

Manganese-Induced Hydroxyl Radical Formation in Rat Striatum Is Not Attenuated by Dopamine Depletion or Iron Chelation *in Vivo*

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The present studies were aimed at investigating the possible roles of dopamine (DA) and iron in production of hydroxyl radicals ($\cdot\text{OH}$) in rat striatum after Mn^{2+} intoxication. For this purpose, DA depletions were assessed concomitant with *in vivo* 2,3- and 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DHBA) formation from the reaction of salicylate with $\cdot\text{OH}$, of which 2,3-DHBA is a nonenzymatic adduct. Following intrastriatal Mn^{2+} injection, marked 2,3-DHBA increases were observed in a time- and dose-dependent fashion reaching maximum levels at 6–18 h and a plateau beyond 0.4 μmol (fourfold increase). The delayed increase of 2,3-DHBA levels suggests that Mn^{2+} induces $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation in the living brain by an indirect process. The early DA depletion (2 h) and relatively late $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation (6 h) indicate independent processes by Mn^{2+} . In addition, depletion of DA (about 90%) by reserpine pretreatment did not significantly alter Mn^{2+} -induced 2,3-DHBA formation or the extent of DA depletion, suggesting that DA or DA autoxidation are not participating in Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation *in vivo*. Furthermore, Mn^{2+} injection did not significantly alter the low molecular weight iron pool in striatum, and co-injections of the iron-chelator deferoxamine with Mn^{2+} into striatum did not significantly attenuate Mn^{2+} -induced 2,3-DHBA formation. These findings suggest no role of chelatable iron in generation of Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot\text{OH}$, but do not exclude a role for mitochondrial heme-iron or peroxynitrite (Fe-independent) in Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation. © 1996 Academic Press, Inc.

INTRODUCTION

Chronic inhalation of manganese (Mn) dust or vapor in humans and monkeys causes parkinsonism and dystonia (3, 4, 17) and produces selective neuropathology in the basal ganglia with lesions being localized both pre- and postsynaptically to the dopaminergic (DA) nigrostriatal pathway (8, 19–21, 62, 63). In addition, Mn^{2+} injection into the basal ganglia of rats (8, 40, 46, 47, 54) provides a model of chronic systemic Mn

exposure in humans. For more than a decade, it has been hypothesized from *in vitro* studies that Mn neurotoxicity is mediated by free radicals via enhanced nonenzymatic autoxidation of catecholamines (1, 26, 27, 30, 42) or production of 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA) (12, 13, 23). Both processes would lead to production of toxic (semi)quinones and enhanced levels of H_2O_2 and superoxide anion radicals ($\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$) as well as hydroxyl radicals ($\cdot\text{OH}$). This concept is in agreement with attenuation of Mn^{2+} -induced DA depletion by vitamin E treatment (48). On the other hand, it has been reported that lipid peroxidation is inhibited by Mn^{2+} both *in vitro* (11, 60) and in postmortem brain tissues of Mn^{2+} -exposed rats (16, 53). In addition, *in vitro* studies have shown that Mn produces irreversible DA depletion by oxidation to quinones without the formation of reactive oxygen species (1, 51).

Although production of (semi)quinones or free oxygen radicals after Mn has not been reported *in vivo*, it seems likely that DA plays a role in Mn neurotoxicity. For instance, pretreatment with the DA synthesis blockers α -methyltyrosine and lisuride attenuates the neurotoxicity of Mn^{2+} (47), whereas the monoamine oxidase inhibitor pargyline and L-DOPA (+carbidopa) potentiate its toxicity (46).

Besides DA, brain iron could mediate neurotoxic effects of Mn^{2+} . The selective accumulation of Mn^{2+} in the basal ganglia (19, 41, 45) and anterograde axonal transport of Mn^{2+} in nigrostriatal and striatonigral neurons (55) may be dependent on iron transport and storage pathways (2, 6, 32, 33, 44). *In vitro* studies have shown that Mn binds to the iron transport protein transferrin and its receptor on catecholamine-containing neuroblastoma cells and that Mn—like Fe—is internalized followed by storage into ferritin (59). Therefore, Mn^{2+} may (in)directly liberate endogenous iron by disturbing iron homeostasis, particularly in mitochondria. In these organelles, Mn^{2+} induces decreased glutathione (GSH) contents and GSH enzyme activities (38), thereby compromising a major cellular defense mechanism against oxyradicals. In addition, Mn^{2+} has been reported to impair ATP production, decrease

respiratory cytochrome contents, inhibit oxidative phosphorylation, and increase lactate production (9, 39, 25).

The aim of the present studies was twofold. First, time- and dose-dependent $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation by Mn^{2+} was assessed in relation to DA and serotonin (5-HT) depletions in order to examine whether $\cdot\text{OH}$ generation is cause or consequence of brain damage. Like DA, 5-HT levels are depleted by Mn within the chosen time span of 24 h (54), which may significantly contribute to the formation of both quinones and free oxyradicals (43). In this study we used salicylate (SA) as an $\cdot\text{OH}$ -trapping agent, which forms the stable adducts 2,3- and 2,5-dihydroxybenzoates (DHBA) (35, 56 and references therein), and microinjections of Mn^{2+} into rat striatum as described previously (55). Since it has been reported that 2,5-DHBA can also be formed via P450 enzymes, which is not the case for 2,3-DHBA, the latter is a more reliable index for $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation (35). Second, the roles of DA and iron in generating Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation were investigated by analyzing 2,3-DHBA levels in striata of reserpine-pretreated (DA-depleted) or deferoxamine-treated (iron-chelated) rats, as well as by assessing different endogenous iron pools in Mn^{2+} -injected striata.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Animals

Wistar-derived male rats (WAG, Harlan, Zeist, The Netherlands) were kept on a 12/12-h light/dark cycle and housed in a room with a humidity of 50–70% and a temperature of 24°C with free access to water and chow food. Animal experimentation protocols were approved by the Ethical Committee for Laboratory Animals Experiments, TNO/Regio West (Woudenberg, The Netherlands, Reg. No. 56-3A).

