

Toxic Effects Of Some Antispastic Drugs on the EEG: Some Biochemical And Immunological Studies on Rats.

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Abstract

The toxicity of tizanidine and baclofen was studied on male rats. The oral clinical dose of tizanidine and baclofen (0.216 and 0.54 mg/ 100g body weight / day, respectively) was given for one, two, three and four weeks. Chronic administration of the two drugs causes damage to the lung and a significant reduction in serum and lung levels of GSH, Vit E, Vit C and SOD activity. Four weeks treatment induced significant elevation of GPX activity and MDA levels. The two drugs, also, caused inhibitory activity on proliferation of splenocyte triggered by Con A, LPS and IL-2 production cell activities. They also produced several abnormal patterns in the EEG including increased epileptiform discharges and synchronous rhythmic activity. Diffuse slowing, with increased beta and delta activity and decreased alpha activity, with superimposed beta activity were recorded. Tizanidine had more prominent effect on the EEG than baclofen.

Introduction

Antispastic drugs act on the CNS either by suppression of excitation (glutamate) enhancement of inhibition (GABA, glycine), or a combination of both. Three different categories of drugs are available: GABA-like (baclofen, benzodiazepine), central alpha 2 agonists (tizanidine, clonidine) and peripheral antispastics (dantrolene). Only four drugs are currently approved by the US FDA as antispastic agents: baclofen, diazepam, dantrolene sodium and tizanidine. It appears preferable to use centrally acting drugs such as baclofen, tizanidine, and diazepam in spasticity of spinal origin (spinal cord injury and multiple sclerosis). Intrathecal administration of antispastic drugs has been used mainly in cases of muscle over activity occurring primarily in the lower limbs in nonambulatory, severely disabled patients but new indications may emerge in spasticity of cerebral origin (Gracies *et al.*, 1997; Kuhn, 1998; Karch, 2000). Baclofen remains the most commonly used antispastic for treatment of the spasticity of spinal origin (Wagstaff and Bryson, 1997; Brenner *et al.*, 1998; Rode

et al., 2003). Also, tizanidine appears to be a therapeutic alternative of baclofen in changing treatment (Campistol, 2003; Darrio and Tomei, 2004). Hypertonicity from spasticity or dystonia with attendant muscle spasms is often disabling. Although, baclofen and tizanidine are customarily preferred because of their fewer side effects (Meythaler *et al.*, 1999; Illum *et al.*, 2003; Dario and Tomei, 2004 and David, 2005). Intrathecal baclofen is a newer approach with reported efficacy and minimal adverse effects (Hardman *et al.*, 1996; Meythaler *et al.*, 1999; USPDI, 1999; Drug Facts and Comparisons, 2001).

Tizanidine and baclofen have been chosen in the current study, as both drugs are centrally acting, used in the treatment of spasticity of spinal origin and both have attracted some interest in drug addiction field, as they decrease withdrawal syndrome of some drugs of abuse (Sos *et al.*, 2000; Ahamdi-Abhari *et al.*, 2001; Colombo *et al.*, 2002). In addition to the widespread use of tizanidine between addicts in Egypt (Guide book for controlled and uncontrolled drugs, 2003).

Tizanidine, an adrenergic α_2 agonist, has recently been introduced in the United States as a centrally acting muscle relaxant. It is a myotonolytic agent used in the treatment of spasticity from central nervous system or spinal injuries (Coward, 1994 Berkman *et al.*, 2000; Herfindal and Gourley, 2000; Abramowicz, 2001).

Tizanidine has demonstrated many other central effects in the nervous system. For example, in genetically spastic rats, administration of tizanidine directly into the substantia nigra resulted in myotonolysis (Katzung, 2001). Abundant preclinical and clinical evidence exists for the efficacy of tizanidine as a successful reducer of increased motor tone and spasticity. Tizanidine has been shown to have abundant antinociceptive effects in animal preparations, and this action seems to be mediated via α_2 adrenergic, and not opioid, receptors. It reduces central output or effectiveness of norepinephrine in central sites including the spinal cord. Previous studies have shown antinociceptive effects of tizanidine in painful disorders and effectiveness in various headache disorders (Krusz *et al.*, 2000). Also, administration of tizanidine decreased the intensity of the withdrawal symptoms in heroin dependent patients (Sos *et al.*, 2000).

The most frequent adverse tizanidine events were dry mouth, somnolence / sedation, asthenia, dizziness (Wagstaff and Bryson, 1997), liver function abnormalities and hallucination (De Graaf *et al.*, 1996). Patients should be warned of the possibility of orthostatic hypotension as well as sedation.

Baclofen is analogue of the naturally occurring neurotransmitter γ -amino butyric acid (GABA). The principal effect is to reduce the release of excitatory neurotransmitters by activation of presynaptic GABA_B receptors (Miyamoto, 2004).

Baclofen, reduces the incidence of transient relaxations in response to gastric distention in humans (Lidums *et al.*, 2000), ferrets (Blackshaw *et al.*, 1999) and dogs (Lehmann *et al.*, 1999 & 2000). For example, a single oral dose of baclofen inhibited the rate of transient lower esophageal sphincter (LES) relaxations and number of

reflux episodes by 60% in the first hour in humans (Lidums *et al.*, 2000).

