

estrogens on serum cholesterol¹⁴. Most investigators believe that estrogen lowers plasma cholesterol or that its effect is highly variable because of its divergent action on cholesterol content in the alpha and beta lipoprotein fractions. An earlier report from this laboratory⁴ has shown a significantly increased level of the cholesterol in the hypothalamus and also its decrement in gyrus cinguli after the i.m. administration of Primovlar to female rabbits. In the present study, the level of cholesterol showed regional heterogeneity in exhibiting a depletion in the brain stem and spinal cord but elevation in the cerebellum and cerebral cortex.

Ramsey and Nicholas¹⁵ have suggested that gangliosides are involved in nerve impulse conduction. Also, the binding of serotonin to synaptic vesicles may be mediated by gangliosides. According to Irwin and Samson¹⁶ certain types of behavioral stimulation seem to be accompanied by alteration of ganglioside metabolism, compared to corresponding control animals. In the present study gangliosides were increased in cerebral cortex and brain stem, but reduced in the cerebellum and spinal cord. This shows a differential effect of estrogen on the regional brain gangliosides.

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NEWS

RESEARCH QUALITY VS. AGE OF RESEARCHER?

... "Scientific productivity is constant as a scientist ages according to recent studies relying mainly on quantity measures of productivity. An economic model of the life-cycle productivity of scientists is presented which implies that the number of citations made to a scientist's previous work will decline with age. The implication could be consistent with the

finding of constant quantity of output with age if the decline in quality (as measured by number of citations per article) is large enough." (Reproduced with permission from *Press Digest, Current Contents*®, No. 37, September 10, 1984, p. 11, Copyright by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)
