

# Dopamine Selectively Inhibits the Direct Cortical Pathway to the CA1 Hippocampal Region

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The perforant path input (pp) is a major direct source of specific sensory information for the CA1 hippocampal region. The termination area of this pathway, the stratum lacunosum-moleculare, has the highest concentration of dopamine receptors in the hippocampus. We have examined the properties of the pp input and its modulation by dopamine. The input is glutamatergic and has a larger NMDA component than the Schaffer collateral (sc) input. Dopamine strongly inhibits the response to pp stimulation ( $IC_{50} \sim 3 \mu M$ ) but not the response to sc stimulation. Dopamine reduces both the NMDA and AMPA components of transmission at the pp and increases paired-pulse facilitation. In the sc, the NMDA component but not the AMPA component is decreased, and paired-pulse facilitation is

not affected. The effect of dopamine on the pp does not depend on GABA<sub>A</sub> inhibition but is reduced by the antagonists of both D1 and D2 families of dopamine receptors. The effect is not completely blocked by the combination of D1 and D2 antagonists, but is completely blocked by the atypical neuroleptic clozapine. Our results provide the first evidence for strong dopaminergic control of transmission in the perforant path. By inhibiting this pathway, dopamine hyperfunction and/or NMDA hypofunction abnormalities implicated in schizophrenia may isolate CA1 from its main source of sensory information.

**Key words:** AMPA; CA1; clozapine; dopamine; D1; D2; eticlopride; GABA<sub>A</sub>; haloperidol; hippocampus; NMDA; perforant path; SCH 23390; Schaffer collaterals; schizophrenia; U-101958

The hippocampus has an important role in memory (Buzsáki, 1989; Jensen et al., 1996; Eichenbaum, 1997), in habituation, in the detection of novelty (Vinogradova, 1984; Levy, 1989), and in the spatial mapping of the environment (Skaggs and McNaughton, 1992; O'Keefe, 1993). The hippocampal CA1 region receives dopaminergic input from midbrain sources and has all five types of dopamine receptors, a dopamine uptake system, DARPP, and other machinery of dopaminergic target cells (for review, see Otmakhova and Lisman, 1996). An increase in the hippocampal dopaminergic function improves learning in animals (Grecksch and Matthies, 1982; Packard and White, 1991; Gasbarri et al., 1996; Bernabeu et al., 1997). There has been substantial recent progress in understanding how dopamine affects hippocampal synaptic plasticity. Studies on the Schaffer collateral input to the CA1 region show that dopamine enhances long-term potentiation (Frey et al., 1993; Otmakhova and Lisman, 1996) and inhibits depotentiation (Otmakhova and Lisman, 1998).

Although dopamine receptors are relatively widespread in the hippocampus, they are most concentrated in the distal dendritic region of the CA1 field, the stratum lacunosum-moleculare (Swanson et al., 1987; Goldsmith and Joyce, 1994). This suggests that it would be of interest to examine the dopaminergic modulation of the synaptic inputs into this stratum. Anatomical and physiological work indicates that the principal input into this

stratum is a direct projection from the entorhinal cortex (Lopes da Silva et al., 1990), but there are also inputs from the nucleus reuniens of the thalamus (Dolleman-Van der Weel et al., 1997). After previous convention, we term these inputs the perforant path input (pp). Although the pp has not received as much attention as other pathways, it appears to have an important role. *In vivo* recordings show that cells in the entorhinal cortex, the source of the perforant path to CA1, generate responses specific to particular stimuli and modalities (Vinogradova, 1984). Such responses are also seen in CA1 but cannot be brought there via the indirect (dentate gyrus, CA3) pathway because sensory specificity is rarely observed in these intermediary structures. Furthermore, destruction of the dentate gyrus actually increases the fraction of CA1 and CA3 neurons with specific sensory responses (Vinogradova, 1984) and does not strongly affect their place fields (McNaughton et al., 1989). The direct pp input therefore appears to be the main source of specific sensory information for CA1 and CA3 fields (Vinogradova, 1984; McNaughton et al., 1989).

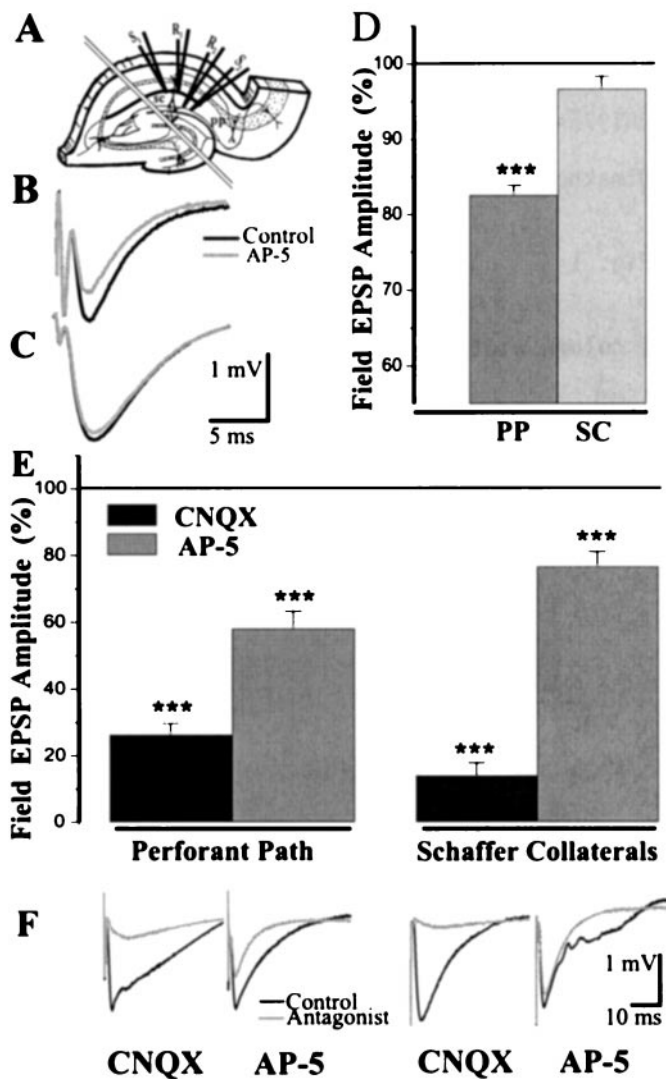
Elucidation of the role of dopamine in the hippocampus is relevant to schizophrenia and other dopamine-dependent brain disorders. The hippocampus has been implicated in schizophrenia because the disease is associated with abnormalities in hippocampal structure (Bogerts and Falkai, 1995; Fukuzako et al., 1995) and corticohippocampal interactions (Shenton et al., 1992; Heckers et al., 1998). Dopamine hyperfunction has been previously implicated in schizophrenia (Gray et al., 1995; Joyce and Meador-Woodruff, 1997), but there has been little information about how dopamine affects synaptic transmission in the hippocampus. Previous works indicate that dopamine does not affect the sc synaptic transmission (Gribkoff and Ashe, 1984; Marciani et al., 1984; Pockett, 1985) (but see Hsu, 1996). Here we show that dopamine strongly suppresses the pp input to the CA1 hippocampal region.

