

Chronic Dopamine D1, Dopamine D2 and Combined Dopamine D1 and D2 Antagonist Treatment in *Cebus Apella* Monkeys: Antiamphetamine Effects and Extrapyrasidal Side Effects

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To determine: (1) whether the apparent lack of efficacy of dopamine D1 (D1) antagonists in the clinic might be attributable to development of tolerance to antipsychotic effects; and (2) whether combined D1 and D2 antagonism might contribute to clozapine's clinical profile, eight *Cebus apella* monkeys were chronically treated with a D1 antagonist (NNC 756) ((+)-8-chloro-7-hydroxy-3-methyl-5-(7-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine), a D2 antagonist (raclopride) or a combination of the two antagonists. Prior neuroleptic exposure had resulted in oral dyskinesia in seven monkeys and sensitization to dystonia in all, yielding a model for acute and chronic extrapyramidal side effects (EPS). Dextroamphetamine-induced motoric unrest and stereotypies were used as a psychosis model. We found tolerance toward dystonic symptoms during D1 and D1 + D2 treatments but not during D2 treatment. D2 but not

D1 or D1 + D2 antagonism caused exacerbation of dyskinesia. Both D1 and D1 + D2 antagonism were superior to D2 antagonism alone in counteracting the amphetamine-induced behaviors, with no tolerance to antiamphetamine effects. These findings suggest: (1) reasons other than tolerance (e.g., differences among antagonists) may explain the lack of efficacy in clinical trials with D1 antagonists; and (2) that D1 antagonism alone or combined and modest D1 and D2 antagonism offers the potential of antipsychotic efficacy with a lower risk of EPS than traditional D2 antagonism. Further clinical trials with D1 or combined D1 and D2 antagonists are, therefore, recommended.

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In the search for new antipsychotics, animal studies have predicted the clinical development of dopamine D1-like (hereafter termed DA D1) antagonists to be a particularly promising avenue of research. Thus, DA D1 antagonists have robustly met criteria for antipsychotic potential in both rodents and nonhuman primates, and studies have also predicted a lesser potential for extrapyramidal side effects (EPS) in the form of dystonia and dyskinesia (Ellenbroek et al. 1989; Collins et al. 1991; Nielsen and Andersen 1992; Gerlach and

Hansen 1993; Glenthøj et al. 1993; Waddington 1993; Lublin et al. 1994; Kakigi et al. 1995; Peacock and Gerlach, in press). Of especial interest is the rapid induction of tolerance to DA D1 antagonist-induced dystonia as opposed to the lack of/or minimal tolerance toward dystonia induced by traditional antipsychotics (i.e., DA D2 antagonists) (Coffin et al. 1989; Christensen 1990; McHugh and Coffin 1991; Gerlach and Hansen 1993; Lublin et al. 1993; Lublin et al. 1994; Casey 1995). Furthermore, it has been proposed that clozapine's unique clinical profile (high antipsychotic efficacy with low EPS potential) might either be attributable to its relatively strong blockade of DA D1 receptors, as compared to traditional antipsychotics (40–50% vs. 0–30%) or to its combined and modest blockade of both DA D1 and D2 receptors (maximum 50% blockade of DA D2 receptors vs. 70–80% with traditional antipsychotics) (Coward et al. 1989; Farde et al. 1992; Gerlach and Hansen 1992; Gerlach 1991; Daly and Waddington 1994).

Opposed to the predictions from animal models, the clinical experience with DA D1 antagonists has been disappointing. Thus, although clinical trials with DA D1 antagonists have confirmed a low EPS potential, they have, at best, shown only a modest antipsychotic efficacy (de Beaupaire et al. 1995; Den Boer et al. 1995; Karle et al. 1995; Karlsson et al. 1995). This incongruity between the results of animal models presumed predictive of antipsychotic potential and the clinical results to date leads to several questions. Among these are whether it might be that the tolerance to dystonia found to be so promising in relation to DA D1 antagonists' EPS potential, is also conferred to their antipsychotic efficacy (Barnes and Gerlach 1995). Another question is whether it might be fruitful to try to mimic clozapine's balanced and modest DA D1 and D2 antagonism. The intent of the present study is to address these two issues.

