How does activation of opioid receptors in the amygdala elicit neuropathic pain relief?

Opioids are a class of drugs that offer pain relief. The amygdala has numerous opioid receptors.

Left spinal nerve ligation (SNL) in male Sprague-Dawley rats to induce neuropathic pain.

Morphine injection into the right amygdala relieves neuropathic pain.

Blocking opioid receptors in rostral anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) abolished NAc dopamine release and CPP from CeA morphine.

Modulation of pain by morphine in the amygdala requires opioid signaling in the anterior cingulate cortex.

Selective modulation of tonic aversive qualities of neuropathic pain by morphine in the central nucleus of the amygdala requires endogenous opioid signaling in the anterior cingulate cortex.

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