Materials

MnCl_2 (>96% pure), $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (>99% pure), $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and dopamine (3-hydroxytyramine \cdot HCl) were obtained from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). Solutions of metals were made as described previously (55). All other compounds were purchased from Sigma (Brunschwig Chemie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and stored according to the description of the manufacturer.

Experimental Groups

Chloralhydrate-anesthetized (400 mg/kg ip) rats (190–230 g) received unilateral injections of MnCl_2 , FeCl_2 , or MgCl_2 in 1 μl of Milli-Q water (Millipore, Molsheim, France) into striatum using stereotaxic procedures as described previously (55).

DHBA formation by Mn: Time course and dose-dependency. Two, six, or eighteen hours after intra-

striatal injection of 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$, or 6 h after injection of 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mg}^{2+}$, rats ($n = 6-7$ per group) were decapitated to dissect striatal tissues from the brain. Likewise, rats ($n = 6-7$ per dose) were injected with 0.13 or 1.20 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ 6 h before collection of their striata. In addition, 2 h prior to sacrifice, rats were loaded with 300 mg/kg SA (ip), whereas others (6–8 striata per group) did not receive SA to serve as negative controls.

DHBA formation by Mn after dopamine depletion. Eight rats were depleted of dopamine by 24-h pretreatment with reserpine (10; 2.5 mg/kg ip). These rats received a unilateral injection of 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ into striatum and were decapitated 6 h later. In addition, SA (300 mg/kg ip) was given 2 h before sacrifice.

Effect of Mn on total and low molecular weight (LMW) iron levels. Six hours after bilateral injection of 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$, Mg^{2+} , or Fe^{2+} into striatum, rats ($n = 4-8$ per treatment) were decapitated and their striata were dissected for immediate assay of total and LMW iron contents.

Effect of deferoxamine on Mn neurotoxicity. Ten rats received an injection (1 μl total) of 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ plus 0.2 or 2.0 nmol deferoxamine mesylate (Desferal; DFX) into the left striatum and 0.4 $\mu\text{mol NaCl}$ plus DFX into the right striatum. Six control rats received similar bilateral injections without DFX. All rats were loaded with SA (300 mg/kg ip) and sacrificed respectively 4 and 6 h after stereotaxic injection.

Collection of Samples

Collection and handling of samples for analysis of DA, 5-HT, SA, and related metabolites was done as described previously (56). Briefly, dissected striatal tissues (20–40 mg wet wt) were immediately frozen on dry ice and stored at -70°C . At the day of analysis, striata were sonicated in ice-cold 200 μl perchloric acid containing $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$, centrifuged, diluted with mobile-phase buffer, and kept on ice before injection into the HPLC system.

For analysis of iron, freshly dissected striatal tissues were immediately weighed in preweighed potter tubes, homogenized in 100 mM Tris/HCl buffer (pH 7.4, 20% w/v), and subsequently DFX (2 mM final concentration) was added as described previously for heart tissue (61). Depending on expected concentrations, striatal tissues of 1 or 2 rats were pooled before homogenizing.

Analysis of 6-Hydroxydopamine, Dopamine, Serotonin, Salicylate, and Related Metabolites

Levels of SA, 2,3- and 2,5-DHBA, as well as 6-OHDA, DA, 5-HT, and their metabolites DOPAC (3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetic acid), HVA (4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenylacetic acid), and 5-HIAA (5-hydroxyindole-3-acetic acid) were determined in striatal tissues according to a previously described HPLC procedure with UV absor-

bance and electrochemical detection (56). Since 6-OHDA standards had a retention time between 2,3- and 2,5-DHBA standards, 6-OHDA measurements were conducted in samples without SA with a detection limit of about 50 fmol. Briefly, a Spherisorb ODS2 cartridge analytical column (100 × 4.6 mm, 3 μm) with a ODS1 precolumn (30 × 4.6 mm, 5 μm) (Phase Separation, Ltd., Deeside, UK) was used to separate the compounds of interest at a flow rate of 0.8 ml/min. The mobile-phase buffer consisted of 0.1 M sodium acetate, 6.0% methanol, 19.5 mg/liter *n*-octyl sodium sulfate (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany), and 10–15 mg/liter Na₂ ethylenediaminetetraacetate (EDTA) dissolved in Milli-Q water and adjusted to pH 4.1 with glacial acetic acid. Stock solutions of standards (~1 mM) dissolved in 50 mM HCl containing 0.20 g/liter Na₂S₂O₅ and 0.050 g/liter Na₂EDTA were stable for at least 2 months if kept stored in the dark at 4°C.

