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Mechanism of Action of Phosphorylacetate Acid Hydrazides as Memory Enhancers and Neuroprotectors

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Introduction

Dementias and amnesias as the result of neurodegenerative diseases or continuous ischemia of brain are now recognised as a major problem and affect a significant proportion of the elderly population. The pharmacological treatment of dementia is directed primarily at correction of neurotransmitter deficits or enhancement of cerebral metabolic activity, but options are limited at present, because neurochemical pathology of dementias also include a disrupted regulation of neurotransmitter systems—signal transduction mechanism, which depends on cell's membranes conditions.

The aim of this work is the study of mechanism of action of phosphorylacetate acid hydrazides (Fig.1) as novel class of compounds for treatment dementias. We have shown recently that they possess significant neuroprotective, memory enhancing and antidepressive activities [1,2].

Results and discussion

In experiments in vitro the most active compounds (chloroethoxyphenylphosphorylacetate hydrazides) have affinity for the glycine strychnineinsensitive site of NMDA-receptor and haven't affinity for other receptors of excitatory amino acids (NMDA, AMPA, kainate, MK-801 site).

On the model of hypobaric hypoxia on mice these compounds given i.p. and orally, reinforce neuroprotective action of ketamine, the noncompetitive antagonist of NMDA- receptors, by increasing the time of survival in the chamber (Fig. 2), so we can propose their antagonistic influence on glycine site of NMDA-receptors.

Analysis of structure–activity relationships shows that affinity depends on substituents of both phosphoryl and hydrazide fragment in the molecule, but the

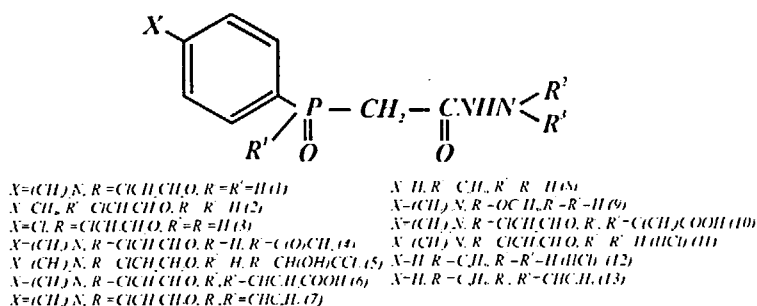


Fig. 1. Phosphotylacetic acid hydrazide.

phosphoryl fragment, especially with phenyl radical, has priority for this activity. Thus, administration of diphenylphosphinylacetic acid together with ketamine reinforces neuroprotective action while diethylphosphinylacetohydrazide doesn't influence it. The substitution of chloroethoxy radical of phosphoryl fragment by ethyl radical doesn't influence neuroprotective effect of ketamine too. The substitution in phenyl radical of phosphoryl fragment changes the affinity to glycine site. Thus, substitution of dimethylamino group of compound (1) by chloride atom (3) enhances binding, which is associated, probably, with lipophilicity. The substitution in hydrazide fragment influences the affinity too, but in a less marked form.

All compounds (especially unsubstituted hydrazides and hydrazons) have antioxidant activity *in vitro*, reducing concentration of malonic dialdehyde (Fig.3). Diphenylphosphinylacetic acid doesn't show antioxidant activity. The presence of phenyl radicals in phosphoryl fragment reduces antioxidant properties (8 and 15). Notably, HCL-salts of CAPAH and diphenylphosphinylacetohydrazide were as active as hydrazones.

Chloroethoxyphenylphosphinylacetohydrazides, especially with unsubstituted hydrazide group, have significant membrane-stabilising activity, reducing osmotic haemolysis of erythrocytes. Substitution of chloroethoxyradical in phosphoryl fragment by ethyl or aryl decreases this activity.

