University of Huddersfield Repository

Mashhadi, Farzaneh Farajian, Naylor, Robert J. and Javid, Farideh A.

The Effects of Serotonin Receptor Antagonists on Contraction and Relaxation Responses Induced by Electrical Stimulation in the Rat Small Intestine

Original Citation

Mashhadi, Farzaneh Farajian, Naylor, Robert J. and Javid, Farideh A. (2014) The Effects of Serotonin Receptor Antagonists on Contraction and Relaxation Responses Induced by Electrical Stimulation in the Rat Small Intestine. Gene Cell Tissue, 1 (1). e18311. ISSN 2345-6833

This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/21653/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
The Effects of Serotonin Receptor Antagonists on Contraction and Relaxation Responses Induced by Electrical Stimulation in the Rat Small Intestine

Farzaneh Farajian Mashhadi,1,2 Robert J. Naylor,3 Farideh A. Javid4,*

1,2Cellular and Molecular Research Center, Zahedan University of Medical Sciences, Zahedan, IR Iran
3Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, Zahedan University of Medical Sciences, Zahedan, IR Iran
4Division of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield, United Kingdom

*Corresponding author: Farideh A. Javid, Division of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom. Tel/Fax: +44-1484472543, E-mail: fajavid@hud.ac.uk

Received: February 3, 2014; Revised: February 15, 2014; Accepted: February 17, 2014

Background: The main source of 5-HT in body is in enterochromafin cells of intestine, different studies mentioned different roles for endogenous 5-HT and receptors involved and it is clarifited the mechanism of action of endogenous 5-HT.

Objectives: To study the role of endogenous 5-HT on modulation of contraction and relaxation responses induced by electrical field stimulation (EFS) in different regions of the rat intestine.

Materials and Methods: Segments taken from the rat duodenum, jejunum, mid and terminal ileum were vertically mounted, connected to a transducer and exposed to EFS with different frequencies in the absence and presence of various inhibitors of enteric mediators i.e. specific 5-HT receptor antagonists.

Results: EFS-induced responses were sensitive to TTX and partly to atropine, indicating a major neuronal involvement and a cholinergic system. Pre-treatment with WAY100635 (a 5-HT1A receptor antagonist) and granisetron up to 10.0 µM, GR113808 (a 5-HT4 receptor antagonist), methysergide and ritanserin up to 1.0 µM, failed to modify responses to EFS in all examined tissues. In the presence of SB258585 1.0 µM (a 5-HT6 receptor antagonist) there was a trend to enhance contraction in the proximal part of the intestine and reduce contraction in the distal part. Pre-treatment with SB269970A 1.0 µM (5-HT7 receptor antagonist) induced a greater contractile response to EFS at 0.4 Hz only in the duodenum.

Conclusions: The application of 5-HT1A, 5-HT2, 5-HT3, 5-HT4, 5-HT6 and 5-HT7 receptor antagonists, applied at concentrations lower than 1.0 µM did not modify the EFS-induced contraction and relaxation responses, which suggests the unlikely involvement of endogenous 5-HT in mediating responses to EFS in the described test conditions.

Keywords: Electric Stimulation Therapy; Serotonin 5-HT1 Receptor Antagonists; Intestine, Small

1. Background

5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) can induce changes in gastrointestinal motility and transmural transport of fluid and electrolytes (1-4). Although the 5-HT content of the gastrointestinal tract is higher than that of any other organ (5), the precise role of 5-HT in the physiology of the gut remains unknown. The difficulty encountered in establishing what endogenous 5-HT actually does in the gut may be due to the two different sites of 5-HT storage in the enterochromafin cells of the mucosa (6) and in the enteric neurons, for which it serves a neurotransmitter role (7). Exogenous 5-HT exerts different actions in the gut through multiple receptor subtypes. For example, 5-HT1A receptors are present on the enteric neurons and ganglia (8), and presynaptically inhibit the release of acetylcholine at the nicotinic synapse and the secretion of tachykinins (9). 5-HT1A receptors are also located postsynaptically where they hyperpolarise the enteric neurons (10). 5-HT2 receptors are located directly on the smooth muscle, and the 5-HT3 receptors, which are ligand-gated ion channels are found in both submucosal and myenteric neurones, which mediate a rapidly developing, but short lived postsynaptic depolarisation (11, 12). The 5-HT4 receptor, a neuronal receptor, which augments the release of acetylcholine at nicotinic synapses (13), also increases the amplitude of contractions of the longitudinal muscle in response to transmural electrical stimulation in the guinea pig ileum (14). It is unknown whether endogenous 5-HT can access receptors available to stimulation by exogenous 5-HT to mediate the well-established contraction or relaxation response in the intestine.