METHODS

Animals

Eight male *Cebus apella* monkeys were used. The monkeys had previously been treated with NNC 756 for 14 weeks and with raclopride for 14 weeks (Gerlach and Hansen 1993), and all were sensitized to acute EPS in the form of dystonia. Seven had developed mild-to-moderate oral dyskinesia (see Figure 1, placebo). The monkeys had been free of medication for 8 months prior to the present investigation.

During the investigation, the monkeys were housed in separate cages, under a 12-hour light/dark cycle, in a temperature- and humidity-regulated environment.

Drugs and Design

NNC 756 ((+)-8-chloro-7-hydroxy-3-methyl-5-(7-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine) was used as a D1 antagonist, raclopride as a D2 antagonist, and saline as placebo. The doses of the antagonists were 2/3 of the dose previously shown to produce dystonia when given alone and 1/3 of the dystonic dose of each when combined (see below) (Gerlach and Hansen 1993). As a psychosis model, a fixed dose of dextroamphetamine (0.25 mg/kg), producing moderate arousal and motoric unrest and mild stereotypies (see Figure 2, and Figure 3) was used. The drugs were dissolved in saline immediately before their SC injection and were given as follows.

The antagonists were given daily for three periods of 10 days: first a combination of NNC 756 0.006 mg/kg + raclopride 0.006 mg/kg, then NNC 756 0.012 mg/kg to four monkeys and raclopride 0.012 mg/kg to the other four (in randomized order) and, finally, the alternate antagonists to the four + four monkeys. A 4-day drug-free period was imposed between treatment phases.

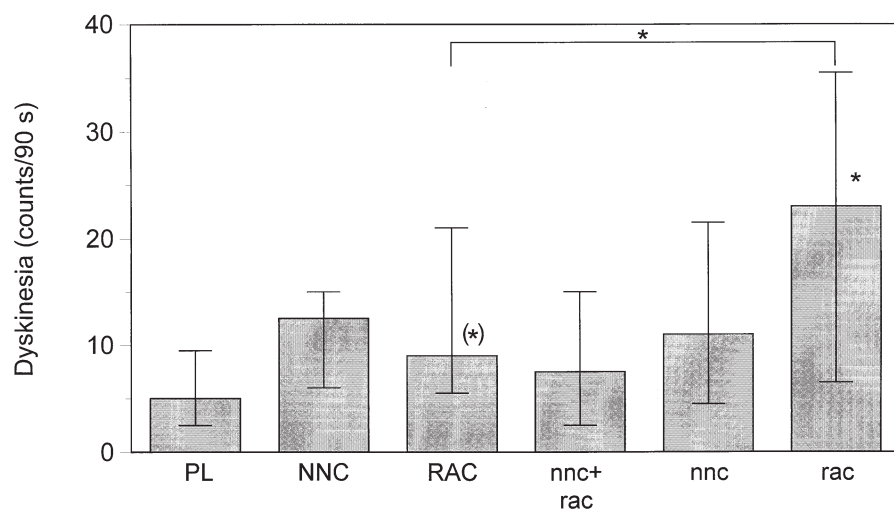


Figure 1. Dyskinesia (counts/90 s).