Analyses of Total and Low Molecular Weight Iron Pools

After centrifuging the striatal homogenate at 10,000g for 15 min, the supernatant was removed for LMW iron measurements in presence of the hexadentate iron chelator DFX (61), which forms a strong complex with iron: ferrioxamine (FX). LMW iron assays were conducted under physiological or reducing conditions by adding ascorbic acid (20 mg/ml in solid state). Ascorbic acid was used to reduce iron from its ferric to its ferrous state, thereby liberating iron from Fe³⁺ complexes, resulting in total LMW iron measurements. Briefly, samples were incubated for 60 min at 37°C and prepurified by passing them through a 50-mg Extract-Clean C18 column (Alltech) on which DFX and FX are retained. After washing with 0.3 ml water and elution with 0.2 ml 90% methanol/10% water, the eluate was injected into the HPLC system, which was equipped with an ODS2 analytical column (as mentioned above) and two variable wavelength detectors to allow simultaneous detection of FX at 430 nm and DFX at 229 nm (Waters 484). The mobile phase consisted of 88% 20 mM Na₂HPO₄/NaH₂PO₄, 2 mM NaEDTA, 0.2 M triethylammonium chloride (pH 6.6) and 12% acetonitrile. Recovery of DFX and FX was respectively >80% and almost 100%. The detection limit for FX was 0.25 nmol. Iron levels were based on FX/DFX ratios from FeSO₄ standards incubated and extracted as the samples. Mn²⁺ (100- to 800-fold excess) did not affect chelation of iron by DFX in this procedure.

Total iron in the resuspended pellet (20% w/v in Tris/HCl) was determined using the iron(II) chelator Ferrozine essentially according to Riederer *et al.* (50). Briefly, samples were added with Ferrozine (4.2 mM), ascorbic acid (20 mg/ml) to reduce iron, and pepsine (0.1%) at a final pH of 2.5 using HCl. Subsequently, samples were incubated at 37°C for 20 min, and absorbances were read at 560 nm. Blank and standard

iron samples were treated in a similar manner. Mn²⁺ did not affect chelation of iron by Ferrozine.

Statistics

Changes of the differences between ipsi- and contralateral tissues over time or with increasing dose were statistically evaluated using ANOVA (BMDP Statistical Software program SOLO, Los Angeles) followed by Newman-Keuls multiple comparisons test. In addition, the effect of time or dose in contra- or ipsilateral striata were also tested. Differences between values of ipsi- and contralateral tissues at the separate time points or doses were evaluated using Student's *t* test.

RESULTS

Time-Dependent Effects of 0.4 μmol Mn²⁺

SA levels expressed as [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios were significantly increased by Mn²⁺ at 6 (1.5-fold) and 18 h (1.9-fold), but not at 2 h (1.3 fold). Such increased SA levels by Mn²⁺ probably indicate a loss of local membrane integrity. To correct for differences in SA tissue levels, DHBA levels are expressed as [DHBA/SA] (mmol adduct/mol SA) followed by calculations of [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios to determine the factor of increase by Mn²⁺. [Ipsi-/contralateral] ratios of [DHBA/SA] were significantly increased by Mn²⁺ over time (*P* < 0.001), reaching maximum levels at 6 h for both 2,3-DHBA (4.1-fold increase) and 2,5-DHBA (6.9-fold increase) and no significant increase between 0 and 2 h of 2,3-DHBA/SA ratios (Fig. 1).

DA levels (Fig. 1) were significantly decreased by Mn²⁺ at 2 h (-53%) and declined further thereafter until at least 18 h (-65%) compared to contralateral tissues (*P* < 0.001). Serotonin levels (Fig. 1) were significantly decreased (-49%) by Mn²⁺ at 2 h and declined further thereafter reaching the lowest levels at 18 h (-73% of contralateral striatum).

DOPAC (1.7-fold) and HVA (1.5- to 1.7-fold) levels were significantly increased by Mn²⁺ at 2 and 6 h and were significantly decreased at 18 h (-40% and -65% of contralateral striatum, respectively). The resulting DA turnover expressed as DOPAC/DA and HVA/DA ratios was significantly elevated at 2 h (3.3- and 2.8-fold, respectively) and declined thereafter until a still-significant increase of DOPAC/DA ratios (1.6-fold of contralateral) and normal HVA/DA ratios at 18 h (Fig. 2). 5-HIAA levels were significantly decreased (-39%) by Mn²⁺ at 2 h and declined further thereafter until -69% of contralateral tissue at 18 h. The resulting 5-HIAA/5-HT ratios were slightly, but significantly, elevated by Mn²⁺ (*P* < 0.001), but did not change between 2, 6, and 18 h (Fig. 2).

