

Evidence for a role of the 5-HT_{1B} receptor and its adaptor protein, p11, in L-DOPA treatment of an animal model of Parkinsonism

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Parkinson's disease (PD) is characterized by a progressive degeneration of substantia nigra dopaminergic neurons projecting to the striatum. Restoration of dopamine transmission by L-DOPA relieves symptoms of PD but causes prominent side effects. There is a strong serotonin innervation of the striatum by serotonergic neurons that remains relatively preserved in PD. The study of this innervation has been largely neglected. Here, we demonstrate that chronic L-DOPA administration to 6-OHDA-lesioned rodents increases, via D₁ receptors, the levels of the 5-HT_{1B} receptor and its adaptor protein, p11, in dopamine-denervated striatonigral neurons. Using unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned p11 WT and KO mice, it was found that administration of a selective 5-HT_{1B} receptor agonist, CP94253, inhibited L-DOPA-induced rotational behavior and abnormal involuntary movements in a p11-dependent manner. These data reveal an L-DOPA-induced negative-feedback mechanism, whereby the serotonin system may influence the symptomatology of Parkinsonism.

annexin II light chain | basal ganglia | Parkinson's disease | S100a10 | serotonin

Parkinson's disease (PD) is characterized by loss of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra pars compacta that innervate the striatum (1, 2). PD is treated with dopamine replacement by administration of L-DOPA and other drugs that stimulate dopaminergic neurotransmission (2–4). L-DOPA exerts its main actions via stimulation of dopamine D₁ receptors (D₁Rs) and D₂ receptors (D₂Rs) expressed in striatal GABAergic medium-sized spiny neurons. D₁Rs are enriched in striatonigral neurons (i.e., the direct striatal output pathway), whereas D₂Rs are enriched in striatopallidal neurons (i.e., the indirect striatal output pathway) (5). Activation of D₁Rs increases cAMP formation and facilitates responses to fast neurotransmitters, whereas activation of D₂Rs decreases cAMP formation and reduces neuronal excitability (6).

As PD progresses, L-DOPA therapy often results in a supersensitized, but shortened, response (3). There also is an emergence of on–off motor fluctuations, abnormal involuntary dyskinesic movements, and psychiatric complications (3). These behavioral alterations are paralleled by numerous adaptive neurochemical and physiological changes of striatal neurons. In particular, L-DOPA causes an enhancement of D₁R-mediated responses in striatonigral neurons. Indeed, repeated L-DOPA treatment, in PD patients and in animal models of this disease, leads to an increased availability of D₁Rs at the cell membrane (7), augmented coupling of D₁Rs to G proteins (8), up-regulated G_{oif} and G γ 7 subunit levels (9), enhanced dopamine-stimulated adenylyl cyclase (10), and increased cAMP-dependent kinase-mediated phosphorylation of Thr³⁴-DARPP-32 (11, 12). The L-DOPA-induced supersensitivity of D₁R-mediated responses also leads to elevated levels of transcription factors, including Δ FosB, and genes, such as dynorphin, selectively in striatonigral

neurons (13–15) and underlies the L-DOPA-induced increase in GABA release in substantia nigra pars reticulata (SNr) (16).

Treatment with D₁R-selective antagonists may counteract L-DOPA-induced side effects in PD, but it also could diminish the therapeutic efficacy of L-DOPA. There is a strong serotonin innervation of the striatum (17) that is relatively preserved in PD patients (18). In some animal models of PD, there is actually a compensatory serotonergic hyperinnervation to striatum (e.g., ref. 19). Moreover, several serotonin receptors are highly expressed in the striatum (20) and are, thus, positioned to modulate L-DOPA-mediated actions. Targeting the serotonin system may offer alternative approaches for the treatment of advanced Parkinsonism.

In the present study, we used the unilateral 6-OHDA-lesioning animal model of PD (21) to examine a possible role for 5-HT_{1B} receptors (5-HT_{1BRs}) in L-DOPA treatment of Parkinsonism. We provide evidence that L-DOPA increases the levels of the 5-HT_{1BR} and its adaptor protein, p11, in striatonigral neurons. Using unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned p11 WT and KO mice, we found that administration of a selective 5-HT_{1BR} agonist, CP94253 (22), inhibits L-DOPA-induced rotational behavior and abnormal involuntary movements (AIMs) in a p11-dependent manner. L-DOPA-induced levels of 5-HT_{1BRs} and p11 may serve as a negative-feedback mechanism to counteract hyperactivity of striatonigral neurons in PD patients treated with L-DOPA.

