Manganese-Induced Hydroxyl Radical Formation in Rat Striatum Is Not Attenuated by Dopamine Depletion or Iron Chelation in Vivo

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**INTRODUCTION**

Chronic inhalation of manganese (Mn) dust or vapor in humans and monkeys causes parkinsonism and dystonia (3, 4, 17) and produces selective neuropathology in the basal ganglia with lesions being localized both pre- and postsynaptically to the dopaminergic (DA) nigrostriatal pathway (8, 19–21, 62, 63). In addition, Mn2+ injection into the basal ganglia of rats (8, 40, 46, 47, 54) provides a model of chronic systemic Mn exposure in humans. For more than a decade, it has been hypothesized from in vitro studies that Mn neurotoxicity is mediated by free radicals via enhanced nonenzymatic autoxidation of catecholamines (1, 26, 27, 30, 42) or production of 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA) (12, 13, 23). Both processes would lead to production of toxic (semi)quinones and enhanced levels of H2O2 and superoxide anion radicals (O2·−) as well as hydroxyl radicals (·OH). This concept is in agreement with attenuation of Mn2+-induced DA depletion by vitamin E treatment (48). On the other hand, it has been reported that lipid peroxidation is inhibited by Mn2+ both in vitro (11, 60) and in postmortem brain tissues of Mn2+-exposed rats (16, 53). In addition, in vitro studies have shown that Mn produces irreversible DA depletion by oxidation to quinones without the formation of reactive oxygen species (1, 51).

Although production of (semi)quinones or free oxygen radicals after Mn has not been reported in vivo, it seems likely that DA plays a role in Mn neurotoxicity. For instance, pretreatment with the DA synthesis blockers α-methyltyrosine and lisuride attenuates the neurotoxicity of Mn2+ (47), whereas the monoamine oxidase inhibitor pargyline and L-DOPA (+carbidopa) potentiate its toxicity (46).

Besides DA, brain iron could mediate neurotoxic effects of Mn2+. The selective accumulation of Mn2+ in the basal ganglia (19, 41, 45) and anterograde axonal transport of Mn2+ in nigrostriatal and striatonigral neurons (55) may be dependent on iron transport and storage pathways (2, 6, 32, 33, 44). In vitro studies have shown that Mn binds to the iron transport protein transferrin and its receptor on catecholamine-containing neuroblastoma cells and that Mn—or Fe—is internalized followed by storage into ferritin (59). Therefore, Mn2+ may (in)directly liberate endogenous iron by disturbing iron homeostasis, particularly in mitochondria. In these organelles, Mn2+ induces decreased glutathione (GSH) contents and GSH enzyme activities (38), thereby compromising a major cellular defense mechanism against oxyradicals. In addition, Mn2+ has been reported to impair ATP production, decrease
respiratory cytochrome contents, inhibit oxidative phosphorylation, and increase lactate production (9, 39, 25).

The aim of the present studies was twofold. First, time- and dose-dependent OH formation by Mn²⁺ was assessed in relation to DA and serotonin (5-HT) depletions in order to examine whether OH generation is cause or consequence of brain damage. Like DA, 5-HT levels are depleted by Mn within the chosen time span (24 h) (54), which may significantly contribute to the formation of both quinoines and free oxyradicals (43). In this study we used salicylate (SA) as an ·OH-trapping agent, which forms the stable adducts 2,3- and 2,5-dihydroxybenzoates (DHBA) (35, 56 and references therein), and microinjections of Mn²⁺ into rat striatum as described previously (55). Since it has been reported that 2,5-DHBA can also be formed via P450 enzymes, as described previously (55). Since it has been reported that 2,5-DHBA can also be formed via P450 enzymes, which is not the case for 2,3-DHBA, the latter is a more reliable index for OH formation (35). Second, the roles of DA and iron in generating Mn²⁺-induced OH formation were investigated by analyzing 2,3-DHBA levels in striata of reserpine-pretreated (DA-depleted) or deferroxaminetreated (iron-chelated) rats, as well as by assessing different endogenous iron pools in Mn²⁺-induced striata.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Animals

Wistar-derived male rats (WAG, Harlan, Zeist, The Netherlands) were kept on a 12/12-h light/dark cycle and housed in a room with a humidity of 50–70% and a temperature of 24°C with free access to water and chow food. Animal experimentation protocols were approved by the Ethical Committee for Laboratory Animals Experiments, TNO/Regio West (Woudenberg, The Netherlands, Reg. No. 56-3A).