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**Figure 1.** Differences in the pp and sc fEPSP. *A*, Electrode positions for the simultaneous pp and sc fEPSP recording. *Parallel lines* signify the cut made to isolate the inputs. *B*, An example of the pp fEPSP in regular ACSF and the effect of NMDA receptor blockade. *C*, The sc fEPSP in regular ACSF shows no substantial effect of NMDA antagonist. *D*, Averaged data on the effect of NMDA antagonist  $\pm$  AP-5 (100  $\mu$ M) on the pp and sc fEPSP amplitude in regular ACSF. *E*, Averaged data on the effect of NMDA and AMPA antagonists on the pp and sc fEPSP amplitude in low  $Mg^{2+}$ , picrotoxin, and tetrodotoxin containing ACSF. Horizontal lines (100%) represent the fEPSP amplitude before drug application. Data in columns were taken at 10 min after the start of application. Significance in paired *t* test: \*\*\**p* < 0.001. *F*, Field EPSP traces from individual experiments with NMDA and AMPA antagonist applications in low  $Mg^{2+}$ , picrotoxin, and tetrodotoxin containing ACSF. Pathway labels below *E* also refer to *F*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Transverse slices (400- $\mu$ m-thick) from the dorsal hippocampus of 28- to 45-d-old male Long-Evans rats were used in this study. Part of the dentate gyrus and the CA3 field were cut from the slices as shown on Figure 1*A*. Slices were superfused with artificial CSF (ACSF) at a flow rate of 1.5–2.5 ml/min. ACSF contained (in mM): NaCl 120, NaHCO<sub>3</sub> 26, NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 1, KCl 2.5, CaCl<sub>2</sub> 2.5, MgSO<sub>4</sub> 1.3, and D-glucose 10 and was oxygenated (95% O<sub>2</sub> and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>). Experiments were done at the temperature 29.2–30.2°C. All electrodes (glass pipettes filled with ACSF, *r* = 0.2–0.3 M $\Omega$ ) were placed in the CA1 hippocampal region, closer to the subiculum than to CA3 (Fig. 1*A*). Two electrodes were placed in the distal 1/3 of the stratum radiatum 120–160  $\mu$ m apart from each other for

stimulating and recording from the sc synapses. Another pair of similar electrodes was positioned in the stratum lacunosum-moleculare to stimulate and record from the pp synapses. The thickness of the stratum lacunosum-moleculare is not even over the stretch of dorsal hippocampus. Procedurally, in each slice we subdivided this stratum by eye into two equal parts (sublayers, bands): proximal, close to st. radiatum, and distal, close to fissure, and placed our electrodes on the distal band. According to the literature, the region of CA1 adjoining the subiculum is a site of lateral pp projections (Swanson et al., 1987; Lopes da Silva et al., 1990). The distance between the pp electrodes was  $\sim$ 100  $\mu$ m. Data acquisition and initial “on-line” analysis were done using a PC through an LM-900 interface (Dagan Corporation, Minneapolis, MN) using a custom-made AXOBASIC program. We alternated the stimulation/recording between pp and sc inputs; each input was stimulated every 30 sec.

All drugs were purchased at Research Biochemicals (Natick, MA). Water soluble drugs were dissolved in the ACSF or water with 0.02% ascorbic acid for stock solutions and then diluted in ACSF and oxygenated before the experiment. None of the drugs was oxidation-protected during the application to avoid the necessity of additional controls for antioxidant action. Water insoluble drugs (neuroleptics and a specific D4 antagonist) were initially dissolved in DMSO for stocks and then sonicated in ACSF immediately before each experiment. The final concentration of DMSO during perfusion did not exceed 0.05–0.1%. Water soluble antagonists were applied starting 10 min before dopamine and throughout dopamine application. Water insoluble antagonists were applied at a higher concentration starting 25 min before dopamine.

For statistical analysis, responses were collected and averaged in 1 or 5 min periods. Maximal initial field EPSP (fEPSP) slope (millivolts per millisecond), amplitude (millivolts), and fiber volley amplitude were calculated. In most cases, data for each experiment were normalized relative to baseline. One minute statistics (Mean  $\pm$  SEM) were used for the time plots (see Figs. 3–5), whereas 5 min interval data were used for all statistical comparisons. As a standard requirement, an a priori  $\alpha$  value of 0.05 was established before all experiments. The effect of drug was estimated in each slice relative to baseline and then analyzed for the whole experimental series using two-tailed paired *t* test for means (Microsoft Excel statistical package). For between-slice comparisons, a Student’s two-tailed *t* test was used. Concentration–response curve fitting (on a logarithmic concentration scale) was done in Microcal Origin statistical package. Dopamine antagonist potency was estimated by comparing the dopamine effect in the presence or absence of the antagonist on the same slices by two factors ANOVA for repeated measurements (Microsoft Excel). Considered factors were drug (presence or absence of the antagonist; *df* = 1), time (from the start of dopamine application including 5 min of washout; in 5 min bins, *df* = 3), and drug \* time interaction (*df* = 3). If ANOVA showed a significant drug effect, a *post hoc* paired *t* test (two-tailed) was administered to check the significance of the effect in each 5 min interval. Figures show means and SEs.

