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Transcriptome analysis in a rat model of L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia

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Abstract

We have examined the pattern of striatal messenger RNA expression of over 8000 genes in a rat model of levodopa (L-DOPA)-induced dyskinesia and Parkinson disease (PD). 6- Hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA)-lesioned rats were treated with L-DOPA or physiological saline for 22 days and repeatedly tested for antiakinetic response to L-DOPA and the development of abnormal involuntary movements (AIMs). In a comparison of rats that developed a dyskinetic motor response to rats that did not, we found striking differences in gene expression patterns. In rats that developed dyskinesia, GABA neurons had an increased transcriptional activity, and genes involved in Ca^{2+} homeostasis, in Ca^{2+} -dependent signaling, and in structural and synaptic plasticity were upregulated. The gene expression patterns implied that the dyskinetic striatum had increased transcriptional, as well as synaptic activity, and decreased capacity for energy production. Some basic maintenance chores such as ribosome protein biosynthesis were downregulated, possibly a response to expended of ATP levels.

Keywords

L-DOPA; Dyskinesia; Parkinson's disease; 6-Hydroxydop-amine; Gene microarrays; Striatum; Calcium; Ribosomes; ATPases; GABA

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Introduction

Parkinson disease (PD) is a progressive neurological disorder characterized by a degeneration of dopamine (DA) neurons in the substantia nigra (Dauer and Przedborski, 2003). DA deficiency in areas innervated by nigral efferent neurons causes the motor symptoms of PD, that is, bradykinesia, rigidity, tremor, and postural instability (Gelb et al., 1999). The etiology of the disease is largely unknown. L-Dihydroxyphenylalanine (levodopa, L-DOPA) is used to treat the symptoms of PD, but it leads to the development of abnormal involuntary movements (AIMs; dyskinesia) complicating long-term treatment (Bezard et al., 2001; Nutt, 2001; Rascol et al., 2003).

We have developed a model of L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia in the rat (Cenci et al., 1998; Lee et al., 2000; Lundblad et al., 2002; Winkler et al., 2002). Rats are lesioned unilaterally with 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA) and subsequently treated with relatively low doses of L- DOPA for a few weeks, during which a majority of the animals develop abnormal involuntary movements (AIMs), while some rats are resistant. This model allows us to study the biochemical and molecular factors involved in dyskinesia in a pharmacologically and genetically controlled environment.

One of the main target areas of nigral DA neurons is the striatum, a structure critically involved in the pathophysiology of parkinsonian motor symptoms (Sian et al., 1999). The striatum is also a prominent site of maladaptive molecular and synaptic plasticity in L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia (Andersson et al., 1999, 2001; Cenci et al., 1998; Johansson et al., 2001; Picconi et al., 2003; Westin et al., 2001). Most of the neurons in the striatum are projection neurons that use GABA as their neurotransmitter. These neurons can be further classified based on their expression of dopamine receptor subtypes and the neuropeptides enkephalin, dynorphin, and substance P (Gerfen, 1992a,b; Le Moine et al., 1991). The striatum has, in addition, interneurons expressing either acetylcholine, parvalbumin, or somatostatin (Kubota and Kawaguchi, 2000; Parent and Hazrati, 1995).

The aim of this study was to define changes in striatal gene expression that are associated with L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia in the rat model. Gene array technology was used to study the expression of over 8000 genes and expressed sequence tags (ESTs) in the striatum. Approximately 3000 of the genes examined were of known or inferred function and were expressed above back-ground levels in at least 20% of our samples. These genes were the focus of our investigation. We present the major differences in striatal gene expression patterns between rats that develop L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia and rats that do not develop dyskinetic side effects in response to L-DOPA, although they show motor improvement. Some of the most interesting genes were further subjected to in situ hybridization histochemistry (ISHH) in the dyskinesia model.

Methods

Subjects

The study was performed in Sprague–Dawley rats (BK Labs, Sweden) weighing 225 g at the beginning of the experiments. Rats were housed three per cage under a 12-h light–dark

cycle, with ad libitum access to food and water. Rats from different experimental groups were randomly distributed in the cages. To conform to the procedures used in our previous studies, the experimental subjects were female. Estrus cycle phase was checked once a week in each rat by vaginal mucus analysis, and the different experimental groups had a comparable distribution of the different phases of the cycle. Animal care and experimental procedures conformed to internationally accepted guidelines and had been approved by the Malmö-Lund ethical committee for animal research.

6-OHDA lesions

Rats received unilateral injections of 6-OHDA (Sigma–Aldrich, Sweden AB) into the right nigrostriatal fiber bundle, as described previously (Andersson et al., 1999, 2001; Cenci et al., 1998; Lee et al., 2000). Turning behavior was recorded 2 weeks postlesion in an automated rotometer over a 90-min period after the injection of 2.5 mg/kg dexamphetamine sulfate (Apoteksbolaget, Sweden AB), and rats showing more than five full, ipsilateral turns per minute were selected for the study. This rotational score has been shown to correspond to >95% depletion of striatal DA fiber density (Winkler et al., 2002).