In noninjected (contralateral) striatum, the means ± SEM of 2,3- and 2,5-DHBA/SA values and DA, 5-HT,

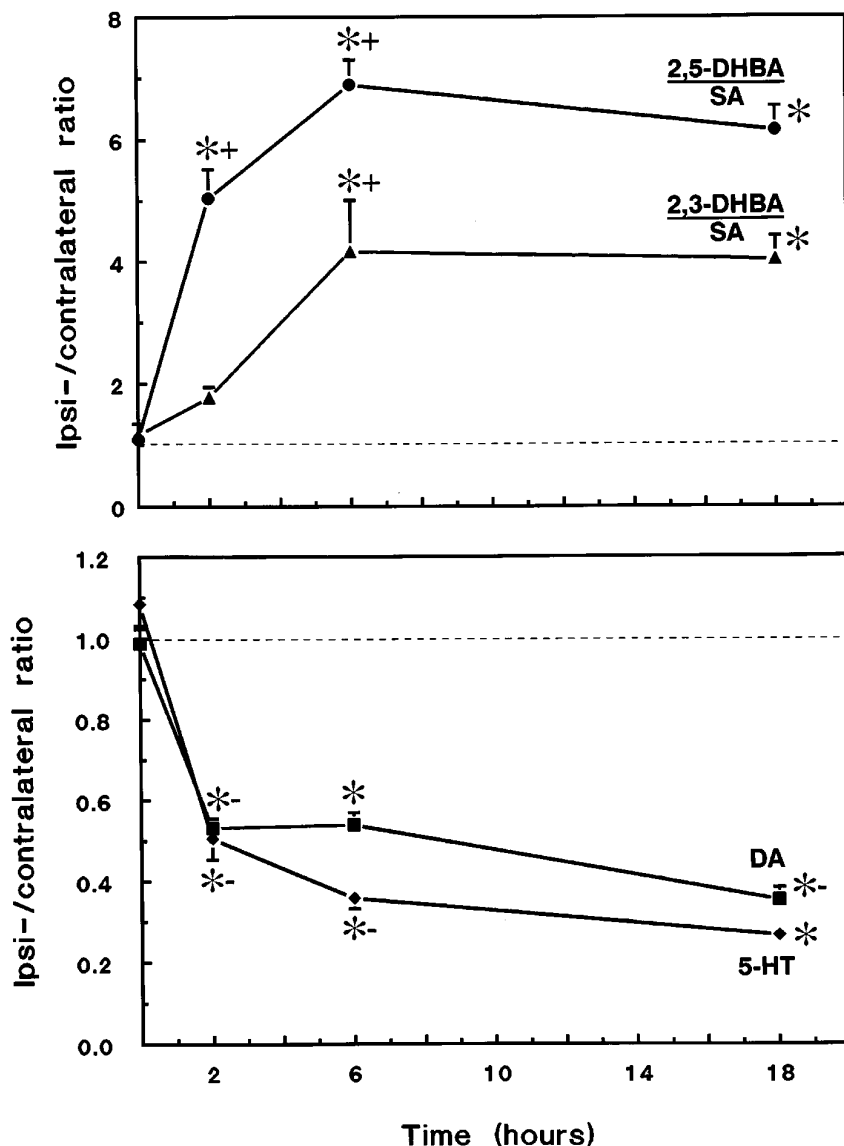


FIG. 1. Time course of 2,3- (triangles) and 2,5-DHBA (circles) formation corrected for SA (top) and of dopamine (squares) and serotonin (diamonds) depletion (bottom) in striatum following a unilateral injection of $0.4 \mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ into striatum of SA-loaded rats (300 mg/kg ip ; 2 h). Data represent ipsi-/contralateral ratios of 6–7 rats per time point. All compounds changed time-dependently ($P < 0.001$, ANOVA). Newman-Keuls post hoc multiple comparison tests ($\alpha = 0.05$) indicated significant changes between subsequent data time points (+/-) and compared to zero time points (asterisks). The zero time points represent noninjected controls (treated only with SA). For comparison with Mg^{2+} -injected controls at 6 h see Fig. 3.

DOPAC, HVA, and 5-HIAA levels were respectively 0.30 ± 0.033 and 2.03 ± 0.11 mmol/mol SA and 68.9 ± 1.43 , 3.15 ± 0.08 , 5.16 ± 0.16 , 4.71 ± 0.16 , and 4.38 ± 0.08 pmol/mg, except at 2 h where levels of DA, DOPAC, and HVA were significantly elevated ($P < 0.001$). The latter effect is most likely due to chloralhydrate anesthesia (Westerink, 1985).

Dose-Dependent Effects of Mn^{2+} at 6 h

Six hours after intrastriatal injections of different doses of Mn^{2+} (0.13, 0.4, and $1.2 \mu\text{mol}$), SA levels ex-

pressed as [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios were significantly increased in a dose-dependent manner ($P < 0.001$) by respectively 1.2-, 1.5-, and 2.0-fold. The [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios of DHBA levels corrected for SA are shown in Fig. 3. [2,3-DHBA/SA] values were significantly increased by 0.4 and $1.2 \mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ ($P < 0.001$), but not by $0.13 \mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ or $0.4 \mu\text{mol Mg}^{2+}$. [2,5-DHBA/SA] values were significantly elevated by all doses, including a relatively small increase by the control injection with Mg^{2+} (+37%), which is probably due to mechanical damage by the injection needle. Both 2,3- and 2,5-

DHBA increases reached plateau levels by 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ (respectively 4.2- and 6.9-fold).

DA levels (Fig. 3) were significantly reduced by 0.13 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ (-15%), and declined dose-dependently to -87% by 1.2 μmol . Control injections with Mg^{2+} increased DA levels slightly, but significantly (+14%; $P < 0.05$). Serotonin levels (Fig. 3) were significantly reduced by 0.13 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ (-55%) and declined dose-dependently until -76% of contralateral tissues ($P < 0.001$). Following Mg^{2+} injections, 5-HT levels were slightly, but significantly, decreased (-14%; $P < 0.05$).

