Unraveling the Neuroprotective Effect of Tinospora Cordifolia in Parkinsonian Mouse Model Through Proteomics Approach.

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Research article

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Abstract

Background

Stress-induced dopaminergic (DAergic) neuronal death in the midbrain region is the primary cause of Parkinson's disease (PD). Approximately 2% of the global population aged above 65 years is affected with PD. Various factors are responsible for the death of DAergic neurons, among which mitochondrial dysfunction, oxidative stress, misfolded protein aggregation and neuroinflammation are the primary factors. From the discovery of L-dopa, multiple drugs were discovered to improve lifestyle of PD patients, but they failed due to their multiple side effects. *Tinospora cordifolia* (Tc), a medicinal herb has been used in traditional medicines to treat neurodegenerative diseases. In our previous study, the neuroprotective role of Tc against MPTP-intoxicated Parkinsonian mice was reported. Here, we further explore the neuroprotective molecular mechanisms of Tc in Rotenone (ROT) intoxicated mouse model through proteomics approach.

Methods

Mice were pretreated with Tc extract by oral administration, followed by ROT-intoxication (2mg/kg body wt. for 35 days, subcutaneous). Rotarod, catalepsy, footprint and pole tests were carried out at 35th day to observe the neuroprotective effects of Tc on motor impairment caused by ROT in PD mice. Protein from nigrostriatal region of the mid brain was isolated, and label free quantification (LFQ) was carried out to identify differentially expressed protein (DEPs) in control vs. PD and PD vs. treatment group. Bioinformatics analysis of DEPs was carried out to explore the molecular pathway, cellular location, molecular function of proteins.

Results

In this study, we report 800 DEPs in control vs. PD and 133 in PD vs. Treatment group. *In silico* tools clearly demonstrate significant enrichment of biochemical and molecular pathways with DEPs which are known to be important for PD progression, including, mitochondrial gene expression, hypothetical network for drug addiction, PD pathways, TGF-β signaling, Alzheimer's disease, Odorant GPCRs and chemokine signaling pathway.

Conclusion

This study provides a novel insight for the disease progression in PD mouse. More importantly, it demonstrates that Tc exerts the therapeutic effects through the regulation of multiple pathways to protect DAergic neurons.

Background

Global burden of neurological diseases has doubled during 1990 to 2015. Among these, Parkinson's disease (PD) growth was fastest in prevalence and death [1,2]. PD is the second most prevalent
neurodegenerative disease with progressive and continuous death of dopaminergic (DAergic) neurons in the grey matter, following to the decrease in Dopamine (DA) concentration in the striatal region [3–5]. The consequential DA deficiency leads to impaired motor function including tremors, rigidity, bradykinesia and akinesia [6]. The centerpiece of PD management is to execute symptomatic treatment with L-dopa but due to its various side effect like nausea, hallucination, dyskinesia, lower blood pressure, confusion, loss of appetite it has limited efficacy [7].

Lately, scientists have been recommending environmental factors (viz. exposure to pesticides) as the contributory factor to PD onset and progression. Recent studies revealed that Rotenone (ROT), a pesticide which is also an inhibitor of mitochondrial complex-I; when administered consistently, recapitulated PD’s features like reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation, degeneration of the nigrostriatal DAergic system etc. [8–10]. As PD advances, the death of DAergic neurons surges and these neurons don’t have potency to regenerate. After investigating the available therapeutics used for the treatment of PD, it seems that they only provide symptomatic relief with serious side effects and affects the quality of life. Therefore, the development of effective therapeutic agents having the ability to protect the neurons and to diminish side effects are much needed. Scientists have been working on natural alternatives which provide efficient neuroprotection, subsequent impending basic pathological conditions [11]. The literature study revealed that several medicinal plants including Mucuna pruriens, Bacopa monnieri, Withania somnifera, Tinospora cordifolia (Tc) and their active constituents have neuroprotective effects against neuronal cell death in PD [12–16].

Various studies reported that Tc possesses neuroprotective activity and its co-administration with L-Dopa reduces intra neuronal oxidative stress [17]. Kosaraju et al. (2014) in 6-OHDA model of PD reported that, Tc exhibits significant neuroprotective effects as well as improved levels of dopamine and reduces iron toxicity in rat brain [18]. In our previous study, we demonstrated that Tc has neuroprotective as well as anti-neuroinflammatory activity in mice brain mainly due to inhibition of NF-kB and other proinflammatory molecule such as TNF-α, IL-12, IL-1β, and restoration of Tyrosine hydroxylase levels, a key enzyme in the synthesis of DA [19]. Sharma et al. (2020) reported that butanolic extract of Tc has reversed the glutamate-induced neurodegeneration in hippocampus region of rat brain [20].

Proteomics approach accounts for analysis of total protein content at different levels of organization (cell, tissue and organism) at different development stages [21]. Nowadays proteomic approach has ignited much attention in different facets of genomics and cellular behavior. With the help of proteomics, we can identify novel molecular pathways involved in the progression of PD. By targeting these pathways we can conclude early disease diagnosis, prognosis and to monitor the stage of disease development and recognition of advanced drug targets can be achieved [22–25]. Further we can also improve the reproducibility and performance of the available treatment strategies. Therefore, this study was executed to fulfil the gap between PD pathogenesis and treatment strategies [26]. Our study mainly focused on identification of new molecular targets in PD and the mechanism of action through which Tc reverses the disease progression. In the present study, we used label-free quantification (LFQ) based on LC-MS/MS, due to its high sensitivity, reproducibility and reliability to study the protein expression patterns in the
nigrostriatal region of midbrain of mice [27]. Using this method, quantification of the differentially expressed proteins (DEPs) of control vs. Parkinsonian group, and Parkinsonian vs. Tc group was performed. Our results revealed that the Tc treatment improves the behavioral abnormalities in PD mice and in label free proteome analysis, we tried to report multiple proteins in both groups, which were differentially expressed. From these results, we have selected 20 proteins (Supplementary file 2, Table 1) whose expression were significantly modulated in PD as well as treatment group and performed bioinformatics analysis, gene ontology (GO), functional pathway enrichment analysis along with protein-protein interaction (PPI) network and gene-gene interaction, to investigate the correlation with previously reported protein and gene prominent pathway influenced by Tc for neuroprotective activity. These results may assist to figure out the new therapeutic approaches for prevention and treatment of PD.

**Materials And Methods**

**Plant Extract Preparation**

Tc stem was procured from Botanical garden, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India in month of January 2019. Tc stems were dried for 7-10 days in shade and pulverized with the help of an electric grinder. The dried sample was extracted with ethanol and water solvent at a ratio of 70: 30 (200 gm powder into 1000 mL) at 40 °C for 16 h in Soxhlet apparatus. Consequently, the plant extract was filtered through 0.45 µm filter and the residue was concentrated under reduced pressure using rotary vacuum evaporator. The plant extract are expressed in terms of dry weight [28–30].

**Ethical Statement**

The care and maintenance of the experimental animals was carried out in strict accordance with the Animal Ethics procedure and guidelines of the Institutional Animal Ethical Committee of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India (Ref no. BHU/DoZ/IAEC/2018-19/032). All the efforts were made to ease suffering of mice used in the study.

For conducting the experiment male Swiss albino mice (25 ± 5 g) was obtained from the animal facility at Institute of Medical Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (India). The mice were housed in clean polypropylene cages with constant light-dark cycles (12/12 h) prior to the experiment. Until the dosing was completed, mice were supplied with water and standard diet pellets ad libitum. The experimental protocol was established in accordance with the guidelines of the Animal Ethics Committee, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India.

**Animal Dosing**

Animals were randomly assigned into three groups: Control (vehicle group), Rotenone (2 mg/kg body wt. per day) subcutaneously for 35 days and Rotenone + Tc (200 mg/kg body wt. per day) orally-administered for 7 days, then concurrent administration of Tc (21 days) and ROT-intoxication (35 days) were done similar to that Rotenone group (n = 8/group). In accordance with our previous study, dosing
was administered with minor changes [19,31]. Upon completion of the dosing, behavioral analysis was carried out, and the mice were sacrificed to isolate the brains for the proteome analysis. All the experiments were carried out in triplicate.

**Behavioral Analysis**

To determine the effect of ROT-intoxication on the motor activity in Parkinsonian mouse model, behavioral parameters including the catalepsy test, rotarod test, pole test, and foot-print assay were performed.