Results

Postmortem Determination of the Efficacy of Unilateral 6-OHDA Lesioning. The efficacy of the unilateral 6-OHDA lesions was verified by [¹²⁵I]-RTI-55 binding to the dopamine transporter (DAT) in the striatum. DAT levels were reduced by 91.7 ± 1.7% in mice and 94.2 ± 1.7% in rats in the dopamine-denervated hemisphere compared with the intact hemisphere. The efficacy of the unilateral 6-OHDA lesions also was verified by Western blotting of tyrosine hydroxylase (TH), showing reductions by 92.9 ± 4.0% in mice and 97.2 ± 1.0% in rats in the dopamine-denervated hemisphere.

Regulation of 5-HT_{1BR} mRNA and p11 mRNA by L-DOPA in Striatum. Based on previous studies of L-DOPA-induced sensitization in mice (e.g., ref. 14), unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned mice were treated with saline or 50 mg of L-DOPA per kg per day for 28 days. In saline-treated mice, there was no significant regulation of 5-HT_{1BR} mRNA or p11 mRNA in striatum of the dopamine-

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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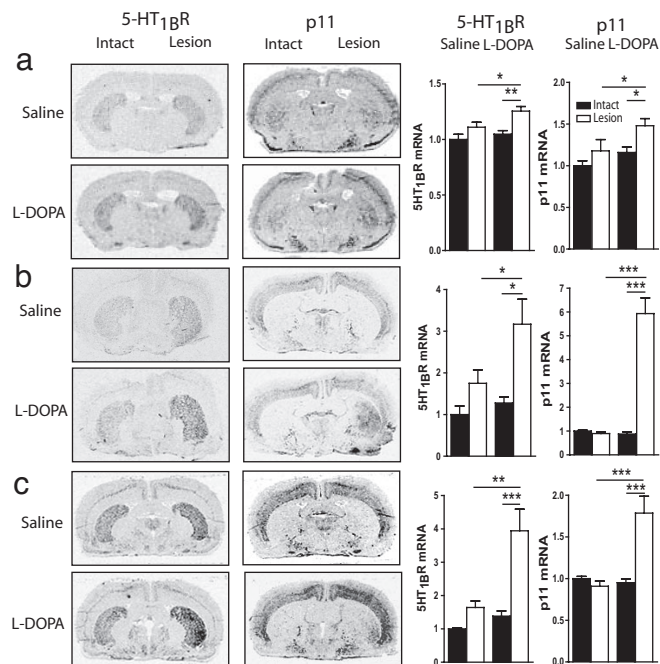


Fig. 1. Regulation of 5-HT_{1B} mRNA and p11 mRNA in response to L-DOPA in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned mice and rats. (a–c) (Left) Brightfield autoradiograms showing the expression of 5-HT_{1B}R and p11 in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned mice treated with 50 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., once daily) for 28 days (a), unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with 100 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., twice daily) for 5 days (b), and unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with 10 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., once daily) for 28 days (c). (Right) Quantification from mice (a) and rats (b and c) in the dorsolateral striatum. Filled bars, intact hemisphere; open bars, 6-OHDA-lesioned hemisphere. Data represent means \pm SEM for four to eight animals per group. *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$ between indicated treatments; one-way ANOVA followed by Newman–Keuls test.

denervated hemisphere (Fig. 1a). However, after treatment with L-DOPA, increased levels of both 5-HT_{1B}R mRNA and p11 mRNA were found in striatum of the 6-OHDA-lesioned hemisphere (Fig. 1a). In experiments with rats, two different treatment regimens were used to study the effects of L-DOPA treatment on 5-HT_{1B}R and p11 mRNA levels. One regimen used subchronic administration (twice daily for 5 days) of a high concentration of L-DOPA (100 mg/kg, i.p.), which has been shown to regulate gene expression in striatum (23) and to be useful for studies of L-DOPA-induced sensitization and side effects (24). Another regimen used chronic administration (once daily for 28 days) of a low concentration of L-DOPA (10 mg/kg, i.p.), which also induces L-DOPA-mediated sensitization and dyskinesias (12, 13). The results were very similar to those observed in mice. The unilateral 6-OHDA lesion had no significant effects on 5-HT_{1B}R mRNA or p11 mRNA in saline-treated rats (Fig. 1 b and c). However, both regimens of L-DOPA treatment caused a significant increase in the levels of 5-HT_{1B}R mRNA and p11 mRNA in the dopamine-denervated hemisphere compared with the intact hemisphere or saline-treated rats (Fig. 1 b and c).

