Research Article

Novel Dimethylacetamide-Containing Formulation Improves Infraorbital Anaesthesia Efficacy in Rats with Periodontitis

Ekaterina V. Blinova,1,2 Evgeniia V. Shikh,1 Elena V. Semeleva,2 Aleksandra M. Yurochkina,3 Andrey V. Novikov,1 Anna P. Vedieva,1 Arkadii B. Lebedev,4 Elena G. Lobanova,5 Olga V. Vasilkina,2,3 Dmitry S. Blinov5 and Evgeniia A. Kogan1

1Department of Operative Surgery and Clinical Anatomy, Department of Pathology, Department of Dentistry, Sechenov University, Moscow 119991, Russia
2Department of Dentistry, Department of Ophthalmology, National Research Mordovia State University, Saransk 430005, Russia
3Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Drug Design, All-Union Scientific Center of Biological Active Compounds, Staraja Kupavna 142450, Russia
4Department of Pharmacology, Tver State Medical University, Tver 170100, Russia
5Department of Pharmacology, A. I. Yevdokimov Moscow State University of Medicine and Dentistry, Moscow 119983, Russia

Correspondence should be addressed to Dmitry S. Blinov; blinov-pharm@yandex.ru

Received 16 October 2019; Revised 23 December 2019; Accepted 20 February 2020; Published 14 April 2020

Academic Editor: Ismail Laher

Copyright ©2020 Ekaterina V. Blinova et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Background. To evaluate acute toxicity and local anaesthetic activity of a formulation containing a novel dimethylacetamide derivative, antioxidant, and vasoconstrictor in rats with chronic periodontitis. Methods. Novel anaesthetic dimethylacetamide-containing formulation LHT-15-32 was studied as 2% water solution. Its acute intravenous and subcutaneous toxicity was determined in mice. Pain sensitivity threshold of the upper second molar was determined in rats with experimental periodontitis. Oxidative stress activity and total antioxidant capacity were determined in rats’ gingival mucosa by induced chemiluminescence. Local changes were evaluated in periodontal tissue by morphologic examination. Tissue IL-1β, IL-10, and TNF-α concentration was quantitatively assessed by an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. LHT-15-31 Na-blocking activity was studied on isolated neurons of Limnaea stagnalis’ parapharyngeal ganglion. Isolated sciatic nerve of Rana radibunda was perfused with different concentrations of LHT-15-32 to assess its conductivity. Statistical analysis was used, and continuous variables were presented as mean ± square deviation. The normality of distribution was determined using ANOVA. Newman–Keuls parametric criterion was used for intergroup comparison. LD50 indexes were calculated by probit analysis. Results. LHT-15-32 acute intravenous and subcutaneous toxicity was lower than that of its active substance. The formulation by infraorbital administration induced deep dental anaesthesia which lasted over 70 min and activated the local antioxidant defense system and decreased IL-1β level in gingival tissue. LHT-15-32 triggered tissue reparation around the impacted upper molar in rats assessed five days after administration. At 10^{-6} to 10^{-3} M concentration, LHT-15-32 inhibited sciatic nerve conductivity and blocked Na+ channels of isolated neurons in a dose-dependent manner. Conclusions. The formulation may be considered as an effective and safe approach to anaesthetize upper molars with periodontitis.

1. Introduction

Modern clinical practice, despite obvious success in creating new local anaesthetics (LA) as well as optimizing technologies for delivering drugs to the site of exposure, continues to experience difficulties in achieving optimal analgesic effect of LA [1]. One of the most frequent reasons for the lack of LA efficacy in dentistry is that almost always...
2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Ethics. The study has met all the requirements of GLP standards and the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrates Animals used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes regulations. The study protocols have been reviewed and approved by the Sechenov University BioEthics Committee (Moscow, Russia) July 6, 2017 (meeting No. 7, reg. no. 6/7/2017-11).

