

Co-treatment with imipramine averted haloperidol-instigated tardive dyskinesia: Association with serotonin in brain regions

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Abstract: Outcome of imipramine (IMI) treatment was scrutinized on progression of haloperidol instigated tardive dyskinesia (TD). 0.2 mg/kg/rat dosage of haloperidol provided orally to rats for 2 weeks enhanced vacuous chewing movements that escalated when the process proceeded for 5 weeks. Following 2 weeks co-injection 5 mg/kg dosage of IMI was diminished haloperidol-instigated VCMs and fully averted following five weeks. The potency of 8-OH-DPAT-instigated locomotor activity exhibited higher in saline+haloperidol treated rats while not observed in IMI+ haloperidol treated rats. 8-OH-DPAT-instigated low 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT; serotonin) metabolism was higher in saline+ haloperidol treated rats when compare to IMI+ haloperidol treated rats in both regions of brain (striatum and midbrain). It is recommended that IMI possibly competent in averting TD, in cases receiving treatment to antipsychotics.

Keywords: Tardive dyskinesia, Imipramine, Haloperidol, Serotonin-1A receptor.

INTRODUCTION

Continuing administration of antipsychotic drugs instigated a neurological disorder Tardive dyskinesia (TD) (Haleem *et al.*, 2007a; Shireen, 2016), which is designated by many adverse effects (Casey, 1985; 2004).

Prolong treatment of haloperidol causes a syndrome designated as vacuous chewing movements (VCMs) which is supposed parallel to TD in human beings (Turrone *et al.*, 2002; Lister *et al.*, 2017). Acute treatment of haloperidol reduced locomotor activity and alters motor coordination resulting of catalepsy (Haleem *et al.*, 2004; Karl *et al.*, 2006). In nigrostriatal pathway haloperidol blocks dopamine D2 receptors which may cause motor adverse effects (Farde *et al.*, 1992).

Implication of serotonin (5-HT) TD related symptoms is evidenced. 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT; serotonin) gives invigoration into the basal ganglia with regulation of dopamine neurotransmission (Alex and Pehek, 2007). It is reported from our laboratory that repeated administration of buspirone and 8-OH-DPAT, 5-HT-1A agonist (partial or full), diminished the haloperidol-instigated TD with subsequent decline in the effectiveness of 5-HT-1A receptor positioned on soma and dendrites (Samad & Co-workers 2016).

Imipramine (IMI; a 5-HT and nor-epinephrine reuptake inhibitor) has antidepressant effect (Rogoz *et al.*, 2007; Birkenhäger & Pluijms, 2016) and behavioral stimulation (Scheggi *et al.*, 2011) with subsequent prolong treatment. Hence, the current research was intended to examine the

possible contribution of the 5-HT system to the motor effects of chronic treatment of IMI on haloperidol-instigated model of TD.

METHODOLOGY

Animals

Rats (male albino Wistar) bought from ICCBS (Karachi, Pakistan), housed individually in a controlled standard environment. Institutional ethical and committee of animal care have approved all experimental work.

Drugs

Haloperidol purchased as drops (2.0mg/ml) were provided in water used for drinking. IMI mixed in saline and inserted intraperitoneally (*i.p.*) + 8-OH-DPAT mixed in saline and inserted as *i.p.*

Experimental Protocol

In the beginning, effects of doses of IMI i.e. 5, 10 and 15 mg/kg on locomotion determined in a novel environment (open field) to ascertain a dosage that does not lessen locomotion and be able to used to examine likely properties on impede of VCMs instigated by haloperidol and sensitization of serotonergic receptors present on soma and dendrites in an animal model of TD. The drug or vehicle was administered subcutaneously. The behavior in a novel environment was monitored for 5 min.