Protocol to induce dyskinesia and behavioral testing

Starting 5–6 weeks after lesioning, rats received single daily injections of methyl L-DOPA/ benserazide (6/12 mg/kg i.p.; Sigma–Aldrich) for 22 days. 6-OHDA-lesioned control rats received single daily i.p. injections of saline. The injections were performed around 2:00 PM. Ratings of abnormal involuntary movements (AIMs) were carried out every 2–3 days (eight times total) for 3 h following the daily injection of L-DOPA. The rat dyskinesia scale and rating criteria used in this study are extensively described (Lundblad et al., 2002; Winkler et al., 2002). L-DOPA-induced rat AIMs affect orofacial, trunk, and limb muscles on the side of the body contralateral to the lesion and can be unequivocally distinguished from normal rodent behaviors (e.g., grooming, gnawing, and sniffing). Rat AIMs have the same pharmacological features as L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia in non-human primate models of PD; that is, drugs that reduce dyskinesia in the latter models have the same effect in the rat, and antiparkinsonian agents that have low dyskinesiogenic potential in primates induce little or no AIMs in the rat (Lundblad et al., 2002, 2003). L-DOPA-induced improvement of akinetic motor features was evaluated using a test of spontaneous forelimb use (cylinder test, Lundblad et al., 2002; Schallert et al., 2000). Based on the battery of behavioral tests used in this study, we defined three groups of experimental subjects: (i) saline-injected 6-OHDA-lesioned controls, which showed significant forelimb akinesia in the cylinder test and had no AIMs; these rats provided a model of untreated parkinsonism; (ii) dyskinetic rats, which were treated with L-DOPA and developed severe and disabling AIMs, and (iii) nondyskinetic rats, which were treated with L-DOPA and showed motor improvement in the cylinder test but did not rate on the AIMs scale. This latter group provided a model of treated parkinsonism without motor complications. The groups consisted of six animals each and will be referred to as saline, dyskinetic, and nondyskinetic, respectively.

Rats were sacrificed 18 h after the last injection of L-DOPA or saline, which is a sufficiently long time to avoid potential acute effects of the injection, including stress, while also

avoiding effects due to L-DOPA withdrawal. The brains were rapidly extracted, frozen in liquid nitrogen for 20 s, and allowed to freeze thoroughly in powdered dry ice for 2–3 min. The brains were stored at −80°C until dissection. Dorsal striata, ipsilateral to the lesion, were dissected in a cryostat chamber at −18°C.

Sample and array processing

RNA was extracted from approximately 25-mg tissue using the RNAgent kit (Promega, Madison, WI). RNA quality was assessed, and 6 μg total RNA was used for cDNA synthesis with the SuperScript double-stranded cDNA synthesis kit (Invitrogen Corp., Carlsbad, CA). In vitro transcription was performed with the Enzo-IVT kit (Enzo Biochem, Farmingdale, NY). Biotinylated RNA was hybridized to the RG-U34A array (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA), and washing and staining were carried out according to company protocol (www.Affymetrix.com). Samples from individual rats were hybridized to individual arrays. The Affymetrix RG-U34A array contains over 8000 genes; each gene is represented by 16 to 20 perfectly matched 25-mer oligonucleotides and the same number of one-mismatch oligonucleotides to provide values for nonspecific binding.

Quality control criteria

Tissue preparation and RNA extractions were performed in a single batch by the same investigator to limit experimental variability. The order of samples was randomized. All striata yielded equal amounts of RNA and biotinylated RNA. An average of 92 ± 14 µg of biotinylated RNA was obtained from the in vitro transcription. All quality control criteria defined by Affymetrix were met by the samples, and no differences between the groups (saline, dyskinesia, or nondyskinesia) were observed. The average percent 'present' call across all arrays was $46.6\% \pm 2.0\%$ and the 3' /5'GAPDH and β-actin ratios were 1.9 ± 0.3 and 1.6 ± 0.3 respectively. Background (50.0 \pm 3.7) and noise (1.6 \pm 0.2) were comparable between all groups.

Data analysis

Three different programs were used for data analysis: DNA-Chip Analyzer (dChip version 1.3, <http://www.biostat.harvard.edu/complab/dchip/>, see also Li and Wong, 2001a,b), Microarray Suite 5.0 (Affymetrix), and Gene Microarray Pathway Profiler ([http://](http://www.genmapp.org/) www.genmapp.org/, Dahlquist et al., 2002; Doniger et al., 2003). To identify samples with similar profiles, hierarchical clustering was performed with the dChip program, which bases hierarchical clustering on previously published algorithms (Eisen et al., 1998; Golub et al., 1999). All genes with a standard deviation above 3% of the mean of their expression value and above detection limit in at least 20% of all samples were used for clustering (see [http://](http://www.biostat.harvard.edu/complab/dchip/filter_gene.htm) www.biostat.harvard.edu/complab/dchip/filter_gene.htm). Redundant probe sets were excluded from the clustering analysis (Fig. 2).

GenMAPP was used to examine the biological context of the findings. GenMAPP is designed to visualize gene expression data on maps representing either biological pathways or any other grouping of genes defined by the investigator. MAPPFinder calculates the percentage of genes changed in each map and uses this percentage for a z score based on the mean and the standard deviation of the hypergeometric distribution (see [http://](http://www.genmapp.org)

[www.genmapp.org\)](http://www.genmapp.org). MAPP-Finder calculates P values based on nonparametric statistics. We list all gene categories with at least two members, a z score above 2, and a permuted $$ value below 0.05 in Table 2.