2.2. Drug Formulation. Novel formulation (laboratory code: LHT-15-32) has been developed at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Drug Design of All-Union Scientific Centre of Biological Active Compounds (AUSC BAC, Russia) as 2% water solution containing N-acetyl-L-glutamine 2-diethylamino-2′-dimethylphenylacetamide derivative, antioxidant, and vasoconstrictor in rats with chronic periodontitis.

2.3. Animals and Biological Objects. Fifty five white outbred mice weighing 18–20 g of both sexes and 15 frogs (Rana radibunda) were obtained from the Laboratory Animal Breeding Facility of Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS). Sixty five Sprague-Dawley male rats weighing 250–300 g were purchased at the Animals Breeding Facility of Institute of Theoretic and Experimental Biophysics of RAS (Russia). Animals were kept under pathogen-free condition and natural daylight cycles. Sterile food and water were provided ad libitum, and room temperature (25 ± 2°C) as well as humidity (60 ± 10%) were maintained. Mice were randomly divided into 11 equal groups for toxicology experiment. Fifty rats were randomly allocated into 5 groups of 10 animals in each: intact rats, control, lidocaine, LHT-4-00, and main group; fifteen animals were divided into 3 groups with 5 rats (intact, control, and main groups) and subjected to morphological examination. 3.5 cm length of frog’s sciatic nerve specimens were isolated and kept in a Ringer solution for 30–40 min at 22°C before stimulation. Indifferent neurons were isolated from the parapharyngeal ganglion of Limnaea stagnalis.

2.4. Acute Toxicity Assay. LHT-15-32 acute intravenous (IV) toxicity was assessed as previously described by estimation of an average dose (LD100), which caused animals’ death (Gad, 1990). The formulation subcutaneous (SC) toxicity (LD50) was registered in mice assigned to a definite dosage group 14 days after LHT-15-52 injection as previously described [6].

2.5. Modeling of Experimental Periodontitis. Experimental periodontitis was induced as described before in anesthetized (thiopental sodium, Sandoz, GmbX, Austria; 40 mg/kg, IV) male Sprague-Dawley rats assigned to all the groups except one with intact animals by ligating the second upper molar with a silk thread (5-0, Ethicon Inc., USA) [7].

2.6. Dental Anaesthesia Assessment. On day 15, the anesthetized animal (thiopental sodium, SANDOZ, GmbX, Austria; 40 mg/kg, IV) was placed on a heated platform of a stereotoxic system SR-5R (Narishige Co, Ltd, Japan) equipped with a portable drill. Two holes 0.3 mm in diameter and 3.0–3.5 mm in depth were drilled in the second upper molar, where free ends of a platinum-stimulating electrode (ADInstruments, USA) were fixed with a drop of plastic filling. The other ends of the electrode were drawn out through the hole in the cheek skin on the animal’s withers and fixed with purse skin suture. Four days later, rectangular impulses (100 imp/s for 5 s) of increasing current strength from 0.1 to 10 mA (BIOPAC MP-160, BIOPAC Systems Inc., USA) were applied to the tooth to achieve a pain sensitivity threshold (PST) registered by occurrence of the animal motor reaction and vocalization. Test solution (0.2 mL) was administered infraorbitally 10 min after baseline PST registration (zero-level of PST). Full anaesthesia was suggested if 5 s-long 10 mA stimulation caused no animal reaction (100% level of PST).
2.7. Local Oxidative Stress Assay. We used Fe-induced chemiluminescence to assess oxidative stress activity (OSA) and total antioxidant capacity (TAC) in homogenates of gingival mucosa tissue of rats overdosed with thiopental sodium the next day after LA level measurement as previously described [8].

2.8. Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA). IL-1β, IL-10, and TNF-α concentrations were detected in rats’ gingival tissue homogenates by quantitative ELISA using Rat Interleukin 1β (CSB-E08055r), Rat Interleukin 10 (CSB-04595r), and Rat TNF-α (CSB-11987r) ELISA Kits (Cusabio Technology, LLC, China) and a StatFax 4200 automatic reader (USA).