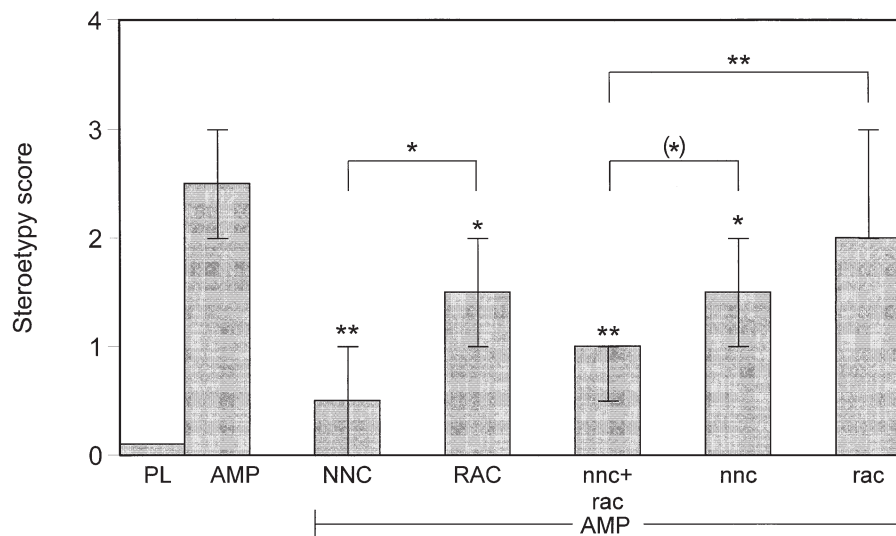


Figure 2. Stereotypy score.

Before the study and at the end, the monkeys were tested with saline (no significant difference in any behavioral parameters). Before the study, in the middle and the end, the monkeys were tested with dextroamphetamine given alone (no significant difference in amphetamine effects). During each antagonist treatment period, dextroamphetamine was also given in combination with the antagonists (simultaneously by separate injection) on days 3 and 10 to test for tolerance toward antiamphetamine effects.

After the study, acute tests were performed with raclopride 0.006 mg/kg and NNC 756 0.006 mg/kg alone and combined with dextroamphetamine 0.025 mg/kg to allow comparison with the effects of the combination of the two antagonists. Tests with dextroamphetamine 0.025 mg/kg alone and saline showed no significant differences in any behavioral parameters, as compared to the tests in the chronic study. All sessions

were videotaped and later rated by an investigator blind to the given medication.

Evaluation

The monkeys' behaviors were rated at time 0 and at 15-min intervals for a period of 90 min. Oral dyskinesia was rated by actual counts/time period. Sedation, bradykinesia, dystonia, arousal, motoric unrest, and stereotypy were rated on a scale from 0 to 6 (Table 1). All parameters were rated at baseline for each session, and for each drug and drug combination.

Statistics

The data were evaluated by means of Friedman's test followed by Wilcoxon's paired test for nonparametric data, when Friedman's test was significant. The accepted level

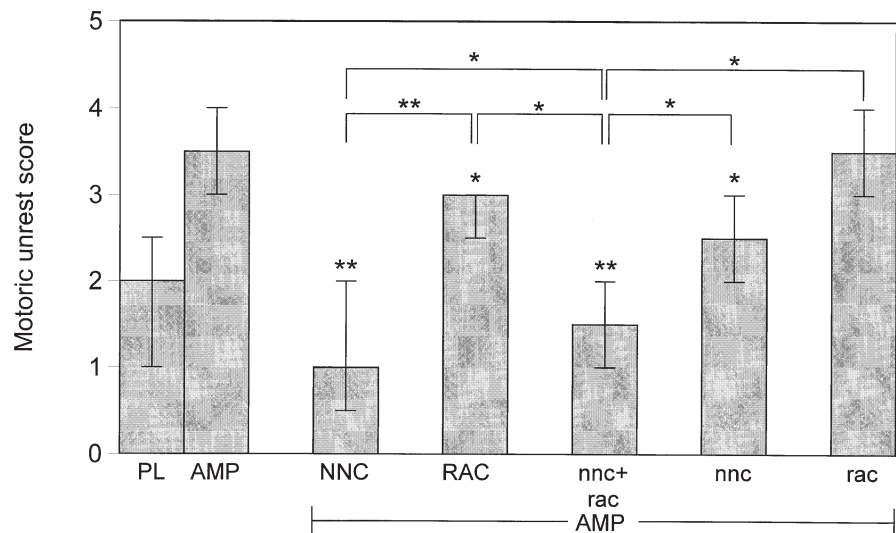


Figure 3. Motoric unrest score.