In situ hybridization histochemistry

We performed ISHH in an independent batch of animals ($n = 6$ in each group), treated, and selected exactly like the rats for the gene array study. Cryostat sections through the striatum were cut at 16-μm thickness, mounted on Superfrost Plus Adhesion Slides (Electron Microscopy Science, Fort Washington, PA), and stored at −20°C. The oligonucleotide probes used for in situ hybridization in this study are shown in Table 1. ISHH was performed according to a previously published method (Andersson et al., 1999). Oligonucleotides were radioactively labeled at the $3'$ end with α^{35} S-dATP and terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase (Amersham Pharmacia, UK). Hybridization was carried out in a humid chamber at 42°C for 16–18 h, and the slide-mounted sections were washed five times in $1 \times SSC$ at 55 $°C$. Sections were exposed to FUJI Imaging plates (Fujifilm Sweden AB) between 9 and 22 h. Plates were scanned in a BAS-5000 phosphorimager (Fujifilm), and the amount of photostimulated luminescence emitted from the hybridized sections was calibrated against 14C standards (Amersham Pharmacia). Densitometric analysis was performed with the TINA software (Fujifilm). For each animal and probe, we analyzed five sections through the main body of the striatum, corresponding to the levels 0.2 to 0.7 mm rostral to bregma (Paxinos and Watson, 1986). Measurements from either side of the striatum were averaged across sections. Statistical analysis was performed with one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Fisher post hoc test and significance levels at ^P <0.05. No significant group differences were found on contralateral side to the lesion, and only results from the DA-denervated side will be reported (see Fig. 3).

Results

Approximately 4500 mRNAs (3000 known sequences plus ESTs) were above detection limit in at least 20% of the samples and were used for further analysis. At a probability level below 0.05 ($P \le 0.05$), 12% of these mRNAs were expressed at altered levels in the dyskinetic striata compared to saline controls, whereas only 5% of all mRNAs of nondyskinetic striata had altered levels (Fig. 1). Samples from dyskinetic rats differed from the non-dyskinetic cases in over 6% of all mRNA species. Of all regulated mRNA species, twice as many were upregulated than down-regulated in dyskinetic as well as nondyskinetic striata, compared to saline-injected controls. The false discovery rate, which calculates the expected proportion of false-positive results in multiple-comparisons analyses (Tusher et al., 2001), was <20% at P $\,$ 0.05 and <5% at P $\,$ 0.01.

Hierarchical clustering shows similar expression patterns in the dyskinetic rats

Unsupervised clustering was used to test if variations in gene expression levels could be explained by the state of dyskinesia. Forty-six genes had sufficient expression levels and variability across groups to be included in the analysis. With these genes, a significant clustering of four dyskinesia samples was observed (Fig. 2; $P = 0.022$). Samples from nondyskinetic rat striata were spread among lesioned controls and dyskinetic samples, with

To retrieve information in a biologic context, which is the strength of gene array experiments, we determined if a dyskinetic motor response was accompanied by higherthan-expected regulations in gene categories defined by us a priori. The regulations within gene families coding for individual neuronal-specific structures, processes, or functions were examined with the help of the MAPP (*Microarray Pathway Profile*)-finder program, which was provided by the GenMAPP group. In this program, we built over 300 MAPPs consisting of genes with expected expression in striatal neurons, grouped according to neurotransmitter systems (e.g., dopamine receptors, and transporters), ion channels (e.g., Ca^{2+} , Na⁺, or K⁺ channel proteins), membrane pumps (e.g., ion pumps, ATP pumps), presynaptic proteins (e.g., clathrin-associated proteins), postsynaptic proteins (e.g., receptors and anchoring proteins), structural proteins (e.g., cytoskeletal proteins, ribosomal proteins), proteins involved in energy metabolism (e.g., mitochondrial respiratory chain), immediate early genes, transcription factors, etc. The main results from the comparison between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic cases are shown in Table 2. Categories of genes that showed a significant upregulation in dyskinetic versus nondyskinetic rats included Ca^{2+} transporting ATPases and Ca^{2+} kinases, structural and synaptic plasticity genes, GABA receptor subunits, and other GABA-related genes. Significant downregulations were observed in gene categories related to creatine biosynthesis, ribosomal proteins, and tyrosine phosphatases (Table 2).

Calcium transporting ATPases and ion homeostasis

The regulation of Ca^{2+} transporting ATPases received the highest z score in the MAPPFinder analysis (Table 2). L-DOPA-induced-dyskinesia was associated with an upregulation of genes coding for plasma membrane Ca^{2+} ATPases (PMCAs) and sarco/ endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} pumps (SERCAs). PMCA1, PMCA2, and SERCA2 mRNAs were significantly upregulated in the dyskinetic cases compared to both saline-injected animals and L-DOPA-treated nondyskinetic rats. Nondyskinetic rats did not differ from controls. Upregulation of PMCA1 in the dyskinetic striatum was verified with ISHH, which confirmed enhanced levels of this transcript in the lateral caudate-putamen (Fig. 3A). In addition, expression of many other genes involved in ion homeostasis was enhanced in rats treated with L-DOPA, with generally more prominent upregulation in the dyskinetic group (Table 3). With ISHH, we verified the significant upregulation of the alpha1 subunit of $Na⁺K⁺-ATPase$ in L-DOPA-treated rats that had developed AIMs. In contrast to the gene array study, the upregulation was restricted to rats that did develop AIMs. Similarly to PMCA1, the change in alpha1 Na^+K^+ -ATPase mRNA was more prominent in the lateral part of the caudate-putamen (Fig 3B). We have previously shown that this region is critical in driving the development of L-DOPA-induced AIMs in the rat, and it exhibits large upregulations of transcription factors and neurotransmitter-encoding mRNAs (Andersson et al., 1999; Cenci et al., 1998).