2.9. Sciatic Nerve Conductivity Assay. Sciatic nerve specimen was perfused by an oxygenated Tyrode solution (mM: NaCl, 145, 0; KCl, 4, 0; MgCl₂, 1, 0; CaCl₂, 1, 80; Tris, 5, 0; Glucose, 10, 0; pH 7.3–7.5) containing 10⁻³, 10⁻⁴, 10⁻⁵, or 10⁻⁶ M concentrations of LHT-15-32 at 22–24°C. To create moderate acidosis, the pH of the Tyrode solution was adjusted to 6.5–6.7 by HCl. The specimen was stimulated by linear impulses of increased current strength using gold-plated brass electrodes (ADInstruments, USA) and a BIOPAC MP-160 system. Action potential (AP) amplitude was measured and expressed as % of baseline.

2.10. Na⁺ Channel Blocking Activity. We used whole-cell configuration of the patch-clump method to access the ion current through Na⁺ channels of a nondifferentiated neuron. The neurons were dialyzed with an oxygenated solution (mM: CsCl, 120; Tris-OH, 2 with pH 7.3–7.4). Outer membrane surface was perfused by the LHT-15-32 solution (mM: NaCl, 110; MgCl₂ and Tris-OH, 2 with pH 7.5) [9].

2.11. Morphological Evaluation. To evaluate local morphological changes, soft tissues around the impacted molar of rats from intact, control, and main groups, overdosed with thiopental sodium, were examined five days after LA assessment. Microscope slides were made by the standard procedure: tissues were fixated in 10% neutral buffered formalin and embedded in paraffin (Leica LP 1020 Tissue Processor, Germany). Then, sectioning of paraffin blocks was performed (Leica RM 2265, Germany) with following deparaffinization and staining with hematoxylin and eosin. Three-micrometer tissue slides were viewed through a light microscope Leica with a digital camera DMC5400 (Germany).

2.12. Statistical Analysis. Statistical processing of data obtained was carried out using SPSS (version 16.0) [10]. Continuous variables were presented as mean (M) value ± square deviation (SD). The normality of distribution was determined by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). Newman–Keuls parametric criterion was used for intergroup comparison. LD₅₀ indexes were calculated by probit analysis [6].

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Results. Acute toxicity of the IV administered formulation for mice was 205 ± 7 mg/kg vs. LD₁₀₀ index of its active substance alone averaged 108 ± 12 mg/kg (P = 0.003, Figure 1). LD₅₀ indexes of both the formulation and its active component LHT-4-00 for the SC route were significantly higher (657 ± 21 mg/kg and 297 ± 20 mg/kg for LHT-15-32 and LHT-4-00, respectively) than for IV route of administration.

Infraorbital injection of lidocaine led to a moderate dental anaesthesia onset in rats with periodontitis which lasted no long than 17.3 ± 2.3 min (Figure 2). LHT-4-00 deeply anaesthetized the tooth with lower rapidity of anaesthesia embarking. The duration of painkilling averaged 32.4 ± 3.4 min (P = 0.001 when compared with lidocaine). The formulation induced full anaesthesia onset 32.1 ± 1.7 min after infraorbital injection. Rats of the main group did not react on painful incentives during 72.1 ± 2.6 min of stimulation (P = 0.001 when compared with both lidocaine and LHT-4-00).

OSA level in the gingival mucosa of rats with periodontitis increased more than thrice when compared with intact animals (Table 1), whereas TAC proportionally decreased. All tested solutions one day after infraorbital administration caused changes in local oxidative stress activity. OSA in the gingival tissue of rats which received lidocaine decreased to 6.4 ± 0.7 × 10³ imp/s, LHT-4-00 to 5.3 ± 0.4 × 10³ imp/s, and LHT-15-32 to 3.2 ± 0.3 × 10³ imp/s (P = 0.03 when compared with lidocaine). TAC value in the lidocaine group was 1.7 ± 0.4 × 10³ imp/s, in the LHT-4-00 group 3.9 ± 0.3 × 10³ imp/s, and in the main group 4.7 ± 0.5 × 10³ imp/s (P = 0.005 when compared with lidocaine). Periodontitis was associated with both IL-1β and TNF-α elevation along with depression of IL-10 tissue level. Unlike the lidocaine group, in the main group, IL-1β and TNF-α tissue levels significantly decreased while IL-10 concentration remained unchanged (Table 1).

