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Title: Analysis of frog neuromuscular function at hyperbaric pressures

Authors: Athey, GR
Akers, TK

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Abstract: Nerve and muscle compound action potentials were measured in the frog sciatic nerve-gastrocnemius muscle preparation in a hyperbaric helium-air environment. Helium pressure to 69 ATA induced a reversible depression in muscle compound action potential amplitude without significantly affecting other parameters. Blockade other parameters. Blockade induced by tetraethylammonium while at pressure could be partially reversed by decompression. A desensitization-type of neuromuscular block produced at pressure after neostigmine infusion could also be partially reversed by decompression. These results suggest a possible involvement of the acetylcholine receptor complex in pressure-induced depression of synaptic transmission.

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