Baclofen induces a concentration-dependent outward current in more than half of the vagal motor neurons innervating the stomach or small intestine (Browning and Travagli, 2001). Acute administration of baclofen has been reported to decrease the intravenous self-administration of cocaine (Brebner *et al.*, 2002a), heroin (Xi and Stein, 2002; Brebner *et al.*, 2002b), nicotine (Corrigall *et al.*, 2000, 2001; Fattore *et al.*, 2002), and γ -hydroxybutyric acid (Fattore *et al.*, 2001) in rats and mice, as well as to block the development of conditioned place preference to morphine (Tsuji *et al.*, 1996) and methamphetamine (Li *et al.*, 2001) in rats. Further, baclofen has been reported to suppress locomotor stimulation [a possible animal model of the euphorogenic properties of a psychoactive drug (Wise and Bozarth, 1987)] induced by cocaine (Kalivas *et al.*, 1990), amphetamine (Kalivas *et al.*, 1990; Phillis *et al.*, 2001), morphine (Woo *et al.*, 2001; Leite-Morris *et al.*, 2002), the opioid μ -receptor agonist DAMGO (Kalivas *et al.*, 1990), and phencyclidine (Menon *et al.*, 1980) in rats and mice. In close agreement with the above preclinical data, baclofen has recently been reported to be effective in decreasing cocaine craving and use in cocaine addicts in an openlabel study (Ling *et al.*, 1998) and preventing limbic activation, as measured by positron emission tomography, during cue-induced craving for cocaine in cocaine-dependent patients (Brebner *et al.*, 2002a). Further, baclofen has been found to suppress the intensity of signs and symptoms of the opiate withdrawal syndrome in opiate addicts in double-blind studies (Akhondzadeh *et al.*, 2000; Ahmadi-Abhari *et al.*, 2001).

Wagner & Dekin (1993, 1997) demonstrated the regulation by cAMP and activation by baclofen of K⁺ channels in presynaptic respiratory neurons with pharmacological and biophysical characteristics similar (although not identical) to those described for background K⁺ channels. Furthermore, background K⁺ channels and GABA_B receptors are co-expressed in

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a variety of neuronal cell types and these findings open the possibility that GABA_B autoreceptors linked to background channels may be a general mechanism for controlling CNS excitability. The main adverse effects of oral baclofen include: sedation or somnolence weakness, vertigo and psychological disturbances. The main risks of intrathecal baclofen infusion are symptoms related to over dose or withdrawal (Daroi and Tomei , 2004). Klinika (2005) reported that baclofen over dosage however may cause serious respiratory failure as also cardiac and neurological system disturbances.

Aim of the Work

The antispasticity drugs tizanidine and baclofen have attracted some interest in the drug addiction field although both caused some accidental poisoning. Therefore, the present study aimed at evaluating the toxic effects exerted by both drugs in male rats through electroencephalographic studies. Oxidative / antioxidative processes of the lung and some immune responses were also investigated .

Material And Methods

Drug:

Sirdalud:(Tizanidine as the hydrochloride tablets), produced by Novartis Pharma S.A.E. Cairo, Egypt.

Baclofen:(Baclofen B.P.98 tablets), produced by Misr Co. for Pharma Ind. S.A.E. Mataria, Cairo. Egypt.

Animals:

Male albino rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) weighing 150-180g were used as experimental animals throughout the present work. They were allowed free access to food and water. Rats were randomly assigned to treatment groups of 60 rats.Each group was subdivided into four subgroups each composed of 15 animals .All animals were allowed seven days to adapt to the new cage environment. The animals (180 rats) were divided into three equal groups; each composed of 60 rats (the first as control, second and third as treated).

Treatments:

Treated rats received oral doses of tizanidine and baclofen (0.216 and 0.54 mg / 100 g body weight / day, respectively) for a month. Controls received 0.1 ml saline for the same period. 5 animals from each group were used for EEG recording. EEG recording was performed, after 2 hours from drug administration, and repeated every week for 4 weeks. 10 animals from each group were sacrificed weekly, 2 hours after drug administration at the same time of the day .These daily therapeutic doses were calculated for rats according to Paget and Barnes (1964) conversion tables .

Surgical implantation of EEG electrodes:

Surgical implantation of EEG electrodes (Skinner, 1971) was performed under ketamine anesthesia (0.3 mg/100g of body weight intraperitoneally). Cortical screw electrodes were bilaterally implanted in the skull so that one pair was in contact with the frontal cortex and the other with occipital cortex. A single screw implanted in the nasal bone. The animal was left to recover from surgery for one day before the EEG recording was performed.

EEG Recording:

For EEG recording, the animal was placed in a small plastic cage and connected to freely movable recording leads; the animal was habituated to the recording procedure several times before the actual recording was carried out. On the recording day, each animal was allowed 30 minutes to become accustomed to the recording situation. Each animal was left in the recording cage and an EEG for 15-20 minutes was recorded.

EEG Analysis:

EEG data were analyzed at three levels according to Saleh *et al.*(1983). First, the EEG record was visually screened and any unusual signs of activity were identified. Most important among these are spikes, spindles and very slow activity. At the second level of the analysis the activity or activities dominating the EEG were determined in one-second-time segment

and examined every ten seconds of the record. The period and amplitude of this frequency were carefully measured, in reference to EEG calibration signals, which were made several times during every recording session. Finally, randomly chosen long segments were subjected to manual spectral analysis by measuring the percentage of time occupied by different EEG frequency band.