DOPAC and HVA levels were significantly increased by 0.13 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ (respectively 1.9- and 2.4-fold) and declined dose-dependently reaching levels of -51% and -32% at 1.2 μmol , respectively. Mg^{2+} injections increased DOPAC (+61%) and HVA (+88%) levels significantly ($P < 0.001$). The resulting DOPAC/DA and HVA/DA ratios were significantly increased in a dose-dependent manner ($P < 0.01$, reaching 4.9- and 7.8-fold elevations by 1.2 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$, respectively (Fig. 4). 5-HIAA levels were significantly reduced by 0.13 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ (-41%) and declined dose-dependently until -76% ($P < 0.001$). The resulting 5-HIAA/5-HT ratios were not dose-dependently changed by Mn^{2+} ($P = 0.32$) (Fig. 4).

Detection of 6-OHDA after Mn^{2+}

In Mn^{2+} -injected striata of rats not loaded with SA, no peaks at the position of 6-OHDA standards were observed (data not shown).

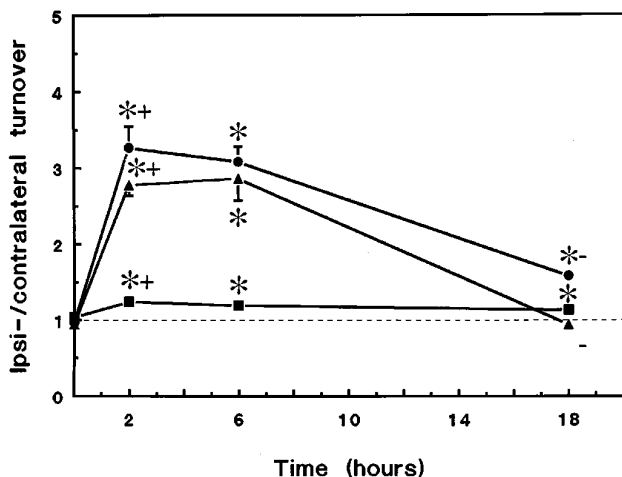


FIG. 2. Time course of dopamine and serotonin turnover following unilateral intra-striatal injection of 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ into striatum of salicylate-loaded rats (300 mg/kg ip; 2 h). Data represent [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios of DOPAC/DA (circles), HVA/DA (triangles), and 5-HIAA/5-HT (squares) ratios of 6-7 rats per time point. The DA and 5-HT turnover changed time-dependently (ANOVA, $P < 0.001$). For more details see legend to Fig. 1.

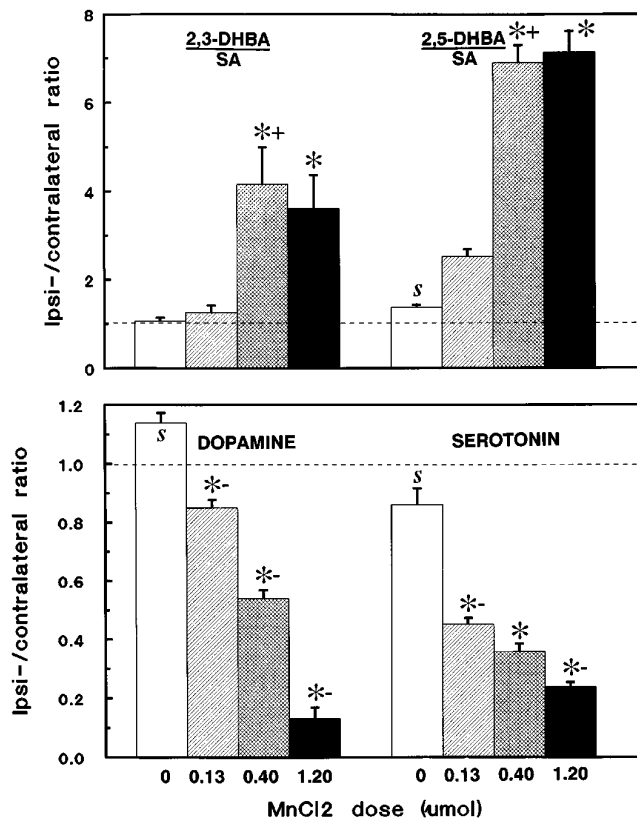


FIG. 3. Dose-dependent 2,3- and 2,5-DHBA formation corrected for SA (top), and dopamine and serotonin depletions (bottom) in striatum 6 h after a unilateral control (Mg^{2+}) or Mn^{2+} injection (dose as indicated) into striatum of SA-loaded rats. Data represent [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios of 6-7 rats. All compounds changed dose-dependently (ANOVA; $P < 0.001$). Newman-Keuls post hoc multiple comparison tests ($\alpha = 0.05$) revealed significant changes between subsequent dose points (+/-) and compared to the 0 dose group (asterisk), which represents Mg^{2+} injections (with 0.4 μmol). S, significant difference between ipsi- and contralateral values using Student's *t* test ($P < 0.05$, only indicated for the zero dose group).