Table 1. Evaluation

Behavior Rating Scale		Score
Sedation	Degree of drowsiness/sleep ranging from awake to sleeping and cannot be awakened even by gross stimuli, e.g. hand clapping	0–6
Bradykinesia	Degree of slow/stiffened movements ranging from normal tempo and flexibility to fixed, maintained postures	0–6
Catalepsy/dystonia	Degree of sustained abnormal posture or stiffened movements (catalepsy)/clonic movements of the head, neck, limbs, and trunk, gaping and grimacing (dystonia)	0–6
Arousal	Degree of awakesness/vigilance ranging from not awake to extreme vigilance in relation to self or the environment	0–6
Motoric unrest	Motoric activity including fidgeting in place or movement in space	0–6
Stereotypy	Persistent repetition of senseless movements	0–6

The effects of the drugs were evaluated by means of the following rating scales 0, not present; 1, extremely mild (can be a variation of the normal); 2, mild (slightly more pronounced than normal); 3, mild to moderate; 4, moderate to severe (behavior pronounced but discontinuous); 5, severe; 6, extremely severe (behavior continuous).

of significance was $p < .05$; whereas, $p < .1$ was accepted as a tendency. The effect of the drugs is indicated by bar graphs expressing the median of the scores for the eight animals over the first 90 min after drug injection. Because the results cannot be expected to follow a Gaussian distribution, the interquartile range is used as a measure of the spread. The interquartile range is the length of the interval containing the central 50% of observations.

antiamphetamine effects rated on days 3 and 10 (see Table 1 and Table 2). Therefore, to facilitate the written and graphic presentation of data, the means of the ratings for days 1 and 7 and days 3 and 10, respectively, are used in the following. However, data from the different trial days are provided in Table 2 and Table 3.

RESULTS

There were neither significant changes in antagonist effects rated on days 1 and 7, nor significant changes in

EFFECTS OF NNC 756 AND RACLOPRIDE

Sedation

Each of the antagonist treatments (NNC 756, 0.012 mg/kg; raclopride, 0.012 mg/kg; and NNC 756 + raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg of each), produced significant sedation as

Table 2. Antagonist Effects

	Placebo		NNC 0.012 mg/kg		RAC 0.012 mg/kg		NNC 0.006 + RAC 0.006 mg/kg	
	Before	After	Day 1	Day 7	Day 1	Day 7	Day 1	Day 7
Sedation								
Median	0.5	0.5	2	2	2	2	2	2
Range	0–1	0–1	1–3	1–4	1–2	0–3	1.5–3	1.5–3
Bradykinesia								
Median	0	0	1.5	1	1.5	0.5	1.5	1
Range	0–0	0–0	1–3	1–2	0–2	0–2	0–3	0–2
Dystonia								
Median	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0
Range	0–0	0–0	0–1	0–0	0–0	0–1	0–1	0–1
Dyskinesia								
Median	5	4	13.5	10	12	6	5.5	9
Range	0.5–7	2–13	6.5–17	5–12	5–22	5–16	2.5–11	2–20

Sedation, bradykinesia, dystonia, and dyskinesia days 1 and 7 of D1, D2, and combined D1 and D2 antagonist treatment and during placebo before and after the antagonist trials. In all cases comparisons between days 1 and 7 and between placebo before and after were nonsignificant.

Table 3. Antiamphetamine effects.

	Amphetamine 0.25 mg/kg			NNC 0.012 mg/kg		RAC 0.012 mg/kg		NNC 0.006 + RAC 0.006 mg/kg	
	Before	During	After	Day 3	Day 10	Day 3	Day 10	Day 3	Day 10
Arousal									
Median	4–5	5	4.5	1.5	1.5	3	3	2	1.5
Range	3–5	4–5	3.5–5	1–2.5	1–2	2–4	2–3.5	1.5–2	1–2
Stereotypy									
Median	2	3	3	0	0	1.5	1	1	0
Range	1.5–3.5	2–3	1–3	0–1	0–1	1–2	1–2	1–1	0–1
Motoric unrest									
Median	4	4	3	1.5	1	3	3	1	1
Range	2.5–4.5	3–4	2.5–4	0–2	0–2	1.5–3	2–3	1.5–2.5	0.5–2