Collection of serum samples :

Blood samples were collected in conical glass centrifuge tubes and left for about one hour in the refrigerator for clotting. Sera were then separated by centrifugation at 1500 r.p.m. for 10 minutes and kept at -80°C.

Sample Preparation for Biochemical Analysis:

After decapitation, rats were dissected and the lung was rapidly removed, weighed and saved at -80°C until analysis. Accurately weighed portions were homogenized in saline using electrical homogenizer to give a final dilution of 10% tissue in saline solution .

Biochemical Analysis :

1. lipid peroxide : Malondialdehyde (MDA) :

Lipid peroxide levels were estimated by the thiobarbituric acid reactive substance (TBARS) by the assesment of malondialdehyde level using the method of Albro *et al.* (1986).

2. Reduced glutathione (GSH) :

The determination of GSH based on the reaction with 5,5'- dithiois - 2-nitrobenzoic acid to give yellow compound (Tietz, 1986).

3. Glutathione peroxidase activity (GPX) :

GPX activity was measured using Ransel glutathione peroxidase kit based on the method of Paglia and Valentine (1967).

4. Superoxide dismutase activity (SOD)

SOD activity was measured using Ransel Kit based on the method of Suttle (1986).

5. Vitamin E (Vit E) :

Vitamin E was estimated by the method of Varely *et al.* (1981) where dipyrindyl and ferric chloride were added to an aliquot of n-propanol .

6. Vitamin C (Vit C):

Ascorbic acid (Vit C) was determined according to the method of Tietz (1986) where oxidized ascorbic acid reacts with acidic 2,4- dinitrophenyl- hydrazine to form red bis- hydrazone .

Histological studies:

Animals were sacrificed every week, lung was picked out and fixed in 10% neutral formalin. Paraffin sections of 7 micrometer thickness were prepared and stained by Hx and Eosin for morphological study (Drury and Wellington, 1980) and by Orcein (Drury and Wellington, 1979).

Splenocytes Preparation

All spleen was aseptically removed and teased on a steel mesh immersed in Roswell Park Memorial Institute-1640 (RPMI-1640) /100µ/ml penicillin/100 µg/ml, strepto-mycin/200 mM Gultamine/ 100 mM Na pyruvate in a plastic dish. The cells that passed through the mesh were washed twice with RPMI-1640. The erythrocytes were lysed with double distilled water, while the remaining cells were resuspended in RPMI-1640 with 5% normal human serum (NHS, Sigma).

Assay of cell proliferation:

MTT [(3, 4, 5-dimethyl thiazoyl-2-yl) 2, 5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide] colorimetric analysis was used to measure the proliferation rate of splenocyte of rat. Briefly, spleen cells were suspended in RPMI-1640 supplemented by 5% normal human serum (NHS, Sigma). The final concentration of the spleen cells was 3×10^6 cells /ml for conconvalin-A (ConA, Sigma) (5,10 µg/ml) and lipopoly saccharide(LPS, Sigma) (5,10 µg/ml). Each of the flat-bottom microtiter plates (Nunc) used in the assay contained 100µL of diluted cells combined with 100µL of mitogen or 100 µL of culture medium. After four days of

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incubation at 37°C, 5% CO₂, 5g/L MTT 40µl was added to each and cultured for another 4 hours. The solubilization stop solution is then added to the culture wells to solubilize the formazan product and the absorbance at 570 nm was recorded using a 96 well plate reader. Stimulation index (SI) = mean cpm of triplicate test cultures/mean cpm of corresponding replicate control rat. The original form of this assay was described by Mosmann (1983).

Cytokine Production:

IL-2 is a T-cell growth factor produced by stimulated T lymphocytes. To test the IL-2 producing ability of T – cell, 6X10⁶ splenic leukocytes in 1 ml of media were incubated with 0, 5.0 mg/ml Con A for 18 hours at 37°C in humidified 5% CO₂ and O₂ (95%) incubator, after which supernatants were collected and saved at -80°C until used for cytokine determination.

Cytokine Determination:

The amount of IL-2 in culture supernatants were determined using sandwich enzyme linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA) using immunoassay Kit (Biosource). The resulting yellow color was measured using the UV max ELISA plate reader (Molecular Devices Corp.). Means ± SD of triplicates of control cultures were then calculated and subtracted from those of test cultures.

Statistical analysis: -

Statistical analysis of the results was calculated using Student's t- test.

Results And Discussion

The EEG results (amplitude, total frequencies and percent wave composition) after daily administration of tizanidine and baclofen, are shown in Table (1) and Figure (1).

Tizanidine was found to elicit an increase in the frequency which was interrupted by slow waves, but still there was an increase in the frequency throughout the experiment in the motor area. At

the same time, the amplitude began to decrease until the end of the first three weeks then began to return to nearly control value after four weeks. Baclofen, on the other hand, induced inhibition of the amplitude of the motor area throughout the first two weeks ; but at the third and fourth weeks it began to return to control value.

