

Effects of Cycloleucine in the Nucleus Accumbens Septi on the Elevated plus Maze Test in Rats

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Abstract

Introduction: In recent years, an important number of studies have emphasized the psychopharmacological actions of cycloleucine (1-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid) acting on the NR1 subunit (glycine allosteric site) of NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartic acid) receptor. We studied the effects of its injection in an anxiety test. **Methods:** The elevated plus maze test was used. Male rats bilaterally cannulated into the nucleus accumbens septi (NAS) were employed. Rats were divided into 5 groups that received either 1 μ L injections of saline or cycloleucine (0.5, 1, 2, or 4 μ g) 15 min before testing. **Results:** Time spent in the open arm was significantly increased by cycloleucine treatment with all doses (1 and 2 μ g, $p < 0.05$; 0.5 and 4 μ g, $p < 0.01$), like number of extreme arrivals (0.5 and 1 μ g, $p < 0.05$; 2 μ g, $p < 0.01$; and 4 μ g, $p < 0.001$). Open arm entries were increased by the highest dose only (4 μ g, $p < 0.01$). **Discussion/Conclusion:** Present results show no difference between all doses in the time spent in the open arm, suggesting an indirect, noncompetitive action of the drug. The increase in extreme arrivals and open arm entries suggests a dose influence in these parameters. We conclude that cycloleucine influence on the NMDA receptors within NAS leads to anxiolytic-like effects and behavioral disinhibition, which once more confirms the involvement of NAS in anxiety processing.

Keywords

Author Keywords: [Cycloleucine](#); [NR1 subunit](#); [Accumbens](#); [Anxiety](#)

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