



Caffeine inhibits Levodopa-Induced Potentiation of Haloperidol-Induced Catalepsy and Tardive Dyskinesia in Balb/ C Mice

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ABSTRACT

Caffeine is a nonspecific adenosine receptor antagonist useful in treatment of Parkinson's disease (PD). Haloperidol induced catalepsy and vacuous chewing movements in laboratory animals are inhibited by caffeine. There is a report that repeated administrations of levodopa produced increased formation of 6-OHDA in Balb/C mice which aggravates the extrapyramidal effects of neuroleptics. Chronic administration of levodopa is reported to alter mitochondrial respiratory chain activity in rats and this activity is thought to be related to an oxidative stress and is responsible for progression of PD. We therefore studied the effect of repeated administration of levodopa (with carbidopa) on haloperidol induced catalepsy and vacuous chewing movement (VCMs) and the modifications by caffeine. We also studied effect of chronic levodopa on SOD, Catalase, lipid peroxidation, and reduced glutathione levels in mice. In the experiment to study the effect of levodopa + carbidopa (LD+CD; 6:0.6 mg/kg i.p.), with or without caffeine (10 & 20 mg/kg i.p.), administered for 27 days and the duration of catalepsy in 5 min interval was recorded every 30 min till 180 min. The effect on the biochemical parameters was assessed on the 27th day. Haloperidol induced catalepsy and VCMs intensified gradually and simultaneous treatment with LD + CD potentiated both catalepsy and VCMs. Caffeine in both the doses significantly reduced duration of catalepsy and number of VCMs in all the treated groups. Caffeine also reversed the effect of haloperidol given with or without LD+CD on the enzyme markers of the stress significantly. The results suggest involvement of oxidative stress in exaggeration of pharmacological effects of haloperidol and their inhibition by caffeine.

Keywords: Caffeine, haloperidol, catalepsy, vacuous chewing movements, stress

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INTRODUCTION

Most patients of Parkinson's disease (PD) receiving levodopa initially experience relief from symptoms but with prolonged use suffer various complications such as dyskinesias and variations in the antiparkinsonian response (Marsden and Parkes, 1977). Alexander *et al.*, (1997) suggested that levodopa-induced toxicity is related primarily to DA production rather than oxidation of levodopa to toxic metabolites. Bordet *et al.*, (2000) showed that repeated use of levodopa leads to behavioral sensitization in hemiparkinsonian rat. Asanuma *et al.*, (2005) reported that levodopa increased dopamine turnover in parkinsonian striatum but not in the normal striatum in 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA) lesioned rats. They also showed that pramipexole prevented dopaminergic neuronal damage induced by excess dopamine or levodopa. Ishida *et al.*, (2000) reported that repeated administration of levodopa enhanced generation of hydroxyl radicals in rat striatum denervated with 6-OHDA. In line with this observation, Golembiowska *et al.*, (2009) observed that acute as well as chronic (14 days) treatment with A_{2A} antagonists, used as a supplement of levodopa (L-DOPA) therapy, reduced L-DOPA induced hydroxyl radical formation in striatum. There is a report that repeated administrations of levodopa caused formation of 6-OHDA in Balb/C mice (Borah and Mohankumar, 2009). Borah & Mohanakumar (2007) have also reported earlier that long-term L-DOPA treatment causes indiscriminate increase in dopamine levels at the cost of serotonin synthesis in discrete brain regions of rats.

Although the exact mechanism involved in neurodegeneration is not yet known, preclinical studies show that adenosine A_{2A} receptors are responsible for degeneration of nigrostriatal dopaminergic neurons (Chen *et al.*, 2001, Ikeda *et al.*, 2002). These studies suggest usefulness of A_{2A} receptor antagonist in treatment of PD. Epidemiological studies have shown that caffeine consumption reduces risk of PD. Joghataie *et al.*, (2004) showed that caffeine protects against dopaminergic neuron loss and associated behavioural changes in the 6-OHDA rat model of PD. Xu *et al.*, (2002; 2006) showed neuroprotective effect of caffeine in 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine (MPTP) induced PD in mice without developing tolerance to neuroprotective effect on chronic treatment.

Inhibition of reserpine/ haloperidol-induced catalepsy has been widely used in preliminary evaluation of antiparkinsonian agents. Several studies have used haloperidol-induced catalepsy to understand motor symptoms associated with PD. Kobayashi *et al.*, (1997) reported that levodopa inhibits haloperidol-induced catalepsy. Ferre *et al.*, (1997) have proposed interaction

between D₂ and A_{2A} receptors in striatopallidal neurons responsible for inhibition of haloperidol-induced catalepsy. It is well known that neuroleptic-induced catalepsy intensifies context-dependently upon repeated testing (Klein & Schmidt, 2003; Schmidt & Beninger, 2006). Repeated administration of haloperidol induces tardive dyskinesia, which is inhibited by antioxidants (Singh *et al.*, 2003). Luthra *et al.*, (2009) have shown antagonism of haloperidol-induced swim impairment in levodopa and caffeine treated mice and proposed this antagonism for evaluation of drugs used in PD.