Materials

MnCl2 (>96% pure), FeCl2 · 4H2O (>99% pure), MgCl2 · 6H2O, and dopamine (3-hydroxytyramine · HCl) were obtained from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). Solutions of metals were made as described previously (55). All other compounds were purchased from Sigma (Brunschwig Chemie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and stored according to the description of the manufacturer.

Experimental Groups

Chloralhydrate-anesthetized (400 mg/kg ip) rats (190–230 g) received unilateral injections of MnCl2, FeCl2, or MgCl2 in 1 µl of Milli-Q water (Millipore, Molsheim, France) into striatum using stereotaxic procedures as described previously (55).

DHBA formation by Mn: Time course and dose-dependency. Two, six, or eighteen hours after intrastriatal injection of 0.4 µmol Mn²⁺, or 6 h after injection of 0.4 µmol Mg²⁺, rats (n = 6–7 per group) were decapitated to dissect striatal tissues from the brain. Likewise, rats (n = 6–7 per dose) were injected with 0.13 or 1.20 µmol Mn²⁺ 6 h before collection of their striata. In addition, 2 h prior to sacrifice, rats were loaded with 300 mg/kg SA (ip), whereas others (6–8 striata per group) did not receive SA to serve as negative controls.

DHBA formation by Mn after dopamine depletion. Eight rats were depleted of dopamine by 24-h pretreatment with reserpine (10; 2.5 mg/kg ip). These rats received a unilateral injection of 0.4 µmol Mn²⁺ into striatum and were decapitated 6 h later. In addition, SA (300 mg/kg ip) was given 2 h before sacrifice.

Effect of Mn on total and low molecular weight (LMW) iron levels. Six hours after bilateral injection of 0.4 µmol Mn²⁺, Mg²⁺, or Fe²⁺ into striatum, rats (n = 4–8 per treatment) were decapitated and their striata were dissected for immediate assay of total and LMW iron contents.

Effect of defereroxamine on Mn neurotoxicity. Ten rats received an injection (1 µl total) of 0.4 µmol Mn²⁺ plus 0.2 or 2.0 nmol defereroxamine mesylate (Desferal; DFX) into the left striatum and 0.4 µmol NaCl plus DFX into the right striatum. Six control rats received similar bilateral injections without DFX. All rats were loaded with SA (300 mg/kg ip) and sacrificed respectively 4 and 6 h after stereotaxic injection.

Collection of Samples

Collection and handling of samples for analysis of DA, 5-HT, SA, and related metabolites was done as described previously (56). Briefly, dissected striatal tissues (20–40 mg wet wt) were immediately frozen on dry ice and stored at −70°C. At the day of analysis, striata were sonicated in ice-cold 200 µl perchloric acid containing Na₂S₂O₅, centrifuged, diluted with mobile-phase buffer, and kept on ice before injection into the HPLC system.

For analysis of iron, freshly dissected striatal tissues were immediately weighed in preweighed potter tubes, homogenized in 100 mM Tris/HCl buffer (pH 7.4, 20% w/v), and subsequently DFX (2 mM final concentration) was added as described previously for heart tissue (61). Depending on expected concentrations, striatal tissues of 1 or 2 rats were pooled before homogenizing.