Sciatic nerve specimen AP amplitude replied with decrement on perfusion with the LHT-15-32-containing solution both under physiological and moderate acidosis condition (Figure 3). LHT-15-32 at 10⁻⁶ to 10⁻³ M concentration applied at the outer side of the neuronal membrane in a dose-dependent manner blocked Na channels of isolated neurons (Figure 4) with calculated EC₂₅₀ 7.78 ± 1.0 × 10⁻⁵ M.

Morphological evaluation of gingival tissues of animals with intact teeth showed no changes: mucous membrane was covered with a normal squamous epithelium. Submucosa was composed of connective fibers, fibroblasts, and capillary vessels with limited number of lymphocytes. Periodontal ligament was preserved (Figures 5(a) and 5(b)). Experimental periodontitis was manifested by neutrophil infiltration and periodontal tissue lysis (Figures 5(c) and 5(d)). Infraorbital administration of LHT-15-32 triggered soft tissue reparadion around the impacted upper molar in
rats of the main group (Figures 5(e) and 5(f)). We observed
that it was covered with squamous epithelium mucous
membrane. Submucosa and periodontal ligament contained
mature granulation tissue with numerous fibroblastic
cells, lymphocytes, macrophages, and capillary type vessels.

3.2. Discussion. Many practitioners have been experiencing
failure of LA action in anesthetizing teeth of patients with
periodontitis. Increasing discomfort during manipulation
can even lead to bad clinical outcomes and unsatisfactory
results [11]. Several reasons have been proposed to explain
the lack of LA effect related to the inflammatory process in
dental practice. Among them, (a) effect on the peripheral
vascular system; (2) damage to nociceptors due to local
oxidative stress activation; and (3) reducing the sensitivity of
biological targets of LA has the greatest importance [1].

Novel formulation LHT-15-32 has been developed to ad-
dress some of them, and therefore enhance efficacy and
safety of pain control in dental practice. The formulation
contains N-acetyl-L-glutamic salt of dimethylacetamide (lidocaine) (LHT-4-00), with improved
pharmacological properties (such as depth and duration of LA
efficacy), as an active component [12]. The study results

Figure 1: Acute toxicity of LHT-15-32 and its active substance in mice: *P < 0.05 when compared with LHT-4-00 (ANOVA).

Figure 2: Upper molar pain sensitivity dynamic in rats with periodontitis after 2% LHT-15-32 or referent drug infraorbital injection.

Table 1: Local oxidative stress activity and tissue IL-1β, IL-10, and TNF-α concentration in the gingival mucosa of rats with periodontitis
one day after LHT-15-32 infraorbital application.

| Group of animals          | Chemiluminescence, \( \times 10^3 \) imp/s | Cytokine level, pg/g |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|
|                           | OSA                         | TAC                      | IL-1β          | IL-10         | TNF-α        |
| Intact group, \( n = 10 \) | 2.8 ± 0.2                   | 3.1 ± 0.3                 | 0.3 ± 0.1      | 15.8 ± 0.5    | 12.4 ± 1.8   |
| Control, \( n = 10 \)     | 8.3 ± 0.4                    | 1.0 ± 0.2*                | 3.2 ± 0.4*     | 3.6 ± 0.3*    | 129.3 ± 4.9* |
| 2% lidocaine, \( n = 10 \) | 6.4 ± 0.7*                   | 1.7 ± 0.4                 | 3.0 ± 0.2*     | 4.7 ± 0.4*    | 110.6 ± 3.5* |
| 2% LHT-4-00, \( n = 10 \)  | 5.4 ± 0.4*                   | 3.9 ± 0.3*                | 2.7 ± 0.3*     | 3.9 ± 0.3*    | 103.9 ± 4.1* |
| 2% LHT-15-32, \( n = 10 \) | 3.2 ± 0.3*                   | 4.7 ± 0.5*                | 0.9 ± 0.1*†#   | 4.3 ± 0.5*    | 23.7 ± 2.3*† |

