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| **Table 1: Differential effect of sex on the supraventricular EP and the atrial arrhythmic susceptibility of unanesthetized rats**  |
| **Parameter** | **Male (n=13)** | **Female (n=16)** | **P-value** |
| Animal weight (gr) | 386.5±6.7 | 278.0±5.3 | **<0.001\*\*\***  |
| RR (ms) | 182.2 ± 4.21 | 168.6 ± 3.48 | **0.019 \*** |
| PR (ms) | 49.96 ± 1.15 | 46.99 ± 0.9 | **0.049 \*** |
| CSNRT (ms) | 20.29 ± 1.87 | 23.15 ± 1.69 | 0.267 |
| AERP 70CL (ms) | 26.22 ± 1.45 | 31.56 ± 1.43 | **0.019 \*** |
| AERP 100CL (ms) | 27.33 ± 1.48 | 31.10 ± 1.54 | 0.098 |
| AERP 120CL (ms) | 26.11 ± 1.26 | 30.40 ± 1.59 | 0.053 |
| AVERP 100CL (ms) | 75.08 ± 0.97 | 73.75 ± 1.67 | 0.534 |
| AVERP 110CL (ms) | 73.31 ± 0.92 | 72.75 ± 1.78 | 0.797 |
| AVERP 120CL (ms) | 73.38 ± 1.06 | 72.25 ± 1.73 | 0.602 |
| AVERP 130CL (ms) | 71.92 ± 1.14 | 71.25 ± 1.57 | 0.742 |
| AV 2:1 block (ms) | 75.83 ± 1.72 | 70 ± 1.49 | **0.021 \*** |
| AV Wenckebach block (ms) | 90.83 ± 2.03 | 82.5 ± 1.34 | **0.004 \*\*** |
| Regular Arrhythmia Induction (%) | 12.31 ± 2.69 | 10.63 ± 3.22 | 0.420 |
| Regular Arrhythmia Duration (s) | 236.98 ± 140.37 | 125.55 ± 105.04 | 0.177 |
| Atrial Fibrillation Induction (%) | 30.77 ± 6.72 | 9.69 ± 3.04 | **0.010 \*** |
| Atrial Fibrillation Duration (s) | 48.57 ± 28.83 | 5.54 ± 1.89 | **0.016 \*** |
| Mean CR | 1.22 ± 0.03 | 1.1 ± 0.02 | **0.009 \*\*** |
| Arrhythmic CR (%) | 39.34 ± 5.83 | 16.81 ± 4.30 | **0.009 \*\*** |
| Comparison between the supraventricular EP parameters of male and female rats obtained in the unanesthetized state four weeks following right atrial (RA) quadripolar electrode implantation. Note reduced AERP and markedly increased AF susceptibility in males. CSNRT-Corrected sinus node recovery time; AERP-Atrial effective refractory period; AVERP-Atrioventricular node effective refractory period; CR- Complexity ratio. Mean CR – the average CR of the first five seconds post-induction bursts. Results of twenty induction burst were averaged in each animal. Arrhythmic CR (%) - % of post burst windows with CR above the arrhythmic threshold (1.236). For additional details see methods. Statistical analysis: For EP parameters student's t-test was applied. For arrhythmic parameters Mann-Whitney test was applied. \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001. |