Implication for health policy/practice/research/medical education:
We already know that the main source of 5-HT in body is intestinal tract. Knowing the role of endogenous 5-HT and subtypes involved in contraction and relaxation response could give us a clue about the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders such as IBS, constipation, diarrhea, emesis and so on.

Copyright © 2014, Zahedan University of Medical Sciences; Published by DocsCorp. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.
2. Objectives

Therefore the aim of the present study was to electrically stimulate the rat intestinal segments in an attempt to release endogenous neurotransmitter substances. The possibility that released 5-HT may contribute to contraction and relaxation responses, was investigated using 5-HT receptor antagonists with selective actions for 5-HT receptor subtypes.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Preparation of Isolated Tissues

All procedures were carried out in accordance with institutional guidelines for animal care. Adult male Lister hooded rats (Bradford University strain) (250-350 g) were killed by cervical dislocation following a blow to the head. The whole intestine was removed and immediately killed by cervical dislocation following a blow to the head. The whole intestine was removed and immediately killed by cervical dislocation following a blow to the head. The whole intestine was removed and immediately killed by cervical dislocation following a blow to the head. The whole intestine was removed and immediately killed by cervical dislocation following a blow to the head. The whole intestine was removed and immediately killed by cervical dislocation following a blow to the head.

3.2. Method of Electrical Field Stimulation (EFS)

Using a paired experimental design, the frequency-response curves to EFS (0.4, 1.0 and 10.0 Hz) in the absence (control) or presence of antagonists were constructed. For the four selected regions of the intestine, one segment was randomly taken as the control and the others for tests. The test tissues were left to equilibrate with the antagonists atropine (muscarinic antagonist, 10 nM, 0.1 and 1.0 µM), WAY100635 (5-HT(1A) receptor antagonist, 1.0-10.0 µM (15)), methysergide (5-HT(1D/2/7) receptor antagonist, 1.0 µM), ritanserin (5-HT(2A) receptor antagonist 0.1 and 1.0 µM), granisetron (5-HT(3) receptor antagonist, 1.0-10.0 µM), GR113808 (5-HT(4) receptor antagonist, 1.0 µM (16)), SB258585 (5-HT(5A) receptor antagonist, 1.0 µM (17)), SB269970A (5-HT(7) receptor antagonist, 1.0 µM (18)) for one hour before the application of EFS. The antagonists were constantly present in the organ bath during the construction of the response curves. In separate experiments the effect of tetrodotoxin (TTX, 1.0 µM, 1 hour pretreatment) on the responses to EFS was studied. The number of observations ‘n’ represents the number of animals used. The profile of action of antagonists on responses to EFS was similar in different regions of the intestine; representative data is shown.

3.3. Analysis of Results

Changes in g tension were expressed as either a percentage of the maximal response to KCl (0.1 mM) or the mean of the absolute values plus standard error of the mean. The significance of differences between the control and the test responses was determined using the paired stu-
dents’ t-test; values of less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant. The responses to the phasic and tonic components of the EFS applied at 10.0 Hz were measured during the first 10 seconds and 60 seconds of stimulation, respectively. The relaxation responses were analysed by measuring the minimum tonic response observed during the one-minute stimulation.

4. Results

4.1. The Effect of EFS on Intestinal Tissues

The application of EFS induced frequency-dependent contraction responses in all examined segments. The contraction response to EFS at low frequencies of 0.4 and 1.0 Hz developed slowly and proceeded by a small relaxation response in all examined tissues; EFS at a frequency of 10.0 Hz caused a rapid contraction (phasic) which was followed by a sustained contraction (tonic) (Figure 1).