On the other hand, the change of frequency was increased in the first two weeks more than in the third and fourth weeks .The effects on the visual centers; were contradictory, tizanidine caused an increase in the amplitude over the control value of 3.3 to 4.7 and 5.0 at the first two weeks but at the third week it caused a decrease to 2.9 and returned back to normal value at the fourth week. Baclofen, on the other hand caused a drop in amplitude from the control value at the first two weeks, but at the third and fourth weeks it increased above the control value. These results agreed with Mandema (1992) who reported the baclofen-induced decrease in amplitudes in the 11.5 to 30 Hz frequency band used as an EEG effect measure (David, 2005). As to the differences between EEG tracings of the other two brain regions, they were intermediate between the two former regions.

The over-whelming phenomenon was that both tizanidine and baclofen affect the percent wave – composition of the motor area in such a way that; delta waves increased from nil to values of 22% for tizanidine and 10% in case of baclofen. The disappearance of most of the alpha waves and the appearance of the beta waves in motor area.

On the other hand, the effects of these two drugs on the visual centers wave composition were different from those reported on the motor centers. Therefore, while the decreases in alpha wave percent were of high magnitude in tizanidine treatment (from 80% to 3%), baclofen produced moderate magnitude (from 80 to 16) and increased delta, theta and beta wave composition. Therefore, the change in wave composition in tizanidine is more than baclofen. These results differ from those of Beard *et al.*(2005) who reported that tizanidine (Zanaflex) was more

effective than other drugs such as baclofen and has a slightly different profile of side-effects. Despite claims that it causes less muscle weakness, there was very little evidence that tizanidine performed any better in this respect than other drugs, although it is more expensive. These results agree with Landau (1995); Mycek *et al.* (1997) and Krusz *et al.* (2000). This comparison shows that Tizanidine was more effective than Baclofen.

In other words, a good part of the alpha-waves which constitutes the major portion of the control EEG-waves disappeared to give way to the appearance of delta and to the noticeable increase in the percent of beta waves. However, up on treatment with the two drugs for four weeks, this fast activity became superimposed with numerous abnormal activities. Most of these abnormal patterns were with the delta wave and slower as well as several complex patterns including spikes and wave complexes. Most of these abnormal patterns are normally correlated with temporary or permanent structural and functional damage of neural structures (Sphelmann, 1980, Saleh and El-Kashef, 1982 ; Klemm, 1969 & 1992). These patterns are often reported in animals suffering from structural brain damage due to severe intoxication with several drugs.

In addition, several cases of EEG bilateral symmetry were observed in our study. This indicates a major disturbance in the interaction between the two sides of the brain possibly as a result of a specific insult on conduction systems between the two hemispheres or either within one or both of them (Schaul *et al.*, 1986; Brenner and Schaul, 1990).

Our results showed that three distinct stages of tizanidine effects were observed, an initial CNS excite followed by a sedative state, and finally by convulsive generalized electrographic seizures. Tizanidine, also, caused abnormal patterns (focal ictal discharges and epileptic forms). On the other hand, baclofen showed the same stages effects, but the sedative stage was more than in the case of tizanidine. These results agree with Elaine *et al.* (1998) who reported

that significant locomotor depression was observed after administration of 2.5 and 5 mg/kg baclofen in SLOW-1 mice, but only after 5 mg/kg in FAST-1 mice seizures were induced.

These patterns consisted of ictal generalized spike and wave discharged complexes, forming irregular waves. These drugs generally increase the voltage of slow activity, decrease the frequency of the alpha rhythm, and increase beta activity. Our results agree with Endmann and Kutz (2005) who reported that the EEG shows a high degree of continuous irregular slow waves over both hemispheres in the delta and theta activity range due to administration baclofen. This gives reason to assume encephalitis.

The effects of the two drugs have suggested that the combination of increased slow activity and increased beta activity is characteristic, suggesting sedative effects. Similar findings occur in the two sides of the brain except that beta activity was decreased. These drugs caused synchronous rhythmic activity, focal sharp waves, spikes, spike and wave complexes and wave activity, and paroxysmal delta activity. Focal and other epileptiform abnormalities, as well as seizures, occur frequently during the first two weeks.

The patterns of localized epileptiform activity consisted of single or repetitive focal spikes sharp waves and their combination, with slow waves these produce partial damage in circumscribed cortex area. Acute focal epileptiform activity is produced by Varsity kind's cerebral lesions (Sphelmann, 1980).

Data represented in Table (2) indicate a significant reduction in serum levels of GSH, Vit E, Vit C and SOD activity. There was also significant elevation of GPX activity and MDA levels in tizanidine and baclofen treated rats through 4 weeks treatment period .

Table (3) showed the effect of both drugs on the same parameters in the rat lung. The data revealed a significant reduction in GSH, Vit E, Vit C levels, SOD activity and a significant increase in GPX activity and MDA levels on 2nd, 3rd and 4th

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weeks of treatment. There was no significant effect observed on the 1st week of treatment except the reduction of Vit E levels. The effect of tizanidine on lung antioxidants level is more pronounced than that of baclofen .

Comhair and Erzurum (2002) reported that lung diseases occur in response to oxidative and nitrosative stress . The lung ability to respond to oxidative stress depends largely on its capacity to up- regulate protective antioxidant capacity

Oxidative stress can result in oxidation of cellular constituents such as low molecular weight thiol-containing compounds including glutathione, protein thiols, as well as, other functional groups on macromolecules and peroxidation of lipids and other susceptible cellular constituents (Reed, 2001).