Oxidative stress and products of lipid peroxidation are suggested to be responsible for causing dyskinesia. Chronic treatment with neuroleptics increases free radical production and oxidative stress (Balijepalli *et al.*, 2001). Both reserpine and haloperidol induce oxidative stress in striatum (Bilska *et al.*, 2007; Manuela *et al.*, 2004). Administration of single dose of haloperidol to mice leads to increase in oxidized glutathione (GSSG) levels in the striatum indicating generation of oxidative stress (Cohen & Spina, 1988). Elkashef & Wyatt (1999) observed that rats with vacuous chewing movement had significantly higher thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) in the striatum, suggesting increased lipid peroxidation and free radical production in these animals. It has been hypothesized that striatal neurodegeneration caused by excitotoxic mechanisms and oxidative stress may play an important role in the development of tardive dyskinesia. Neuroleptics increase striatal glutamatergic activity in rats, which may lead to toxic effects in the striatum. Drugs that block excitotoxicity inhibit the development of persistent oral dyskinesia in the rat model. Furthermore, markers of increased oxidative stress and glutamatergic neurotransmission have been found in the cerebrospinal fluid of patients with tardive dyskinesia (Andreassen & Jørgensen, 2000; Galili-Mosberg *et al.*, 2000). Chronic use of neuroleptics is also reported to cause decrease in the activity of antioxidant defense enzymes superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase (Cadet *et al.*, 1987). Thaakur & Himabindhu (2009) have reported involvement of reactive oxygen species in haloperidol-induced tardive dyskinesia in rats. Blanchet *et al.*, (2012) have reviewed various animal models of TD.

Since levodopa undergoes oxidative metabolism, it might accelerate the rate of nigral degeneration. Most *in vivo* studies do not show evidence of levodopa toxicity. However, the potential for levodopa to be toxic has not been tested under conditions of oxidative stress such as exist in PD (Mytilineou *et al.*, 2003). Mytilineou *et al.*, (2003) have reported that antioxidants protect from levodopa toxicity. Gołembiowska *et al.*, (2009) have demonstrated generation of hydroxyl radicals by levodopa. In view of this background information, we investigated effect of repeated administration of levodopa on haloperidol-induced catalepsy and tardive dyskinesia in

Balb/c mice and its modification by caffeine. We also studied effect on super oxide dismutase (SOD), catalase, glutathione (GSH) and lipid peroxidation (LPO) in mice treated chronically with haloperidol.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Animals

Balb/c mice (25-30 g) obtained from National Toxicology Centre, Pune (INDIA), were used for the study. Mice were housed in colony cages and maintained at $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, 12 hours light/ dark cycle and $50 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity (RH) with free access to food and water. Food but not water was withdrawn 3 hr before the experiment. All the experiment carried out during the light period (8.00-16.00 hour). The studies were carried out in accordance with the guidelines given by CPCSEA, Animal Ethics committee (IAEC) (IAEC Reference Number 1093/A/07/CPCSEA).

Drugs

Levodopa (L-DOPA) and carbidopa were obtained from Smruthi Organics Limited, Solapur as gift sample. Caffeine was a gift from Glenmark pharmaceuticals, Mumbai, India and haloperidol (Serenace inj, Searle India) was purchased.

Methods

Haloperidol induced catalepsy and dyskinesia

Mice divided in four groups, each containing five received vehicle or Levodopa: carbidopa (6: 0.6 mg/kg i. p.) with or without caffeine (10 or 20 mg/kg i. p.) for 21 days. All mice received haloperidol (1 mg/kg i. p.) from day 6 till day 27. The duration of catalepsy was measured on 11th, 16th, 21st, and 27th day at 30 min interval for 180 min as described earlier (Ferre *et al.*, 1990).

In another set of animals that received similar treatments, the number of vacuous chewing movements (VCMs) was recorded as described by Neisewander *et al.*, (1994). The VCMs were recorded on day 11, 16, 21, and 27 for 5 min, 30 min after haloperidol. The VCMs were referred to as single mouth openings in the vertical plane not directed toward physical material. Counting was stopped whenever the mouse began grooming and restarted when grooming stopped. Mirrors were placed under the floor and behind the back wall of the cage to permit observation of oral dyskinesia when the animal faced away from the observer.

Biochemical Estimations

Dissection and homogenisation

On the 28th day (22nd day after receiving haloperidol), the animals were sacrificed by decapitation

immediately after behavioural assessments. The brains were removed; cortex dissected out, rinsed with isotonic saline, and weighed. A 10% (w/v) tissue homogenate was prepared in 0.1M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4), the post nuclear fraction for catalase assay was obtained by centrifugation of homogenate at 1000 g for 20 min, at 4°C and for other enzyme assays centrifuged at 12,000 g for 60 min at 4°C.

Measurement of superoxide dismutase activity

The assay of superoxide dismutase (SOD) was based on the ability of SOD to inhibit spontaneous oxidation of adrenaline to adrenochrome (Misra & Fridovich, 1972; Saggi, Cooksey, & Dexter, 1989). In brief, to 0.05mL supernatant, 2.0 mL of carbonate buffer and 0.5mL of EDTA were added. The reaction was initiated by addition of 0.5mL of epinephrine and the autooxidation of adrenaline to adrenochrome at pH 10.2 was measured by following changes in optical density at 480 nm. The change in optical density every minute was measured against reagent blank. The results are expressed as units of SOD activity (milligram per protein). One unit of SOD activity induced approximately 50% inhibition of adrenaline. The results were expressed as nmol SOD U mg^{-1} wet tissue.