4.2. The Effect of Tetrodotoxin (TTX) on Modifying the Responses to EFS

A one-hour pre-treatment with TTX (1.0 µM) significantly reduced (by approximately 90%) or abolished the contractions induced by EFS, at different frequencies (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Representative traces showing contractile response induced by EFS in different regions of the rat small intestine

![Representative traces showing contractile response induced by EFS in different regions of the rat small intestine](image)
4. 3. The Ability of Atropine to Modify EFS Induced Responses

In tissues taken from the jejenum and ileum but not the duodenum, atropine (0.01, 0.1 and 1.0 µM) significantly (P < 0.05) reduced the contractions induced by EFS applied at low frequencies of 0.4 and 1.0 Hz. In the presence of atropine, the effect of EFS applied at 10.0 Hz was to induce a measurable relaxation response prior to the contraction response. Moreover, atropine significantly (P < 0.05-0.001) reduced or abolished the phasic contraction responses in all four regions of the intestinal tract (Figure 3). Furthermore, atropine was able to significantly (P < 0.05-0.001) reduce the tonic component of the contractile response to the EFS at 10.0 Hz in the duodenum, jejunum and mid ileum but not in the terminal ileum.

4. 4. The Ability of the 5-HT Receptor Antagonists to Modify EFS Induced Responses

In the presence of the 5-HT1A receptor antagonist WAY100635 1.0, 10.0 nM and 1.0 µM, the responses to EFS were comparable to those of control tissues in all segments examined. In most tissues examined, there was a trend for 10.0 µM WAY100635 to reduce the contraction response, which inconsistently achieved significance. However, the tonic contraction at 10.0 Hz was not reduced by 10.0 µM WAY100635 (data not shown). The relaxation response to EFS was not modified by WAY100635. Methysergide (0.1 and 1.0 µM) induced no changes in the contractile response to EFS, with the exception of a trend rising at a higher concentration of 1.0 µM to increase tonic contractions at 10.0 Hz. This was significant in the
Figure 3. The Contractile Response Induced by EFS (30 V, 0.4, 1 and 10 Hz and 0.5 ms width) in the Absence and Presence of 10.0 nM-1.0 µM Atropine in the Rat Small Intestine

Figure 4. The Tonic Component of the Contractile Response Induced by EFS (30 V, 0.5 ms Width, 10.0 Hz) in the Absence and Presence of 1.0 µM Methysergide in the Rat Small Intestine

Segments were taken from the duodenum (A), jejunum (B), mid ileum (C), and terminal ileum (D). Each point represents the mean ± SE. Total number was 4. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 indicate significant difference compared to the control values.

jejunum and terminal ileum (P < 0.05 and P < 0.01, respectively), (Figure 4). The relaxation response to EFS reduced significantly in the duodenum in the presence of 1.0 µM methysergide.

The application of ritanserin at 1.0 µM but not at 0.01 and 0.1 µM, was able to significantly (P < 0.05) attenuate the contractile and the relaxation responses to EFS at all frequencies and in all tissues examined (Figure 5). In the presence of granisetron at 10.0 µM (but not at 1.0 µM) there was a general trend of attenuation of the contractile responses to EFS that frequently achieved significance (Figure 6). The application of GRI13808 (1.0 µM) failed to modify the responses to EFS applied at different frequencies for all tested tissues (data not shown). In the presence of SB258585 (1.0 µM) the contractile response to EFS showed a general increasing trend in the proximal part of the intestine (duodenum and jejunum) that frequently achieved significance (P < 0.05, 0.01) (Figure 7). There was also a general trend to reduce the contractile response in the distal part (mid and terminal ileum). However it only achieved significance (P < 0.05) at 1.0 Hz in the terminal ileum. Pre-treatment with SB269970A (1.0 µM) induced an increase (P < 0.05) in the contractile response to EFS at 0.4 Hz in the segments taken from the duodenum. SB269970A failed to modify the contractile and relaxation responses to EFS when applied at other frequencies in any other region of the intestine (data not shown). Finally, in a separate in vivo experiment, pre-treatment of rats with para-chlorophenylalanine (PCPA), (250 mg/kg, i. p., for 3 days) to deplete endogenous 5-HT (19), also failed to change EFS induced responses.

Figure 5.

Segments were taken from the duodenum, jejunum, mid ileum, and terminal ileum. Each point represents mean ± SE. Total number was 5. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01 indicate a significant difference compared to the control value.
Figure 5. Representative Histograms Showing the Contractile Response Induced by EFS (30 V; 0.4, 1 and 10 Hz, 0.5 ms Width) in the Absence and Presence of 0.1-1.0 μM Ritanserin in the Rat Small Intestine

Segments were taken from the duodenum (A), jejunum (B), mid ileum (C), and terminal ileum (D). Each point represents mean ± SE. Total number was 5. *P <0.05 **P <0.01, ***P <0.001 indicate a significant difference compared to the control values; (10 p) and (10 t) represent phasic and tonic contractions.
Figure 6. Contractile Responses Induced by EFS (30 V; 0.4, 1 and 10 Hz, 0.5 ms Width) in the Absence and Presence of 1.0 and 10.0 μM Granisetron in the Rat Small Intestine.