After the selection of dose, 48 rats were randomly divided into 4 equal sets. (i) saline+ water (ii) saline+haloperidol (iii) IMI+ water (iv) IMI+haloperidol. Haloperidol (0.2 mg/kg/day) was administered orally in water which is use for drinking. IMI (5 mg/ml/kg body weight) was vanished in vehicle (saline) and administered subcutaneously. The

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drugs were administered everyday for 5 weeks. Behavioral appraisal of VCMs was conducted weekly 1-h preceding to treatment of drugs. Effects of 8-OH-DPAT (0.25 mg/ml/kg b.w) ascertained after a drug malfunction phase of two days into similar divisions. So the presence of earlier administered drugs may not hinder with the possessions of 8-OH-DPAT.

Rats of every of the above 4 sets alienated into saline (1 mg/kg) or 8-OH-DPAT (0.25mg/kg) treated sub-groups (Haleem & Khan, 2003). Forepaw treading and hyperlocomotion instigated by the 8-OH-DPAT were counted for twenty-five minutes preliminary 5 min after drug administration. Rats were guillotined one-hour after the 8-OH-DPAT administration to save the striatum and midbrain (Samad and Co-workers, 2007) and refrigerated at a temperature of -70°C for the investigation of 5-HT metabolism.

Behavioral analysis

Open field

Open field test was observed for 5 min as reported earlier (Samad, 2015)

VCMs quantification

VCMs were observed for 10 minutes. For estimation intent, every blow out of irregular chewing was scored as one, if its time period was minimum 3 seconds by (Samad *et al.*, 2016).

5-HT syndrome induced by 8-OH-DPAT

Cage crossing and forepaw treading were scored as depicted (Samad *et al.*, 2016)

Anatomization of brain and estimation of neurotransmitters

Anatomization technique of Brain

Brain samples were collected immediately following decapitation of animals. Regions of brain were obtained as depicted (Samad *et al.*, 2016).

Estimations of 5-HT metabolism by HPLC-EC:

Levels of 5-HT and its metabolite were estimated by HPLC-EC as evidenced (Samad *et al.*, 2016).

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Data was analyzed by ANOVA following Tukey's test. Analysis of data was performed by SPSS. <0.05 P values were appropriated as significant.

RESULTS

Fig. 1 presents the effects of IMI doses (5, 10 and 15 mg/kg) on a test conducted on open field. Significant effect of IMI [$F(3,20)= 42.6$ $p<0.05$] was obtained by ANOVA (One way). Tukey's test showed that

exploratory activity was significantly decreased by 10 and 15 mg/kg doses of IMI, while non significant at 5 mg/kg dosage.

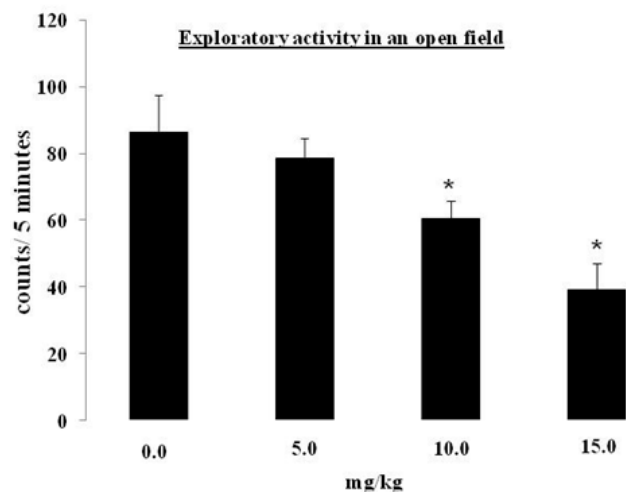


Fig. 1: Effects of various doses of IMI on exploratory activity in an open field. Values are means \pm SD (n=6) 60 min post injection. Significant differences by Tukey's test * $p<0.05$ from saline treated animals following ANOVA (One way).