Effect of Reserpine Pretreatment on Mn Neurotoxicity

The striatal DA and 5-HT contents of rats pretreated with reserpine were depleted by 89 and 56%, respectively. In reserpine-treated rats, Mn^{2+} injections did not significantly decrease DA levels any further compared to contralateral tissues ($P = 0.39$ by Student's *t* test, Fig. 5) in contrast to a significant further decrease of 5-HT levels until -76%. 2,3-DHBA/SA ratios were significantly higher ($P < 0.001$) in both noninjected (2.1-fold) and Mn^{2+} -injected striata (1.7-fold) of reserpine-treated rats compared to striata of control rats (Fig. 5). A similar significant effect for 2,5-DHBA/SA was observed in this respect (respectively 1.9- and 1.9-fold). The Mn^{2+} -induced 2,3-DHBA formation (expressed as ipsi-/contralateral ratios of DHBA/SA) in reserpine-treated rats (2.8-fold) was not significantly different from that in control rats (4.2-fold). The same

was found for 2,5-DHBA formation in this respect (respectively 6.5- versus 6.9-fold).

Effect of Mn^{2+} on Total and LMW Iron in Striatum

Six hours after intrastriatal injection, Mn^{2+} produced no significant changes in striatal LMW or total iron pools compared to Mg^{2+} - or not-injected tissues (Table 1). Furthermore, striatal LMW iron levels of Mn^{2+} - or Mg^{2+} -injected rats were similar when measured under reducing or nonreducing conditions. In contrast, 6 h after intrastriatal Fe^{2+} -injection, both LMW and total iron pools in striatum were markedly increased. In addition, in these striata, under reducing conditions, about 15-fold more iron was chelated by DFX in the LMW pool than in physiological medium. This difference can be due to a fine ferric hydroxide precipitation.

Effects of Deferoxamine on Mn Neurotoxicity

Co-injections of Mn^{2+} with 0.2 or 2.0 nmol DFX into striatum did not significantly alter 2,3- (Table 2) or 2,5-DHBA/SA increases or the extent of DA depletions (Table 2) compared to Mn^{2+} injections without DFX. There were no significant effects of DFX in contralateral tissues. Differences between ipsi- and contralateral levels of 2,3-DHBA/SA, 2,5-DHBA/SA, and DA were highly significant in all tested groups ($P < 0.001$). The means \pm SEM of 2,3- and 2,5-DHBA/SA (mmol/mol SA) and DA levels (pmol/mg) after NaCl injection were respectively 0.40 ± 0.03 , 2.1 ± 0.24 , and 72.7 ± 3.4 .

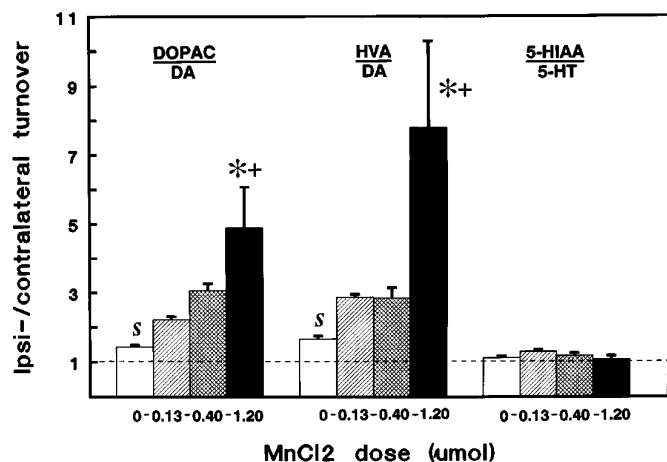


FIG. 4. Dose-dependent changes of dopamine and serotonin turnover 6 h after a unilateral control (Mg^{2+}) or Mn^{2+} injection (dose as indicated) into striatum of salicylate-loaded rats (300 mg/kg ip; 2 h). Data represent [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios of [metabolite/neurotransmitter] ratios of 6–7 rats. DA turnover changed dose-dependently (ANOVA; $P < 0.005$ for DOPAC/DA and $P < 0.01$ for HVA/DA), whereas the 5-HT turnover did not. For more details see legend to Fig. 3.