Segments were taken from the duodenum (A), jejunum (B), mid ileum (C), and terminal ileum (D). Each point represents mean ± SE. Total number was 6. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 indicate a significant difference compared to the control values; 10 p and 10 t refer to phasic and tonic contractions, respectively.
5. Discussion

The present study is the first systemic study performed on the rat small intestine from four different regions using all major serotonin receptor antagonists in an attempt to modify EFS induced contraction and relaxation responses. The principle aim of the present study was to investigate the possibility that endogenous 5-HT may contribute to the relaxation and contractile responses induced by electrical field stimulation in different regions.
of the rat small intestine. The systematic study of tissues gathered from throughout the length of the intestinal tract was considered important for revealing local differences in the functional importance of 5-HT. In such experiments, electrical field stimulation of tissues was used as an effective method for depolarizing nerves, and causing the release of neurotransmitters. A drawback to this technique is the fact that the stimulating current activates all neurons within the myenteric plexus, including excitatory and inhibitory elements, sympathetic and parasympathetic nerves and, cholinergic and non-cholinergic neurotransmitters (20). The muscle response to field stimulation is thus potentially the net result of multiple responses produced by activation of many individual neurons (21).

Different profile of muscle contraction and relaxation responses in different regions of the intestine might suggest that there are different endogenous neurotransmitters being released and/or interacting with different neurotransmitter receptors in different regions of the intestine. Furthermore, the release of neurotransmitters by the application of EFS at different frequencies might be predicted to modify the intensity or profile of the contraction-relaxation responses and this was found to occur in all tissues examined.

The EFS-induced contractions were markedly reduced or abolished by the sodium channel blocker tetrodotoxin (TTX) applied at a concentration that is shown to induce a maximal effect (22). This suggests that the existence of a major neuronal component is required to mediate EFS (0.4, 1.0 and 10.0 Hz)-induced contraction in all four segments. Furthermore, at 10.0 Hz, when EFS induced only a very small relaxation or indeed no relaxation at all, the effect of TTX was to reveal a clear or enhanced relaxation in all tissues. Smooth muscle cell activation by substances released from enterochromaffin cells, for example, might thus contribute to the TTX-insensitive relaxation (23). In the present study, there was a consistent trend which sometimes achieved significance for contraction responses evoked by EFS at lower frequencies which reduced by atropine (10.0 or 100.0 nM) in tissues taken from the jejunum and ileum, indicating that a component of the contraction response is mediated via the release of acetylcholine. This profile of action was not observed in the duodenum indicating the involvement of other transmitters in the contraction response. The relaxation responses induced by EFS at lower frequencies were not consistently modified by atropine (10.0 nM to 1.0 µM). Indeed, in the presence of atropine, the effect of EFS applied at 10.0 Hz was to induce a measurable relaxation response prior to a contraction, which was normally absent in the control tissues. It can be concluded that the transmitter system for mediating relaxation response in the tissues is non-cholinergic.

It has been shown in other studies that nitric oxide and VIP contribute to the relaxation response induced by EFS in the longitudinal muscle of the mouse intestine (24) and rat gastric fundus (25) respectively, possibly involving a hyperpolarisation caused by an increase in potassium conductance. When EFS was applied at 10.0 Hz, atropine could abolish or greatly reduce the phasic contraction response in all regions and attenuate the tonic component of the contraction response in the duodenum, jejunum and mid ileum, but not in the terminal ileum. This indicates a difference in the cholinergic contribution to the responses induced by EFS in different regions of the intestine. A similar experiment on the guinea pig ileum (26) concluded that the initial phasic component was evoked by acetylcholine and by a non-cholinergic neurotransmitter, while the tonic component was maintained predominantly by prostaglandin released during stimulation. Ivancheva et al. (27) suggested that substance P could also contribute to the EFS-induced tonic response.