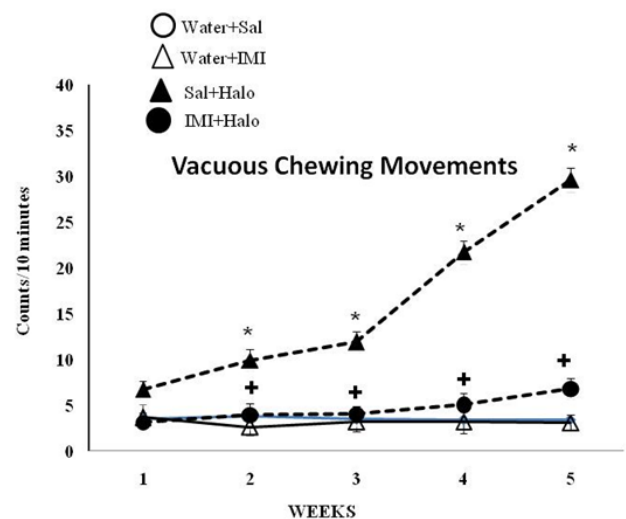


Fig. 2: Intensity of haloperidol-induced VCMs in animals treated with saline and IMI. Values are mean \pm SD (n=12) 60 min post-injection. Significant differences by Tukey's test: * $P<0.05$ from water+saline treated animals, + $P<0.05$ from saline+haloperidol treated rats following ANOVA (Three way).

Fig. 2 presents the progressive increase of VCMs instigated by haloperidol in rats deal with IMI and saline. Significant effects of haloperidol [$F(1,220)=1239.4$ $P<0.05$], IMI [$F(1,220)=878.9$ $P<0.05$] and weeks [$F(4,220)=147.6$ $P<0.05$] were obtained by Three way ANOVA. Significant effects on interaction between haloperidol x weeks [$F(4,220)=154.6$ $P<0.05$], haloperidol x IMI [$F(1,220)=767.6$ $P<0.05$], IMI x weeks

[F(4,220)=82.8 $P<0.05$] and haloperidol x weeks x IMI [F(4,220)=84.0 $P<0.05$]. Tukey's test showed that VCMs were progressively increased following 5 weeks treatment of haloperidol. On the contrary, induction of haloperidol-elicited VCMs were setback by IMI.

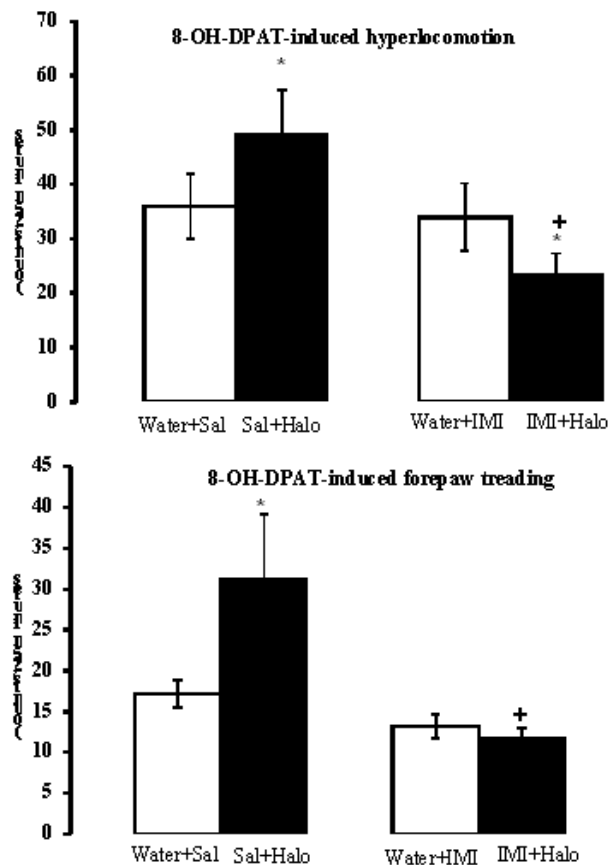


Fig. 3: 8-OH-DPAT-induced hyperactivity and forepaw treading in water+saline, saline+haloperidol, water+IMI and IMI +haloperidol treated animals. Values are means \pm S.D. (n=6) from 5-30 min post 8-OH-DPAT injection and 48 h after haloperidol or IMI administration. . Significant differences by Tukey's test: * $P<0.05$ from water+saline and water+IMI treated animals, + $P<0.05$ from saline +haloperidol treated rats following ANOVA (Two-way).