Estimation of Catalase activity

The catalase (CAT) activity assay was carried out as described by Beers and Sizer (1952). The reaction mixture consisted of 2mL phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 0.95mL of hydrogen peroxide (0.019 M), and 0.05mL supernatant in final volume of 3 mL. Absorbance was recorded at 240nm every 10 s for 1 min. One unit of Cat was defined as the amount of enzyme required to decompose 1 mmol of peroxide per min, at 25°C and pH 7.0. The results were expressed as units of CAT activity (milligram per protein). Units of activity were determined from the standard graph of H₂O₂. The results were expressed as catalase U/mg wet tissue.

Estimation of lipid peroxidative indices

Lipid peroxidation as evidenced by the formation of thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) was measured by the method of Niehaus and Samuelsson (1968). In brief, 0.1mL of homogenate (Tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.5) was treated with 2mL of (1: 1:1 ratio) TBA–TCA–HCl reagent (Thiobarbituric acid 0.37%, 0.25N HCl, and 15% TCA) and placed in water bath for 15 min, cooled and centrifuged at room temperature for 10 min at 1000 rpm. The absorbance of clear supernatant was measured against reference blank at 535 nm. The results were expressed as LPO nanomole per milligram wet tissue.

Estimation of reduced glutathione

Reduced glutathione (GSH) was determined by the method of Ellman(1959). To the homogenate

10% trichloroacetic acid added and centrifuged, followed by addition of 1.0mL of Ellmans reagent (19.8 mg of 5,50-dithiobisnitro benzoic acid (DTNB) in 100mL of 1.0% sodium citrate and 3mL of phosphate buffer (pH 8.0)). The colour developed was measured at 412 nm. The results were expressed as nanomole GSH per milligram wet tissue.

Statistical analysis

$n = 5$. The data is expressed as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA is followed by Dunnett's test. * $p < 0.05$ when compared with vehicle.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Assessment of haloperidol induced catalepsy:

Haloperidol (1 mg/kg, i.p.) for 21 days from 6th day to 27th day significantly increased duration of catalepsy in vehicle treated & sub-chronic LD (6) + CD (0.6) treated mice. Sub-chronic administration of caffeine (10 & 20 mg/kg, i.p.) for a period of 27 days in mice receiving LD (6) + CD (0.6) + haloperidol significantly reduced duration of catalepsy. The observations are given in Figure 1 to 4. Further, haloperidol-induced shivering & tremors were present in vehicle treated and LD (6) + CD (0.6) treated mice while these were absent in mice that received caffeine (10 & 20 mg/kg, i.p.) along with LD (6) + CD (0.6). The duration of catalepsy increased gradually over the period of treatment, which is shown in the Fig 1 to 4.

On the 6th day, mice receiving LD + CD showed prolongation of catalepsy as compared to the vehicle treated mice. Caffeine in both the doses significantly reduced the duration of catalepsy.

On the 11th day, the duration of catalepsy was significantly greater in mice that received LD+CD as compared to the vehicle treated mice. Caffeine in the dose of 20 mg/kg effectively reduced the duration of catalepsy when compared with the mice that received caffeine in the dose of 10 mg/kg.

On 16th day, mice receiving LD+CD showed significant increase in the duration of catalepsy at 30 and 180 min as compared to vehicle treated mice. Caffeine in the dose of 20 mg/kg was more effective than the 10 mg/kg dose.

On 21st day, mice receiving LD+CD showed significant increase in the duration of catalepsy at 180 min as compared to vehicle treated mice. Caffeine in the dose of 20 mg/kg was more effective than the 10 mg/kg dose.

Assessment of vacuous chewing movements

Haloperidol (1 mg/kg, i.p.) for 21 days from 6th day to 27th day significantly increased VCMs in vehicle treated & sub-chronic LD (6) + CD (0.6) treated mice. Sub-chronic administration of

caffeine (10 & 20 mg/kg, i.p.) for a period of 21 days in LD (6) + CD (0.6) treated mice significantly inhibited VCMs. The observations are given in Figure 5 to 8.

On 6th day, VCMs were significantly lesser in LD+CD, caffeine (10) along with LD/CD and in caffeine (20) along with LD+CD groups. In caffeine (10) along with LD+CD, VCMs was less as compared to caffeine (20) along with LD+CD group (Fig 5).

On 11th day, VCMs are significantly increased in LD+CD treated group as compared to 6th day. In caffeine (10) and caffeine (20) along with LD+CD treated groups, no. of VCM's were almost same, and greater than those observed on day 6 (Fig 6).

On 16th day, no. of VCMs increased in all groups as compared to 11th day. In caffeine (10) along with LD+CD treated group, the number of VCM was more as compared to those observed in caffeine (20) along with LD+CD treated group (Fig 7).

On 21st day, no. of VCMs was significantly less in both caffeine (10 & 20) along with LD+CD treated groups as compared to the other groups. In caffeine (10) along with LD+CD treated group no. of VCMs was more as compared to caffeine (20) along with LD+CD treated group (Fig 8).

Thus, the number of VCMs from fig 5 to 8, increased gradually in all the treated groups.