## RESULTS

### Properties of the pp input

To selectively stimulate and record from the perforant path input to CA1, stimulating and recording electrodes were placed in the distal region of the stratum lacunosum-moleculare. Stimulation at this site could indirectly activate CA1 cells through the pp axons that stimulate CA3 or dentate granule cells and subsequent CA3–CA1 transmission (Yeckel and Berger, 1990). Such indirect transmission was eliminated by a cut separating CA1 from CA3 (Fig. 1*A*). In all our experiments, the pp and the sc inputs were measured simultaneously. The field EPSP evoked by the pp stimulation appeared as a negative deviation of potential at the pp recording electrode and as a positive deviation at the sc electrode. Conversely, stimulation of the sc caused negative deviation of potential at the sc recording electrode and positive deviation at the pp electrode. This indicates that the two electrodes stimulate separate populations of axons that selectively synapse in the two strata.

The general characteristics of the pp and sc responses were quite different. Higher (2–5 times) stimulus strength was required to induce the same fEPSP in pp as in the sc. As stimulus strength

increased, the fiber volley and fEPSP amplitude in the sc input increased proportionally, causing the appearance of population spike at a fiber volley amplitude of 0.4–0.5 mV. In the pp, increasing stimulus strength led to an increase in the fiber volley, but the fEPSP easily saturated. At a fiber volley/fEPSP ratio of  $\sim 1$ , the fEPSP usually could not be further increased. In our standard recordings in the sc, stimulus strength was selected to be 50–60% of the threshold value for evoking a population spike. The pp was stimulated with current sufficient to achieve 50–75% of maximal slope of fEPSP. Under these conditions, the fiber volley amplitude in sc ( $0.25 \pm 0.01$  mV) was smaller than in pp ( $0.78 \pm 0.004$  mV;  $p < 0.0001$ ;  $n = 31$ ; paired  $t$  test), whereas the fEPSP amplitude ( $1.32 \pm 0.04$  mV) was larger ( $0.74 \pm 0.03$  mV;  $p < 0.0001$ ;  $n = 31$ ) (Fig. 1*B,C*). Thus, the pp response had much higher fiber volley/fEPSP ratio ( $1.09 \pm 0.07$ ) compared with the sc ( $0.23 \pm 0.04$ ;  $p > 0.0001$ ;  $n = 31$ ). This difference is expected from what is known about the connectivity. Schaffer collaterals synapse onto a large fraction of CA1 pyramidal cells. In contrast, perforant path axons make “point to point” topographical connections with CA1 in transverse dimension (Swanson et al., 1987; Lopes da Silva et al., 1990) and may thus pass through a given region without making synaptic contacts. These characteristic features of the pp response are often not present if the stimulating and recording electrodes are placed only slightly closer to the cell body in the proximal region of the stratum-lacunosum moleculare. If these characteristics were not present in a given slice, the electrodes were moved or a new slice was used.

### The NMDA component of the fEPSP

The pp input, like the sc, is glutamatergic and has both NMDA and AMPA components (Colbert and Levy, 1992), but it was unclear from previous work whether the relative contribution of the two components was similar in the two pathways. To compare the contribution of the NMDA component in the pp and sc pathways, we first applied the NMDA antagonist, ( $\pm$ )AP-5 (100  $\mu$ M) in ACSF having a standard  $Mg^{2+}/Ca^{2+}$  ratio. Under these conditions, AP-5 did not affect the sc fEPSP amplitude ( $p > 0.1$ ;  $n = 6$ ; Fig. 1*D*) but reduced the pp fEPSP by 18% ( $p < 0.001$ ;  $n = 6$ ; Fig. 1*D*).

As a second approach, we measured the effects of NMDA antagonists under conditions that largely removed the  $Mg^{2+}$  block of the NMDA channels (0.1 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  in ACSF). Picrotoxin (50  $\mu$ M) was added to inhibit the GABA<sub>A</sub> IPSP. Under these conditions, the excitability of CA1 neurons was increased, causing the appearance of population spikes even with weak stimulation. To minimize the resulting distortion of fEPSP, pyramidal cell excitability was decreased using a low concentration (10 nM) of the Na<sup>+</sup> channel blocker tetrodotoxin. As a result, the number and amplitude of spikes in the field potential became much lower, and their latency markedly increased. This allowed more reliable amplitude measurements of the fEPSP (Fig. 1*F*). The strength of stimuli was adjusted so that fEPSP amplitude was approximately the same in both inputs. Under these conditions, application of 100  $\mu$ M NMDA antagonist, ( $\pm$ )AP-5 decreased the amplitude of the pp responses by 42% ( $n = 6$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ; Fig. 1*E*), whereas the sc response was decreased by only 23% ( $n = 6$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ; paired  $t$  test). The difference between inputs was significant ( $p < 0.05$ ; unpaired  $t$  test).

As a third approach, we compared the effects of the AMPA antagonist CNQX on the two pathways in low  $Mg^{2+}$  picrotoxin and tetrodotoxin (Fig. 1*E*). CNQX (10  $\mu$ M) left a residual response of only 14% in the sc ( $p < 0.001$ ; paired  $t$  test). The pp

response was also strongly decreased by CNQX ( $p < 0.001$ ; paired  $t$  test). However, there was a much larger (24%) residual response in the pp as compared with the sc input ( $p < 0.05$ ; unpaired  $t$  test). All our pharmacological tests are thus in agreement in indicating the NMDA component of transmission is larger in the pp than in the sc pathway.

