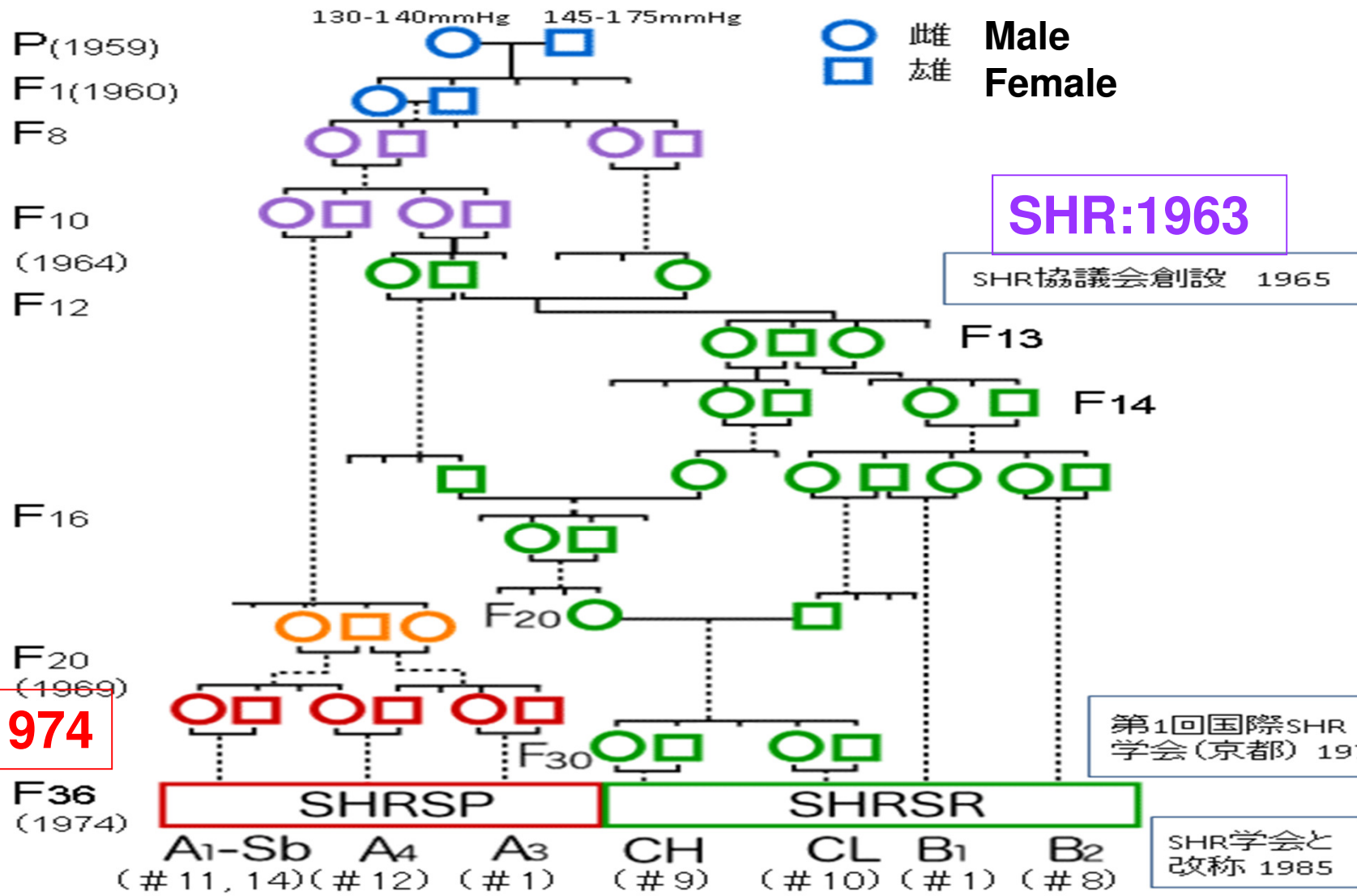
**Memory of 100 years after the birth of Dr.K.OKAMOTO at November 10, 1909**  
Built by Department of Pathology in Kyoto University School of Medicine,  
Society for Hypertension Related Diseases Model Research, Disease Model  
Cooperative Research Association, Japan Adult Cardiovascular Diseases  
Investigation Promoting Organization, and World Health Frontier Organization



**WKY Rat: Kyoto Univ Sch Med**



SHR, SHRSPの系統図



SHR等疾患モデル共同研究会(DMCRA)創設 1994

高血圧関連疾患モデル学会と改称 2005  
第13回国際SHRシンポジウム(プラハ) 2008

DMCRAでSPF化し継代維持(2009.4)

- |      |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| #11  | #14 | #12 | #1   | #9   | #10  | #1   | #8   |
| F129 | F40 | F68 | F117 | F125 | F126 | F121 | F125 |

## Development of a Strain of Spontaneously Hypertensive Rats\*

KOZO OKAMOTO and KYUZO AOKI

Department of Pathology, Kyoto University School of Medicine, Kyoto.  
(Director: Prof. K. Okamoto)

(Received for Publication, January, 11, 1963)

**E**XPERIMENTAL HYPERTENSION can be induced in animals by several methods; renal<sup>1,2,3</sup>,<sup>3,4</sup>, renoprival<sup>5</sup>, adrenal regeneration<sup>6</sup>, DCA<sup>7</sup>, salt<sup>8,9,10</sup> or neurogenic<sup>11</sup> provocation. Researches on such induced hypertension have been conducted most thoroughly; however, there has been very little experimental work on spontaneous hypertension in animals. The latter type of hypertension, which may be considered analogous to essential hypertension in man, has been studied with respect to inherited hypertension in rats by Smirk et al.<sup>12,13,14,15</sup>, on spontaneously hypertensive rabbits by Alexander et al.<sup>16,17,18</sup> and Rosenfeld et al.<sup>12</sup>, on spontaneous hypertension in dogs by Wakerlin et al.<sup>19,20,21</sup> on experimental congenital hypertensive rats by Okamoto et al.<sup>22</sup> and on teratogenic induction of hypertension in offsprings from McCollum-Evans strain rats by Grollman et al.<sup>23</sup>. Only Smirk et al.<sup>12</sup> and Alexander et al.<sup>16,17</sup>, among these workers, have succeeded in isolating a strain of animals susceptible to spontaneous occurrence of hypertension.

We recently mated a male rat of the Wistar strain showing spontaneous hypertension with a female rat of the same strain with a blood pressure slightly above the average to obtain F<sub>1</sub>, from which a pair with spontaneous hypertension was selected and mated again. In this way, the succeeding generations were obtained, starting with F<sub>2</sub>, in which approximately 100 per cent occurrence of spontaneous hypertension was observed.

\* Outlines of this study were reported at 50th annual meeting of the Japanese Pathological Society in 1961, the 11th Kinki Regional Meeting of the Japanese Circulation Society in 1961, the symposium at the 35th annual meeting of the Japan Endocrinological Society in 1962, and the 51st annual meeting of the Japanese Pathological Society in 1962.

### MATERIALS

The Wistar strain rat was used in this study. The rats from the Wistar Laboratory came to the Veterinary Physiology Laboratory, Agricultural Department, Tokyo University (Director: Prof. Osawa), in 1938, hence to the Science Department, Hokkaido University (Director: Prof. Makino), in 1944, and to the Animal Center Laboratory, Kyoto University Faculty of Medicine in 1951. The animals have been maintained ever since by inbreeding.

Sixty-eight weanling rats supplied by the Animal Center were housed in the Department of Pathology under normal conditions. The control group consisted of sixty-six animals. One male rat that had shown persistent high blood pressures (150 to 175 mmHg) since 7 weeks after birth (P<sub>1</sub>) was mated with a female rat with a blood pressure slightly above the average (from 130 to 140 mmHg) (P<sub>2</sub>). Four matings were made with P<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>2</sub> always after blood pressures of above 150 mmHg in P<sub>1</sub> and pressures of 130 to 135 mmHg in P<sub>2</sub> had persisted for more than one month, and a total of 36 F<sub>1</sub> rats were obtained. Of these F<sub>1</sub> animals, pairs of rats with hypertension (blood pressures exceeding 150 mmHg persisting over a month), were selected and mated by brother-sister combinations to obtain F<sub>2</sub> rats. Pairs of F<sub>2</sub> rats with persistent hypertension were again mated to produce F<sub>3</sub>. The process was repeated to the 6th generation of F rats. A few rats of F<sub>2</sub> and F<sub>3</sub> were obtained by cross breeding (see Fig. 1). The inbred group consists of animals obtained by brother-sister matings and the cross-bred group of those born from non-litter mates.

Systolic blood pressures above 150 mmHg in rats were considered hypertension (H) and those below 149 mmHg as normotension (N), in compliance with the generally accepted criteria for

**Establishment of SHR strain  
by Drs. K. OKAMOTO & K. AOKI at 1963**

# **Gift to the researchers expecting the studies using SHR in the world**

**“For the researchers expecting the studies related SHR, the rats will gift with free of charge. Every researcher should keep, bleed, and use them by themselves to know their nature, not to use them for the purpose of business.”**

**Told by Prof.Kozo OKAMOTO**



## Establishment of the Stroke-prone Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat (SHR)

By Kozo Okamoto, M.D.,\* Yukio Yamori M.D., and Akinobu Nagaoka, B.S.

### ABSTRACT

From our observations on the familial occurrence of cerebrovascular lesions (cerebral hemorrhage and/or infarction; in short, stroke) in spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR), we postulated the involvement of genetic factors in the development of stroke, and after trying as many matings as possible from three families in A<sub>3</sub> and A<sub>1</sub>-sb substrains at F<sub>31</sub> or F<sub>25</sub> generations, we only maintained the offspring of which one or both parents developed stroke spontaneously. Thus we succeeded in obtaining stroke-prone rats after such successive selective breeding for six to seven generations up to the present.

Successive selection of rats with stroke for two or three generations greatly increased the spontaneous incidence of cerebral lesions up to about 80% in males over 100 days of age, and about 60% in females over 150 days. Two generations obtained thereafter have continued these high incidences. The stroke-prone SHR thus bred showed a rapid increase in blood pressure at a young age, and developed severe hypertension of around 240 mm Hg. They died with stroke from a few days to 24 weeks after initial symptoms of stroke or hypertensive encephalopathy. Average life span was 33 to 41 weeks in males and far longer in females. Predilection sites of cerebral lesions were the cortex or sub-cortex of frontal, medial, and occipital areas of telencephalon, the incidence being highest in the left occipital area, and in some rats they were noted in the basal ganglia.

Comparative statistical studies among stroke-prone, stroke-resistant, and other SHR substrains revealed that the rapid increase in blood pressure in younger age, as well as severe hypertension frequently over 230 mm Hg, were closely related to the high incidence of stroke, and such a difference in the developmental course of hypertension partially explained the sex difference in occurrence of stroke, high in males and low in females. Cerebral hemorrhage was noted in the rats which developed severe hypertension in a shorter time.

The incidence and development of stroke were different between nonselected A<sub>3</sub> and C substrains when both were loaded with 1% salt in drinking water, in spite of similar development of severe hypertension. This may indicate the possible involvement of some factors other than blood pressure in the pathogenetic mechanism of stroke. However, parabiosis experiments up to the present between stroke-prone and stroke-resistant SHR gave no positive evidence for transmissible humoral factors closely related to stroke.

**KEY WORDS** SHR substrains stroke-resistant SHR  
cerebrovascular lesions (hemorrhage and/or infarction) selective breeding  
parabiosis salt-loading incidence of stroke in SHR  
genetic factors of stroke

■ In 1962 and 1963, Okamoto<sup>1)</sup> and Okamoto and Aoki<sup>2)</sup> reported that they had produced a colony of spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR) by selective inbreeding of Wistar rats from the Animal Center Laboratory, Kyoto University Faculty of Medicine (hereafter referred to as Wistar-Kyoto or WK rats). Since then, Okamoto and his co-workers<sup>3,4</sup> have

continued the breeding of that colony and obtained the inbred strain of SHR in October 1969,<sup>5,7</sup> and F<sub>31</sub> and F<sub>32</sub> offspring in August 1973. The SHR were separated into three main substrains in 1971: A, B, and C (there were eight substrains altogether: A<sub>1</sub>, A<sub>1</sub>-sb, A<sub>2</sub>, A<sub>3</sub>; B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>-ob; and C)<sup>7,8</sup> (Fig. 1). At that time, it was confirmed that the incidence of cerebrovascular diseases (that is, cerebral hemorrhage and/or infarction, hereafter referred to as cerebral lesions or stroke) was different among these substrains: high in A, especially in A<sub>3</sub>, and low in B and C.<sup>9,10</sup> Moreover, we had noticed from our early observations in the 1960s that most rats of the same litter often developed cerebral lesions at similar ages. Therefore, we suspected that some genetic factors might be involved in the development

From the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, and the Biological Research Laboratories, Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd., Osaka, Japan.

This study has been supported by grants from the Science and Technology Agency of the Government of Japan, the Japanese Ministry of Education, and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

\*Special Guest Lecturer.

Establishment of SHRSP strain by Drs. K. OKAMOTO, Y. YAMORI & A. NAGAOKA at 1974

Male SHRSP :10-week-old

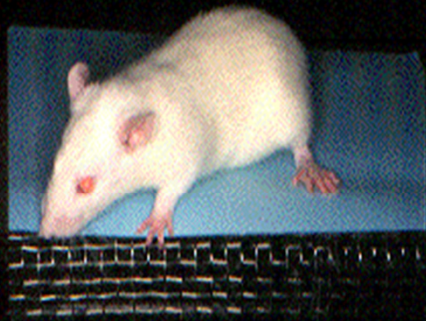


SHRSP/Ezo

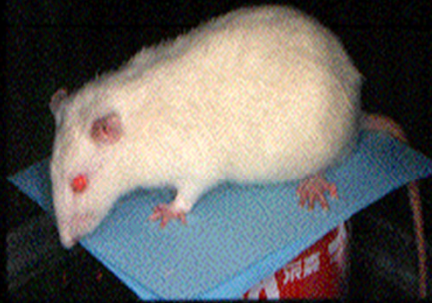
動物番号 1111

10週齢 ♂

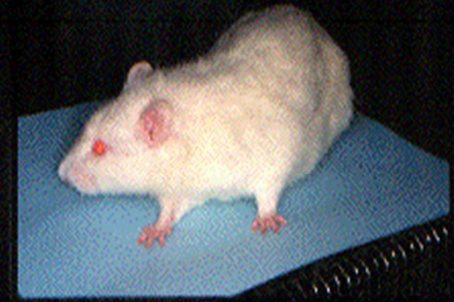




WKY:2M



WKY:4M



WKY:6M

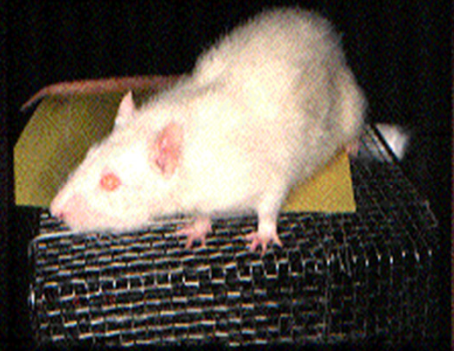
SHRSP:2M



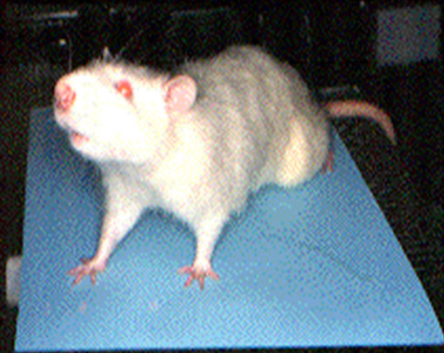
SHRSP:4M



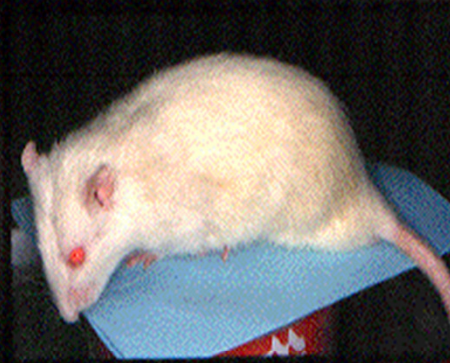
SHRSP:6M







WKY:8M



WKY:10M

SHRSP:8M

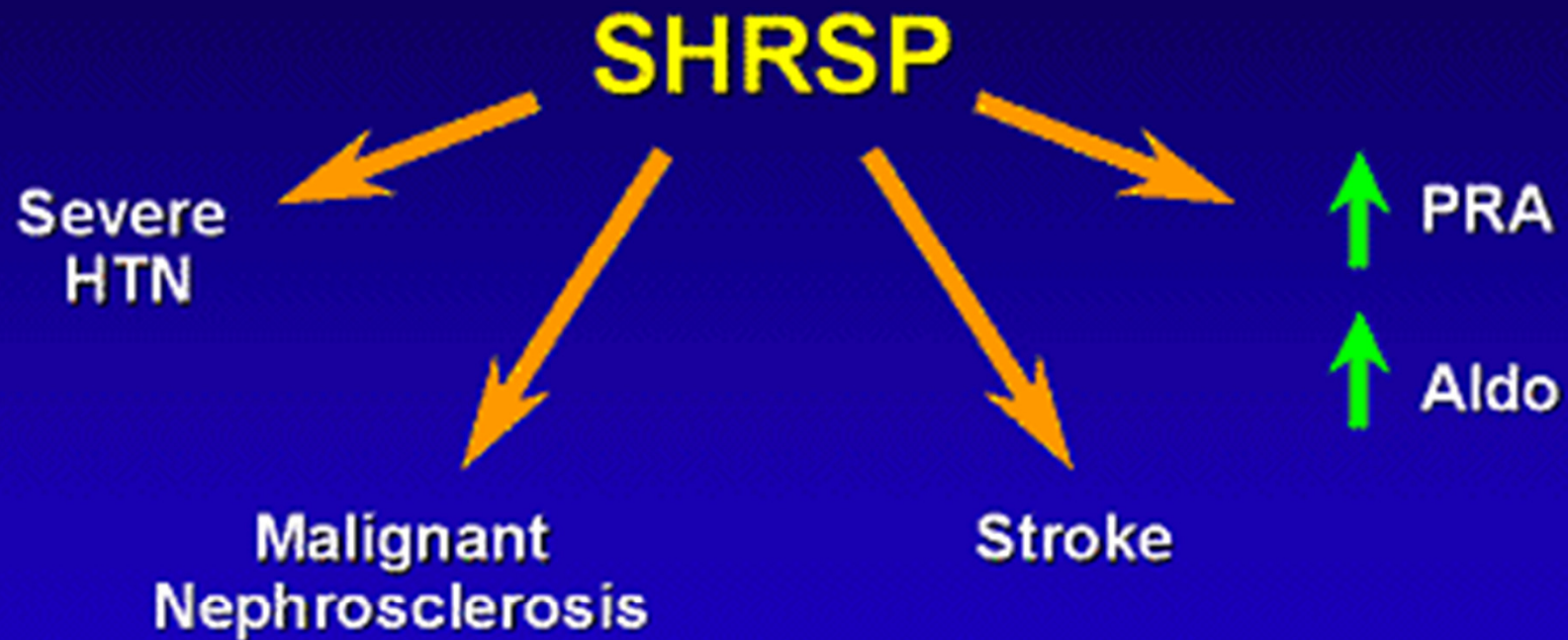


SHRSP:10M





# Characterization of SHRSP



### Establishment and characteristics of rat with precocious and severe hypertension (M-SHRSP)

Kozo Okamoto, Kazuo Yamamoto, Nobuko Morita and Yoshio Ohta

*First Department of Pathology, Kinki University School of Medicine, Sayama, Osaka 589, Japan*

#### Abstract

Through brother-sister breeding of selected stroke-prone SHR (SHRSP) evidencing high blood pressure at an early stage of development for 20 generations, an inbred strain of malignant or precocious SHRSP (M-SHRSP), showing blood pressures as high as 250 mmHg or more before 14 weeks of age, was established by administering hydralazine hydrochloride during mating and lactation. Compared to SHRSP, M-SHRSP evidences more rapid and severe increases in blood pressure. The incidence of cerebrovascular lesions is over 95%, somewhat higher than that of SHRSP. But there is a remarkable increase in the incidence of multiple small or petechial hemorrhages at the base of the brain. In later generations, the life span for male M-SHRSP has come to be about 90 days, and for the female, about 120 days. This is about 1/2 that of SHRSP and around 1/4 that of Wistar-Kyoto rats (WKY). Blood pressure of the hybrid (WT) obtained by crossbreeding M-SHRSP and WKY were intermediate to those of the parents. Those of the offspring obtained by backcrossing WT with WKY for 3 generations were intermediate to those of the parents and by the third generation had gradually decreased to nearly normotensive values of less than 150 mmHg. Those of the offspring obtained by backcrossing WT with M-SHRSP for 4 generations were also intermediate to those of the parents and by the fourth generation had gradually returned to the levels found in M-SHRSP. M-SHRSP hypertension is not inherited in accordance with the simple Mendelian laws of inheritance. Strains of rats with the blood pressure of various levels between those of M-SHRSP and WKY (i.e., between 135 and 250 mmHg) can be readily produced by suitable crossbreeding of M-SHRSP and WKY.

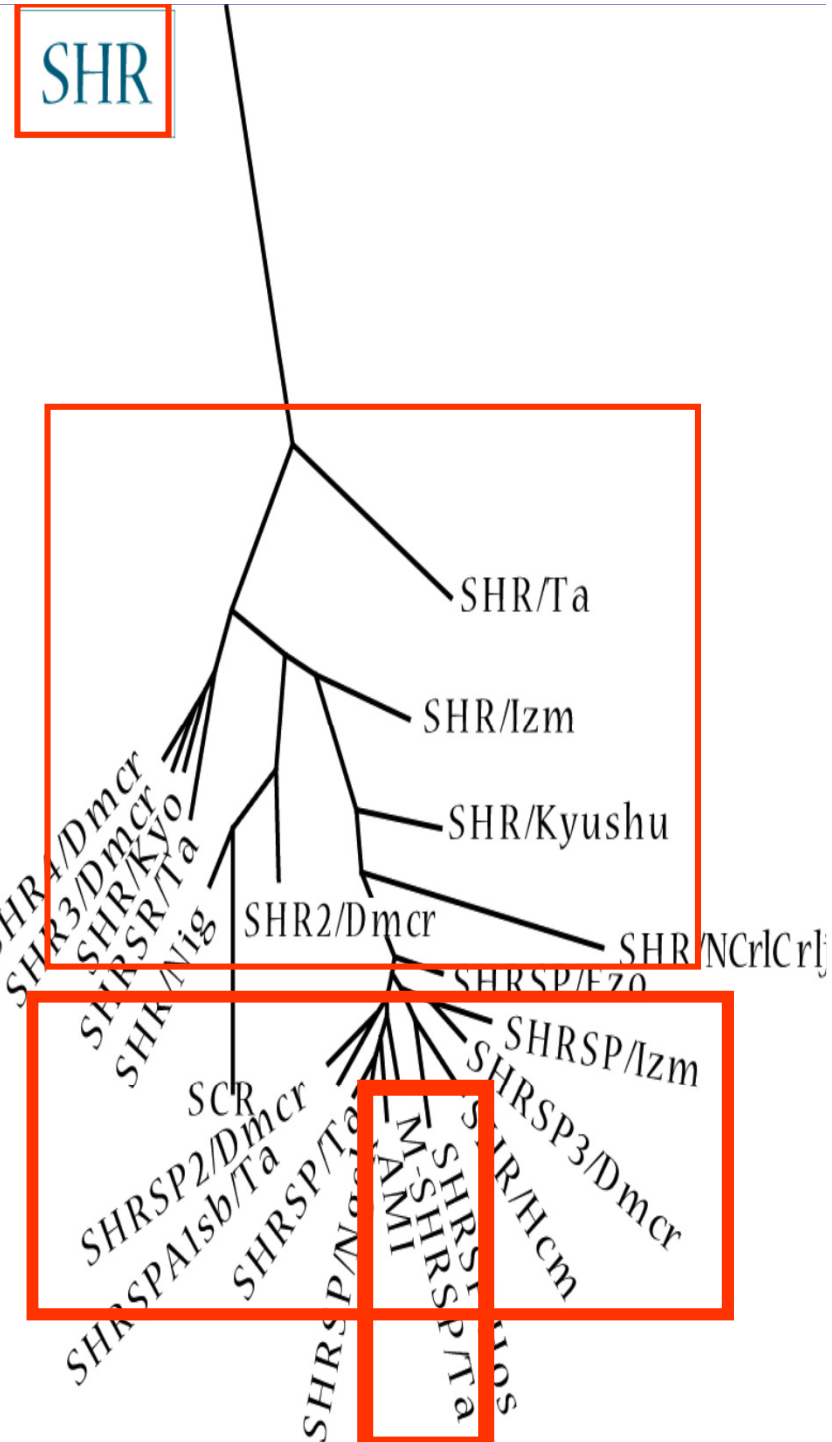
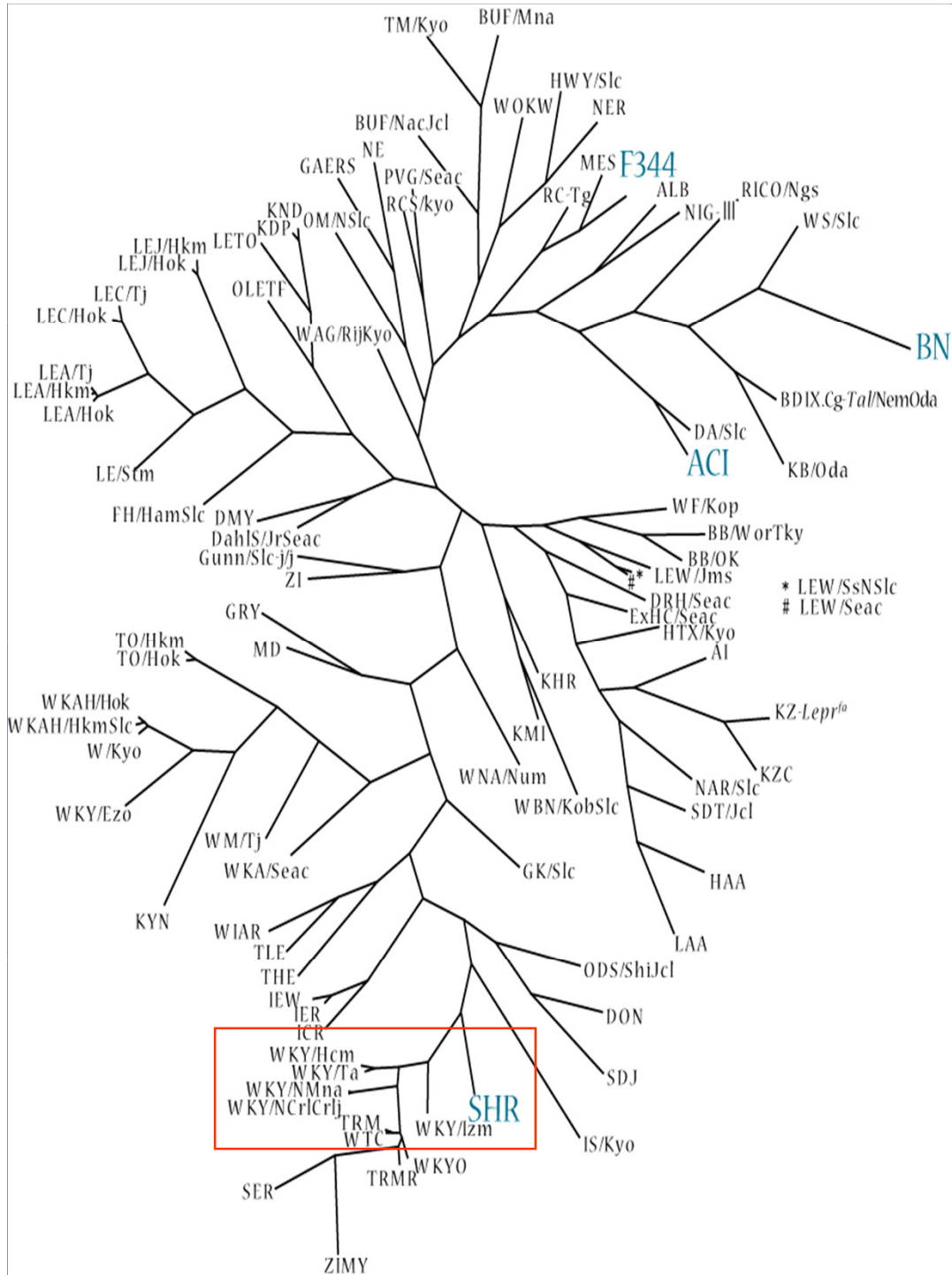
**Key words:** inbred strain, hypertensive rats, M-SHRSP, SHRSP, WKY, multiple petechial brain hemorrhage, crossbred M-SHRSP hybrid

#### Introduction

A colony of spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR), most of which show spontaneous hypertension, was established from Wistar-Kyoto rats (WKY) by Okamoto and Aoki in 1962 and 1963.<sup>1-4</sup> Then, in 1974, using SHR substrains for selective inbreed-

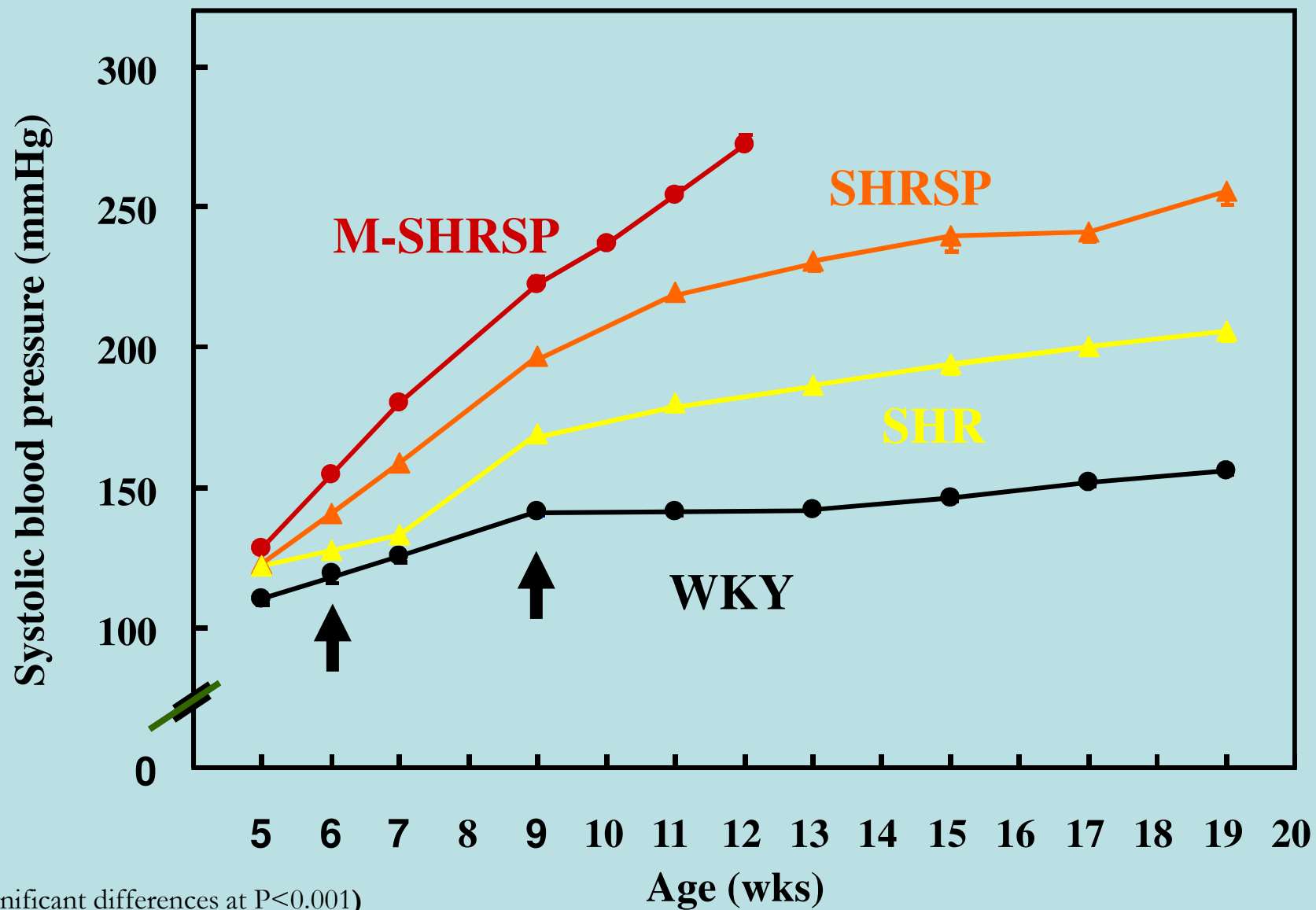
at obtaining a colony of the rats showing extremely severe hypertension at an early stage of growth, Okamoto et al. performed selective brother-sister breeding between precociously and severely hypertensive SHRSP siblings for several successive generations while giving the animals hydralazine hydrochloride (Anresoline®), an anti-

Establishment of M-SHRSP strain  
by Drs.K.OKAMOTO, K.YAMAMOTO, N.MORITA  
& Y.OHTA at 1985





# Systolic Blood Pressure among WKY and SHR groups



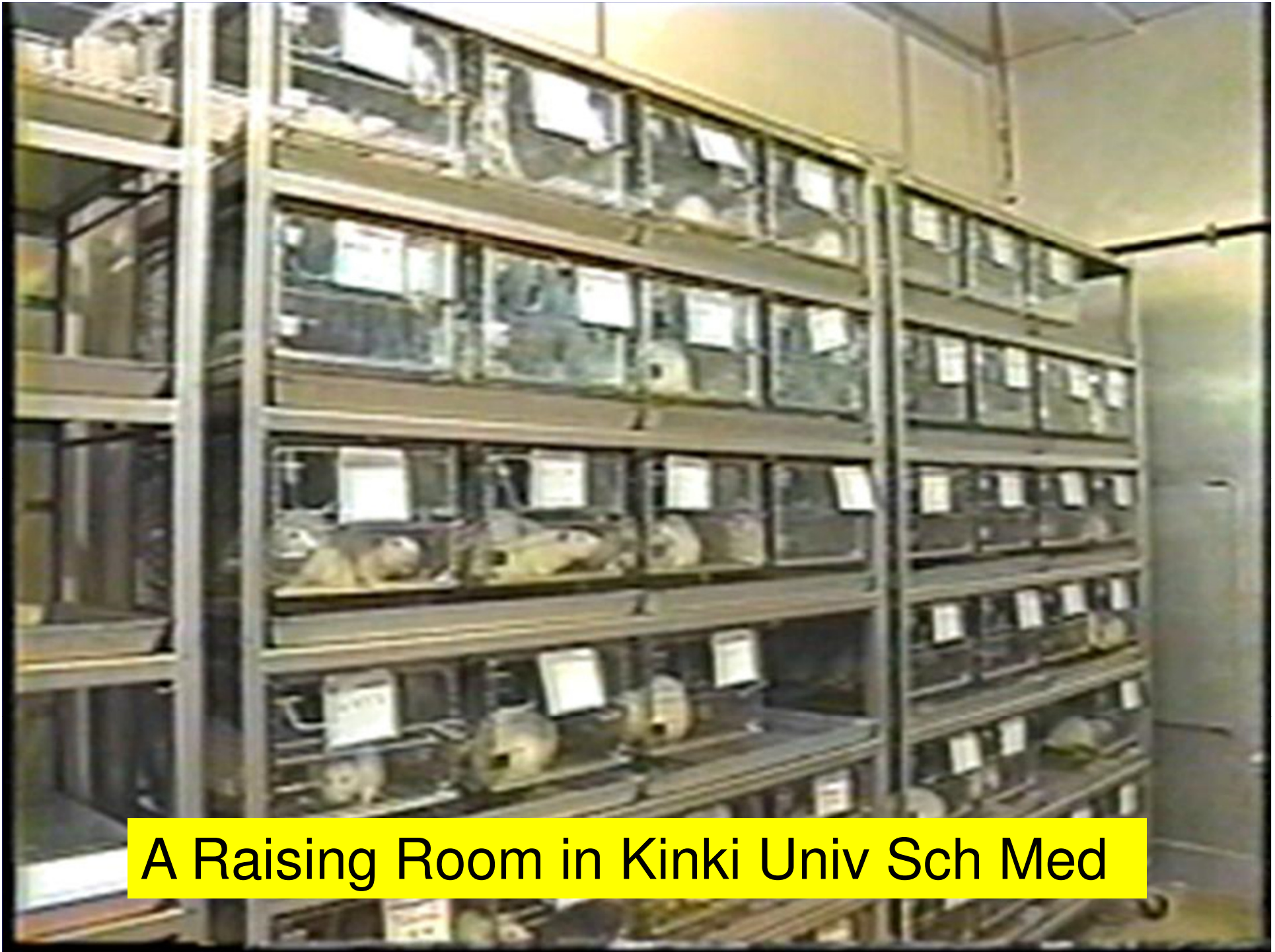
(Significant differences at  $P < 0.001$ )