**Catalepsy Test**

Stiffness in the muscles of mice can be estimated by placing the forelimbs of mice on an elevated bar and the hind limbs on the ground. Catalepsy intensity was measured by recording the time when the mice moves their hind limbs from a wooden platform (3 cm in height) to correct their posture. The was recoded in second and the test was discontinued when the time exceeded 180 sec [32].

**Pole Test**

Initially, for two consecutive days, the mice were trained. The performance was recorded after the last MPTP injection. Mice were placed head-up on the top of a rod (10 mm in diameter, 52 cm in height, with rough surface). T-turn (time taken to orient downward) and T-descend (the time required for the mouse to step down the rod length) were recorded in second and experiment was discontinued after 300 sec [33].

**Rotarod Test**

For the rotarod test, each mouse was trained in a rotarod before the experiment for three consecutive days, at a set speed of 15 rpm. The time was recorded till the mouse fall from the rotarod and reading were recorded up to 5 min. For each mouse, the test was repeated five times and the mean time was recorded. The difference in fall time observed between the PD group and the Tc-treated group is an indicator of muscle relaxation [34].

**Footprint Assay**

In the footprint test, the mice were trained to walk on a white paper for three consecutive days. The length of the stride was calculated by immersing the mouse's forefoot in blank ink and measuring the gap between the steps, from the middle toe (first step) to the heel (second step) on the same side of the body [35]. Foot print assay was conducted thrice for each animal. Stride forepaw length were recorded in cm.

**Tissue Collection**

After behavioral tests, mice were sacrificed by cervical dislocation followed by decapitation to ensure minimal pain. The brain of each mouse was isolated and instantly
frozen. Later, the brain was dissected under ice cold conditions to isolate the nigrostriatal tissue from the midbrain and was stored at -80 °C until the further experiments were performed.

**Sample Preparation for LFQ Analysis**

Protein extraction was done following the previous method of Gupta et. al. (2010) with slight modifications [32]. The brain tissue was thawed, and homogenized using the lysis buffer (RIPA, and protease cocktail inhibitor) and incubated for 90 min on ice. The homogenate was centrifuged at 12,000 rpm at 4 °C for 20 min, and the supernatant was collected in a fresh eppendorf tube. The proteins were quantified by Bradford assay and expressed in terms of mg/ml/gm. tissue [36]. Quantitative assessment of the protein samples was performed by SDS-PAGE.

100 μg of the protein sample was taken from each group for digestion. The samples were diluted with 50 mM NH₄HCO₃ protein followed by treatment with 100 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) at 95 °C for 1 h. 250 mM iodoacetamide (IDA) was added to the RT in dark and incubated for 45 min. The samples were then digested with Trypsin (Trypsin gold promega, USA) and incubated overnight at RT. The resulting sample was vacuum dried and dissolved in 50 μl of 0.1% formic acid (FA) in water, followed by centrifugation at 10,000 rpm and the supernatant was collected into a separate tube. 10 μL injection volume was used on BEH C18 UPLC column for separation of peptides, the mobile phase contained 0.1% FA in water (buffer A) and 0.1% FA in Acetonitrile (98:2 v/v for 1-30 min, 50:50 v/v for 30-40 min, 20:80 v/v for 40-50 min then 98:2 v/v for the next 30 min), and the flow rate was set at 0.3 ml/min. The glutamate level was examined at a wavelength of 472 nm, and the concentration was determined using a standard curve. Three runs per sample were carried out for LFQ. The separated peptides on the column were directed to Waters Synapt G2 Q-TOF instrument for MS and MS/MS analysis. The raw data was processed by MassLynx 4.1 WATERS. The individual peptides MS/MS spectra were matched to the database sequence on PLGS software (ProteinLynx Global Server Software Scores each protein based on the significance of the protein being identified based on MS pattern and MS/MS pattern matching for each peptide, as well as the coverage), WATERS for protein identification. The instrument used for acquiring Mass Spec Data was connected with Waters Synapt G2 (QTOF). The instrument parameters used for identification were Peptide Mass Tolerance at MS1 level: 50 ppm and Fragment Mass Tolerance at MS2 level: 100 ppm. During processing of the sample cysteine sites were modified to carbamidomethylated cysteine, and the methionine sites being prone to oxidation, was considered as a variable modification to the mass (Figure 6) [37,38].

**Bioinformatics Analysis**

**Gene Ontology and Pathway enrichment analysis**

The biological significance of DEGs was investigated using WebGestalt, as it is a free online WEB-based gene set analysis toolkit for functional enrichment analysis in different biological levels. In GO and PATHWAY enrichment analysis, we obtained more valuable knowledge about cellular, molecular and biological processes. A p-value < 0.05 was considered a significant enrichment [39].
Protein-Protein Interaction Networks Analysis

Search tool for the retrieval of interacting genes database (STRING) is a database and web resource for forecasting PPI networks. To investigate the relationship between DEGs, the STRING database was used. Our active interaction source of data was text mining, experiments, database, co-expression, gene fusion and co-occurrence. Minimum required score is set 0.7 (higher confidence). By analyzing the predicted interaction networks, we can propose new directions for future experimental research and come up with cross-species forecasts for systematic interconnecting mapping [40].

Investigation through KEGG Mapper tool and Genemania

KEGG mapper tool is used for cellular or biological interpretation of large-scale data sets like genome or meta genome sequence [41]. It comprises of three different databases, Brite, Pathway and Module which, further contains experimental information from the already published literature and represented in the form of these three different pathways. Bioinformatics tools such as Genemania was used for imaging and visualizing the different interacting networks between different genes [42,43]. The interaction between genes may be physical, correlation, colocalize and genetic interactions. It also provides the information about the interaction with unknown genes from already published literature.

Statistical Analysis.

Statistical analysis of behavioral data was done by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the Student–Newman–Keuls test by GraphPad Prism 6.0. For gene expression, we applied Student’s t-test to unequal variances in order to find the p-value for each gene. The results are expressed as the mean ± SEM. p values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results

Neurobehavioral Parameters

After ROT injection, stiffness was observed in mice by catalepsy test. The latency in the ROT group tended to increase over time (p <0.001), and the observed data was significantly different from those in the control group, but Tc-treated mice showed a shorter latency time (p <0.001), instead of the ROT-intoxicated group (Fig. 1a). In the pole test, ROT-intoxicated mice showed prolonged T-turn in comparison to control group mice (p <0.01). The T-descend duration in Tc pre-treated mice was significantly reduced (p <0.01) (Figure 1b). Rotarod test was performed to check the balance, grip, and movement adjustment of the mice. Compared to control, ROT-intoxicated group had significantly reduced retention time (p <0.001) on rotarod, and it was observed that mice lost motor coordination and grip strength. Compared to ROT-intoxicated mice, Tc treatment significantly increased retention time on rotarod (p <0.01) (Fig. 1c). Footprint analysis showed differences in average stride length between the control group, ROT group, and Tc-treated group. The stride difference in the ROT-intoxicated group was significantly reduced compared
to the control group (p <0.01), whereas the gait disturbance was significantly improved on Tc treatment (p <0.05) (Fig. 1d).

**Comparative Protein Profiling Between control vs. PD and PD vs. Treatment Group**

The protein profiling was analyzed through PGLC software (Masslynux 4.1 Water, USA) and compared between control vs. Parkinsonian and Parkinsonian vs. Tc mice group. On the basis of fold change, the significance of differences in protein expression was also categorized. The protein whose fold change value was below (≤ 0.5) were consider downregulated and those protein whose value was greater than 2.0 fold were considered upregulated (Table 1 and Table 2). The label-free LC-MS/MS results demonstrated that control vs. PD group contained 800 DEPs of which 67 were downregulated (Table 1A) and 101 were upregulated (Table 1B). In PD vs. TC group, 133 DEPs were obtained of which 11 (Table 2A) were downregulated and 13 were upregulated (Table 2B). Besides this, some proteins which were significantly expressed in the PD group were normalized by Tc (fold change between (0.5-2.0)) (Supplementary file 1, Figure 2). From this analysis, we identified 20 proteins whose expression was significantly modulated in ROT-intoxicated Parkinsonian group and was efficiently restored with the treatment of Tc. Some prominent upregulated proteins included Short transient receptor potential channel, glutamate receptor inotropic early endosome antigen 1, Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase 2A, transcription factor A, aryl hydrocarbon receptor nuclear translocator, eukaryotic translation initiation factor 5B, prosaposin receptor GPR37, RAC-alpha serine/threonine-protein kinase and neutrophil cytosol factor 4 (Table 2A). whereas ubiquitin carboxyl-terminal hydrolase, DNA (cytosine-5)-methyltransferase 1, phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate 5-phosphatase 2, ribosome-releasing factor 2, phospholipase D1, receptor-type tyrosine-protein phosphatase, centromere protein I, mothers against decapentaplegic homolog 7, lysine-specific demethylase 3A, T-lymphoma invasion and metastasis-inducing protein 1 were the prominently downregulated proteins (Table 2B).