In the present study the two muscle relaxant drugs, tizanidine and Baclofen elevated lipid peroxide (MDA) levels and depleted reduced glutathione (GSH) in rats serum and lung throughout four weeks treatment. This was in accordance with Koul *et al.* (2001) and Ermis *et al.* (2005) who reported the depletion of GSH with an increase in MDA levels after exposure to cigarette smoke, a variety of substances such as allergens, certain chemicals as nitrogen mustards (cancer chemotherapeutic agent), acetaminophen [an analgesic drug] (Reed, 2001) and in asthma (wood *et al.* 2003).

All tissues and cells contain defense systems for detoxification of biological reactive intermediates of oxygen to prevent cellular damage. Formation of H₂O₂ leads to the consumption of GSH as glutathione peroxidase (GPX) activity transforms the H₂O₂ to H₂O and GSH to GSSG (Reed, 2001). SOD and GPX form an important part of the antioxidant defense system. SOD catalyses the dismutation of O₂⁻ into oxygen and hydroperoxide which is then acted upon by GPX to form H₂O₂. SOD activity has been reported to be increased, decreased , or unchanged in asthmatics compared with controls. GPX activity has been reported to be decreased or unchanged in asthmatics (Wood *et al.*, 2003) and in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells exposed to trace elements (Kuppusamy *et*

al., 2005). The present results indicate the elevation of GPX activity and the reduction of SOD activity after tizanidine and baclofen administration for a month in the serum and lung of male rats. Therefore, the current results are in accordance with the previous results .

Vitamin C and E are powerful nonenzymatic antioxidants, free radical scavengers and are well known inhibitors of lipid peroxidation. Vit E is integrated into cell membranes where it can protect against the peroxidation of membrane lipids. GSH and ascorbic acid (Vit C) are thought to be the reducing agents that regenerate the oxidized form of Vit E (Henderson and Nikula, 2001).

In the present study Vit E and C levels were reduced significantly after tizanidine and baclofen treatment. This suggests that oxidative stress in the form of elevated lipid peroxides together with impaired antioxidant defense system may play a role in lung lesions that occur after tizanidine and baclofen treatment for a month .

Although tizanidine and baclofen are not known to be converted to toxic metabolites by lung tissue. Both drugs exert their effects on the lung oxidative/antioxidative process. Hodgson and Levi (2001) reported that the liver may activate chemicals that can be transported to distant tissues and produce toxicity or it may be the primary target organ depending on the dose such as toxicity produced by monocrotaline (MCT). MCT pneumo- toxicity is of particular interest because it has been used as an animal model for certain human chronic pulmonary diseases. When MCT was given (in high doses) to rats or other animals, pronounced liver injury occurred. Lower doses, that are only mildly hepatotoxic, result in lung injury and usually associated with death within several weeks.

Figure (2.1.A) shows the lung picture of untreated rat(control) with normal alveoli and bronchi and blood vessels .

Administration of tizanidine induced dense peribronchial lymphocytic infiltration and vascular dilatation with haemorrhage seen in Figures (2.1.B&C). Lung consolidation is also seen in Figures (2

.2.B&D and 2.3.A). Figure (2.4.B) shows atrophy in lung treated with tizanidine (B) compared with control in figure (2.4.A). Addition of baclofen shows a decrease of peribronchial lymphocytic infiltration without consolidation or haemorrhage (Figure 2.1.c , 2.2.A&C and 2.3.B).

Morphological changes in the lung, after administration of tizanidine, were dense peribronchial lymphocytic infiltration, consolidation, vascular dilatation and haemorrhage. Baclofen also caused cellular and vascular changes but less than tizanidine. Nabila *et al.* (2001) reported that the lungs of rats treated with the drug (pyriproxifen) revealed marked congestion, cellular infiltration and thickening of inter-alveolar septa. The present study coincided with those of Strivastava (1984) who studied the biochemical and pathological effects of fly ash on the lung, liver and blood of rats.

As shown in Table (4) the cellularity of the spleen was highly significantly suppressed in rat during the early period of treatment with either drugs. There was statistically significant difference after long-term administration of baclofen and tizanidine compared with that of the saline control group.

The results of Con A (5, 10 μ g/ml) stimulated splenic lymphocytes showed significant enhancement during the period of baclofen treatment as compared to control rats, Table (4).

The results of LPS (5, 10 μ g/ml) stimulated splenic lymphocytes showed that a significant interaction between the administration of baclofen and LPS responses, with a significant increase during the first three weeks of treatment. After that, a general decline in the proliferative response was recorded at the four week of treatment as compared with control rats.

The results of ConA (5, 10 μ g/ml) -stimulated splenic lymphocytes showed that there was a significant decrease throughout the period of administration of tizanidine as compared to the saline control rats (Table 4).

The results of LPS (5, 10 μ g/ml) -stimulated splenic lymphocytes showed

significant difference during the period after tizanidine treatment (Table 4).

The suppressive effect of drug increased in a time and dose- dependent manner when compared with that of the saline control rats (Table 4).

The results of the IL-2 production using ConA (5 μ g/ml)-stimulated splenic lymphocytes showed that daily administration of baclofen induced a highly significant suppression in the production of IL-2 during the period of treatment.

Also, the administration of tizanidine induced a highly significant suppression in the production of IL-2 using ConA (5 μ g/ml) -stimulated splenic lymphocytes during the first three weeks. However, there was a significant interaction between tizanidine and production of IL-2 which significantly increased during the four week of chronic treatment compared with the saline control rat (Table 5).