大阪・狭山市

近畿大学医学部

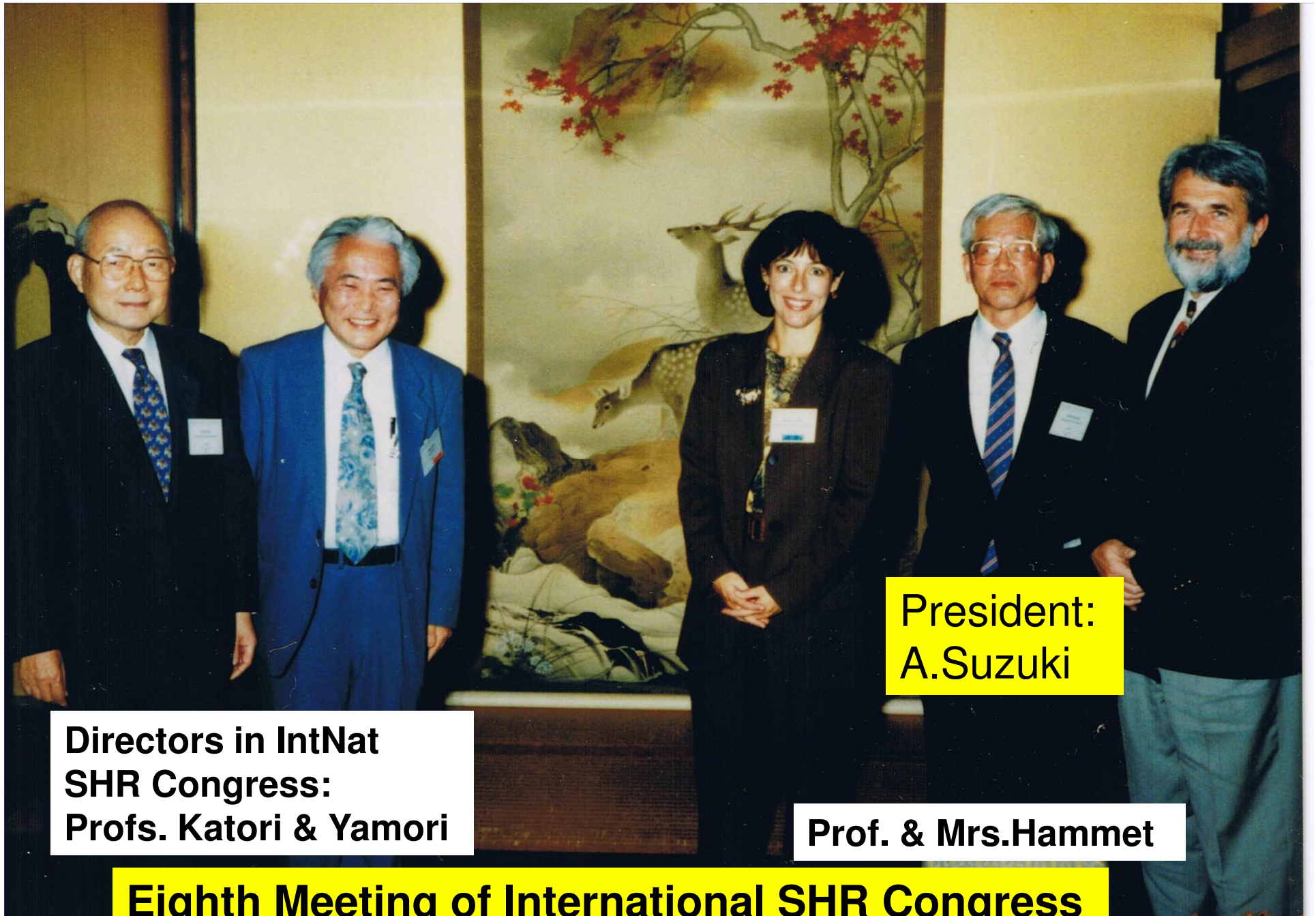
Kinki University School of Medicine in Osaka, Japan





A Raising Room in Kinki Univ Sch Med





**Directors in IntNat  
SHR Congress:  
Profs. Katori & Yamori**

**President:  
A.Suzuki**

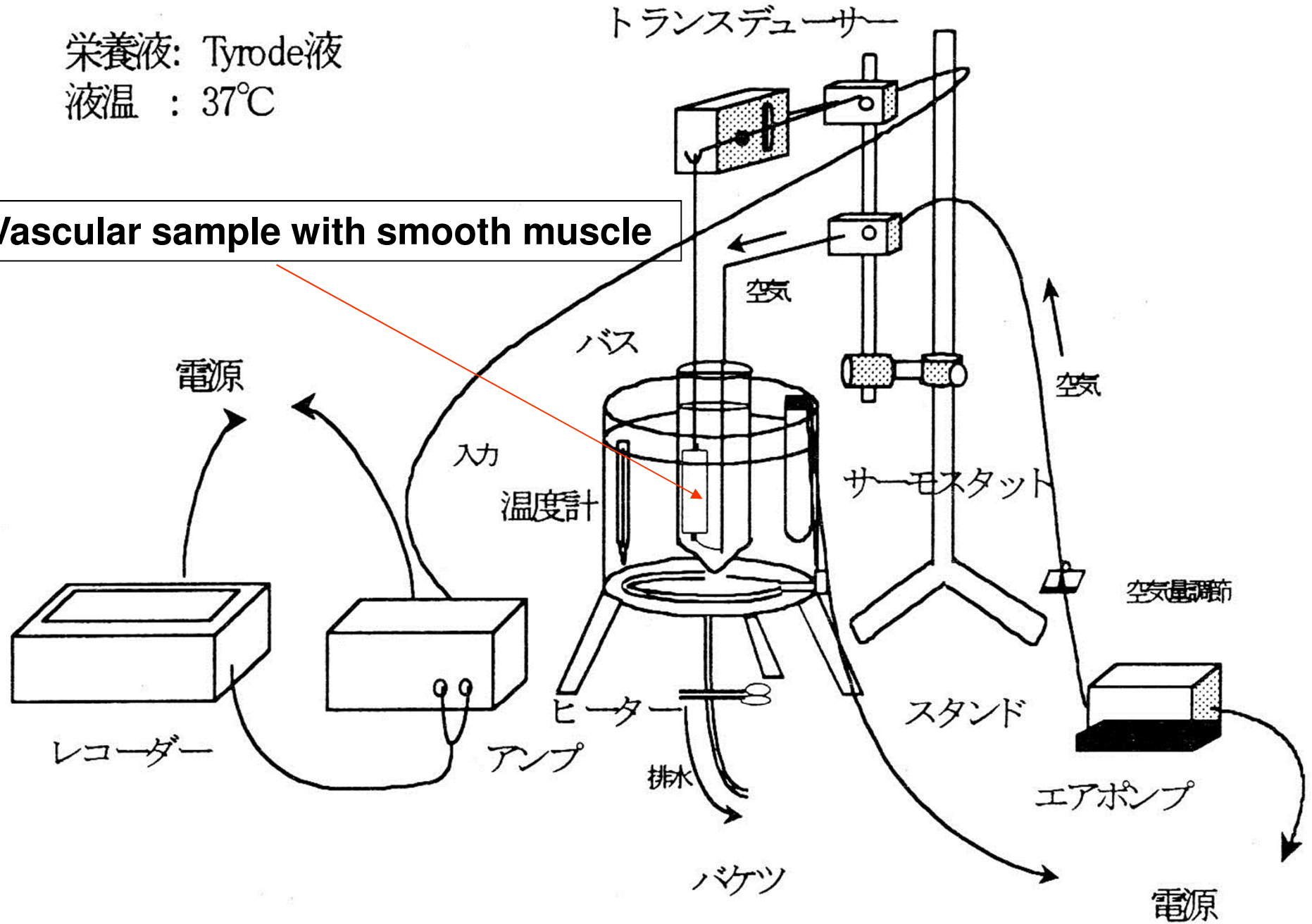
**Prof. & Mrs.Hammet**

**Eighth Meeting of International SHR Congress  
in Osaka, Japan at 1994**



栄養液: Tyrode液  
液温 : 37°C

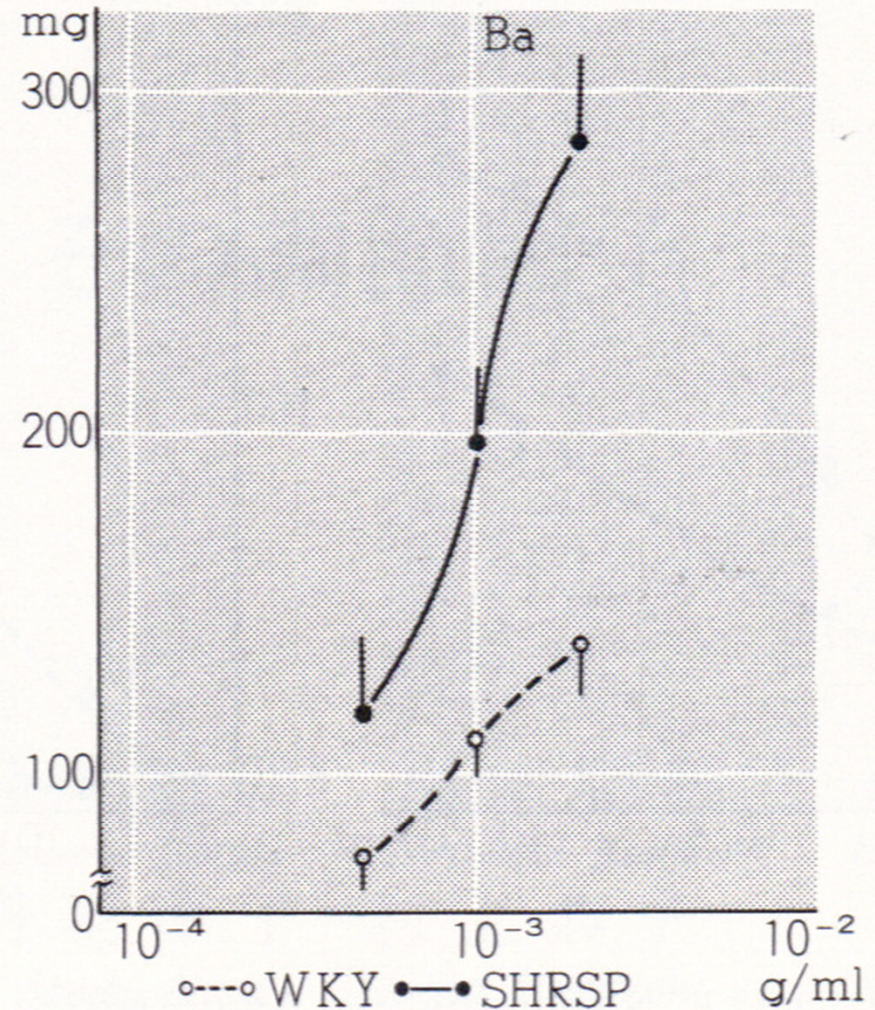
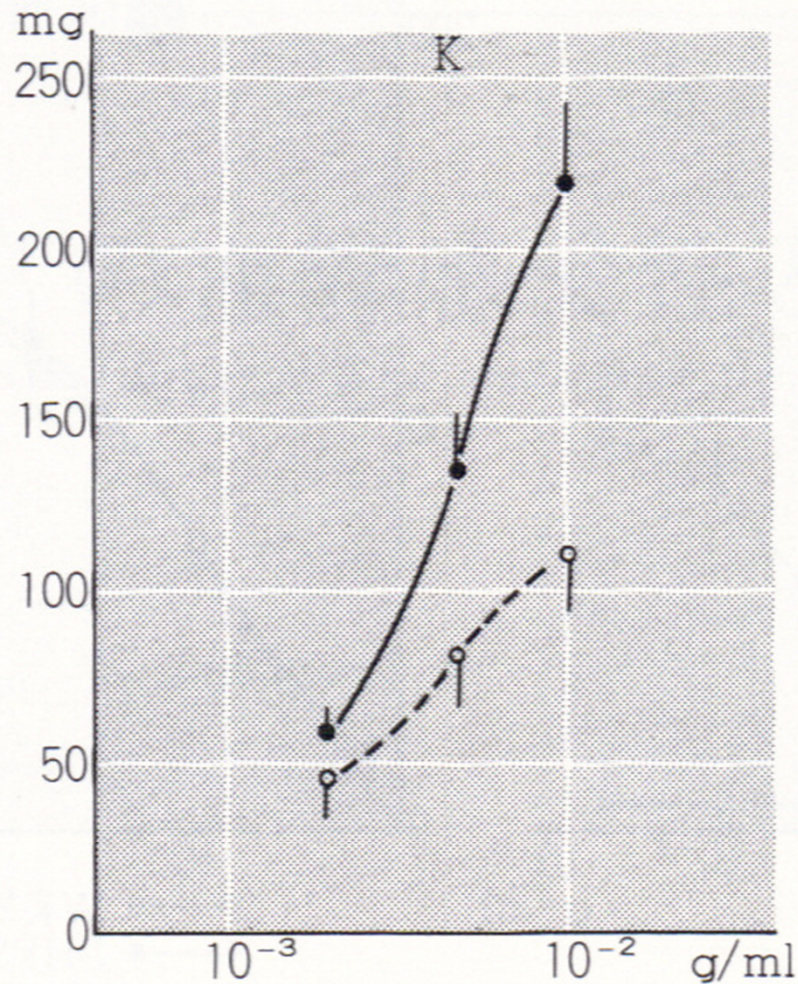
Vascular sample with smooth muscle



Magnus Apparatus for measuring of vascular tension



# Tension caused by $K^+$ or $Ba^{2+}$ ions in Aorta



Aortae of SHRSP were more contracted than that of WKY by  $K^+$  and  $Ba^{2+}$  ions



易い状態にあると考えられ、そのために

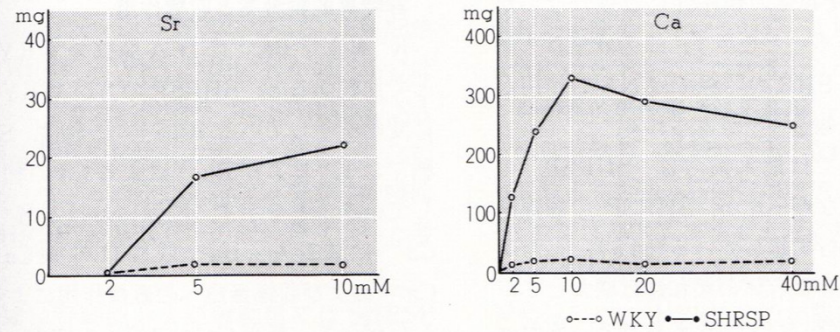
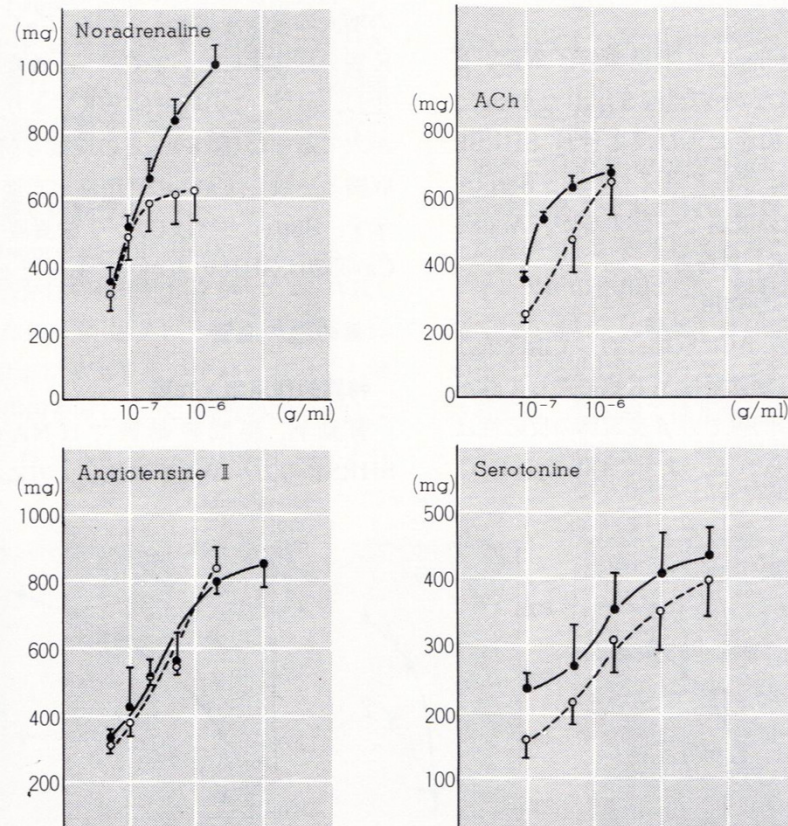


図4 大動脈における Sr および Ca の収縮作用



Aortae of SHRSP were more contracted than that of WKY by  $St^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$  ions, and Noradrenalin and Serotonin

Those findings show as follows.

1. Vascular smooth muscle cells of SHRSP are easily depolarized.

Shows “**Fall of membrane potential in SHRSP**”

2. Acceleration against  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  ion sensitivity in SHRSP

Shows “**Functional deterioration in the membrane of endoplasmic reticulum in SHRSP**”



**Relate to the Cause of Hypertension**



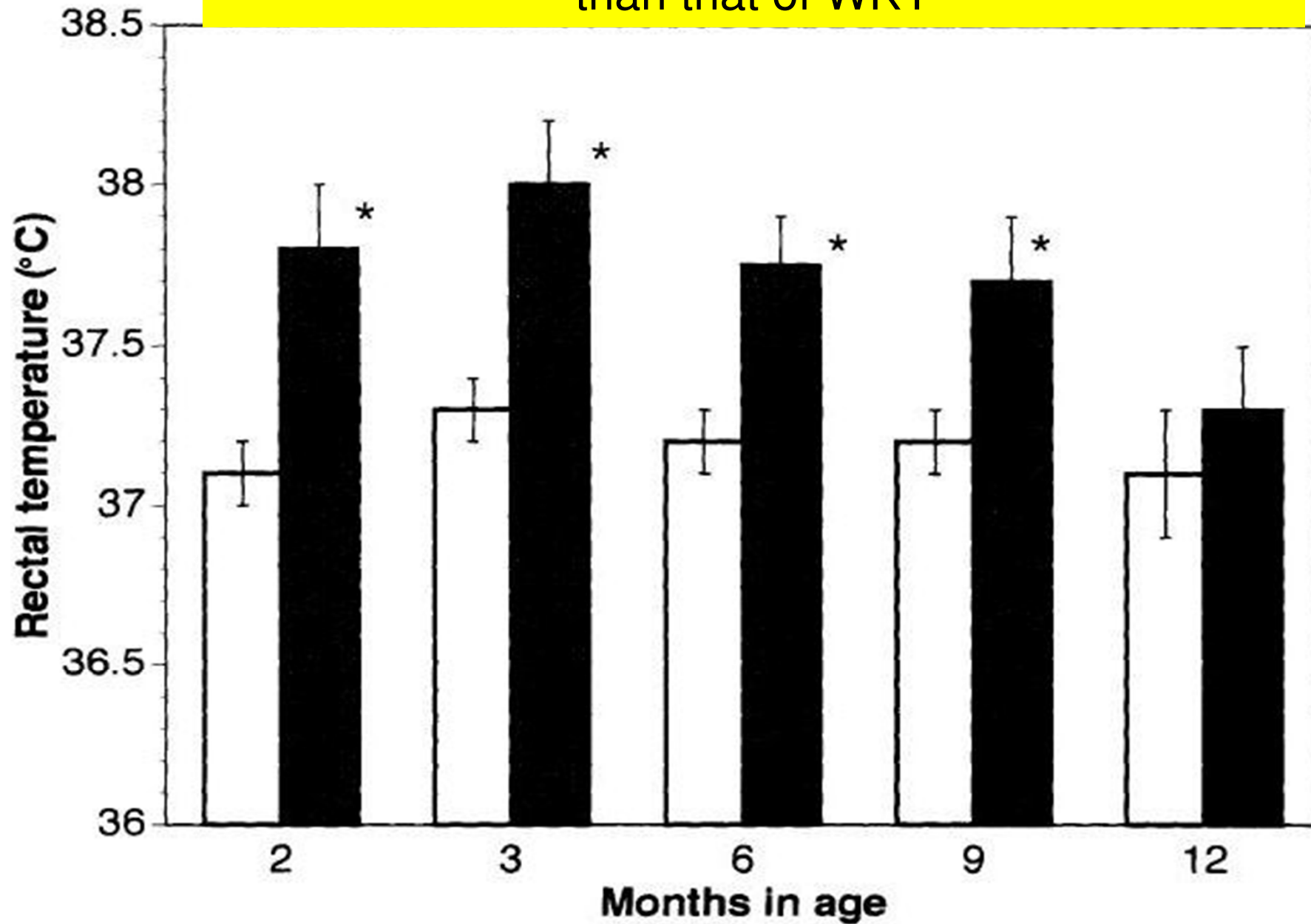


# Upper shift of the set point in the thermocenter causes hyperthermia in SHRSP

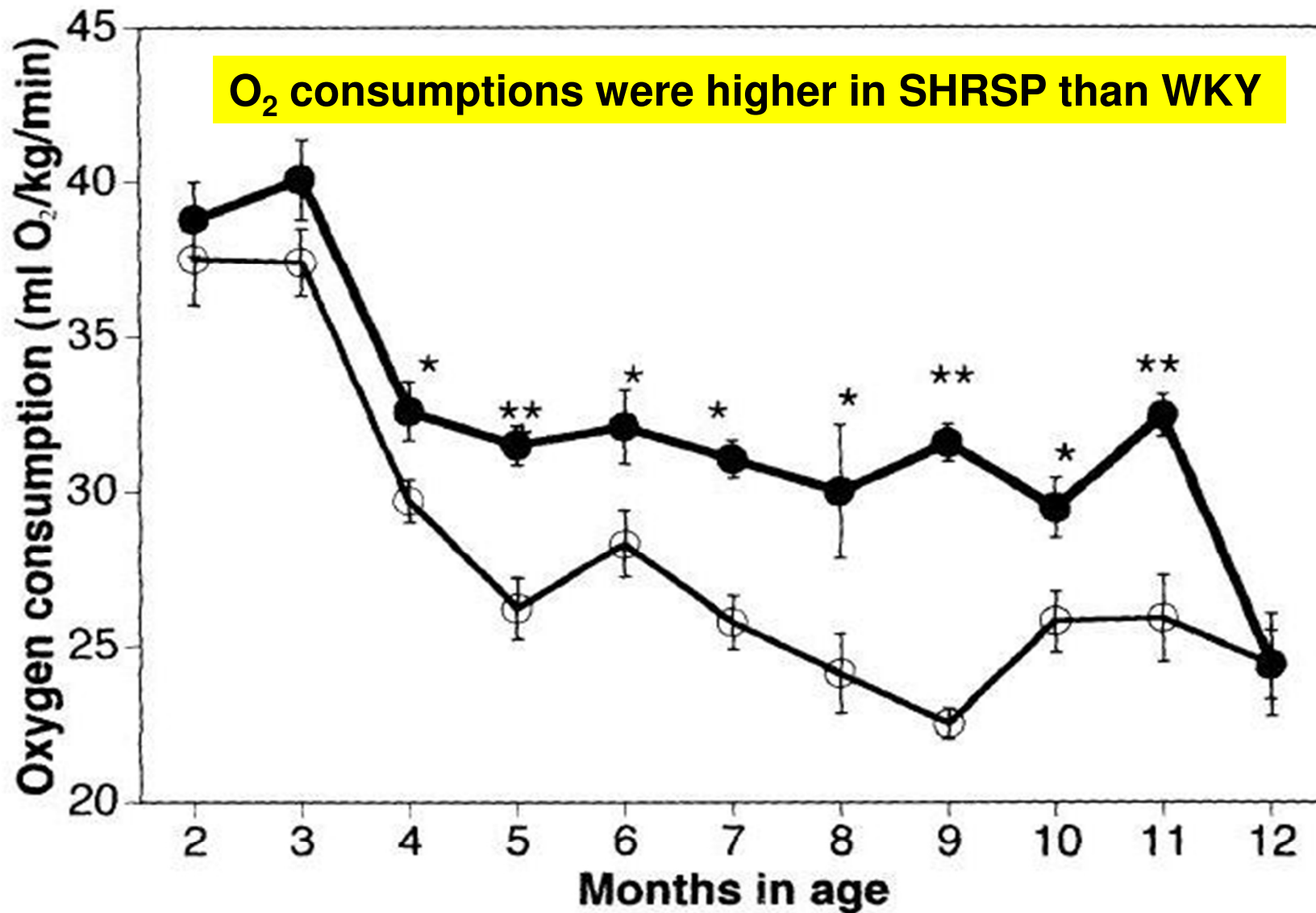
Hideaki Higashino and Aritomo Suzuki

*Department of Pharmacology, Kinki University School of Medicine,  
Osakasayama, Osaka 589, Japan*

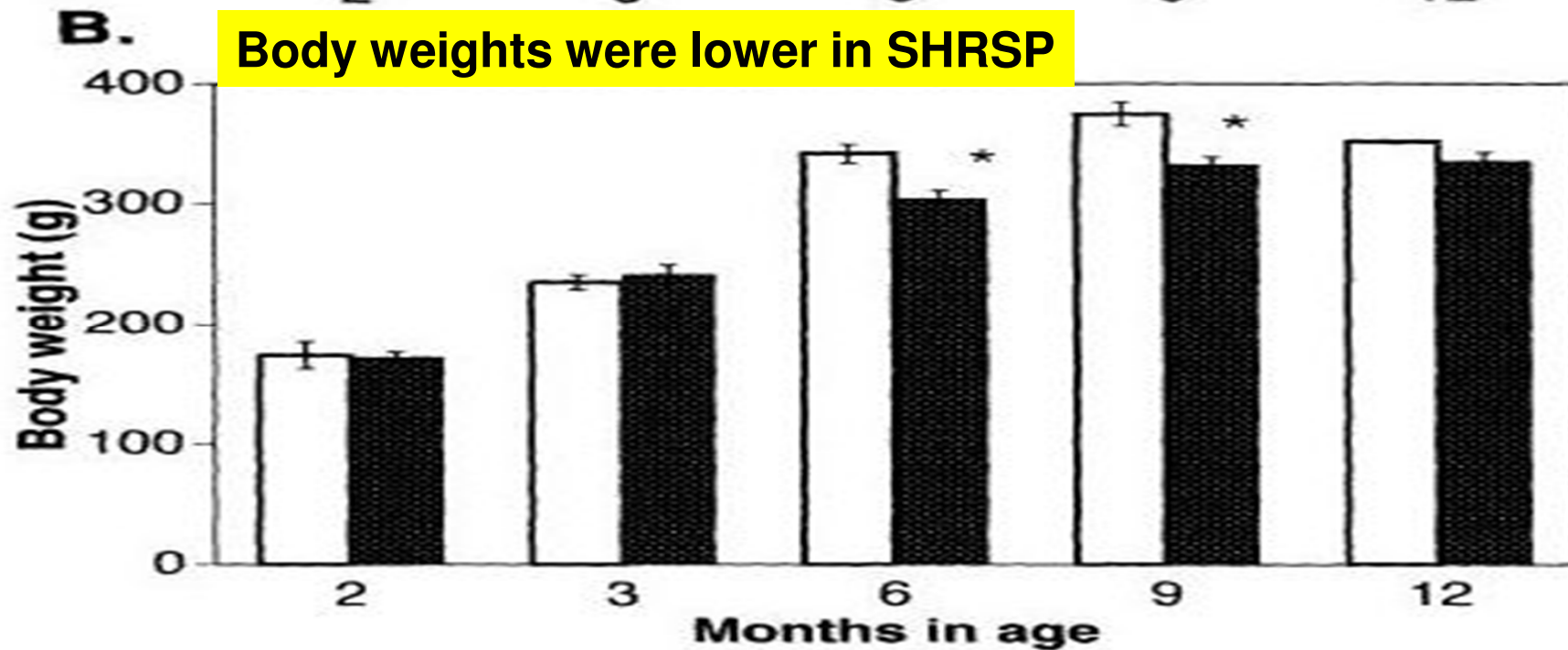
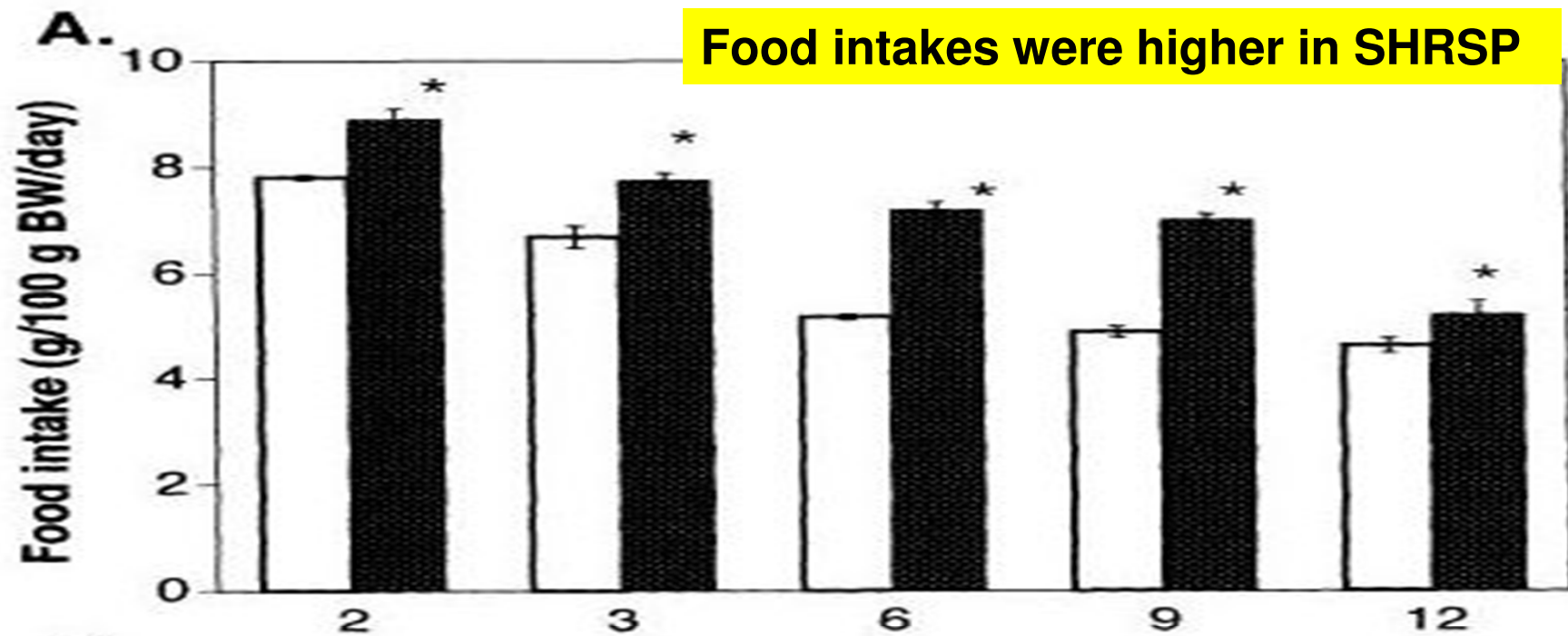
Body temperatures in SHRSP were elevated more than that of WKY





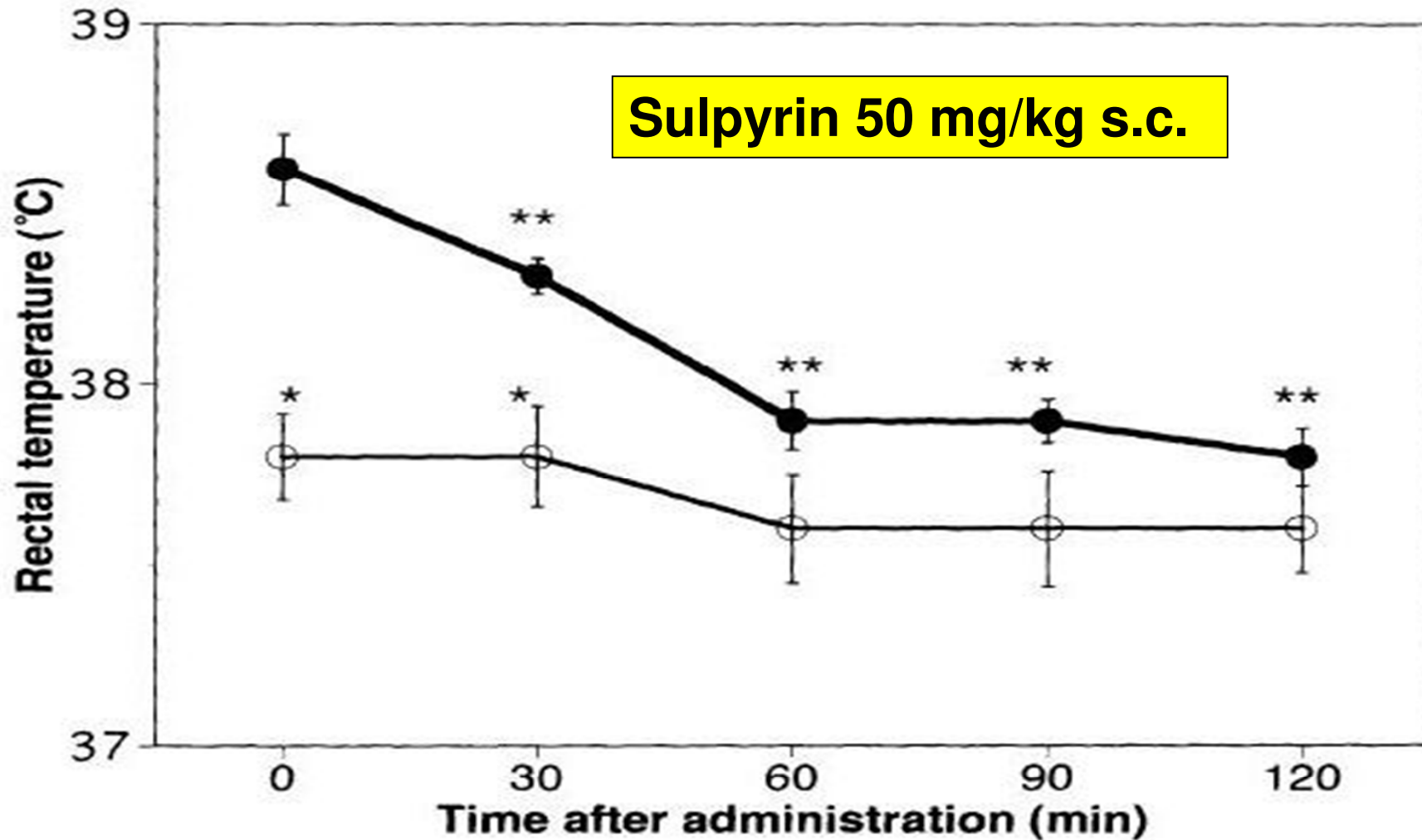


**Fig. 3** The oxygen consumption rates in SHRSP and WKY at 2 to 12 months of age. Open and closed circles show the mean values (n=4-39) of WKY and SHRSP, respectively. Single and double asterisks indicate significant differences at the levels of  $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.01$  in the values between age-matched SHRSP and WKY, respectively.