Analysis of 6-Hydroxydopamine, Dopamine, Serotonin, Salicylate, and Related Metabolites

Levels of SA, 2,3- and 2,5-DHBA, as well as 6-OHDA, DA, 5-HT, and their metabolites DOPAC (3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetic acid), HVA (4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenylacetic acid), and 5-HIAA (5-hydroxyindole-3-acetic acid) were determined in striatal tissues according to a previously described HPLC procedure with UV absor-
Na$_2$EDTA were stable for at least 2 months if kept at 100%. The detection limit for FX was 0.25 nmol. Iron:ferrioxamine (FX) and DFX was respectively measured by FX at 430 nm and DFX at 229 nm using a Spherisorb ODS2 cartridge analytical column (100 × 4.6 mm, 3 µm) with a ODS1 precolumn (30 × 4.6 mm, 5 µm) (Phase Separation, Ltd., Deeside, UK) was used to separate the compounds of interest at a flow rate of 0.8 ml/min. The mobile-phase buffer consisted of 0.1 M sodium acetate, 6.0% methanol, 19.5 mg/liter n-octyl sodium sulfate (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany), and 10–15 mg/liter Na$_2$ ethylenediaminetetraacetate (EDTA) dissolved in Milli-Q water and adjusted to pH 4.1 with glacial acetic acid. Stock solutions of standards (−1 mM) dissolved in 50 mM HCl containing 0.20 g/liter Na$_2$S$_2$O$_5$ and 0.050 g/liter diaminetetraacetate (EDTA) dissolved in Milli-Q water were stable for at least 2 months if kept stored in the dark at 4°C.

Analyses of Total and Low Molecular Weight Iron Pools

After centrifuging the striatal homogenate at 10,000g for 15 min, the supernatant was removed for LMW iron measurements in presence of the hexadentate iron chelator DFX (61), which forms a strong complex with iron: ferrioxamine (FX). LMW iron assays were conducted under physiological or reducing conditions by adding ascorbic acid (20 mg/ml in solid state). Ascorbic acid was used to reduce iron from its ferric to ferrous state, thereby liberating iron from Fe$^{3+}$ complexes, resulting in total LMW iron measurements. Briefly, samples were incubated for 60 min at 37°C and prepurified by passing them through a 50-µg Extract-Clean C18 column (Alltech) on which DFX and FX are retained. After washing with 0.3 ml water and elution with 0.2 ml 90% methanol/10% water, the eluate was injected into the HPLC system, which was equipped with an ODS2 analytical column (as mentioned above) and two variable wavelength detectors to allow simultaneous detection of FX at 430 nm and DFX at 229 nm (Waters 484). The mobile-phase buffer consisted of 88% 20 mM Na$_2$HPO$_4$/NaH$_2$PO$_4$, 2 mM NaEDTA, 0.2 M triethylandmonium chloride (pH 6.6) and 12% acetonitrile. Recovery of DFX and FX was respectively >80% and almost 100%. The detection limit for FX was 0.25 nmol. Iron levels were based on FX/DFX ratios from FeSO$_4$ standards incubated and extracted as the samples. Mn$^{2+}$ (100- to 800-fold excess) did not affect chelation of iron by DFX in this procedure.

Total iron in the resuspended pellet (20% w/v in Tris/HCl) was determined using the iron(II) chelator Ferrozine essentially according to Riederer et al. (50). Briefly, samples were added with Ferrozine (4.2 mM), ascorbic acid (20 mg/ml) to reduce iron, and pepsine (0.1%) at a final pH of 2.5 using HCl. Subsequently, samples were incubated at 37°C for 20 min, and absorbances were read at 560 nm. Blank and standard iron samples were treated in a similar manner. Mn$^{2+}$ did not affect chelation of iron by Ferrozine.

Statistics

Changes of the differences between ipsi- and contralateral tissues over time or with increasing dose were statistically evaluated using ANOVA (BMDP Statistical Software program SOLO, Los Angeles) followed by Newman–Keuls multiple comparisons test. In addition, the effect of time or dose in contra- or ipsilateral striata were also tested. Differences between values of ipsi- and contralateral tissues at the separate time points or doses were evaluated using Student’s t test.