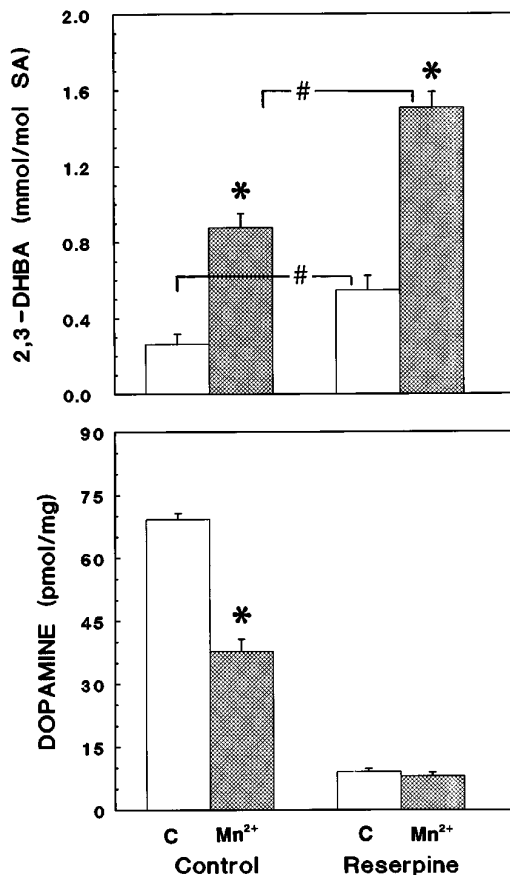


FIG. 5. Effect of pretreatment with reserpine (2.5 mg/kg ip; 24 h) on 2,3-DHBA (mmol/mol SA; top) and dopamine levels (pmol/mg; bottom) in striatum 6 h after unilateral injection of 0.4 μ mol Mn^{2+} into striatum of SA-loaded rats (300 mg/kg ip; 2 h). Significant differences between Mn^{2+} -injected (hatched bars) and noninjected contralateral striata (C, white bars) are indicated by asterisks (Student's t test; $P < 0.001$). Both basal 2,3-DHBA/SA (noninjected side) and increased 2,3-DHBA/SA by Mn^{2+} were significantly higher in reserpine-treated rats than in control rats (#, $P < 0.001$ by Student's t test). However, the increases of 2,3-DHBA/SA (expressed as [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios) by Mn^{2+} between reserpine-treated (2.8-fold) and control rats (4.2-fold) were not significantly different ($P = 0.16$, Student's t test). DA levels (bottom) were significantly depleted by reserpine (not indicated, Student's t test; $P < 0.001$).

DISCUSSION

The present studies using SA as a \cdot OH-trapping agent demonstrate time- and dose-dependent \cdot OH formation by Mn^{2+} in the living brain. Furthermore, Mn does not catalyze the Haber–Weiss reaction *in vivo*. Additional experiments indicate that Mn^{2+} -induced \cdot OH are not generated as a result of DA oxidation nor by an increase in (free) chelatable endogenous iron.

Pronounced increases of 2,3-DHBA/SA ratios (up to 4-fold) in Mn^{2+} -injected striatum compared to controls (Figs. 1 and 3) suggest that Mn^{2+} induces \cdot OH formation. In addition, our results indicate that \cdot OH are not triggered by Mn itself, because maximum levels are

TABLE 1

Effect of Intrastratial Injection of 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$, Fe^{2+} , or Mg^{2+} (Controls) on Total Low (LMW)^a or High Molecular Weight (HMW) Iron ($\text{Fe}^{2+} + \text{Fe}^{3+}$) or Direct Chelatable LMW Iron^b (Essentially Fe^{2+}) Levels in Striatum (pmol/mg wet wt) 6 h after Administration

Intrastratial injection	Direct chelatable LMW iron ^b	Total iron levels ($\text{Fe}^{2+} + \text{Fe}^{3+}$)		
		LMW ^a	HMW	LMW + HMW
Noninjected	ND	24 ± 12 (3)	75 ± 4 (3)	100 ± 14 (3)
MgCl_2	53 ± 11 (4)	39 ± 11 (3)	76 ± 5 (7)	118 ± 16 (3)
MnCl_2	32 ± 9 (4)	26 ± 9 (4)	74 ± 11 (8)	98 ± 43 (4)
FeCl_2	515 ± 87 (5)	7247 ± 1839 (4)	4958 ± 274 (10)	12,500 ± 290 (4)

Note. Data are means ± SEM of 3–10 samples (*n*). Determinations of Mn^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , and noninjected striata are based on 2–4 pooled tissues per sample. LMW and total iron levels in Mn^{2+} -injected striata were not significantly different from Mg^{2+} - or noninjected tissue. LMW iron determined under ^bphysiological or ^areducing conditions (for details see Materials and Methods) were not significantly different in Mg^{2+} - or Mn^{2+} -injected striata. In Fe^{2+} -injected striata, LMW and HMW iron pools were clearly increased. The difference between LMW iron levels assessed in physiological and reduced media of Fe^{2+} -injected striata is probably due to a fine ferric hydroxide precipitate. ND, not determined.

only reached after 6–18 h. The time course of 2,3-DHBA formation after Mn^{2+} is very different from that after equimolar injections of Fe^{2+} into striatum, where highest increases of 2,3-DHBA (10-fold) were observed after 30 min (57). Therefore, the present findings suggest that Mn^{2+} cannot catalyze the Haber–Weiss reaction *in vivo*, which is supported by *in vitro* studies (1 and references therein, 30).

DA and 5-HT depletions in striatum by Mn^{2+} are time- and dose-dependent and are not directly related to $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation (Figs. 1 and 3). In contrast to DA and 5-HT levels, 2,3-DHBA formation (ipsi-/contralateral ratio of 2,3-DHBA/SA) was not significantly changed at 2 h and also did not change when the Mn^{2+} -dose was increased from 0.4 to 1.2 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$. This independent action of Mn^{2+} on these two processes was in line with

our subsequent studies with reserpine-treated rats. Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation was not attenuated in the DA-depleted striatum (Fig. 5). Furthermore, in the reserpine-treated rat with 90% depletion of striatal DA, Mn^{2+} did not cause additional DA reduction. Thus, Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot\text{OH}$ formation is independent of depletion cq. oxidation of DA by Mn^{2+} . Indeed, *in vitro* studies on the mechanism of $\text{Mn}^{2+/3+}$ -induced oxidation of DA revealed that DA is rapidly and irreversibly oxidized by Mn^{3+} to its cyclized orthoquinone, resulting in decreased levels of DA, but does not generate reactive oxygen species since oxygen is neither consumed nor required in this reaction (1, 51). In conclusion, a similar process seems to occur *in vivo*. The twofold elevation of basal $\cdot\text{OH}$ production in striatum after reserpine treatment (Fig. 5) is in line with another study in which reserpine increased levels of oxidized GSH in striatum, an indication of oxidative stress (58).