**Gene Ontology and Functional Pathway Enrichment Analysis**

To comprehend the potential functions of DEPs in PD, these DEPs were examined. GO analysis (http://www.geneontology.org) of most significant DEPs based on Biological Process (BP), Molecular Function (MF) and Cellular Component (CC) has been shown in (Figure 4, Supplementary file 2 Tables 2, 3 and 4). This analysis revealed that dopamine metabolic process, catechol-containing compound metabolic process, catecholamine metabolic process, adherens junction assembly, mitochondrial gene expression, phenol-containing compound metabolic process, oligodendrocyte differentiation, adherens junction organization, positive regulation of protein modification by small protein conjugation or removal, response to toxic substance were found to be significantly enriched in BP. Furthermore, NMDA selective glutamate receptor complex, neuron spine, cation channel complex, extrinsic component of plasma membrane, cell-cell junction, cell junction, cell surface, trans-membrane transporter complex, ion channel complex, extrinsic component of membrane were significantly enriched in CC. Moreover, TGF-β receptor, cytoplasmic mediator activity, ligand-gated ion channel activity involved in regulation of presynaptic membrane potential, Ca^{2+}-trans-membrane transporter activity, β-catenin binding, heat shock protein
binding, NMDA glutamate receptor activity, δ-catenin binding, Ca\(^{2+}\) channel activity was significantly enriched in MF. The criteria for p-values <0.05 was considered significant for enriched GO analysis. To investigate the enriched pathways associated with PD was performed using software Webgestalt (http://www.webgestalt.org). In this study we analyze various significant pathways through Wikipathway (https://www.wikipathways.org/index.php /WikiPathways) which has been shown in (Table 3). Enriched pathway analysis demonstrated that DEPs were highly involved in PD Pathway (Gpr37), Alzheimer’s disease pathway, hypothetical network for drug addiction (Grin2a), mitochondrial gene expression (Tfam), lung fibrosis, TGF-β signaling pathway, Hfe effect on hepcidin production, ESC pluripotency (Smad7) and chemokine signaling pathway (Tiam1).

**In silico Analysis through PPI Network**

PPIs play a crucial role in understanding the molecular function of DEPs, responsible for the PD onset. As the outcome, hub genes like AKT1, PARK2, MTOR, TFAM, PINK1, TH, SNCA, PID1, PARK7, LRRK2 and App were found with the highest degrees of connection in the network (Figure 5A). In a constructed network, DEPs connected to each other, generally have analogous functions and can be considered as the functional genes. Gene-gene interaction network was constructed to investigate the interaction of significant proteins in the network (Figure 5B).

**Discussion**

Discovery of L-dopa was a major step forward in the treatment of PD, but its major drawback was the generation of various side effects. In addition, many combinational drugs were reported to reduce the side effects, but the success rate was very low [44]. Besides, the researchers also focused on other molecular targets as well as the alternative treatment options to improve the lifestyle of PD patients. PD attributed by mitochondrial dysfunctions, impairment of protein degradation, oxidative stress and death of DAergic neurons in SN, but the continuous progression of molecular events leading to cell death remains unclear [45]. Prior to designing any preventive intervention, in-depth knowledge of the molecular mechanisms underlying neurodegeneration in PD is required.

ROT, is a well-known pesticide acting selectively on mitochondrial complex I, causing its inhibition like MPP\(^+\). A growing body of proofs suggest that the insecticide model offers more advantages over different experimental models as it will effectively mimic the behavioral and neuropathological symptoms of the illness through the selective degeneration of DAergic neurons [46,47].

PD have various motor (tremor, slowness of movement, rigidity, falls and dizziness, freezing, postural imbalance) [48] and non-motor symptoms (pain, low blood pressure, fatigue, restless legs, swallowing and saliva control, sleep, skin and sweating, bowel and bladder problems) [49]. Various studies reported that non motor symptoms generally develop at the initial stage of PD progression so that it is not able to differentiate PD patients from others. Zahra et al. (2020) reported the characteristic motor impairment in ROT-intoxicated Parkinsonian mice [31]. To check the behavioral deficit in mice, we performed various
behavioral tests such as catalepsy, rotarod, pole, and footprint, which highlighted severe motor abnormalities in ROT-intoxicated PD mouse model [42–45] (Fig 1). Indistinguishable co-ordinates and deterioration of motor skills were also observed in our result due to ROT toxicity, whereas the behavioral tests demonstrates that Tc improves the neurobehavioral shortfall as compared with previous studies [50].

Various medicinal herbs are used for therapeutic functions since ancient times in India, China, and other Asian countries. Medicinal plants are used to treat various neurodegenerative diseases [51] and showed very promising results with minimal side effects. Herbs like Bacopa monnieri, Withania somnifera, Mucuna pruriens, Tc, are tested for its therapeutic potential against neurodegenerative diseases via redox balancing and immunomodulation activities [18,52,53]. In our previous study, we reported that Tc has neuroprotective role via suppressing oxidative stress as well as neuroinflammation [19].

With the application of proteomic profiling analysis, the quantitative and qualitative analysis of thousands proteins from the tangled mixtures along with the demonstrations of their PTMs could be efficiently performed. Based on our findings, we have identified various new molecules and pathways as alternate treatment approach. Here, we used comparative proteome profiling through LFQ/LC-MS/MS to investigate DEP in nigrostriatal region of mice brain. Out of total 800 DEPs, 101 were upregulated and 76 were downregulated in ROT-intoxicated mice compared to control; whereas, out of total 133 DEPs in Tc-treated mice, 13 were upregulated and 11 were downregulated as compared to ROT. Some proteins which are significantly expressed in PD group were reversed by Tc treatment. On the basis of expression and correlation with PD marker proteins, we selected 20 proteins (Table 2A, Table 2B). Further in-silico analysis suggested that some of DEPs (Smad7, Tfam, Grin2a, Gpr37, and Tiam7) play a key role in PD pathogenesis via regulating different signaling pathways (Table 3) and could be a new therapeutic avenue for neuroprotection.

Smad7 is an inactive record factor in pathogenesis of PD, which is constitutively upregulated in triggered microglia [54]. It leads DAergic neurons towards apoptosis by means of p53 and TGF-β cascade. Interestingly, Pal et al. (2016) indicated that activators of either NF-κB (IL-1β, TNF-α) or STAT-1 (IFN-γ) signaling pathways enhances the expression of Smad7 [54,55]. In the present study, we also found an upregulated expression of Smad7 in PD mice which is in agreement with the results of Uberham et al. (2006) whereas, its expression was downregulated after Tc treatment. Upregulation of Smad7 in triggered microglial cell has possessed threat to the neuroprotective TGF-β1 signaling [55,56]. TGF-β signaling favors cell survival by inactivating Bad (pro-apoptotic protein of the Bcl-2 family) thereby enhancing its phosphorylation through activation of the ERK/MAP kinase pathway. TGF-β1 signaling also suppresses the secondary neuronal damage caused by neuroinflammation [57–59]. Thus, TGF-β1/Smad signaling pathway plays a crucial role in neuroprotection. Our results also suggests that Tc potentially suppresses the death of DAergic neurons via downregulation of Smad7 [54].

Tfam (Mitochondrial Transcription Factor A) is a 25 kDa DNA-binding protein contained in mtDNA. Tfam protects mtDNA from ROS, and mtDNA protects Tfam from Lon protease degradation [60, 61]. Loss of
Tfam expression was found to be linked with degeneration of the DAergic neurons [62], whereas its enhanced expression improves mitochondrial ailment phenotypes via accelerating mtDNA copy variety and delays neurodegeneration [63]. Consequently, Tfam is a good indicator of defects in mitochondrial integrity. In this study, we observed that ROT-intoxication upregulates Tfam expression whereas, its expression was downregulated by Tc pretreatment. Lu et al. (2018) also demonstrated a downregulated Tfam expression in ROT-intoxicated cultured SH-SY5Y [64,65]. Thus, it is suggested that by downregulating Tfam expression, Tc improved the mitochondrial function, which is a major pathogenic hallmark of PD.