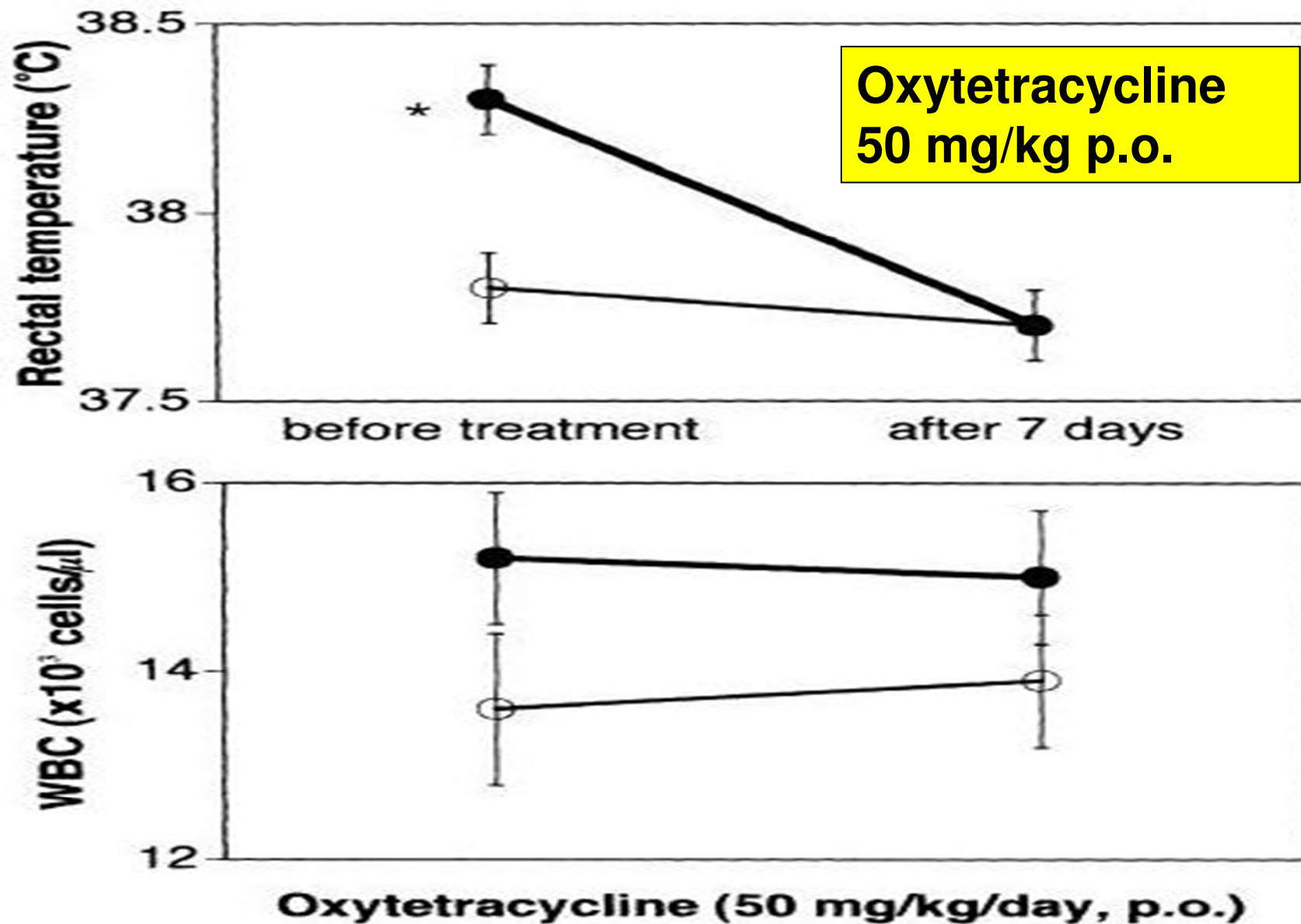




Hyperthermia in SHRSP

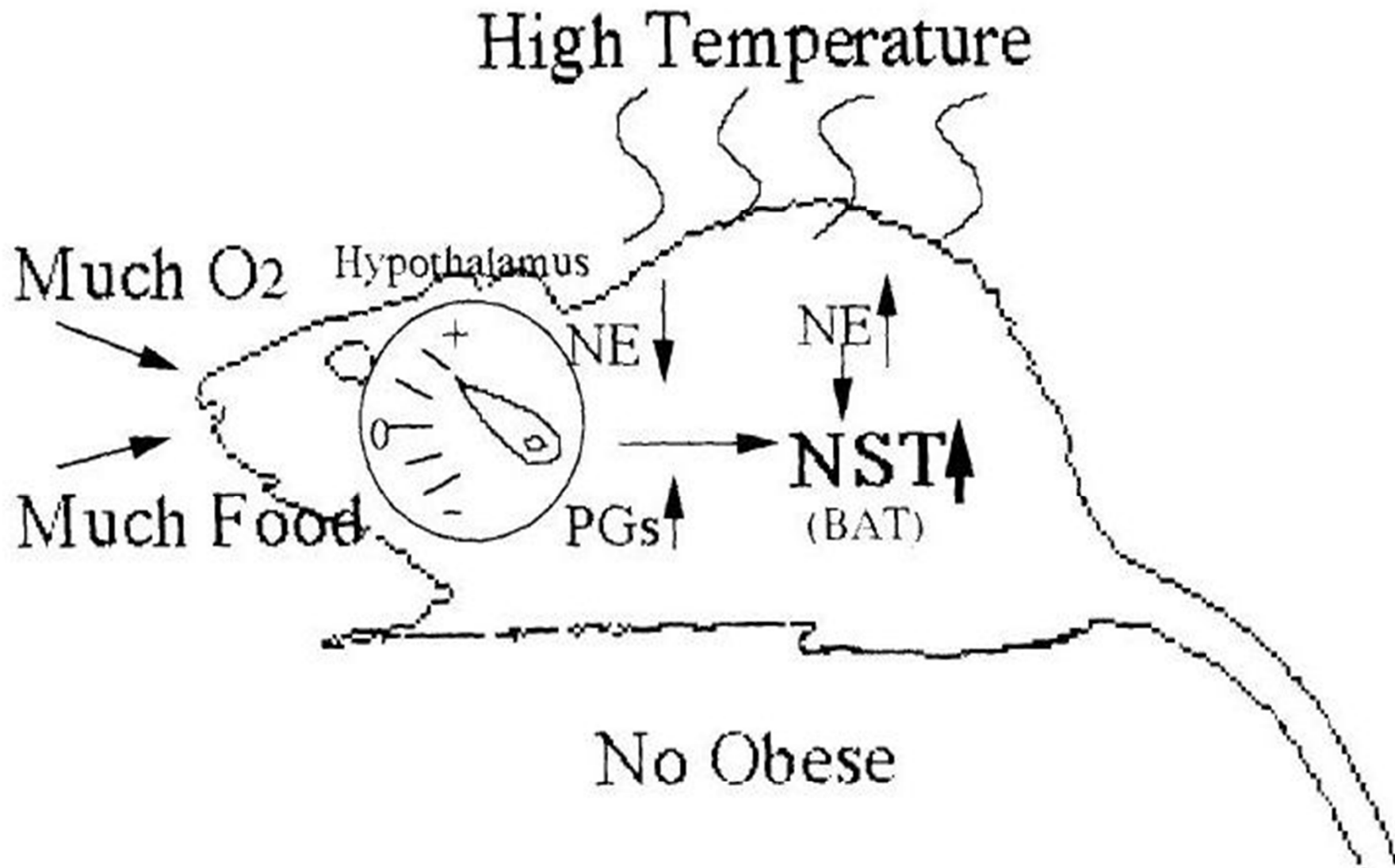


**Fig. 7** The effect of the sulpyrin injection at the dose of 50 mg/kg s.c. on the rectal temperature in 3-month-old SHRSP and WKY (n=7). Open and closed circles show the mean values for WKY and SHRSP, respectively. Single and double asterisks indicate the significant differences between SHRSP and WKY values at the levels of  $p < 0.01$ , and between the initial temperature and each later temperature in SHRSP at the level of  $p < 0.02$ , respectively.



**Fig. 8** The effects of oxytetracycline administration (50 mg/kg p.o. for 7 days) on the rectal temperature (upper figure) and the peripheral white blood cell count (lower figure) in 3-month-old SHRSP (closed circles) and WKY (open circles) (n=8). Asterisk indicates a significant difference in the values between SHRSP and WKY at the level of  $p < 0.01$ .





1. Upper shift of the set point in the hypothalamic thermocenter of SHRSP

2. Higher expression of UCP → Increase of NST → Hyperthermia in SHRSP

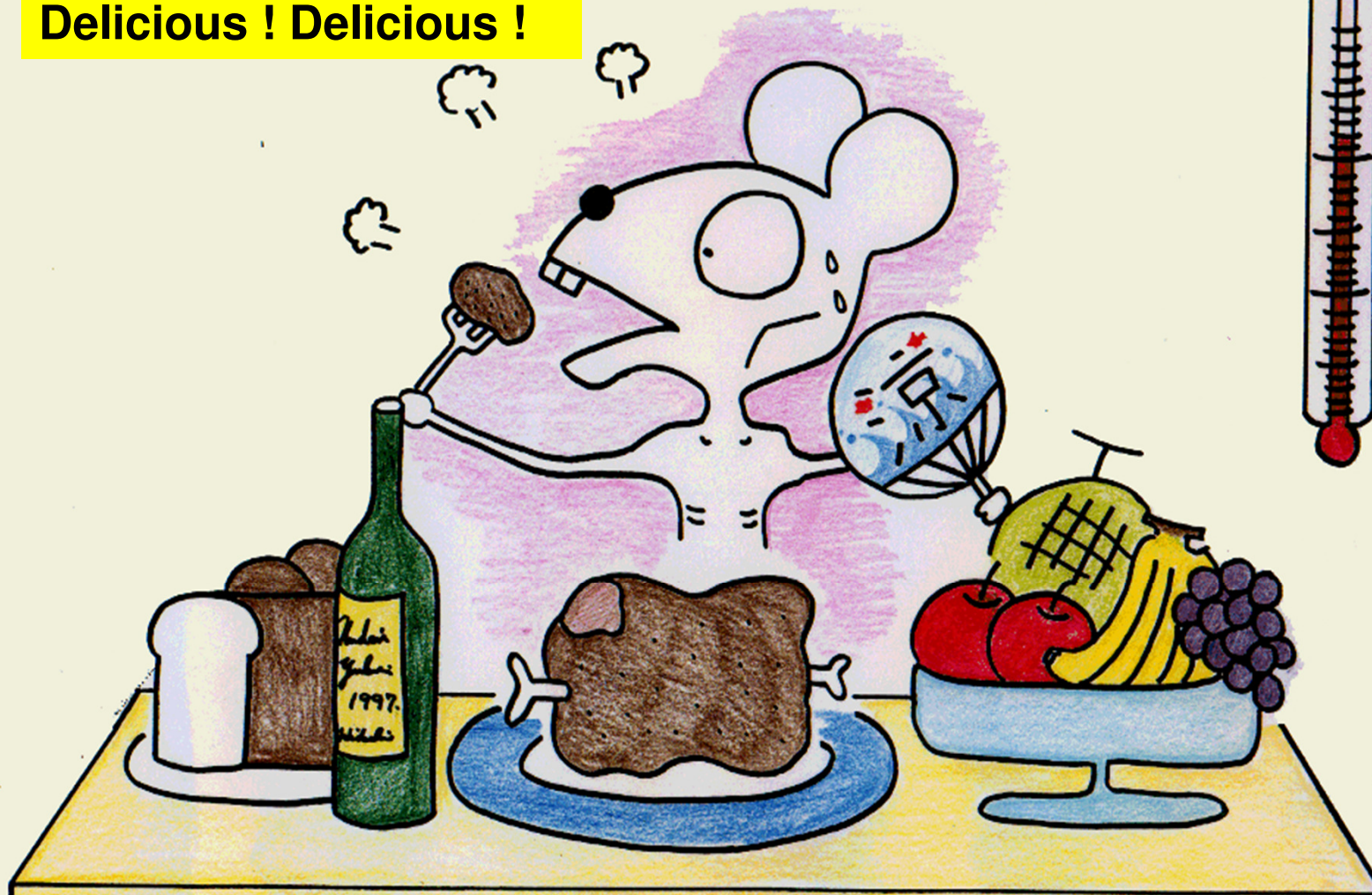
# SHRSP: Stroke-prone Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat

I want to get more weight!

I want to intake oxygen more !

Very hot ! Very hot !

Delicious ! Delicious !





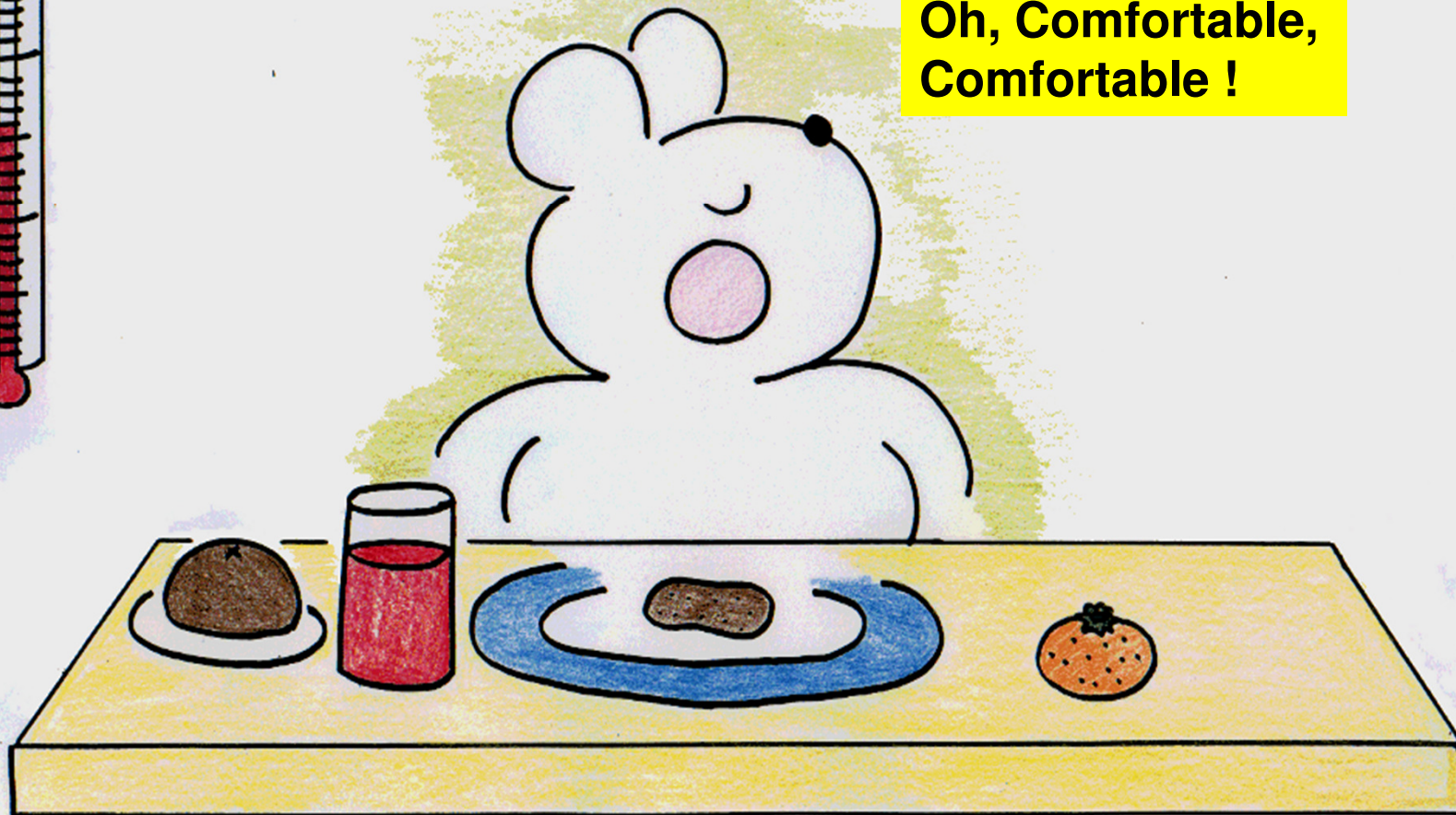
## WKY: normotensive Wistar Kyoto Rat

**I need not take more food !**

**I need not call a Doctor !**

9

**Oh, Comfortable,  
Comfortable !**



# **Beneficial Effects of Voluntary Long-term Exercise on Blood Pressure and Vascular Inflammatory Parameters in Stroke-Prone SHR**



Hideaki Higashino, Atsuko Niwa, Kana Ooshima, Masaki  
Tabuchi, Toshiaki Ishizuka  
Department of Pharmacology, Kinki University School of  
Medicine, Osaka-Sayama, 589-8511, Japan.



# Intervention Therapy for Hypertension

## 1. Guidance for Improvement of Life Style

a. Food (low salt, low calorie, much fiber)

b. Physical exercise

c. Save the body weight

d. To avoid much stress

e. Enjoy the daily life

## 2. Drug therapy

a. Early treatment

b. Select the appropriate drugs for prevention of AS

## Methods

Animals: Male SHRSP aged 6-week-old at pre-hypertensive stage

Groups: 1. Voluntary wheel-running (WR): 2 to 3 km running/day

2. sedentary control (SED): in the cage without running

Duration: 8 weeks

Analyses:

Thoracic Aortae: NOS expression, eNOS activity, oxidative stress

Akt, eNOS, phosphorylated ones by western blotting

NADPH oxidase mRNA by RT-PCR.

Activities of eNOS by using [3H]l-arginine

Blood: Superoxide ( $O_2^-$ ) production by flow cytometer using DHE

Plasma: sICAM-1, MCP-1, 8-iso-PGF $2\alpha$  by ELISA

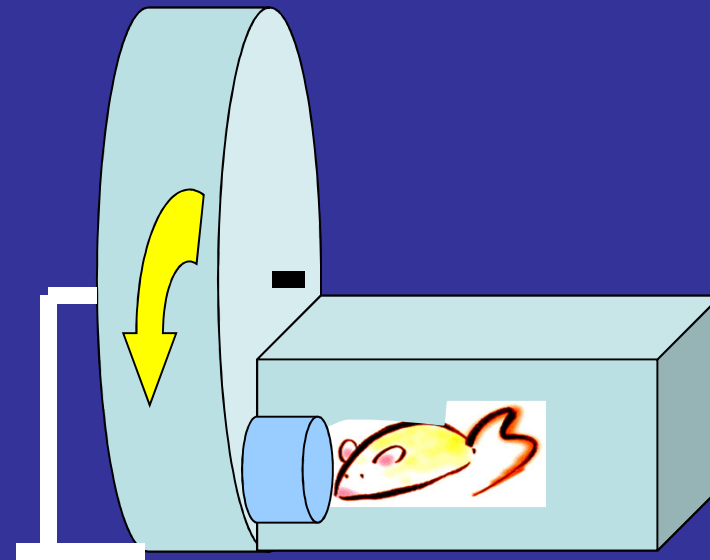
Observation of the occurrence of apoplexy: keeping them until the death



# Apparatus for Exercise: Free Wheel-running



Sedentary  
(SED)

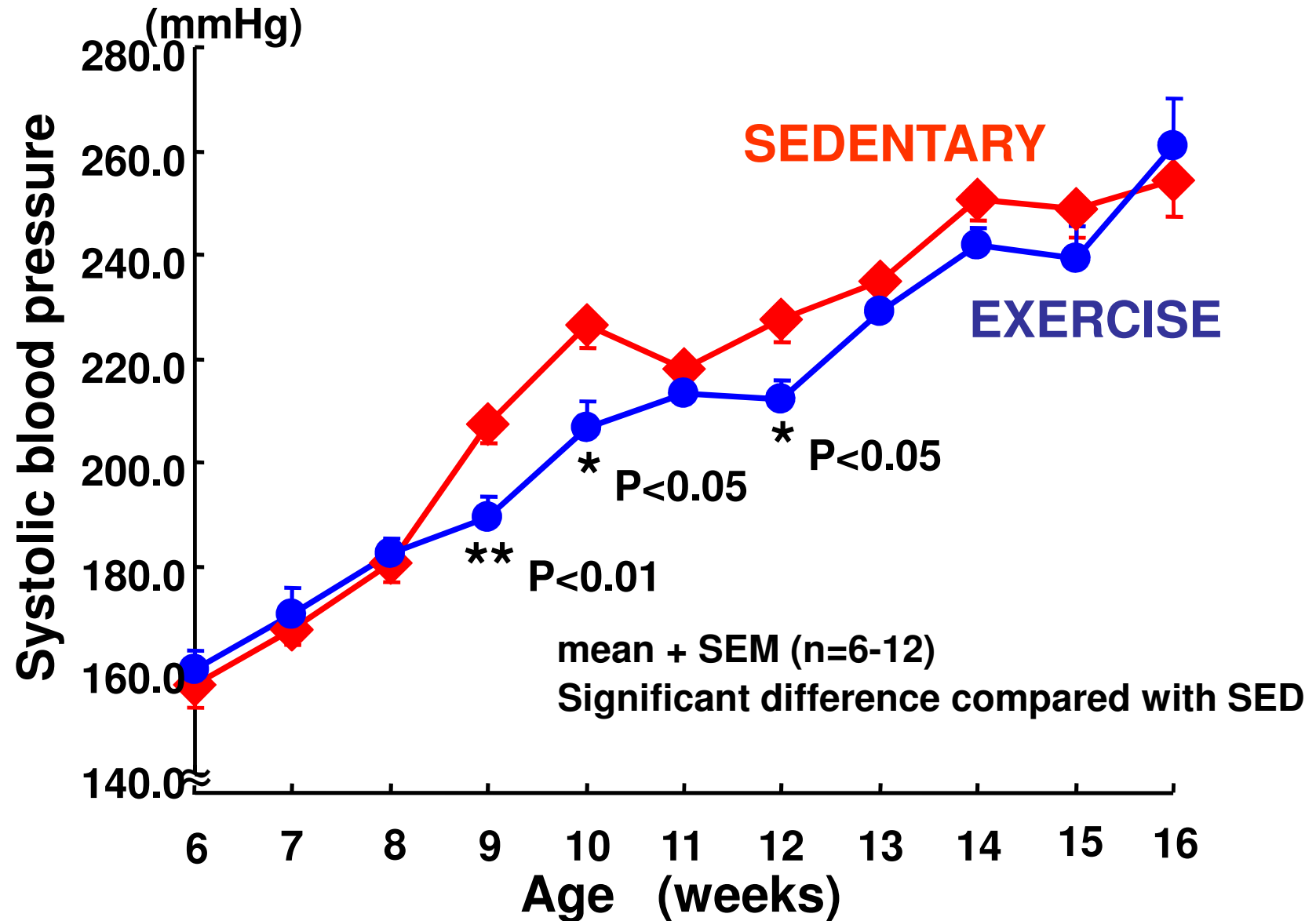


voluntary wheel-running  
>2,500m/day (2,500 rpd)  
ca 2,600 J/day  
(WR)

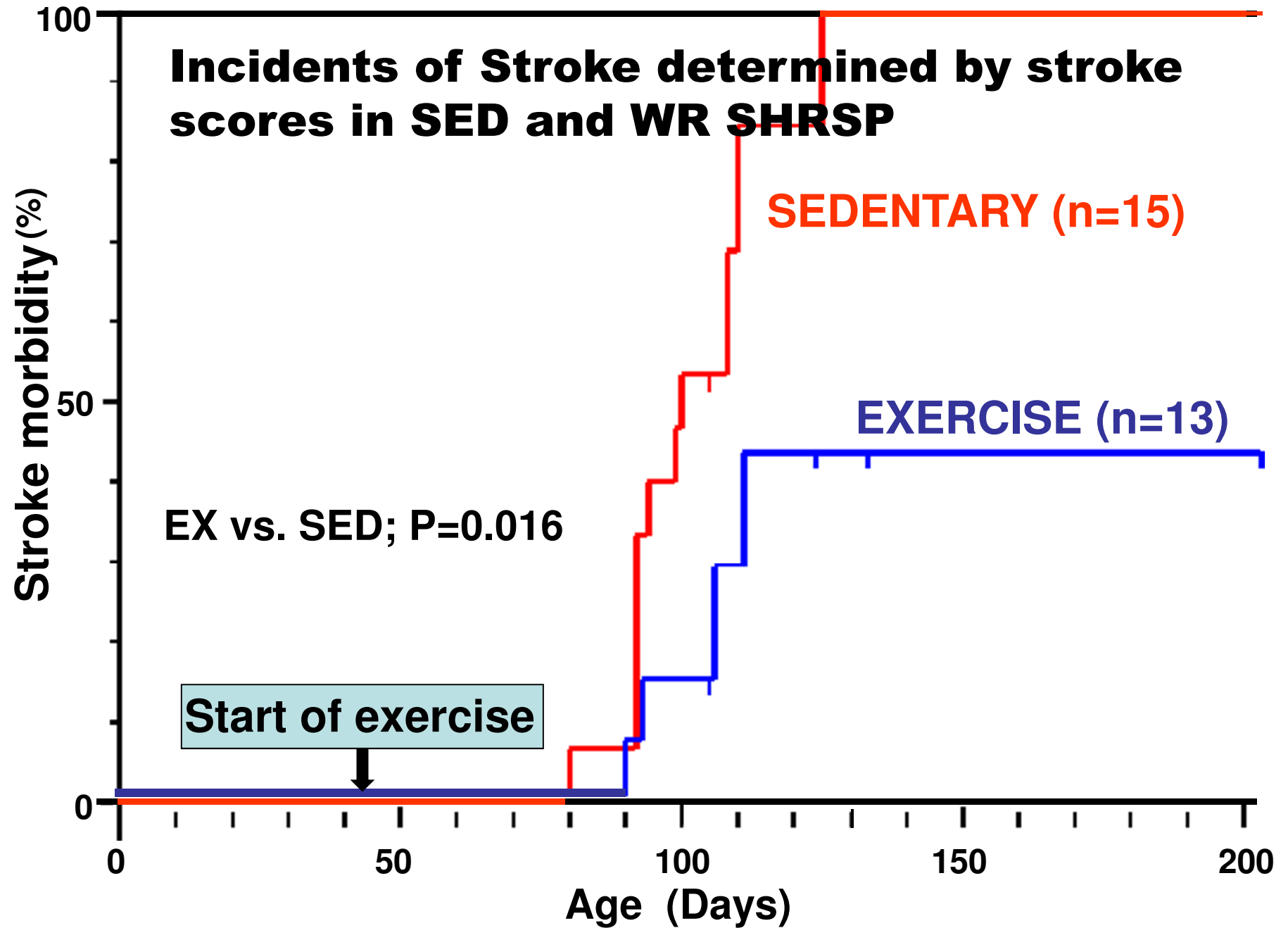
Free Wheel Running



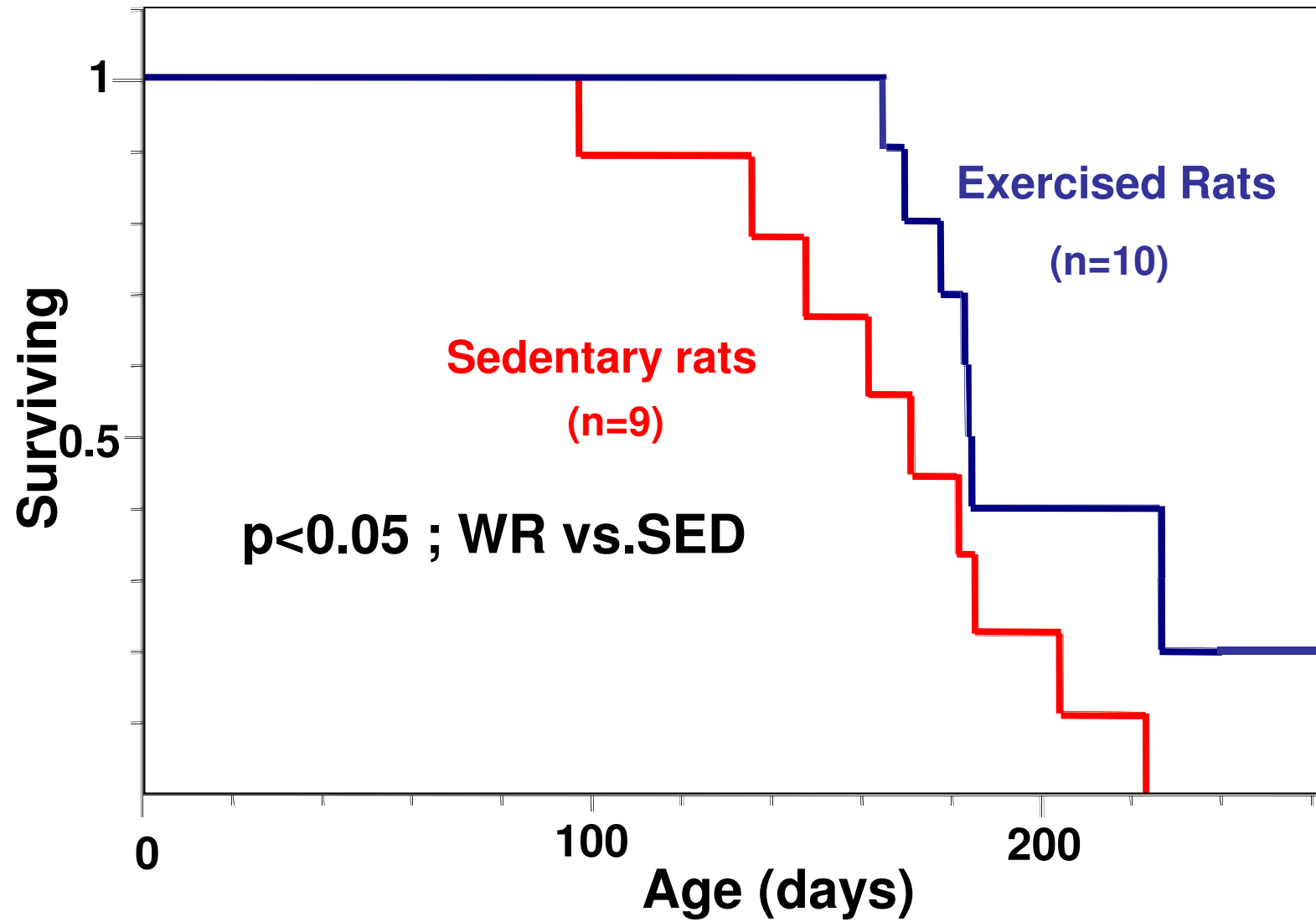
# Changes of blood pressure in **SEDENTARY** and **EXERCISED** SHRSP







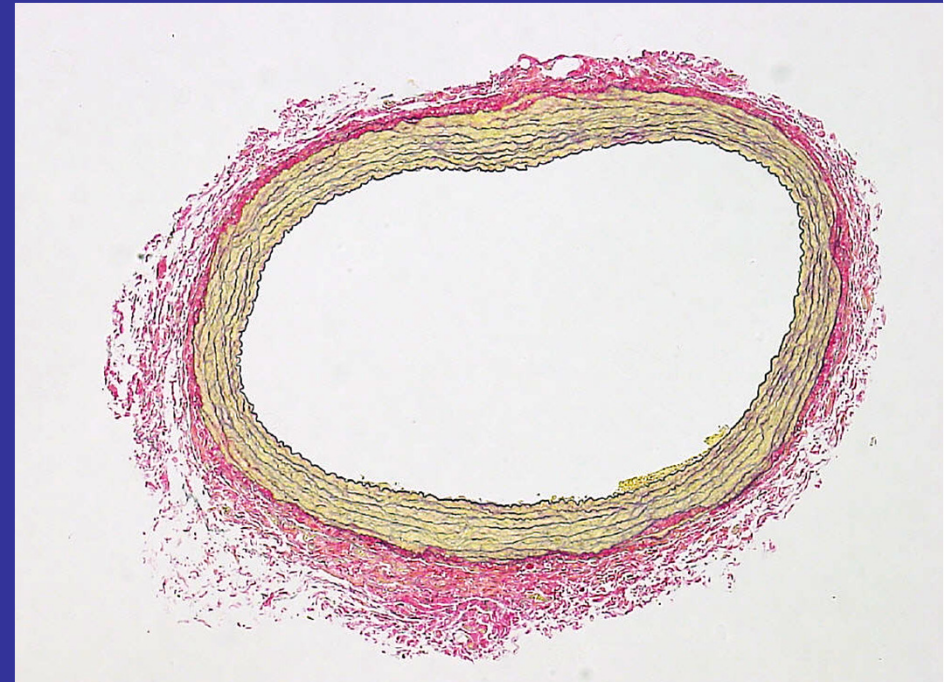
# Periods of Life-Span in Sedentary and Exercised SHRSP