Biochemical Estimations

Measurement of superoxide dismutase activity

Haloperidol with or without LD+CD showed significantly lesser amount of SOD as compared to the vehicle treated group. SOD level significantly increased in both the caffeine (10 & 20 mg/kg) along with LD+CD treated groups as compared to vehicle treated group (Fig 9).

Measurement of catalase activity

The catalase activity decreased with haloperidol treatment. The catalase level was significantly increased in caffeine (20mg/kg) along with LD+CD treated group as compared to vehicle which indicates antioxidant property of caffeine.

Measurement of Lipid Peroxidase activity

Haloperidol significantly increased LPO activity in both the vehicle and LD+CD treated mice. LPO level was significantly decreased in caffeine (10) along with LD/CD and caffeine (20 mg/kg) along with LD+CD treated groups as compared to vehicle treated group.

Measurement of reduced glutathione activity

Haloperidol reduced the glutathione level significantly as compared to the vehicle treatment. LD+CD significantly increased the GSH level in mice that received LD+CD with or without caffeine and the mice that received caffeine (10) along with LD+CD showed maximum increase

in the GSH level as compared to the mice receiving caffeine (20) along with LD+CD.

Haloperidol induced catalepsy

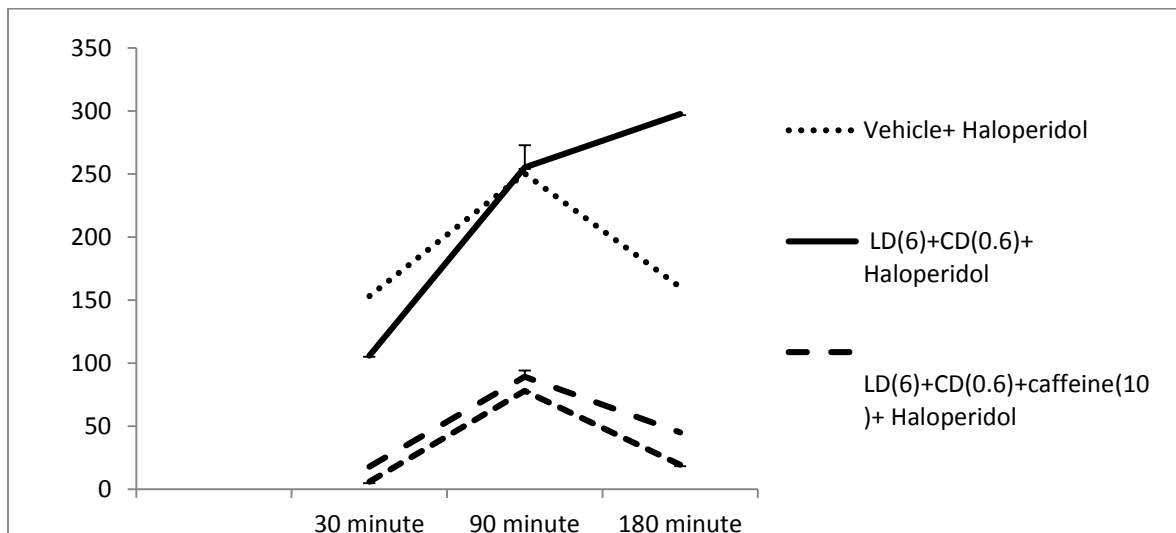


Figure 1: Effect of various treatments on haloperidol induced catalepsy on day 6.

n = 5, Data presented as mean \pm SEM was analysed by using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test. * p < 0.05

The mice receiving LD + CD showed prolongation of catalepsy as compared to the vehicle treated mice. Caffeine in both the doses significantly reduced the duration of catalepsy.

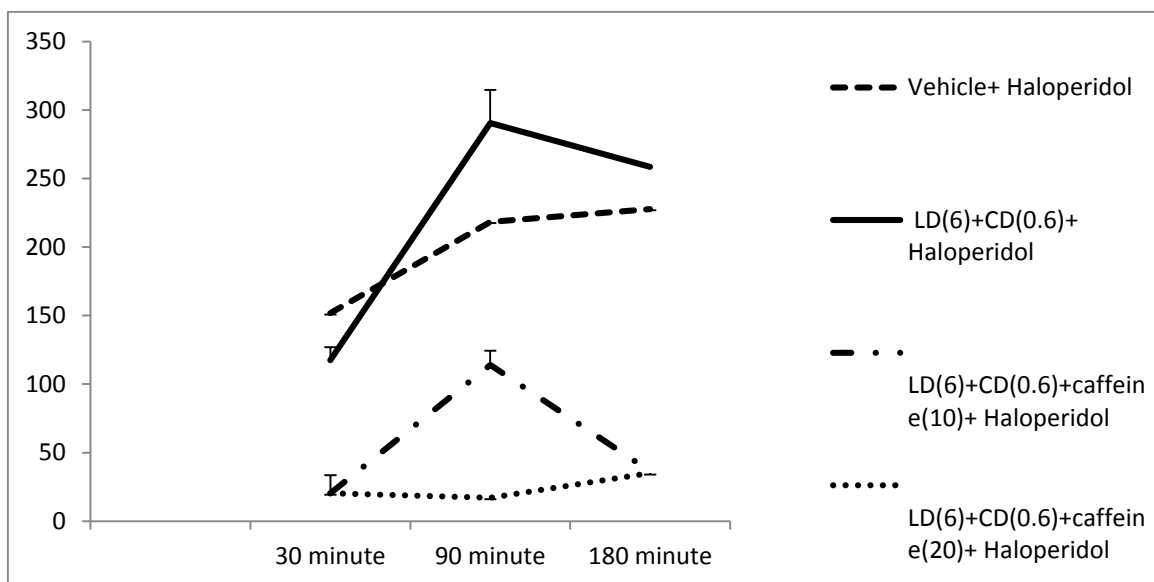


Figure 2: Effect of various treatments on haloperidol induced catalepsy on day 11. n = 5, Data presented as mean \pm SEM was analysed by using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test. * p < 0.05