Synaptic function

A large number of genes encoding pre- and postsynaptic structures, such as synaptic scaffold proteins and proteins involved in the docking and fusion of synaptic vesicles, were prominently upregulated in L-DOPA-treated rats that had developed AIMs. Significant changes were found in dyskinetic rats compared to both saline-injected rats and nondyskinetic cases (Table 4). Among the upregulated genes were densin 180, SAP-97, and Homer 1, which constitute part of the molecular scaffold at postsynaptic densities (PSD) of excitatory synapses (for review, see Sheng, 2001). The long isoforms of Homer (Homer 1b/c) physically link type I metabotropic glutamate receptors to the PSD and to calcium release channels in the endoplasmic reticulum (Thomas, 2002). In ISHH, we found significant upregulation of the Homer 1 transcript in L-DOPA-treated rats that had developed AIMs compared to both nondyskinetic rats and saline-injected lesioned controls, thus confirming the gene array data (Fig. 3C).

Actin-binding proteins and cytoskeletal constituents

Genes encoding actin-related proteins received a high z score in the MAPPFinder analysis. Most of these genes showed a prominent upregulation in the dyskinetic group compared to both saline-injected controls and nondyskinetic cases. The numerous expression changes of actin-related genes suggest that a process of cellular remodeling is taking place in the dyskinetic striatum. In support of this hypothesis, we found that several genes encoding neuron-specific intermediate filament proteins and microtubule-associated proteins were upregulated in L-DOPA-treated animals that developed dyskinesia (Table 4). We verified the expression of high molecular weight neurofilament (NF-H) mRNA by ISHH (Fig. 3D). NF-H mRNA was upregulated in all L-DOPA-treated rats but significantly more so in the animals that had developed AIMs. Again, the upregulation was particularly prominent in the ventrolateral part of the caudate-putamen.

Neurotransmitter synthesis, receptors, and transporters

Chronic L-DOPA treatment caused altered expression of many genes related to dopamine and GABA transmission (Tables 2, 5). In rats that developed dyskinesia, mRNA levels for the D_1 receptor were significantly increased, an effect confirmed by ISHH (Fig. 3E). Downregulations in mRNA levels were observed for the dopamine transporter and for the dopamine D_3 and D_5 receptors; however, these data were not conclusive because the changes were very small and some transcripts had low expression levels (see, for example, the percent positive calls for the D_3 receptor in Table 5). Levels of D_2 receptor mRNA were unchanged. The GABA system showed upregulation of various GABA-A receptor subunit mRNAs (alpha-1, -2, -4, beta-3), glutamate decarboxylase 67 ($GAD₆₇$), and the vesicular GABA transporter. The finding of striatal GAD_{67} mRNA upregulation in dyskinetic rats is in agreement with previous in situ hybridization studies (Cenci et al., 1998). The increased expression of mRNAs encoding the GABA-A alpha4 subunit and the vesicular GABA transporter in dyskinetic rats was confirmed by ISHH (Figs. 3F and G).

Changes in the expression of neuropeptide genes received a high z score (Table. 2). In particular, tachykinin 2 and cholecystokinin were upregulated in dyskinetic rats and unchanged in rats that did not develop AIMs. Both neuropeptides have been previously

shown to be upregulated in the 6-OHDA-lesioned striatum after treatment with D_1 receptor agonists or L-DOPA (Gerfen, 1992b; Taylor et al., 1992).

In addition to the categories listed in Table 2, other neuro-transmitter systems showed significant gene expression changes in the L-DOPA-treated animals (Table 5). Glutamate receptors are believed to play a central role in the genesis of motor complications during L-DOPA pharmacotherapy (Chase and Oh, 2000; Dunah et al., 2000). In our data set, only a few genes related to the glutamate system showed significant changes with L-DOPA treatment and dyskinesia development. Upregulation of the genes encoding for metabotropic receptor subunits 3 and 5 was seen specifically in the dyskinetic animals. Few changes were observed in genes coding for ionotropic glutamate receptor subunits and sometimes only in the nondyskinetic group of animals (see NMDA 2C and kainate receptor subunit 2 in Table 5). A significant upregulation of the main NMDA receptor subunit, NR1, occurred in both groups of L-DOPA-treated rats compared to saline-injected controls. These results are in line with findings of increased striatal expression of NR1 protein after chronic L-DOPA treatment (Dunah et al., 2000). Indications that striatal glutamate transmission may be altered in dyskinesia came from the analysis of glutamate transporter genes. Both the glial and the neuronal isoforms of the glutamate transporter (i.e., glutamate/aspartate transporter 1 and glutamate/aspartate transporter 3, respectively) showed a prominent upregulation in the dyskinetic rats compared to nondyskinetic cases and/or saline controls.

Among the changes affecting other neurotransmitter systems was a prominent upregulation of cannabinoid receptor CB1 mRNA in the striatum of dyskinetic rats, a finding that was confirmed by ISHH (Fig. 3H). Interestingly, the CB1 receptor has recently emerged as a promising target for antidyskinetic drug therapy (Brotchie, 2003; Ferrer et al., 2003). Genes involved with cannabinoid biosynthesis and degradation such as fatty acid amide hydrolase, oleamide hydrolase and monoacylglycerol (MAG) lipase (Cravatt et al., 1996; Dinh et al., 2002), and phospholipase D (Cadas et al., 1997; Di Marzo et al., 1994) were not altered in the dyskinetic rats (data not shown). This is in agreement with the finding of unchanged endocannabinoid levels in the striatum of 6-OHDA-lesioned rats treated with L-DOPA (Ferrer et al., 2003).