Arousal, stereotypy and motoric unrest days 3 and 10 of D1, D2, and D1 and D2 antagonist treatment and during amphetamine before, during and after the antiamphetamine trails. In all cases, comparisons between days 3 and 10 and between amphetamine before, during, and after the antagonist trails were nonsignificant.

compared to placebo, with no significant differences between the treatments (Figure 4). As seen from Table 2, there was no tolerance to sedation with any of the antagonist treatments.

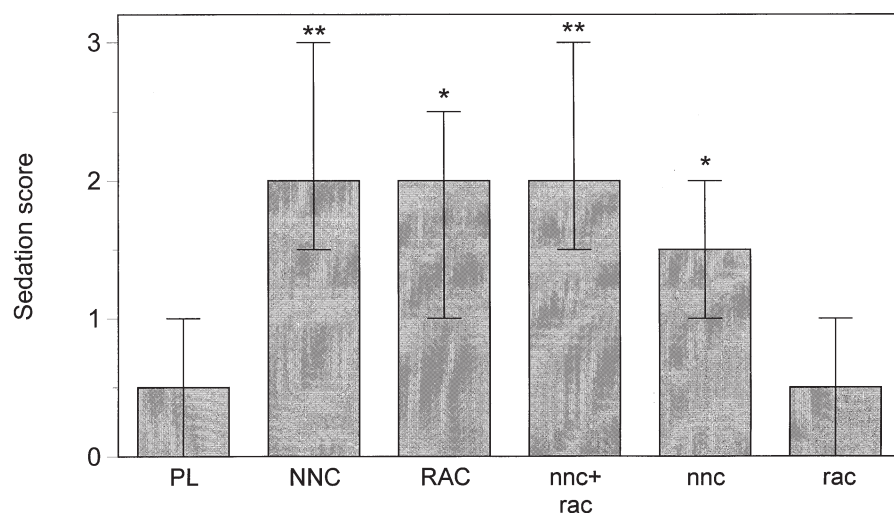
NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg given alone also produced significant sedation; whereas, raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg did not (Figure 4). There was no significant difference in the degree of sedation produced by NNC 756 + raclopride and NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg given alone.

Bradykinesia and Dystonia

Both NNC 756, 0.012 mg/kg alone and NNC 756 + raclopride resulted in significant bradykinesia, as compared to placebo; whereas, raclopride, 0.012 mg/kg alone only tended to produce bradykinesia (Figure 5). Comparing the treatments to one another, there was no significant difference in the induction of bradykinesia.

Although it might seem from Table 2 that tolerance to bradykinesia occurred in all antagonist treatment groups, there were no significant differences between days 1 and 7 in any group attributable to a number of animals having unchanged scores.

NNC 756, 0.012 mg/kg alone resulted in catalepsy (dystonia degree = 1) in six monkeys on day 1, this effect disappearing in three monkeys, lessening in two (being of shorter duration), and remaining unchanged in one, on day 7. NNC 756 + raclopride caused catalepsy in three monkeys on day 1, this effect diminishing in two, and remaining unchanged in one, on day 7. Raclopride, 0.012 mg/kg resulted in catalepsy in three animals on day 1, this effect lessening in two, and worsening in one, on day 7. Furthermore, one monkey, which did not have any dystonic reaction on day 1 of raclopride, developed moderate dystonia (degree 3) on day 7 of raclopride treatment. Neither NNC 756 nor

