2-Bromo-α-Ergocryptine (CB 154) Inhibition of Prolactin Secretion and Galactorrhea in a Case of Pituitary Tumour

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The inhibition of prolactin secretion by 2-bromo-α-ergocryptine (CB 154) has been reported in in vitro studies [4] and in experimental animals [5]. Moreover, Lutterbeck et al. [3] reported suppression of non-puerperal galactorrhoea in three women treated with CB 154. The present communication reports the comparative effects of this drug and of L-dopa on prolactin secretion in a man suffering from galactorrhoea due to a pituitary tumour. Galactorrhoea was evaluated by measuring the amount of milk which could be expressed from the breasts. Human plasma prolactin was measured by a radioimmunoassay previously developed for ovine prolactin [1] and extended to human prolactin [2]. Basal levels of prolactin, ranging from 800 to 1,550 mU/ml, were significantly elevated. A single oral dose of 400 mg L-dopa elicited no significant decrease in prolactin levels. On the contrary, CB 154 (5 mg/day per os) induced within 48 h a significant fall in prolactin levels, reaching normal values (210 mU/ml) after 1 month of treatment. Accordingly, milk production decreased significantly. Placebo had no effect. These data confirm previous observations assessing a direct action of CB 154 on prolactin cells [4], and suggest its usefulness in clinical practice.

Acknowledgements
We are indebted to Prof. E. Flückiger and to Dr. P. M. Lutterbeck (Sandoz Ltd., Basle, Switzerland) for generous gifts of CB 154 and of placebo. Dr. G. D. Niswender kindly provided the reagents used for prolactin assays.

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