Gpr37 is a substrate of the E3 ligase Parkin, and henceforth is also called Parkin-related endothelin-like receptor (Pael-R) [66]. Missense type of mutation in PARKIN causes aggregation of Gpr37 in brain of PD patients [67]. Besides, overexpression of Gpr37 prompts its amassing in totals causes ER stress, and neuronal death [66, 68]. On other hand, it has been proposed that native Gpr37 shows neuroprotective property by binding prosaptide and prosaposin [69]. Interestingly, Lundius et al. (2013) reported that overexpression of Gpr37 was robustly protected against ROT, MPP+ or 6-OHDA-induced cytotoxicity in N2a cells [70]. Furthermore, it has been suggested that Gpr37 regulates oligodendrocyte separation and myelination by means of ERK signaling [71]. However, Tc-treatment to the PD mice suppresses the expression of Gpr37 in ROT-intoxicated mice model. Here, we present that Gpr37 plays a broader role in neuroprotective and glioprotective activity of Tc.

Tiam1 (T lymphoma invasion and metastasis 1) is a Rac-specific GEF (Dbl family member), potentially involved in neurodegenerative diseases (AD and PD). It is a Ras effector molecule, stimulated by the Ca\(^{2+}\)-dependent activation of the NMDA receptor (NMDAR) [72]. Tiam1 controls the activation of Rho GTPase and plays an important role in PD by regulating oxidative stress and neuroinflammation [73]. Tiam1 controls neurite extension and DAergic neurons differentiation [74,75]. After exposing hippocampal neurons to amyloid-\(\beta\) peptide, Tiam1 is activated and mobilized to the membrane, which may affect the pathology of AD [76]. In the present study, expression of Tiam1 is downregulated by Tc extract treatment against ROT-intoxication. Interestingly, Smith et al. (2017) also reported that, an elevated expression of Tiam1 contributes to neuronal damage [77]. In contrast, Cajanek et al. (2013) showed, Tiam1 as a positive regulator of DAergic neuron differentiation [74]. Together, these studies indicate that ROT-induced neurotoxic effects are linked with an upregulated expression of Tiam1 and Tc reverts the ROT-induced neurotoxicity via downregulating Tiam1 expression.

Akt, a serine/threonine kinase [also known as protein kinase B (PKB)] is an important molecule necessary for neuronal survival as it plays a major role in phosphorylating its substrates, including GSK3, NF-\(\kappa\)B, BAD, and forkhead proteins [78]. Downregulation of Akt signaling are seen in PD [79]. Previous studies suggested that PD-inducing neurotoxins including 6-OHDA and MPP+ decreases the expression of pAkt [80]. Durgadoss et al. (2012) demonstrated the Akt signaling impairment in the MPTP-induced mouse model, showing pAkt levels and loss of Akt kinase activity (Thr308 and Ser473). Similarly, we have also reported a downregulated expression of Akt1 in ROT-induced parkinsonian mice. Growing evidence also suggested the importance of mTOR pathway in autophagy and apoptosis which can lead to neuronal
death, but later it was found that was the inhibition of the Akt phosphorylation, rather than mTOR activation that eventually led to neuronal loss [81]. Raghu et al. (2009) reported, activation of Akt by G1-4A (a polysaccharide from Tc) [82]. In an attempt to unravel the anti-apoptotic action of Tc against ROT-intoxication, our study revealed an increased expression of Akt1, also supported by Salama et al. (2020) [83,84].

The present study showed that Tc significantly reversed ROT-induced downregulation of Grin2A expression and exhibits neuroprotective effect against ROT-induced neurotoxicity. Moreover, downregulation of Grin2A (NR2A, a glutamate ionotropic NR type subunit 2A) expression resulted in Ca\(^{2+}\)-mediated neurotoxicity. NRs (N-methyl-D-aspartate or NMDA receptors) play a crucial role in the pathogenesis of neurological disorders [85]. Reduced expression of the NRs was found in the patient's brain with neurodegenerative diseases [86,87]. NRs require proper complex formation between GRIN1 and GRIN2 (A-D) subunits to permit Ca\(^{2+}\) influx into the cell [88]. GRIN2A, regulates excitatory neurotransmission in the brain and thus plausibly influence the course of PD. Kong et al. (2015) confirmed that Grin2 is downregulated significantly in PD flies against α-synuclein neurotoxicity [89]. Interestingly, in present study we have documented a downregulated expression of Grin2A in ROT-induced parkinsonian mice, whereas, Tc upregulate the Grin2A expression against ROT-intoxication. Similarly, Simon et al. (2017) and Hamza et al. (2011) also reported Grin2A association with the risk of PD [86, 87]. Downregulation of Grin2A showed lack of binding to Grin1 resulting in reduced NMDAR complex formation. By considering all the aforementioned studies the potential of targeting Grin2A for the therapeutics of PD pathogenesis is confirmed. Tc plays an important role in attenuation of NMDAR-dependent Ca\(^{2+}\)-mediated signaling via downregulating Grin2A.

Epigenetic dysregulation have emerged as important component in the PD pathogenesis [92]. Kdm3A is a JmjC (Jumonji) domain-containing lysine (K)-specific demethylase 3A. Kdm3A-mediated demethylation of PGC-1α (Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma coactivator 1-alpha) causes inhibition of subsequent mitochondrial biogenesis and oxidative metabolism via reduction in PGC-1α and Nrf1/2 binding and Nrf1/2-dependent Tfam expression [93]. Dnmt 1 [DNA (cytosine-5)-methyltransferase 1] an enzyme catalyzing DNA methylation via methylating CpGs on hemimethylated DNA. Hypermethylation of PGC-1α promoter results in the reduction of PGC-1α protein expression. Downregulated PGC-1α exacerbates age-dependent neuroinflammation by enhancing the release of IL6 [94].

Overall, epigenetic methylation of PGC−1α positively regulates initiation and progression of PD. Downregulation of PGC−1α via inhibition of Dnmts-mediated hypermethylation, or Kdm3A-mediated demethylation, play central role in PD pathogenesis by improving mitochondrial dysfunction, oxidative and inflammatory stress. In this study, results have shown the downregulation of Dnmts and Kdm3A gene after Tc treatment compared to ROT-induced parkinsonian mice. Hence, Tc may be a potential therapeutic agent for epigenetically modified targets in PD pathogenesis (Figure 7).

**Conclusion**
This study explored the neuroprotective effect of Tc in ROT-induced PD mouse model. Besides, we have also tried to explore the underlying mechanism of action in restoring the level of various protein molecules including Akt1, Smad7, Gpr37, Grin2A, Tiam1, Tfam, Dnmt1 and Kdm3a etc. In conclusion, the overall findings of this study provides a new insight that Tc exerts therapeutic effect through the regulation of various signaling pathways by protecting the DAergic neurons and restoring mitochondrial function. However, further studies are needed to explore the bioactive components of Tc that play essential role in regulation of the disease.

**Abbreviations**

DA: Dopamine

DAergic: Dopaminergic neurons

PD: Parkinson's disease

ROT: Rotenone

LFQ: Label free quantification

DEPs: Differentially expressed proteins

ROS: Reactive oxygen species

DTT: Dithiothreitol

PLGS: ProteinLynx global server software

DEGs: Differentially expressed genes

GO: Gene ontology

KEGG: Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes

PTMs: Post translational modifications

Smad7: Mothers against decapentaplegic homolog 7

Tfam: Mitochondrial transcription factor A

Gpr37: G protein-coupled receptor 37

Tiam1: T-lymphoma invasion and metastasis-inducing 1

Grin2A: Glutamate ionotropic receptor NMDA type subunit 2A
DNMTs: DNA methyltransferases

KDM3A: Lysine demethylase 3A

**Declarations**

**Ethics approval**

This work has been approved by the Institutional Animal Ethical Committee (Reg no. BHU/DoZ/IAEC/2018-19/032), BHU, Varanasi, India.

**Consent for publication**

All authors provide their consent for publication

**Availability of data and materials**

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this article [and its supplementary information files].

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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**Authors’ Contributions**

HB and SPS conceived, performed and designed experiments. HB, SPS, CK and HD wrote the manuscript. HB, SSS, WZ, ASR, RS processed mice tissue for proteomic analysis and perform behavior study. MR and HB perform bioinformatics analysis. All authors approved the final manuscript.