Regulation of 5-HT_{1B}R Protein and p11 Protein by L-DOPA in Striatum.

Western blotting methodology was used to determine the effects of L-DOPA treatment on 5-HT_{1B}R and p11 protein levels in striatum of 6-OHDA-lesioned rodents. Consistent with the results on gene expression, dopamine denervation did not significantly alter the levels of 5-HT_{1B}R protein or p11 protein in saline-treated mice or rats (Fig. 2). However, treatment with

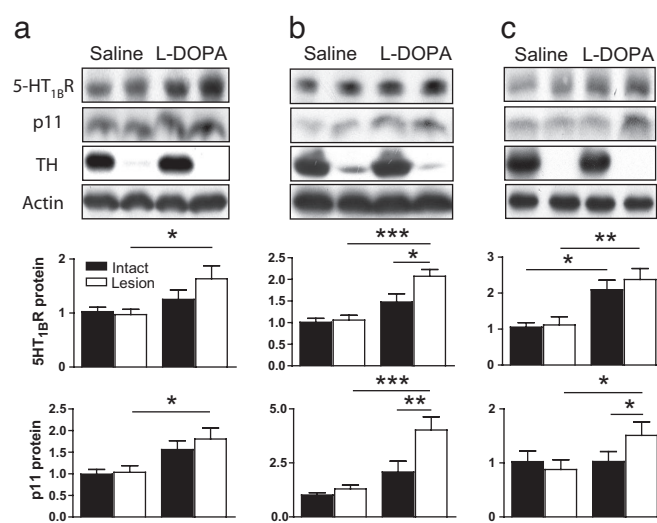


Fig. 2. Regulation of 5-HT_{1B}R protein and p11 protein in the striatum in response to L-DOPA in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned mice and rats. (a–c) (Upper) Western blots of 5-HT_{1B}R, p11, TH, and actin in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned mice treated with 50 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., once daily) for 28 days (a), unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with 100 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., twice daily) for 5 days (b), and unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with 10 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., once daily) for 28 days (c). Note the near-complete absence of TH in the 6-OHDA-lesioned hemispheres. (Lower) Quantification of striatal 5-HT_{1B}R and p11 from mice (a) and rats (b and c). The 5-HT_{1B}R and p11 levels were normalized to actin. Filled bars, intact hemisphere; open bars, 6-OHDA-lesioned hemisphere. Data represent means \pm SEM for 4–10 animals per group. *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$ between indicated treatments; one-way ANOVA followed by Newman–Keuls test.

L-DOPA caused significant increases of 5-HT_{1B}R protein and p11 protein levels in the dopamine-denervated hemisphere in both mice and rats (Fig. 2). In addition, chronic treatment with a low dose of L-DOPA in rats also significantly increased the 5-HT_{1B}R protein level in the intact hemisphere (Fig. 2c).

To examine further the regulation of 5-HT_{1B}R protein levels by L-DOPA, we also examined autoradiographic binding of the selective 5-HT_{1B}R radioligand, [¹²⁵I]-cyanopindolol, in striatum and its projection areas, substantia nigra pars reticulata (SNr) and globus pallidus (GP). In saline-treated mice and rats, the unilateral 6-OHDA lesion had no significant effects on [¹²⁵I]-cyanopindolol binding in any of the regions studied (Fig. 3). After chronic treatment with L-DOPA in mice and rats, there was increased binding of [¹²⁵I]-cyanopindolol in the striatum and SNr, but not in GP (Fig. 3 a and c). In rats subchronically treated with a high dose of L-DOPA, [¹²⁵I]-cyanopindolol binding was increased in the striatum, SNr, and GP (Fig. 3b). The specific [¹²⁵I]-cyanopindolol binding in the dorsal hippocampus (Fig. 3) was not changed by any treatment (data not shown).

Effects of L-DOPA on 5-HT_{1B}R Agonist-Stimulated [³⁵S]GTP γ S Autoradiography.