On the 11th day, the duration of catalepsy was significantly greater in mice that received LD+CD as compared to the vehicle treated mice. Caffeine in the dose of 20 mg/kg effectively reduced the

duration of catalepsy when compared with the mice that received caffeine in the dose of 10 mg/kg.

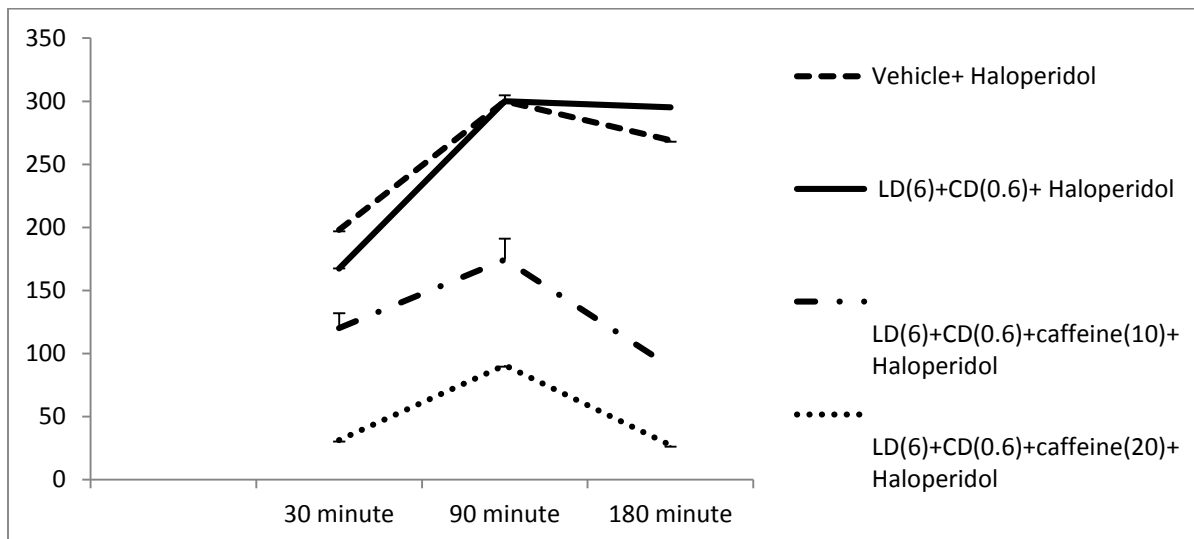


Figure 3: Effect of various treatments on haloperidol induced catalepsy on 16th day

n = 5, Data presented as mean \pm SEM was analysed by using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test. * $p < 0.05$

Mice receiving LD+CD showed significant increase in the duration of catalepsy at 30 and 180 min as compared to vehicle treated mice. Caffeine in the dose of 20 mg/kg was more effective than the 10 mg/kg dose.

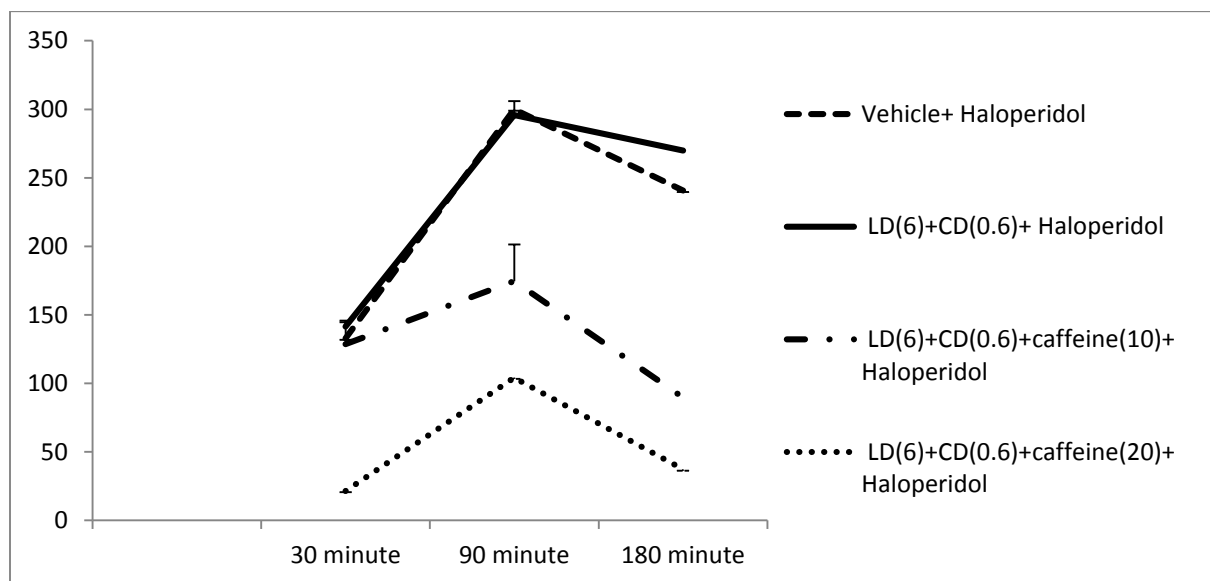


Figure 4: Effect of various treatments on haloperidol induced catalepsy on Day 21.