RESULTS

Time-Dependent Effects of 0.4 µmol Mn$^{2+}$

SA levels expressed as [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios were significantly increased by Mn$^{2+}$ at 6 (1.5-fold) and 18 h (1.9-fold), but not at 2 h (1.3 fold). Such increased SA levels by Mn$^{2+}$ probably indicate a loss of local membrane integrity. To correct for differences in SA tissue levels, DHBA levels are expressed as [DHBA/SA] (mmol adduct/mol SA) followed by calculations of [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios to determine the factor of increase by Mn$^{2+}$. [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios of [DHBA/SA] were significantly increased by Mn$^{2+}$ over time (P < 0.001), reaching maximum levels at 6 h for both 2,3-DHBA (4.1-fold increase) and 2,5-DHBA (6.9-fold increase) and no significant increase between 0 and 2 h of 2,3-DHBA/SA ratios (Fig. 1).

DA levels (Fig. 1) were significantly decreased by Mn$^{2+}$ at 2 h (−53%) and declined further thereafter until at least 18 h (−65%) compared to contralateral tissues (P < 0.001). Serotonin levels (Fig. 1) were significantly decreased (−49%) by Mn$^{2+}$ at 2 h and declined further thereafter reaching the lowest levels at 18 h (−73% of contralateral striatum).

DOPAC (1.7-fold) and HVA (1.5- to 1.7-fold) levels were significantly increased by Mn$^{2+}$ at 2 and 6 h and were significantly decreased at 18 h (−40% and −65% of contralateral striatum, respectively). The resulting DA turnover expressed as DOPAC/DA and HVA/DA ratios was significantly elevated at 2 h (3.3- and 2.8-fold, respectively) and declined thereafter until a still-significant increase of DOPAC/DA ratios (1.6-fold of contralateral) and normal HVA/DA ratios at 18 h (Fig. 2). 5-HIAA levels were significantly decreased (−39%) by Mn$^{2+}$ at 2 h and declined further thereafter until −69% of contralateral tissue at 18 h. The resulting 5-HIAA/5-HT ratios were slightly, but significantly, elevated by Mn$^{2+}$ (P < 0.001), but did not change between 2, 6, and 18 h (Fig. 2).

In noninjected (contralateral) striatum, the means ± SEM of 2,3- and 2,5-DHBA/SA values and DA, 5-HT,
DOPAC, HVA, and 5-HIAA levels were respectively 0.30 ± 0.033 and 2.03 ± 0.11 mmol/mol SA and 68.9 ± 1.43, 3.15 ± 0.08, 5.16 ± 0.16, 4.71 ± 0.16, and 4.38 ± 0.08 pmol/mg, except at 2 h where levels of DA, DOPAC, and HVA were significantly elevated (P < 0.001). The latter effect is most likely due to chloral hydrate anesthesia (Westerink, 1985).

Dose-Dependent Effects of Mn^{2+} at 6 h

Six hours after intrastratal injections of different doses of Mn^{2+} (0.13, 0.4, and 1.2 µmol), SA levels expressed as [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios were significantly increased in a dose-dependent manner (P < 0.001) by respectively 1.2-, 1.5-, and 2.0-fold. The [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios of DHBA levels corrected for SA are shown in Fig. 3. [2,3-DHBA/SA] values were significantly increased by 0.4 and 1.2 µmol Mn^{2+} (P < 0.001), but not by 0.13 µmol Mn^{2+} or 0.4 µmol Mg^{2+}. [2,5-DHBA/SA] values were significantly elevated by all doses, including a relatively small increase by the control injection with Mg^{2+} (+37%), which is probably due to mechanical damage by the injection needle. Both 2,3- and 2,5-

**FIG. 1.** Time course of 2,3- (triangles) and 2,5-DHBA (circles) formation corrected for SA (top) and of dopamine (squares) and serotonin (diamonds) depletion (bottom) in striatum following a unilateral injection of 0.4 µmol Mn^{2+} into striatum of SA-loaded rats (300 mg/kg ip; 2 h). Data represent ipsi-/contralateral ratios of 6–7 rats per time point. All compounds changed time-dependently (P < 0.001, ANOVA). Newman–Keuls post hoc multiple comparison tests (α = 0.05) indicated significant changes between subsequent data time points (+/-) and compared to zero time points (asterisks). The zero time points represent noninjected controls (treated only with SA). For comparison with Mg^{2+}-injected controls at 6 h see Fig. 3.
DHBA increases reached plateau levels by 0.4 µmol Mn$^{2+}$ (respectively 4.2- and 6.9-fold).