In the present study the possibility that endogenous 5-HT may be involved in the atropine-insensitive residual contraction and relaxation responses induced by EFS, was first investigated using a 5-HT receptor antagonist with ‘selectivity’ for the 5-HT₁A receptors, WAY100635 (pKB, 8.7 in the rat brain (15, 28)), WAY100635, when applied in concentrations ranging from 1.0 nM to 1.0 µM, that have been shown in functional assays to block 5-HT₁A-mediated effects at nanomolar concentrations (15), failed to block neither the contractions nor relaxations induced by EFS at low or high frequency stimulations. Even when applied at 10.0 µM, WAY100635 failed to consistently modify the EFS-induced contractions and relaxations in the duodenum, jejunum and mid ileum. In the terminal ileum, a high concentration of WAY100635, reduced the contractions. However the mechanism of this inhibitory action of WAY100635 remains to be established. The ability of methysergide 1.0 µM (a 5-HT₁/₂ receptor antagonist, pKi, 7.1-8.2 for 5-HT₁/₂ receptors and pKi 7.1-7.9 for 5-HT₁ receptors (29)) to increase the tonic contraction response to EFS when applied at 10.0 Hz only in the jejunum and terminal ileum, may indicate that the methysergide-sensitive sites in these regions are involved in an inhibitory response. However, when methysergide was used in the presence of atropine, the tonic contraction was comparable to that of the control tissues, indicating that the inhibitory response mediated by methysergide-sensitive sites is cholinergic in nature (data not shown). This is in line with studies by Nowak et al. who showed evidence for the existence of muscarinic inhibitory neurotransmission in the rat small intestine upon the action of M1 muscarinic receptors located on inhibitory neurons (21). This may suggest a modulatory action by endogenous serotonin on cholinergic neurotransmission via methysergide-sensitive sites.

The results of the present study indicate that the 5-HT₂ antagonist, ritanserin (pKi 8.5-7.6 (30)), administered at nanomolar concentrations failed to modify relaxation and contractile responses to EFS. However, at the higher concentration of 1.0 µM, ritanserin diminished EFS-induced contractions recorded from the rat intestine. It has
been shown that the 5-HT<sub>2</sub> receptors are involved in mediating a contraction response to the exogenously added 5-HT, following the administration of 10 nM - 0.1 µM ritanserin which could reliably block 5-HT<sub>2</sub> receptors in the GIT of different species (31-33). Also, in in vitro binding assays in brain tissue (34), the antagonism by ritanserin was achieved at concentrations in the nanomolar range. This suggests that a reliable receptor blockade should be achieved with a 1.0 µM concentration of ritanserin. Thus, in the present study a strong antagonism of the EFS-induced contractions by 1.0 µM ritanserin might be attributed to the involvement of 5-HT<sub>2</sub> receptors in mediating a response to endogenously released serotonin. However, such action of ritanserin at a concentration of 1.0 µM may also reflect additional non-specific action on other mechanisms (30) since ritanserin at 1 µM was also able to reduce significantly the contractile response induced by KCl (100 mM).

It is known that agonists of the 5-HT receptors increase the release of acetylcholine from the motor nerve ending within the intestinal muscle and facilitate peristalsis and may be involved in mechanisms at 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptors (35-37). However, in the present study granisetron at a concentration as high as 1.0 µM failed to significantly modify relaxation and contractile responses to EFS. Although there was a significant reduction in contractile response to EFS in the presence of 10.0 µM granisetron, the selectivity of granisetron on 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptors at this concentration is questionable (38). Granisetron strongly and selectively binds to the 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor with a binding constant of 0.26 nM and exhibits a 4000 - 40000 times greater binding affinity for the 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor than other binding sites, including other 5-HT subtypes and also adrenergic, histaminergic and opioid receptors. Its selectivity to the 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor over other receptor types is > 1000:1 (39). The lack of effect of the selective 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist GR113808 on responses to EFS also indicates the unlikely involvement of 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptors. However, the existence of 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptors has been demonstrated in the gut (40). In the small intestine, 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptors mediate mucosal secretion and smooth muscle relaxation (41, 42). Furthermore, the 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor has an established role in mediating contraction responses via a cholinergic mechanism in the guinea-pig intestine and colon (14, 43). In the present study, the lack of effect for the involvement of 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptors in mediating a response to EFS could be that the receptors do not play a dominant role in mediating a response to endogenously-released 5-HT under normal physiological conditions. There is also evidence that the enterochromaffin cells are endowed with 5-HT<sub>4</sub> autoreceptors and that their stimulation causes inhibition of 5-HT release (44).

