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- Abstract -

## The Influence of Skin Temperature on Latency and Amplitude of the Sympathetic Skin Response(SSR) in Normal Subjects

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**Objectives** : This study was designed to assess the influence of skin temperature on sympathetic skin response(SSR) latency and amplitude, and to determine the relative roles of unmyelinated postganglionic sympathetic C fibers and neuroglandular junctions in the modification of these SSR parameters.

**Methods** : We studied the influence of skin temperature on latency and amplitude of the SSR in 20 normal subjects. SSRs were recorded from right palm and sole after stimulation of left median nerve at wrist. To determine the effect of skin temperature on SSR, we were examined SSR after cooling of right upper extremity, right lower extremity and left upper extremity. To determine the relative roles of unmyelinated postganglionic C fiber and neuroglandular junctions, we were examined SSRs after cooling of the right upper arm except hand and the right hand only.

**Results** : At low temperature, the SSR latency was prolonged( $p < 0.05$ ) and the amplitude was decreased( $p > 0.05$ ). Latency and amplitude were linearly correlated with skin temperature. With regard to the skin temperature of the upper extremity, a temperature correction factor of 0.0515 sec/ was calculated for latency. In lower extremity, a temperature correction factor of 0.0486 sec/ was calculated for latency.

**Conclusion** : The latency was prolonged after cooling of skin temperature. But, no significant change in amplitude after cooling. The latency was similarly prolonged after cooling of the upper arm except hand and the hand only. This suggests that not only the postganglionic sympathetic C fibers, but also the neuroglandular junction were responsible for latency modifications. We conclude that skin temperature is a mandatory measurement in the study of the SSR.

**Key Words** : Sympathetic skin response, Skin temperature

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(sympathetic skin response, SSR)  
 1-3  
 (sudomotor nerve)  
 4,5  
 (myelinated Group II, III fiber),  
 (short preganglionic myelinated B fibers)  
 (unmyelinated post-ganglionic sympathetic C fibers),  
 (neuroglandular junction)  
 6  
 (amplifier's time constant, stimulation frequency),

1.  
 21~31  
 20 ( 12 , 8 )  
 26 ± 2.9 , 170 ± 6.8cm

(myelinated nerve fiber)  
 가 8-10  
 2~3m/s/  
 dystrophy, RSD) 가 9  
 가 5,6,11,12

2.  
 25~28 가  
 30  
 4  
 Sapphire Premier (Medelec, England)  
 Table 1

**Table 1.** Setting for Procedure

EMG machine: Medelec Sapphire premier
Stimulation intensity: 100~200V
Stimulation duration: 0.5msec
Frequency filter: 0.1~3000Hz
Amplification sensitivity: 500 $\mu$ V/division
Sweep speed: 500msec/division
Recording electrode: disposable, surface electrode

1999 가  
 가 24~26 가 10~15  
 가 3~4  
 가 2 가 6~8  
 가

가 6~8  
cold pack  
TC-550 Digital thermometer(Line Seiki, Japan)  
5cm

25.14 ± 1.51  
24.96 ± 0.47  
(Table 2).  
1.85 ± 0.25sec,  
2.26 ± 0.20sec  
5.73 ± 3.51mV,  
4.11 ± 2.10mV (Table 2).  
(p<0.05).

3.

SPSS 7.5 for Windows

Paired Student's t-test

Paired Student's t-test

(p>0.05).

3.

25.3 ± 1.47  
1.81 ± 0.32sec,  
4.18 ± 3.84mV  
24.7 ± 1.63  
1.89 ± 0.28sec,  
5.51 ± 4.18mV (Table 3).

1.

가 (p>0.05).

4.

33.5 ± 0.47  
32.89 ± 0.47  
1.29 ± 0.28sec,  
1.70 ± 0.29sec  
5.84 ± 3.83mV,  
4.18 ± 2.68mV (Table 2).

2.

가  
(Table 4),  
가 (p<0.05).  
 $Y(\text{latency}) = 3.124 - 0.0515X(\text{skin temperature})$   
(p<0.05)(Fig. 1).  
 $Y(\text{latency}) = 3.427 - 0.0486X(\text{skin temperature})$   
(p<0.05)(Fig. 2).  
가

**Table 2.** Comparison of SSR Latency and Amplitude at Room Temperature, after Cooling of Extremities

	Baseline study	Test 1
Palm temperature( )	33.54±0.47	25.14±1.51
Sole temperature( )	32.89±0.57	24.96±1.86
Palm latency(sec)	1.29±0.28*	1.85±0.29*
Palm amplitude(mV)	5.84±3.83	5.73±3.51
Sole latency(sec)	1.70±0.29*	2.26±0.20*
Sole amplitude(mV)	4.18±2.68	4.11±2.10