The importance of immunomodulatory effects of different drugs of abuse on increased susceptibility of drug abusers to infections is well documented (Levy, 1989; Donahoe, 1990; Karch, 1993 ; Kalashniltov *et al.*, 2002). Thus, the possible effects of baclofen and tizanidine on some immunological parameters, were included in the present study. The results showed inhibitory activity of tizanidine on proliferation of splenocyte triggered by Con A, LPS and IL-2 production cell activities. The results in Tables (4&5) also showed a significant increase after baclofen on proliferation of splenocyte induced by Con A, LPS at the early stage of treatment, then significant decrease at the last period of treatment. However, there was decrease of IL-2 production at the first three weeks, followed by an increase in the last week after long administration.

These results showed that, baclofen and tizanidine-induced effects resemble those of diazepam in *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies (Wang *et al.*, 1984; Schlumpf *et al.*, 1990 & 1992; Ramseier *et al.*, 1993; Mediratta and Sharma, 2002). Chan *et al.* (1993) reported that the evaluated serum soluble IL-2 receptor (sIL-2R), a marker of T-lymphocyte activation *in vivo*, could be

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useful to monitor disease activity in asthma. Serum IL-2R level was significantly higher in an acute asthma than in stable disease.

Low levels of glutathione in the current study supported the reduction of IL-2 where Comhair and Erzurum, 2002 reported that the glutathione system is altered in lung inflammatory conditions. Levels of glutathione modulate the T helper type 1 (Th1) vs. the Th2 immune response pattern. For example, high levels of glutathione in patients with chronic beryllium disease (CBD) may contribute to development and/or maintenance of a chronic Th1 cell-mediated (contains IL-2) immune response to beryllium, whereas low GSH levels may contribute to the development or maintenance of Th2 cell immune response in asthma.

Considering the effect of tizanidine and baclofen on the immunological parameters tested in this study (Table 4&5) showed that these drugs may contribute to the susceptibility of drug addicts to infectious

diseases. Further investigation may reveal the mechanisms by which these drugs affect immunological parameters, and further studies are needed to confirm these observations.

In conclusion tizanidine and baclofen, in the used doses for four weeks, caused damage to lungs, inhibitory activity on proliferation of splenocyte triggered by Con A, LPS and IL-2 production cell activities and, thus, may increase susceptibility of drug abusers to infectious diseases. The two drugs produced several abnormal patterns including increase epileptiform discharges and synchronous rhythmic activity of the rat EEG. The two drugs produced diffuse slowing, with increased beta and delta activity and decreased alpha activity, with superimposed beta activity. Tizanidine was more effective than baclofen. Therefore, these drugs must be used with strict health precautions, and it is favorable to take antioxidants (Vit E and C) during using such drugs.