### Selective suppression of the pp fEPSP by dopamine

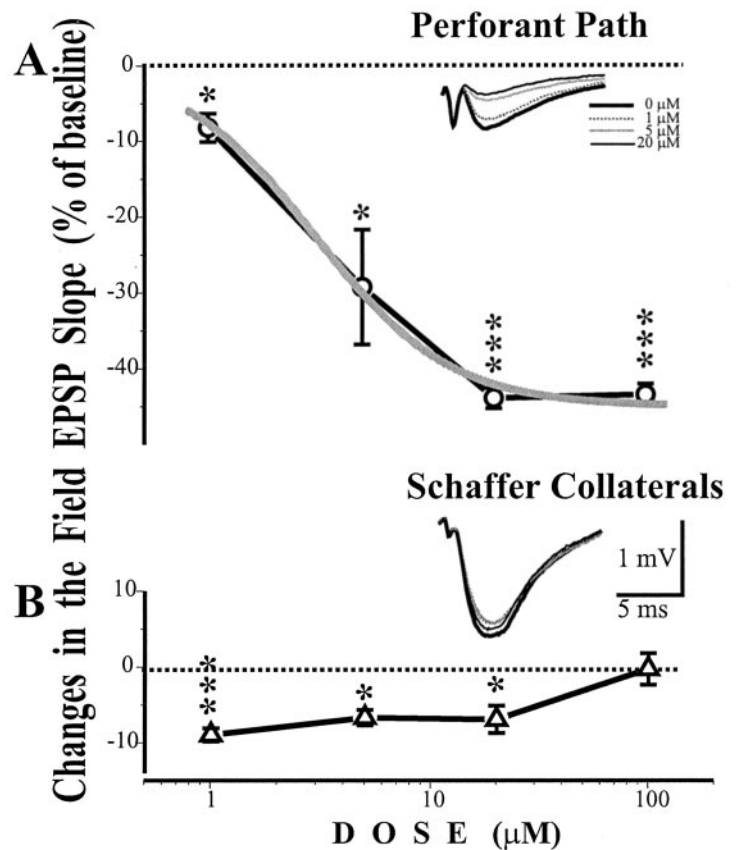
Application of 1–100  $\mu$ M dopamine strongly decreased the pp fEPSP (Fig. 2*A*) measured as a maximal initial slope. The degree of suppression varied with concentration and was maximally  $45 \pm 2\%$ ;  $IC_{50} = 3.05 \pm 0.5$   $\mu$ M (Fig. 2*A*). In some experiments the suppression was as large as 75–80% (Fig. 2*A, inset*). There was nearly full recovery within 5–10 min of washout. Dopamine is easily oxidized in solutions, and it was usually not oxidation-protected in our experiments. In control experiments using a very high concentration of antioxidant ascorbic acid (400  $\mu$ M), normal suppression ( $\sim 30\%$ ;  $n = 2$ ) occurred when dopamine (20  $\mu$ M) was applied. This indicates that the effect is unlikely to be mediated by a breakdown product of dopamine. Because usually dopamine was not oxidation-protected, its actual concentration may have been lower than the nominal value.

During the same dopamine applications, we also examined the effect of dopamine on the sc transmission. Dopamine produced at most only a minor decrease in the fEPSP slope in the sc input ( $< 10\%$ , Fig. 2*B*). The small dopamine effect on the sc input appeared to have a reversed concentration dependence. The suppression was statistically detectable at 1  $\mu$ M concentration but was absent at 100  $\mu$ M. At all tested concentrations (1–100  $\mu$ M), dopamine did not change the fiber volley in pp and sc inputs, indicating no change in axon excitability. For all further analysis we used a 20  $\mu$ M concentration of dopamine. We conclude that dopamine powerfully and selectively suppresses the fEPSP of the pp.

Dopaminergic fibers often terminate on GABAergic inhibitory interneurons (Carr and Sesack, 1996; Mrzljak et al., 1996; Delle Donne et al., 1997; Lewis et al., 1998). It was, therefore, possible that the effect of dopamine on the pp was mediated by GABAergic interneurons. In this case, the effect should disappear if GABAergic inhibition was eliminated. Because it has already been shown that GABA<sub>B</sub> receptors do not affect the pp input (Ault and Nadler, 1982; Colbert and Levy, 1992), we concentrated on GABA<sub>A</sub> inhibition. In the presence of 50  $\mu$ M picrotoxin, a GABA<sub>A</sub> antagonist, application of 20  $\mu$ M dopamine caused the same pathway-specific decrease of field EPSP as in control ACSF ( $p > 0.4$ ; Fig. 3*A*). The only small difference was that during the washout, the pp fEPSP in picrotoxin transiently became higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) than in the baseline. We conclude that the strong suppression of the pp fEPSP does not depend on GABAergic processes.

### Dopamine decreases both NMDA and AMPA components of pp fEPSP, but only the NMDA component in sc

We next checked whether dopamine affects the isolated NMDA and AMPA components of fEPSP. For these experiments we used ACSF with low  $Mg^{2+}$  (0.1 mM) and 50  $\mu$ M picrotoxin. First we determined the magnitude of the dopamine (20  $\mu$ M, 15 min) effect in these new conditions for fEPSP containing both NMDA and AMPA components. The slope of the pp fEPSP was decreased by 47% after dopamine application ( $n = 5$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). In sc there also was a small but significant decrease (10%;  $n = 5$ ;  $p <$



**Figure 2.** Concentration dependence of dopamine effect on fEPSP in CA1. *A*, Concentration–response data (Mean  $\pm$  SEM) for the dopamine effect on the maximal initial slope of fEPSP in the pp and sigmoidal fit using logistical model. *B*, Concentration–response data for dopamine effect in the sc input (maximal fEPSP slope). *Insets*, fEPSP traces from a representative experiment when three concentrations of dopamine (1, 5, and 20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) were applied. Experiments were done in regular ACSF. The dopamine effect was estimated between 10 and 15 min of dopamine application relative to the baseline before application. Significance in paired *t* test: \**p* < 0.05; \*\*\**p* < 0.001.

0.05). To isolate the AMPA component in the same slices, we added a 100  $\mu\text{M}$  concentration of the NMDA receptor antagonist ( $\pm$ )AP-5. Fifteen minutes after the beginning of ( $\pm$ )AP-5 perfusion, dopamine was applied for the second time (Fig. 3*B*). The AMPA component of the pp fEPSP was decreased by  $\sim$ 37% (*p* < 0.001). In sc the isolated AMPA response was not affected by dopamine (*n* = 5; *p* > 0.35; Fig. 3*B*). In a separate series of experiments we isolated the NMDA component using 10  $\mu\text{M}$  CNQX. Dopamine (20  $\mu\text{M}$ , 15 min) decreased the NMDA fEPSP of the pp by 65% (*n* = 6; *p* < 0.001; Fig. 3*C*). In sc the NMDA fEPSP was also decreased (25%; *n* = 6; *p* < 0.001). These results indicate that dopamine decreases both the AMPA and NMDA components in the pp, but only the NMDA component in the sc pathway.