Fig. 3 presents induction of intensity of serotonin syndrome by 8-OH-DPAT administration in all 4 groups. Non-significant effects of haloperidol on cage crossing [F(1,20)=0.3 $P>0.05$], while significant effects of IMI [F(1,20)=31.4 $P<0.05$] and interaction between two [F(1,20)=23.4 $P<0.05$] were obtained by ANOVA (Two way). Significant possessions of haloperidol [F(1,20)=15.0 $P<0.05$], IMI [F(1,20)=50.3 $P<0.05$] and interaction between two [F(1,20)=22.5 $P<0.05$] on forepaw treading were also obtained by ANOVA (Two way). Tukey's test showed that hyperlocomotion and forepaw treading instigated by 8-OH-DPAT were higher in saline+haloperidol when compare to water+saline treated rats. Conversely, IMI+haloperidol treated animals

showed smaller hyperlocomotion than water+IMI. Rats co treated with IMI showed smaller 5-HT syndrome than saline +haloperidol treated rats.

Fig. 4 presents the metabolism of 5-HT in parts of brain subsequent administration of 8-OH-DPAT in rats pre-treated with water+saline, saline+haloperidol, water+IMI and IMI+haloperidol treated rats. ANOVA (Three way) on data of 5-HT showed that haloperidol [F(1,40)=10.0 $P<0.05$], IMI [F(1,40)=91.2 $p<0.05$] and 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=261.3 $P<0.05$] exhibited significant effects in the striatum. Non significant interaction amid IMI x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=0.03 $P>0.05$] whereas significant interaction was obtained amid haloperidol x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=6.1 $P<0.05$], IMI x haloperidol [F(1,40)=90.0 $P<0.05$] and 8-OH-DPAT x IMI x haloperidol [F(1,40)=18.2 $P<0.05$]. Non significant effect of haloperidol [F(1,40)=1.0 $P>0.05$] whereas significant effects of IMI [F(1,40)=31.0 $P<0.05$] and 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=503.1 $P<0.05$] were obtained in the midbrain. Non-significant interaction amid IMI x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=1.9 $P>0.05$] and haloperidol x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=2.6 $P>0.05$], whereas significant interaction amid IMI x haloperidol [F(1,40)=29.336 $P<0.05$] and haloperidol x IMI x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=76.2 $P<0.05$]. Tukey's test showed in the striatum and midbrain quantity of 5-HT was reduced following treatment of 8-OH-DPAT in water+saline in addition to saline+haloperidol pre-holded animals whereas these decreases were marked in the striatum in saline+haloperidol than water+saline treated animals. Water+IMI pre-treated rats exhibited smaller concentration of 5-HT following 8-OH-DPAT administration in brain regions (striatum and midbrain). On the other hand, IMI+haloperidol pre-treated animals showed low levels of 5-HT in the midbrain than striatum. In the striatum the levels of 5-HT were lesser in IMI+haloperidol than water+IMI treated rats.

ANOVA (Three way) on 5-HIAA obtained data showed significant effects of haloperidol [F(1,40)=29.3 $P<0.05$], IMI [F(1,40)=115.0 $P<0.05$] and 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=138.0 $P<0.05$] in the striatum. Significant interaction amid IMI* haloperidol [F(1,40)=16.1 $P<0.05$], haloperidol *8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=5.1 $P<0.05$], IMI x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=36.2 $P<0.05$] and haloperidol x IMI x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=19.9 $P>0.05$]. Significant effects of haloperidol [F(1,40)=12.9 $P<0.05$] and 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=133.0 $P<0.05$] in the midbrain, whereas non-significant effect of IMI [F(1,40)=0.0039 $P>0.05$]. Significant interaction amid IMI x haloperidol [F(1,40)=22.99 $P<0.05$], haloperidol x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=5.6 $P<0.05$], IMI x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=33.99 $P<0.05$] and haloperidol x IMI x 8-OH-DPAT [F(1,40)=34.99 $P>0.05$]. Tukey's test showed that in the brain regions (midbrain and striatum) concentration of 5-HIAA was decreased in both water+saline and saline+haloperidol pre-treated animals following 8-OH-DPAT administration. The level of 5-HIAA was increased