n = 5, Data presented as mean \pm SEM was analysed by using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test. * $p < 0.05$

Mice receiving LD+CD showed significant increase in the duration of catalepsy at 180 min as compared to vehicle treated mice. Caffeine in the dose of 20 mg/kg was more effective than the 10 mg/kg dose.

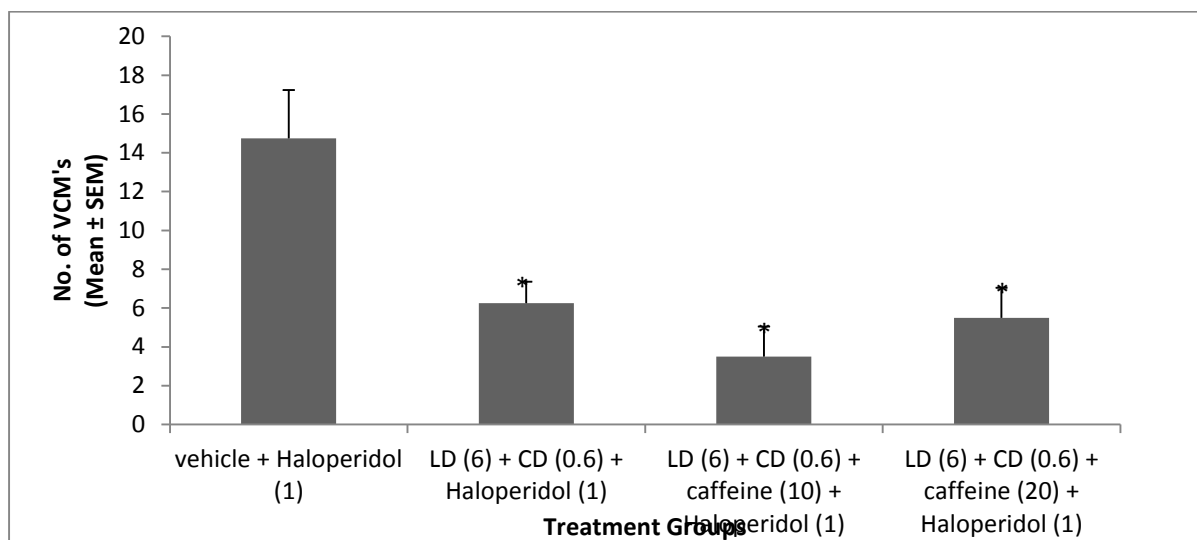


Figure 5: Effect of caffeine on haloperidol induced VCM's on 6th day in mice treated with LD+ CD.

$n=5$. The data is expressed as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA is followed by Dunnett's test. $*p < 0.05$ when compared with vehicle.

On 6th day, VCM's were significantly lesser in LD+CD, caffeine (10) along with LD/CD and in caffeine (20) along with LD+CD groups. In caffeine (10) along with LD+CD, VCM's was less as compared to caffeine (20) along with LD+CD group.

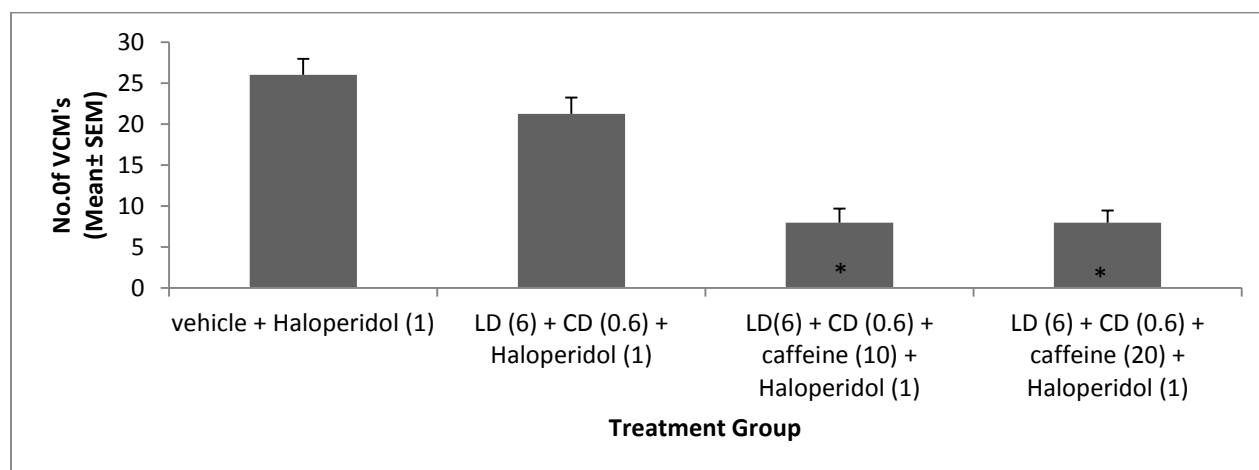


Figure 6: Effect of caffeine on haloperidol induced VCM's on 11th day in mice treated with LD+ CD.