DA levels (Fig. 3) were significantly reduced by 0.13 µmol Mn$^{2+}$ ($\sim$15%), and declined dose-dependently to $\sim$87% by 1.2 µmol. Control injections with Mg$^{2+}$ increased DA levels slightly, but significantly ($+14$%; $P < 0.05$). Serotonin levels (Fig. 3) were significantly reduced by 0.13 µmol Mn$^{2+}$ ($\sim$55%) and declined dose-dependently until $\sim$76% of contralateral tissues ($P < 0.001$). Following Mg$^{2+}$ injections, 5-HT levels were slightly, but significantly, decreased ($-14$%; $P < 0.05$).

DOPAC and HVA levels were significantly increased by 0.13 µmol Mn$^{2+}$ (respectively $1.9$– and $2.4$-fold) and declined dose-dependently reaching levels of $-51$% and $-32$% at 1.2 µmol, respectively. Mg$^{2+}$ injections increased DOPAC ($+61$%) and HVA ($+88$%) levels significantly ($P < 0.001$). The resulting DOPAC/DA and HVA/DA ratios were significantly increased in a dose-dependent manner ($P < 0.01$), reaching 4.9- and 7.8-fold elevations by 1.2 µmol Mn$^{2+}$, respectively (Fig. 4). 5-HIAA levels were significantly reduced by 0.13 µmol Mn$^{2+}$ ($-41$%) and declined dose-dependently until $-76$% ($P < 0.001$). The resulting 5-HIAA/5-HT ratios were not dose-dependently changed by Mn$^{2+}$ ($P = 0.32$) (Fig. 4).

Detection of 6-OHDA after Mn$^{2+}$

In Mn$^{2+}$-injected striata of rats not loaded with SA, no peaks at the position of 6-OHDA standards were observed (data not shown).

FIG. 2. Time course of dopamine and serotonin turnover following unilateral intrastriatal injection of 0.4 µmol Mn$^{2+}$ into striatum of salicylate-loaded rats (300 mg/kg ip; 2 h). Data represent [ipsi-/ contralateral] ratios of DOPAC/DA (circles), HVA/DA (triangles), and 5-HIAA/5-HT (squares) ratios of 6–7 rats per time point. The DA and 5-HT turnover changed time-dependently (ANOVA, $P < 0.001$). For more details see legend to Fig. 1.

Effect of Reserpine Pretreatment on Mn Neurotoxicity

The striatal DA and 5-HT contents of rats pretreated with reserpine were depleted by 89 and 56%, respectively. In reserpine-treated rats, Mn$^{2+}$ injections did not significantly decrease DA levels any further compared to contralateral tissues ($P = 0.39$ by Student’s $t$ test, Fig. 5) in contrast to a significant further decrease of 5-HT levels until $-76$%. 2,3-DHBA/SA ratios were significantly higher ($P < 0.001$) in both noninjected (2.1-fold) and Mn$^{2+}$-injected striata (1.7-fold) of reserpine-treated rats compared to striata of control rats (Fig. 5). A similar significant effect for 2,5-DHBA/SA was observed in this respect (respectively 1.9- and 1.9-fold). The Mn$^{2+}$-induced 2,3-DHBA formation (expressed as ipsi-/contralateral ratios of DHBA/SA) in reserpine-treated rats (2.8-fold) was not significantly different from that in control rats (4.2-fold). The same
was found for 2,5-DHBA formation in this respect (respectively 6.5- versus 6.9-fold).