#### Dopamine increases paired-pulse facilitation in the pp

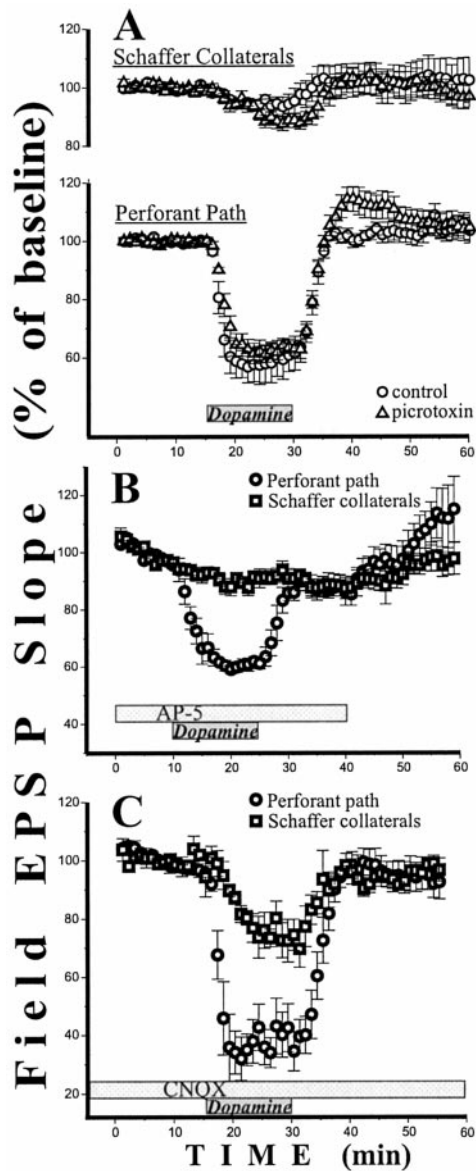
It was of interest to study the effect of dopamine on paired-pulse facilitation (PPF). It is generally thought that changes in PPF are caused by a presynaptic action (for example, see Benke et al., 1998). Experiments were performed in the ACSF with regular  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  concentration in the presence of 50  $\mu\text{M}$  picrotoxin to avoid the interference of  $\text{GABA}_A$  inhibition. Stimuli were applied every 30 sec in pairs of pulses with interpulse delay of 50 msec. PPF was calculated for fEPSP using the formula:  $\text{PPF} = \text{second}/\text{first} * 100\%$ . Dopamine (20  $\mu\text{M}$ , 15 min) decreased the pp responses (Fig. 4*A,B,D*) as described above. Associated with this decrease was an increase in PPF (Fig. 4*B,D*). Measured after 10 min of dopamine perfusion, PPF in pp was increased by 20% for the amplitude (*p* < 0.01; paired *t* test) and by 18% for the slope (*p* < 0.001). An important control was to determine whether the change in PPF might result secondarily from the reduction in

amplitude of the response. To control for this possibility, we conducted six additional experiments (Fig. 4*D,E*) in which the strength of stimulation was increased to compensate for the reduction in fEPSP produced by dopamine. As before, dopamine increased PPF in the pp (Fig. 4*D*) by 23% for amplitude (*p* < 0.05) and by 30% for slope (*p* < 0.01). After the compensatory increase in power of stimulation to return fEPSP to the baseline level, PPF was still significantly higher than in baseline (by 23% for amplitude, *p* < 0.01, and by 22% for slope, *p* < 0.01).

In both series of the above experiments, PPF was simultaneously measured in the sc. In the first series, dopamine had no significant effect on PPF in the sc input (*p* > 0.09 for amplitude and *p* > 0.1 for slope, paired *t* test; *n* = 6; Fig. 4*C*). In the second series dopamine slightly (by 5%) increased PPF for amplitude but not for slope (*p* > 0.1). PPF changes in amplitude returned to a baseline after the compensating increase in the strength of stimuli. The simplest interpretation of these findings is that dopamine acts postsynaptically in the sc and selectively reduces the NMDA component. It therefore has negligible effect on PPF. In contrast, dopamine has a presynaptic effect in the pp and therefore affects PPF.

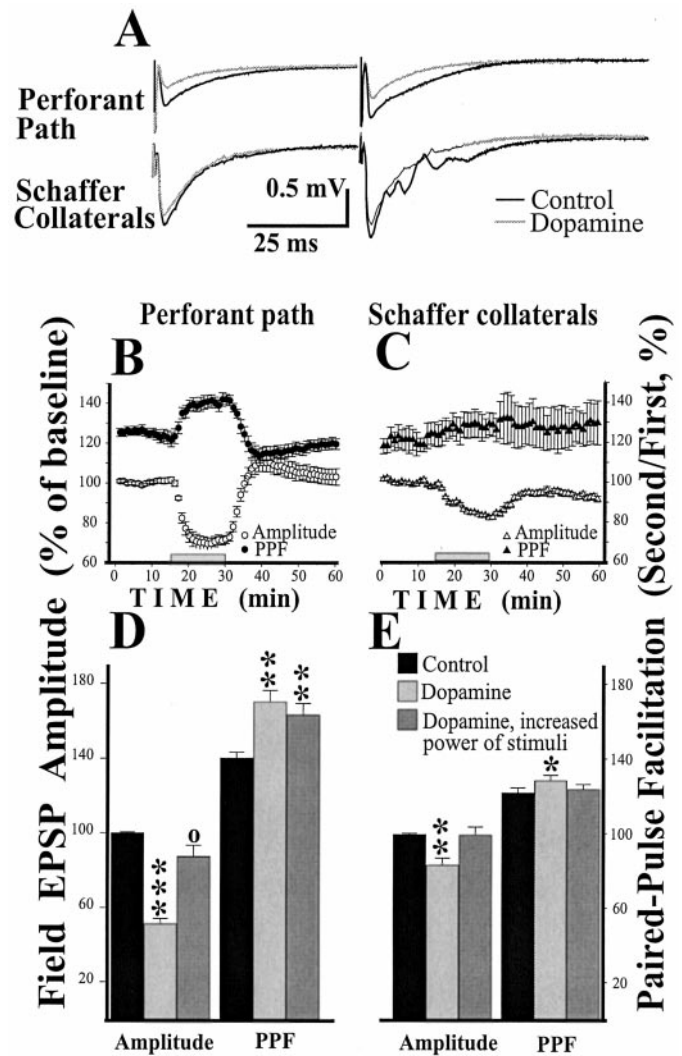
#### Dopamine receptor antagonists inhibit dopamine effect in pp