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Tables

Table 1A: list of down regulated protein in control vs. PD group.
| Accession | Description                                                                 | Gene   | Score | Fold change | P values |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|
| P40630    | Transcription factor A, mitochondrial                                         | Tfam   | 13.77 | 0.033708673 | 0.00     |
| Q60I26    | ALS2 C-terminal-like protein                                                  | Als2cl | 34.84 | 0.103312182 | 0        |
| Q7M6Z4    | Kinesin-like protein KIF27                                                    | Kif27  | 77.06 | 0.114177608 | 0        |
| Q9D8U2    | Transmembrane protein 41A                                                     | Tmem41a| 48.37 | 0.155672628 | 0        |
| Q8VC28    | Aldo-keto reductase family 1 member C13                                      | Akr1c13| 8.74  | 0.170332992 | 0        |
| Q3TD16    | Protein RUBCNL-like                                                           | Rubcnl | 6.94  | 0.173773943 | 0.02     |
| Q9D4D7    | Cell cycle control protein 50C                                                | Tmem30c| 111.69| 0.177284407 | 0        |
| P28481    | Collagen alpha-1(II) chain                                                    | Col2a1 | 26.09 | 0.184519513 | 0        |
| Q8K4P0    | pre-mRNA 3' end processing protein WDR33                                      | Wdr33  | 33.73 | 0.218711891 | 0        |
| Q9CXJ4    | ATP-binding cassette sub-family B member 8, mitochondrial                     | Abcb8  | 31.47 | 0.22090998  | 0        |
| Q9D824    | Pre-mRNA 3'-end-processing factor FIP1                                       | Fip1l1 | 61.28 | 0.236927745 | 0        |
| D7PDD4    | Megakaryocyte and platelet inhibitory receptor G6b                            | Mpig6b | 15.59 | 0.244143291 | 0.03     |
| Q3V0B4    | Cilia- and flagella-associated protein 65                                     | Cfap65 | 46.43 | 0.24659697  | 0.02     |
| Q3UZ18    | Little elongation complex subunit 2                                            | Ice2   | 62.94 | 0.249075308 | 0.08     |
| Q3UFQ8    | Capping protein, Arp2/3 and myosin-I linker protein 3                         | Carmil3| 100.97| 0.254106958 | 0.02     |
| Q6VGS5    | Protein Daple                                                                 | Ccdc88c| 82.65 | 0.267135288 | 0        |
| P13439    | Uridine 5'-monophosphate synthase                                             | Umps   | 98.96 | 0.269820072 | 0        |
| A0JP43    | EF-hand calcium-binding domain-containing protein 5                           | Efcab5 | 132.72| 0.280831627 | 0        |
| P58389    | Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase 2A activator                            | Ptpa   | 24.17 | 0.283654029 | 0.01     |
| Q9JJA7    | Cyclin-L2 OS=Mus musculus                                                     | Ccnl2  | 64.77 | 0.286504797 | 0        |
| Q65Z40    | Wings apart-like protein homolog                                              | Wapl   | 93.96 | 0.286504797 | 0.03     |
| Q3USH5    | Splicing factor, suppressor of white-apricot homolog                          | Sfswap | 18.44 | 0.289384215 | 0        |
| Accession | Description                                                                 | Abbr | Score | FDR   | P-value |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| E9PY46    | Intraflagellar transport protein 140 homolog                                 | Ift140 | 60.44 | 0.298197268 | 0       |
| Q8BI84    | Transport and Golgi organization protein 1 homolog                          | Mia3  | 79.39 | 0.304221247 | 0       |
| Q3UJV1    | Coiled-coil domain-containing protein 61                                      | Ccdc61 | 62.76 | 0.310366955 | 0.05    |
| Q8VCE9    | Pleckstrin homology domain-containing family H member 3                       | Plekhh3 | 41.21 | 0.319819026 | 0.01    |
| Q402B2    | WD repeat-containing protein 93                                              | Wdr93 | 26.84 | 0.323033258 | 0.03    |
| Q9DC22    | DDB1- and CUL4-associated factor 6                                            | Dca6  | 43.22 | 0.326279793 | 0       |
| P0DM40    | Fer-1-like protein 5                                                         | Fer1l5 | 64.41 | 0.329558956 | 0       |
| Q80VW7    | AT-hook-containing transcription factor                                       | Akna  | 120.31 | 0.329558956 | 0.01    |
| Q9CQ76    | Nephrocan OS=Mus musculus                                                    | Nepn  | 62.73 | 0.339595511 | 0       |
| Q8C7R4    | Ubiquitin-like modifier-activating enzyme 6                                  | Uba6  | 70.72 | 0.34645583  | 0.02    |
| Q9D9T8    | EF-hand domain-containing protein                                            | Efhc1 | 41.5  | 0.357006971 | 0       |
| P35761    | Dual specificity protein kinase TTK                                           | Ttk   | 55.54 | 0.360594947 | 0.04    |
| Q69ZT1    | Fanconi-associated nuclease 1                                                | Fan1  | 58.77 | 0.367879441 | 0       |
| O55123    | Stromelysin-2                                                                | Mmp10 | 74.49 | 0.367879441 | 0       |
| Q9D3S3    | Sorting nexin-29                                                             | Snx29 | 90.72 | 0.375311092 | 0       |
| Q8VC12    | Urocanate hydratase                                                           | Uroc1 | 17.94 | 0.379083027 | 0.03    |
| P35436    | Glutamate receptor ionotropic,                                               | Grn2a | 47.15 | 0.382892894 | 0.06    |
| Q68SN8    | Fc receptor-like protein 5                                                    | Fcr1l5 | 36.2  | 0.386741028 | 0.01    |
| Q61313    | Transcription factor AP-2-beta                                                | Tfp2b | 265.96 | 0.394553708 | 0.06    |
| O89032    | SH3 and PX domain-containing protein 2A                                       | Sh3pxd2a | 63.67 | 0.394553708 | 0.02    |
| O88444    | Adenylate cyclase type 1                                                      | Adcy1 | 29.94 | 0.402524213 | 0.02    |
| Q6URW6    | Myosin-14                                                                    | Myh14 | 36.99 | 0.406569669 | 0.02    |
| Q69ZX6    | MORC family CW-type zinc finger protein 2A                                    | Morc2a | 36.84 | 0.406569669 | 0.02    |
| Q91YR5    | Methyltransferase-like protein 13                                              | Mett13 | 70.63 | 0.406569669 | 0.06    |
| P21784    | V(D)J recombination-activating protein 2                                      | Rag2  | 12.72 | 0.414782914 | 0.02    |
| Gene ID  | Description                                                                 | Protein ID | Fold Change | P-value | q-value |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| Q68FF0  | Uncharacterized protein KIAA1841                                            | Kiaa1841   | 184.57      | 0.414782914 | 0.02   |
| O88573  | AF4/FMR2 family member 1                                                     | Aff1       | 98.58       | 0.418951547 | 0.03   |
| P97484  | Leukocyte immunoglobulin-like receptor subfamily B member 3                 | Lilrb3     | 79.83       | 0.427414922 | 0.09   |
| Q1HKZ5  | Mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase 13                            | Map3k13    | 96.18       | 0.427414922 | 0.04   |
| Q80TH2  | Erbin                                                                        | Erbin      | 41.69       | 0.431710535 | 0.06   |
| Q03391  | Glutamate receptor ionotropic, NMDA 2D                                      | Grin2d     | 79.79       | 0.436049294 | 0.03   |
| A2RSJ4  | UHRF1-binding protein 1-like                                                | Uhrf1bp1l  | 73.99       | 0.440431658 | 0.09   |
| Q6PGG2  | GEM-interacting protein                                                     | Gmip       | 20.89       | 0.444858065 | 0.01   |
| Q8CHB8  | Tubulin polyglutamylase TTLL5                                               | Ttll5      | 44.92       | 0.444858065 | 0.01   |
| Q6ZPR6  | Inhibitor of Bruton tyrosine kinase                                         | Ibtk       | 52.85       | 0.453844786 | 0.1    |
| Q8BLR5  | PH and SEC7 domain-containing protein 4                                     | Psd4       | 69.96       | 0.453844786 | 0.07   |
| Q8BRC6  | Cilia- and flagella-associated protein 91                                   | Maats1     | 58.96       | 0.463013077 | 0.06   |
| Q9QUQ5  | Short transient receptor potential channel 4                                | Trpc4      | 4.32        | 0.463013077 | 0.21   |
| Q9R1B9  | Slit homolog 2 protein                                                      | Slit2      | 93.96       | 0.467666431 | 0.19   |
| Q61739  | Integrin alpha-6                                                           | Itga6      | 56.04       | 0.467666431 | 0.01   |
| Q9JIM3  | DNA excision repair protein ERCC-6-like 2                                   | Ercc6l2    | 126.09      | 0.477113911 | 0      |
| P97868  | E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase RBBP6                                           | Rbbp6      | 123.07      | 0.477113911 | 0      |
| Q64521  | Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, mitochondrial                          | Gpd2       | 34.65       | 0.481908981 | 0.01   |
| Q35595  | Protein patched homolog 2                                                  | Ptch2      | 47.13       | 0.481908981 | 0.15   |
| C0LLJ0  | Importin subunit alpha-8                                                   | Kpna7      | 156.9       | 0.486752242 | 0      |
| Q9Z1N9  | Protein unc-13 homolog B                                                    | Unc13b     | 78.66       | 0.491644208 | 0.02   |
| Q8VDR9  | Deducator of cytokinesis protein 6                                          | Dock6      | 57.98       | 0.491644208 | 0.03   |
| Q91WJ8  | Far upstream element-binding protein 1                                      | Fubp1      | 148.29      | 0.491644208 | 0.24   |
| Q6V3W6  | Dynein regulatory complex subunit 7                                         | Drc7       | 45.09       | 0.49658531  | 0.03   |
| Q80TI1  | Pleckstrin homology domain-containing family H member 1                     | Plekhh1    | 22.44       | 0.49658531  | 0.04   |
| Accession | Description                                                                 | Symbol | Fold Change | False Discovery Correction | P value |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|
| D3Z3C6    | AN1-type zinc finger protein 4                                               | Zfand4 | 34.17       | 0.49658531                 | 0.04    |
| Q62252    | Sperm surface protein Sp17                                                    | Spa17  | 10.47       | 0.49658531                 | 0.09    |
| P31750    | RAC-alpha serine/threonine-protein kinase                                    | Akt1   | 53.76       | 0.50157607                 | 0.03    |
| Q8BL66    | Early endosome antigen 1                                                     | Eea1   | 34.06       | 0.50157607                 | 0.01    |
| Q76MZ3    | Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase 2A 65 kDa regulatory subunit A alpha isoform | Ppp2r1a | 106.4      | 0.516851321                | 0.15    |
| P53762    | Aryl hydrocarbon receptor nuclear translocator                               | Arnt   | 16.58       | 0.522045789                | 0.16    |
| Q05D44    | Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 5B                                   | Eif5b  | 20.03       | 0.527292432                | 0       |

