

## Giriş

Ağrı Uluslararası Ağrı Araştırmaları Teşkilatı (IASP) tarafından yapılan tanımlamaya göre; “Bedenin herhangi bölgesinde hissedilen, altta yatan organik bir neden olsun ya da olmasın, bireyin önceki tecrübeleri ile ilgili sensoryal, emosyonel, rahatsız edici bir duygu deneyimi olarak tanımlanır (1). Ağrı kişilerin hayatında büyük öneme sahip olan, günlük yaşamlarını kısıtlayan bir durumdur. Ağrının süresi uzayıp kronikleştikçe de etkisi daha da önem kazanmaktadır. Ağrıyı süresine göre akut ve kronik ağrı şeklinde 2 gruba ayırabiliriz. Akut ağrı, vücudun herhangi bir bölgesinde meydana gelen zedelenme sonrasında ortaya çıkan kişinin hoşuna gitmeyen duyuşal deneyim olarak tanımlanmaktadır (2). Kronik ağrı; beklenenden daha uzun süren (3-6 ay) veya iyileşme sürecinden sonra devam eden ağrıdır. Doku hasarı ile neden olduğu lezyon arasında yer, zaman ve şiddet açısından net bir ilişki bulunmamaktadır. Doku hasarı kaybolduktan sonra da ağrı devam etmektedir (3,4).

Kişilerin ağrıya karşı duyarlılığının farklı olduğunu bilmekteyiz. Bu farklılığın nedenlerine baktığımızda reseptör duyarlılığı ve sayılarının yanı sıra kişinin yaşam şekli, eğitim seviyesi, cinsiyet, dil, din gibi çeşitli faktörlerin de etkili olduğunu görmekteyiz (6).

## 1-Ağrının Nöroanatomi

Nosiseptör denilen özelleşmiş reseptörler tarafından algılanan ağrı reseptörde bir reseptör

potansiyeli (jeneratör potansiyeli) oluşturur. Reseptör potansiyelinin yeterli büyüklüğe (eşik) ulaşması ile ilk aksiyon potansiyeli meydana gelir. Bunun sonucunda aktive olan nosiseptörlerin aracılığıyla keskin, iğneleyici ve iyi lokalize edilebilen bir ağrı oluşturur. Aδ lifleri ile hızlı – keskin ağrı (birincil ağrı / 30 m/sn), C lifleri ile de yavaş kronik ağrı (ikincil ağrı / 0,5-2 m/sn) taşınır (7,8). Nosiseptörlerin somaları spinal kordun dorsal kök ganglionunda yerleşmiş ağrı yolağının ilk nöronlarıdır. İkinci sıra nöronlar ise, spinal kordun dorsal boynuzunda bulunurlar. Bu nöronların akson uzantıları spinotalamik traktusu oluşturmaktadır. Spinotalamik traktusun lateral kolu ağrının uyarıcı lokalizasyonunu, yoğunluğu ve kalitesi ile ilişkili diskriminatif yönünü taşımada; medial kolu ise ağrılı deneyimin hoş olmayan yönü ile ilişkili affektif yönü olabileceği düşünülmektedir. Üçüncü sıra nöronlar talamusta yer alır. Ağrının affektif kısmı, orta beyin retiküler formasyonu bağlantısı üzerinden talamusun intralaminer çekirdeklerine gelir, diskriminatif kısım ise talamusun ventral posterior lateral (VPL) ve medial (VPM) çekirdeklerine ulaşabileceği söylenilmektedir (8). Özetle; anterolateral sistem dediğimiz medial lemniskus sistem lateral spinotalamik traktus yolu ile birincil ağrının taşınımında görevliken medial spinotalamik traktus ise ikincil ağrı iletimini gerçekleştirmektedir (7,8).

Ağrı bu iki yolak ile santral sinir sistemine ulaştıktan sonra kortekste birçok alan ile iç içe ilişkili geniş ağrı merkezlerini etkiler. Kortekste ağrı aktivasyonunun yanı sıra ağrının inhibisyonunda da etkili alanlar mevcuttur. Bu anti-nosiseptif

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