Effect of pindolol on the neuroendocrine and temperature responses to flesinoxan

Psychiatric Unit, C.H.U. du Sart Tilman, B-4000 Liège, Belgium

Key words: Flesinoxan; Pindolol; 5-HT1A agonist; 5-HT1A antagonist; Neuroendocrine probe; Serotonin

In a previous placebo-controlled dose-response study (Ansseau et al., 1992), we demonstrated very significant responses of prolactin, ACTH, cortisol, GH, and temperature following the i.v. administration of flesinoxan 1 mg, a highly potent and selective 5-HT1A agonist (Shipper et al., 1991), in 12 healthy male volunteers. The tolerance of flesinoxan was excellent and associated with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and slight drowsiness without any GI side effects.

The objective of the present study was to characterize further the mechanisms of these flesinoxan-induced changes by using pindolol, a 5-HT1A antagonist. Six healthy male volunteers received at 2-week intervals, in double-blind and cross-over conditions, either: (1) pindolol + flesinoxan; (2) placebo + flesinoxan; (3) pindolol + placebo; (4) placebo + placebo. Pindolol 30 mg was administered orally 90 min before the i.v. injection of flesinoxan 1 mg over 10 min and prolactin, ACTH, cortisol, GH, and temperature were measured at times −30, 0, +15, 30, 60, 90, and 120 min. Statistical analysis used ANOVA with repeated measures and Wilcoxon test. Pindolol significantly antagonized the prolaction (P < 0.05), ACTH (P = 0.01), GH (P < 0.01), and temperature (P < 0.05) responses to flesinoxan. These results show the role of 5-HT1A mechanisms in the prolactin, ACTH, GH, and temperature responses to flesinoxan. Therefore, they lend support to the flesinoxan test as a neuroendocrine assessment of serotonergic neurotransmission, which could be applied in several psychopathological conditions.

References


Effect of ritanserin on the neuroendocrine and temperature responses to flesinoxan

Psychiatric Unit, C.H.U. du Sart Tilman, B-4000 Liège, Belgium

Key words: Flesinoxan; Ritanserin; 5-HT1A agonist; 5-HT2 antagonist; Neuroendocrine probe; Serotonin

In a previous placebo-controlled dose-response study (Ansseau et al., 1992), we demonstrated a very significant response in prolactin, ACTH, cortisol, GH, and temperature following the i.v. administration of flesinoxan 1 mg, a highly potent and selective 5-HT1A agonist (Shipper et al., 1991), in 12 healthy male volunteers. The tolerance of flesinoxan was excellent and associated with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and slight drowsiness without any GI side effects.

The objective of the present study was to characterize further the mechanisms of these flesinoxan-induced changes by using ritanserin, a 5-HT2 antagonist. Six healthy male volunteers received at 2-week intervals, in double-blind and cross-over