**Table 1B: list of up-regulated protein in control vs. PD group.**
| Accession | Description                                                                 | Gene  | Score | Fold change | P values |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|----------|
| Q3US17    | Zinc finger protein 48                                                       | Znf48 | 53.45 | 2.033991215 | 0.94     |
| Q9DBV3    | Probable ATP-dependent RNA helicase DHX34                                    | Dhx34 | 26.81 | 2.054433269 | 0.84     |
| Q69ZH9    | Rho GTPase-activating protein 23                                             | Arhgap23 | 85.29 | 2.075080647 | 0.99     |
| Q6PCM1    | Lysine-specific demethylase 3A                                               | Kdm3a | 73.5  | 2.075080647 | 0.1      |
| Q61410    | cGMP-dependent protein kinase 2                                              | Prkg2 | 48.47 | 2.095935534 | 0.99     |
| Q78PY7    | Staphylococcal nuclease domain-containing protein 1                          | Snd1  | 49.95 | 2.095935534 | 0.93     |
| Q61712    | DnaJ homolog subfamily C member 1                                            | Dnajc1| 179.33| 2.095935534 | 0.98     |
| O08644    | Ephrin type-B receptor 6                                                     | Ephb6 | 57.2  | 2.117000017 | 0.82     |
| Q2TV84    | Transient receptor potential cation channel subfamily M member 1             | Trpm1 | 70.19 | 2.117000017 | 0.99     |
| Q9DBT3    | Coiled-coil domain-containing protein 97                                      | Ccdc97| 163.38| 2.117000017 | 0.96     |
| Q3UYK3    | TBC1 domain family member 9 OS=Mus musculus OX=10090 GN=PE=2 SV=2           | Tbc1d9| 34.44 | 2.1382762   | 0.82     |
| Q8BXZ1    | Protein disulfide-isomerase TMX3                                             | Tmx3  | 78.36 | 2.1382762   | 0.85     |
| Q60520    | Paired amphipathic helix protein Sin3a                                       | Sin3a | 56.89 | 2.159766213 | 0.91     |
| A2AVR2    | Maestro heat-like repeat-containing protein family member 7                  | Mroh7 | 44.46 | 2.203396474 | 1        |
| Q3U821    | WD repeat-containing protein 75                                              | Wdr75 | 56.32 | 2.203396474 | 0.75     |
| O35253    | Mothers against decapentaplegic homolog 7                                   | Smad7 | 124.06| 2.247907992 | 0.76     |
| Q8CIQ7    | Dedicator of cytokinesis protein 3                                           | Dock3 | 61.43 | 2.247907992 | 1        |
| Q5IR70    | Cancer-associated gene 1 protein homolog                                    | Cage1 | 72.97 | 2.247907992 | 1        |
| Q8VDG6    | Mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase 21                            | Map3k21 | 63.8   | 2.247907992 | 0.97     |
| Q6P549    | Phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate 5-phosphatase 2                     | Inppl1| 58.2  | 2.247907992 | 0.98     |
| P55937    | Golgin subfamily A member 3                                                 | Golga3| 96.77 | 2.293318702 | 0.96     |
| Accession | Description                                           | Symbol | Fold Change | p-value | q-value |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|---------|
| Q8R3N1    | Nucleolar protein 14                                  | Nop14  | 79.3        | 2.293318702 | 0.99    |
| O88207    | Collagen alpha-1(V) chain                            | Col5a1 | 59.36       | 2.316366916 | 0.93    |
| Q9Z103    | Activity-dependent neuroprotector homeobox protein    | Adnp   | 89.03       | 2.316366916 | 1       |
| Q91V83    | TEO2-interacting protein 1 homolog                   | Tti1   | 15.61       | 2.339646908 | 0.98    |
| Q80WJ6    | Multidrug resistance-associated protein 9             | Abcc12 | 13.84       | 2.339646908 | 0.99    |
| Q8CGM1    | Adhesion G protein-coupled receptor B2                | Adgrp2 | 27.72       | 2.339646908 | 1       |
| Q9WTP5    | Cadherin-22                                           | Cdh22  | 14.61       | 2.363160728 | 0.97    |
| Q09M02    | Cytosolic carboxypeptidase-like protein 5             | Agbl5  | 67.6        | 2.363160728 | 1       |
| Q8C262    | Interferon-inducible GTPase 5                        | Irgc   | 52.61       | 2.386910865 | 0.82    |
| Q8R5C8    | Zinc finger MYND domain-containing protein 11         | Zmynd11| 38.62       | 2.410899695 | 0.99    |
| Q9Z280    | Phospholipase D1                                      | Pld1   | 41.71       | 2.459603053 | 0.98    |
| O35134    | DNA-directed RNA polymerase I subunit RPA1            | Polr1a | 66.4        | 2.559981412 | 0.97    |
| P70298    | Homeobox protein cut-like 2                           | Cux2   | 52.91       | 2.559981412 | 0.81    |
| Q02788    | Collagen alpha-2(VI) chain                            | Col6a2 | 122.36      | 2.585709628 | 1       |
| B9EJ80    | PDZ domain-containing protein 8                       | Pdzd8  | 125.57      | 2.637944535 | 0.92    |
| Q9Z315    | U4/U6.U5 tri-snRNP-associated protein 1               | Sart1  | 89.04       | 2.637944535 | 0.92    |
| Q3UHX0    | Nucleolar protein 8                                   | Nol8   | 36.16       | 2.745600989 | 0.95    |
| Q922B9    | Sperm-specific antigen 2 homolog                      | Ssfa2  | 38.63       | 2.773194711 | 1       |
| O88393    | Transforming growth factor beta receptor type 3       | Tgfbr3 | 40.02       | 2.857650982 | 0.96    |
| Q60592    | Microtubule-associated serine/threonine-protein kinase 2 | Mast2 | 49.97       | 2.944679677 | 0.99    |
| Q69Z38    | Pseudopodium-enriched atypical kinase 1               | Peak1  | 55.29       | 2.944679677 | 1       |
| Q0VF58    | Collagen alpha-1(XIX) chain                           | Col19a1| 44.36       | 3.034358438 | 0.95    |
| Q8K368    | Fanconi anemia group I protein homolog                 | Fanci  | 29.85       | 3.064854218 | 0.97    |
| Q6P5D4    | Centrosomal protein of 135 kDa                        | Cep135 | 58.95       | 3.064854218 | 1       |
| Accession  | Description                                                                   | Name     | Value1 | Value2       | Value3 | Value4 |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|
| Q9R0L6     | Pericentriolar material 1 protein                                           | Pcm1     | 72.96  | 3.064854218  | 0.78   |        |
| Q8BZ81     | Leucine-rich repeat transmembrane neuronal protein 3                         | Lrrtm3   | 4.51   | 3.095656485  | 0.78   |        |
| Q4QY64     | ATPase family AAA domain-containing protein 5                                | Atad5    | 45.34  | 3.158192834  | 0.99   |        |
| Q60767     | Lymphocyte antigen 75                                                        | Ly75     | 76.17  | 3.158192834  | 0.97   |        |
| Q6PFQ7     | Ras GTPase-activating protein 4                                              | Rasa4    | 50.73  | 3.2219925    | 1      |        |
| Q8CJ19     | [F-actin]-monooxygenase MICAL3                                               | Mical3   | 92.55  | 3.287081395  | 1      |        |
| Q8R2Q4     | Ribosome-releasing factor 2, mitochondrial                                    | Gfm2     | 145.38 | 3.287081395  | 0.95   |        |
| Q6PDH0     | Pleckstrin homology-like domain family B member 1                            | Phldb1   | 48.26  | 3.35348478   | 1      |        |
| Q9D2Y5     | Sorting nexin-20                                                             | Snx20    | 125.27 | 3.455613498  | 0.96   |        |
| Q8K1M6     | Dynamin-1-like protein                                                       | Dnm1     | 93.75  | 3.525421454  | 0.98   |        |
| Q8K4G5     | Actin-binding LIM protein 1                                                  | Ablim1   | 138.74 | 3.525421454  | 1      |        |
| Q3TZ89     | Protein transport protein Sec31B                                              | Sec31b   | 26.71  | 3.669296493  | 1      |        |
| Q9R020     | Zinc finger Ran-binding domain-containing protein                            | Zranb2   | 71.65  | 3.743421574  | 1      |        |
| Q8R3K3     | Pentatricopeptide repeat-containing protein 2, mitochondrial                 | Ptcd2    | 133.7  | 3.78104355   | 1      |        |
| Q8JZX4     | Splicing factor 45                                                            | Rbm17    | 191.31 | 3.857425623  | 0.96   |        |
| Q80YR2     | Protein FAM160B2                                                              | Fam16    | 82.59  | 3.896193358  | 1      |        |
| P18608     | Non-histone chromosomal protein HMG-14                                        | Hmgn1    | 63.86  | 4.05519987   | 1      |        |
| Q80Z10     | Astrotactin-2                                                                | Astn2    | 113.17 | 4.095955267  | 1      |        |
| Q69ZZ6     | Transmembrane and coiled-coil domains protein 1                               | Tmcc1    | 105.42 | 4.095955267  | 0.99   |        |
| Q9D8M4     | 60S ribosomal protein L7-like 1                                              | Rpl7l1   | 98.5   | 4.137120263  | 1      |        |
| Q64455     | Receptor-type tyrosine-protein phosphatase eta                                | Ptpj     | 82.44  | 4.178698973  | 1      |        |
| Q9CZH8     | Coiled-coil domain-containing protein 77                                      | Ccdc77   | 68.39  | 4.220696059  | 1      |        |
| P19426     | Negative elongation factor E OS=Mus musculus OX=10090 GN= PE=1 SV=2        | Nelfe    | 233.74 | 4.220696059  | 1      |        |
| Q8BYR2     | Serine/threonine-protein kinase LATS1                                         | Lats1    | 82.67  | 4.392945765  | 1      |        |
| Accession | Description                                                   | Symbol | Value  | p-value | Enrichment |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|------------|
| O35272    | Disintegrin and metalloproteinase domain-containing protein 7 | Adam7  | 84.53  | 4.572225108 | 0.99      |
| Q8K1K4    | Centromere protein I                                          | Cenpi  | 32.05  | 4.61817669  | 0.1       |
| Q6ZQK0    | Condensin-2 complex subunit D3                                | Ncapd3 | 19.64  | 4.61817669  | 0.89      |
| Q8R516    | E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase MIB2                              | Mib2   | 97.88  | 4.61817669  | 0.97      |
| Q62190    | Macrophage-stimulating protein receptor                       | Mst1r  | 36.56  | 4.711469958 | 1         |
| Q5PRF0    | HEAT repeat-containing protein 5A                             | Heatr5a| 173.88 | 4.953032542 | 1         |
| Q04592    | Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 5                 | Pcsk5  | 118.56 | 5.053090341 | 1         |
| Q3UWM4    | Lysine-specific demethylase 7A                                | Kdm7a  | 117.3  | 5.419481015 | 1         |
| A2ARA8    | Integrin alpha-8                                              | Itga8  | 111.53 | 5.528961689 | 0.99      |
| Q80TK0    | Uncharacterized protein KIAA1107                              | Kiaa1107| 56.56  | 5.697343477 | 0.99      |
| Q8BTT6    | Digestive organ expansion factor homolog                      | Diexf  | 22.27  | 6.423736863 | 1         |
| Q80TQ2    | Ubiquitin carboxyl-terminal hydrolase CYLD                    | Cyld   | 128.62 | 7.242743123 | 0.45      |
| O89114    | DnaJ homolog subfamily B member 5                             | Dnajb5 | 104.76 | 7.242743123 | 1         |
| Q8K1N2    | Pleckstrin homology-like domain family B member 2             | Phldb2 | 148.05 | 7.924822589 | 0.95      |
| Q9DBM2    | Peroxisomal bifunctional enzyme                               | Ehhadh | 22.72  | 8.935213626 | 1         |
| Q8CF4     | SCY1-like protein 2                                           | Scy1l2 | 20.66  | 11.02317743 | 1         |
| Q8BWZ3    | N-alpha-acetyltransferase 25, NatB auxiliary subunit          | Naa25  | 34.99  | 11.24586017 | 1         |
| Q8VCC9    | Spondin-1                                                     | Spon1  | 14.42  | 12.06127624 | 0.99      |
| Q8BH53    | Cilia- and flagella-associated protein 69                     | Cfap69 | 40.4   | 13.06582357 | 1         |
| Q99MV7    | RING finger protein 17                                         | Rnf17  | 80.2   | 15.48698524 | 1         |
| Q9D6A1    | Unconventional myosin-lh                                      | Myo1h  | 25.15  | 16.94545953 | 1         |
| Q62234    | Myomesin-1                                                    | Myom1  | 79.57  | 18.1741471 | 1         |
| Q9EPR5    | VPS10 domain-containing receptor SorCS2                      | Sorcs2 | 136.48 | 18.91584739 | 1         |
| Q569L8    | Centromere protein J                                          | Cenpj  | 29.79  | 20.697232  | 1         |
| P97369 | Neutrophil cytosol factor 4 | Ncf4 | 43.81 | 23.33606681 | 1 |
|--------|----------------------------|------|-------|-------------|---|
| P23116 | Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3 subunit A | Eif3a | 79.2 | 24.77908717 | 1 |
| Q9JLG8 | Calpain-15 | Capn15 | 38.93 | 28.50273093 | 1 |
| Q9D4K7 | Coiled-coil domain-containing protein 105 | Ccdc105 | 24.52 | 29.37077447 | 0.99 |
| Q8BMA5 | Protein NPAT | Npat | 66.01 | 38.47466972 | 0.99 |
| Q9QY42 | Prosaposin receptor GPR37 | Gpr37 | 191.96 | 57.39746799 | 0.23 |
| Q60610 | T-lymphoma invasion and metastasis-inducing protein 1 | Tiam1 | 170.78 | 126.469371 | 0.2 |
| Q99PP7 | E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase TRIM33 | Trim33 | 92.95 | 139.7702576 | 1 |
| Q8K352 | SAM and SH3 domain-containing protein 3 | Sash3 | 41.94 | 639.0610809 | 1 |

