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## EFFECTS OF DOPAMINERGIC DRUGS IN THE DORSAL HIPPOCAMPUS OF RATS IN THE MK801-INDUCED ANXIOLYTIC-LIKE BEHAVIOR

M.R. Zarrindast<sup>1</sup>, M. Nasehi<sup>2</sup>, M. Pournaghshband<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Cognitive Sciences, Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, <sup>2</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Basic Sciences, Azad University, Garmsar Branch, Semnan, <sup>3</sup>Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Azad University, Pharmaceutical Science Branch (Iaups), Tehran, Iran

**Introduction:** Excitatory transmission through glutamate receptors constitutes the main mode of synaptic signaling in the brain regions that are critical for cognition such as learning and anxiety.

**Objectives:** The possible involvement of dorsal hippocampal (intra-CA1) dopaminergic receptor mechanism on the anxiolytic-like response induced by NMDA receptor antagonist, MK801 has been investigated in the present study.

**Methods:** The male wistar rats were used and the elevated plus maze apparatus has been used to test parameters (%OAT, %OAE, locomotor activity, grooming, rereading and defecation) of anxiety-like behaviors in the present study.

**Results:** The data indicated that intra-CA1 administration of MK801 (2 µg/rat, intra-CA1) increased %OAT and %OAE but not other exploratory behaviors, indicating an anxiolytic-like response. Moreover, intra-CA1 injection SCH23390 (0.25, 0.5 and 1 µg/rat) and sulpiride (0.25, 0.5 and 0.75 µg/rat) by themselves, 5 min before testing have no effect on exploratory behaviors. On the other hand, co-administration of ineffective dose of SCH23390 (0.5 µg/rat) with ineffective dose of MK801 (1 µg/rat) increased %OAT but not other exploratory behaviors, suggestion anxiolytic-like behaviors. Furthermore, intra-CA1 administration of different doses of sulpiride (0.12, 0.5 and 0.75 µg/rat) 5 min before injection of effective dose of MK801 (2 µg/rat) decreased %OAT and %OAE but did not other exploratory behaviors induced by MK801.

**Conclusion:** The results may indicate modulatory effect dopaminergic system of CA1 in the anxiolytic-like response induced by MK801.