**SEDENTARY**

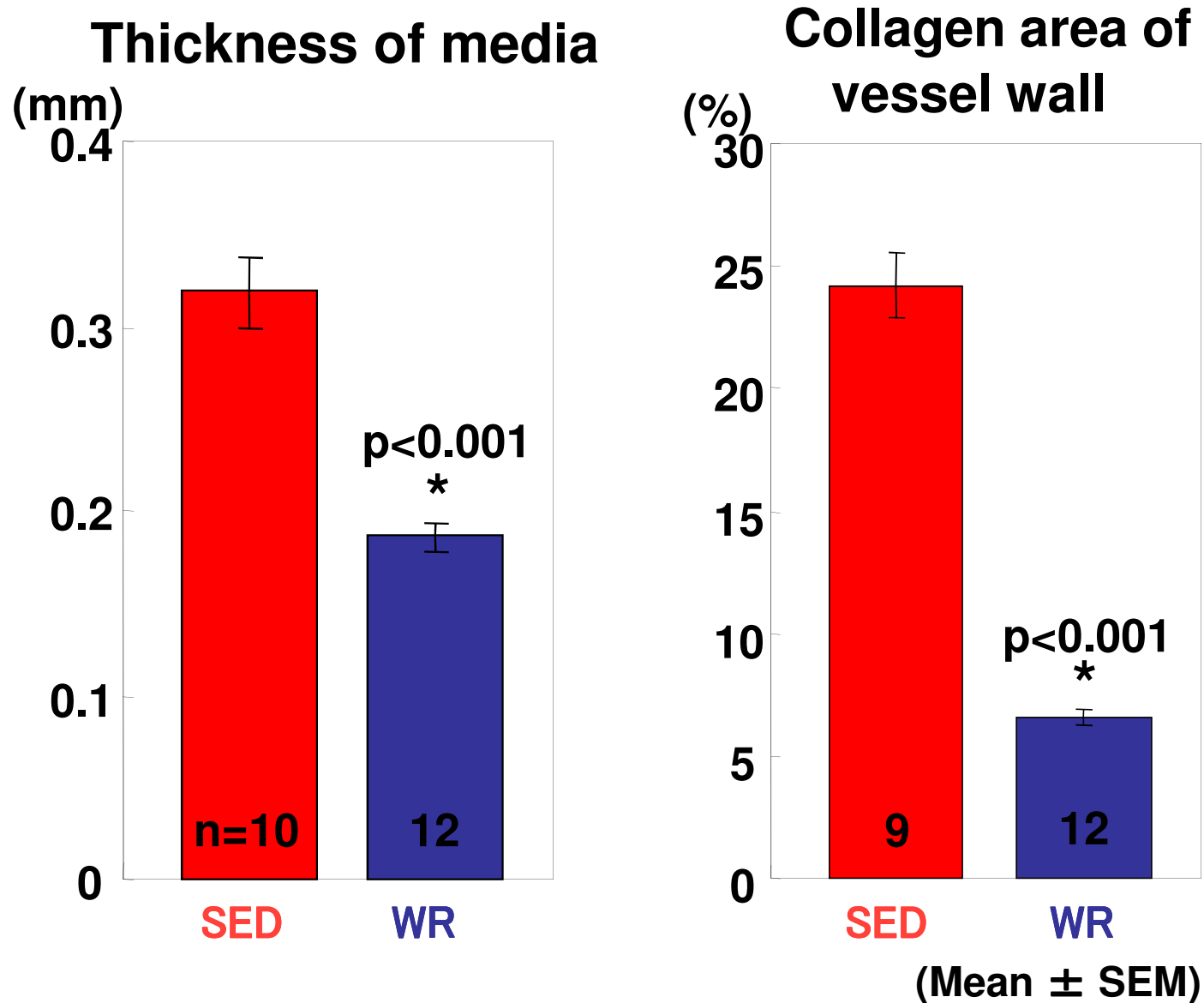


**EXERCISE**



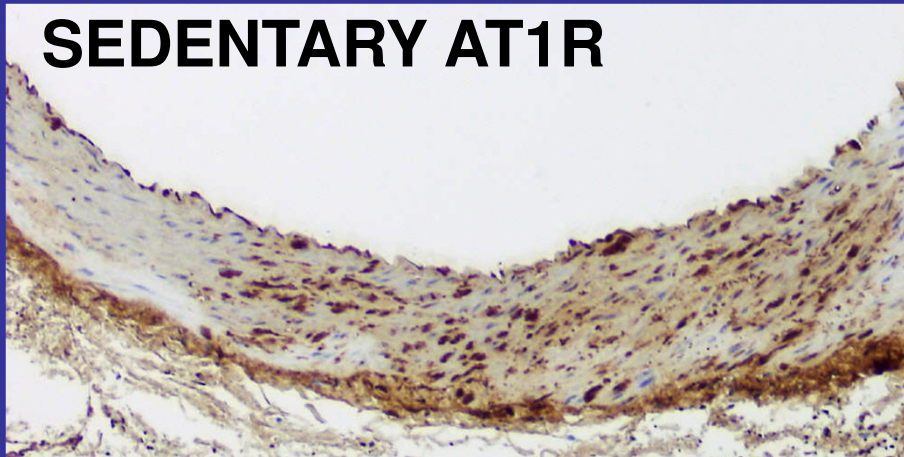


# Thickness of SM layers and Collagen area in Thoratic aortae after exercise in SHRSP

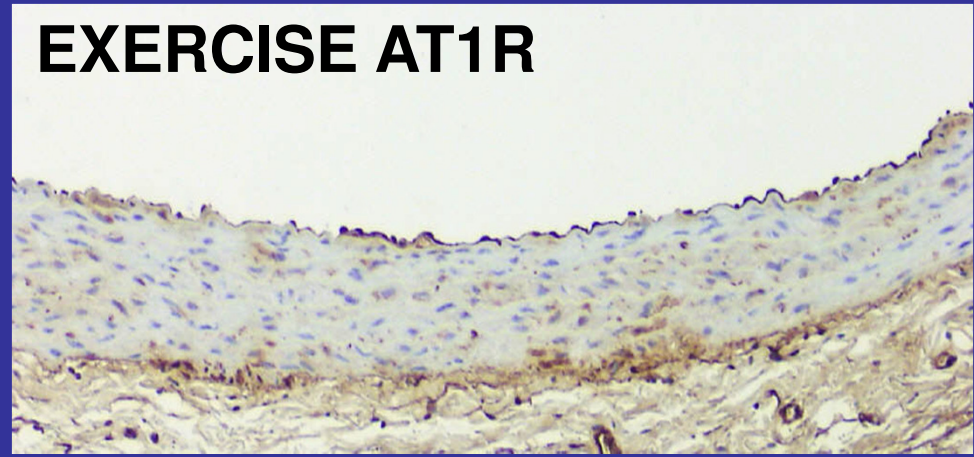


# Expression of angiotensin (AT)1 receptors and AT2 receptors in the aortas of SED and WR SHRSP

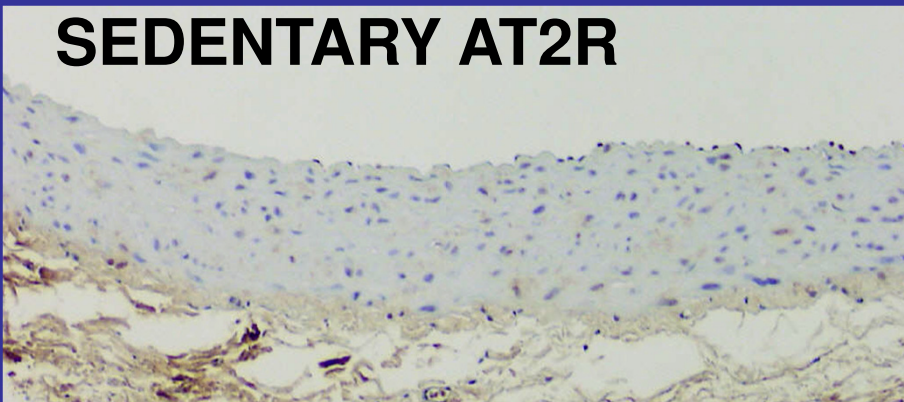
**SEDENTARY AT1R**



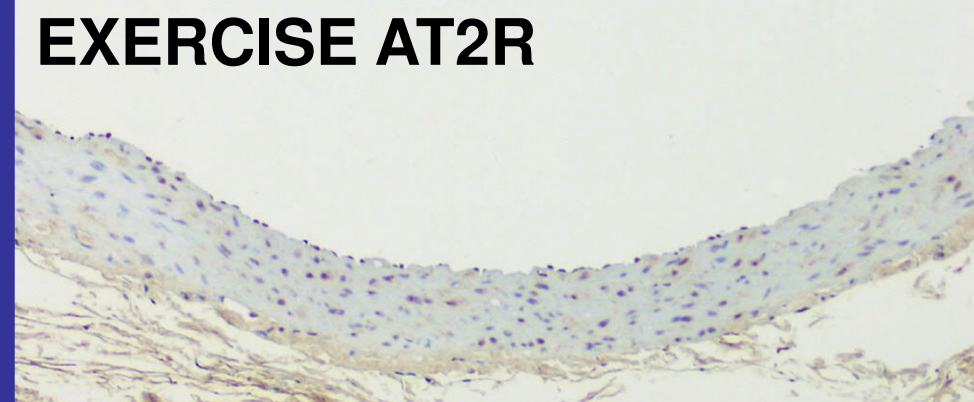
**EXERCISE AT1R**



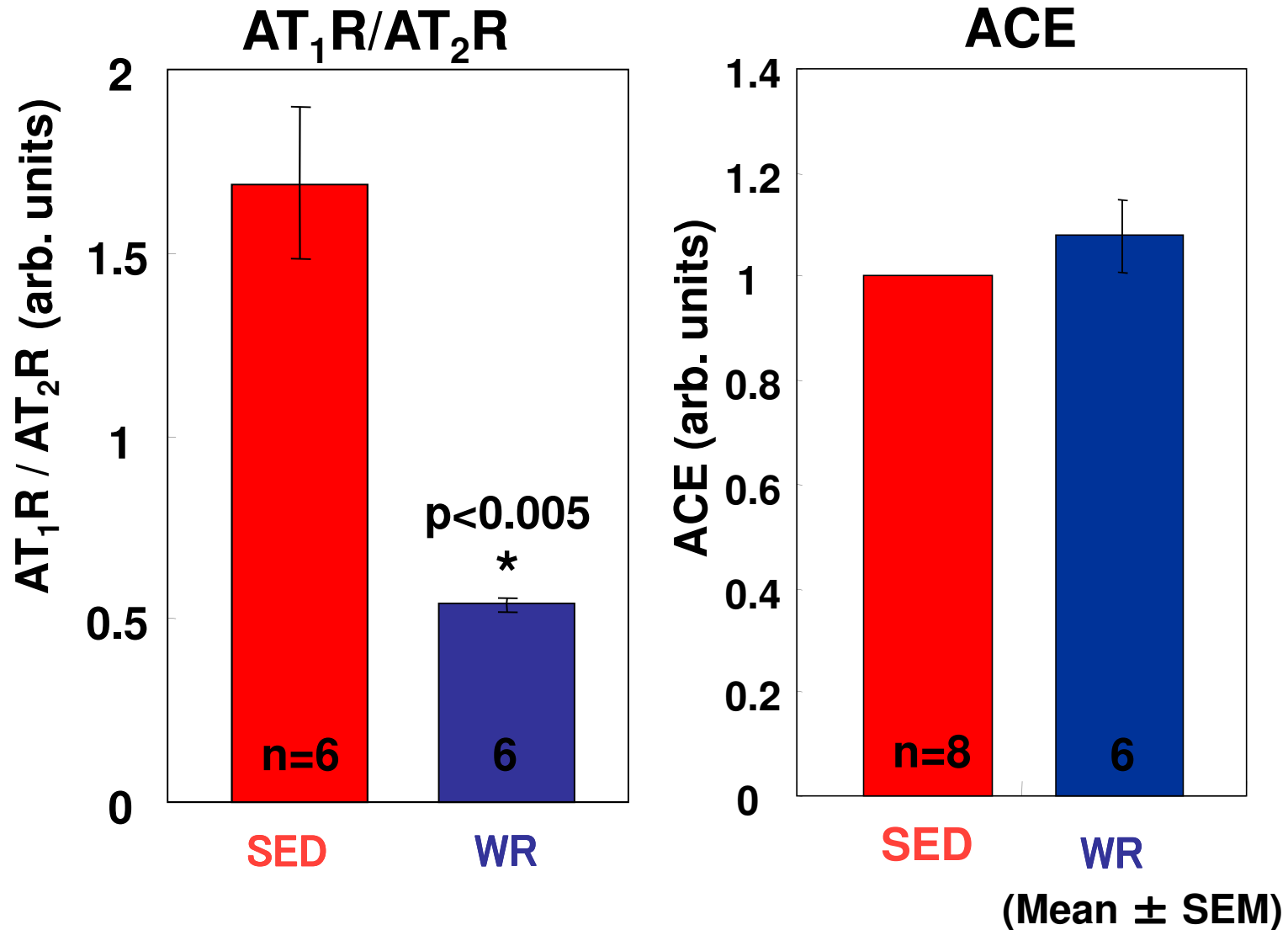
**SEDENTARY AT2R**



**EXERCISE AT2R**

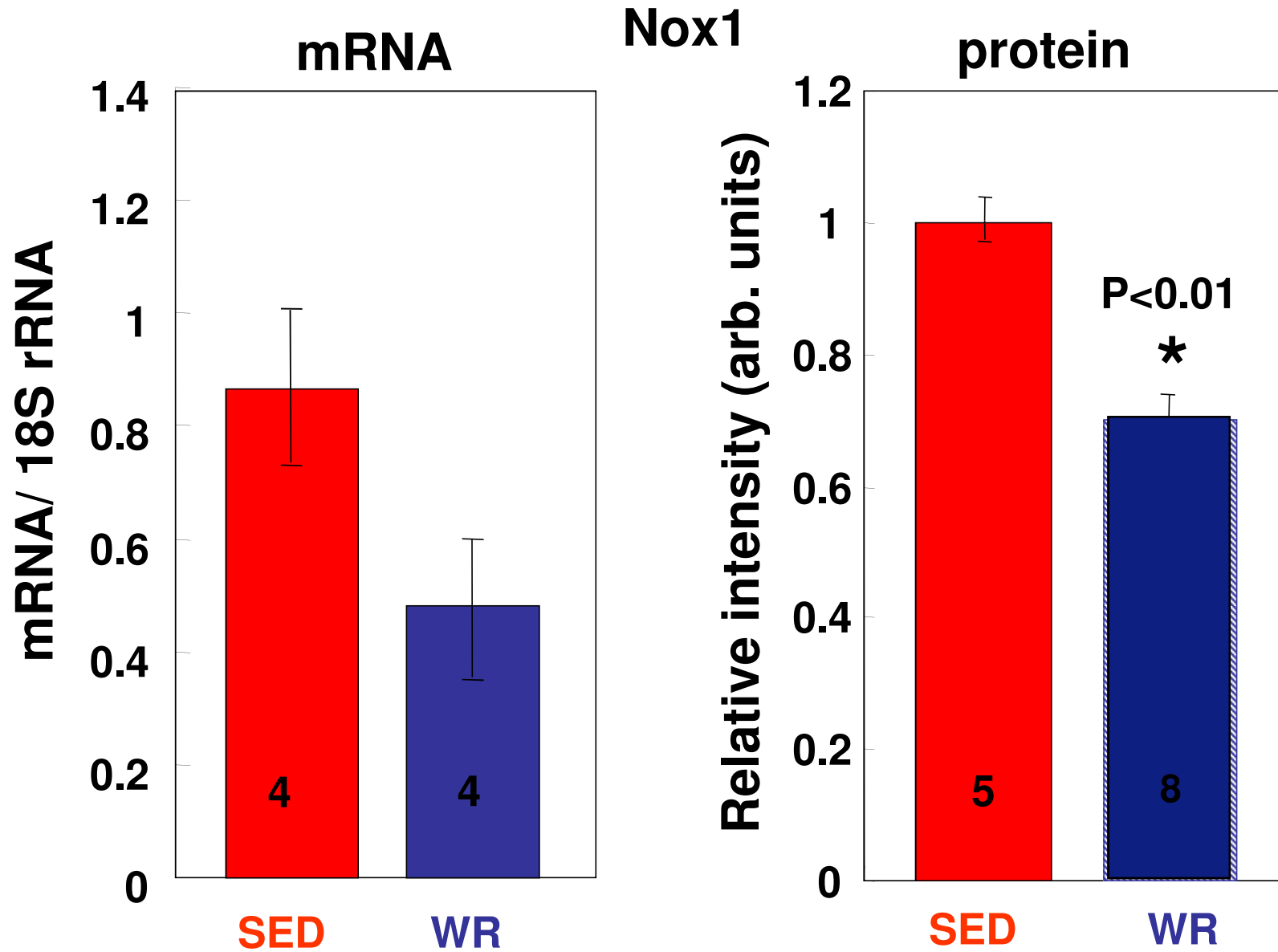


## Levels of AT1 & AT2 receptors, and ACE in the aortae between SED and WR

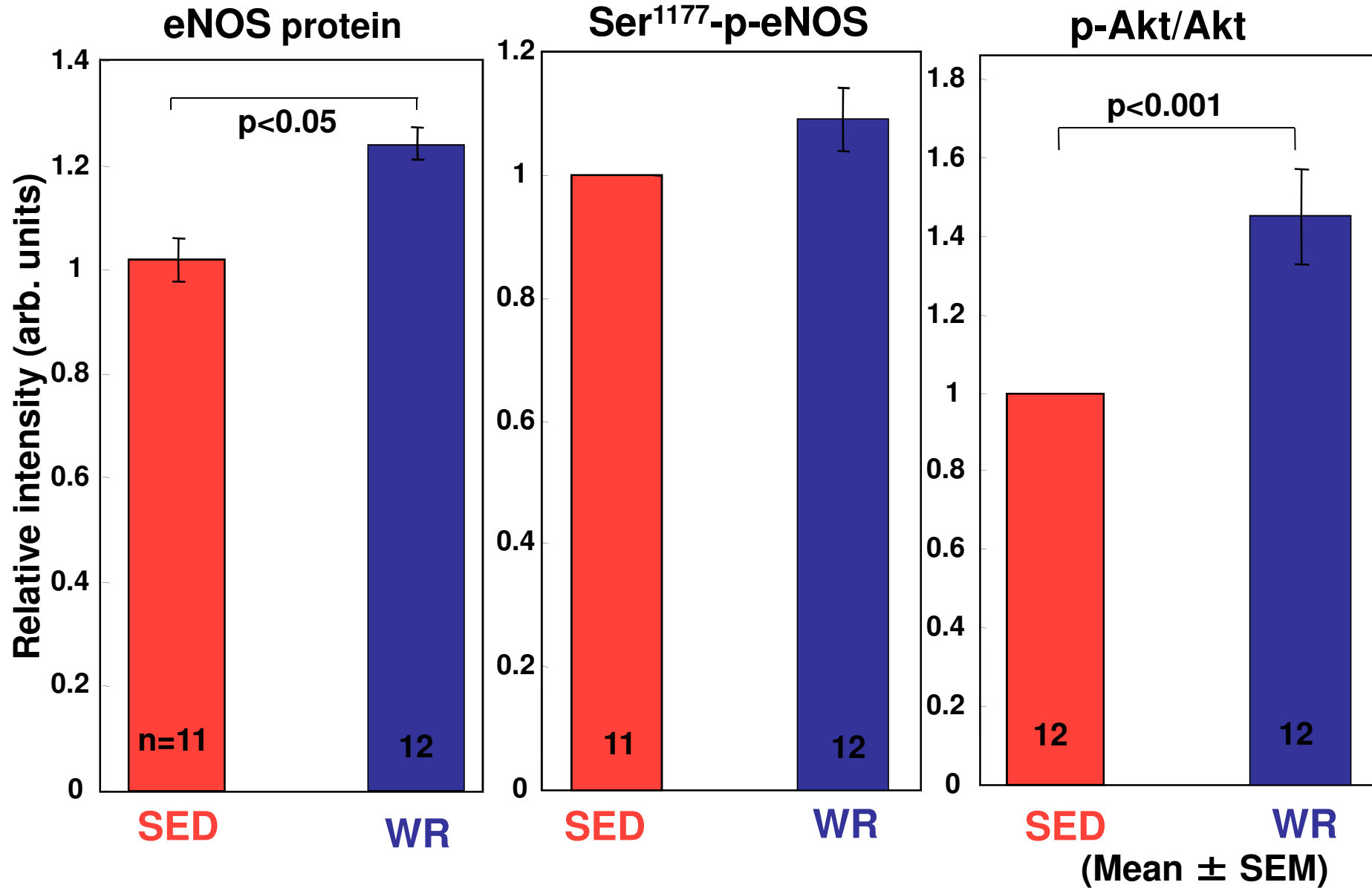




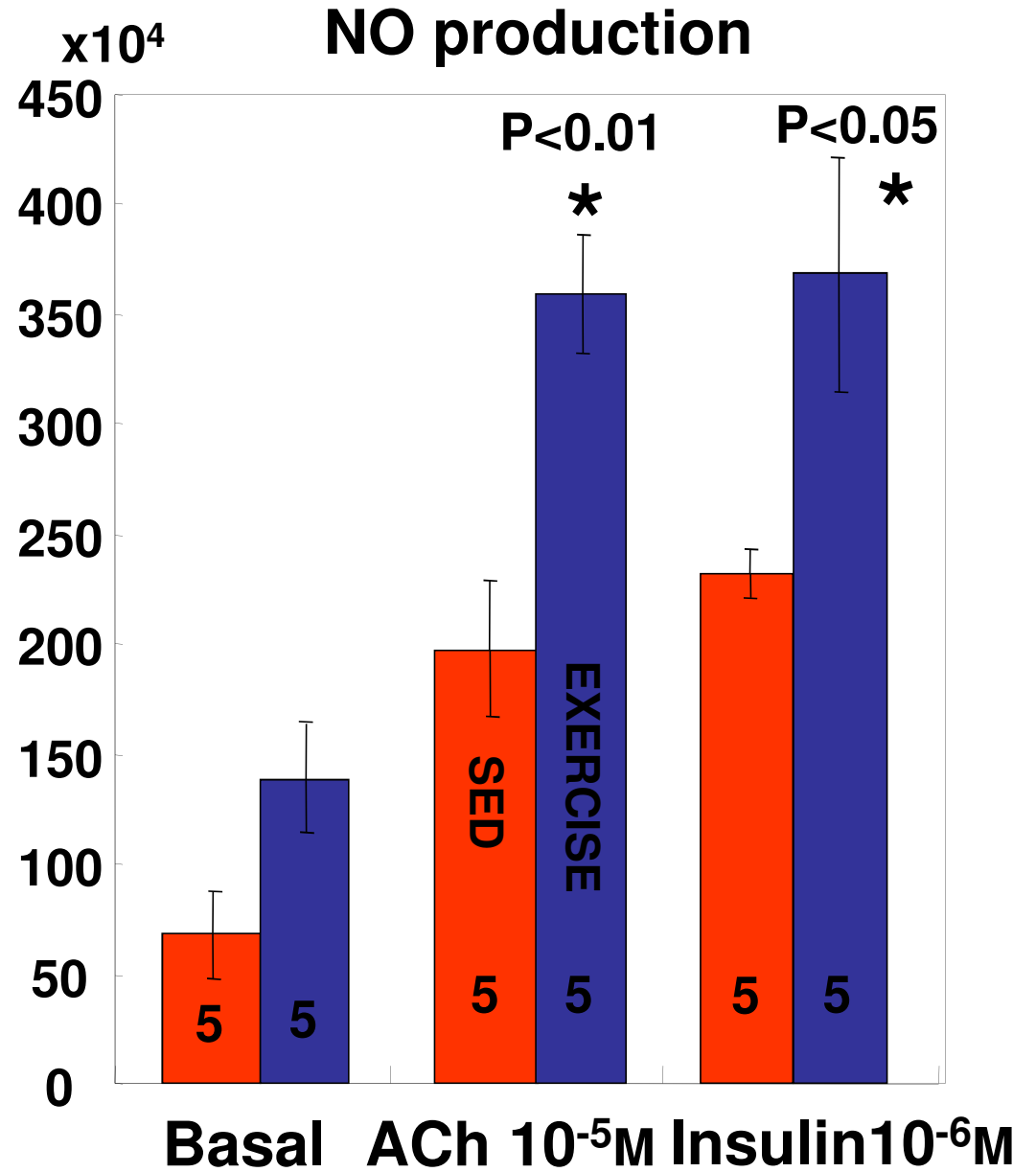
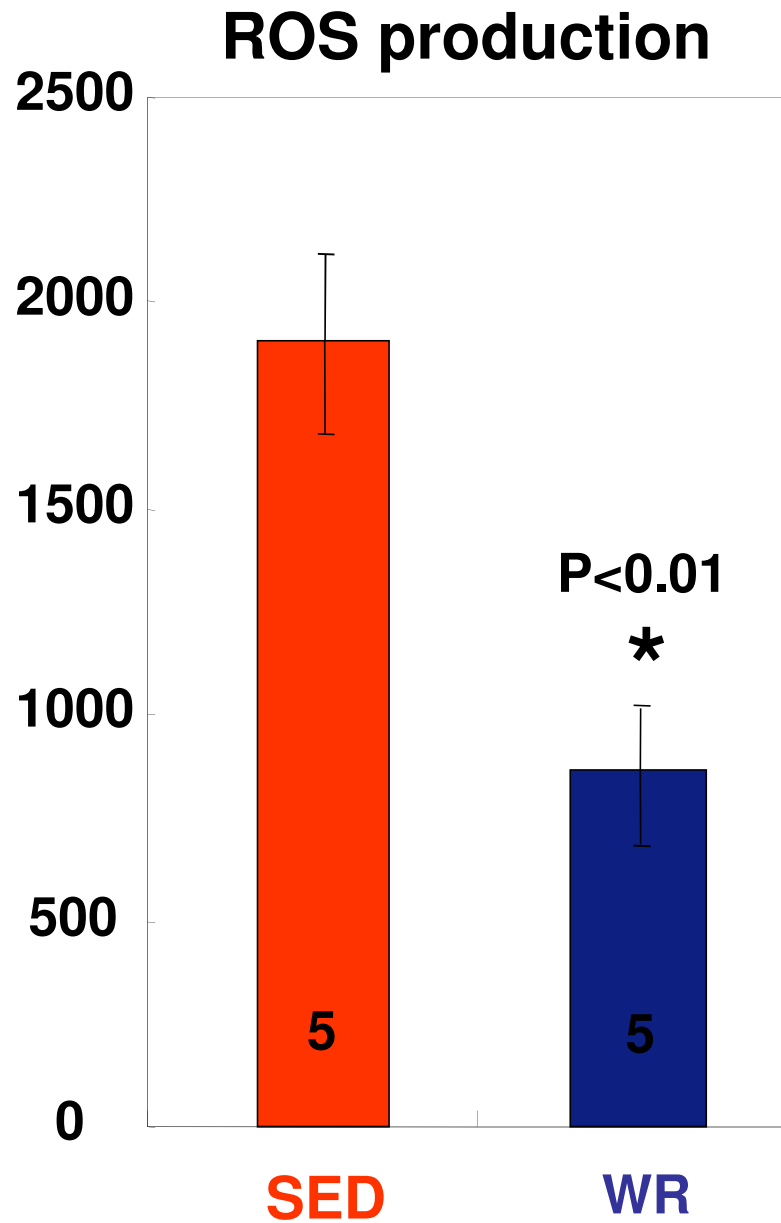
# NAD(P)H oxidase Subunit (Nox1) RNA in Aortas of EX SHRSP



# Levels of eNOS, p-eNOS and p-Akt/Akt in the Aortae

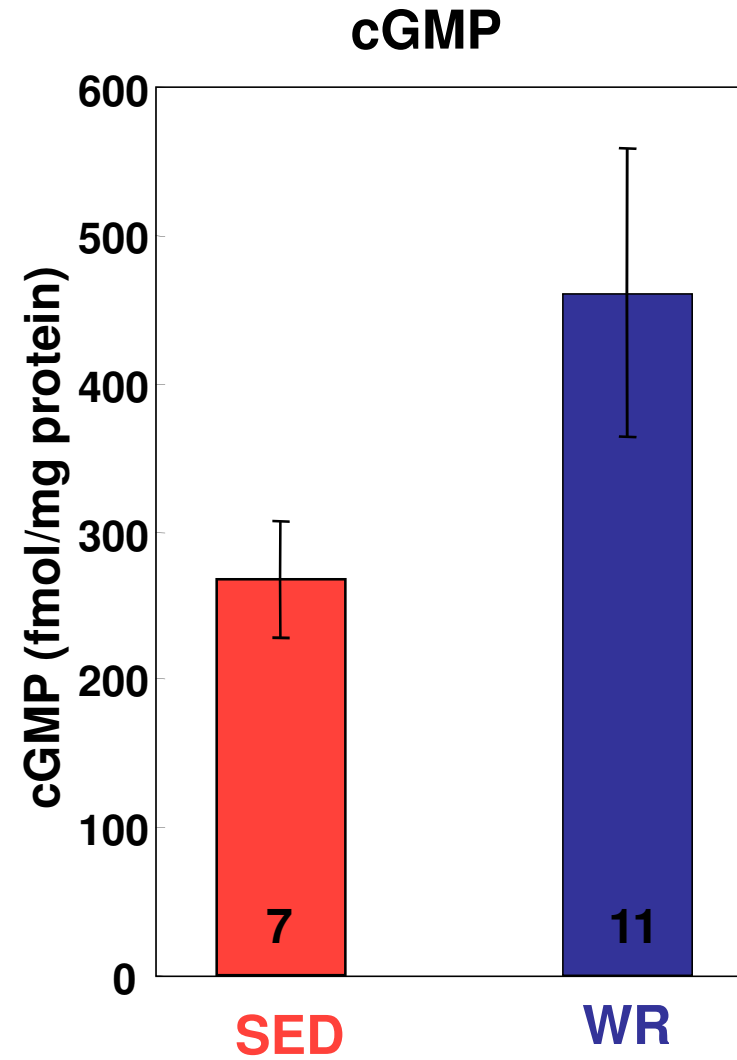
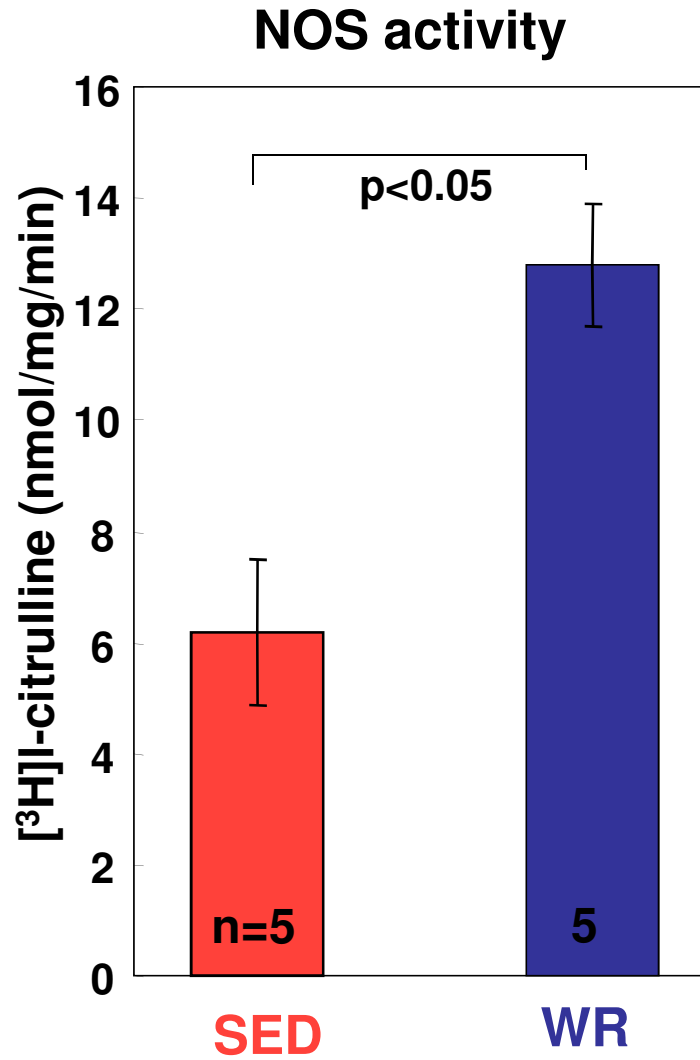


# ROS and NO Productions in the Aortae between SED and WR



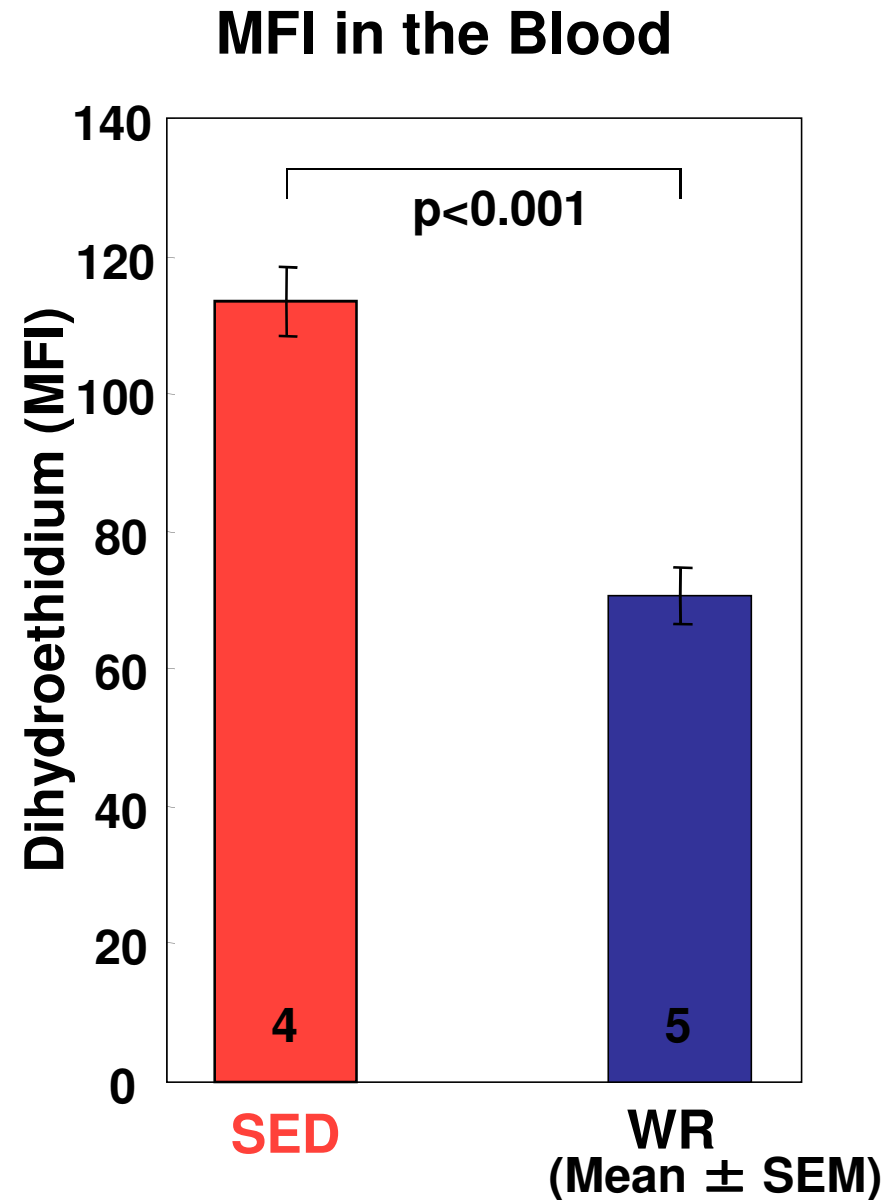
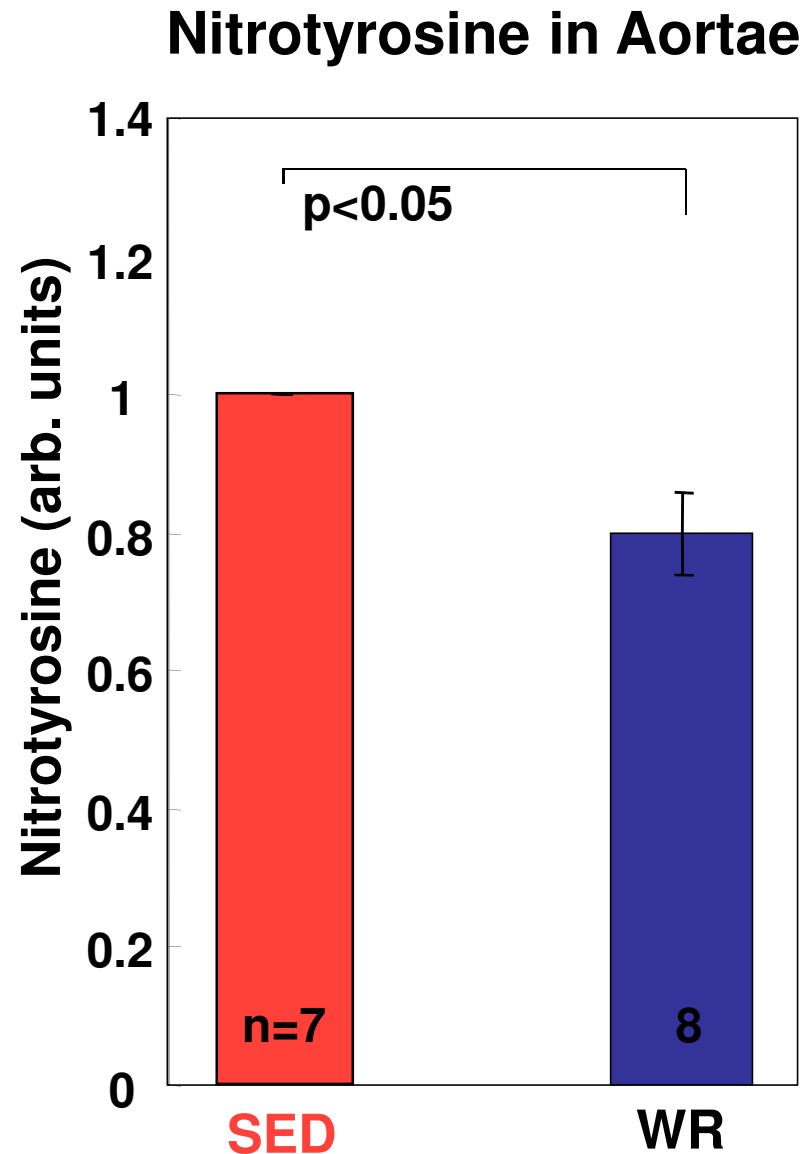


# Comparison of NOS activities and cGMP production in the Aortae

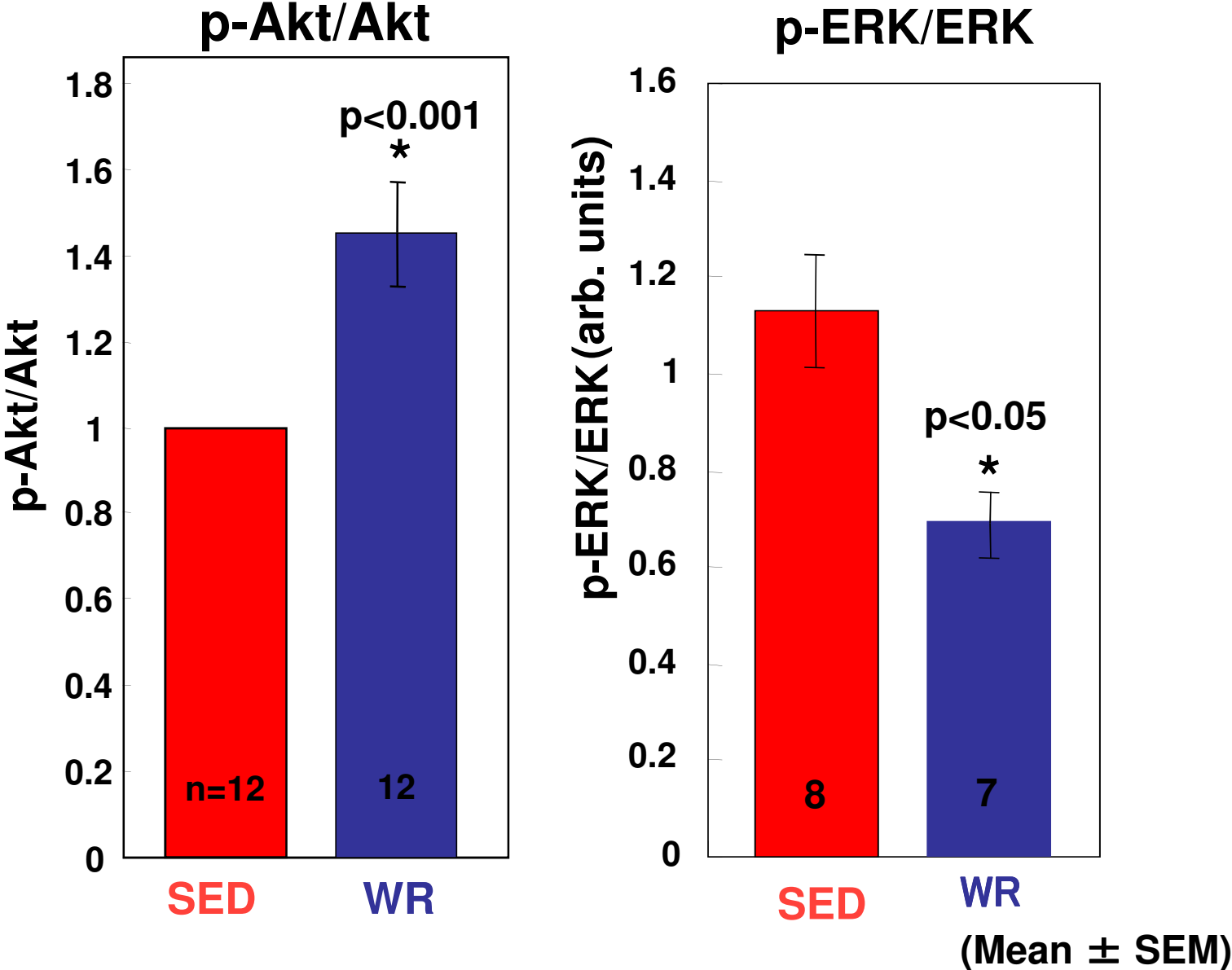


(Mean ± SEM)