To determine whether the L-DOPA-mediated up-regulation of 5-HT_{1B}R corresponded to an increased 5-HT_{1B}R agonist-mediated activation of associated G_i proteins, we examined the ability of the 5-HT_{1B}R agonist, CP93139 (25), to stimulate [³⁵S]GTP γ S binding detected by autoradiography. In saline-treated mice and rats, dopamine denervation had no effect on CP93139-stimulated [³⁵S]GTP γ S binding in striatum, SNr, or GP (data not shown). However, after treatment with L-DOPA in mice or rats, there was an increased CP93139-stimulated [³⁵S]GTP γ S binding in striatum and SNr but not in GP (data not shown). This lack of effect in GP, even in rats treated with the higher concentration of L-DOPA, indicates that

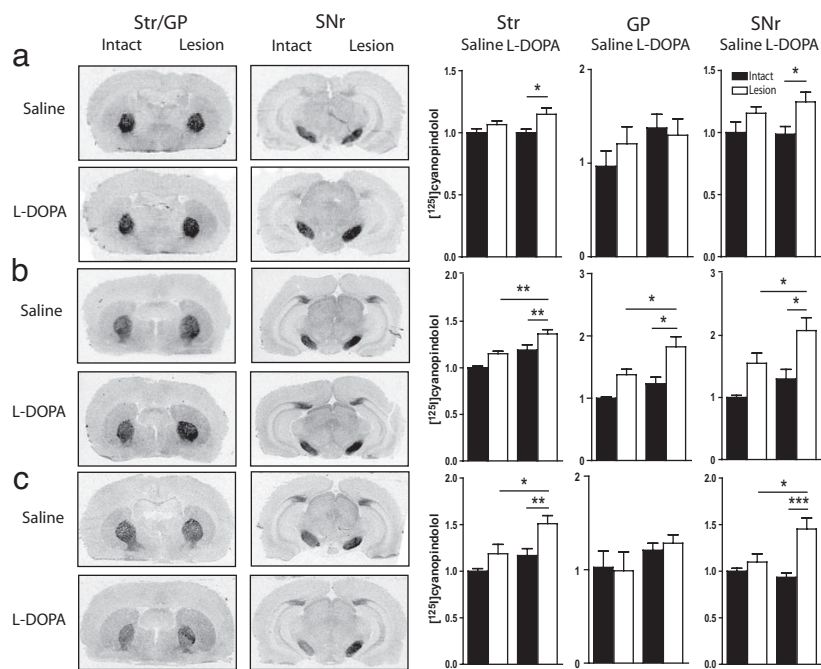


Fig. 3. Regulation of ^{125}I -cyanopindolol binding to 5-HT $_{1B}$ R in response to L-DOPA in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned mice and rats. (a–c) (Left) Brightfield autoradiograms showing ^{125}I -cyanopindolol binding in striatum (Str), GP, and SNr in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned mice treated with 50 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., once daily) for 28 days (a), unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with 100 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., twice daily) for 5 days (b), and unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with 10 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., once daily) for 28 days (c). (Right) Quantification from mice (a) and rats (b and c) in the dorsolateral striatum, GP, and SNr. Filled bars, intact hemisphere; open bars, 6-OHDA-lesioned hemisphere. Data represent means \pm SEM for four to eight animals per group. *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$ between indicated treatments; one-way ANOVA followed by Newman–Keuls test.

the up-regulation of functional 5-HT $_{1B}$ R by L-DOPA is restricted to striatonigral neurons.

Effect of a D $_1$ R Antagonist, SCH23390, on L-DOPA-Induced Levels of 5-HT $_{1B}$ R Protein and p11 Protein. Based on the existing literature and the above-mentioned results, we hypothesized that the L-DOPA-mediated up-regulation of 5-HT $_{1B}$ R and p11 proteins depends on D $_1$ R stimulation. To test this possibility directly, we treated rats with saline, 100 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p.), or 0.5 mg/kg SCH23390 (a selective D $_1$ R antagonist) alone or in combination twice daily for 5 days. We confirmed that dopamine denervation had no effect on 5-HT $_{1B}$ R or p11 protein levels in saline-treated animals (Fig. 4) but that L-DOPA treatment caused a significant induction of both 5-HT $_{1B}$ R and p11 protein levels in the 6-OHDA-lesioned hemisphere (Fig. 4). Cotreatment of rats with SCH23390 and L-DOPA abolished the effects on 5-HT $_{1B}$ R and p11 protein levels seen when animals were treated with L-DOPA alone (Fig. 4).

Double Immunohistochemical Detection of p11 and Prodynorphin in the Dopamine-Denervated Striatum of L-DOPA-Treated Animals. To determine whether p11 protein levels are up-regulated in striatonigral neurons, we performed double immunohistochemical experiments with antibodies toward p11 and prodynorphin (which selectively labels striatonigral neurons) in rats treated with 10 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., once daily) for 28 days. When p11-positive neurons were counted in sections from three different rats, 61 of 63 neurons also were positive for prodynorphin (Fig. 5). Likewise, 70 of 73 neurons that were positive for prodynorphin also were positive for p11. Thus, p11 appears to be almost exclusively up-regulated in striatonigral neurons.

