Age-related differences in responses to hydrogen sulfide in the bladder of spontaneously hypertensive rats

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We have confirmed that hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) is a possible relaxation factor in the rat bladder, and H₂S-induced bladder relaxation is impaired in 18-week-old (18W) spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHRs), which show bladder dysfunctions. We compared effects of NaHS and GYY4137 (H₂S donors) on bladder contractility and micturition reflex, and H₂S contents and expression of enzymes related to H₂S biosynthesis (CBS, MPST and CAT) in the bladder between 12W and 18W male SHRs. Effects of NaHS (1×10⁻⁸ to 3×10⁻⁴ M) were evaluated on carbachol (10⁻⁵ M)-induced pre-contracted bladder strips. Under urethane-anesthesia, effects of intravesically instilled GYY4137 (10⁻⁸ to 10⁻⁶ M) on the rat micturition reflex were examined. The H₂S contents and expression of CBS, MPST and CAT were measured by methylene blue method and western blotting. Compared to 12W SHRs, NaHS-induced maximal relaxation of bladder strips was significantly decreased, GYY4137-induced intercontraction intervals prolongation was attenuated, the bladder H₂S content and expression level of CBS, MPST and CAT in the bladder dome was higher in 18W SHRs. These results indicate that H₂S-induced bladder relaxation in SHRs is impaired time-dependently, suggesting that early intervention in SHRs with H₂S donors may prevent the development of hypertension-mediated bladder dysfunctions.