Effect of Mn$^{2+}$ on Total and LMW Iron in Striatum

Six hours after intrastriatal injection, Mn$^{2+}$ produced no significant changes in striatal LMW or total iron pools compared to Mg$^{2+}$- or not-injected tissues (Table 1). Furthermore, striatal LMW iron levels of Mn$^{2+}$- or Mg$^{2+}$-injected rats were similar when measured under reducing or nonreducing conditions. In contrast, 6 h after intrastriatal Fe$^{2+}$-injection, both LMW and total iron pools in striatum were markedly increased. In addition, in these striata, under reducing conditions, about 15-fold more iron was chelated by DFX in the LMW pool than in physiological medium. This difference can be due to a fine ferric hydroxide precipitation.

Effects of Deferoxamine on Mn Neurotoxicity

Co-injections of Mn$^{2+}$ with 0.2 or 2.0 nmol DFX into striatum did not significantly alter 2,3- (Table 2) or 2,5-DHBA/SA increases or the extent of DA depletions (Table 2) compared to Mn$^{2+}$ injections without DFX. There were no significant effects of DFX in contralateral tissues. Differences between ipsi- and contralateral levels of 2,3-DHBA/SA, 2,5-DHBA/SA, and DA were highly significant in all tested groups ($P < 0.001$). The means ± SEM of 2,3- and 2,5-DHBA/SA (mmol/mol SA) and DA levels (pmol/mg) after NaCl injection were respectively 0.40 ± 0.03, 2.1 ± 0.24, and 72.7 ± 3.4.

DISCUSSION

The present studies using SA as a OH-trapping agent demonstrate time- and dose-dependent OH formation by Mn$^{2+}$ in the living brain. Furthermore, Mn does not catalyze the Haber-Weiss reaction in vivo. Additional experiments indicate that Mn$^{2+}$-induced OH are not generated as a result of DA oxidation nor by an increase in (free) chelatable endogenous iron.

Pronounced increases of 2,3-DHBA/SA (up to 4-fold) in Mn$^{2+}$-injected striatum compared to controls (Figs. 1 and 3) suggest that Mn$^{2+}$ induces OH formation. In addition, our results indicate that OH are not triggered by Mn itself, because maximum levels are
Effect of Intrastriatal Injection of 0.4 µmol Mn²⁺, Fe²⁺, or Mg²⁺ (Controls) on Total Low (LMW) or High Molecular Weight (HMW) Iron (Fe²⁺ + Fe³⁺) or Direct Chelatable LMW Iron (Essentially Fe²⁺) Levels in Striatum (pmol/mg wet wt) 6 h after Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intrastriatal Injection</th>
<th>Direct chelatable LMW iron²⁺</th>
<th>Total iron levels (Fe²⁺ + Fe³⁺)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Noninjected</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>24 ± 12 (3) (\text{LMW}²⁺) 75 ± 4 (3) (\text{HMW}) 100 ± 14 (3) (\text{LMW} + \text{HMW})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MgCl₂</td>
<td>53 ± 11 (4) (\text{LMW}²⁺) 39 ± 11 (3) (\text{HMW}) 76 ± 5 (7) 118 ± 16 (3) (\text{LMW} + \text{HMW})</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MnCl₂</td>
<td>32 ± 9 (4) (\text{LMW}²⁺) 26 ± 9 (4) (\text{HMW}) 74 ± 11 (8) 98 ± 43 (4) (\text{LMW} + \text{HMW})</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FeCl₂</td>
<td>515 ± 87 (5) (\text{LMW}²⁺) 7247 ± 1839 (4) (\text{HMW}) 4958 ± 274 (10) 12,500 ± 290 (4) (\text{LMW} + \text{HMW})</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note. Data are means ± SEM of 3–10 samples (n). Determinations of Mn²⁺-, Mg²⁺-, and noninjected striata are based on 2–4 pooled tissues per sample. LMW and total iron levels in Mn²⁺-injected striata were not significantly different from Mg²⁺- or noninjected tissue. LMW iron determined under physiological or reducing conditions (for details see Materials and Methods) were not significantly different in Mg²⁺- or Mn²⁺-injected striata. In Fe²⁺-injected striata, LMW and HMW iron pools were clearly increased. The difference between LMW iron levels assessed in physiological and reduced media of Fe²⁺-injected striata is probably due to a fine ferric hydroxide precipitate. ND, not determined.