Effect of a 5-HT $_{1B}$ R Agonist, CP94253, on L-DOPA-Induced Rotations and AIMs in p11 WT and KO Mice. To study the role of 5-HT $_{1B}$ R and p11 in L-DOPA-induced behaviors, p11 WT and KO mice were

cotreated with the 5-HT $_{1B}$ R agonist, CP94253, which is an analog of CP93139 with an improved blood–brain barrier penetration (22). Both CP93139 and CP94253 lack affinities for dopamine receptors (22, 25). Unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned P11 WT and KO mice were treated with 10 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p.) for 2 weeks and then with 50 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p.). As shown in Fig. 6, rotational behavior was measured on days 1 and 7 of 50 mg/kg L-DOPA i.p. treatment and AIMs on day 7. On day 8, the 50 mg/kg L-DOPA i.p. treatment was combined with the 5-HT $_{1B}$ R agonist, CP94253 (2.5 mg/kg; i.p.), and rotational behavior was measured on days 8 and 15 and AIMs on day 15. After cotreatment with CP94253 and L-DOPA, there were significantly fewer rotations compared with treatment with L-DOPA alone (i.e., day 7 vs. day 8 or 15) in p11 WT mice (Fig. 6a). Moreover, on day 16, when mice were treated with L-DOPA alone again, the number of rotations in p11 WT mice significantly exceeded the number of rotations found in mice cotreated with CP94253 and L-DOPA. In contrast, in p11 KO mice, these effects on motor activity by CP94253 were abolished (Fig. 6b). Cotreatment with CP94253 and L-DOPA also counteracted L-DOPA-induced AIMs (i.e., day 7 vs. 15) in p11 WT mice (Fig. 6c) but not in p11 KO mice (Fig. 6d).

Discussion

5-HT $_{1B}$ R is expressed in most, if not all, striatal medium-sized spiny GABAergic neurons, i.e., both striatonigral and striatopallidal neurons (26). Our present data demonstrate that L-DOPA treatment increases the levels of 5-HT $_{1B}$ R in dopamine-denervated striatonigral neurons in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rodents. The efficacy of 5-HT $_{1B}$ R is regulated by its interacting adaptor protein p11 (27). p11 increases localization of 5-HT $_{1B}$ R at the cell surface, and studies in cell lines and p11 KO mice have shown that p11 modulates biochemical, electrophysiological, and behavioral responses to 5-HT $_{1B}$ R stimulation. p11 is increased in rodent brains by antidepressants therapies but is decreased in an

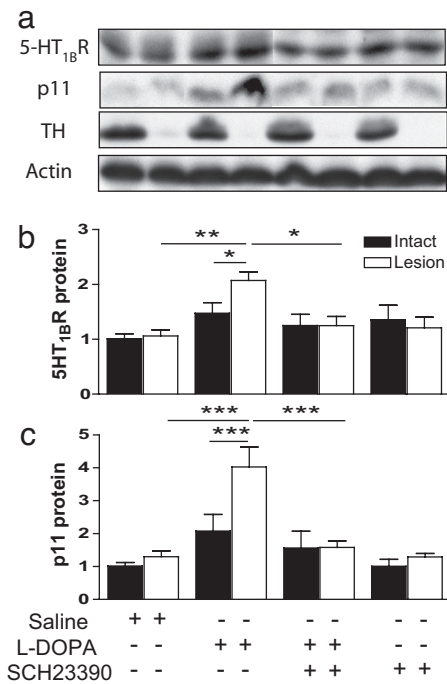


Fig. 4. Regulation of 5-HT_{1BR} protein and p11 protein in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with saline, L-DOPA, or SCH23390 alone or in combination. (a) Western blots of 5-HT_{1BR}, p11, TH, and actin in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with saline, 100 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., twice daily), or 0.5 mg/kg SCH23390 (i.p., twice daily) alone or in combination for 5 days. Note the near-complete absence of TH in the 6-OHDA-lesioned hemispheres. (b and c) Quantification of striatal 5-HT_{1BR} (b) and p11 levels (c) normalized to actin. Filled bars, intact hemisphere; open bars, 6-OHDA-lesioned hemispheres. Data represent means ± SEM for 4–10 animals per group. *, *P* < 0.05; **, *P* < 0.01; ***, *P* < 0.001 between indicated treatments; one-way ANOVA followed by Newman–Keuls test.

animal model of depression and in depressed patients (27). Our present observation that L-DOPA treatment increases p11 in the dopamine-denervated striatum of unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rodents provides additional evidence for a dynamic regulation of this protein. It is interesting that L-DOPA is an antidepressant in some unipolar depressed patients (37). The L-DOPA-mediated up-regulation of p11 occurs in prodynorphin-containing neurons and represents another example of an aberrantly up-regulated protein in striatonigral neurons in response to L-DOPA treatment in PD.