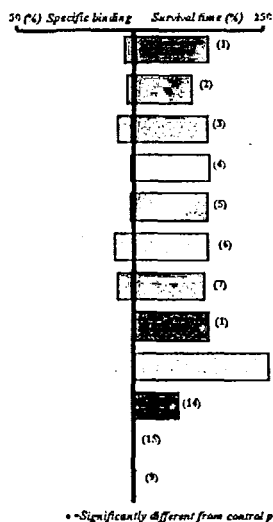


Fig. 2. The influence of phosphorylactic acid hydrazides on neuroprotective effect of ketamine and affinity to glycine site of NMDA-receptor

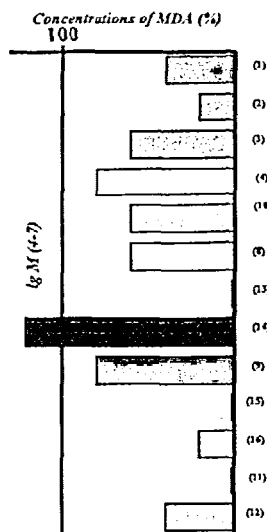


Fig. 3. The influence of phosphorylactic acid hydrazides on concentration of malonic dialdehyde

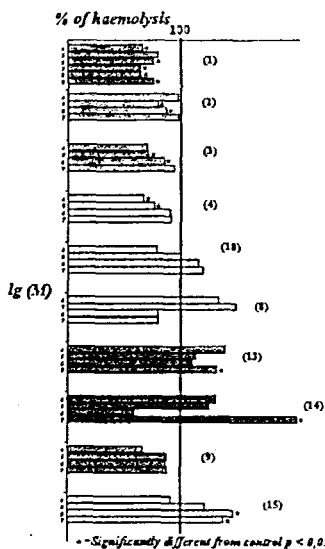


Fig. 4. The influence of phosphorylactic acid hydrazides on osmotic haemolysis of erythrocytes

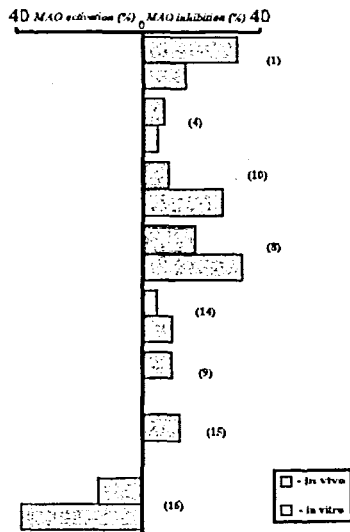


Fig. 5. The influence of phosphorylactic acid hydrazides on activity MAO B in vivo and in vitro

The influence of phosphorylacetate acid hydrazides on activity MAO B was studied *in vivo* and *in vitro* in homogenates of the brain of rats and mice. All phosphorylacetate acid hydrazides are inhibitors of MAO B (substrate; benzylamine). MAO-inhibition activity depends not only on the presence of hydrazide group but on the area of phosphoryl fragment too. The activity of diethylphosphinylacetate acid hydrazide and diphenylphosphinylacetate acid separately is less marked. The combination of diethylphosphinylacetate acid with hydrazide group is most active. Substituted hydrazides are less active than unsubstituted ones and hydrazones. The replacement of hydrazide group by amide group contributes to disappearance of MAO-inhibition activity.

Conclusion

The results of these investigations have shown that phosphorylacetate acid hydrazides have a complex of mechanisms influencing the different links of pathological process in dementias and can be effective for the treatment of this pathologies. Besides these results are of importance for medicinal chemistry because they allow to design further molecules with affinity to the glycine site, antioxidant and MAO-inhibition activities, which freely penetrate the blood-brain barrier.

These studies have defined the chemical structure which is optimum and based on the combination of phosphoryl fragment with phenyl, chloroethoxy radicals and hydrazide group - 2-chloroethoxy 4-dimethyl aminophenylphosphinylacetohydrazide (CAPAH).

Acknowledgements

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