$n=5$. The data is expressed as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA is followed by Dunnett's test. $*p < 0.05$ when compared with vehicle.

On 11th day, VCM's are significantly increased in LD+CD treated group as compared to 6th day. In caffeine (10) and caffeine (20) along with LD+CD treated groups, no. of VCM's were almost same.

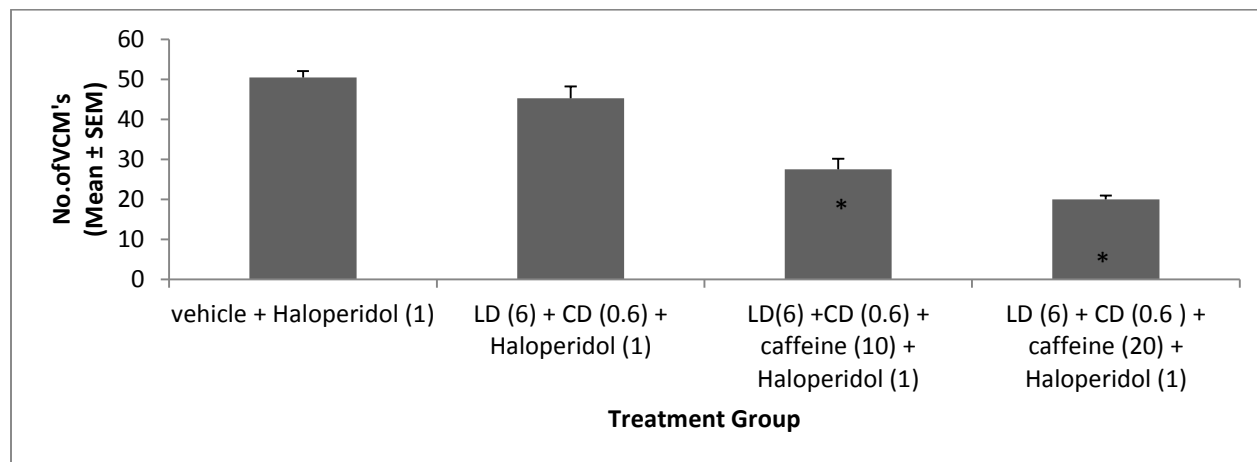


Figure 7: Effect of caffeine on haloperidol induced VCM's on 16th day in mice treated with LD+ CD.

$n=5$. The data is expressed as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA is followed by Dunnett's test. $*p < 0.05$ when compared with vehicle.

On 16th day, no. of VCM's increased in all groups as compared to 11th day. In caffeine (10) along with LD/CD treated group, no. of VCM's was more as compared to caffeine (20) along with LD/CD treated group.

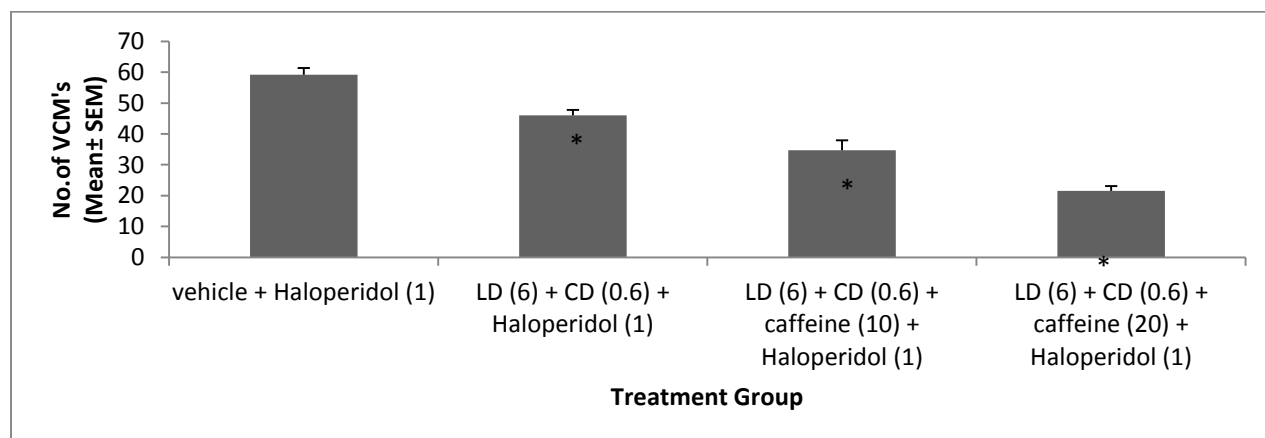


Figure 8: Effect of caffeine on haloperidol induced VCM's on 21st day in mice treated with LD+ CD.

$n=5$. The data is expressed as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA is followed by Dunnett's test. $*p < 0.05$ when compared with vehicle.

On 21st day, no. of VCMs was significantly less in both caffeine (10 & 20) along with LD+CD treated groups as compared to the other groups. In caffeine (10) along with LD+CD treated group no. of VCMs was more as compared to caffeine (20) along with LD+CD treated group.