Energy metabolism and mitochondrial enzymes

Genes involved in energy production through glycolysis, oxidative phosphorylation, or creatine biosynthesis were part of the MAPPFinder analysis. Among these categories, "creatine biosynthesis" genes received a high z score (Table 2). Dyskinetic animals showed significant downregulation of genes encoding two key enzymes of the phosphocreatine pathway, guanidinoacetate methyltransferase (GAMT), and ubiquitous mitochondrial creatine kinase (Mi-CK). Dyskinetic rats also had reduced expression of other genes of energy-producing pathways, such as glyceralde-hyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase and lactate dehydrogenase, both involved in glycolysis (see downregulated genes in Table 6). Of the mitochondrial respiratory chain, some enzymes were upregulated, whereas others were downregulated (Table 6). Considering that twice as many genes were upregulated than downregulated in the dyskinetic striatum, it is noteworthy that genes involved in energy metabolism were more frequently downregulated than upregulated. Dyskinetic rats also

showed an upregulated expression of cytochrome oxidase subunit I (CO-I), a mitochondrial gene that is a marker of increased metabolic demands in neurons (for review, see Hirsch et al., 2000). Upregulation of CO-I mRNA in dyskinesia was verified with ISHH (Fig. 3J). These data suggest that L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia is associated with a combination of increased metabolic demands in striatal neurons and reduced capacity for energy production.

Kinases and phosphatases

Upregulation of calcium kinases received a high z score in the MAPPFinder analysis. Messenger RNA levels for protein kinase C delta (PKC-δ) were prominently upregulated in the dyskinetic striatum compared to nondyskinetic cases (Table 7), and this finding was validated with ISHH (Fig. 3I). The similarity between the distribution of PKC-δ mRNA and NF-H mRNA in the striatum of L-DOPA-treated rats (Fig. 3D) is particularly striking since PKCδ is required for neurite outgrowth (Corbit et al., 1999). The beta and delta isoforms of calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II (CamKII) and calcium/calmodulindependent protein kinase IV (CamKIV) were upregulated in the animals that developed dyskinesia more than in the nondyskinetic cases (Table 7 and Fig. 3K). Interestingly, the CaM-kinase II inhibitor alpha was specifically upregulated in the nondyskinetic subgroup of L-DOPA-treated rats, indicating that the inhibition of Ca^{2+} kinases could help to prevent dyskinesia.

In the dyskinetic striatum, some regulatory subunits of protein phosphatases were upregulated. Messenger RNAs for various subunits of the calcium-dependent phosphatase, calcineurin, showed enhanced expression in both dyskinetic and nondyskinetic rats. Downregulation was observed with multiple protein tyrosine phosphatases genes in the dyskinetic rat striatum, and this category of genes also received a high z score in the MAPPFinder analysis (Table 2).

Ribosomal proteins

Several genes encoding ribosomal proteins were consistently downregulated in dyskinetic rats compared to nondyskinetic cases, and this functional category of genes received a high ^z score in the MAPPFinder analysis (Table 2).

G proteins, membrane transducers, and intracellular adaptor proteins

Hundreds of genes coding for membrane transducers and intracellular adaptor proteins were represented on the chips. Because of the large number, this functional category was not included in the MAPPFinder analysis as a whole, but MAPPs were generated for more defined gene families. Some of these families, such as RabGTPases, RasGTPases, and guanine nucleotide-binding proteins (G proteins) were highly affected by L-DOPA treatment, with many significant changes in both dyskinetic and nondyskinetic rats (Table 8).

14-3-3 Proteins, a group of highly conserved proteins with high abundance in the brain, were mostly upregulated in dyskinesia and received a significant z sore in the MAPPFinder analysis of dyskinetic versus saline-treated rats (z score 3.6) and nondyskinetic versus saline-treated rats (z score 3.52). Although the function of these proteins is not fully

elucidated, they seem to act as adaptor molecules involved in protein–protein interactions, and they play a role in signal transduction, apoptosis, and stress response (Berg et al., 2003; Morrison, 1994; Tzivion and Avruch, 2002; van Hemert et al., 2001).

Discussion

Microarray analysis enables an examination of large numbers of mRNAs expressed in different biological systems, and it provides a valuable tool in a discovery process intended to lead to novel hypotheses. Although transcript changes might not be translated into protein levels in every instance, there is generally a good correlation between increases in mRNA and increased protein levels, albeit with some variation in magnitude (Pongrac et al., 2002).

In the present study, microarray analysis was used to define the patterns of striatal gene expression in rats that had developed AIMs, as opposed to rats that, despite motor improvement in response to L-DOPA, remained free of dyskinetic side effects. Both groups of L-DOPA-treated animals were also compared to drug-naive 6-OHDA-lesioned controls. It was demonstrated previously that the rat model of abnormal involuntary movements used in this study shows molecular and biochemical changes similar to those described in nonhuman primate models of L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia and/or PD patients, including an upregulation of FosB-like proteins and opioid precursor mRNAs in the striatum, and changes in opioid receptor binding within the cortico-basal ganglia loop (for review, see Cenci et al., 2002). Our previous studies have indicated that the striatum plays a crucial role in driving the development of abnormal involuntary movements in this model, which can be either exacerbated or reduced by gene knockdown strategies applied to the striatum (Andersson et al., 1999, 2001).

