in the Brazilian ones (0.90%) ($p < 0.01$); in the cases deaths (1.00%) ($p < 0.01$) and injured accidents (5.00%) ($p < 0.01$) was referred only by the Portuguese drivers. The Portuguese drivers showed better QL scores regarding mental health ($p < 0.01$) and pain ($p < 0.01$). The Brazilians showed better scores of physical ($p < 0.01$), vitality ($p = 0.02$) and social function ($p < 0.01$). There was no significant difference between physical function, general health and the emotional aspects. There was high prevalence of sleep disorders, EDS, alcohol and stimulant drugs use, and the accidents index in the road truck drivers in both countries. These

points out to urgent need of primary prevention programs and to improve regulatory authorities. Transport companies and truck drivers should carefully follow the present traffic legislation regarding the limits of work hours driving, the time schedules and the shift work, as a high number of truck drivers with shift work and long working driving hours without the due rest were detected. Further comparative studies should be addressed between these two countries for their population health and QL improvement.

KEY WORDS: sleep, sleep disorders, traffic accident, quality of life.

*Sono, hábitos, qualidade de vida e acidentes em camionistas do Brasil e de Portugal. (Resumo). Tese de Pós-Doutorado, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal (Área: Medicina). Orientadora: Teresa Paiva. Colaborador: Rubens Reimão.

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MONOSYNAPTIC CONNECTION BETWEEN COCHLEAR ROOT NEURONS OF THE VESTIBULOCOCHLEAR NERVE AND AURICULAR MOTONEURONS OF THE FACIAL MOTOR NUCLEUS (ABSTRACT)*. **THESIS. SÃO PAULO, 2004.**

*JOSÉ DE ANCHIETA DE CASTRO E HORTA JR***

Cochlear root neurons of the vestibulocochlear nerve (CRN) are involved in the acoustic startle reflex, which possesses a short-latency auricular component and is of great importance in the escape and survival of rodents. However, the pathway of the auricular component is not well understood.

To demonstrate a direct connection between CRN and auricular motoneurons in the rat, double-labeling experiment was performed using as neuronal tracers biotinylated dextran (anterograde) injected into the cochlear root and Fluoro-Gold® (retrograde) injected into the muscle levator auris longus. In addition, Fluoro-Gold® was injected into the medial sub-

nucleus of the facial motor nucleus. At the structural level, overlappings between auricular motoneurons and axon terminals of the CRN were observed, which were confirmed at the ultrastructural level as asymmetric synapses containing round, small and electron-lucent vesicles.

The direct connection between CRN and auricular motoneurons might represent the anatomical substrate of the fast auricular reflex after intense acoustic stimulation.

KEY WORDS: facial motor nucleus, cochlear root neurons, acoustic startle reflex; neuronal tracers, PINNA reflex, motoneurons

*Conexão monossináptica entre os neurônios da raiz coclear do nervo vestibulo-coclear e os motoneurônios auriculares do núcleo motor do nervo facial (Resumo). Tese de Doutorado, Universidade de São Paulo (Área: Anatomia). Orientador: Jackson Cioni Bittencourt; co-orientador: María Dolores Estilista López García. Financial Support: Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología - España (BFI2000-1358); F.S.E. (SA084/01) - España; FAPESP 00/06966-4 and FAPESP 01/13068-5

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INHIBITION OF PERIDURAL FIBROSIS AFTER LAMINECTOMY USING BIOLOGICAL SHEET IN RAT MODEL (ABSTRACT)*. **THESIS. SÃO PAULO, 2003.**

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Objective: To investigate the use of a biological membrane composed by a decalcified bovine cortical osseous, in surgeries of spinal column in rats, to treat the osseous defect, minimizing or blocking the muscular tissue herniation into the rachidian chan-

nel, reducing the fibrous tissue formed at post-operative period and yet to evaluate the material biocompatibility.

Method: The biological decalcified bovine cortical osseous - which has wide utility in odontology to