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Antidepressive potential of aqueous extract of common vervain (V. officinalis L. Verbenaceae) and molecular docking studies of its main components as potential antidepressive agents

N. Lasica 1,∗, V. Raicevic 2

1 Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Clinical Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
2 Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Environmental Protection, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
E-mail address: nebojsa.lasica@gmail.com (N. Lasica).


Introduction: Common vervain is a plant used in traditional medicine. Its AE contains a vast number of compounds, hence its significant pharmacological potential.

The monoamine hypothesis is the central theory of depression, and a majority of conventional antidepressants act on the monoaminergic system.

Methods: Experiments were conducted on Swiss albino sexually mature male mice. There were 6–8 animals in each of 5 subgroups (imipramine; fluoxetine; two different doses of AE – AE I, II; and VS). Forced Swimming Test (FST) and Tail Suspension Test (TST) were used to assess the antidepressive effect.

Molecular docking experiments were performed using the programme AutoDock 4.2, with 3D structures of crystallized proteins from the PDB database and 3D structures of ligands generated by the software Avogadro 2 0.8.0.
Results: Immobilisation time (IT) in FST after the administration of imipramine was shorter than the control, same as for subgroups treated with AE I, II and VS. In the subgroup treated with fluoxetine, IT in TST was shorter than the control time, and the same was observed in subgroups treated with AE I, II and VS.

Significant binding energies were found for Serotonin Reuptake Transporter (SERT) and verbenalin (−7.20 kcal/mol) and verbascone (−6.61 kcal/mol), and for the Leucine Transporter (LeuT), the homologue of the noradrenaline reuptake transporter, and verbenalin (−6.27 kcal/mol) and caffeic acid (−5.85 kcal/mol).

Conclusion: In both pharmacodynamic tests the antidepressive effect of AE and VS has been confirmed. Verbenalin and verbascone binding energies and poses in interaction with SERT were similar to those of paroxetine. For LeuT, verbenalin showed both a similar binding energy and pose to that of imipramine, whereas caffeic acid showed only a similar binding energy.1–4

References

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Thermal denaturation profiles of proteome and blood serum of rats with drug-induced dementia. A DSC study

N. Nizamova*, S. Abarova, L. Traikov, R. Koyanova, B. Tengrov
Dept Medical Physics and Biophysics, Medical University – Sofia, 1431 Sofia, Bulgaria
E-mail address: nezzi.nizamova@gmail.com
(N. Nizamova).

Aim: The aim of this study is to evaluate the effect of scopolamine on different brain segments using DSC.

Introduction: In this work, probes from different brain segments of rats with drug-induced dementia were characterized by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and their thermodynamic properties were determined.

Methods: Male Wistar rats were injected with scopolamine for 14 consecutive days in order to induce drug model of dementia. After being decapitated, their brains were divided into the following segments: telencephalon, mesencephalon and cerebellum. Afterwards, the brain supernatants of the latter 3 segments were examined by DSC and compared with the controls.

Results: The DSC measurements revealed large differences between the denaturation profiles of rat brain supernatants and blood serum. The thermograms of brain tissues displayed clearly expressed low-temperature exothermic transitions with peaks in the range 35–45 °C which are missing in blood serum samples. There were differences between the thermograms of the separate brain segments as well. The thermodynamic parameters of the denaturation profiles were also determined.

Conclusion: These measurements show that DSC is an appropriate method with great potential for detection and characterization of the changes taking place at molecular level in different tissues, especially in brain tissues affected by neurodegenerative disorders.

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Effects of Vitamin D on the expression of markers of principal neurons, interneurons and astrocytes in cerebral cortex and hippocampus in gerbils exposed to transient global cerebral ischemia

M. Malinic*, G. Jevtic Dozudic
Institute of Clinical and Medical Biochemistry,
Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade
E-mail address: marija.malinic@gmail.com
(M. Malinic).

Aim: Examination of the effects of vitamin D pretreatment on the expression of markers of principal neurons (NeuN), inhibitory interneurons (PV) and astrocytes (GFAP) in cerebral cortex and hippocampus in gerbils who were exposed to transient global cerebral ischemia.

Introduction: Brain ischemia may cause serious damage to the cells in the central nervous system. Vitamin D has an important role in brain injury treatment due to its neuroprotective effects.

Methods: Gerbils were divided in 5 groups: control group; two groups that underwent ischemia and then reperfusion for three (1R/3d) and seven days (1R/7d) and two groups that were treated with vitamin D before 1R (vitD + 1R/3d and vitD + 1R/7d). Complete blood supply to the brain was cut off for 10 minutes and reperfusion lasted 3 and 7 days. They were daily treated with vitamin D for 7 days prior ischemia. Expression of proteins was detected using Western blot.

Results: No changes were detected in expression of NeuN markers in cortex of experimental groups, while there was increase in expression in hippocampus in groups 1R/3d and vitD + 1R/7d in comparison to the control group and group vitD + 1R/3d. Expression of PV in cortex was significantly reduced in group 1R/7d in comparison to group 1R/3d, whereas in hippocampus the expression was significantly higher in group vitD + 1R/3d than in group 1R/3d. Expression of GFAP has significantly risen in all groups in comparison to the control group whereas in hippocampus there was a rise in groups vitD + 1R/3d, 1R/7d and vitD + 1R/7d in comparison to the control group. There was also a rise of GFAP expression in groups treated with vitamin D (vitD + 1R/3d and vitD + 1R/7d) in comparison to those that have not been treated (1R/3d, 1R/7d).

Conclusion: Vitamin D has positive effect on astrocytes in both structures of gerbils that underwent global cerebral ischemia, especially in hippocampal region.

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PS238

Identification of genetic modifiers of somatic CAG instability in Huntington’s Disease by in vivo CRISPR – Cas9 genome editing

A. Azevedo1,2, M. Kovalenko2, M. Andrew2, F. Zhang3, J. Lee2,4, V. Wheeler2,4, R. Mouro Pinto2,4,*

1 University of Porto
2 Center for Genomic Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital

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