# Nitrotyrosine contents in Aortae and MFI by DHE in the Blood

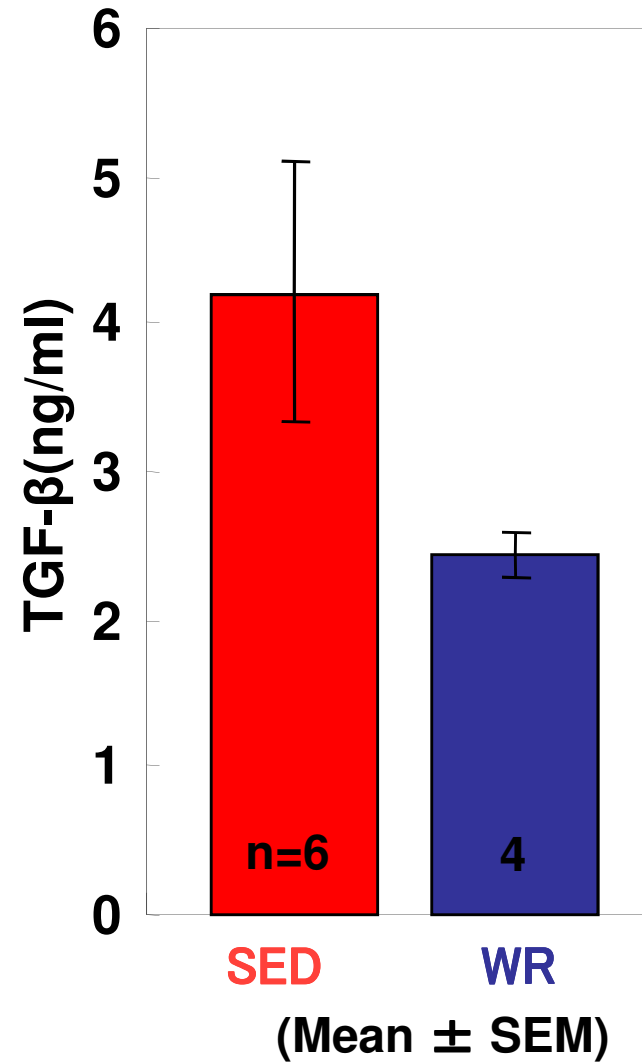


# Changes of Phosphorylated Akt, and ERK1/2 levels in the Aortae between SED and WR

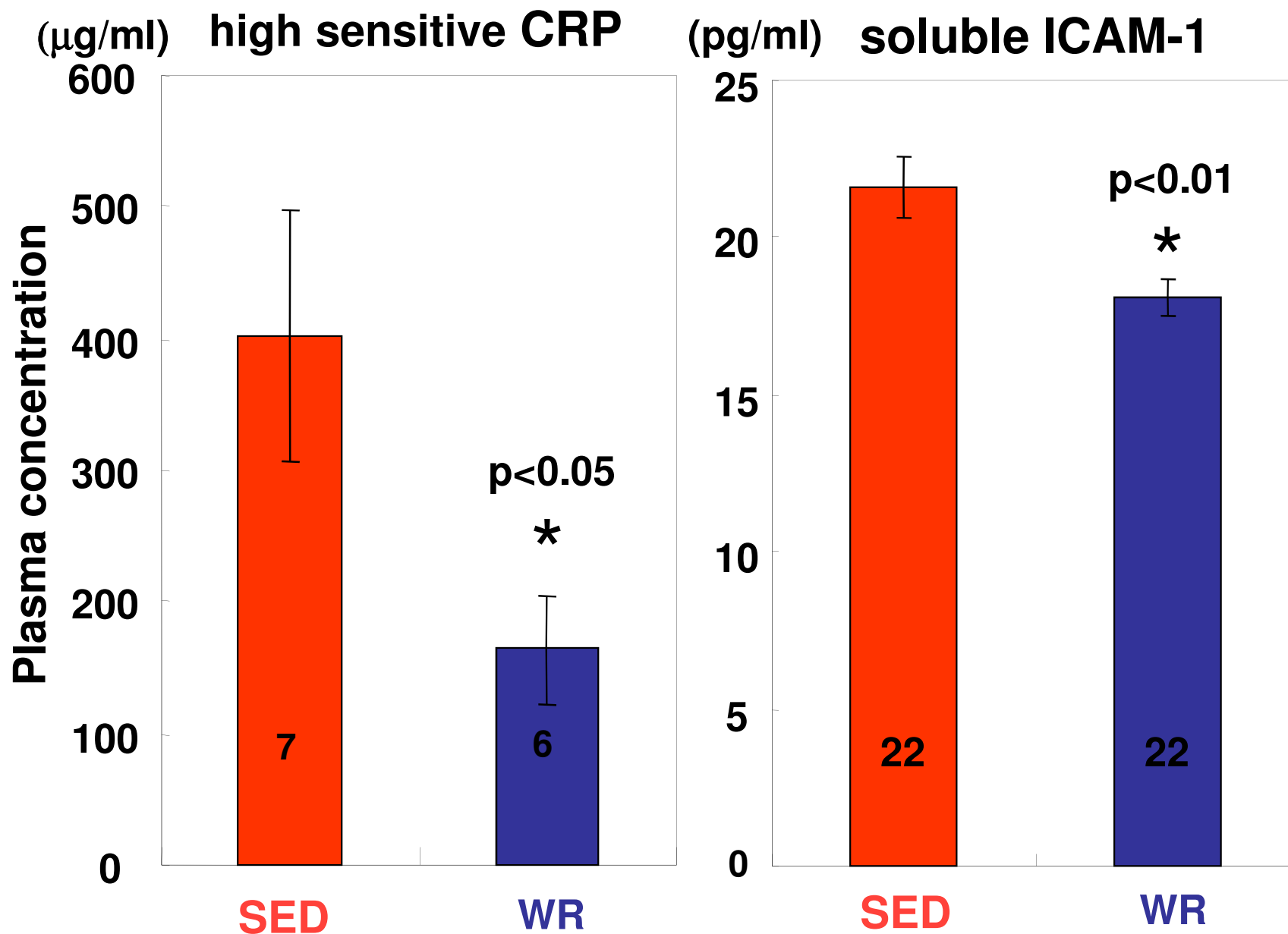




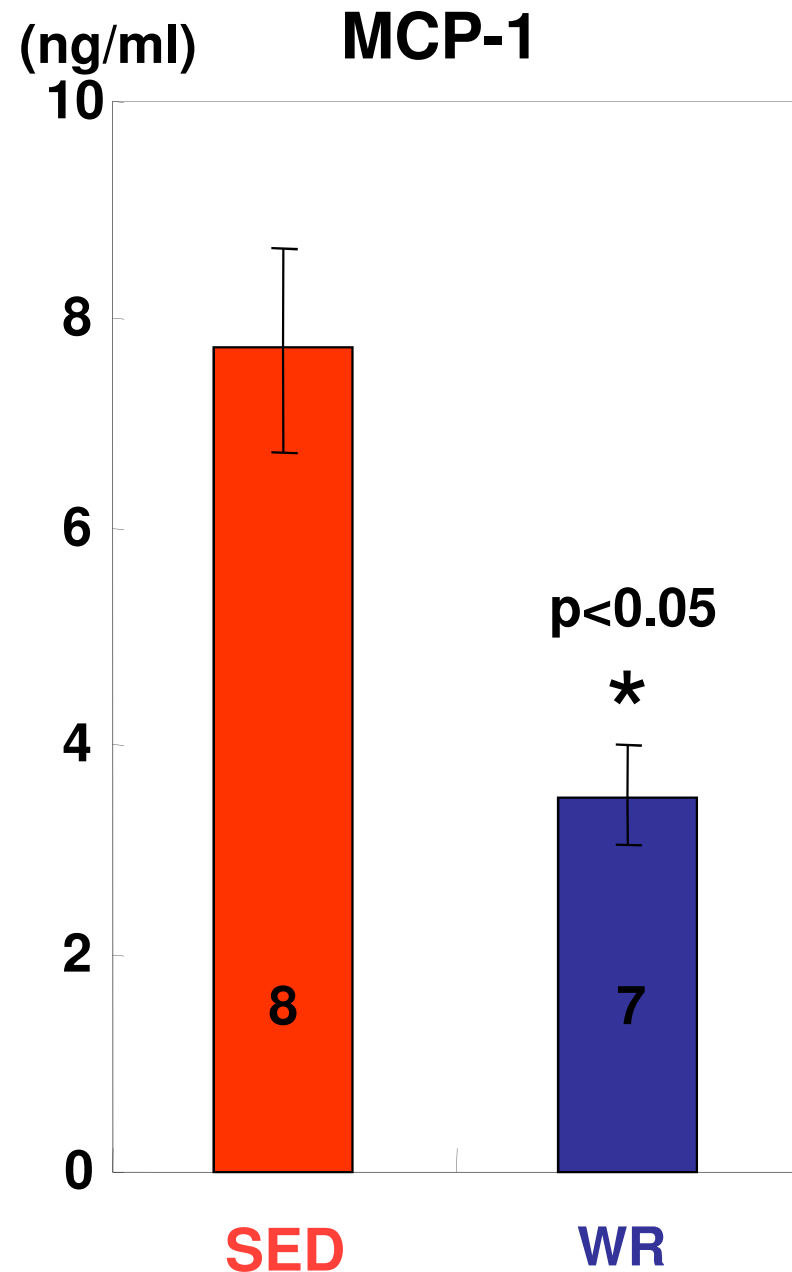
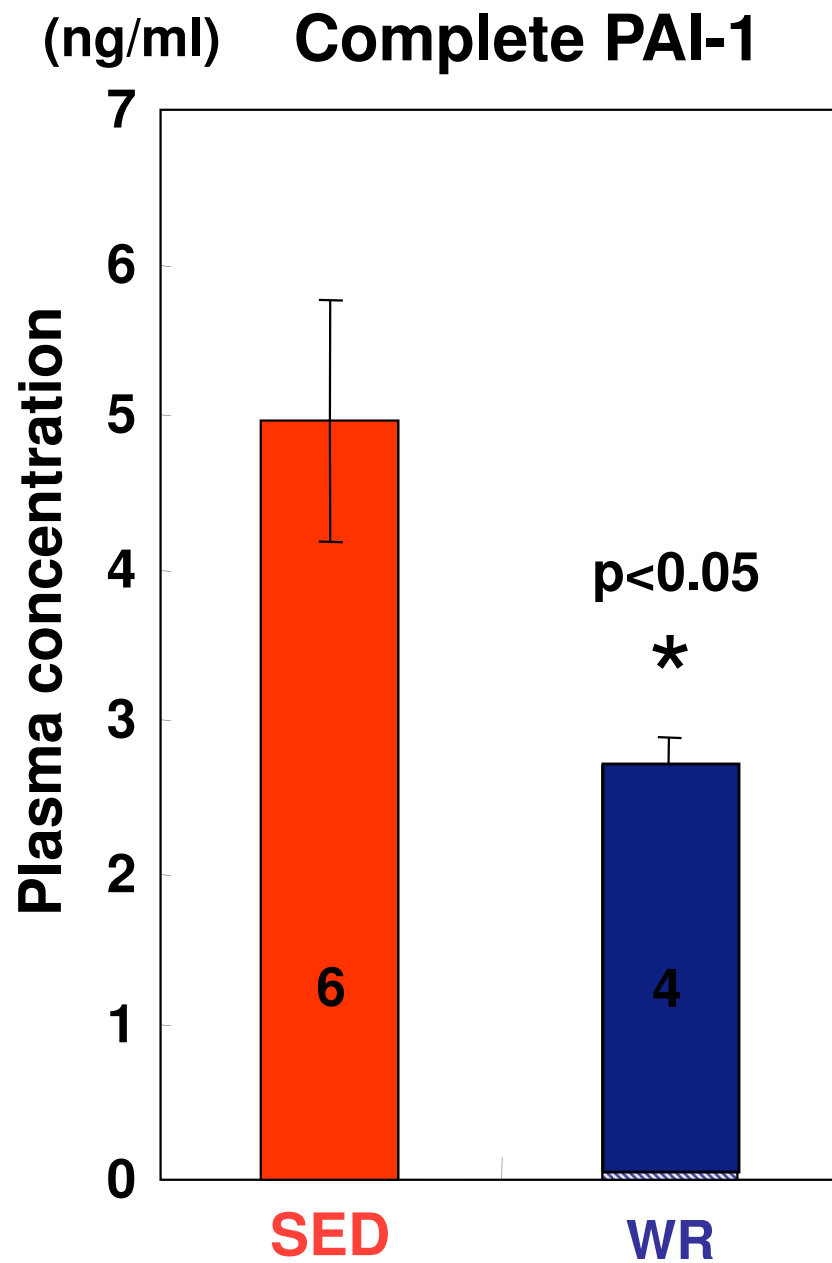
# Changes of serum TGF- $\beta$ levels after exercise



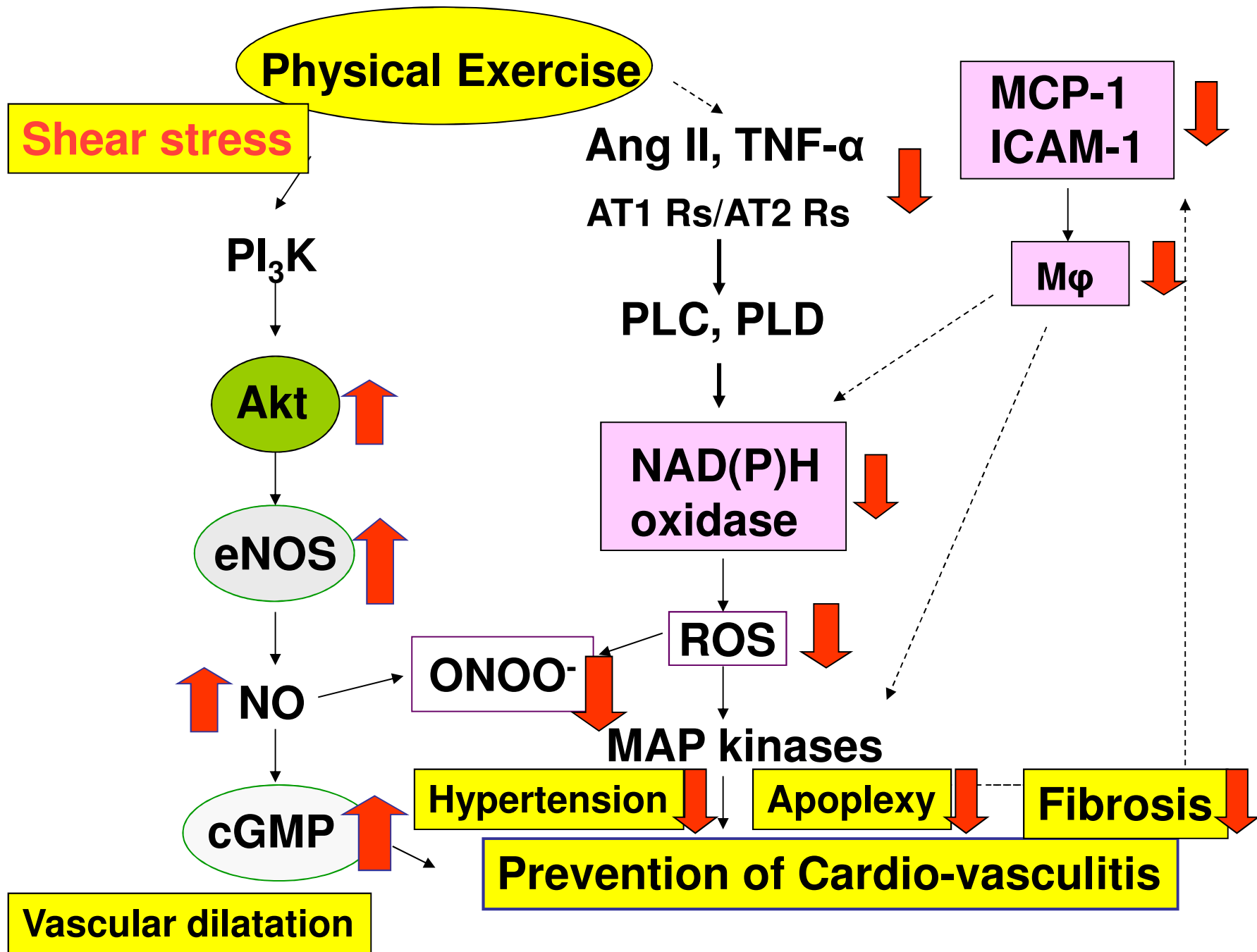
## Comparison of inflammatory biomarkers in SED and EX



# Concentrations of PAI-1 and MCP-1 in the Plasma







## **Conclusions:**

**Data showed that exercise could protect oxidative stress-induced cell injury or inflammation by an interaction with signaling molecules such as ASK1 /JNK/ p38MAPK through NO production and inhibition of superoxide production.**

**Then, voluntary exercise significantly attenuated the changes of vascular remodeling, delayed stroke events and elongated the lifespan in exercised rats.**

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1st January, 2011

DOI: 10.3923/jms.2011.19.29

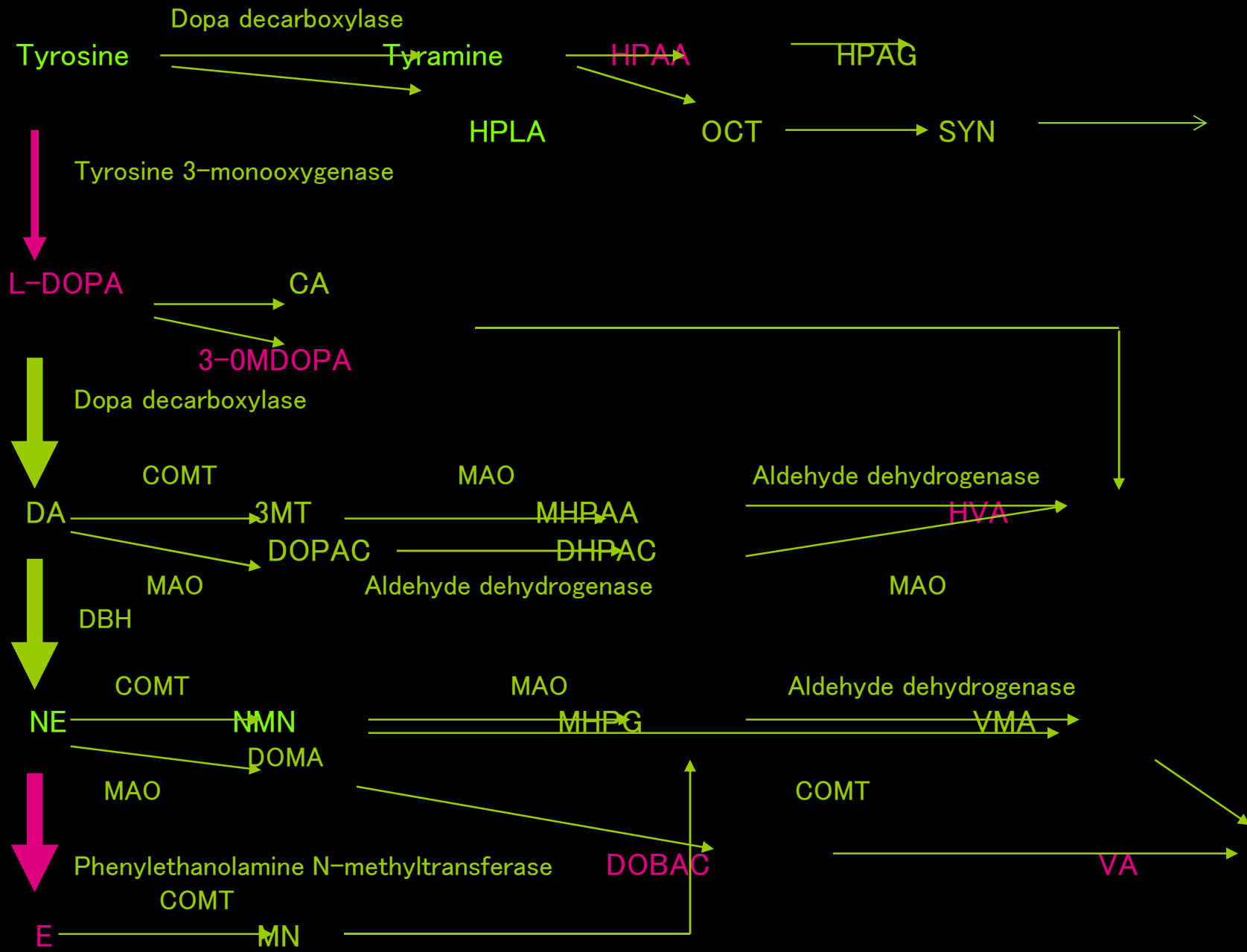
**Catecholamine and Corticosteroid Secretion and Gene  
Expression of the Synthesizing Enzymes in Adrenal Glands of  
SHRSP and WKY in Response to Cold Stress**

<sup>1</sup>H. Endo, <sup>1</sup>M. Tabuchi, <sup>1</sup>M.S. Ashenagar, <sup>1</sup>K. Ooshima,

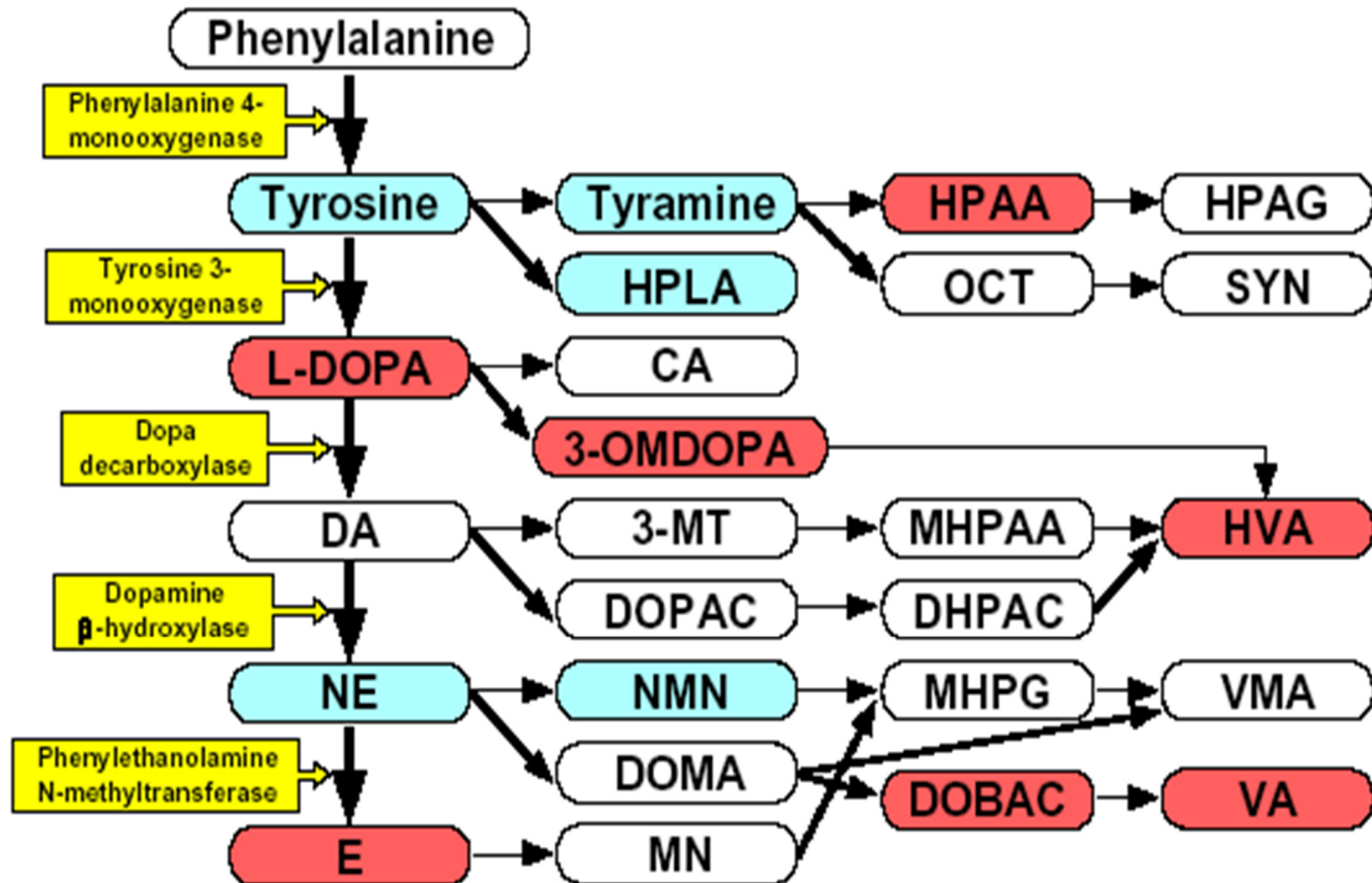
<sup>2</sup>H. Chen and <sup>1</sup>H. Higashino



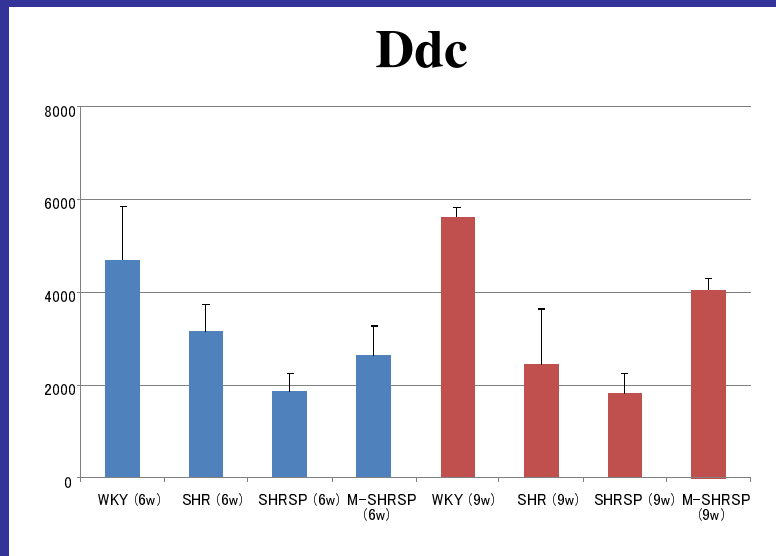
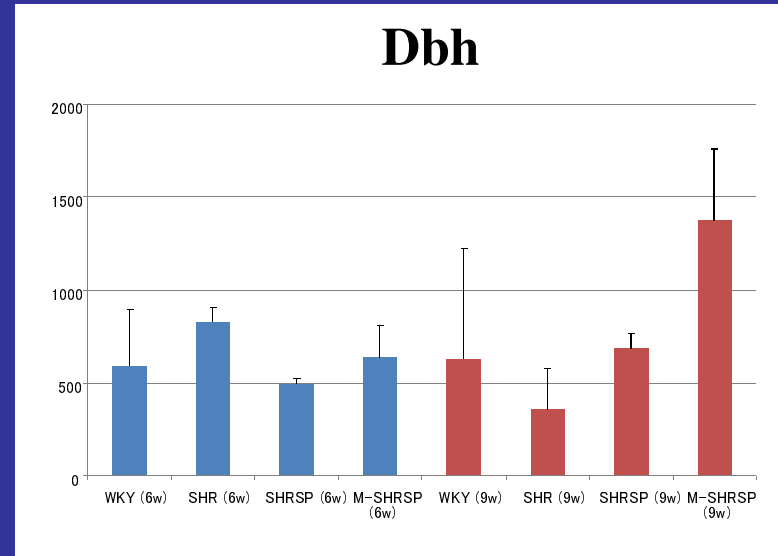
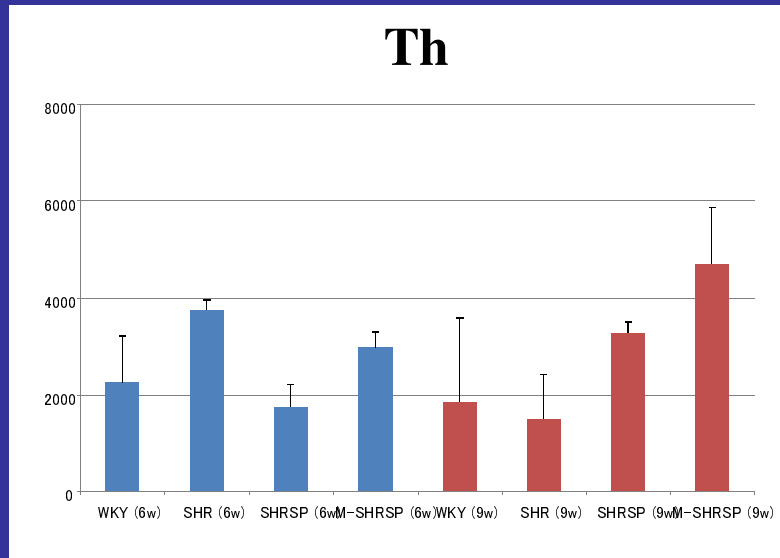
**Increasing or decreasing metabolites at night-time or cold stress in 2M SHRSP**



**Increasing** or **decreasing** metabolites and increasing steps in CA metabolism at night-time or cold stress in 2M SHRSP



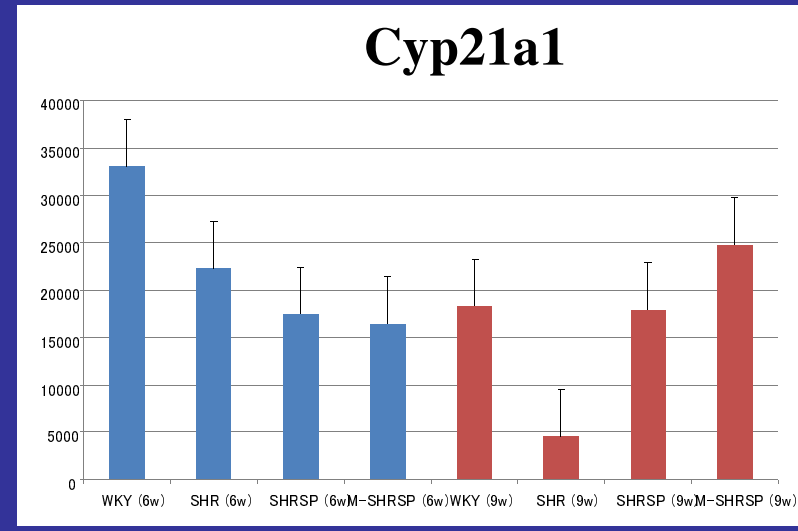
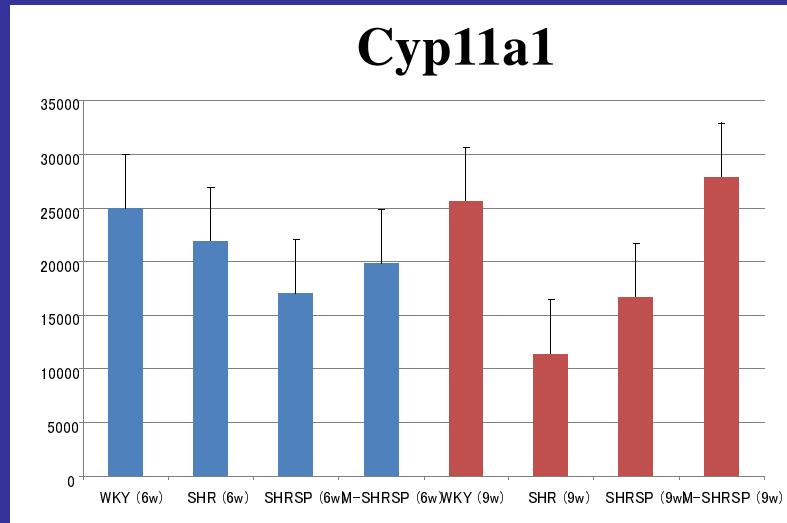
# Catecholamine synthesizing enzyme mRNAs Expressions in WKY, SHR, SHRSP, and M-SHRSP



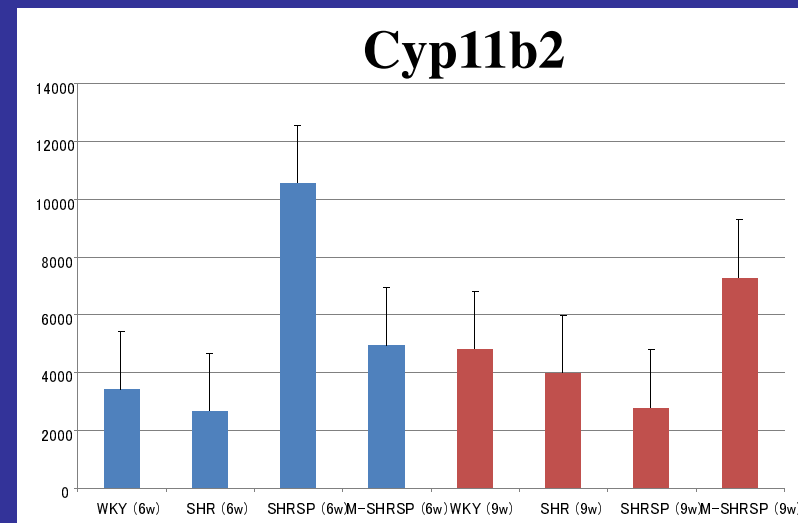
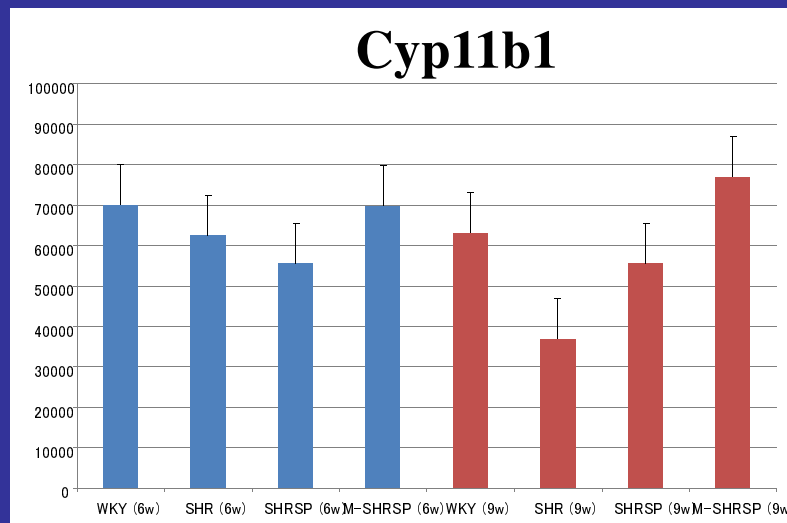
■ 6-weeks-old     
 ■ 9-weeks-old

**In the Adrenal glands**

# Steroid synthesizing enzyme mRNAs Expressions in WKY, SHR, SHRSP, and M-SHRSP in the Adrenal glands



■ 6-weeks-old     
 ■ 9-weeks-old





In our previous study to examine the role of the adrenal glands in hypertension using DNA microarray with three types of substrains, SHR, SHRSP, and malignant type of SHRSP (M-SHRSP, Okamoto et al., 1986), **we did not find any positive data regarding the expression of mRNAs for hormone synthesizing enzymes** (Ashenagar *et al.*, 2010).