Evidence for increased activity of GABA neurons in dyskinesia

Dyskinesia was accompanied by an upregulation of mRNAs for pre- and postsynaptic proteins, indicating increased synaptic activity, neurotransmitter release, and synaptic remodeling. An increased gene expression of Na^+K^+ -ATPase, as observed in the dyskinesia samples, has been linked to frequent and/or large depolarization events (Mata et al., 1992), suggesting increased neuronal activity within the striatum. $Na⁺K⁺-ATPase$ is critical for maintaining the resting membrane potential and for regulating the response to excitatory amino acids (Calabresi et al., 1995). Interestingly, the glial and neuronal glutamate/aspartate transporters were upregulated. Glutamate regulates the expression of glutamate transporters (O'Shea, 2002), and excessive glutamate release in a rat model of temporal lobe epilepsy increased the expression of the neuronal glutamate transporter 3 (Crino et al., 2002). The increased activity of striatal neurons, and the increased expression of glutamate transporters, could therefore be caused by increased glutamate release into the striatum (Calabresi et al., 2000). Alternatively, increased glutamate transporter levels might reflect the need to limit excitation in an otherwise hyperactivated striatum.

The increase in synaptic and neuronal activity seemed to affect predominantly the GABA subpopulation of neurons, since the GABA transporter was upregulated together with the GABA-synthesizing enzyme GAD_{67} . Most of the upregulated mRNA species are expressed in GABA projection neurons, such as the cannabinoid 1 and somatostatin 2 receptors (Allen

et al., 2003; Julian et al., 2003), and the GABA-A receptor subtypes alpha-2, alpha-4, and beta-3 (Schwarzer et al., 2001). The upregulated tachykinin 2 mRNA codes for a neuropeptide expressed in a subpopulation of GABA neurons projecting to the substantia innominata (Furuta et al., 2000; Gerfen, 1992b). Furthermore, the GABA subpopulation of D1 receptor-expressing neurons of the "direct pathway" (Gerfen, 1992a,b) seemed to be particularly affected, since D_1 (but not D_2) receptors were upregulated. This finding is in agreement with previous studies showing significant striatal induction of FosB in prodynorphin-containing cells (i.e., the direct pathway neurons) in the same animal model of L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia (Andersson et al., 1999).

An upregulation of genes involved in Ca2+ homeostasis and Ca2+-dependent signaling indicates increased Ca2+ levels in dyskinesia

Many of the genes that were upregulated in the dyskinetic striatum are either involved in Ca^{2+} homeostasis or activated by Ca^{2+} . Among the most dramatically upregulated mRNAs were the ones coding for Ca^{2+} ATPases. Ca^{2+} ATPases pump Ca^{2+} out of the cytosol either across plasma membranes (PMCAs) or into the endoplasmic reticulum (SERCAs). They maintain basal levels of intracellular Ca^{2+} , participate in dynamic Ca^{2+} regulation, and are crucial players of Ca^{2+} export during normal and pathological conditions (Blaustein et al., 2002; Garcia and Strehler, 1999). Plasma membrane Ca^{2+} ATPases (PMCAs) are clustered at the active zones and may "reprime" the vesicular release mechanism following activity (Blaustein et al., 2002). The increase in Ca^{2+} ATPases could therefore be indicative of increased intracellular Ca^{2+} levels as well as increased neuronal activity.

Messenger RNAs of proteins that are activated by Ca^{2+} were upregulated as well, such as subunits of Ca^{2+} -activated kinases and the Ca^{2+} -inducible marker of cell stress, mortalin (Massa et al., 1995). Interestingly, whereas Ca^{2+} -activated kinases were upregulated in dyskinetic rats, the CaM-kinase II inhibitor alpha was specifically upregulated in the nondyskinetic subgroup of L-DOPA-treated rats. These data raise the possibility that an upregulation of certain Ca^{2+} -activated kinases might contribute to L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia, whereas inhibition of these Ca^{2+} kinases might protect against the development of this complication. This hypothesis is supported by the finding that intrastriatal inhibition of CaM kinase II reverses the motor response alterations produced by chronic L-DOPA treatment in 6-OHDA-lesioned rats (Oh et al., 1999).

Overall, the upregulation of this group of mRNAs demonstrates a strong association of dyskinesia with perturbed Ca^{2+} homeostasis.

An increased consumption of ATP by ion pumps and a downregulation of genes involved in ATP production could lead to energy shortfalls in the dyskinetic striatum

In addition to Ca^{2+} ATPases, various ion transporters and voltage-gated ion channels were upregulated in the dyskinetic striatum. Because ion pumps and transporters are ATPdependent (Green and MacLennan, 1989), increased expression of ion pumps might lead to higher ATP consumption (Muller and Gruber, 2003). Despite the potentially increased need for ATP, some aspects of energy production seemed to be impaired in the dyskinetic striatum. The mRNA level for mitochondrial creatine kinase, a key enzyme in brain energy

metabolism and ATP generation (Ames, 2000), was downregulated. Phosphocreatine is a source of high-energy phosphates in cells and tissues with high and fluctuating energy demands, such as the brain (Wyss and Kaddurah-Daouk, 2000). Creatine kinase is coupled with glutamate uptake, neurotransmitter release, calcium homeostasis, and the restoration of ion gradients before and after depolarization (Wallimann and Hemmer, 1994). In addition to creatine kinase, enzymes involved in glycolysis were downregulated as well.