**Table 2A: list of down-regulated protein in PD vs. Treatment group.**
| Accession | Description                                                                 | Gene       | Score  | Fold change | P values |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|----------|
| Q8K440    | ATP-binding cassette sub-family A member 8-B                                 | Abca8b     | 4.22   | 0.069948    | 0        |
| P97369    | Neutrophil cytosol factor 4                                                   | Ncf4       | 49.82  | 0.132655    | 0        |
| Q6PFX7    | Neuronal tyrosine-phosphorylated phosphoinositide-3-kinase adapter 1         | Nyap1      | 4.91   | 0.163654    | 0        |
| P13864    | DNA (cytosine-5)-methyltransferase 1                                         | Dnmt1      | 44.99  | 0.214381    | 0        |
| Q8R1Q0    | Syntaxin-19                                                                  | Stx19      | 26.01  | 0.261846    | 0.01     |
| Q8R5C8    | Zinc finger MYND domain-containing protein 11                                 | Zmynd11    | 20.04  | 0.275271    | 0        |
| Q8K1K4    | Centromere protein I                                                          | Cenpi      | 22.85  | 0.440432    | 0.03     |
| Q8BZQ7    | Anaphase-promoting complex subunit 2                                         | Anapc2     | 20.56  | 0.467666    | 0        |
| Q8BZ05    | Arf-GAP with Rho-GAP domain, ANK repeat and PH domain-containing protein 2   | Arap2      | 25.48  | 0.491644    | 0        |
| P31750    | RAC-alpha serine/threonine-protein kinase                                    | Akt1       | 63.32  | 0.511709    | 0.14     |
| Q6PCM1    | Lysine-specific demethylase 3A                                                | Kdm3a      | 14.41  | 0.52722     | 0.14     |
| O35253    | Mothers against decapentaplegic homolog 7                                    | Smad7      | 39.84  | 0.55988     | 0        |
| Q6P549    | Phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate 5-phosphatase 2                      | Inppl1     | 15.62  | 0.56555     | 0.03     |
| Q9Z280    | Phospholipase D1                                                              | Plid1      | 45.45  | 0.606531    | 0.2      |
| Q8R2Q4    | Ribosome-releasing factor 2, mitochondrial                                    | Gfm2       | 24.03  | 0.612626    | 0.01     |
| Q60610    | T-lymphoma invasion and metastasis-inducing protein 1                         | Tiam1      | 31.11  | 0.650509    | 0.07     |
| Q80TQ2    | Ubiquitin carboxyl-terminal hydrolase CYLD                                   | Cyld       | 16.8   | 0.657047    | 0.03     |
| Q9QY42    | Prosaposin receptor GPR37                                                     | Gpr37      | 10.31  | 0.66365     | 0.07     |
| Q64455    | Receptor-type tyrosine-protein phosphatase eta                               | Ptprej     | 7.7    | 0.66365     | 0.01     |