Note: *P < 0.05; †when compared with the intact group; *when compared with the control; †when compared with the lidocaine group (ANOVA; Newman–Keuls criterion).
demonstrate prolonged LA effect of the formulation in animals with periodontitis in comparison not only with lidocaine but with LHT-4-00: LHT-15-32 induces a full anaesthesia onset 32.1 ± 1.7 min after infraorbital injection with no less than 72.1 ± 2.6 min of its duration. As in vitro experiments show, LHT-15-32 depresses isolated nerve conductivity at a broad variety of concentrations (10^{-3}–10^{-6} M) applied at the outer side of the neuronal membrane blocks Na channels in a dose-dependent manner. Nevertheless, satisfactory pain control in this case cannot be explained only by Na⁺ channel blocking and nerve conductivity depression because both reference drugs act similarly [13].

Plausible explanations may be associated with antioxidant and vasoconstrictive components of the formulation. Tsuchiya et al. have demonstrated direct interrelation between cellular membrane oxidative stress and LA activity [1]. LHT-15-32 more effectively balances OSA and TAC in rats’ gingival tissue than its active component as monotherapy. It is noteworthy that reduction of local periodontal and gingival inflammatory process may be directly associated with as LA improvement as a medication safety [14]. Cunha et al. have shown the critical role of IL-1β and TNF-α in inflammation-associated hyperalgesia development [13], while Zhang et al. have reported sufficient involvement of IL-10 in alveolar bone restoration in patients with periodontitis [15]. Decreased IL-1β and TNF-α level one day after LHT-15-32 injection shows the drug involvement in cytokine regulation, and hence approves anti-inflammatory property of the drug. Acute toxicity data combined with local morphological changes at the site of action may supply the researchers with valuable information about LA drug safety. Acute toxicity of LHT-15-32 was significantly low than that of its active substance LHT-4-00 as via intravascular and subcutaneous route of administration. At the same time, morphological examination of soft tissue around the impacted tooth shows features of triggered repair in the group of animals that underwent LHT-15-32-induced LA five days before.

However, the proposed formulation is not without limitation. Tissue and LA drug solution pH is a critical point and of not less importance for LHT-15-32. Thus, to achieve effective pain control, pH of the formulation should be adjusted ex tempore, which is associated with some inconvenience.

On the whole, the proposed formulation may be considered as an effective and safe tool for anesthetizing teeth with inflammatory changes.

4. Conclusions

Novel formulation LHT-15-32 is less toxic than its active substance and lidocaine, induces deep and long infraorbital anaesthesia of rats’ upper molar with periodontitis, depresses oxidative stress reaction and inflammatory process in gingival tissue, and inhibits isolated nerve conductivity under the
condition of moderate acidosis due to Na\(^+\) current blocking. Therefore, the formulation may be considered as an effective and safe approach to dental anaesthesia in periodontitis.

**Data Availability**

The abstract of invention on the LHT-4-00 substance used to support the findings of this study has been deposited in the Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property repository (http://www1.fips.ru/ofpstorage/Doc/IZPM/RUNWC1/000/000/002/657/613/813-02657613-00001/DOCUMENT.PDF).

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

**Acknowledgments**

This work was partly supported by the Russian Government Research Council Grant (grant no. 2017-14-N08-0036). The authors are extremely grateful to their colleagues for the critical review of the manuscript and to their laboratory staff for devoted assistance.