Values are mean standard deviation, \* p<0.05

Test 1: Cooling of right upper extremity, right lower extremity and left upper extremity

**Table 3.** Comparison of Skin Temperature, SSR Latency and Amplitude between Cooling of the Right Upper Limb and Hand

	Test 2	Test 3
Temperature( )	25.3±1.47	24.7±1.63
SSR latency(sec)	1.81±0.32	1.89±0.28*
SSR amplitude(mV)	4.18±3.84	5.51±4.18*

Values are mean standard deviation, \* p > 0.05

Test 2: Cooling of right upper extremity except hand,

Test 3: Cooling of right Hand

(Table 4),  
가 (p>0.05).

(neuroglandular junction) (sweat gland)  
가  
(medullary reticular activating system), (mid-brain), (hypothalamus), (limbic structures)

(SSR) , 가 SSR

가 가

3.5.7

Carmichael<sup>13</sup>  
(SSR)  
가  
(myelinated Group II, III fibers)  
(lateral column)

2~3m/s/  
가 가

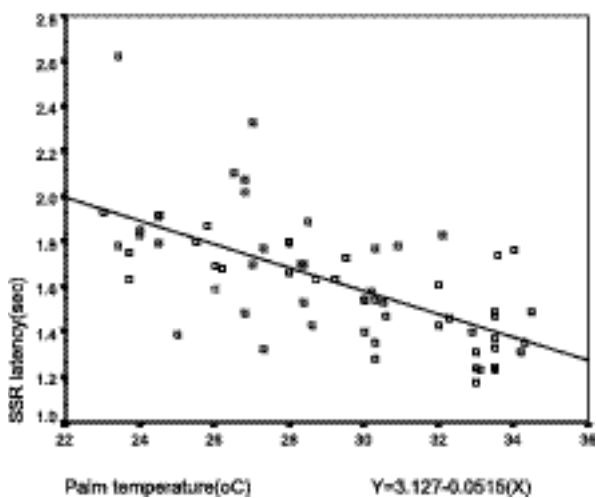
(preganglionic B fibers)  
(postganglionic sympathetic C fibers)

가 가  
, Van den Bergh Kelly<sup>17</sup>

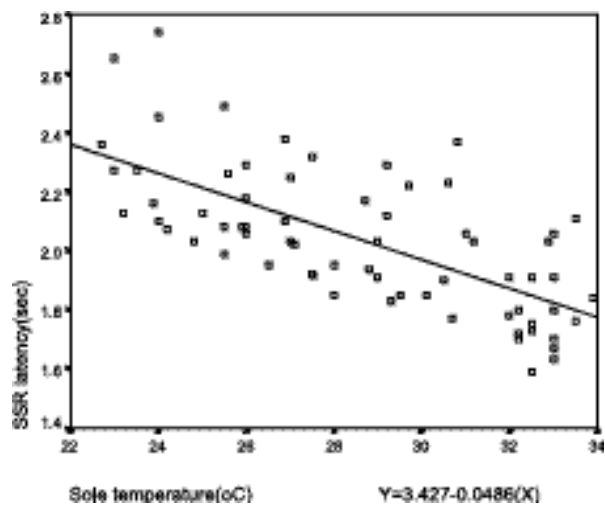
**Table 4.** Correlation between Upper Extremity and Lower Extremity Temperature and SSR Latency and Amplitude after Cooling

	Mean	Correlation coefficient	R <sup>2</sup>
Palm latency(sec)	1.85	-0.645	0.417**
Palm amplitude(mV)	5.73	-0.106	0.011*
Sole latency(sec)	2.26	-0.680	0.462**
Sole amplitude(mV)	4.11	-0.119	0.014*

\* p > 0.05, \*\* p < 0.05



**Fig. 1.** Correlation between SSR Latency and Temperature in Palm



**Fig. 2.** Correlation between SSR Latency and Temperature in Sole

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$$Y(\text{latency}) = 3.124 - 0.0515X(\text{skin temperature, } ^\circ\text{C})$$

$$Y(\text{latency}) = 3.427 - 0.0486X(\text{skin temperature, } ^\circ\text{C})$$

( , ) Cold pack  
가

2)

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3) 가

(Postganglionic sympathetic C fibers)  
(neuroglandular junction)

0.0515s/

0.0486s/

Deltombe <sup>7</sup> sodium (sodium channels)

가

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Deltombe

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1983 Low <sup>20</sup>

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skin response)

(Sympathetic

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