In the present study, pre-treatment with SB258585, a selective 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor antagonist with high specific binding (17) at a concentration of 1µM, induced different effects depending on the frequency of EFS used and the region of the intestine; a significantly greater contraction response to EFS at 0.4 and 1.0 Hz in the duodenum and jejunum, and a reduction of EFS-induced contraction at the same frequencies in the ileum was observed. Application of EFS at higher frequency of 10.0 Hz induced a greater contractile response for both the tonic and phasic components of contraction only in segments taken from the jejunum. Furthermore, a greater relaxation response was observed in the presence of antagonist in some intestinal segments. To date there is no functional evidence for the involvement of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors in the periphery. Thus the present study could be the first evidence for the involvement of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors in EFS-induced response upon endogenously released serotonin, which require further investigations.

The application of the selective 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor antagonist SB269970A at a concentration of 1 µM induced a greater contractile response to EFS at low frequency of 0.4 Hz only in segments taken from the duodenum. This indicates the involvement of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors in a relaxation response to the endogenous 5-HT as antagonism of these receptors resulted in a greater response. This is in line with previous studies where the 5-HT<sub>7</sub> receptor was implicated in a relaxation response in the gastrointestinal tract (45-47). In summary, the application of 5-HT receptor antagonists, revealed that methysergide- (5-HT1/2/7 receptor), ritanserin- (5-HT<sub>2</sub> receptor), SB258585- (5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor) and SB269970- (5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor) sensitive sites might be involved in the endogenous 5-HT mediating contraction or relaxation response to EFS. However, considering the concentration of antagonists applied for the present study, and the fact that at concentrations lower than 1µM, none of antagonists were able to consistently modify the EFS induced contractile or relaxation responses. Even, in case of depletion of 5-HT from enteric neurons by PCPA failed to modify EFS response, may suggest the unlikelihood of direct involvement of endogenous 5-HT in mediating contraction or relaxation responses to EFS in different regions of the rat small intestine. Accordingly, recent studies have shown that endogenous serotonin is neither required for colonic peristalsis in vitro, nor gastrointestinal (GI) transit in vivo (48, 49).

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful of Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran for financial support.

Authors’ Contribution

The current work was performed by Dr. Farzaneh Farajian-Mashhadi under the supervision of Dr. Farideh A. Javid and Professor Robert J. Naylor.

Financial Disclosures

The authors state no conflicts of interest.
20

**Funding/Support**
Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran.

**References**

1. Mawe GM, Hoffman JM. Serotonin signalling in the gut–functions, dysfunctions and therapeutic targets. Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2013;10(8):473-86.

2. Spiller R. Recent advances in understanding the role of serotonin in gastrointestinal motility in functional bowel disorders: alterations in 5-HT signalling and metabolism in human disease. Neurogastroenterol Motil. 2007;19 Suppl 2:35-32.

3. Farajian-Mashhadi F, Naylor RJ, Javid FA. The effect of fluoxetine on electrical field stimulation-induced responses in the isolated rat small intestine. Methods Find Exp Clin Pharmacol. 2002;24(5):465-55.

4. Molderings GJ. Physiological, pathophysiological and therapeutic impact of the enteric serotonergic system. Arzneimittelforschung. 2012;62(4):357-66.

5. Feldberg W, Toh CC. Distribution of 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin, enteramine) in the wall of the digestive tract. J Physiol. 1953;109(2):352-62.

6. Ersparmer V. Pharmacology of indole-alkylamines. Pharmacol Rev. 1954;6(4):145-87.

7. Brancheck TA, Gershon MD. Development of neural receptors for serotonin in the murine bowel. J Comp Neurol. 1987;258(4):597-600.

8. Kirchgesнер AL, Liu MT, Raymond JR, Gershon MD. Identification of cells that express 5-hydroxytryptamine(5-HT) receptors in the nervous systems of the bowel and pancreas. J Comp Neurol. 1996;364(3):439-55.

9. Broad RM, McDonald TJ, Cook MA. Adenosine and 5-HT inhibit substance P release from nerve endings in myenteric ganglia by distinct mechanisms. Am J Physiol. 1991;256(1 Pt 1):G434-41.

10. Pan H, Galligan JJ. 5-HTA and 5-HT4 receptors mediate inhibition and facilitation of fast synaptic transmission in enteric neurons. Am J Physiol. 1994;266(2 Pt 1):G230-6.

11. Derkach V, Surprenant A, North RA. 5-HT3 receptors are membrane ion channels. Nature. 1989;339(6277):706-9.

12. Mawe GM, Brancheck TA, Gershon MD. Peripheral neural serotonin receptors: identification and characterization with specific antagonists and agonists. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 1988;85(24):9799-803.

