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.

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