During the preparation of this manuscript, it was reported that the 5-HT_{1BR} agonist, CP94253, significantly counteracts L-DOPA-induced AIMs in unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats (28). Our data confirm that CP94253 counteracts L-DOPA-

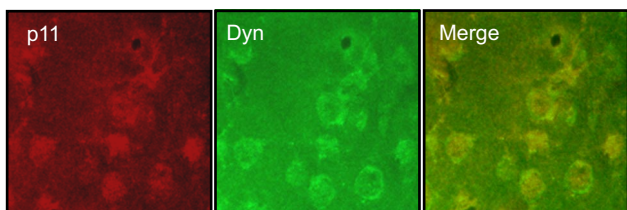


Fig. 5. Colocalization of p11 and prodynorphin proteins in dorsolateral striatum from unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with L-DOPA. Immunostaining for p11 (red) and prodynorphin (green) and their codistribution (yellow) in the dopamine denervated hemisphere in a rat treated with 10 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p., once daily) for 28 days.

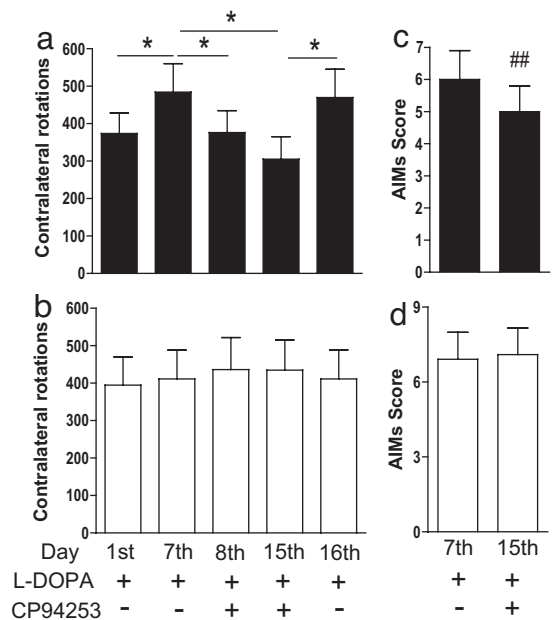


Fig. 6. 5-HT_{1BR} agonist-mediated inhibition of L-DOPA-induced rotations and AIMs in p11 WT versus KO mice. p11 WT and KO mice were treated with 50 mg/kg L-DOPA (i.p.) alone or together with the 5-HT_{1BR} agonist, CP94253 (2.5 mg/kg, i.p.) as indicated. (a and b) Effects of L-DOPA alone (days 1, 7, and 16) or together with CP94253 (days 8 and 15) on contralateral turns in p11 WT mice (filled bars) (a) and p11 KO mice (open bars) (b). (c and d) Effects of L-DOPA alone (day 7) and CP94253+L-DOPA (day 15) on AIMs in p11 WT mice (filled bars) (c) or p11 KO mice (open bars) (d). Data represent means ± SEM for 9–11 animals per group. *, *P* < 0.05 between indicated treatments; one-way ANOVA, followed by Newman–Keuls test. ##, *P* < 0.01 between L-DOPA- and CP94253 plus L-DOPA-treated mice; Student's *t* test.

induced AIMs and also show that CP94253 counteracts L-DOPA-induced rotational behavior in WT mice. Furthermore, we demonstrate that the inhibitory effects of CP94253 on L-DOPA-induced rotations and AIMs involve p11 because they are not found in p11 KO mice.