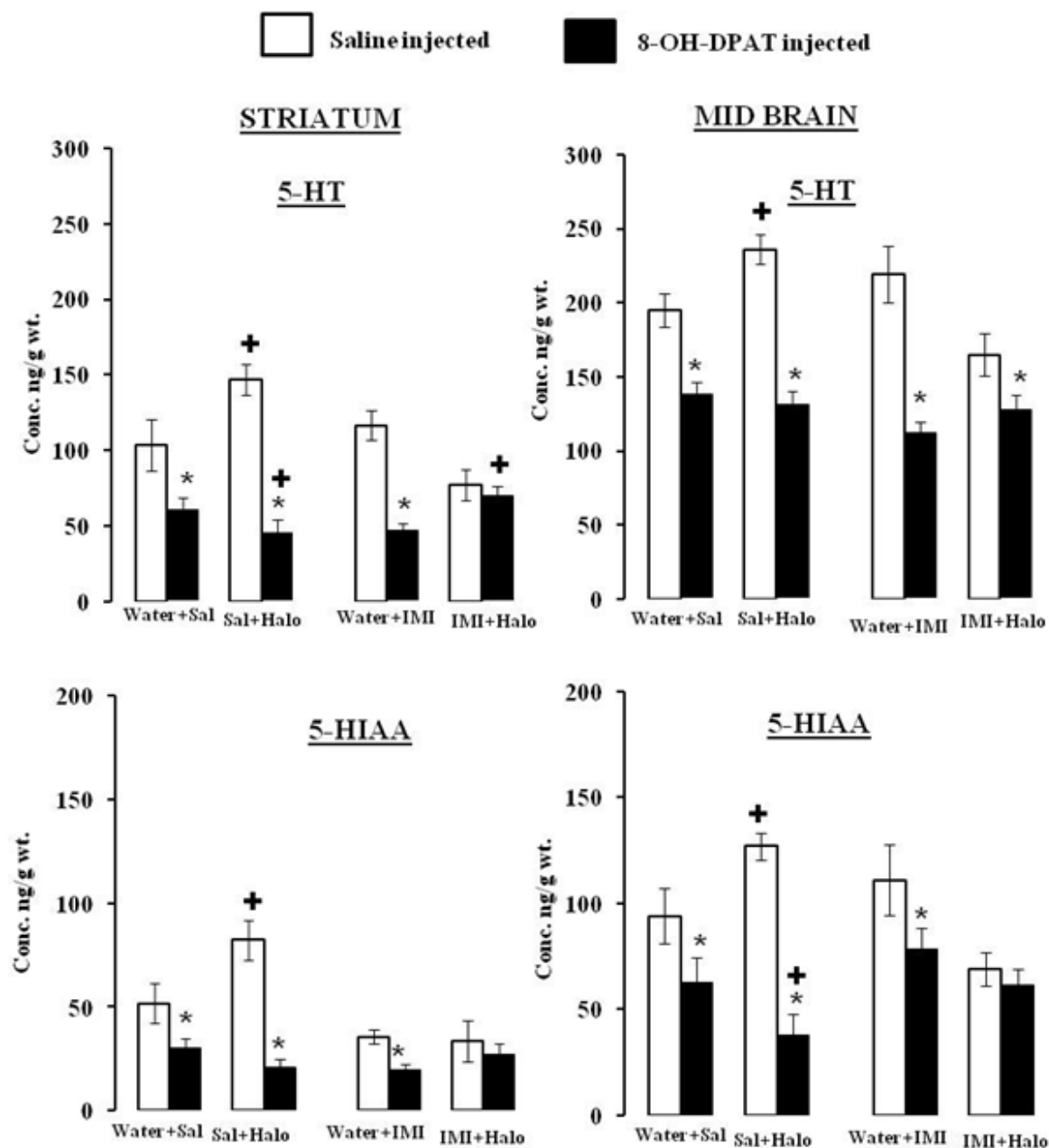


Fig. 4: 8-OH-DPAT-induced decreases of 5-HT and 5-HIAA levels in the striatum and midbrain of water+saline, saline +haloperidol, water +IMI and IMI+haloperidol treated animals. Values are means \pm S.D. (n=6) 1 h post 8-OH-DPAT injection and 48 h after haloperidol or IMI administration. Significant differences by Tukey's test: *P<0.05 from respective saline treated animals, +P<0.05 from water+saline treated rats following ANOVA (Two-way).

in saline+haloperidol when compared to water+saline pre-injected animals in the midbrain. In the two brain regions following administration of 8-OH-DPAT levels of 5-HIAA become decreased in water+IMI pre-treated animals.

