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Altri autori (Persone)	BockGregory MarshJoan
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Nota di contenuto	THE BIOLOGY OF NICOTINE DEPENDENCE; Contents; Introduction; Behavioural pharmacology of nicotine: implications for multiple brain nicotinic receptors; Structural and functional heterogeneity of nicotinic receptors; Mechanism of action of the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor; Modulation of nicotine receptors by chronic exposure to nicotinic agonists and antagonists; Presynaptic nicotinic receptors and the modulation of transmitter release; General discussion I : Inactivation of nicotinic cholinergic receptors; Location and function of nicotinic receptors in cultured cortical neurons Regulation of endocrine function by the nicotinic cholinergic receptorEffects of nicotine on cerebral metabolism; General discussion II : Adaptive and cognitive aspects of the response to nicotine; Mesolimbic dopamine activation-the key to nicotine reinforcement?; Effect of nicotine on dynamic function of brain catecholamine neurons;

Pharmacokinetic considerations in understanding nicotine dependence; Nicotine pharmacodynamics: some unresolved issues; Behavioural studies in humans: anxiety, stress and smoking; Final discussion : Withdrawal syndrome
Possible pharmacological therapies for nicotine Use of transdermal nicotine patches to help people give up smoking; Index of contributors; Subject index

Sommario/riassunto

Nicotine is considered to be the main agent in the maintenance of the tobacco smoking habit and is largely responsible for the behavioral and physiological responses to the inhalation of tobacco smoke. This work presents advances made in the elucidation of the action of nicotine in the body--essential information for developing treatments to help people give up smoking. The book reviews the progress made in identifying nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in the brain, using the techniques of molecular biology to characterize receptors and investigate the functional differences between receptors