To determine whether D1 or D2 receptors families contribute to the dopamine action on pp we used the D1/D5 antagonist (+)SCH 23390 and several D2 receptor antagonists in regular ACSF. Dopamine was first applied alone to establish the magnitude of dopamine action in each slice. Then after 30 min of washout, dopamine was applied for a second time in the presence of antagonist. Dopamine responses (fEPSP slopes) with and



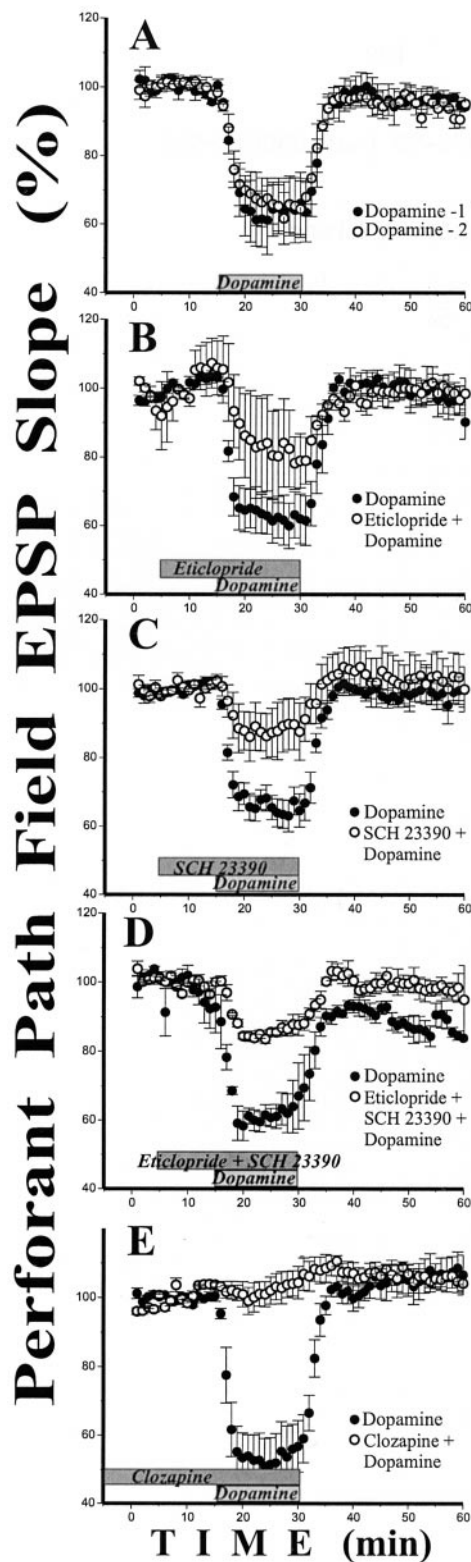
**Figure 3.** Dopamine-induced suppression of pp fEPSP slope does not depend on GABA<sub>A</sub> inhibition and involves both NMDA and AMPA components of the response. *A*, Blockade of GABA<sub>A</sub> inhibition by picrotoxin ( $n = 6$ ) did not affect the magnitude of dopamine-induced suppression but increased the pp fEPSP slope during washout. *B*, Dopamine strongly suppressed the isolated AMPA fEPSP slope in the pp but not in the sc. *C*, Isolated NMDA component of the fEPSP in both the pp and the sc show strong inhibition by dopamine. Time of drug applications is marked by rectangles. Experiments in *B* and *C* were done in  $0.1 \text{ Mg}^{2+}$  in the presence of picrotoxin; tetrodotoxin was not used.

without antagonist were compared in each slice using two-factor ANOVA for repeated measurements followed by *post hoc* two-tailed paired *t* test. The time factor was significant in all experiments, but the “time \* drug” interaction was not. In all these experiments we did not observe any dopamine effects in the sc input. An important control was to test whether the dopamine response might change as a result of repetitive applications. In four slices we applied dopamine twice (30 min washout interval). No differences appeared between the reactions on the first and the second dopamine application ( $F = 0.36$ ;  $p > 0.5$ ;  $n = 4$ ; Fig. 5*A*).



**Figure 4.** Dopamine significantly increased paired-pulse facilitation in the pp input. *A*, Individual examples of fEPSP during paired-pulse stimulation. All experiments were done in normal  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  ACSF with  $50 \mu\text{M}$  picrotoxin added. *B*, Changes in fEPSP amplitude and PPF of amplitude during dopamine application in the pp. *C*, Changes in the fEPSP amplitude and PPF in the sc. Apparent failure of reversal in amplitude during the washout of dopamine is probably caused by the small, slow decline of responses ( $\sim 10\%/hr$ ) generally seen in the sc input during picrotoxin applications. Time of dopamine applications is marked by rectangles. *D*, Increase of power of stimuli during dopamine application does not affect PPF of the pp fEPSP amplitude. *E*, Increase of power of stimuli during dopamine application decreases PPF of the sc fEPSP amplitude back to the baseline level. Pathway labels for *B* and *C* also refer to *D* and *E*. The dopamine effect (second column) was estimated between 5 and 10 min of dopamine application relative to the baseline before application. Third columns represent measurement between 5 and 10 min after the increase in power of stimuli in the presence of dopamine. Significance relative to baseline in paired *t* test: ○ $p < 0.1$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

The D2 receptor family antagonist (–)eticlopride is effective against D2, D3, and D4 dopamine receptors. (–)eticlopride ( $5 \mu\text{M}$ ) did not affect baseline synaptic transmission but significantly inhibited the dopamine effect in pp (by 30–35%;  $F = 5.87$ ;  $p < 0.03$ ; *post hoc* paired *t* test  $p < 0.07$ ;  $n = 4$ ; Fig. 5*B*). Another D2 family antagonist, the neuroleptic haloperidol, also inhibited dopamine-induced depression (30–35%;  $F = 7.80$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ; *post hoc*  $p < 0.01$ ;  $n = 5$ ). Among the D2 receptor family, D4 receptors



**Figure 5.** Dopamine antagonists inhibit dopamine-induced suppression of the pp fEPSP. *A*, Repetitive dopamine applications did not affect dopamine action on the pp fEPSP slope. *B*, D2 antagonist (–)eticlopride (5  $\mu$ M) inhibits the effect of dopamine on the pp fEPSP slope. *C*, D1 antagonist (+)SCH 23390 (5  $\mu$ M) inhibits the effect of dopamine on the pp fEPSP slope. *D*, There is no full inhibition of the effect of dopamine on the pp even by a mixture of D1 and D2 antagonists (5  $\mu$ M each). *E*, Clozapine (20  $\mu$ M) completely blocks dopamine-induced suppression of fEPSP slope in the pp. Time of drug applications is marked by rectangles.