Our findings oppose an increased need for ATP with decreased ATP supply. Together, they imply that the dyskinetic striatum may be prone to excitotoxic damage by the combination of impaired energy metabolism and increased levels of Ca^{2+} and glutamate (Novelli et al., 1988). In agreement with this hypothesis, the microarray data show increased striatal mRNA expression of mortalin and heat shock 70-kDa protein, two notable markers of cell stress (Kregel, 2002; Massa et al., 1995). Moreover, 14-3-3 proteins, a group of proteins with a role in stress response (Berg et al., 2003; van Hemert et al., 2001) were upregulated in dyskinesia (Table 8). The induction of 14-3-3 proteins may have a neuro-protective effect, since some 14-3-3 isoforms can sequester various proapoptotic proteins (e.g., Bad and Bax), thereby preventing apoptosis and promoting survival (Berg et al., 2003; Rosenquist, 2003; van Hemert et al., 2001). There was further indication that antioxidant defense systems were compromised too, since levels of glutathione S-transferase, which plays a role in the protection against reactive oxygen species (Fernandez-Checa, 2003), were significantly reduced in the dyskinetic striatum.

The toxicity of L-DOPA has been widely debated in the literature, but mainly with respect to possible adverse effects of L-DOPA treatment on the survival of nigral DA neurons (Agid, 1998; Melamed et al., 1998). The present data indicate that L-DOPA may be neurotoxic in the striatum and that this phenomenon may be part of the pathogenic cascade leading to the development of motor complications. Indeed, neurodegenerative processes in the striatum have been reported in models of antipsychotic drug-induced, tardive dyskinesia (Andreassen and Jorgensen, 2000; Roberts et al., 1995).

The present data do not allow us to draw any final conclusions about the exact mechanism of the L-DOPA-induced stress response, nor can we establish whether molecular adaptations with neuroprotective value prevail over deleterious ones. However, the data encourage future investigations into the possible role of striatal cell damage in the pathogenesis of L-DOPA-induced motor complications.

Decreased ribosomal proteins in the dyskinetic striatum point toward cellular stress and an inability to keep up with basic chores

Eukaryotic ribosomal protein synthesis has been studied most methodically in yeast. Ribosomal proteins are regulated at the level of transcription, and a tight control between synthesis of mRNAs for ribosomal proteins and nutrient availability has been observed (Warner, 1999). Messenger RNA synthesis for yeast ribosomal proteins is repressed in response to stress conditions such as heat shock, starvation, and defects in the secretory pathway (Planta, 1997; Warner, 1999). A downregulation of mRNAs for ribosomal proteins was described in two different gene array analyses that showed a decrease in genes of the oxidative metabolism/mitochondrial respiratory chain (Konradi et al., 2004; Patti et al.,

2003). The downregulation of many ribosomal proteins in dyskinesia could thus be a response to diminished ATP availability or increased cell stress and suggests that the pathogenic process interferes with basic maintenance chores.

In conclusion, the present analysis of striatal gene expression patterns in rats affected by AIMs provides unheralded clues to the dyskinesiogenic action of L-DOPA and offers new directions for future pathophysiological investigations.

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Fig. 1.

Percent of all mRNAs that differ in the expression levels between the three experimental groups. Bars for upregulation (white), downregulation (black), and total regulation (grey) are presented. Comparisons are presented in experiments versus baseline. Dys indicates rats that developed dyskinesia in response to L-DOPA treatment; Non-dys, rats that did not develop dyskinesia; Sal, rats that were lesioned with 6-OHDA and treated with saline.

Fig. 2.

Unsupervised hierarchical clustering of all genes with a standard deviation above 3% of the mean of their expression values and expressed above detection limit in at least 20% of all samples. Significant clustering of dyskinesia samples was observed ($P = 0.022$).

Fig. 3.

Gene changes validated by ISHH. The rows show film autoradiographs of striatal sections from dyskinetic rats, nondyskinetic rats, and control animals. Autoradiographs were obtained with the following probes: A, plasma membrane transporting ATPase 1 (PMCA1); B, the alpha1 subunit of Na^+K^+ -ATPase (NaK-ATPase); C, homer 1; D, neurofilament

heavy (NF-H); E, dopamine D1 receptor (DR1); F, α4 subunit of the GABA-A receptor (GABA-A α4); G, the vesicular GABA transporter (VGAT); H, the cannabinoid CB1 receptor (CB1); I, protein kinase C delta (PKCδ); J, cytochrome oxidase I (CO-I); K, calcium-calmodulin kinase IV (CamKIV). The results of the quantitative analysis (percent of control of lesioned side/unlesioned side) are shown in the column at right. $P < 0.05$ for $*$, dyskinetic versus nondyskinetic; §, dyskinetic versus saline; #, nondyskinetic versus control.

Table 1

Oligonucleotide sequences used for in situ hybridization histochemistry Oligonucleotide sequences used for in situ hybridization histochemistry

Table 2

MAPPFinder analysis of genes differentially regulated in rats that developed L-DOPA-induced AIMs compared to rats that do not develop AIMs

	Accession no.	Fold change	P value	P call $%$
Heat shock 20-kDa protein	D ₂₉₉₆₀	-1.14	0.044	100
Heat shock 70-kDa protein (S78556_at)	S78556	1.23	0.018	100
Heat shock 70-kDa protein $(S78556_g_a)$	S78556	1.13	0.003	100
VI. Ribosomal proteins [9/57; z score 3.39; $P = 0.005$]				
Ribosomal protein L12	X53504	-1.09	0.046	100
Ribosomal protein L13	X78327	-1.1	0.026	100
Ribosomal protein L17	X60212	-1.16	0.004	100
Ribosomal protein L18a (X14181cds_r_at)	X14181	-1.12	0.006	100
Ribosomal protein L18a (X14181cds_s_at)	X14181	-1.1	0.010	100
Ribosomal protein L26	X14671	-1.09	0.047	100
Ribosomal protein S15	E01534	-1.1	0.031	100
Phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate synthetase-associated protein 2	AI231500	-1.09	0.011	100
Phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate synthetase, subunit II	X16555	1.07	0.049	100

Gene categories showing a significant overall change in the comparison between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic rats

All regulated genes with a P value <0.05 and 20% or more 'present' call across all samples were used for the analysis. Two hundred sixty-two probes met the criteria and were included in the analysis. The table shows all gene families that had at least 2 regulated members, reached a z score above 2, and a permuted P value at or below 0.05. The z score was based on an N of 4141 and an R of 233 distinct genes. Positive values indicate higher mRNA levels in the dyskinetic group, negative values indicate higher mRNA levels in the nondyskinetic group.

