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Pain and bladder dysfunction in an animal model of multiple sclerosis

H. Cavaleiro 1*, R. Silva 1, R. Oliveira 1,2,3, A. Coelho 1,2,3, F. Cruz 2,3,4, C.D. Cruz 1,2,3

1 Department Biomedicine – Experimental Biology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Porto, Portugal
2 Translational NeuroUrology Group, Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde, Porto, Portugal
3 Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular, Porto, Portugal

Aim: Here, we investigated if MS-induced pain and bladder dysfunction can be attenuated by TRPV1 desensitization with RTX.

Methods: Experimental Auto-immune Encephalitis (EAE) was induced by a single injection in the flank of a solution of myelin basic protein (MBP) in Complete Freund’s adjuvant (CFA). Behavioural tests were performed to evaluate symptoms. One month after MS-induction, animals were anesthetized and cystometries performed. Two other groups of MS animals received intrathecal resiniferatoxin (RTX), has been shown to improve bladder function and reduce behavioural signs of pain in various animal models of disease. In the context of MS, a recent study showed that TRPV1 knockout mice were protected from disease progressions, presenting delayed disease onset, myelin preservation and reduced clinical scores.

Results: EAE rats developed neuropathic pain, as shown by the presence of mechanical allodynia and hypersensitivity to thermal stimuli. Cystometries performed at this time point showed signs of neurogenic detrusor overactivity. These clinical signs were accompanied by decreased spinal expression of MBP and increased activity of astrocytes and microglia. Preliminary observations suggest that intrathecal RTX improved cutaneous hypersensitivity and bladder function. These results suggest that TRPV1 might be involved in pain bladder dysfunction accompanying MS and that its modulation could have therapeutic relevance.

Conclusion: These results suggest that TRPV1 might be involved in pain bladder dysfunction accompanying MS and that its modulation could have therapeutic relevance.

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PS227

Neurogenesis in a rat model of sporadic Alzheimer’s disease

Sara L. Paula 1,2*, Rui S. Rodrigues 1,2, Liana Shvachiy 3, Filipa F. Ribeiro 1,2, Susana Solá 4, Ana M. Sebastião 1,2, Sara Xapelli 1,2

1 Instituto de Farmacologia e Neurociências, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
2 Instituto de Medicina Molecular (iMM), Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
3 Cardiovascular Autonomic Function (CAF) lab, Cardiovascular Center of the University of Lisbon (CCUL), Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
4 Research Institute for Medicines (Med.U.Lisboa), Faculdade de Farmácia, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

Aim: Characterize adult hippocampal neurogenesis in a rat model of the initial stages of sporadic Alzheimer’s disease (AD).

Methods: An Aβ1–42 peptide solution was intracerebroventricularly injected into the rats’ lateral ventricle (the same volume of vehicle was injected to controls). Moreover, rats were injected with 5-bromo-2′-deoxyuridine (BrdU) intraperitoneally to study cell proliferation and differentiation. Two weeks after Aβ1–42 injection, the open field (OF) test and the novel object recognition (NOR) test were performed. Further behaviour tests are currently being performed, including the elevated plus maze (EPM), the Y-maze forced alternation test, and the Morris water maze (MWM) test. Focusing on the dentate gyrus, immunohistochemical analysis is presently being performed to investigate cell proliferation, neuronal differentiation and neuroblast/neuron morphology. Additionally, the presence of Aβ1–42 monomers and oligomers will be assessed by western-blot and the eventual occurrence of Aβ1–42 aggregates by histology.

Results: Our results show that the Aβ1–42 injection did not affect locomotor activity, as assessed by the OF test. Furthermore, this injection did not affect exploratory drive or episodic long-term memory performance, as indicated by the NOR test.

Conclusion: Since the NOR test is dependent from several brain regions besides the hippocampus that might not be affected in our model, additional behaviour tests as well as cellular and molecular analysis are needed to further characterize this model.

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PS086

Hydroalcoholic extract of Dorema aucheri leaves prevents weakening of the brain antioxidant defense system and inhibits oxidative damage in rat model of ischemic stroke

Mohammad Ehsan Bayatpoor 1,*, Javad Rasouli Vani 1, Mohammad Taghi Mohammadi 3

1 Baqiyatallah Research Center for Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases (BRCGL), Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IR Iran