Therefore, we investigated the pathophysiological role of adrenal glands by measuring two different types of hormones with special reference to **the gene expression of hormone synthesizing enzymes following cold stress.**

# Sample data of body temperature, SBP, and HR detected with a telemetric data acquisition system

## Rectal Temperature :

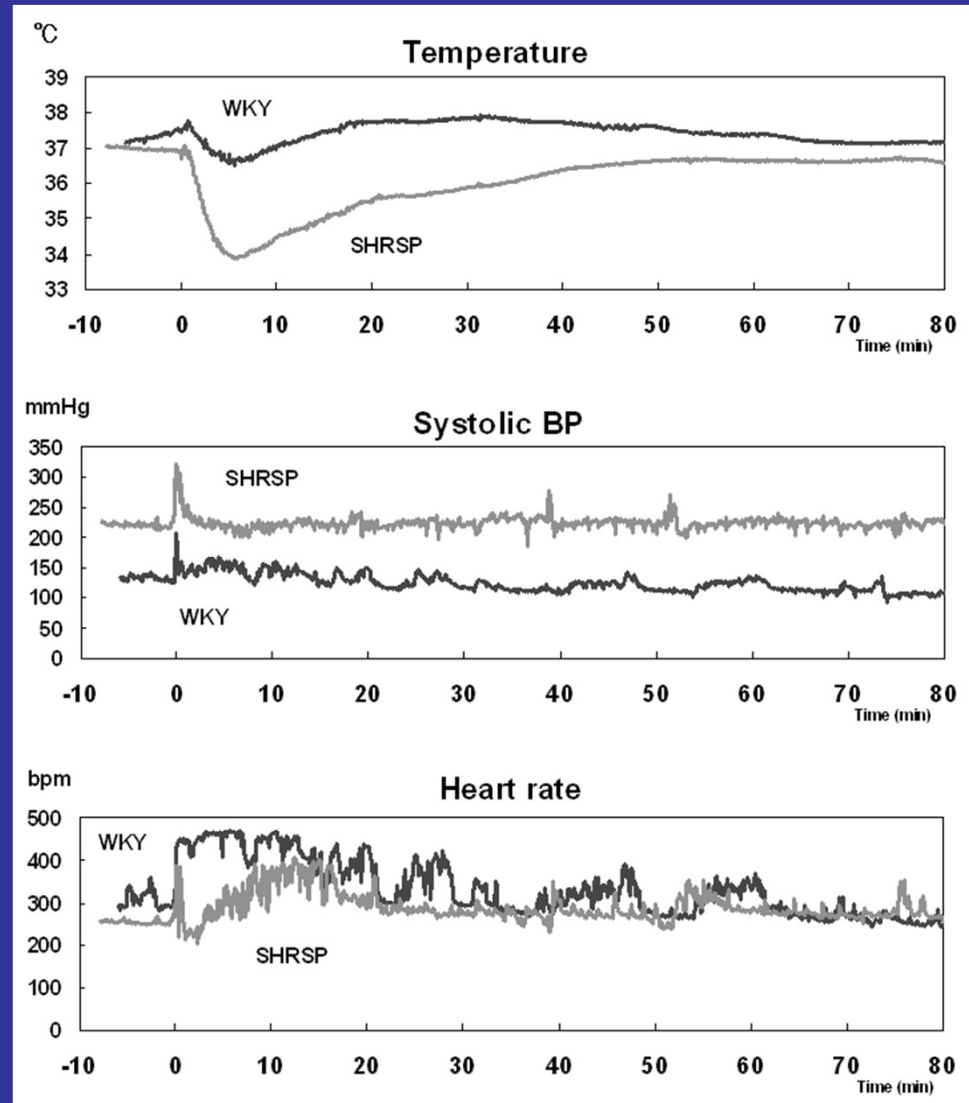
When a rat was placed in the cold water at 4° C, the body temperature decreased to a greater extent in SHRSP.

## Systolic Blood Pressure :

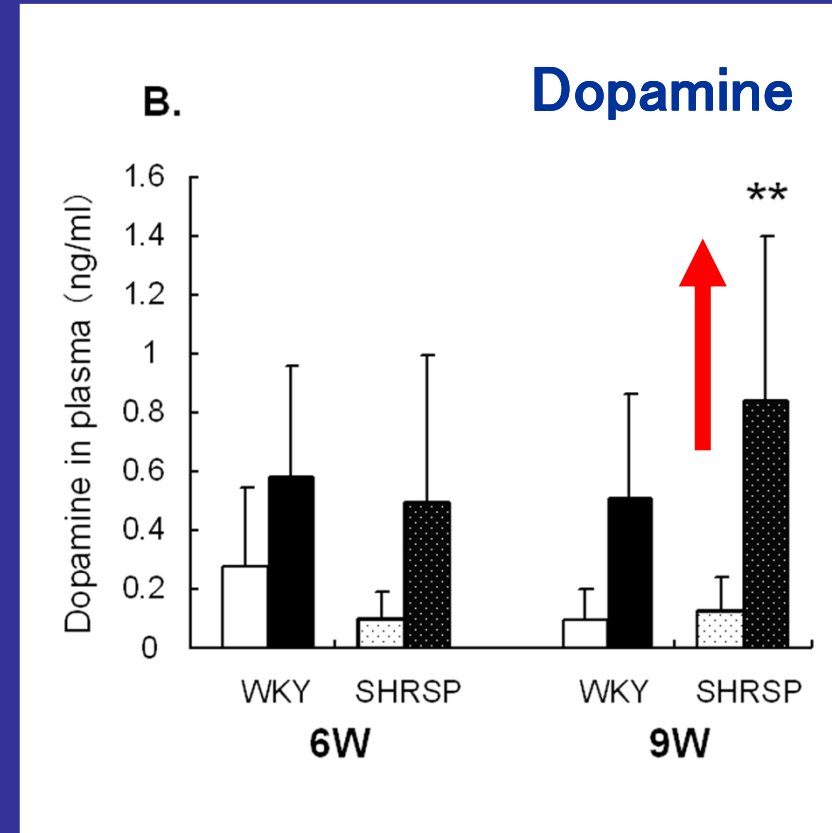
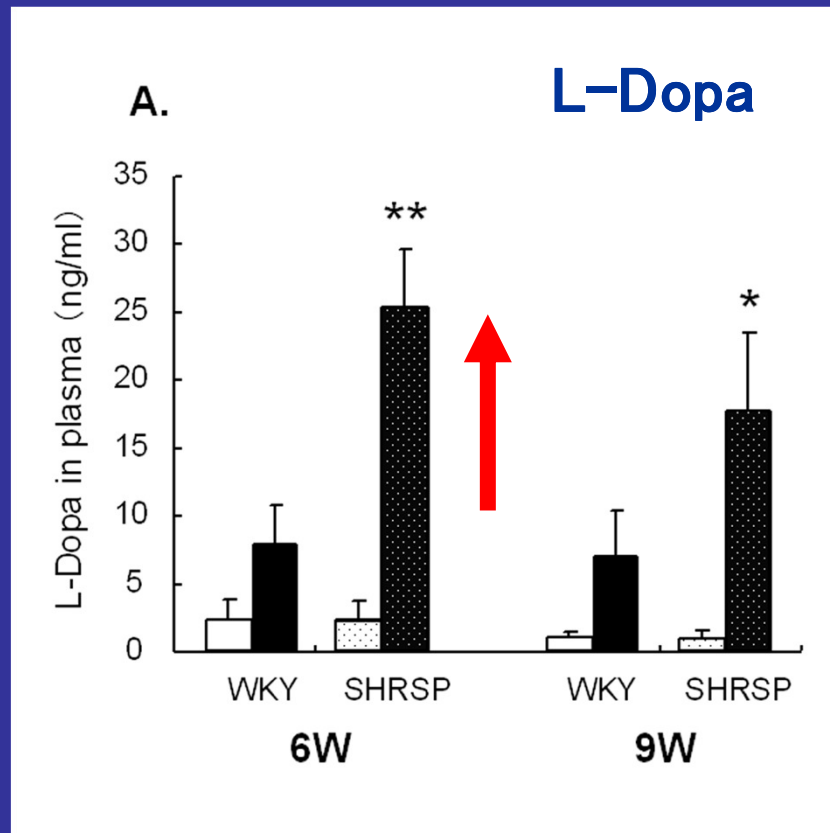
SBP was suddenly elevated just after cold stress, and the value returned to the preloading value in 10 min in both types of rats.

## Heart rate :

HR was also suddenly elevated just after the stress and was maintained for 40 min in both WKY and SHRSP.



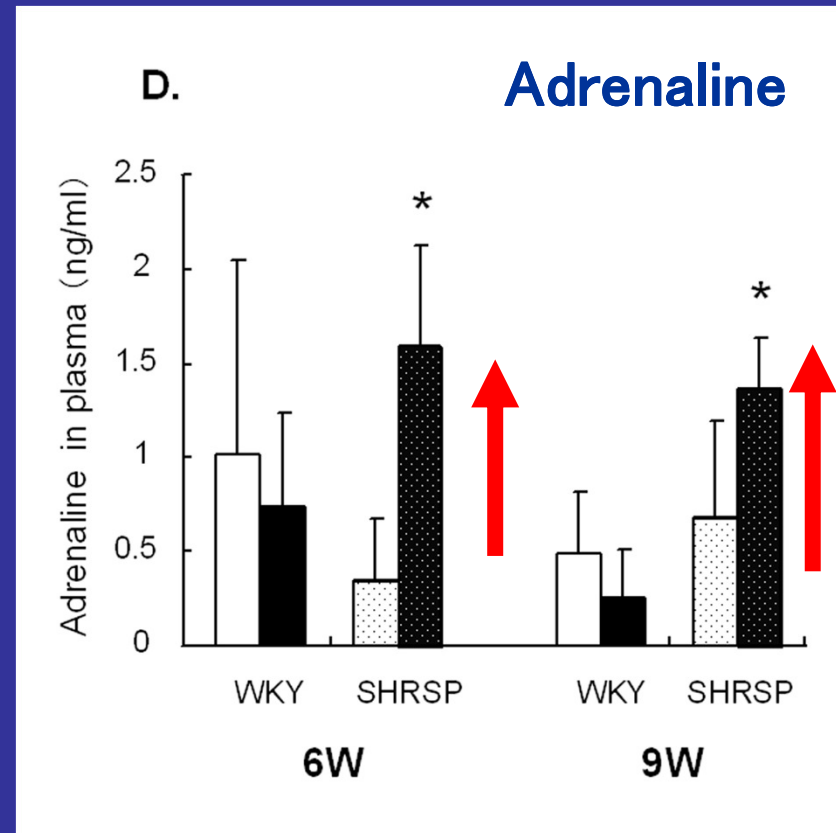
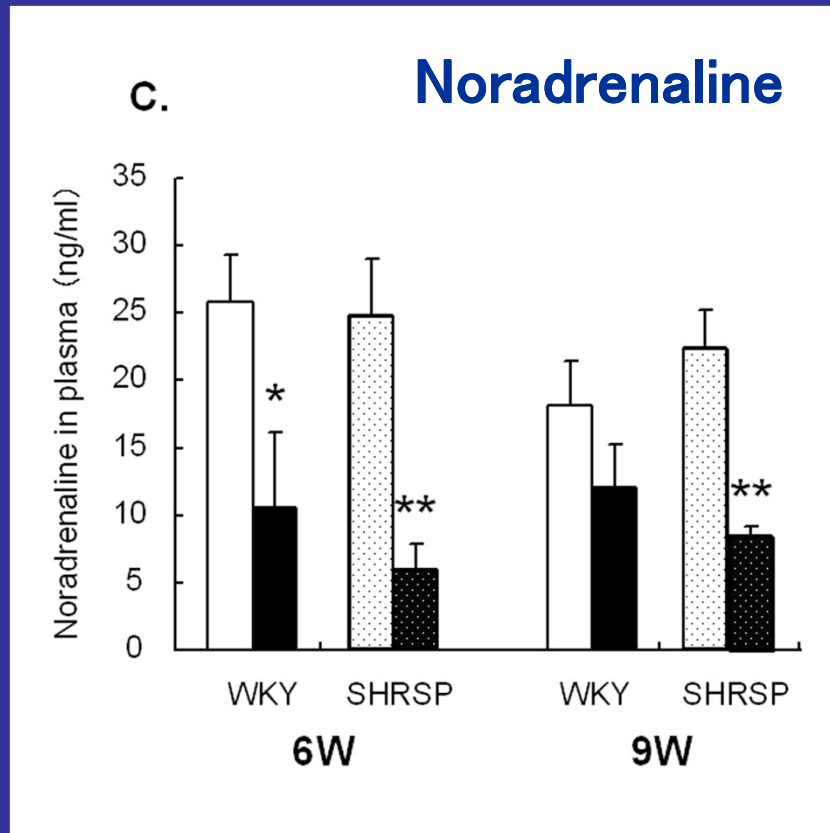
# 1. Catecholamine levels in the plasma of WKY and SHRSP at 6 and 9 weeks of age before and 30 min after cold stress



**L-dopa** in the plasma of both of 6- and 9-week-old SHRSP increased.

**Dopamine** increased more in 9-week-old SHRSP after cold stress.

## 2. Catecholamine levels in the plasma of WKY and SHRSP at 6 and 9 weeks of age before and 30 min after cold stress



**Noradrenaline** decreased more in 6-week-old WKY and SHRSP and 9-week-old SHRSP.

**Adrenaline** in the plasma were significantly increased in 6- and 9-week-old SHRSP.



# 1. mRNA expression levels of catecholamine synthesizing enzymes in the adrenal glands of WKY and SHRSP

Phenylalanine

↓ Ph (phenylalanine hydroxylase)

Tyrosine

↓ **Th (tyrosine hydroxylase)**  
✂Rate limiting Enzyme

L-Dopa

↓ **Ddc (dopa decarboxylase)**

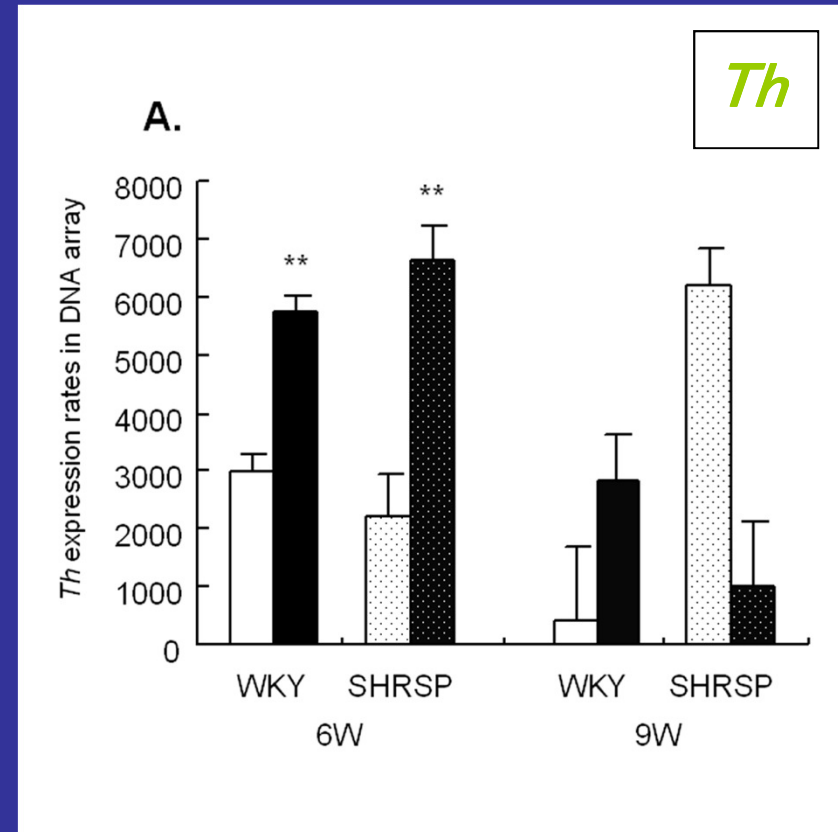
Dopamine

↓ **Dbh (dopamine- $\beta$ -hydroxylase)**

Noradrenaline

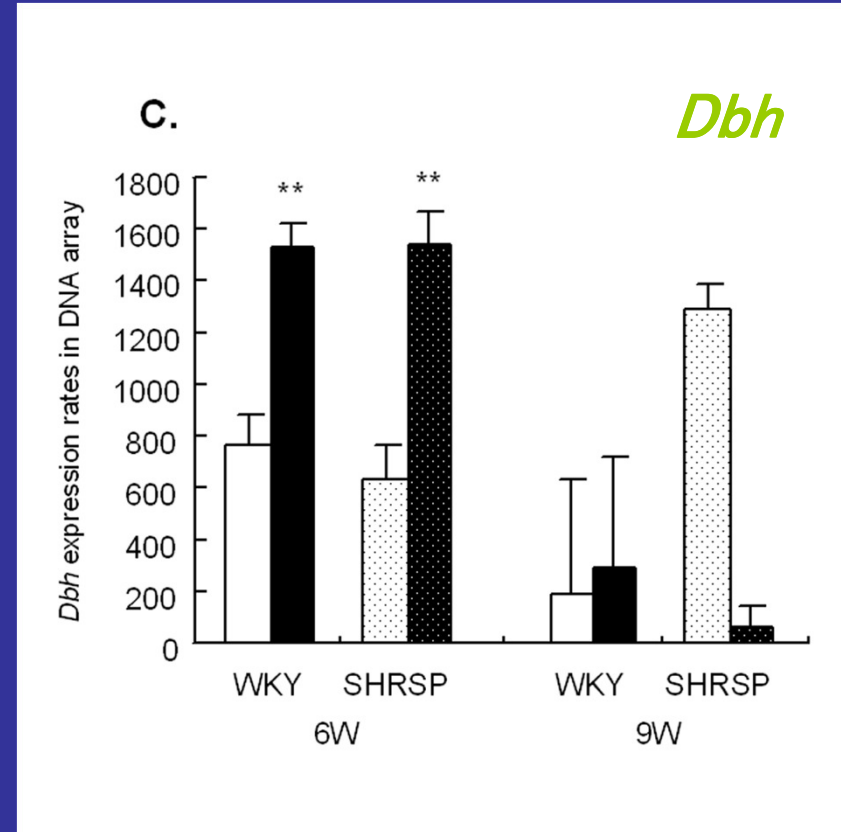
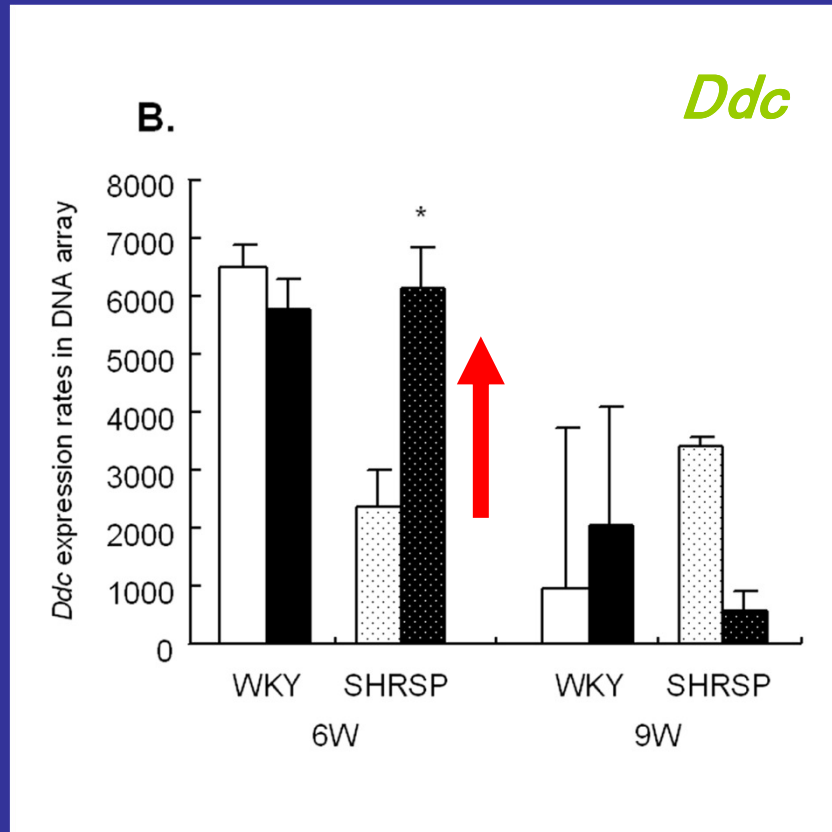
↓ PNMT (phenylethanolamine  
N-methyltransferase)

Adrenaline



Expression levels of mRNA for **tyrosine hydroxylase (*Th*)** were upregulated similarly 30 min after cold stress in WKY and SHRSP at 6 weeks of age.

## 2. mRNA expression levels of catecholamine synthesizing enzymes in the adrenal glands of WKY and SHRSP



Expression levels of mRNA for **dopa decarboxylase (*Ddc*)** were upregulated 30 min after cold stress in 6-week-old SHRSP,

Expression levels of mRNA for **dopamine b-hydroxylase (*Dbh*)** were upregulated 30 min after cold stress in 6-week-old SHRSP and WKY

**L-dopa, dopamine, and adrenaline** in plasma increased more in SHRSP than WKY at 6 and 9 weeks of age after cold stress. *Th, Ddc, and Dbh mRNAs* were unregulated in the adrenal glands of SHRSP after cold stress, more apparent at 6 weeks than at 9 weeks of age.

This difference in **catecholamine synthesis** may be related to the initiation and/or development of **hypertension in SHRSP** in normal condition and/or during stress.

# Corticosteroid levels in the plasma of WKY and SHRSP at 6 and 9 weeks of age before and 30 and 60 min after cold stress

Cholesterol

↓ *cyp11a1* (cholesterol desmolase)  
 ✂rate limiting enzyme

Pregnenolone

↓ HSD3B (3 $\beta$ -hydroxysteroid  
 dehydrogenase)

Progesterone

↓ *cyp21a* (21- $\beta$ -hydroxylase)

11-deoxycorticosterone

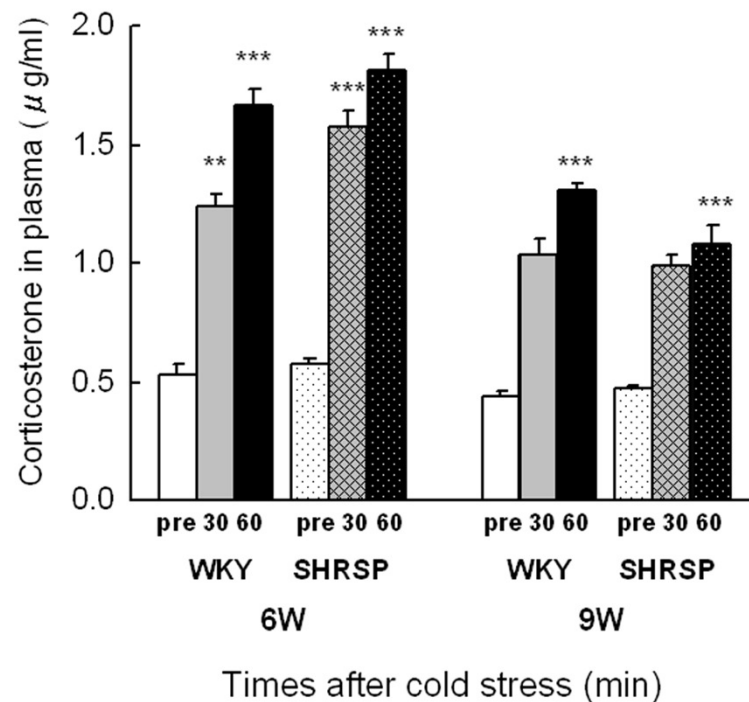
↓ *cyp11b1* (11 $\beta$ -hydroxylase)

Corticosterone

↓ *cyp11b2* (18-hydroxyl dehydrogenase)  
 Aldosterone synthetase

Aldosterone

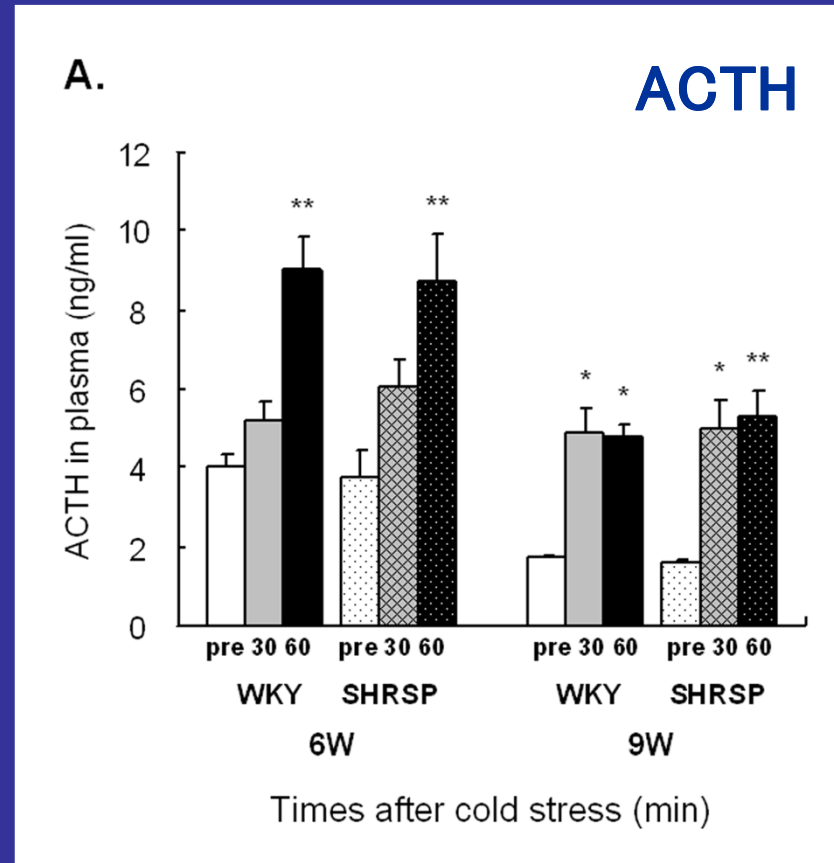
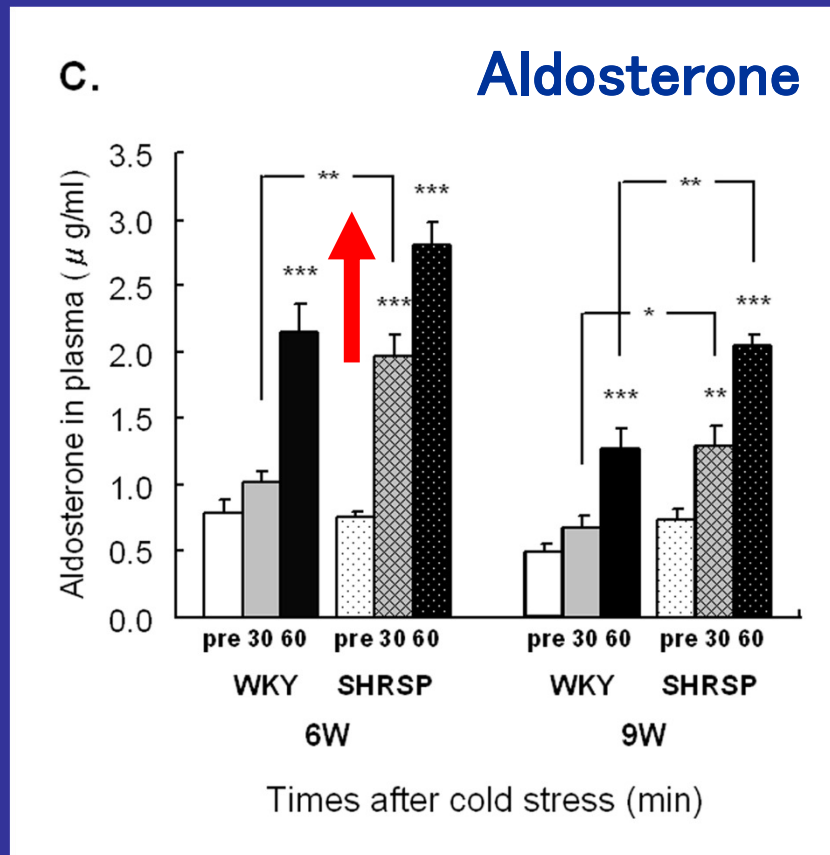
## B. Corticosterone



Corticosterone concentrations in plasma of 6- and 9-week-old WKY and SHRSP increased 30 and 60 min after cold stress to each similar level.

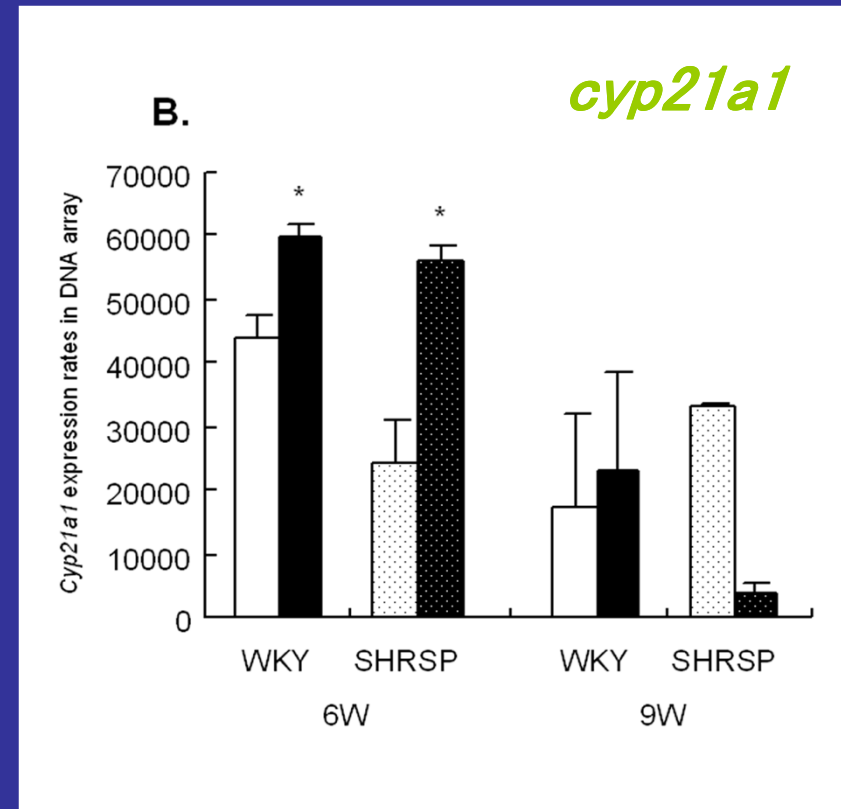
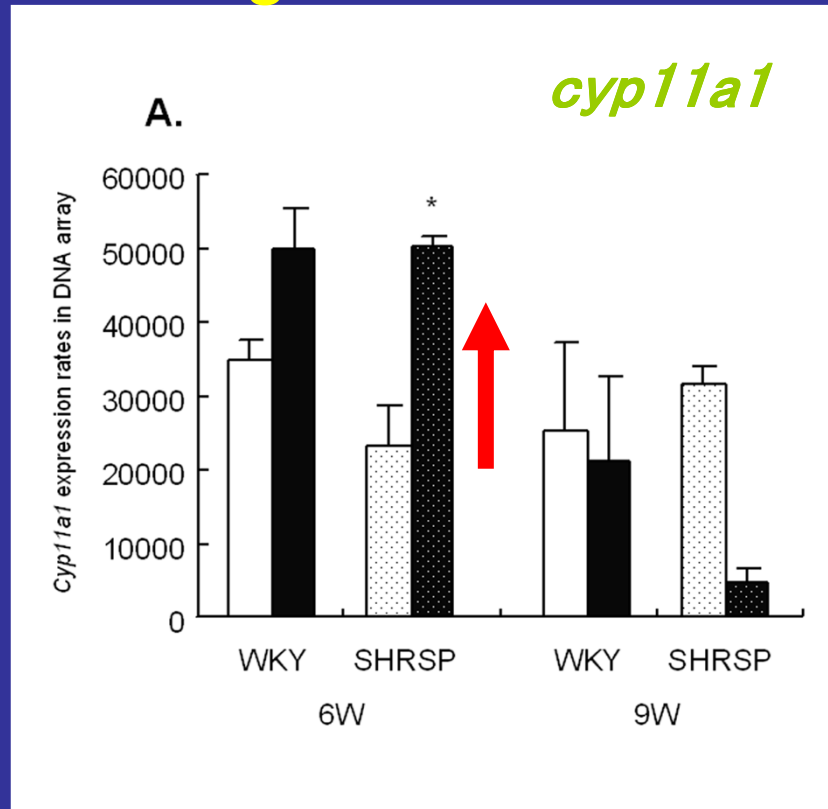


# Aldosterone and ACTH levels in the plasma of WKY and SHRSP at 6 and 9 weeks of age before and 30 and 60 min after cold stress



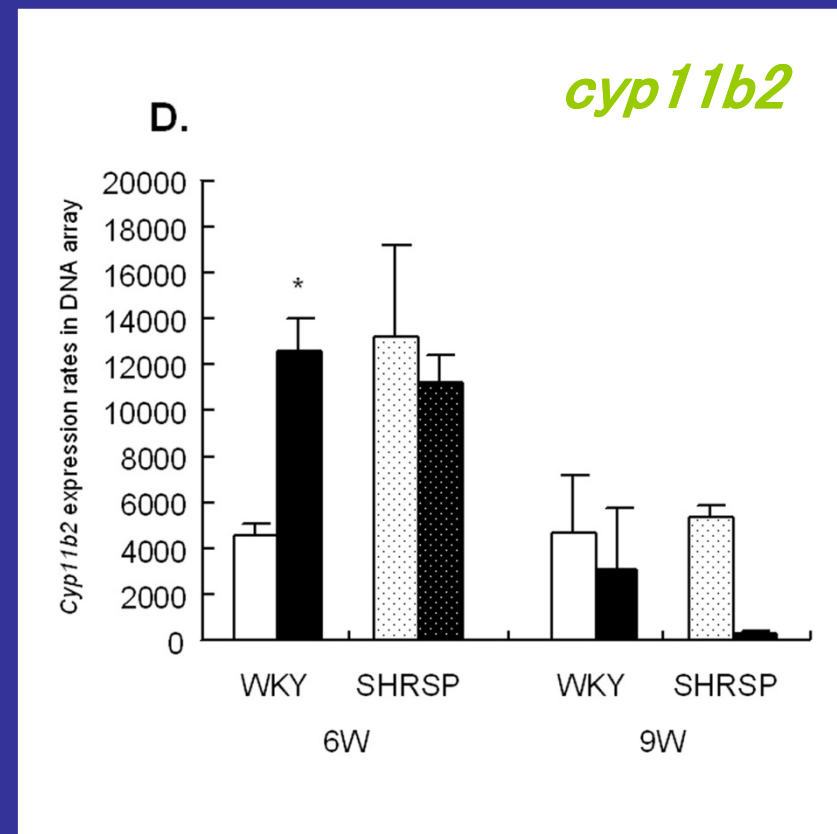
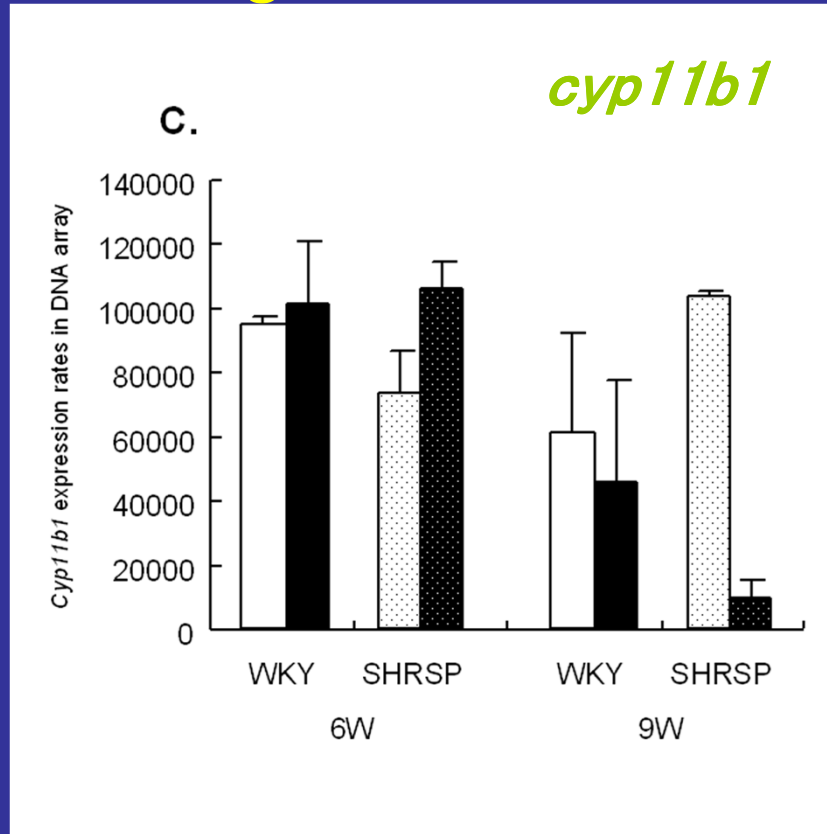
Aldosterone concentrations in plasma increased after cold stress in 6- and 9-week-old WKY and SHRSP, similar to the ACTH increase.

