

ROLE OF 5-HT_{1A} RECEPTORS IN THE EFFECT OF GALANIN(1-15) ON FLUOXETINE-MEDIATED ACTION IN THE FORCED SWIMMING TEST

Antonio Flores-Burgess¹, Carmelo Millón¹, Belen Gago¹, Manuel Narváez¹, Dasiel O. Borroto-Escuela², José Angel Narváez¹, Kjell Fuxe², Luis Santín³ & Zaida Díaz-Cabiale¹

1. Universidad de Málaga, Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga, Facultad de Medicina, Campus de Teatinos s/n, 29071 Málaga, Spain.

2. Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

3. Universidad de Málaga, Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga, Facultad de Psicología, Campus de Teatinos s/n, 29071 Málaga, Spain.

Galanin N-terminal fragment (1-15) [GAL(1-15)] modulates the antidepressant effects induced by the 5-HT_{1A} receptor (5-HT_{1A}R) agonist in the forced swimming test (FST) and the binding characteristics and mRNA levels of 5-HT_{1A}R in the dorsal hippocampus and dorsal raphe (DR).

Recently, we observed that GAL(1-15) enhanced the antidepressant-like effects induced by Fluoxetine (FLX) in the FST. In this work, we have studied whether the effects of GAL(1-15) on FLX action were mediated via 5-HT_{1A}R, analyzing the effect of the 5-HT_{1A}R antagonist WAY100635 in this effect and if the binding characteristics and mRNA levels of 5-HT_{1A}R in the DR and dorsal hippocampus are modified by GAL(1-15)+FLX.

Groups of rats (n=6-8) received three injections of sc FLX(10mg/kg) and 15 minutes before the FST a single icv injection of GAL(1-15) (1nmol) and 5HT_{1A}R antagonist WAY100635(6nmol) icv alone or in combination.

We also analyzed the effects of GAL(1-15)+FLX in the binding characteristics of the 5-HT_{1A}R agonist [³H]-8-OH-DPAT and 5-HT_{1A} mRNA levels in the DR, CA1 and Dentate Gyrus (DG).

WAY100635 significantly blocked the reduction in immobility time ($p < 0.05$), and the increase in swimming time ($p < 0.01$) induced by GAL(1-15)+FLX in the FST.

GAL(1-15)+FLX produced a significant increase in the 5HT_{1A}R mRNA levels in CA1 ($p < 0.05$) and DG ($p < 0.05$). This effect was not observed in the DR. Moreover, GAL(1-15)+FLX produced a significant decrease in the K_d value ($p < 0.01$) and in the B_{max} value ($p < 0.05$) of [³H]-8-OH-DPAT in the DG. These effects were not observed in the CA1 or in the DR.

These results indicate that 5HT_{1A}R participates in the GAL(1-15)/FLX interactions in the FST and the mechanism underlying affected the binding characteristics and the mRNA levels of 5-HT_{1A}R specifically in the dorsal hippocampus. The heteroreceptor 5-HT_{1A}R-GALR1-GALR2 located in the dorsal hippocampus may be the target for GAL(1-15).

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