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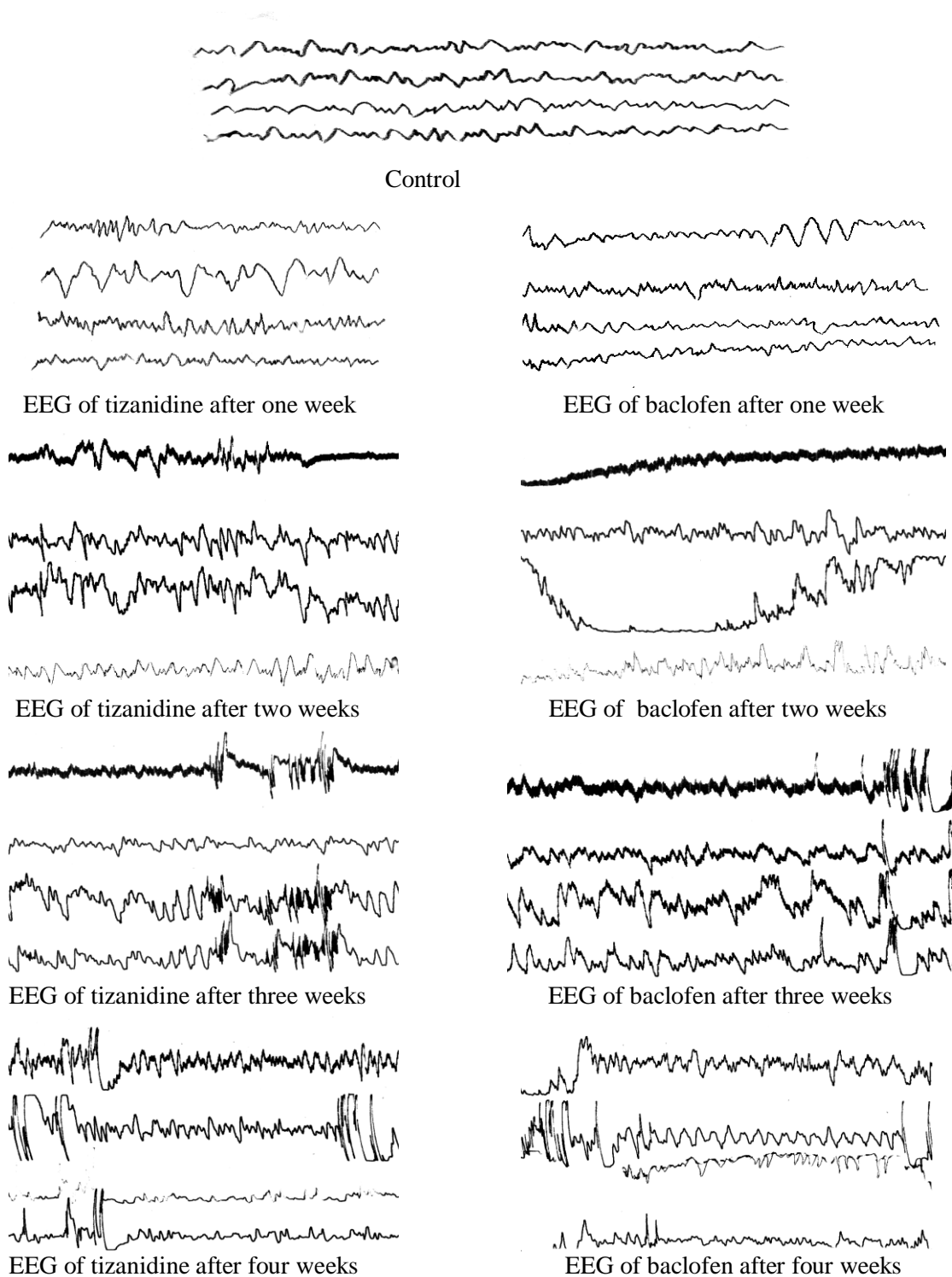
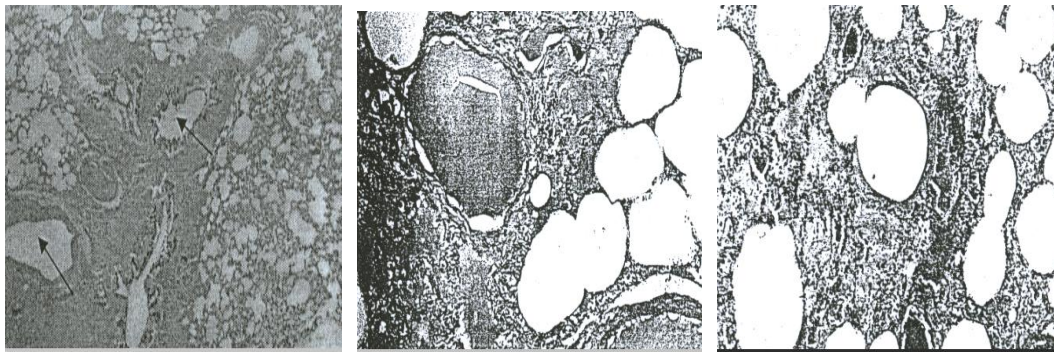
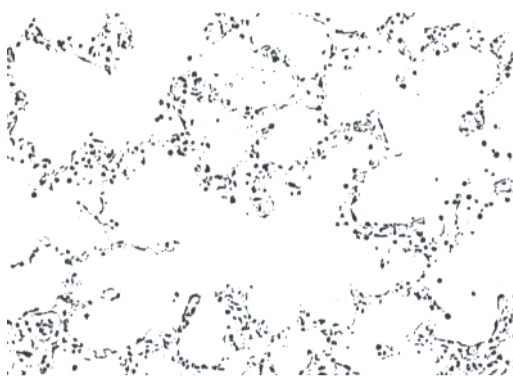


Figure (1):Electroencephalogram of an awake, moving rat showing bursts of polyspikes associated with irregular slow activity and sharp spike and polyspikes in three and four weeks after treatment with tizanidine and baclofen.
 Electrode arrangements are:A=Right motor-left motor;B=Right visual-Left visual;C=Right motor-Right visual;D=Left motor-left visual.
 Calibrations: \downarrow = 1mm = 12.5uv/1sec.

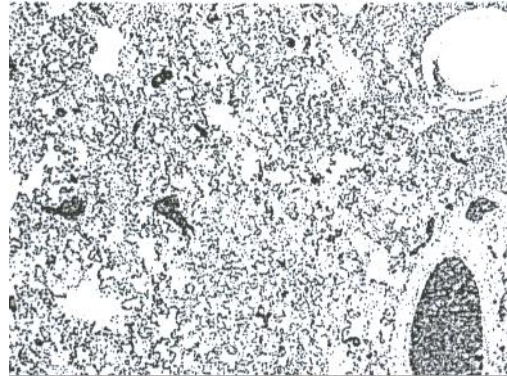


A(Lung control) B(Lung treated with tizanidine) C(lung treated with tizanidine)

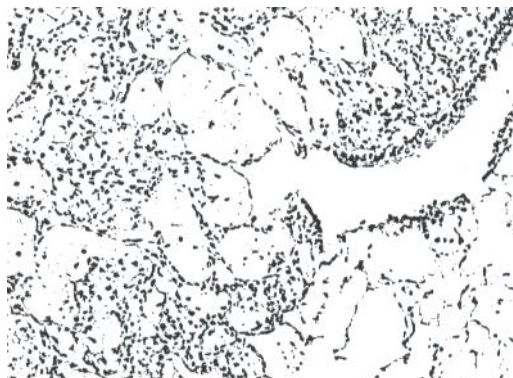
Figure(2.1):Transverse Section(T.S.) in the rat lung showing in (A):Normal bronchi and blood vessels;(B): thickening and exudates in the inter- alveolar spaces; (C): lung congestion and oedema(H&E).