**Figure 4.** Sedation score.

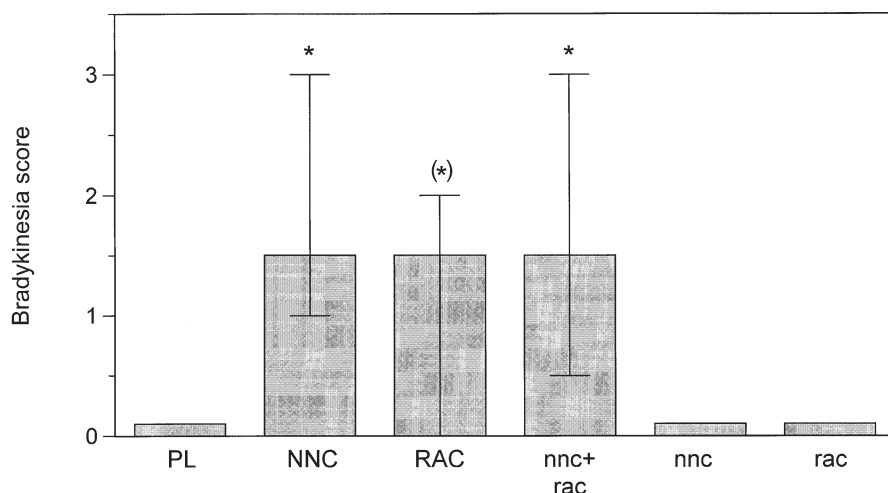


Figure 5. Bradykinesia score.

raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg given alone caused bradykinesia or dystonic reactions in any of the animals.

Dyskinesia

As previously stated, seven of the monkeys had mild-to-moderate oral dyskinesia (Figure 1). Neither NNC 756, 0.012 mg/kg alone nor NNC 756 + raclopride resulted in any difference as compared to placebo; whereas, raclopride, 0.012 mg/kg alone tended to result in increased dyskinesia (Figure 1). Considering Table 2, it might seem that dyskinesia increased during the D1 antagonist and combined D1 and D2 antagonist treatments, falling during the D2 antagonist treatment. There were no significant differences between days 1 and 7 however, because some animals remained unchanged, some increased, and some decreased scores in all treatment groups.

Raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg significantly increased oral dyskinesia both as compared to placebo (Figure 1) and to raclopride, 0.012 mg/kg ($p < .05$), but not as compared to NNC 756 + raclopride. NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg produced no difference as compared to placebo, NNC 756, 0.012 mg/kg, or NNC 756 + raclopride.

ANTIAMPHETAMINE EFFECTS OF NNC 756 AND RACLOPRIDE

Dextroamphetamine, 0.25 mg/kg induced a syndrome of moderate-to-extreme arousal, mild-to-moderate stereotypical behavior and moderate motoric unrest (Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure 6). Each animal had its own characteristic reaction. While some monkeys moved about the cage, in a repetitive pattern, others remained in place, shifting from side to side with rapid scanning

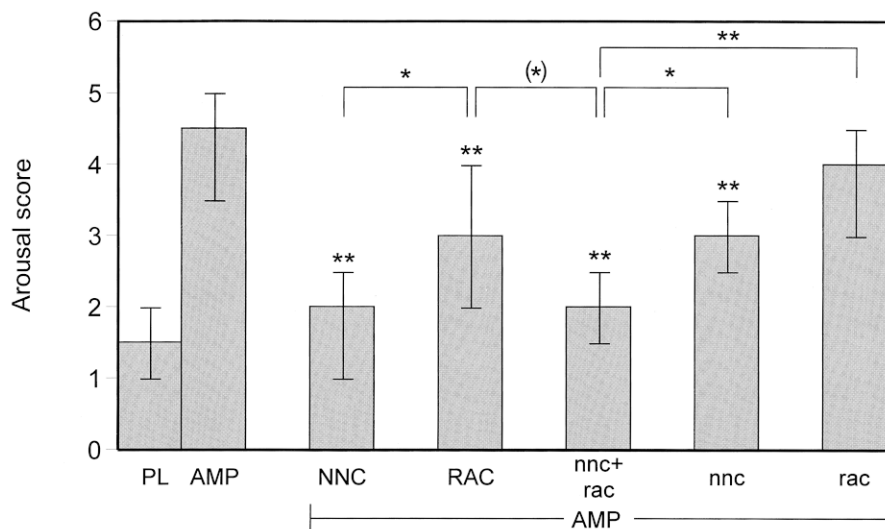


Figure 6. Arousal score.

movements of the head. Some of the animals appeared hallucinated; for example, gazing fixed by a spot where nothing of objective interest could be seen.