# 1. mRNA expression levels of corticosteroid synthesizing enzymes in the adrenal glands of WKY and SHRSP at 6 and 9 weeks of age before and after cold stress



Expression levels of mRNA for *cyp11a1* and *cyp21a1* were upregulated 30 min after cold stress in 6-week-old SHRSP, but not in 9-week-old WKY and SHRSP

## 2. mRNA expression levels of corticosteroid synthesizing enzymes in the adrenal glands of WKY and SHRSP at 6 and 9 weeks of age before and after cold stress



Expression levels of mRNA for *cyp11b1* did not change 30 min after cold stress in 6-week-old or 9-week-old WKY and SHRSP, but mRNA for *cyp11b2* were upregulated 30 min after cold stress in 6-week-old WKY to the level of SHRSP.

Corticosterone and aldosterone in plasma increased in both SHRSP and WKY, but this effect was more apparent in SHRSP after elevation of ACTH evoked by cold stress.

Expressions of *cyp11a1* and *cyp21a1* mRNAs were upregulated in both SHRSP and WKY at 6 weeks of age after cold stress.

We conclude that corticosterone and aldosterone in plasma increased following the induction of *cyp11a1* and *cyp21a1* mRNAs, which are stimulated along with ACTH elevation following cold stress in young SHRSP more than WKY.

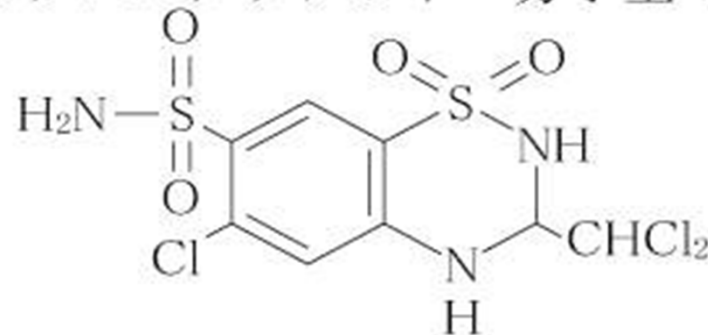
This difference may be related to the initiation and/or development of hypertension in SHRSP in normal condition and/or during stress.



**Protection of the vascular functional  
impairment caused in malignant type of  
stroke-prone spontaneously  
hypertensive rat (M-SHRSP) by using  
trichloromethiazide (thiazides)**

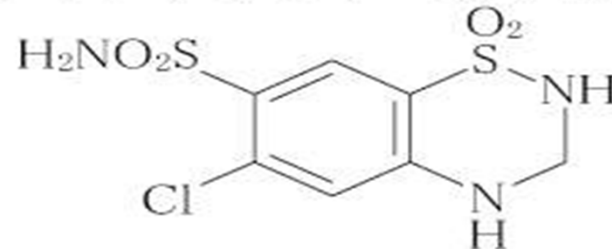
# Thiazides

トリクロルメチアジド 分子量 380.66



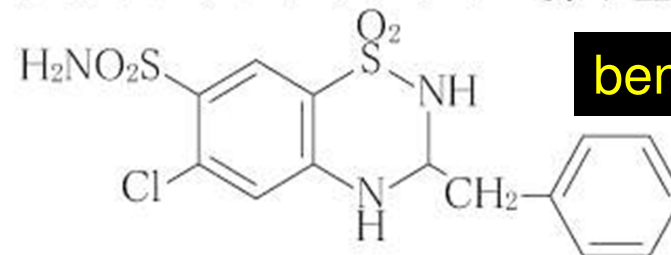
trichloromethiazide

ヒドロクロロチアジド 分子量 297.74



hydrochlorothiazide

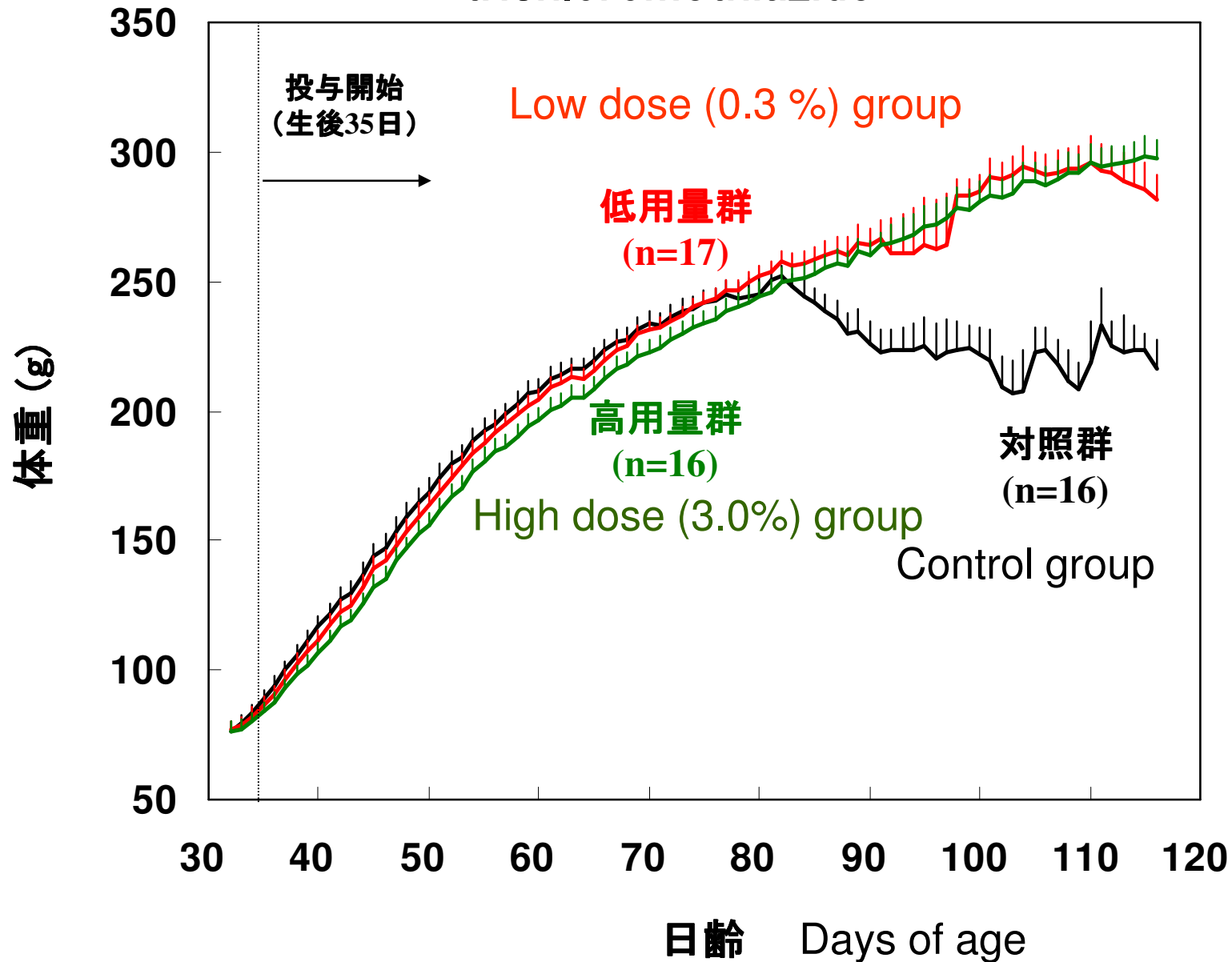
ベンチルヒドロクロロチアジド 分子量 387.86



benzylhydrochlorothiazide

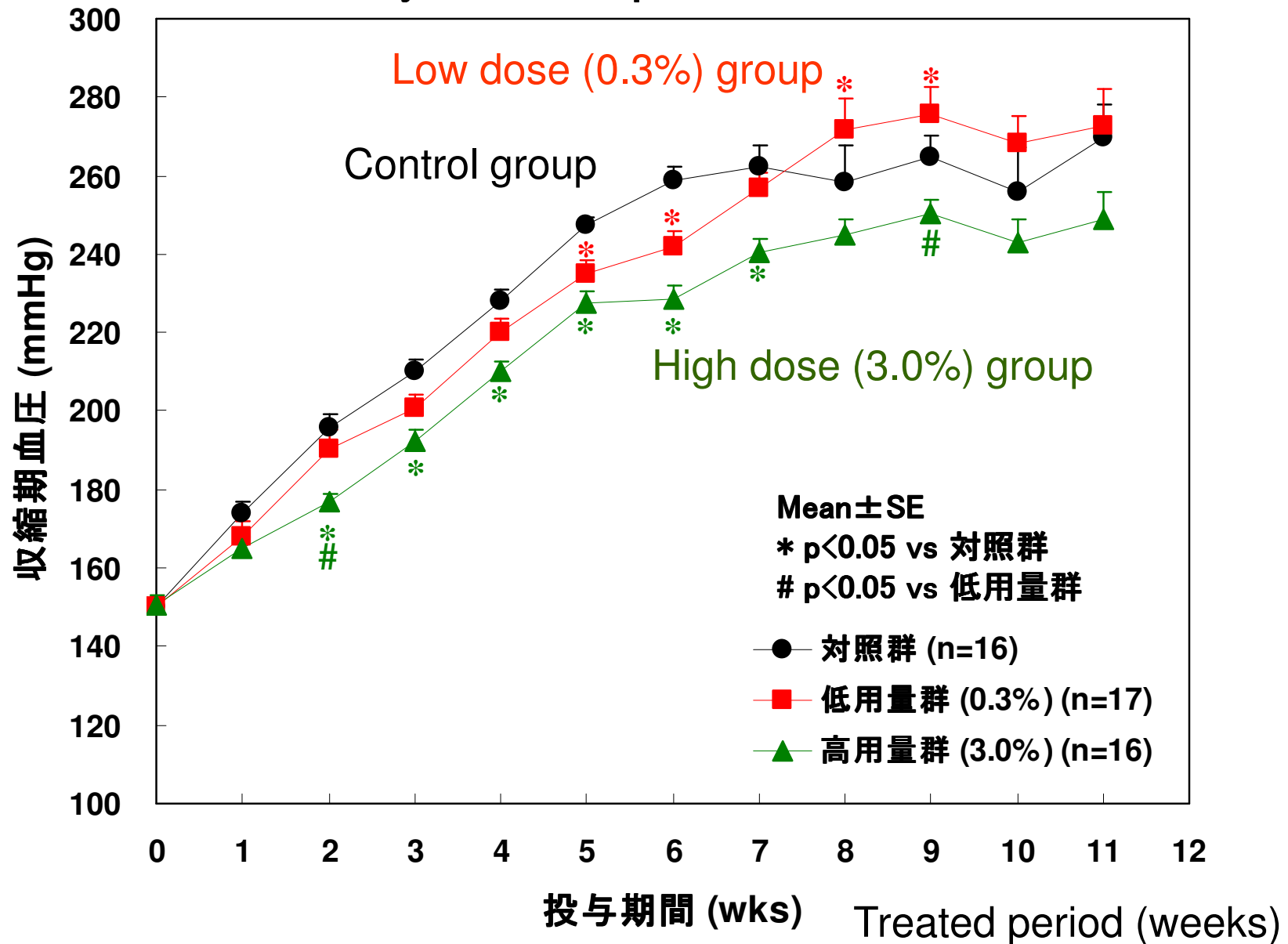
# Changes of Body Weight in M-SHRSP given trichloromethiazide

Body weight (g)



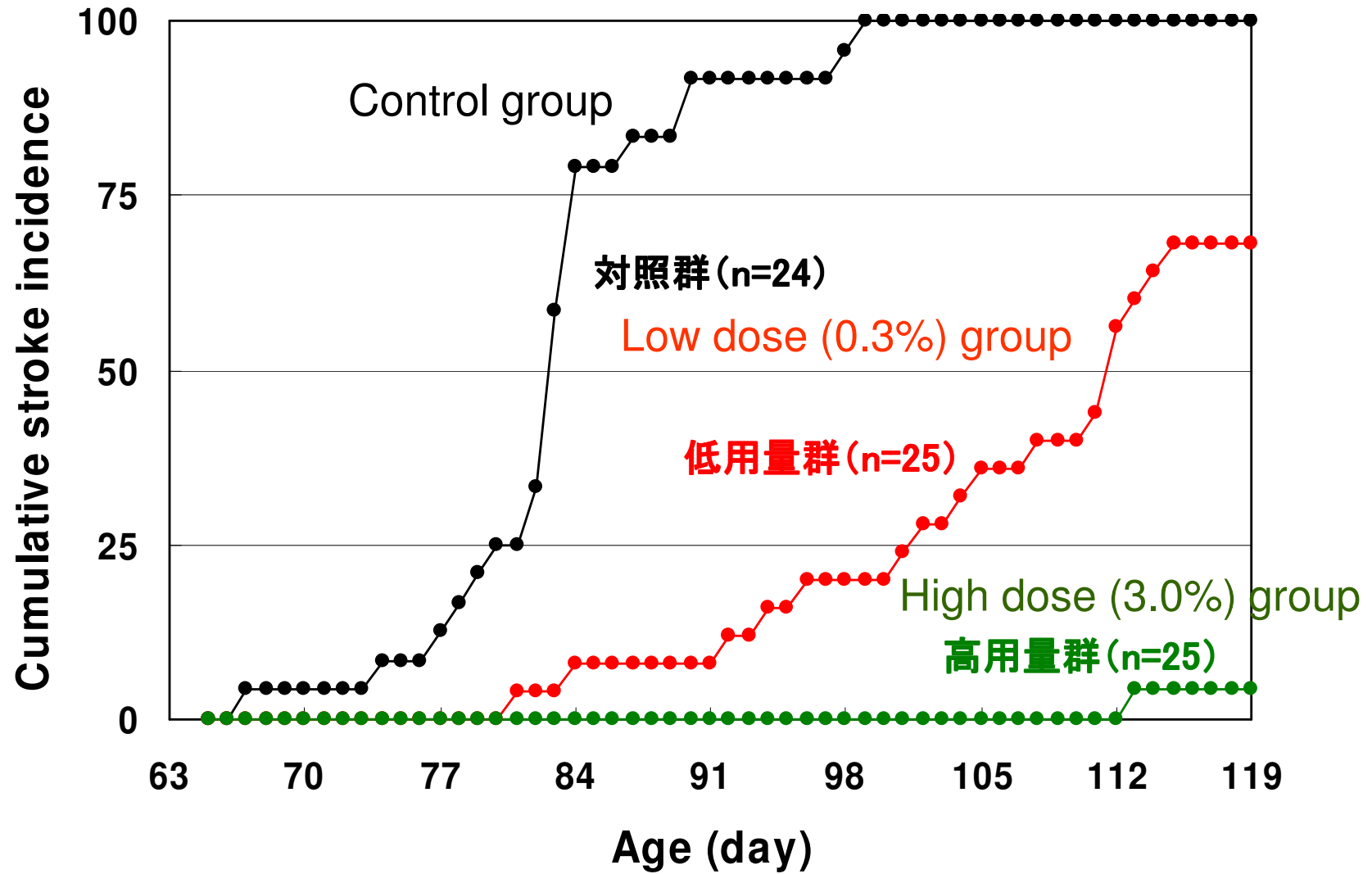
SBP (mmHg)

### Effects of trichloromethiazide administration to the systolic blood pressure in M-SHRSP

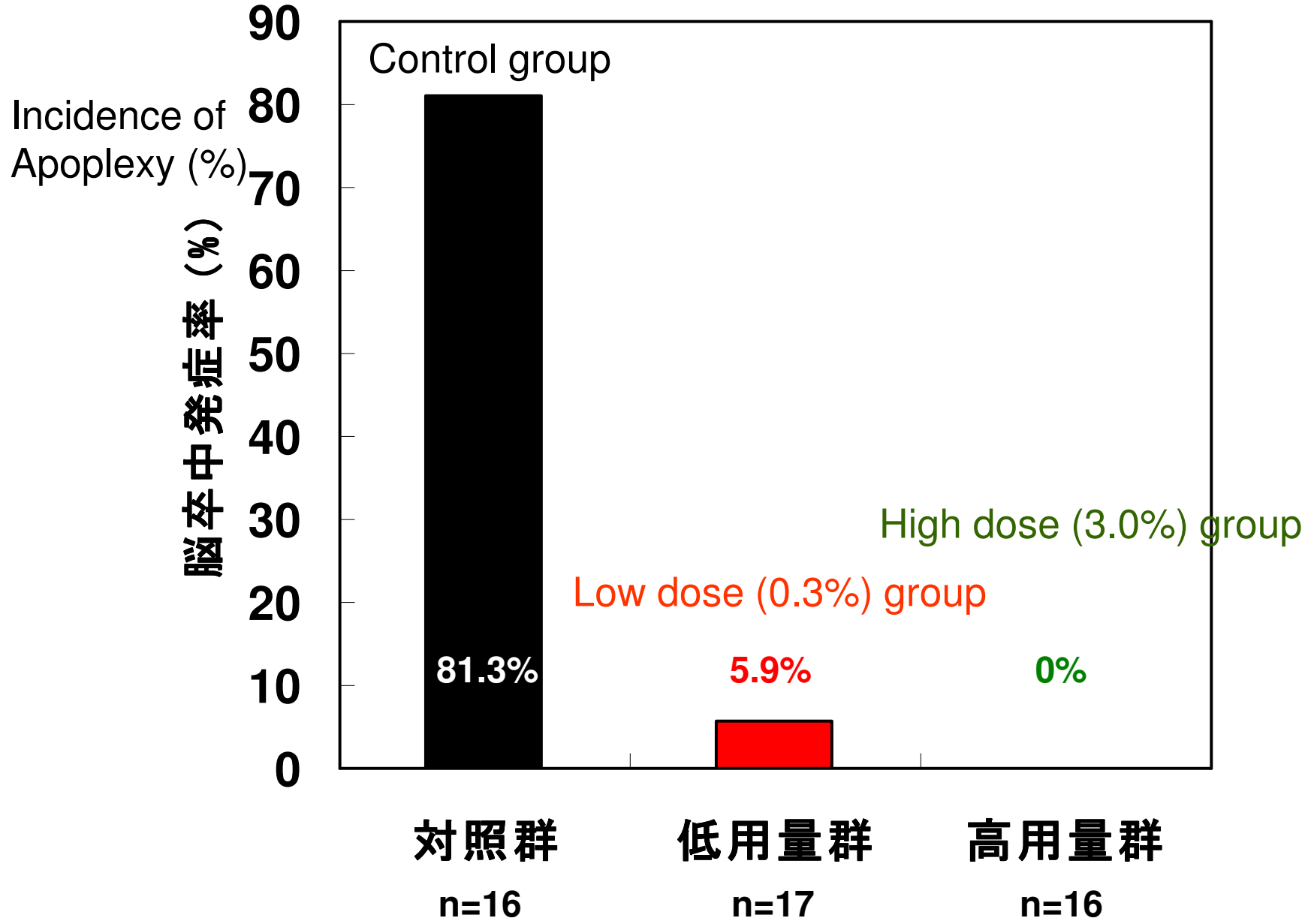




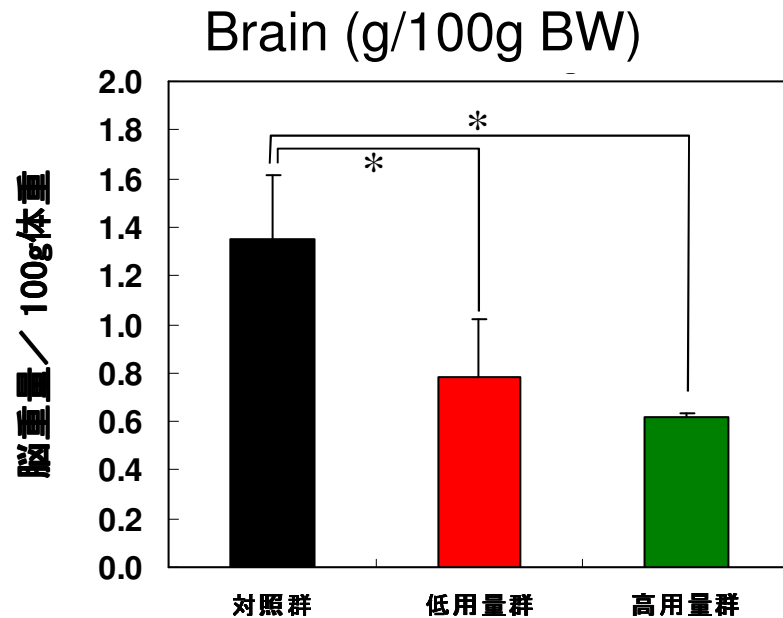
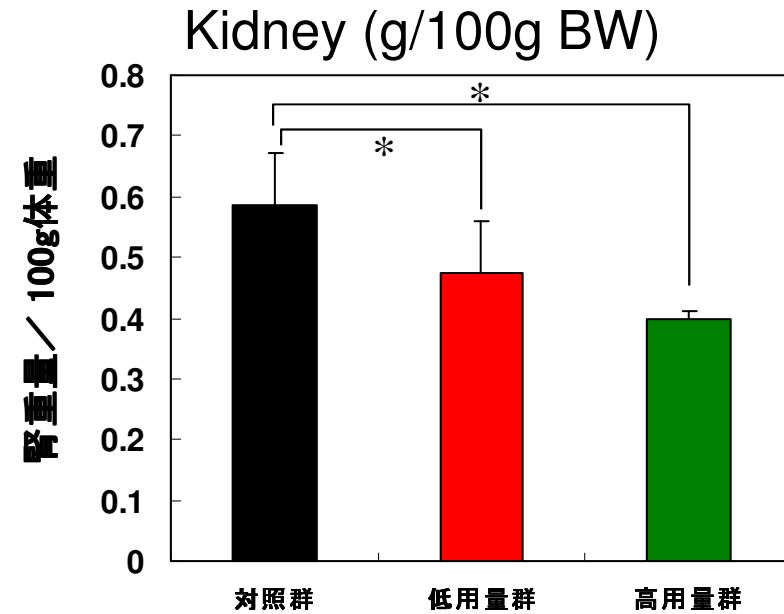
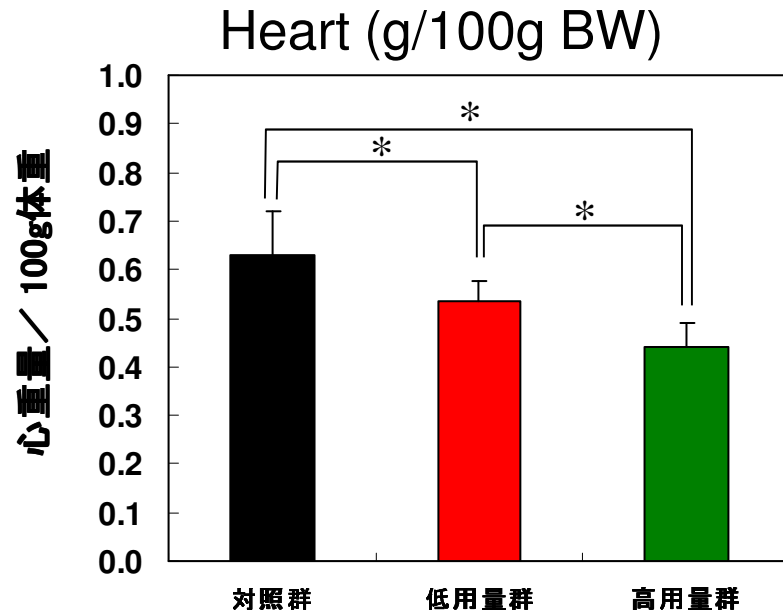
# Estimated Incidence of Apoplexy Attack under Trichloromethiazide Treatment



# Incidence of Apoplexy Attack at 7<sup>th</sup> week (20 weeks of age) under Trichloromethiazide Treatment

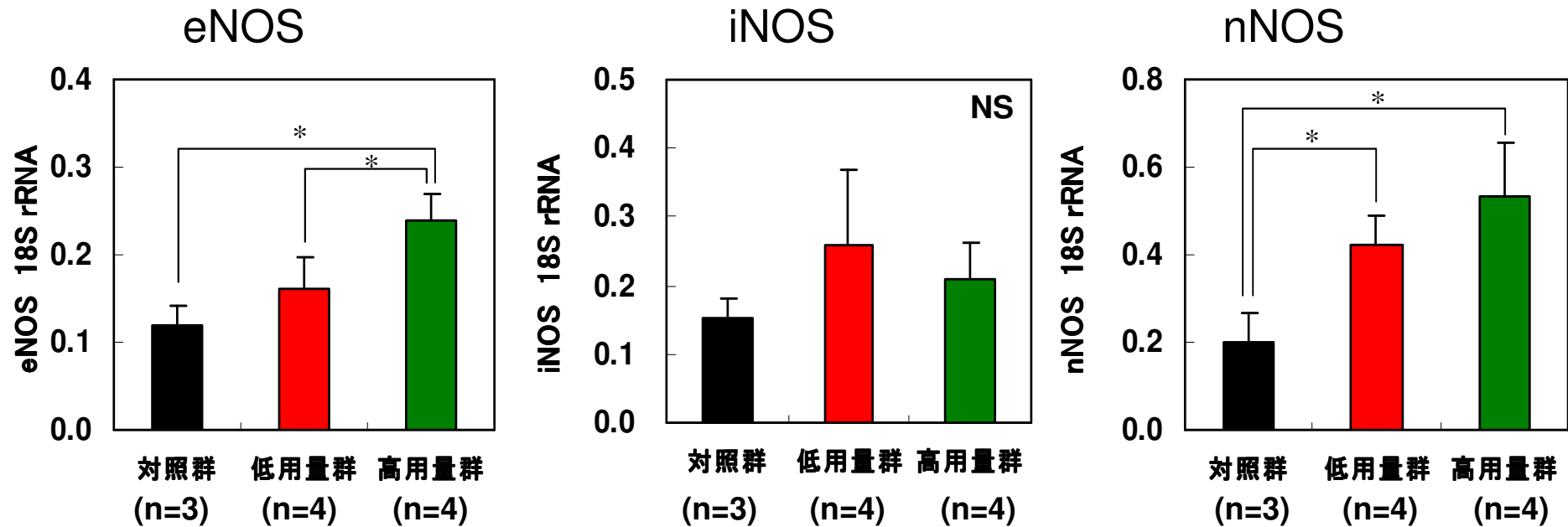


# Effect of trichloromethiazide treatment on the tissue weights



死亡時および実験終了時まで生存したラットの屠殺時における臓器重量を測定した。  
対照群 (n=6), 低用量群 (n=8), 高用量群 (n=8)  
値はMean ± SD. \* p<0.05

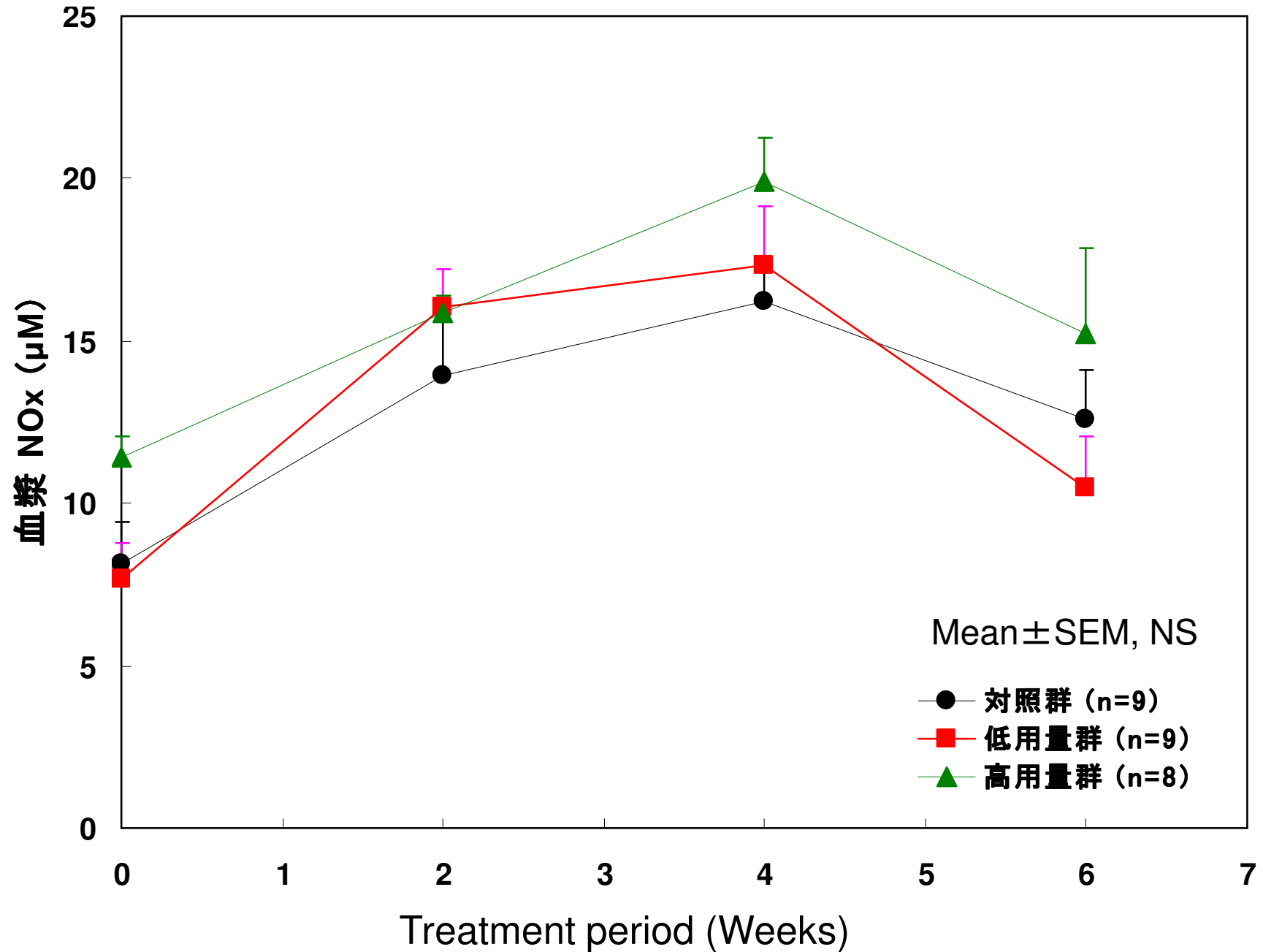
# Expressions of NOSmRNA in the Thoracic Aorta



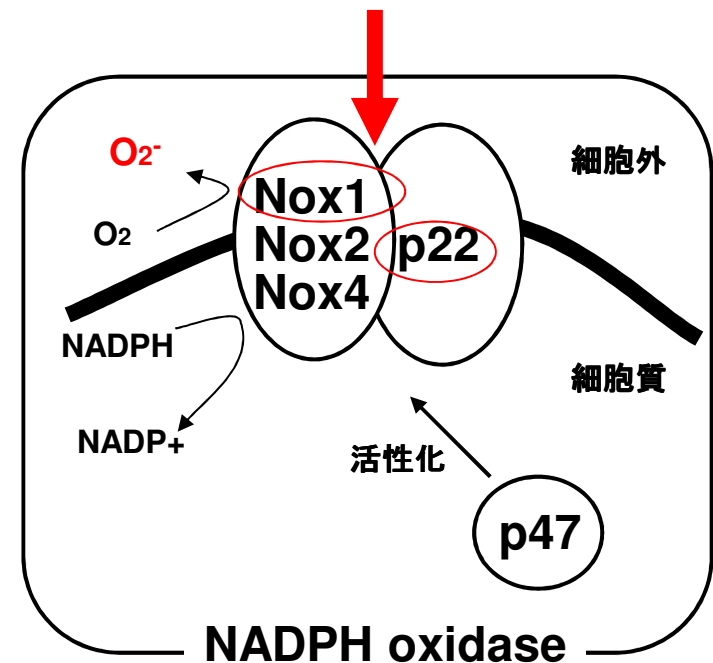
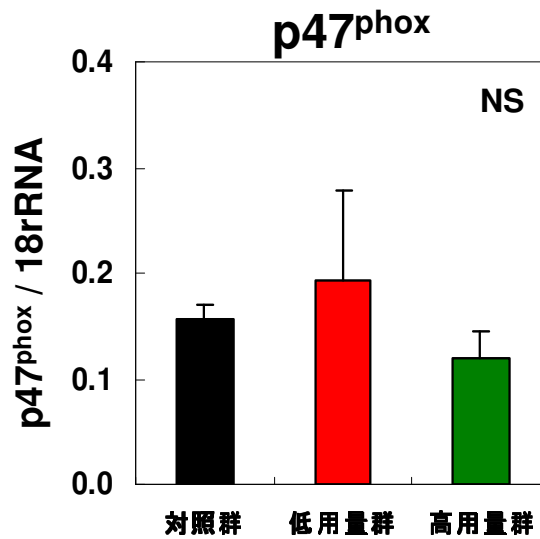
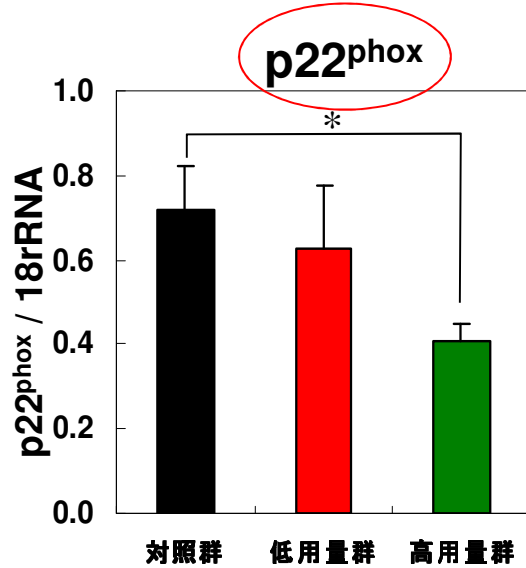
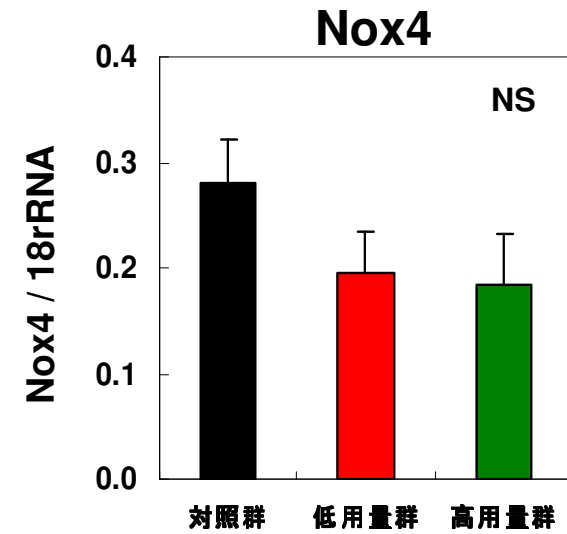
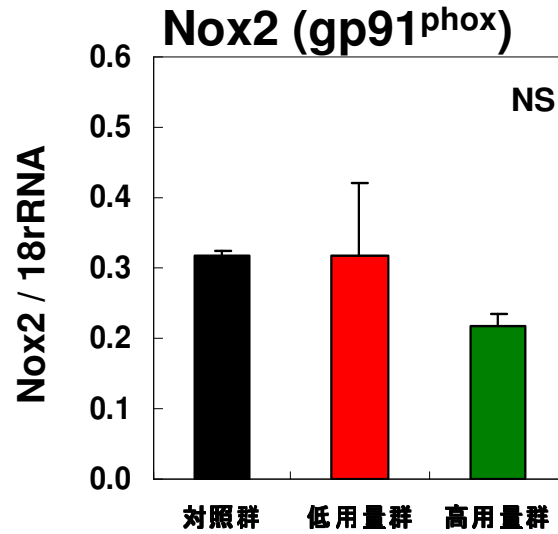
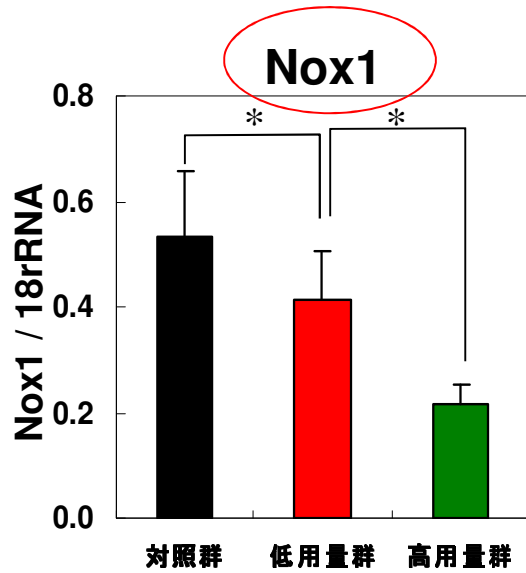
\*  $p < 0.05$  (ANOVA, Scheffe)