Table 2B: list of up-regulated protein in PD vs. treatment group.
| Accession | Description                                                                 | Gene    | Score | Fold change | P values |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|----------|
| P31750    | RAC-alpha serine/threonine-protein kinase                                     | Akt1    | 63.32 | 1.877611    | 0.81     |
| P40630    | Transcription factor A, mitochondrial                                        | Tfam    | 93.78 | 1.879013    | 1        |
| Q3UH60    | Disco-interacting protein 2 homolog B                                        | Dip2b   | 33.8  | 2.013753    | 0.92     |
| Q9DAZ9    | Abscission/NoCut checkpoint regulator                                        | Zfyve19 | 173.52| 2.159766    | 0.96     |
| Q80T11    | Usher syndrome type-1G protein homolog                                       | Ush1g   | 17.67 | 2.4109      | 0.98     |
| P53762    | Aryl hydrocarbon receptor nuclear translocator                                | Arnt    | 16.58 | 2.43513     | 0.91     |
| Q76MZ3    | Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase 2A 65 kDa regulatory subunit A alpha isoform | Ppp2r1a | 10.16 | 2.534509    | 0.93     |
| Q8BL66    | Early endosome antigen 1                                                      | Eea1    | 34.06 | 3.095656    | 0.86     |
| Q6PFQ7    | Ras GTPase-activating protein 4                                               | Rasa4   | 30.1  | 3.221993    | 1        |
| Q6P9K8    | Caskin-1                                                                     | Caskin1 | 11.12 | 3.287081    | 1        |
| P70208    | Plexin-A3                                                                    | Plxna3  | 13.23 | 3.59664     | 1        |
| P70670    | Nascent polypeptide-associated complex subunit alpha, muscle-specific form   | Naca    | 31.4  | 7.690609    | 1        |
| Q5SXJ3    | Fanconi anemia group J protein homolog                                       | Brip1   | 22.12 | 9.874937    | 0.07     |
| Q05D44    | Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 5B                                    | Eif5b   | 20.03 | 11.24586    | 0.08     |
| Q9QUQ5    | Short transient receptor potential channel 4                                  | Trpc4   | 7.04  | 1.822119    | 1        |
| P35436    | Glutamate receptor ionotropic, NMDA 2A                                        | Grin2a  | 9     | 1.584074    | 1        |

Table 3: Enriched Pathway analysis. The gene sets indicates the pathway id in wikipathway. Description represents the name of the pathways in which the DEPs were reported. Size indicates the total number of proteins in each pathway. FDR (false discovery rate), for dark blue colour FDR <0.05 and for light blue colour FDR >0.05. Enrichment ratio is the ratio of the observed count over expected count by chance.
| Gene Set  | Description                             | Size | Expect | Ratio  | P Value       | FDR  |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|------|--------|--------|---------------|------|
| WP3673   | Hfe effect on hepcidin production       | 7    | 0.0076 | 131.57 | 0.007581      | 1    |
| WP1263   | Mitochondrial Gene Expression           | 19   | 0.02063 | 48.474 | 0.020469      | 1    |
| WP1246   | Hypothetical Network for Drug Addiction | 31   | 0.033659 | 29.71 | 0.033223      | 1    |
| WP3638   | Parkinsons Disease Pathway               | 39   | 0.042345 | 23.615 | 0.041652      | 1    |
| WP113    | TGF Beta Signaling Pathway               | 52   | 0.05646 | 17.712 | 0.055223      | 1    |
| WP3632   | Lung fibrosis                           | 61   | 0.066232 | 15.098 | 0.064528      | 1    |
| WP2075   | Alzheimers Disease                      | 75   | 0.081433 | 12.28 | 0.078857      | 1    |
| WP339    | ESC Pluripotency Pathways               | 118  | 0.12812 | 7.8051 | 0.12177       | 1    |
| WP1397   | Odorant GPCRs                           | 189  | 0.20521 | 4.873  | 0.18912       | 1    |
| WP2292   | Chemokine signaling pathway             | 190  | 0.2063 | 4.8474 | 0.19004       | 1    |

**Figures**

**Behavioural test**

**Figure 1**

Neurobehavioral test of ROT- intoxicated mice treated with Tc. (A) Time in Cataleptic test (B) T-turn time in the pole test (C) Time on the rotarod test (D) Stride forepaw length in Foot print test. Values are represented in the form of mean ± SEM (n = 8). ∗p < 0.05, ∗∗p < 0.01, and ∗∗∗p < 0.001.
Figure 2

Venn diagram representing the unique and common proteins between control vs PD and PD vs Tc groups.
Figure 3

Heat Map representing the expression levels of the differentially expressed proteins. The red coloured regions indicate a high level of protein expression, the orange regions represent the mid value of the protein expression and the yellow regions indicates a low expression of the proteins. Samples are clustered on the basis of relative expression, accession number and p-value.
Figure 4

Gene Ontology Enrichment Analysis of the DEPs.
Figure 5

Protein-Protein interaction network among the DEPs, along with gene-gene interaction network. (A) PPI network was constructed using String. (B) In gene-gene interaction the nodes with lines on them were the proteins obtained in the results whereas the nodes without lines on them were the proteins from the database (Analysis performed by Genemania). In both these networks the different coloured edges indicates the different interactions among the DEPs. The width of the edge represents the strength of the interactions between the DEPs and predicted proteins.
Figure 6

Graphical representation of methodology used for LFQ analysis of Control, PD and treatment groups. Proteins were isolate and digested with multiple proteases followed by LC-MS/MS. Each sample were processed in triplicate.
Figure 7

Representative model of biochemical pathways modulated by Tc treatment in Parkinsonian mice.

Supplementary Files

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- Supplimentryfile1.xlsx
- supplimentryfile2.docx