DISCUSSION

In preclinical studies many effects of antidepressant and TD on 5-HT functions have been reported. Here our

findings show that long term treatment of IMI is ample to setback haloperidol-elicited VCMs and supersensitization of 5-HT-1A receptors located on cell soma and dendrites. Conversely, 8-OH-DPAT-elicited 5-HT syndrome observed more in haloperidol+saline treated rats than IMI+haloperidol treated rats. In the same way, there is a larger reduction in metabolism of 5-HT occurred in haloperidol+saline treated while not observed in IMI+haloperidol treated rats in both brain regions (striatum and midbrain).

Haloperidol inhibit increased locomotor activity elicits by amphetamine and reduces expedition (Karl and co-workers, 2006) and results catalepsy (Haleem *et al.*, 2004). Chronic and sub-chronic treatments of haloperidol-elicited VCMs (Samad and Haleem, 2014; Samad *et al.*, 2016). Our findings reveal that treatment with haloperidol-induced VCMs steps forward as the treatment persistent for 5 weeks (fig. 2).

Following administration of neuroleptics dopamine D2 receptors become up-regulated resulted in TD development (Klawans and Rubovits, 1972). In the caudate, nucleus accumbens and putamen proliferation of dopamine D2 receptors was observed subsequent continuing treatment of neuroleptics (Lau *et al.*, 2003). In substantia nigra and ventral tegmental area the serotonergic contribution is may involved in control of movement (Barnes *et al.*, 1992). Previous studies have shown that haloperidol administration increased 5-HT metabolism in many regions of the brain in which striatum and midbrain are included (Samad *et al.*, 2007; Samad, 2015). Preclinical and clinical studies recommend that in the commencement of TD, increased serotonergic transmission has a vital role (Samad *et al.*, 2016). Fig. 4 is in agreement with Samad *et al.* (2016) and supports that that, continual administration of haloperidol increased 5-HT metabolism suggesting, supersensitization of serotonergic 5-HT-1A receptors

Repeated therapy with haloperidol linked with induction of VCMs with supersensitivity of somatodendritic receptors (fig. 1). In many experiments interaction between serotonergic and dopaminergic systems have described supportive (Wedenberg, 1996; Arroyo *et al.*, 2016) and opposed connections (Kapur, 1996; Neal-Beliveau *et al.*, 1993). The dorsal raphe project serotonergic neurotransmission openly to the substantia nigra and negatively amends dopamine neurons in the substantia nigra (Jacob and Azmitia, 1992; Kelland *et al.*, 1990). Studies have shown that 5-HT-2A/2C receptors present on the cell soma and dendrites of neuron of dopamine are involved in inhibitory action (Ugedo *et al.*, 1989). Selective 5-HT-2C receptor antagonists improve atypical antipsychotics-induced extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS) possibly by increasing neuronal firing of dopamine from the inhibitory pressure of serotonin (Shireen and Haleem, 2011; Shireen, 2016).