Arousal

NNC 756, 0.012 mg/kg, raclopride, 0.012 mg/kg and NNC 756 + raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg of each, all significantly reduced amphetamine induced arousal, NNC 756 being significantly superior to raclopride but not to NNC 756 + raclopride (Figure 6). NNC 756 + raclopride tended to be superior to raclopride in the lessening of arousal. As seen from Table 3, no tolerance occurred to any of the antagonists' effects upon amphetamine induced arousal.

NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg also significantly reduced amphetamine-induced arousal; whereas, raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg did not (Figure 6). NNC 756 + raclopride caused a significantly greater reduction of arousal than NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg and raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg alone.

Stereotypy

NNC 756, 0.012 mg/kg, NNC 756 + raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg of each and raclopride, 0.012 mg/kg all significantly reduced amphetamine-induced stereotypy (Figure 2). NNC 756 was superior to raclopride but not to raclopride + NNC 756. No tolerance occurred to any of the antagonists' antistereotypical effects, indeed, the scores fell from days 1 to 7 or remained unchanged (Table 3).

NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg also significantly reduced amphetamine-induced stereotypy; whereas, raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg had no significant effect (Figure 2). The combination of raclopride + NNC 756 only tended to be superior to NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg alone in counteracting amphetamine-induced stereotypy; whereas, it was significantly superior to raclopride 0.006 mg/kg alone.

Motoric Unrest

NNC 756, NNC 756 + raclopride and raclopride all significantly inhibited amphetamine induced motoric unrest (Figure 3). NNC 756 was superior to raclopride and to NNC 756 + raclopride; whereas, NNC 756 + raclopride was superior to raclopride. No tolerance occurred to any of the antagonists' effects upon motoric unrest, scores either falling or remaining unchanged, although two monkeys in the raclopride group did have a higher score on day 7 than 1 (Table 3).

NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg, but not raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg, significantly reduced amphetamine-induced motoric unrest (Figure 3). The combination of NNC 756 + raclopride was superior both to NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg and to raclopride 0.006 mg/kg alone in combating amphetamine induced motoric unrest.

DISCUSSION

As stated in the introduction, the present investigation was conducted to illuminate two aspects of the potential role of D1 antagonism in the quest for new antipsychotics. These two were: (1) to clarify whether the tolerance to dystonia seen during chronic D1 antagonism is conferred to the antipsychotic potential as predicted by antiamphetamine effects; and (2) to determine whether combination of modest D1 and D2 antagonism might offer advantages over D1 or D2 antagonism alone.

Effects of Chronic D1 Antagonism

In this study, no tolerance developed toward the anti-amphetamine effects of the D1 antagonist NNC 756. That a 10-day treatment period was sufficient to observe tolerance is supported both in other studies (Christensen 1990; Gerlach and Hansen 1993; Lublin et al. 1993; Lublin et al. 1994; Casey 1995) and in the present investigation. Thus, catalepsy disappeared or lessened in five of the six animals having this reaction.

Based on our results, insofar as the amphetamine model is reliable in predicting antipsychotic efficacy, tolerance to the antipsychotic effects of D1 antagonists may not explain the lack of efficacy found in the clinical trials. As for the model's reliability, studies of a number of potential and proved antipsychotics have shown an extremely good match between our results and those found in the clinic (e.g., that neither SDZ 912 nor -(3) PPP would be viable alternatives to traditional neuroleptics; whereas, seroquel shows promise) (Peacock and Gerlach 1993; Peacock and Gerlach, in press). The only apparent exceptions are results of clinical trials with D1 antagonists, but the D1 antagonists that reached the clinic were not those tested in the model (because they were not made available to us).