13. Costall B, Naylor RJ. The pharmacology of the 5-HT4 receptor. Int Clin Psychopharmacol. 1993;8 Suppl 2:1-8.

14. Craig DA, Clarke DE. Pharmacological characterization of a neuronal receptor for 5-hydroxytryptamine in guinea pig ileum with properties similar to the 5-hydroxytryptamine(5-HT) receptor. J Pharmacol Exp Ther. 1990;252(3):3578-86.

15. Hume SP, Ashworth S, Opacak-Jaffery J, Ahier RG, Lamerttma AA, Pike VW, et al. Evaluation of [O-methyl-3H]WAY-100635 as an in vivo radioligand for 5-HT3 receptors in rat brain. Eur J Pharmacol. 1994;272(3):355-23.

16. Gale JD, Grossman CJ, Whitehead JW, Oxford AW, Buncel KT, Humphrey PP. GR138088: a novel, selective antagonist with high affinity at the 5-HT4 receptor. Br J Pharmacol. 1994;111(3):332-8.

17. Hirst WD, Minton JA, Bromide SM, Moss SF, Latter AJ, Riley G, et al. Characterization of [(125)I]-SB-258585 binding to human recombinant and native 5-HT(3) receptors in rat, pig and human brain tissue. Br J Pharmacol. 2000;130(7):7397-605.

18. Hagan JJ, Price GW, Jeffrey P, Deeks NJ, Stean T, Piper D, et al. Characterization of SB-299070A, a selective 5-HT(7) receptor antagonist. Br J Pharmacol. 2000;130(3):359-48.

19. Weber LJ. Gastrointestinal 5-hydroxytryptamine depletion by p-chlorophenylalanine. Proc West Pharmacol Soc. 1969;12:128-9.

20. Kilbinger H, Kruel R, Pfeuffer-Friederich I, Wessler R. The effects of metoclopramide on acetylcholine release and on smooth muscle response in the isolated guinea-pig ileum. Naunyn Schmiedebergs Arch Pharmacol. 1992;345(4):321-8.

21. Nowak TV, Harrington B, Kalbbrunner JH. Evidence for muscarinic inhibitory neurotransmission in rodent small intestine. J Pharmacol Exp Ther. 1989;248(2):573-80.

22. Gershon MD. Effects of tetrodotoxin on innervated smooth muscle preparations. Br J Pharmacol Chemother. 1967;29(3):259-79.

23. Racker K, Reimann A, Schworer H, Kilbinger H. Regulation of 5HT release from enterochromaffin cells. Behav Brain Res. 1996;73(1):2-3.

24. Satho Y, Takeuchi T, Yamazaki Y, Okishio Y, Nishio H, Takatsuji K, et al. Mediators of nonadrenergic, noncholinergic relaxation in longitudinal muscle of the intestine of ICR mice. J Smooth Muscle Res. 1999;35(1):65-75.

25. D’Amato M, Curro D, Montuschi P, Cabanotto G, Ragazzoni E, Lefebvre RA. Release of vasoactive intestinal polypeptide from the rat gastric fundus. Br J Pharmacol. 1992;106(3):599-55.

26. Radomirov R, Venkova K. Pharmacological characteristics of the postsynaptically mediated contractile responses of guinea-pig ileum to long-lasting electrical field stimulation. Neuropharmacology. 1988;27(7):729-35.

27. Ivancheva C, Pencheva N, Radomirov R. Pattern of nonadrenergic, noncholinergic responses during short- or long-lasting electrical stimulation in guinea-pig ileum. Gen Pharmacol. 1997;29(2):233-7.

28. Goslan H, Thibault S, Laporte AM, Lima L, Hamon M. The selective 5-HT3 antagonist radioligand [3H]WAY-10653 labels both G-protein-coupled and free 5-HT3A receptors in rat brain membranes. Eur J Pharmacol. 1995;288(2):377-86.

29. Eglen RM, Jasper JR, Chang DJ, Martin GR. The 5-HT7 receptor: orphan found. Trends Pharmacol Sci. 1997;18(4):704-17.

30. Malleron JL, Comte MT, Gueremy C, Peyronel JF, Truchon A, Blanchard JC, et al. Naphthosultam derivatives: a new class of potent and selective 5-HT2 antagonists. J Med Chem. 1991;34(8):2477-83.