Buspiron that preferably stimulate somatodendritic 5-HT-1A receptor as partial agonist at 5-HT-1A receptors, attenuate haloperidol-induced dyskinesia less than 8-OH-DPAT which is an agonist at 5-HT-1A receptors with selectivity (Samad and co-workers, 2007; Woźniak *et al.*, 2016). It is connected with a greater reduction in 5-HT and 5-HIAA concentrations in the striatum of buspiron treated than 8-OH-DPAT-injected animals. It was recommended that release of dopamine from the

inhibitory pressure of serotonin is influenced by both buspiron and 8-OH-DPAT to alienate haloperidol-induced dyskinesia (Haleem, 2014). fig. 2 depicts that super sensitization of somatodendritic 5-HT-1A receptors observed subsequent five weeks administration of haloperidol possibly will impaired the serotonergic influence on dopaminergic system. So it is recommended that decrease influence of serotonergic neurotransmission on dopaminergic neurotransmission is concerned in the potentiating of VCMs, whereas normalization of pressure of serotonergic system when co-treated with IMI may possibly prevented the elicitation of haloperidol-induced VCMs.

IMI is an illustrious TCA (Wasik *et al.*, 2013). In the force swimming test, IMI (at doses 5mg/kg/day to 30 mg/kg/day), when administered acutely in rodents showed dose reliant reduction in locomotion (Wasik *et al.*, 2013) and exploration of open field (Cardoso *et al.*, 2009). fig. 1 is in accord to past research work.

5-HT-1A receptors has a vital role in dementia (Buhot *et al.*, 2000; Prommer, 2015), depression (Savitz *et al.*, 2009) and kinesia (Haleem *et al.*, 2007b). Serotonin interacts with most of the neurotransmitters such as (acetyl choline, glutamate, dopamine and GABA) and produce beneficial effects (Lucki *et al.*, 1994). In the frontal cortex the density of 5-HT-1A receptor and 5-HT-levels become increased when IMI administered acutely. Conversely, when IMI administered repeatedly the mass of 5-HT-1A receptor becomes reduced. It is reported that repeated treatment with IMI desensitized autoreceptors while sensitized postsynaptic receptors (Bijak, 1996; Albert, 2012). In the present study in both brain regions (striatum and midbrain) 5-HT metabolism become decreased following injections of IMI (fig. 4) without significant reduction in locomotion (fig. 1). fig. 4 recommended that repeated administration of IMI will possibly prevented the haloperidol-induced supersensitization of somatodendritic 5-HT-1A receptors by desensitization of these receptors (Albert, 2012; Nascimento *et al.*, 2014).

Two (Haleem & Khan, 2003) and five (Samad and co-workers, 2007; fig. 2) weeks pre-treatment with haloperidol elicit 5-HT syndrome following 8-OH-DPAT administration. Additionally, co-treatment with IMI for 5 weeks reversed the 8-OH-DPAT-induced 5-HT syndrome (fig. 3).

Stimulation of somatodendritic 5-HT-1A receptors consequentially reduce the inhibitory control of serotonergic function on dopamine neurotransmission, that is reported mechanism of 8-OH-DPAT elicited-syndrome (Haleem and coworkers, 2004). Reserpine and haloperidol elicited reduction in the strength of 8-OH-DPAT-induced 5-HT syndrome suggest the contribution

of dopamine D2 receptor in the whole mechanism (Haleem & Khan, 2003). The supersensitization of dopamine D2 receptor following repeated administration of haloperidol (Halperin *et al.* 1989). Fig. 4 showed that long term treatment with haloperidol also supersensitized somatodendritic 5-HT-1A receptors which results in additional inhibitory pressure of serotonergic system on locomotor activity might give marked hyperactivity as observed in animals. Conversely desensitization of somatodendritic 5-HT-1A receptor overturned the 8-OH-DPAT elicited hyperactivity (fig. 3) following co-treatment of IMI. While, fig 4 shows that co-treatment of IMI reversed the somatodendritic 5-HT-1A receptor reliant feedback.

CONCLUSION

Our study adds up the data concerning the method core the protective outcome of IMI on an animal model of TD. It is proven that alleviation of orofacial dyskinesia and augment in the sensitivity of somatodendritic 5-HT-1A receptor following prolong insertion of haloperidol is reversed by co-injection of IMI. It is obvious that influence of sensitized somatodendritic serotonergic on dopamine functions could be involved on the beginning of TD. Furthermore, it is suggested that IMI is not only useful as antidepressant drug in human, also helpful for the treatment of dyskinesias by stimulating somatodendritic 5-HT-1A receptors.

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