It has been suggested that toxic quinones as a consequence of DA oxidation (by Mn) may compromise cellular defense mechanisms against oxyradicals (51), for instance by GSH depletion (26, 27, 38, 43). Our results obtained at 6 h after Mn^{2+} in reserpine-treated rats do not support this hypothesis. However, an increase of oxidative stress by quinones, and therefore a role of DA in Mn neurotoxicity, cannot be ruled out at later time points.

The increased production of another reactive oxygen species, H_2O_2 , due to enhanced enzymatic turnover of DA (DOPAC/DA and HVA/DA ratios), which has been hypothetically linked with oxidative stress (14, 58), does not parallel 2,3-DHBA formation after Mn^{2+} both in time (Fig. 2) and with increasing dose (Fig. 4). This indicates that not H_2O_2 production from enzymatic DA oxidation, but other factors determine $\cdot\text{OH}$ generation. In addition, the serotonin turnover was only slightly affected by Mn^{2+} , indicating a different (initial) response of both types of neurons to Mn^{2+} exposure.

TABLE 2

Effect of the Iron Chelator Deferoxamine (0, 0.2, or 2.0 nmol DFX) on Mn^{2+} -Induced $\cdot\text{OH}$ Formation (2,3-DHBA/SA) and Dopamine Depletion 6 h after Co-injection of 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ with DFX into the Ipsilateral Striatum or 0.4 $\mu\text{mol NaCl}$ with DFX into the Contralateral Striatum of SA-loaded Rats (300 mg/kg ip; 2 h)

Ipsicontralateral ratio	Intrastratial co-injection of 0.4 $\mu\text{mol Mn}^{2+}$ and different doses of deferoxamine (nmol)		
	0	0.2	2.0
2,3-DHBA/SA	1.92 ± 0.12*	2.14 ± 0.23*	1.85 ± 0.06*
Dopamine	0.46 ± 0.06*	0.47 ± 0.02*	0.40 ± 0.02*

Note. Data are means ± SEM expressed as [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios of 5–6 rats per dose. DFX co-injections did not significantly change Mn^{2+} -induced 2,3-DHBA increases or DA depletion (ANOVA). Differences of 2,3-DHBA/SA values and DA levels between ipsi- and contralateral striata were highly significant in the three groups.

* $P < 0.001$.

Since Mn^{2+} itself cannot trigger $\cdot OH$ formation, and the likely candidates DA and 6-OHDA—which we did not detect *in vivo*—cannot explain the observed increase of $\cdot OH$ formation by Mn^{2+} , the role of endogenous iron was also examined after Mn^{2+} . However, in Mn^{2+} -injected striatum LMW iron, which is considered a relevant pool for catalyzing the Haber–Weiss reaction (36), was not different from that in Mg^{2+} - or noninjected striata (Table 1). Results obtained in Fe^{2+} -injected striata indicated that our assay procedures worked. Thus, “free” or LMW iron does not participate in Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot OH$ formation unless (very) local increases play a role. Therefore intrastriatal co-injections of Mn^{2+} with the iron chelator DFX were conducted using doses known to retard 6-OHDA neurodegeneration (7) and sufficient to chelate the measured LMW iron pool completely. However, different intrastriatal DFX injections could not attenuate Mn^{2+} -induced 2,3-DHBA formation (Table 2), which is consistent with our data on LMW iron. An important additional fact which supports the latter conclusion is that iron chelation by DFX in large excess of Mn^{2+} was not affected *in vitro*.

The question then arises, are there other mechanisms which may be responsible for Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot OH$? We propose two other mechanisms. First, Mn^{2+} accumulates preferentially in mitochondria via the Ca^{2+} uniporter, thereby inhibiting its own and Ca^{2+} effluxes (24) and impairing several mitochondrial respiratory functions and GSH metabolism (9, 25, 38, 39). Under such conditions, disturbances of cytochrome heme metabolism (38, 49) and/or heme-associated electron transfers by Mn^{2+} may lead to oxoheme oxidants in the presence of H_2O_2 or the postulated heme-associated ferryl radicals (18, 28, 29, 48), which may cause SA hydroxylation in our studies (48). DFX can probably not chelate iron from heme proteins, and this may explain the lack of an effect of DFX on Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot OH$.

Recently, protection has been shown by NO-synthase inhibitors after brain injury by some mitochondrial toxins (52). Since Mn^{2+} also acts like a mitochondrial toxin that may raise NO, $\cdot OH$ may be derived from the decomposition of peroxynitrite, which is a reaction product of NO and O_2^- (5, 15, 37, 34).

In conclusion, selective regional accumulation of Mn^{2+} in the basal ganglia and its preferential sequestration in mitochondria may lead to local oxyradical formation and mitochondrial dysfunctions, which eventually result in selective cell death. The present studies have shown that DA and chelatable iron do not contribute to Mn^{2+} -induced $\cdot OH$. Therefore, other mechanisms explaining oxidant stress after Mn^{2+} intoxication such as site-specific $\cdot OH$ formation through mitochondrial heme–iron moieties or peroxynitrite formation should be studied. An additional role of DA quinones in producing oxidative stress remains to be elucidated.

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