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mRNAs of ion homeostasis and proton transport mRNAs of ion homeostasis and proton transport

Comparisons of gene expression changes between dyskinetic, nondyskinetic, and saline animals. Fold change and Pvalues are presented. Upregulations in dyskinetic animals are listed first,
downregulations are underneath. In downregulations are underneath. In case of opposite regulations in different comparison groups, the comparison of dyskinetic to nondyskinetic animals decided placement. Percent present call (P call %) is P values are presented. Upregulations in dyskinetic animals are listed first, given for each experimental group in the last three columns. The asterisk denotes significant differences between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic animals. Comparisons of gene expression changes between dyskinetic, nondyskinetic, and saline animals. Fold change and

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Table 4

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mRNAs of structural plasticity mRNAs of structural plasticity

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Amphiphysin Y13381 1.08 0.030 1.12 0.003 1.04 0.261 100 100 100 *

Compansons of gene expression changes between dyskinetc, nondyskinetc, and samne annihas, rote change and r vatues are presented. Opreguiations are insted intst, downreguiations are underneatin. In
case of opposite regulat case of opposite regulations in different comparison groups, the comparison of dyskinetic to nondyskinetic animals decided placement. Percent present call (P call %) is given for each experimental group in P values are presented. Upregulations are listed first, downregulations are underneath. In Comparisons of gene expression changes between dyskinetic, nondyskinetic, and saline animals. Fold change and the last three columns. The asterisk denotes significant differences between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic animals.

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Table 5

mRNAs of neurotransmitter synthesis, receptors, and transporters mRNAs of neurotransmitter synthesis, receptors, and transporters

case of opposite regulations in different comparison groups, the comparison of dyskinetic to nondyskinetic animals decided placement. Percent present call (P call %) is given for each experimental group in
the last three c case of opposite regulations in different comparison groups, the comparison of dyskinetic to nondyskinetic animals decided placement. Percent present call (P call %) is given for each experimental group in Comparisons of gene expression changes between dyskinetic, nondyskinetic, and saline animals. Fold change and Pvalues are presented. Upregulations are listed first, downregulations are underneath. In P values are presented. Upregulations are listed first, downregulations are underneath. In Comparisons of gene expression changes between dyskinetic, nondyskinetic, and saline animals. Fold change and the last three columns. The asterisk denotes significant differences between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic animals.

Table 6

mRNAs of energy metabolism, mitochondrial enzymes, and oxidative stress mRNAs of energy metabolism, mitochondrial enzymes, and oxidative stress

Compansons or gene expression cnanges between dyskineuc, nondyskineuc, and samne annitas, roto cnange and r vatues are presented. Opegulations are inseq inst, downregulations are internetant. In
case of opposite regulation case of opposite regulations in different comparison groups, the comparison of dyskinetic to nondyskinetic animals decided placement. Percent present call (P call %) is given for each experimental group in P values are presented. Upregulations are listed first, downregulations are underneath. In Comparisons of gene expression changes between dyskinetic, nondyskinetic, and saline animals. Fold change and the last three columns. The asterisk denotes significant differences between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic animals.

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Table 7

mRNAs of kinases and phosphatases mRNAs of kinases and phosphatases

Comparisons of gene expression changes between dyskinetic, nondyskinetic, and saline animals. Fold change and Pvalues are presented. Upregulations are listed first, downregulations are underneath. In
case of opposite regul case of opposite regulations in different comparison groups, the comparison of dyskinetic to nondyskinetic animals decided placement. Percent present call (P call %) is given for each experimental group in P values are presented. Upregulations are listed first, downregulations are underneath. In the last three columns. The asterisk denotes significant differences between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic animals. Comparisons of gene expression changes between dyskinetic, nondyskinetic, and saline animals. Fold change and the last three columns. The asterisk denotes significant differences between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic animals.

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Table 8

mRNAs of G proteins, membrane transducers, and intracellular adapter proteins mRNAs of G proteins, membrane transducers, and intracellular adapter proteins

case of opposite regulations in different comparison groups, the comparison of dyskinetic to nondyskinetic animals decided placement. Percent present call (P call %) is given for each experimental group in case of opposite regulations in different comparison groups, the comparison of dyskinetic to nondyskinetic animals decided placement. Percent present call (P call %) is given for each experimental group in P values are presented. Upregulations are listed first, downregulations are underneath. In Comparisons of gene expression changes between of yskinetic, and salime animals. Fold change and Salime are presented. Ppregulations are listed trist, downregulations are undermeath. In Comparisons of gene expression changes between dyskinetic, nondyskinetic, and saline animals. Fold change and the last three columns. The asterisk denotes significant differences between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic animals. the last three columns. The asterisk denotes significant differences between dyskinetic and nondyskinetic animals.