



# The 1<sup>st</sup> International Neuroinflammation Congress and 1<sup>st</sup> Student Festival of Neuroscience

Shefa Neuroscience Research Center, Tehran, Iran, 11-13 April, 2017

*The Neuroscience Journal of Shefaye Khatam*

Volume 5, No. 2, Suppl 2

## Oral Presentation

### Reactive Oxygen Species and Epilepsy

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**Published: 11 April, 2017**

#### Abstract

Seizure activity has been proposed to result in the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which then contribute to seizure-induced neuronal damage and eventually cell death. Although the mechanisms of seizure-induced ROS generation are unclear, mitochondria and cellular calcium overload have been proposed to have a crucial role. We aim to determine the sources of seizure-induced ROS and their contribution to seizure-induced cell death. Live cell imaging techniques in glio-neuronal cultures and in ex vivo epileptic brain tissue. We show that prolonged seizure-like activity increases ROS production in an NMDA receptor-dependent manner. Unexpectedly, however, mitochondria did not contribute to ROS production during seizure-like activity. ROS were generated primarily by NADPH oxidase and later by xanthine oxidase (XO) activity in a calcium-independent manner. Inhibition of NADPH or XO markedly reduced seizure-like activity-induced neuronal apoptosis. In addition, ROS were upregulated in chronic epilepsy in ex vivo brain slices. Inhibition of ROS production in vivo by AEBSE, a NADPH oxidase inhibitor, markedly reduced seizure-induced cell death. These findings demonstrate a critical role for ROS, generated by NADPH oxidase, contributing to seizure-induced cell death. These findings point to NADPH oxidase inhibition as a novel treatment strategy to prevent brain injury in seizures, status epilepticus and chronic epilepsy.

**Keywords:** Cell Death, Epilepsy, Brain Injury

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