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Sommario/riassunto

While steroids from the periphery have profound effects on the nervous system, the nervous system also produces its own steroids de novo ("neurosteroids"). The physiological importance of neurosteroids is beginning to be understood. These steroids potentially have roles in sedative/hypnotic behavior, anxiety, learning, and memory. At the cellular level, neurosteroids affect neuronal excitability, synaptic plasticity and cell proliferation and survival. Early findings hold promise for future strategies to treat specific psychological conditions and neurological diseases. This Brief will focus on the current state of understanding of brain-derived neurosteroids.