are most strongly represented in the hippocampus (Mrzljak et al., 1996; Defagot et al., 1997; Joyce and Meador-Woodruff, 1997). The specific D4 antagonist U-101958 (Schlachter et al., 1997) at 20  $\mu$ M concentration caused a similar inhibition of the dopamine effect (by 25–30%;  $F = 5.02$ ;  $p < 0.04$ ; *post hoc*  $p < 0.05$ ;  $n = 4$ ). D1/D5 antagonist (+)SCH 23390 (5  $\mu$ M) also strongly decreased the effect of dopamine (by 60–65%,  $F = 29.82$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ; *post hoc*  $p < 0.05$ ;  $n = 5$ ; Fig. 5C) without affecting the baseline.

Because neither D1 nor D2 antagonists alone could fully block the dopamine-induced suppression of pp we applied a mixture of the SCH 23390 and eticlopride (5  $\mu$ M each). The inhibition of dopamine effect by the mixture was very strong (by 70–75%,  $F = 252.94$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ; *post hoc*  $p < 0.005$ ;  $n = 4$ ; Fig. 5D) but was still not full. We then tested one of the less specific dopamine antagonists, clozapine, which has affinity to D1, D2,  $\alpha$ -adrenergic, and some serotonin receptors (Baldessarini et al., 1992; Bunney, 1992; Coward, 1992; Meltzer, 1994; Jackson and Mohell, 1996; Newman-Tancredi et al., 1997). Clozapine (20  $\mu$ M) completely blocked the effect of dopamine on the pp (100%,  $F = 113.12$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ;  $n = 4$ ; Fig. 5E).

## DISCUSSION

### Dopamine selectively controls inputs to CA1

Our results provide the first evidence that dopamine suppresses the perforant path input to CA1 pyramidal cells. The effect shows all the characteristics of a specific receptor response: saturability, reversibility, and a low half-maximal concentration (Fig. 2). Both AMPA and NMDA components are inhibited. The inhibition of transmission is strong, sometimes up to 80%, and is thus one of the most powerful examples of dopaminergic modulation of transmission so far observed. Dopamine does not affect AMPA-mediated transmission at the nearby Schaffer collateral synapses on the same neurons. The effect is thus pathway-specific. This is the first demonstration of the input-specific dopamine effect in the brain. Pathway-specific effects in CA1 have been also shown for muscarinic (Hasselmo and Schnell, 1994) and GABA<sub>B</sub> receptors (Ault and Nadler, 1982; Colbert and Levy, 1992; Hasselmo and Schnell, 1994). Both selectively suppress the sc input. In contrast, dopamine selectively suppresses the pp input.

Our findings give some insight to the sites of dopamine action in the stratum lacunosum-moleculare. We found that the dopamine effect in pp was not affected by picrotoxin so does not involve inhibitory interneurons (Fig. 3A). Dopamine suppressed the NMDA and the AMPA components of the pp response (Fig. 3) and increased paired-pulse facilitation (Fig. 4). This would be most consistent with a presynaptic action of dopamine. In the sc, as was shown before, dopamine had no detectable effect on normal AMPA-mediated transmission (Gribkoff and Ashe, 1984; Marciani et al., 1984; Pockett, 1985) but decreased the isolated NMDA response. Furthermore, paired-pulse facilitation was not affected. This pattern is consistent with a postsynaptic site of modulation specific to the NMDA conductance. It should be noted, however, that the NMDA component of the pp response was inhibited significantly stronger than the AMPA. That suggests the possibility that dopamine may also have a postsynaptic action on NMDA receptor channels in the pp, similar to what is observed in the sc input.

We have made some progress in understanding the receptor subtypes involved in the dopamine effect, but the complete picture remains to be worked out. The dopamine effect could be decreased by either D2 or D1 receptor families antagonist (Fig. 5), implicating both D1 and D2 receptors as a major target of

dopamine action. This is consistent with the presence of both subtypes of receptors in stratum lacunosum-moleculare (Swanson et al., 1987; Goldsmith and Joyce, 1994). However, even the mixture of both D1 and D2 antagonists did not completely block dopamine-induced suppression of the pp. There is precedent for activation of other monoamine receptors by dopamine (Malenka and Nicoll, 1986; Aguayo and Grossie, 1994). Such action might contribute to the effect of dopamine in the pp input, because adrenergic and serotonergic receptors are also concentrated in the stratum lacunosum-moleculare (Swanson et al., 1987).

D1 and D2 receptors are often coupled to the opposing intercellular processes, but they act similarly in mediating the dopamine effect on the pp. There is precedent for cooperative action of D1 and D2 receptors at both the behavioral and the cellular levels (Bertorello et al., 1990; Piomelli et al., 1991; Calabresi et al., 1992; Momiya et al., 1993a,b; Surmeier and Kitai, 1993; Keefe and Gerfen, 1995; Wan et al., 1996; Hu and White, 1997; Shi et al., 1997). Our data leaves open the possibility that D1 and D2 receptors could modulate transmission at different sites and perhaps through complex processes. For instance, D2 type receptors might inhibit glutamate release and/or modify postsynaptic targets on pyramidal cell dendrites, whereas D1 type might increase local noradrenaline (Hajos-Korcsok and Sharp, 1996) or acetylcholine (Acquas et al., 1994; Hersi et al., 1995) release. These neuromodulators in turn might affect the pp transmission.

We find that the atypical antipsychotic agent clozapine completely abolishes the effect of dopamine on the pp. Clozapine is one of the most effective drugs in treating schizophrenia. It is known that in addition to blocking a broad range of dopamine receptors, clozapine also acts as an antagonist to  $\alpha$ -adrenergic, and some serotonin receptors (Baldessarini et al., 1992; Bunney, 1992; Coward, 1992; Meltzer, 1994; Jackson and Mohell, 1996; Newman-Tancredi et al., 1997). The broad spectrum of clozapine actions is thought to contribute to its antipsychotic function. Because the effect of dopamine is so large at the pp and because the effectiveness of clozapine is so high, the pp may serve as excellent site for investigating the details of the action of clozapine. Moreover, there are reasons for suspecting that this site might be important in schizophrenia (see functional significance).

