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**Presentation Title:** Cytokine Modulates Neuronal Nitric Oxide Synthase in the Paraventricular Nucleus of Heart Failure Rats: A Role for Sympathoexcitation  
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**Abstract Body:** Nitric oxide plays an important role in maintaining cardiovascular homeostasis. Recent evidence suggests that neuronal nitric oxide synthase (nNos) in the paraventricular nucleus (PVN) contributes to the exaggerated renal sympathetic nerve activity (RSNA) in heart failure (HF) rats. In this study, we demonstrate that blockade of cytokines with pertussis toxin (PTX) increases nNos expression in the PVN and decreases RSNA in HF rats. **Methods:** Male rats underwent myocardial infarction (MI) or sham MI which was confirmed by echocardiography. Rats were pretreated with PTX 30 mg/kg BW 24h before MI and then daily for 4 weeks. At the end of 4 weeks, a conscious RSNA was measured. The PVN was removed and analyzed by capture microscopy and nNos and TNF-alpha mRNA were measured using real-time PCR and protein was measured by Western blot, NADPH diaphorase and immunohistochemistry. **Results:** are tabulated. The real-time PCR values are shown as fold change (GAPDH - the gene of interest) and the fold increase compared to control is also shown in parenthesis. **Conclusions:** 1) PTX treatment increases 24h survival after MI in rats. 2) PTX decreases PVN and cardiac cytokines in HF rats. 3) PTX increases nNos mRNA and protein in the PVN and decreases RSNA in HF rats. 4) Cytokines modulate nNOS expression in HF rats.

<i>Parameters</i>	<b>SHAM+VEH (n=5)</b>	<b>SHAM+PTX (n=5)</b>	<b>MI +VEH (n=6)</b>	<b>MI +PTX (n=6)</b>
<b>24h survival</b>	100%	100%	75%*	87.5%*,#
<b>4 week survival</b>	100%	100%	62.5%*	75%*
<b>Infarct size</b>	0	0	58.3±1.5*	57.1±2.1*
<b>NADPH diaphorase +ve cells (PVN)</b>	158±10.4	152 ± 7.9	95±12.4*	163±9.6*,#
<b>nNos mRNA (PVN)</b>	-5.7±0.2	-5.4±0.3	-7.2±0.3*(2.6 fold decrease)	-5.6±0.3#(0.65 fold decrease)
<b>TNF-α mRNA (PVN)</b>	-9.4±0.2	-9.3±0.1	-7.4±0.1*(4 fold)	-9.1±0.3#(0.65 fold)
<b>eNos mRNA (Cardiac)</b>	-3.3±0.1	-3.1±0.2	-2.2±0.1*(2.2 fold)	-3.2±0.1#(0.65 fold)
<b>iNos mRNA (cardiac)</b>	-6.3±0.1	-6.4±0.2	-6.9±0.1 (0.65 fold)	-6.8±0.1(0.65 fold)
<b>TNF mRNA (cardiac)</b>	-9.5±0.1	-9.2±0.2	-7.9±0.2*(3.2 fold)	-8.9±0.1*,#