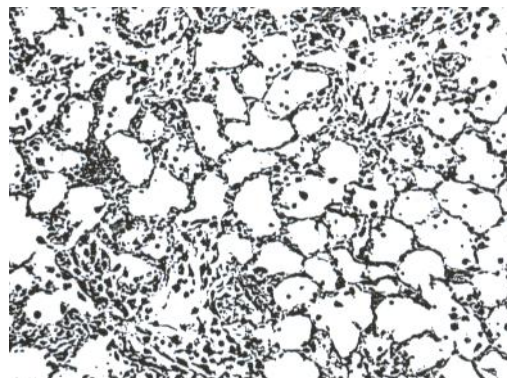
A (Lung treated with baclofen)



B (Lung treated with tizanidine)



C (Lung treated with baclofen)



D (Lung treated with tizanidine)

Figure(2.2):Transverse Section(T.S.) in the rat lung showing in (A):Pulmonary oedema an chronic treatment with Bclofen , a slight inflammatory reaction is present but little evidence of degenerative change is detected;(B): Pulmonary oedema an chronic treatment with tizanidine ,showed lesion is associated with a pronounced inflammatory reaction and congestion;(C): Pulmonary oedema an chronic treatment with baclofen induced macrophage degeneration and an associated inflammatory cell infiltration;(D): Pulmonary oedema an chronic treatment with tizanidine showing congestion, inflammation, alveolar wall degeneration and focal fibroblast proliferation.(H&E).

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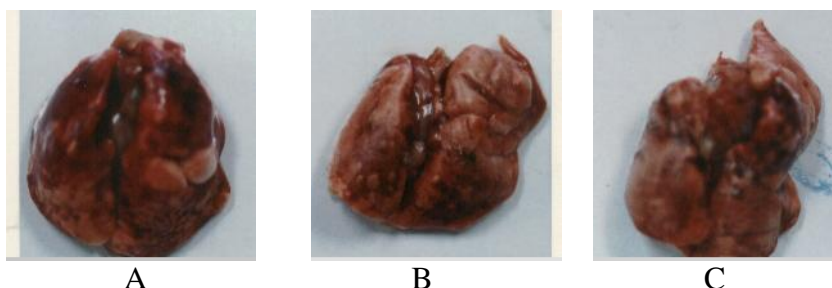


Figure (2.3):Lung treated with tizanidine shows hemorrhage (bleeding) (A&B) ; C shows lung treated with baclofen hemorrhage

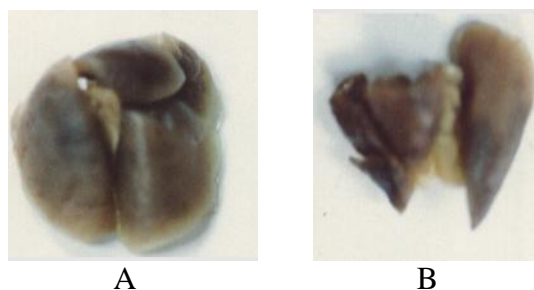


Figure (2.4)Lung treated with tizanidine shows atrophy in B, compared with control in A .

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التأثيرات السامة لبعض العقاقير المضادة للتشنج على النشاط الكهربى للمخ وبعض الدراسات الكيميائية الحيوية والمناعية على الجرذان.

فتحى عباس قناوى - إيناس الجعراوى - حنان مصطفى

المركز القومى للبحوث الاجتماعية والجنائية

تمت دراسة سمية عقارى التيزانيدىن والباكوفن فى ذكور الجرذان، حيث استخدمت الجرعة السريرية الفمية للتيزانيدىن والباكوفن (216 و0، 54 و0مجم /100جم من وزن جسم الجرذ / يوم، على التوالي) لمدة أربعة أسابيع. أوضحت النتائج أن تعاطى العقارين يُسببُ ضرراً فى الرئة، وله تأثير واضح على بعض وظائف الرئة الحيوية. حيث أظهرت النتائج انخفاض ملحوظ فى محتوى مصل الدم والرئة من مادة الجلوتاثيون المختزلة وفيتامين هـ

و ج مع انخفاض نشاط إنزيم السوبر اكسيد ديسميوتاز. كما أن نشاط إنزيم الجلوتاثيون بيروكسيداز ومعدلات الاكسدة الفوقية للدهون الخلوية قد تزايد خلال فترة استخدام العقارين. وشملت الدراسة تأثير العقارين على انخفاض انقسام الخلايا الليمفاوية لطحال الجرذان المعالجة فى وجود منشطات الخلايا كوناكافلين أ والدهون متعددة السكريات. كما أن مستوى إفراز الخلايا الليمفاوية للسيتوكين 2 قد انخفض بشكل ملحوظ مما يزيد الفرصة للإصابة بالأمراض المعدية. كما أظهرت النتائج أيضاً ظهور عدّة أنماط شاذة فى النشاط الكهربى للمخ يتضمن ذلك إطلاق موجات صرعية متزايدة، والنشاط الإيقاعى المتزامن يشمل تباطؤ مستقيض مصحوباً بنشاط دلتا، وبيتا المتداخلة معها، ونقصاً ملحوظاً فى نشاط ألفا. وقد كان عقار التيزانيدىن أكثر تأثيراً من الباكلوفن على النشاط الكهربى للمخ.