31. Costa M, Furness JR. The sites of action of 5-hydroxytryptamine in nerve–muscle preparations from the guinea-pig small intestine and colon. Br J Pharmacol. 1979;65(2):237-48.

32. Engel G, Hoyer D, Kalkman HO, Wick MB. Identification of 5-HT2 receptors on longitudinal muscle of the guinea pig ileum. J Recept Res. 1984;4(1):63-86.

33. Javid FA, Naylor RJ. Characterisation of 5-HT2 receptor subtypes in the Suncus murinus intestine. Eur J Pharmacol. 1999;381(2-3):161-9.

34. Leysen JE, Sommeren W, Van Gompel FP, Wynants J, Jansen PP, Laduron PM. Receptor-binding properties in vitro and in vivo of ritalinserine: A very potent and long acting serotonin-52 antagonist. Mol Pharmacol. 1985;27(6):600-11.

35. Humphrey PP, Bondurant C, Clayton N, Kozlowski K. Review article: the therapeutic potential of 5-HT3 receptor antagonists in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 1999;13 Suppl 2:231-8.

36. Bianchi C, Beani L, Crema C. Effects of metoclopramide on isolated guinea-pig colon. 2. Interaction with ganglionic stimulant drugs. Eur J Pharmacol. 1970;12(1):332-41.

37. Buchheit KH, Engel G, Mutschler E, Richardson B. Study of the contractile effect of 5-hydroxytryptamine in the isolated longitudinal muscle strip from guinea-pig ileum. Evidence for two distinct release mechanisms. Naunyn Schmiedebergs Arch Pharmacol. 1985;329(1):36-41.

38. Spencer NJ, Nicholas SJ, Sia TC, Staiakopoulos V, Kylef M, Beckett EA. By what mechanism does ondansetron inhibit colonic migrating motor complexes: does it require endogenous serotonin in the gut wall? Neurogastroenterol Motil. 2013;25(8):677-85.

39. Man G. Dissection: new insights into its use for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. Expert Opin Pharmacother. 2003;4(9):1565-71.

40. Hedge SS, Moly TM, Perry MR, Leeb M, Eglen RM. Evidence for the involvement of 5-hydroxytryptamine 4 receptors in 5-hydroxytryptophan-induced diarrhea in mice. J Pharmacol Exp Ther. 1994;278(2):741-7.

41. Budhoo MR, Harris RP, Kellum JM. The role of the 5-HT4 receptor in Cl– secretion in human jejunal mucosa. Eur J Pharmacol. 1996;314(2-3):109-14.
signaling pathways in human intestinal muscle cells. Gastroenterology. 1995;109(6):1791–800.

43. Yamamoto I, Kuwahara A, Fujimura M, Kadowaki M, Fujimya M. Involvement of 5-HT3 and 5-HT4 receptors in the motor activity of isolated vascularly perfused rat duodenum. Neurogastroenterol Motil. 1999;11(6):457–65.

44. Gebauer A, Merger M, Kilbinger H. Modulation by 5-HT3 and 5-HT4 receptors of the release of 5-hydroxytryptamine from the guinea-pig small intestine. Naunyn Schmiedebergs Arch Pharmacol. 1993;347(2):137–40.

45. Irving HR, Tan YY, Tochon-Danguy N, Liu H, Chetty N, Desmond PV, et al. Comparison of 5-HT4 and 5-HT7 receptor expression and function in the circular muscle of the human colon. Life Sci. 2007;80(13):198–205.

46. Tonini M, Vicini R, Cervio E, De Ponti F, De Giorgio R, Barbara G, et al. 5-HT7 receptors modulate peristalsis and accommodation in the guinea pig ileum. Gastroenterology. 2005;129(5):1557–66.

47. Carter D, Champney M, Hwang B, Eglen RM. Characterization of a postjunctional 5-HT receptor mediating relaxation of guinea-pig isolated ileum. Eur J Pharmacol. 1995;280(3):243–50.

48. Sia TC, Whiting M, Kyloh M, Nicholas SJ, Oliver J, Brookes SJ, et al. 5-HT1 and 5-HT4 antagonists inhibit peristaltic contractions in guinea-pig distal colon by mechanisms independent of endogenous 5-HT. Front Neurosci. 2013;7:136.

49. Keating DJ, Spencer NJ. Release of 5-hydroxytryptamine from the mucosa is not required for the generation or propagation of colonic migrating motor complexes. Gastroenterology. 2010;138(2):659–70 670 e1-2.