TABLE 2

Effect of the Iron Chelator Deferoxamine (0, 0.2, or 2.0 nmol DFX) on Mn²⁺-Induced OH Formation (2,3-DHBA/SA) and Dopamine Depletion 6 h after Co-injection of 0.4 µmol Mn²⁺ with DFX into the Ipsilateral Striatum or 0.4 µmol NaCl with DFX into the Contralateral Striatum of SA-loaded Rats (300 mg/kg ip; 2 h)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ipsicoventional ratio</th>
<th>Intrastriatal co-injection of 0.4 µmol Mn²⁺ and different doses of deferoxamine (nmol)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,3-DHBA/SA</td>
<td>1.92 ± 0.12*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dopamine</td>
<td>0.46 ± 0.06*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Data are means ± SEM expressed as [ipsi-/contralateral] ratios of 5–6 rats per dose. DFX co-injections did not significantly change Mn²⁺-induced 2,3-DHBA increases or DA depletion (ANOVA). Differences of 2,3-DHBA/SA values and DA levels between ipsi- and contralateral striata were highly significant in the three groups. *P < 0.001.
Since Mn$^{2+}$ itself cannot trigger OH formation, and the likely candidates DA and 6-OHDA—which we did not detect in vivo—cannot explain the observed increase of OH formation by Mn$^{2+}$, the role of endogenous iron was also examined after Mn$^{2+}$. However, in Mn$^{2+}$-injected striatum LMW iron, which is considered a relevant pool for catalyzing the Haber–Weiss reaction (36), was not different from that in Mn$^{2+}$- or noninjected striata (Table 1). Results obtained in Fe$^{2+}$-injected striata indicated that our assay procedures worked. Thus, “free” or LMW iron does not participate in Mn$^{2+}$-induced OH formation unless (very) local increases play a role. Therefore intrastratial co-injections of Mn$^{2+}$ with the iron chelator DFX were conducted using doses known to retard 6-OHDA neurodegeneration (7) and sufficient to chelate the measured LMW iron pool completely. However, different intrastratial DFX injections could not attenuate Mn$^{2+}$-induced 2,3-DHBA formation (Table 2), which is consistent with our data on LMW iron. An important additional fact which supports the latter conclusion is that iron chelation by DFX in large excess of Mn$^{2+}$ was not affected in vitro.

The question then arises, are there other mechanisms which may be responsible for Mn$^{2+}$-induced OH? We propose two other mechanisms. First, Mn$^{2+}$ accumulates preferentially in mitochondria via the Ca$^{2+}$ uniporter, thereby inhibiting its own and Ca$^{2+}$ effluxes (24) and impairing several mitochondrial respiratory functions and GSH metabolism (9, 25, 38, 39). Under such conditions, disturbances of cytochrome heme metabolism (38, 49) and/or heme-associated electron transfers by Mn$^{2+}$ may lead to oxoheme oxidants in the presence of H$_2$O$_2$ or the postulated heme-associated ferryl radicals (18, 28, 29, 48), which may cause SA hydroxylation in our studies (48). DFX can probably not chelate iron from heme proteins, and this may explain the lack of an effect of DFX on Mn$^{2+}$-induced OH.

Recently, protection has been shown by NO-synthase inhibitors after brain injury by some mitochondrial toxins (52). Since Mn$^{2+}$ also acts like a mitochondrial toxin that may raise NO, OH may be derived from the decomposition of peroxynitrite, which is a reaction product of NO and O$_2^{-}$ (5, 15, 37, 34).

In conclusion, selective regional accumulation of Mn$^{2+}$ in the basal ganglia and its preferential sequestration in mitochondria may lead to local oxylradical formation and mitochondrial dysfunctions, which eventually result in selective cell death. The present studies have shown that DA and chelatable iron do not contribute to Mn$^{2+}$-induced OH. Therefore, other mechanisms explaining oxidant stress after Mn$^{2+}$ intoxication such as site-specific OH formation through mitochondrial heme-iron moieties or peroxynitrite formation should be studied. An additional role of DA quinones in producing oxidative stress remains to be elucidated.

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