



## Poster Presentation

### Agmatine Protects Against Intracerebroventricular Streptozotocin-Induced Water Maze Memory Deficit, Hippocampal Apoptosis and Akt/GSK3 $\beta$ Signaling Disruption

Maryam Moosavi<sup>1</sup>, Amir Hossein Zarifkar<sup>1, 2\*</sup>, Yaghoub Farbood<sup>2</sup>, Mahin Dianat<sup>2</sup>, Alireza Sarkaki<sup>2</sup>, Rasoul Ghasemi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physiology, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (AJUMS), Ahvaz, Iran

<sup>3</sup>Department of Physiology, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

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#### Abstract

Intracerebroventricular streptozotocin (STZ) treatment has been described as a suitable model for sporadic Alzheimer's disease (sAD). Centrally administered STZ decreases insulin and insulin receptors in the brain and interrupts PI3/Akt signaling pathway and GSK-3 $\beta$ . Additionally it raises Bax/Bcl-2 ratio and prompts hippocampal apoptosis. Agmatine, a polyamine derived from L-arginine decarboxylation, is recently shown to exert some neuroprotective effects. This study aimed to assess if agmatine reverses STZ-induced memory deficits and Akt/GSK-3 $\beta$  signaling disruption and apoptosis in the hippocampus. Adult male Sprague-Dawley rats weighing 200-250 g were used in this study. The canules were implanted bilaterally into lateral ventricle. STZ was administered on days 1 and 3 (3 mg/kg). Agmatine treatment (40 or 80 mg/kg) was started from day 4 in an every other day manner and continued till day 14. The animal's learning and memory capability was assessed on days 15-18 using Morris water maze. After complement of the behavioral studies the hippocampi was isolated and the amounts of hippocampal cleaved caspase 3 (the landmark of apoptosis), Bax/Bcl-2 ratio, total and phosphorylated forms of GSK-3 $\beta$  and p-Akt were analyzed by western blot. The results showed that agmatine in 80 but not 40 mg/kg reversed the memory loss induced by STZ. Western blot analysis revealed that STZ induced elevation of caspase-3; Bax/Bcl-2 ratio and disrupted Akt/GSK-3 $\beta$  signaling in the hippocampus. Agmatine prevented apoptosis and Akt/GSK-3 $\beta$  signaling alteration induced by STZ. This study disclosed that agmatine treatment avert not only STZ-induced memory deterioration but also hippocampal apoptosis and Akt/GSK-3 $\beta$  signaling interruption.

**Keywords:** STZ, Agmatine, Learning and Memory, Apoptosis, Akt, GSK-3 $\beta$

**\*Corresponding Author:** Amir Hossein Zarifkar

**E-mail:** amirhosseinzarifkar13@yahoo.com