**References**

[1] H. Tsuchiya, “Dental anesthesia in the presence of inflammation: pharmacological mechanisms for the reduced efficacy of local anesthetics,” *International Journal of Clinical Anesthesiology*, vol. 4, pp. 1059–1067, 2016.

[2] G. George, A. Morgan, J. Meechan et al., “Injectable local anesthetic agents for dental anesthesia,” *Cochrane Database Systematic Reviews (Online)*, vol. 7, pp. 1–5, 2018.
[3] M.-H. Karm, F. O. Park, M. Kang et al., “Comparison of the efficacy and safety of 2% lidocaine HCl with different epinephrine concentration for local anesthesia in participants undergoing surgical extraction of impacted mandibular third molars,” Medicine, vol. 96, no. 21, p. 6753, 2017.

[4] G. Gazal, R. Alharbi, W. M. Fareed et al., “Comparison of onset anesthesia time and injection discomfort of 4% articaine and 2% mepivacaine during teeth extractions,” Saudi Journal of Anaesthesiology, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 152–157, 2017.

[5] S. F. Malamed, “Local anesthetics: dentistry’s most important drugs, clinical update 2006,” Journal of California Dental Association, vol. 34, pp. 971–986, 2006.

[6] S. C. Gad, “Model selection in toxicology: principles and practice,” Journal of the American College of Toxicology, vol. 9, no. 3, pp. 291–302, 1990.

[7] L. S. Coimbra, J. P. Steffens, M. N. Muscará, C. Rossa Jr., and L. C. Spolidorio, “Antiplatelet drugs reduce the immunoinflammatory response in a rat model of periodontal disease,” Journal of Periodontal Research, vol. 49, no. 6, pp. 729–735, 2014.

[8] A. A. Dzhatdoeva, A. M. Polimova, E. V. Proskurnina, and Y. A. Vladimirov, “Tissue chemiluminescence as a method of evaluation of superoxide radical producing ability of mitochondria,” Bulletin of Russian State Medical University, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 49–55, 2016.

[9] A. Beyder, P. R. Strege, C. Bernard, and G. Farrugia, “Membrane permeable local anesthetics modulate NaV1.5 mechanosensitivity,” Channels, vol. 6, no. 4, pp. 308–316, 2012.

[10] S. A. Glantz, Primers in Biostatistics, The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., New York, NY, USA, 7th edition, 2012.

[11] G. Mayor-Subirana, J. Yague-Garcia, E. Valmaseda-Castellon, J. Arnabat-Dominguez, L. Berini-Aytes, and C. Gay-Escoda, “Anesthetic efficacy of Oraqix versus Hurricaine and placebo for pain control during non-surgical periodontal treatment,” Medicina Oral Patología Oral Y Cirugía Bucal, vol. 19, pp. e192–e201, 2014.

[12] A. Novikov, E. Blinova, E. Semeleva et al., “On local anesthetic action of some dimethylacetamide compounds,” Research Results in Pharmacology, vol. 4, no. 4, pp. 1–8, 2018.

[13] T. M. Cunha, W. A. Verri Jr., J. S. Silva, S. Poole, F. Q. Cunha, and S. H. Ferreira, “A cascade of cytokines mediates mechanical inflammatory hypernociception in mice,” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 102, no. 5, pp. 1755–1760, 2005.

[14] J. Soares de Oliveira, M. e Silva Conceição Pinto, L. de Araújo de Bastos Santana, A. Santos Bezerra Pinto, D. di Lenardo, and D. Fernando Pereira Vasconcelos, “Biological effects of medicinal plants on induced periodontitis: a systematic review,” International Journal of Dentistry, vol. 2016, Article ID 3719879, 10 pages, 2016.

[15] Q. Zhang, B. Chen, F. Yan et al., “Interleukin-10 inhibits bone resorption: a potential therapeutic strategy in periodontitis and other bone loss diseases,” BioMed Research International, vol. 2014, p. 5, 2014.