EFFECTS OF LITOXETINE ON URETHRAL PRESSURE AND DETRUSOR OVERACTIVITY IN ANESTHETIZED FEMALE RATS

Murielle Méen1, Marc Guérard1, Stefano Palea1, Xavier Gamé2,3, Philippe Lluel1

1Urosphere, Toulouse, France, 2Urology Department, Rangueil University Hospital, Toulouse, France. 3INSERM, I2MC-U1048, CHU Rangueil, Toulouse, France.

Objectives

Litoxetine (LTX) is a highly selective serotonin (5-HT) reuptake inhibitor and a Multifunctional Serotonin Agonist Antagonist. To date, the role of 5-HT innervation on urethral and bladder functions in humans and animals is well established. The aims of the current study were to evaluate in two different sets of experiments, the effects of intravenous (i.v.) LTX on urethral pressure (UP) and on detrusor overactivity induced by intravesical infusion of acetic acid (AA) in anesthetized rats.

Methods

Two different studies were performed in anesthetized female Wistar rats.

Urethral pressure measurement was performed under pentobarbital anesthesia. A polyethylene catheter was positioned into the urethra. Saline was continuously infused into the urethra (0.5 mL/h) and UP was recorded. After a stabilization period (basal values), a single dose of LTX (0.1, 0.3, 1 or 2 mg/kg) or vehicle (physiological saline) were given i.v. and UP was recorded for 1 hour. Maximal increase in UP was calculated in each group. Percentage of variation from basal values was calculated at different time points after administration.

Cystometric measurement was performed under urethane anesthesia. A polyethylene catheter was implanted in the bladder through the dome and secured with a purse-string suture. Saline or 0.3% AA was infused into the bladder at a constant flow rate (3 mL/h). After a stabilization period (basal values), LTX (2 mg/kg) or vehicle, were administered i.v. and vesical pressure was recorded for 1 hour. The following cystometric parameters were analyzed: Amplitude of micturition (AM, mmHg), Basal Pressure (BP, mmHg), Threshold Pressure (ThP, mmHg) and Bladder Capacity (BC, mL).

Results

LTX induced a dose-dependent increase of Urethral Pressure

Basal UP was not statistically different between groups (data not shown).

Following administration of vehicle small variations of UP were observed (maximal increase in UP was 5±10%).

In contrast, LTX induced a dose-dependent and long lasting (up to 1 hour) increase of UP. In comparison to vehicle, LTX effects were significant starting from the dose of 0.3 mg/kg (31±6, 43±8 and 39±8% at 0.3, 1 and 2 mg/kg, i.v., respectively).

Conclusions

In anesthetized rats, LTX increased UP and reduced detrusor overactivity induced by AA. Considering the pharmacological profile of LTX, it is hypothesized that these effects could be related to an increased activity of the urethral sphincter and a decreased activity of the bladder by a 5-HT-mediated mechanism involving spinal or supraspinal structures, as reported for duloxetine (3). However, a direct effect on bladder and/or urethral smooth muscles cannot be ruled out.

Taken together these results suggest that LTX could be useful for treating mixed urinary incontinence.

References


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