### Differences between the pp and the sc inputs

Several lines of results indicate that NMDA-mediated transmission is more important at the pp than at the sc. In regular ACSF, the fEPSP of Schaffer collateral is hardly affected by the NMDA antagonist. In contrast, the pp response was reduced by  $\sim 20\%$  (Fig. 1). We also observed this difference in low  $Mg^{2+}$  solutions that should greatly reduce the voltage-dependent block of NMDA receptors by  $Mg^{2+}$ . Under these conditions, we similarly found that blocking NMDA channels produced a much larger fractional reduction in the amplitude of the fEPSP in the pp than in the sc. Conversely, an AMPA antagonist, CNQX, produced a much larger block of the fEPSP in the sc than in the pp. Our conclusion that the pp has a larger NMDA component of transmission than the sc is consistent with data shown by Colbert and Levy (1992). The pp input to the CA3 has also been shown to have a large NMDA component (Berzhanskaya et al., 1998).

Our finding of the differences in neuromodulation and transmission in stratum radiatum and stratum lacunosum-moleculare is generally consistent with available histological data. It was shown that these regions have substantial differences in receptor and channel distribution. D1 and D2 dopamine, 5-HT1 serotonin,  $\alpha$ -adrenergic, and nicotinic receptors seem to concentrate in the

stratum lacunosum-moleculare (Swanson et al., 1987; Goldsmith and Joyce, 1994). Putatively presynaptic high-conductance  $Ca^{2+}$ -dependent  $K^{+}$  channels (Knaus et al., 1996) and metabotropic glutamate receptors mGluR2 (Neki et al., 1996) also are more concentrated in the area of the pp input. The GluRD subunit of AMPA receptors, and muscarinic receptors, are more concentrated in the area of the sc input (Baude et al., 1995). It is therefore reasonable that dopamine inhibits the pp synaptic transmission stronger than the sc, but the activation of muscarinic receptors has stronger effects in the sc than in the pp (Hasselmo and Schnell, 1994).

We found that for a given fiber volley, the amplitude of the fEPSP in the pp was smaller than in the sc input. This seems to be consistent with available data. Schaffer collaterals give massive divergent (and convergent) input to a large number of pyramidal cells. The pp, on the other hand, mostly consists of highly specific point-to-point (nondivergent) corticohippocampal connections (Swanson et al., 1987; Lopes da Silva et al., 1990). Thus, many of the stimulated axons traveling through the stratum lacunosum-moleculare in the vicinity of the recording electrode may not synapse on the local population of pyramidal cells.

### Functional role of dopaminergic modulation of perforant path

The “direct” pp connection from entorhinal cortex to CA1 is the main source of specific sensory information to CA1 (Vinogradova, 1984; McNaughton et al., 1989). Despite its distal location, it can control the CA1 output acting directly and via inhibitory interneurons. *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies show that the stimulation of the pp can induce asynchronous spiking in CA1 pyramidal neurons (Spencer and Kandel, 1962; Bragin and Otmakhov, 1979a,b; Doller and Weight, 1982; Vinogradova, 1984; Yeckel and Berger, 1990). Excitation is usually followed by strong inhibition (Bragin and Otmakhov, 1979a; Empson and Heinemann, 1995; Levy et al., 1995) that temporarily blocks the effects of the indirect sc input.

The “indirect” path via the dentate and CA3 does not carry specific sensory information because these regions do not generally respond to specific features of the sensory stimulus (Vinogradova, 1984). Direct evidence shows that the responses of the dentate gyrus or CA3 fields depend strongly on training (Deadwyler and Hampson, 1997). An emerging view of the dentate gyrus/CA3 is that it uses the current sensory information to make predictions based on the contents of long-term memory (Jensen et al., 1996). These predictions would then be sent to CA1 by the sc, where they converge with actual sensory information arriving from the pp. The comparison of the information brought by these two inputs leads to the detection of novelty or mismatch from expectations (Vinogradova, 1984; Levy, 1989; Hasselmo and Schnell, 1994). Our results suggest that dopamine hyperfunction or NMDA hypofunction would isolate CA1 from specific sensory information coming from the entorhinal cortex via the pp and lead to an error in the mismatch computation.

Both dopaminergic hyperfunction (Joyce, 1993; Gray et al., 1995; Joyce and Meador-Woodruff, 1997) and NMDA hypofunction (Carlsson, 1995; Halberstadt, 1995; Olney and Farber, 1995; Javitt, 1996) are thought to underlie schizophrenia. There is converging evidence that schizophrenia involves hippocampal malfunction (Shenton et al., 1992; Bogerts and Falkai, 1995; Fukuzako et al., 1995; Heckers et al., 1998). Specifically, there is a decrease in temporolimbic volume that correlates with the severity of frontal syndromes (Bilder et al., 1995; Turetsky et al.,

1995). Decreased hippocampal function is associated with delusional syndrome (Schroder et al., 1995), and the degree of thought disorder correlates with the asymmetry in phosphorous metabolism in temporal cortices, specifically, hyperactivation of the right compared with the left temporal region (Deicken et al., 1995). Conscious recollection deficit in schizophrenic patients is associated with reduced hippocampal activation (Heckers et al., 1998). Appearance of verbal hallucinations in schizophrenia is associated with hippocampal activation (Silbersweig et al., 1995).

The only previous connection between dopamine and hippocampal function were the reports that dopamine could affect synaptic plasticity in the sc, specifically facilitate LTP (Frey et al., 1993; Otmakhova and Lisman, 1996), and inhibit depotentiation (Otmakhova and Lisman, 1998). Through these cellular actions, dopamine hyperfunction might increase random memory associations and disrupt the ability to inhibit incorrect associations, which is known to occur in schizophrenia. Although schizophrenia may involve long-term memory impairments, it clearly involves information-processing aberrations (Schroder et al., 1995; Bazin and Perruchet, 1996; Brebion et al., 1996). It may therefore be important that dopamine and NMDA antagonist can reduce the cortical input to CA1, and thereby affect information processing. This suggests a connection between the three known features of schizophrenia: the disruption of corticohippocampal interactions, dopamine hyperfunction, and NMDA hypofunction.

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