Because the 5-HT_{1BR} and p11 are found in several brain regions (26, 27), multiple mechanisms may underlie the CP94253-mediated reduction of L-DOPA-induced behaviors. 5-HT_{1BR}s serve as autoreceptors on serotonin neurons originating from the raphe nuclei (29). Serotonergic neurons have the capacity to synthesize dopamine, as a false neurotransmitter, from L-DOPA (e.g., ref. 30). There is evidence that the inhibitory effect of CP94253 on L-DOPA-induced AIMs involves 5-HT_{1BR}-mediated inhibition of dopamine release from serotonergic nerve terminals (28). The turnover of serotonin is increased in p11 KO mice (27) presumably because of a decreased autoinhibition by 5-HT_{1BR}s on the serotonergic nerve terminals. A decreased efficacy of 5-HT_{1BR} autoreceptors also may contribute to the lack of inhibition of CP94253 on L-DOPA-induced rotational behavior in p11 KO mice.

Based on our observation that L-DOPA increases the levels of 5-HT_{1BR}s and p11 in striatonigral neurons, we propose a postsynaptic mechanism whereby CP94253 counteracts L-DOPA-induced rotations and AIMs. Stimulation of 5-HT_{1BR}s inhibits cAMP formation (31) and reduces GABA release in striatum and SNr (32). In contrast, stimulation of D₁Rs increases cAMP formation (6) and GABA release in striatum and SNr (33). Because D₁R supersensitivity in striatonigral neurons appears to underlie L-DOPA-mediated rotations and AIMs, it is reasonable to believe that the inhibitory effects of a 5-HT_{1BR} agonist on these behaviors involves an inhibitory influence on D₁R-mediated cAMP formation and/or GABA release.

The possibility that 5-HT_{1BR} agonists may counteract L-DOPA-induced behaviors by diminishing D₁R-mediated in-

creases of GABA release from striatonigral neurons is in agreement with current knowledge on the role of GABA in L-DOPA supersensitivity. Repeated treatment with L-DOPA to animal models of PD up-regulates genes for GABA synthesis in striatonigral neurons (13) and increases GABA levels in the SNr (but not in the GP) (16).

In conclusion, the present data demonstrate that repeated L-DOPA treatment to unilaterally dopamine-denervated rodents increases the level of the 5-HT_{1B}R and its adaptor protein, p11, in striatonigral neurons. Furthermore, administration of a selective 5-HT_{1B}R agonist, CP94253, inhibits L-DOPA-induced rotational behavior and AIMS in a p11-dependent manner. Because the serotonergic innervation of the striatum remains relatively preserved in PD patients, inhibitory modulation of striatonigral neurons by 5-HT_{1B}R/p11 may be particularly important in advanced PD. Because the blockade of D₁Rs is not a treatment option for L-DOPA-induced side effects and because it would diminish the therapeutic efficacy of L-DOPA, the use of 5-HT_{1B}R agonists to modulate signaling in striatonigral neurons may offer an alternative approach. These data also indicate that an adjunctive treatment with 5-HT_{1B}R ligands might be used to modify the therapeutic dose window of L-DOPA treatment.

Materials and Methods

Animals, Surgery, and Pharmacological Treatment. Adult male C57Bl6 mice, p11 WT and KO (129SV/C57BL/6) (27), and Sprague–Dawley rats were used. Experiments were performed in agreement with the European Communities Council (86/609/EEC) and were approved by the ethical committee at Karolinska Institute (N282/06).

Mice were anesthetized with 80 mg/kg ketamine (i.p.; Parke-Davis) and 5 mg/kg xylazine (i.p.; Bayer), pretreated with 25 mg/kg desipramine (i.p.; Sigma–Aldrich) and 5 mg/kg pargyline (i.p.; Sigma–Aldrich), placed in a stereotaxic frame, and injected, over 2 min, with 3 μ g of 6-OHDA in 0.01% ascorbate (Sigma–Aldrich) into the median forebrain bundle (MFB) of the right hemisphere. The coordinates for injection were AP, -1.1 mm; ML, -1.1 mm; and DV, -4.75 mm relative to bregma and the dural surface (34). Rats were anesthetized and immobilized as the mice and injected with 12.5 μ g of 6-OHDA into the right MFB. The coordinates for injection were AP, -2.8 mm; ML, -2.0 mm; and DV, -9.0 mm relative to bregma and the dural surface (35).

Two weeks after unilateral 6-OHDA lesioning, rodents were administered 1 mg/kg apomorphine (i.p.; Sigma–Aldrich). Only mice rotating >50 turns per 30 min and rats rotating >100 turns per 30 min were included in further experiments.