# NOx concentrations in plasma under Trichloromethiazide Dosage

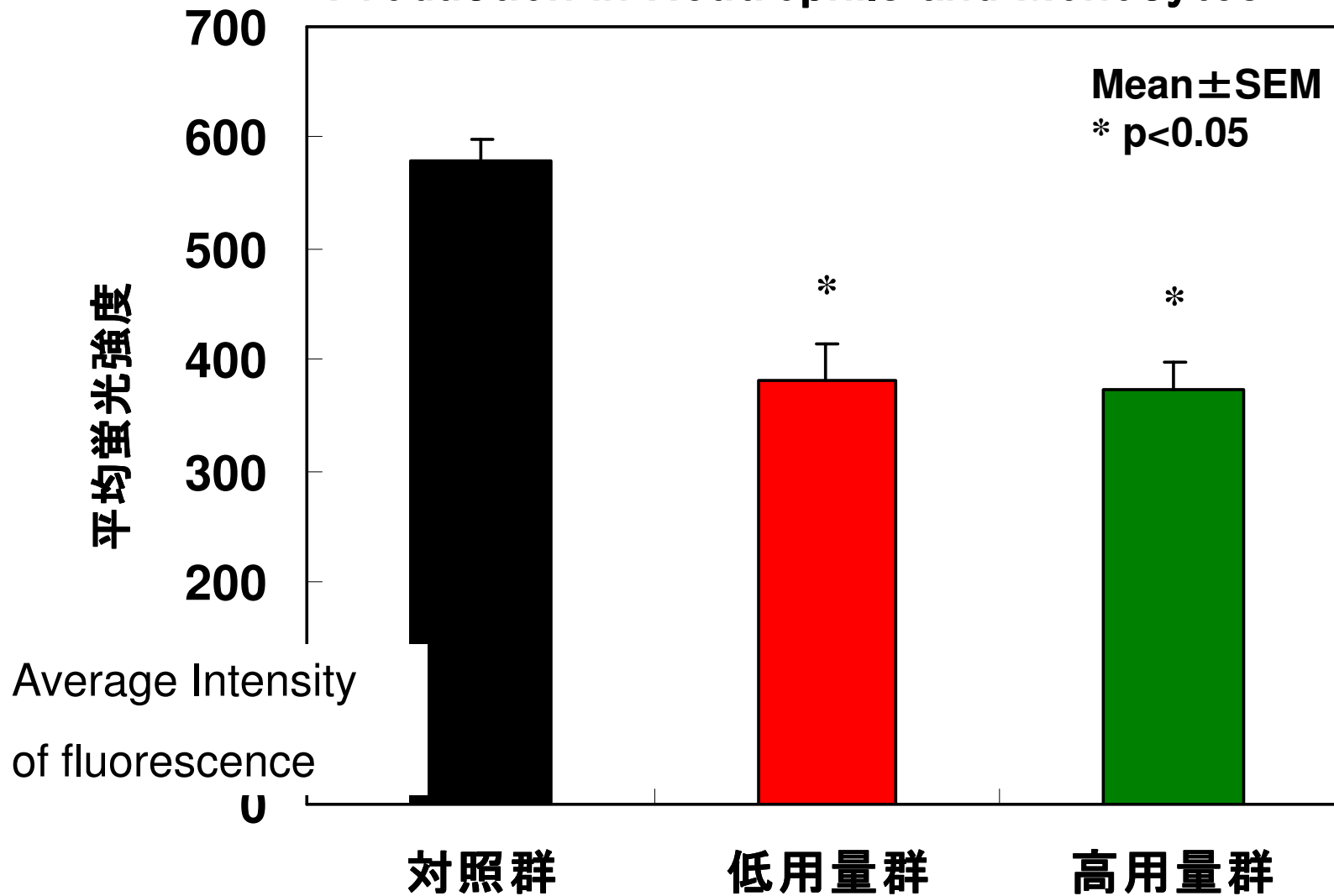


# Expressions of NADPH oxidase subunit mRNAs in the Thoracic Aortae



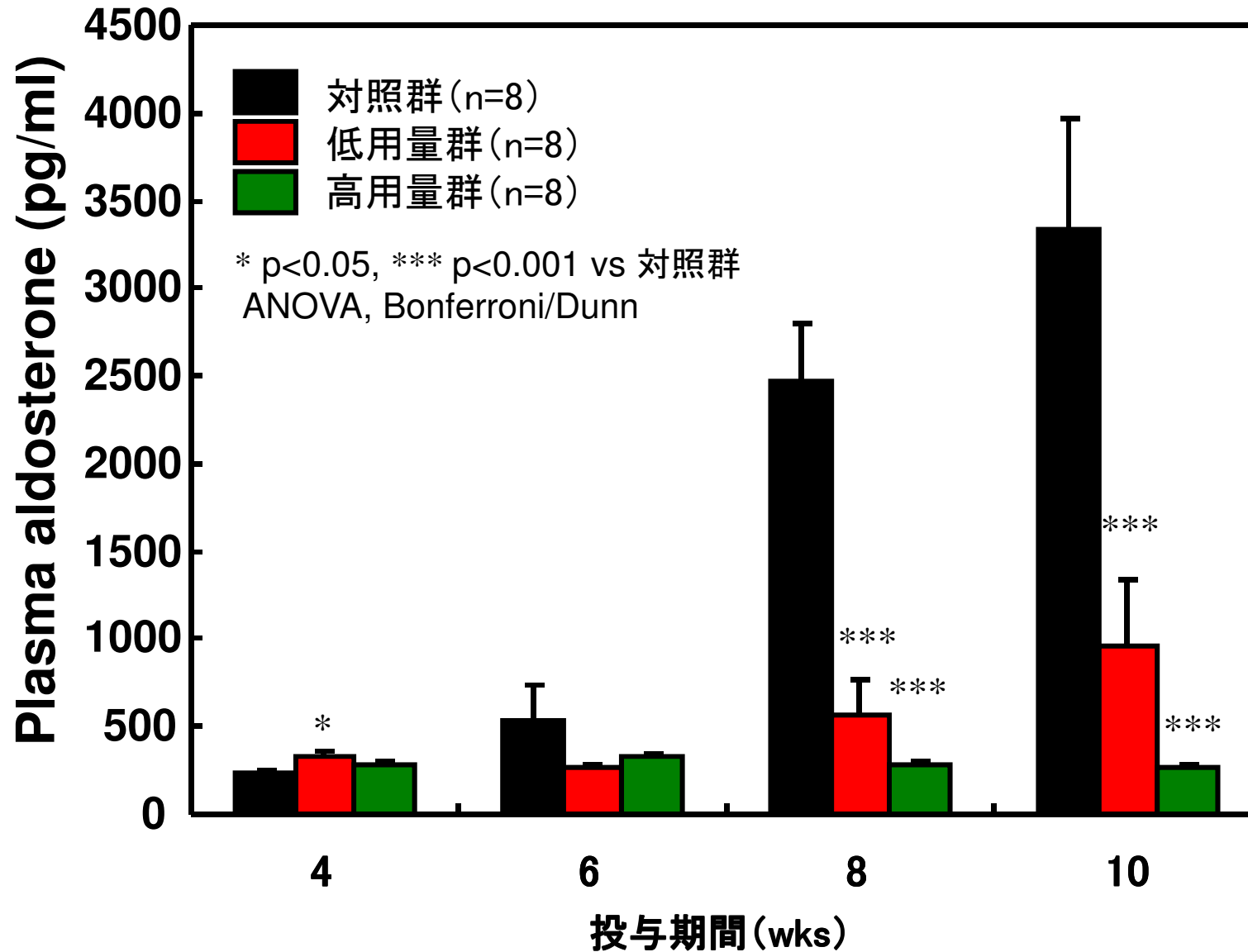
Mean ± SD  
 \* p < 0.05 (ANOVA, Scheffe)

# Effect of Trichloromethiazide treatment on Superoxide Production in Neutrophils and Monocytes

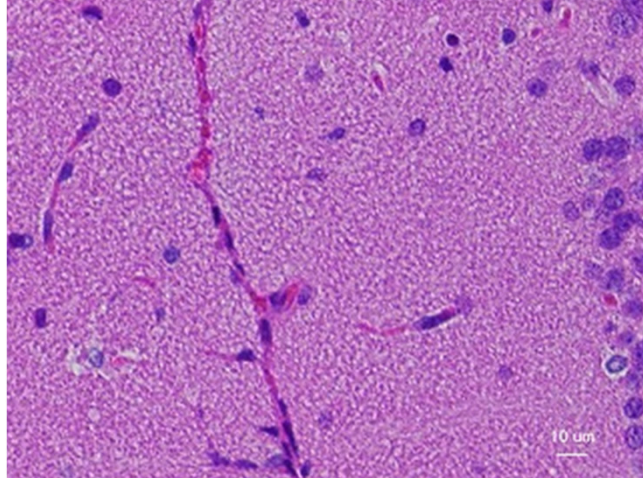
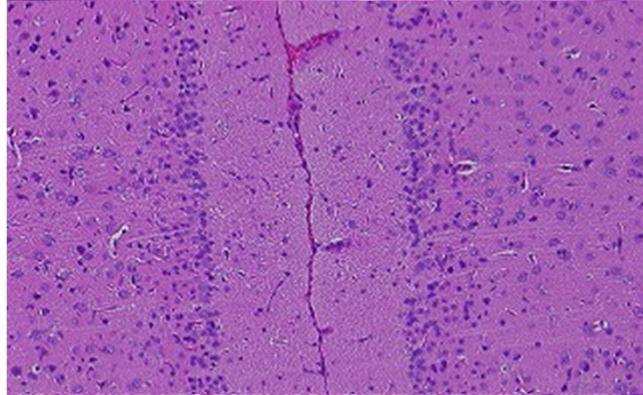


投与10週後の白血球をPMAで刺激し, 細胞内superoxideをHydroethidineの酸化により検出. FACSscanにより解析した.

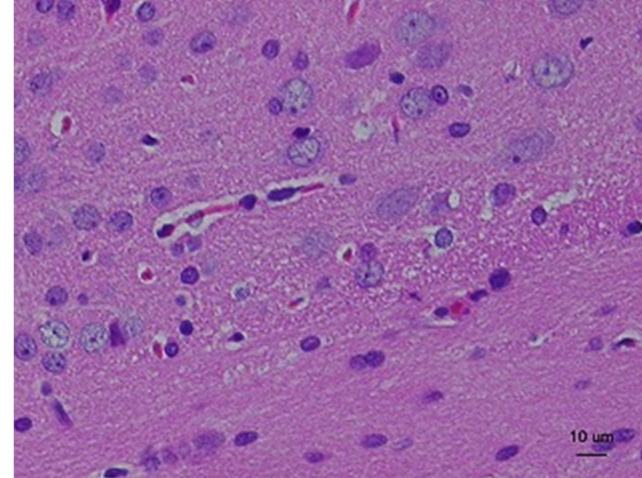
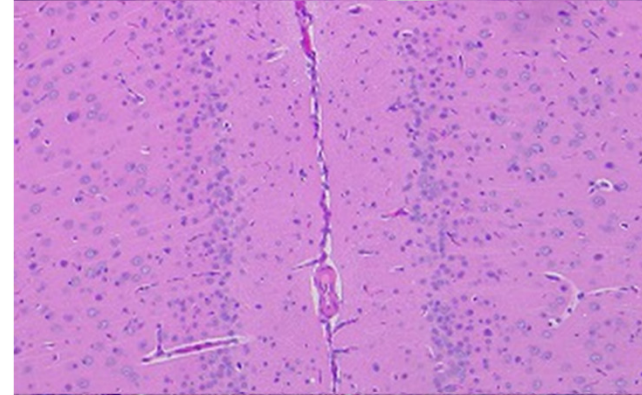
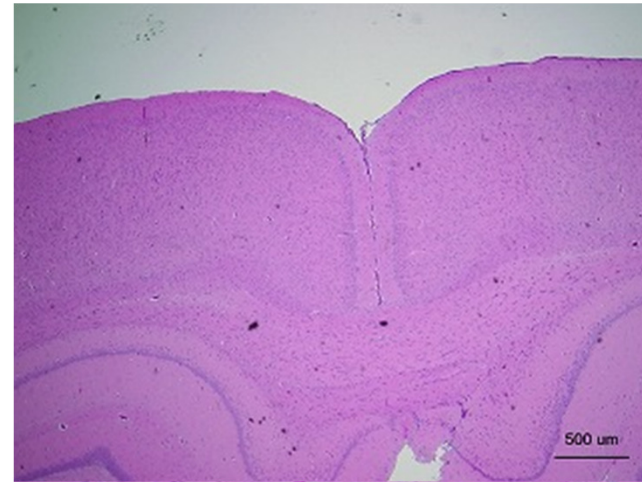
# Effect of Trichloromethiazide Treatment on Aldosterone Concentration in Plasma



Brain



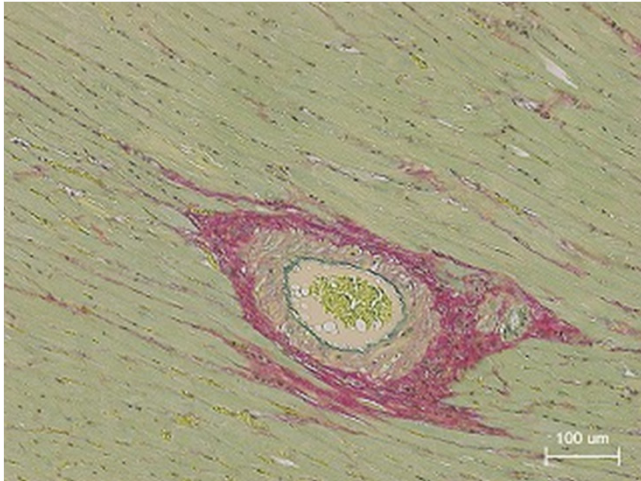
Brain: control



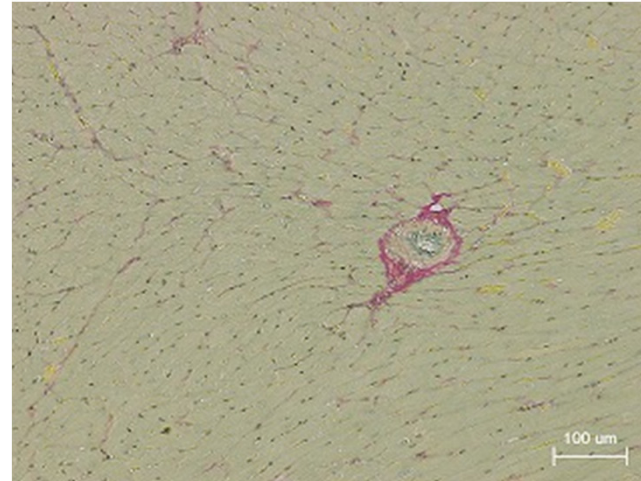
thiazide



Heart: control

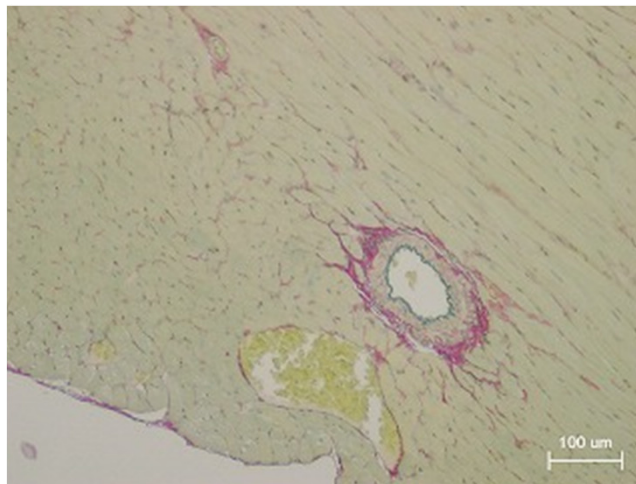


thiazide

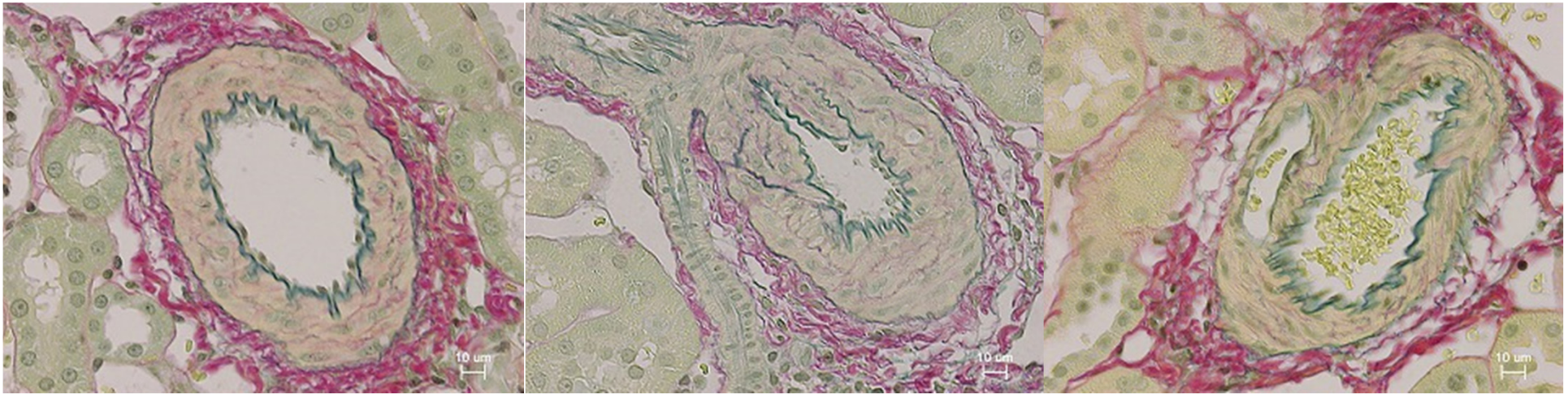


WKY

Arteries in the Heart







Control

Arteries in  
the Kidney

thiazide

WKY

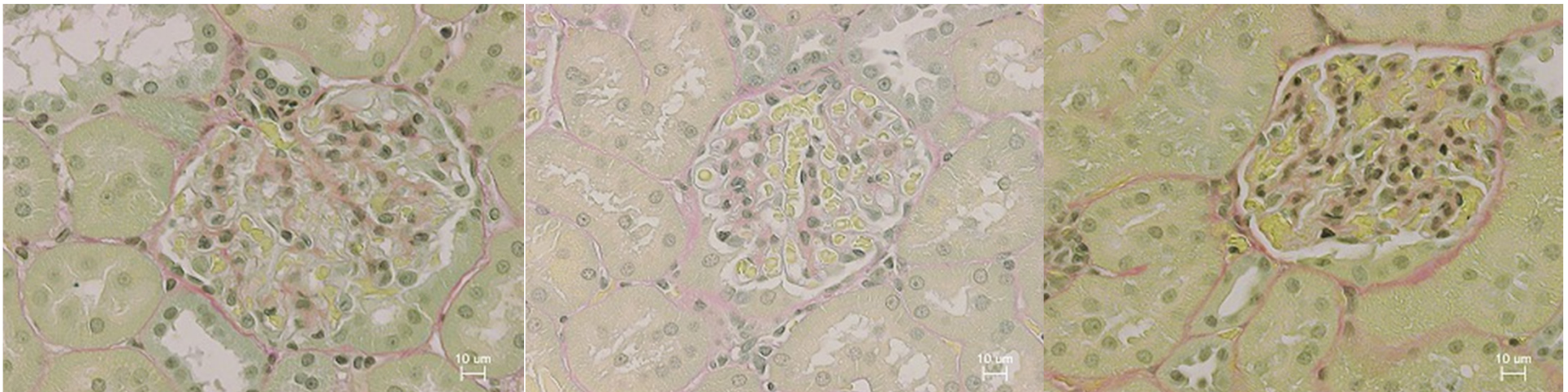
Kidney

Control

Glomerulus

thiazide

WKY



## 【Results】

**Trichlorothiazide treatment caused in M-SHRSP as follows.**

- Inhibition of incidence of the cerebral apoplexy
- High dose treatment caused the decrease on blood pressure
- Inhibition of the tissue weight increase in the heart, kidney, and brain
- eNOS and nNOS mRNA expressions in the aortae were increased.
- No effect to the plasma NO<sub>x</sub> concentration
- Expressions of Nox1 and p22<sup>phox</sup> mRNAs in the aortae were inhibited.
- Inhibition of superoxide production in the neutrophil and monocyte
- No effect on the urine volume, Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> plasma concentrations

**Trichlorothiazide (Thiazides) inhibited enlargement of the heart and incidence of cerebral apoplexy even in low dose (0.3%) administration, provably through inhibition to the oxygen stress in the tissues and blood cells**

## **Whole rat DNA array survey**

**for candidate genes related to hypertension**

**in kidneys from three spontaneously**

**hypertensive rat substrains**

**at two stages of age and with hypotensive**

**induction caused by hydralazine**

**hydrochloride**

# 【 Kidney 】

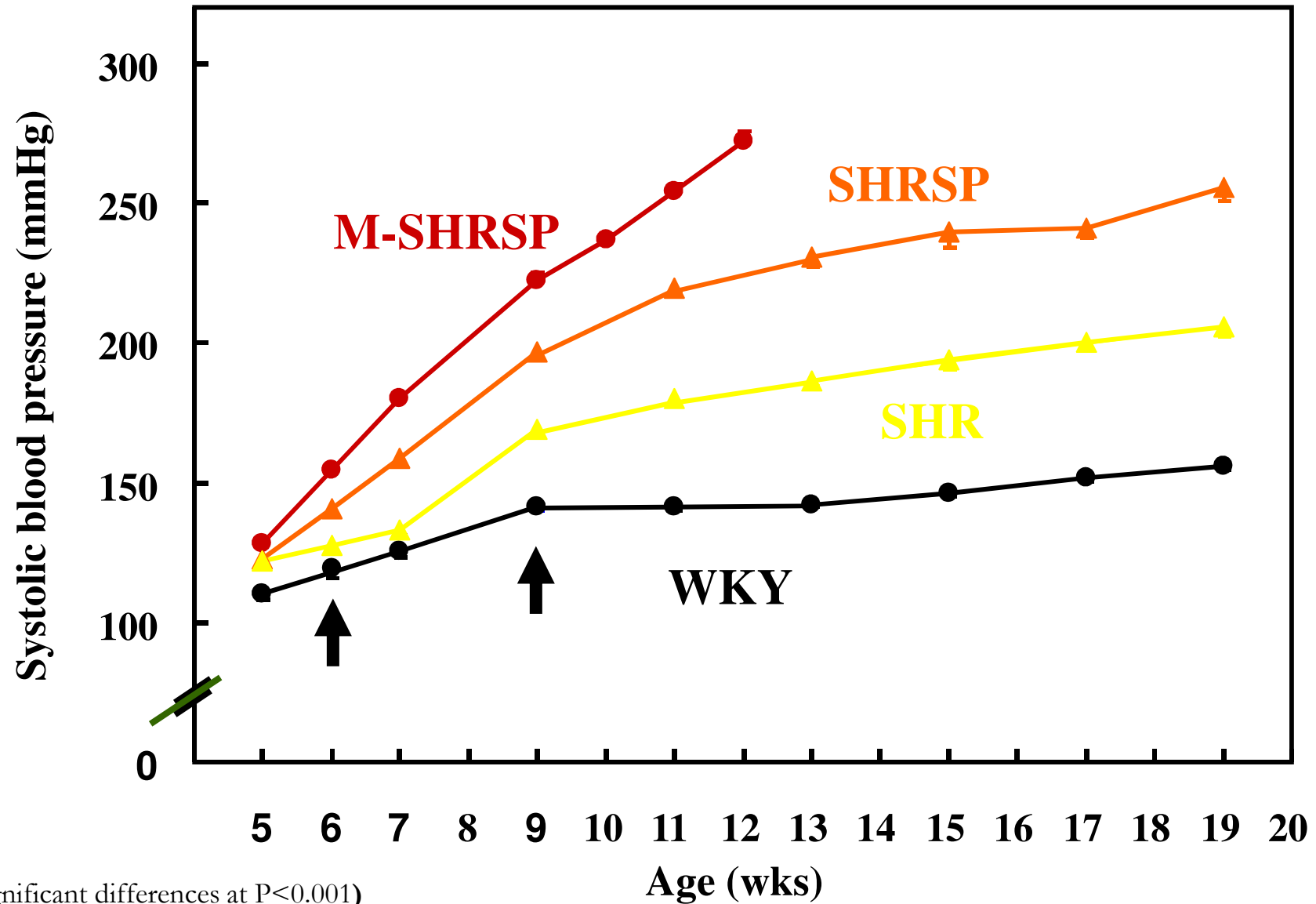
The kidneys were thought to be the most appropriate tissue for studying hypertension due to their direct influence on body fluids and endocrine, cardiovascular and sympathetic functions . There are numerous intrinsic and extrinsic factors, including the renin-angiotensin system and catecholamine and aldosterone hormones, that control the relationship between kidney function and blood pressure.



This study is the first attempt to use DNA microarrays to compare the gene expression profiles of the kidneys of SHRs, SHRSPs and M-SHRSPs employing WKY rats as a control. ↓



# Systolic Blood Pressure among WKY and SHR groups



(Significant differences at  $P < 0.001$ )

## 【 Method1 】

Comparison of mRNA expressions between  
**WKY,SHR,SHRSP,M-SHRSP** groups  
using rat whole gene DNA array



Three types of spontaneously hypertensive rat (SHR) substrains, SHR, stroke-prone SHR (SHRSP) and malignant type of SHRSP (M-SHRSP) were used, and compared to normotensive Wistar Kyoto rats.

# 【 Results 1 in Method1】

Among commonly expressed 63 genes in 6-week-old SHRs, SHRSPs and M-SHRSPs, 16 were expressed more than four times higher than in the WKY rats. That is, *Gc*, *Sugt 1*, *Dusp15*, *Cyp8b1*, *Sult1b1*, *EprE*, *Armc 3*, *Serpina3m*, *Bri3bp*, *Pthr1* and *Trps1* were identified as known functional genes.

Of 37 genes expressed more than four times higher compared to the WKY rats at 9-weeks of age, *Dusp15*, *Armc 3*, *Cyp8b1*, *Acox2*, *Sugt 1*, *Rdh2*, *Zfp597*, *Gtpbp4*, *Serpina3m*, *Gc*, *XR\_006738* (similar to nucleolar GTP-binding protein 1), *Tmem14a*, *XM\_347233* (similar to indolethylamine N-methyltransferase), *TC539990* (ATP synthase subunit 8), *TC540923* (phosphatidylinositol 3 kinase regulator), *TC528756* (EprEprotein), *Gloxd1*, *Fbxo36*, *Ddit4*, *Sv2a*, *Cyr61*, *RGD1560736* (similar to solute carrier family 9), *Dpt*, *Mett12*, *Mapk14*, *LOC689240* (similar to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis 2 chromosome region), *Bri3bp*, *Slc11a1* and *Prkar2b* were identified.

## **6W: SHRs>4xWKY**

**Gc – group specific component : gc-globulin; vitamin D-binding protein**

**Sugt1 – SGT1, suppressor of G2 allele of SKP1**

**Dusp15 – dual specificity phosphatase 15**

**Cyp8b1 – cytochrome P450, family 8, subfamily b, polypeptide 1**

**Sult1b1 – sulfotransferase family, cytosolic, 1B, member 1**

**NFE2L2 – nuclear factor, erythroid 2-like 2**

**Armc3 – armadillo repeat containing 3**

**Serpina3m – serine (or cysteine) proteinase inhibitor, clade A, member 3M**

**BRI3BP – BRI3 binding protein**

**PTRH1 – peptidyl-tRNA hydrolase 1 homolog**

**Trps1 – trichorhinophalangeal syndrome I**

No.3

**DPT – dermatopontin**

**METT12-unknown**

**MAPK14 – mitogen-activated protein kinase 14**

**LOC689240-amiotrophic lateral sclerosis 2 chromosome region**

**BRI3BP – BRI3 binding protein**

**Slc11a1 – solute carrier family 11 (proton-coupled divalent metal ion transporters), member 11**

**PRKAR2B – protein kinase, cAMP-dependent, regulatory, type II, beta**

**DDIT4 – DNA-damage-inducible transcript 4**

number

**Sv2a – synaptic vesicle glycoprotein 2 a**

**CYR61 – cysteine-rich, angiogenic inducer, 61**

**RGD1560736-solute carrier family 9**



# 【 Results 2 in Method1 】

- Expressed genes less than 1/4 the levels noted in the WKY rats. at **6 weeks of age** were 6, *Sc1B*, *Hmmr* and *frame 12* in addition to three previously unidentified genes.
- Genes of 18 were expressed less than 1/4 the levels noted in the WKY rats at **9 weeks of age**. That is, *Anxa13*, *Sc1B*, *Olr1455*, *frame 12*, *Ephx2*, *Kb9*, *Myr8*, *Tspan1*, *Pcdh9* and *CA506853* (HIV-1 *Nef* negative effector of Fas and TNF) were in addition to 8 previously unidentified genes.
- A total of 5 genes were found to be commonly expressed at lower levels in SHR, SHRSP and M-SHRSP compared to WKY at 6 and 9 weeks of age and included *Sc1B*, *Hmmr* and *frame 12*.

**SHR<4xWKY at 9W**

**ANXA13 – annexin A13**

**scIB – streptococcal collagen-like protein (B)**

**Olr1455 olfactory receptor 1455**

**AMM)**

**EPHX2 – epoxide hydrolase 2, cytoplasmic**

**Krt76 – keratin 76**

**MYO16 – myosin XVI**

**TSPAN1 – tetraspanin 1**

**PCDH9 – protocadherin 9**

**CA506853-HIV-I negative effector of Fas and TNF**




# Findings of Reactome analyses in Method 1

Fig.1a

## Up-regulated genes in 6-week-old

Statistically over-represented events in hierarchy

1e+00 3e-01 1e-01 3e-02 1e-02 3e-03 1e-03 3e-04 1e-04 3e-05 1e-05 3e-06 1e-06 3e-07

- ⊕...  Biological oxidations 1.4e-02, 4/148
- ⊕...  Integration of energy metabolism 1.0e-01, 4/282
- ⊕...  Diabetes pathways 1.6e-01, 6/581

Total number of events assessed: 3765

Number of matching events (i.e. individual hypergeometric tests performed): 21




Number of genes matching submitted identifiers: 29

Fig.1b

## Up-regulated genes in 9-week-old

Statistically over-represented events in hierarchy

1e+00 3e-01 1e-01 3e-02 1e-02 3e-03 1e-03 3e-04 1e-04 3e-05 1e-05 3e-06 1e-06 3e-07

- ⊕...  Hemostasis 5.0e-01, 4/365
- ⊕...  Metabolism of lipids and lipoproteins 4.1e-02, 7/325
- ⊕...  Signaling by GPCR 9.6e-01, 4/775

Total number of events assessed: 3765

Number of matching events (i.e. individual hypergeometric tests performed): 38

Number of genes matching submitted identifiers: 45

High expressed genes were more analyzed  
using Reactome analyses



- *Yc2, Cyp2c, Gsta3, Cyp8b1* were related to a biological oxidation process
- *RGD1564999, Hmgcs2, Apob, Aptlc1, Acox2, Angpt14, Cyp8b1* were related to pathways in lipid and lipoprotein metabolisms.

**Method 1 6W (Ractome):Biological oxidation passway**

**Gsta5 – glutathione S-transferase Yc2 subunit**

**CYP2C9 – cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily C, polypeptide 9**

**GSTA3 – glutathione S-transferase alpha 3**

**CYP8B1 – cytochrome P450, family 8, subfamily B, polypeptide 1**

**Method 1 6W (Ractome):Metabolism of lipid and lipoproteins**

**RGD1564999 – similar to isopentenyl-diphosphate delta isomerase 2**

**Hmgcs2 – 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA synthase 2 (mitochondrial)**

**APOB – apolipoprotein B**

**ACOX2 – acyl-CoA oxidase 2, branched chain**

**Angptl4 angiopoietin-like 4 [ Mus musculus**

**CYP8B1 – cytochrome P450, family 8, subfamily B, polypeptide 1**



## 【 Method2 】

The expressed genes between rats of different ages were compared for different blood pressures.



Young (6 weeks of age) and slightly older rats (9 weeks of age) with mild hypertension were used to survey candidate blood pressure elevating genes.

## 【 Results in Method 2】

A total of 8 genes were **up-regulated >1.5 times** between rats 6 to 9 weeks of age in two or more substrains or in the M-SHRSPs. They were *Nef3*, *Slc26a4*, *Cyp2C*, *Gfra1* and *Resp18*, and three previously unidentified genes.

A total of 2 genes, *Atp12a* and *Hbb*, were expressed at **less than 1/4 the levels** at 6 compared to 9 weeks of age in more than two substrains.

### 9W>1.5x6W in SHRs

Nefm – neurofilament, medium polypeptide

SLC26A4 – solute carrier family 26 (anion exchanger), member 4

CYP2C9 – cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily C, polypeptide 9

Gfra1 – glial cell line derived neurotrophic factor family receptor alpha 1

Resp18 – regulated endocrine-specific protein 18

### 9W<4x6W in SHRs

ATP12A – ATPase, H<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> transporting, nongastric, alpha polypeptide

HBB – hemoglobin, beta

## 【 Method3 】

Genes that were expressed in rats treated with or without an **acute hypotensive stimulus**, the antihypertensive hydralazine hydrochloride, were compared.



Data obtained from the comparison of **hypotensive effects, with or without hydralazine hydrochloride treatment**, in the SHR substrains compared to the WKY rats were used to survey the genes.

# 【 Results in Method3】

1. Strongly suggested candidate genes are *TC55046* (farnesyl pyrophosphate synthetase), *Kcnc3*, *Vnn1* and *RGD1561143* (similar to cell surface receptor FDFACT), *TC560558* (FK506-binding protein 1B), *TC564079* (*Drosophila melanogaster*), *XM\_343516* (similar to sulfotransferase K2) and one previously unidentified gene.
2. Reactome database analyses identified expression of numerous genes related to DNA replication and cell proliferation, including *Psmc6*, *Psma2*, *Psma6* and *LOC311078* [proteasome (prosome, macropain) subunits].



## **Significant Changes with Hydrarazine overload**

**TC55046-farnesyl pyrophosphate synthase**

**KCNC3 – potassium voltage-gated channel, Shaw-related subfamily, member 3**

**VNN1 – vanin 1**

**RGD1561143-cell surface receptor FDFACT**

**TC560558-FK506-binding protein 1B**

**XM-343516-sulfotransferase K12**

**PSMC6 – proteasome (prosome, macropain) 26S subunit, ATPase, 6**

**PSMA2 – proteasome (prosome, macropain) subunit, alpha type, 2**

**LOC311078-(prosome, macropain) subunits**

## 【 Conclusion 】

### <Method 1: Genes observed between 3 SHR strains >

- Genes related in biological oxidation at 6 weeks of age.
  - Genes related in metabolism of lipid and lipoprotein at 9 weeks of age.
- ⇒mainly relate to the metabolism

### <Method 2: Genes observed in relation to aging>

⇒mainly relate to the metabolism of nucleotides

### <Method 3: Genes observed in relation to acute hypotension

⇒mainly relate to DNA replication and cell division reactions



Hypertension inducing factor genes will be presented with high probability, therefore, in the genes identified through Method 2 and Method 3,

## Other findings clarified in the experiments using SHRs

- 1) Antithrombin III activity in the plasma was elevated more.
- 2) Acceleration of aggregation as a result of elevation of free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ion in the platelets
- 3) 2,3-bisphosphoglycerate (2,3-DPG) in the erythrocytes was not easily increased under hypoxia stress
- 4) Disturbances in baroreceptor reflex function
- 5) Excessive intake, higher oxygen consumption, and hyperthermia were provably caused by functional disturbance of uncoupling protein (UCP) in the mitochondrion
- 6) Doubt of existence of para-adrenal glands, and pheochromocytoma
- 7) Over-expression of mRNA related to renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system in the adrenal glands
- 8) Attack of cerebral apoplexy will be prevented through being touched with hand
- 9) Appropriate free moving or exercise will cause a longevity

I thank for their contribution of many SHR rats sacrificed in the experiments.  
Hideaki Higashino, M.D. & Ph.D.: Kinki university School of Medicine



Thanks for your concern !