Experience with D1 antagonists in the clinic is, indeed, very limited. Thus far, only four trials have been conducted, three with SCH 39166 and one with NNC 687. Although the trial with NNC 687 showed modest results, the trials with SCH 39166 were especially confounding, because they not only indicated a lack of the expected antipsychotic efficacy, but, to the contrary, pointed to a possible exacerbation of psychosis.

As an alternative explanation of the outcome of the clinical trials, we are currently pursuing the proposal raised by others that all D1 antagonists are not equal. Thus, there is a growing body of evidence that some D1 antagonists as traditionally defined by antagonism of dopamine-induced stimulation of cAMP, may have agonist effects either at another, undiscovered D1 receptor or at an unexplored D1 receptor transducer system (e.g. inositol phosphatase) (Mailman et al. 1986; Rogers et al. 1990; Wachtel and White 1991; Daly and Waddington 1993; Downes and Waddington 1993; Latinen 1993; Gi-

ambalvo and Wagner 1994; Undie et al. 1994; Deveney and Waddington 1995).

Effects of D1 + D2 Antagonism and Either D1 or D2 Antagonism

All of the chronic antagonist treatments resulted in slight, but significant, sedation and bradykinesia, with no significant difference between the treatments and with no development of tolerance toward these effects. Although an element of sedation can be a desirable effect in the treatment of agitated psychotic states, the induction of bradykinesia implies that any of these treatment modalities entails a risk of EPS in the form of parkinsonism.

Considering the potential to induce other EPS, whereas there was a trend toward improvement of dystonic symptoms during treatment with the D1 antagonist and the combined D1 + D2 antagonist treatment, results with the D2 antagonist were mixed. Thus, although dystonic symptoms lessened in two animals treated with raclopride, they worsened in two, one animal having no signs of dystonia on day 1 and having moderate dystonia on day 7. These findings support an advantage of D1 antagonism and indicate a possible advantage of D1 + D2 antagonist antagonism over D2 antagonism in relation to an on-going dystonic potential.

As to dyskinesia, neither NNC 756 alone nor the combination of NNC 756 + raclopride aggravated oral dyskinesia, whereas, raclopride did. These findings again point to an advantage of either D1 antagonism alone or combined D1 + D2 antagonism, as compared to D2 antagonism in relation to EPS. That raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg resulted in significantly greater dyskinesia than raclopride, 0.012 mg/kg might be explained by the bradykinetic effects of the latter dose, because it has been well established that parkinsonian side effects can mask dyskinesia (Nordic Dyskinesia Study Group 1986). That NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg + raclopride 0.006 mg/kg did not exacerbate oral dyskinesia, whereas, raclopride, 0.006 mg/kg did, when given alone, might again be explained by the bradykinetic effects of the combination treatment, although an alternative explanation also seems viable. Thus, the element of D1 antagonism in the combined treatment may have counterbalanced the dyskinetic effects of the D2 antagonism (for discussion, see Peacock and Gerlach 1997). This would explain why the combined treatment, although not more bradykinetic than raclopride, 0.012 mg/kg, did not aggravate dyskinesia; whereas, raclopride at this dose did.

Summing up the results as to counteraction of the amphetamine-induced syndrome, both NNC 756, 0.012 mg/kg and NNC 756 + raclopride were superior to raclopride 0.012 mg/kg in decreasing arousal, stereotypies, and motoric unrest. Furthermore, although NNC 756, 0.006 mg/kg alone was significantly effective

in reducing all amphetamine-induced behaviors, its combination with an ineffective dose of raclopride caused even greater suppression. These findings indicate that combined elements of D1 and D2 antagonism can supplement one another as to antipsychotic efficacy.

CONCLUSIONS

The present study supports a role for D1 antagonism in antipsychotic therapy. Thus, according to our findings, either D1 antagonism alone or combined and modest D1 and D2 antagonism, offers the potential of providing antipsychotic efficacy with a lesser risk of dystonia and dyskinesia than traditional D2 antagonism. Based upon the present findings and the considerations mentioned in the discussion, we recommend further clinical trials with other D1 antagonists, both given alone and in combination with D2 antagonists.

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