Four weeks after surgery, WT mice used for biochemical experiments were treated with saline or 50/12.5 mg/kg L-DOPA/benserazide (i.p.; Sigma–Aldrich) once daily for 28 days. Animals were killed 1 h after the last injection. In another series of experiments, with behavioral measurements, p11 WT and KO mice were treated with 10/7.5 mg/kg L-DOPA/benserazide (i.p., once daily) for 2 weeks, 50/12.5 mg/kg L-DOPA/benserazide (i.p., once daily) for 1 week, 2.5 mg/kg CP94253 (i.p.; Tocris, a 5-HT_{1B}R agonist) plus 50/12.5 mg/kg L-DOPA/benserazide (i.p., once daily) for 1 week, and 50/12.5 mg/kg L-DOPA/benserazide (i.p., once daily) for 1 day.

Likewise, 4 weeks after the surgery, rats were treated with saline or 10/7.5 mg/kg L-DOPA/benserazide (i.p., once daily) for 28 days. Another set of rats was treated with saline or 100/25 mg/kg L-DOPA/benserazide (i.p., twice daily) for 5 days. A third set of rats was treated with saline, 100/25 mg/kg L-DOPA/benserazide (i.p.), or 0.5 mg/kg SCH23390 (i.p., a D₁R antagonist; Sigma–Aldrich), alone or in combination, twice daily, for 5 days. Animals were killed

1 h after the last injection. For brevity, L-DOPA/benserazide treatments are solely labeled L-DOPA throughout this article.

In Situ Hybridization. To detect 5-HT_{1B}R and p11 mRNAs, radioactive riboprobe *in situ* hybridization experiments were carried out as described previously (27).

Western Blotting. To detect 5-HT_{1B}R, p11, TH, and actin in striatal tissue samples, Western blotting was performed as described previously (27).

Ligand-Binding Autoradiography. Cryostat sections for the detection of DAT were incubated in 50 mM Tris-HCl, 120 mM NaCl, 50 pM [¹²⁵I]-RTI-55 (PerkinElmer), and 1 μ M fluoxetine (Sigma) for 60 min. For nonspecific binding, 100 μ M nomifensine (Sigma–Aldrich) was added. The slides were washed in ice-cold binding buffer, dried, and exposed together with 2.2–160 nCi/mg [¹²⁵I]-Microscales (GE Healthcare) on Kodak Biomax MR films for 4 days.

To label the 5-HT_{1B}Rs, [¹²⁵I]-cyanopindolol binding was performed as described previously (27).

5-HT_{1B}R Agonist-Stimulated [³⁵S]GTP γ S Autoradiography. To analyze functional G protein coupling of 5-HT_{1B}Rs, 5-HT_{1B}R agonist-stimulated [³⁵S]GTP γ S binding was performed as described previously (27) with minor modifications.

Immunohistochemistry. Rats were anesthetized and perfused transcardially with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA). Brains were postfixed overnight in 4% PFA, cryoprotected in 30% sucrose, and cut into 40- μ m sections. Sections were preincubated with PBS, 2 N HCl, and PBS/0.3% Triton X-100/3% BSA before primary antibodies against p11 (1:200; R&D Diagnostics) and prodynorphin (1:200; Bachem) were added overnight at 4°C. Sections were then washed in PBS/0.3% Triton X-100 before Alexa Fluor 568 donkey anti-goat (1:200; Molecular Probes) and Alexa Fluor 488 goat anti-rabbit (1:200) secondary antibodies were added for 1 h. After washing in PBS/0.3% Triton X-100, the sections were mounted and coverslipped. Fluorescent images were captured by using a Nikon Eclipse E600 microscope connected to a Nikon digital sight DS-U1 camera and merged with the NIS-Elements F 2.20 software.

Behavioral Experiments. Unilaterally 6-OHDA-lesioned p11 WT or KO mice were treated with saline, L-DOPA, and/or CP94253 as indicated, and the number of ipsi- and contralateral rotations was counted for 30 min. Immediately after the quantification of rotational behaviors, the incidence of AIMS, classified into forelimb, orofacial, axial, and locomotive behaviors, was quantified for 5 min according to published mouse scales (14, 36).

Statistical Analyses. Films from the *in situ* hybridization, Western blotting, and autoradiographic experiments were digitized, and the brain regions were identified with brain atlases (34, 35). Optical density values were measured by using Scion Image. For ligand-binding autoradiographic experiments, optical densities were converted to pmol per g wet weight based on coexposed standards. Biochemical data are presented as relative level toward the intact hemisphere in saline-treated animals. Statistical analyses of biochemical and behavioral data were made by using one-way ANOVA, followed by a Newman–Keul test for pairwise comparisons or Student's *t* test.

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