

Antidepressant activity of ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin by using tail suspension test in Swiss albino mice on chronic administration

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Abstract

Introduction: Depression is evidenced by decreased mood and reduced activity that can affect person's thoughts, behavior, feelings, and also sense of well-being in the society. Use of long term antidepressant agent pose a significant adverse effect to vital organs hence safer drugs with antidepressant property is the need of the hour.

Objectives: To evaluate antidepressant activity of Ciprofloxacin and Levofloxacin by using Tail suspension test in Swiss albino mice on chronic administration.

Materials and Methods: Animals (Swiss albino mice) weighing in between the range of 25 to 30gms were selected for the study and administered the drugs, viz Control-1% Gum acacia, 10ml/kg, Standard- Imipramine, 10mg/kg, and compared with Ciprofloxacin (25 & 50mg/kg) and Levofloxacin (25 & 50mg/kg). All the drugs orally were administered once a day for 9 days and on 10th day, screened for antidepressant activity by suspending it from a rod 50cm above the ground and its mobility and immobility time was recorded over a six minutes' observation by discarding initial two minutes' observation to avoid bias.

Statistics: Increases in the mobility time and decrease in immobility was considered as statistically significant result based on ANOVA (post hoc Dunnet's test) statistical test with a significance probability of p value <0.05.

Results: Ciprofloxacin at 25mg/kg & 50 mg/kg has shown significant antidepressant activity with increase in duration of immobility with 64.00 ± 2.83 & 50.50 ± 1.50 sec with a p value of <0.01 respectively. Similarly, Levofloxacin in the dose of 25 and 50 mg/kg has shown significant antidepressant activity with increase in duration of immobility with 44.67 ± 2.24 and 64.67 ± 2.97 sec with a p value of <0.01 respectively.

Conclusion: In our study, we identified the potent and efficacious antidepressant activity of an antimicrobial drug viz Ciprofloxacin and Levofloxacin as antidepressant drug.

Keywords: Antidepressant, Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, Tail suspension test.

Introduction

Evaluation of depressive disorder is difficult due to its heterogeneity. Latest neurobiology suggests that stress in social life and release of stress hormones like corticosteroids, norepinephrine, serotonin, gamma amino butyric acid (GABA) etc. plays a significant role in the pathogenesis of depression.¹ Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAO-inhibitors, NaSSAs- noradrenergic and atypical antidepressant drugs are some of the different class of drugs used in depression even though it carries drawbacks like delay in onset of action and having its own adverse effects involving all most all the system of the body.²⁻³ SSRI's in over dose causes its own severe adverse effects termed as serotonin syndrome.⁴⁻⁵ Monoamine oxidase inhibitors are well known for its drug interactions which is sometimes unacceptable by many patients, thus posing the difficulty in treating depression.⁶

It was observed that, depressed patients will have increased tendency of suicidal thoughts and carry increased risk of stroke and heart attack.⁷

Even though TCAs has good efficacy, but they have narrow therapeutic index, and cause seizure at high dose and may cause death due to slowing of

cardiac conduction causing cardiac block or reentry type of ventricular arrhythmias.⁸

SSRIs are known to cause sexual dysfunction that involve role of nitric oxide possibly due to stimulatory effect of 5-HT₂ receptor in the spinal cord causing loss of libido, impotence especially in males, delayed ejaculation and or decreased orgasm.⁹

Withdrawal effect or prolonged use of SSRIs causing serotonin syndrome is not well characterized which inconclusive clinical trials results but could be attributed to neurophysiologic readjustment to compensatory mechanism for the pharmacologic activity of the SSRI.¹⁰

Quality of life will be greatly affected by antidepressants which may cause side effects from trivial nausea, vomiting to change in sleep pattern, sexual dysfunction, headache, dry mouth, dizziness, hypotension, visual disturbances commonly seen with TCAs. Even though SSRIs are better over TCAs, but still is not devoid of its own adverse effect. Overall adverse effects may vary from one preparation to other preparations of antidepressants.¹¹⁻²¹

Nevertheless, current antidepressants are still the option for treating depression despite of few drawbacks, but still there is search to find new drugs as an add on therapy to increase efficacy and decrease adverse effects of current antidepressant drugs.

Hence the following chronic study has been undertaken with the evidence of the same in our previous study on acute administration and its demonstration of antidepressant effect.

Materials and Methods

As per protocol, permission was obtained to conduct this research from the institutional animal ethics committee of A. J. Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC). All the selected animals (Swiss albino mice) were housed for 10 days to acclimatize for the experimental lab before the study. Animals (Swiss albino mice) weighing in between the range of 25 to 30gms were grouped for the study and administered the drugs, viz Control-1% Gum acacia, 10ml/kg, Standard-Imipramine, 10mg/kg, and compared with Ciprofloxacin (25 & 50mg/kg) and Levofloxacin (25 & 50mg/kg).

All the drugs orally were administered once a day for 9 days and on 10th day, screened for antidepressant activity by suspending it from a rod 50cm above the ground and its mobility and immobility time during escape reflex was recorded over a six minutes' observation by discarding initial two minutes' observation to avoid bias. All the animals were handled as per CPCSEA guidelines, New Delhi, India.

Statistics

Increases in the mobility time and decrease in immobility was considered as statistically significant result based on ANOVA (post hoc Dunnett's test) statistical test with a significance probability of p value <0.05.

Results

Table 1: Effect of Chronic treatment of Ciprofloxacin and Levofloxacin by using Tail suspension tes

Groups	Treatment (dose in mg/kg)	Duration immobility in seconds (Mean ± SD)
1	Control (1%, 0.1ml/kg),p.o	124.17 ± 2.769
2	Standard (10mg/kg,p.o Imipramine)	75.33 ± 2.742***
3	Ciprofloxacin 25mg/kg, p.o	64.00 ± 2.83***
4	Ciprofloxacin 50mg/kg, p.o	50.50 ± 1.50***
5	Levofloxacin 25mg/kg,p.o	44.67 ± 2.24***
6	Levofloxacin 50mg/kg, p.o	64.67 ± 2.97***
Mean±SD, ANOVA Dunnett's post hoc test,*p<0.05-Significant, ***p<0.001-Highly significant, p.o-per oral		

Discussion

The Forced Swim Test (FST) is widely used in testing antidepressant activity of new compounds similar to Tail Suspension Test as done in this study. In an earlier study, Levofloxacin didn't showed change in locomotor activity and immobility time in experimental animal model upto 200mg/kg. In the same study, at a dose of 600 mg/kg, Levofloxacin showed behavioral depressant signs with decrease spontaneous motor activity. In addition, it showed signs of behavior stimulation at 30 mg/kg ip and both stimulant and depressant effects at doses up to 100 mg/kg i.p in the cat behavior experiments.²² As evident from our study, Levofloxacin in comparison with prototype drug Ciprofloxacin has showed significant antidepressant activity in much lower doses compared to above study with a p value of <001 (Table 1). One of the earlier study results suggested that Levofloxacin (10 ± 20 ± 40 mg/kg i.p) had no depression-like effect in the forced swimming test (FST) in rats; exerted anxiety-like effect in the elevated plus maze test in rats; did not alter the locomotor activity in rats.²³

Conclusion

Due to this controversial results, we opine that further studies are needed to authenticate the role of

fluoroquinolones as antidepressant drug in different models.

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