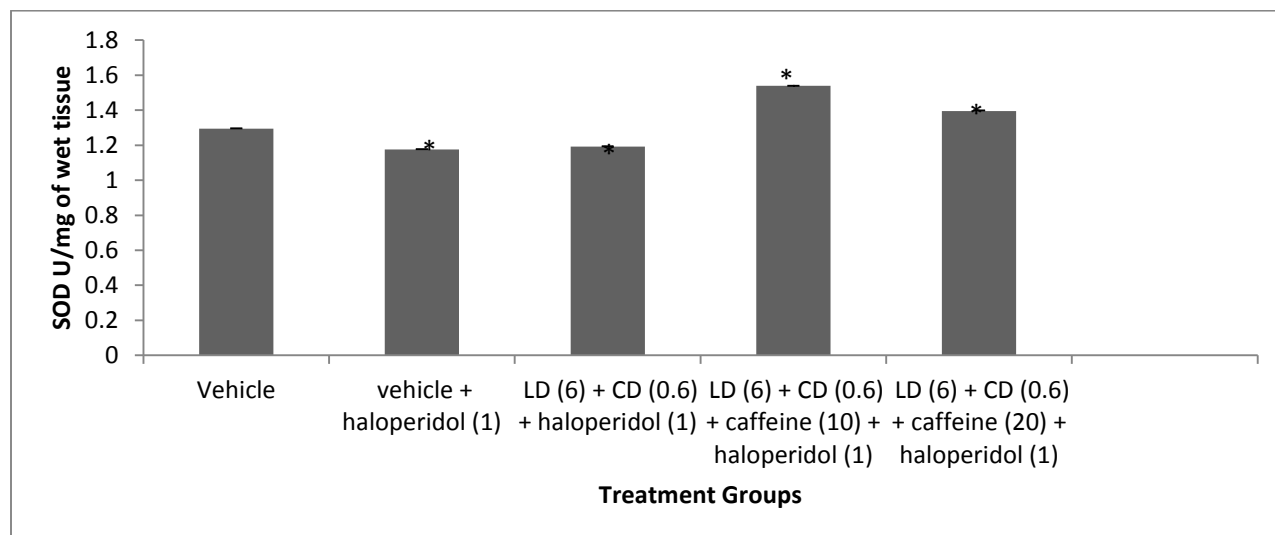
*Biochemical Estimation:**Assessment of superoxide dismutase (SOD):*

Figure 9: Effect of sub-chronic administration of caffeine on SOD enzyme level in haloperidol treated mice brain.

$n=5$. The data is expressed as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA is followed by Dunnett's test. $*p < 0.05$ when compared with vehicle.

Haloperidol with or without LD+CD showed significantly lesser amount of SOD as compared to the vehicle treated group. SOD level significantly increased in both the caffeine (10 & 20) along with LD+CD treated groups as compared to vehicle treated group.

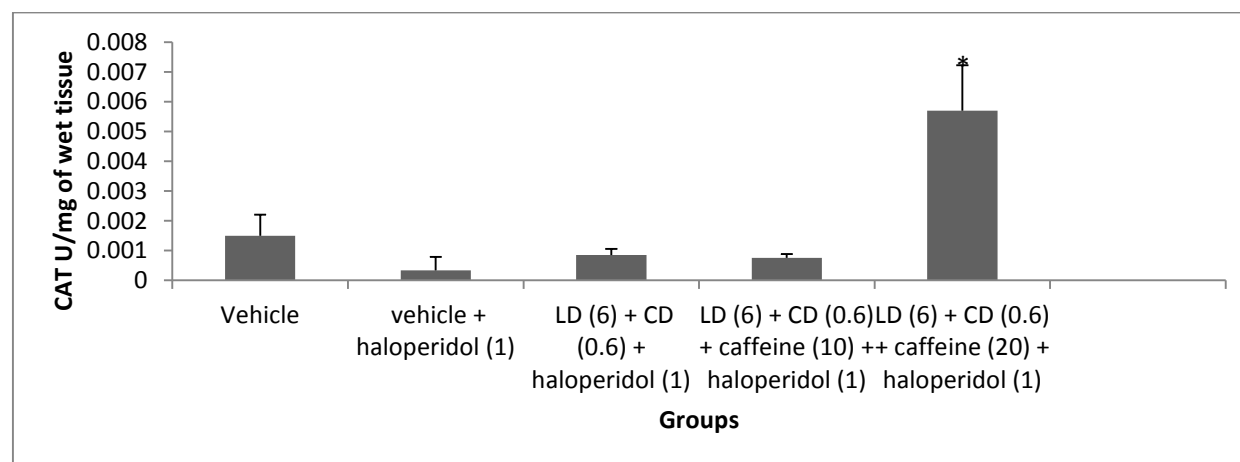
Determination of catalase level

Figure 10: Effect of sub-chronic administration of caffeine on catalase level in haloperidol treated mice brain.

$n=5$. The data is expressed as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA is followed by Dunnett's test. $*p < 0.05$ when compared with vehicle.

The catalase level was significantly increased in caffeine (20) along with LD+CD treated group as compared to vehicle which indicates antioxidant property of caffeine.

Determination of lipid peroxidation

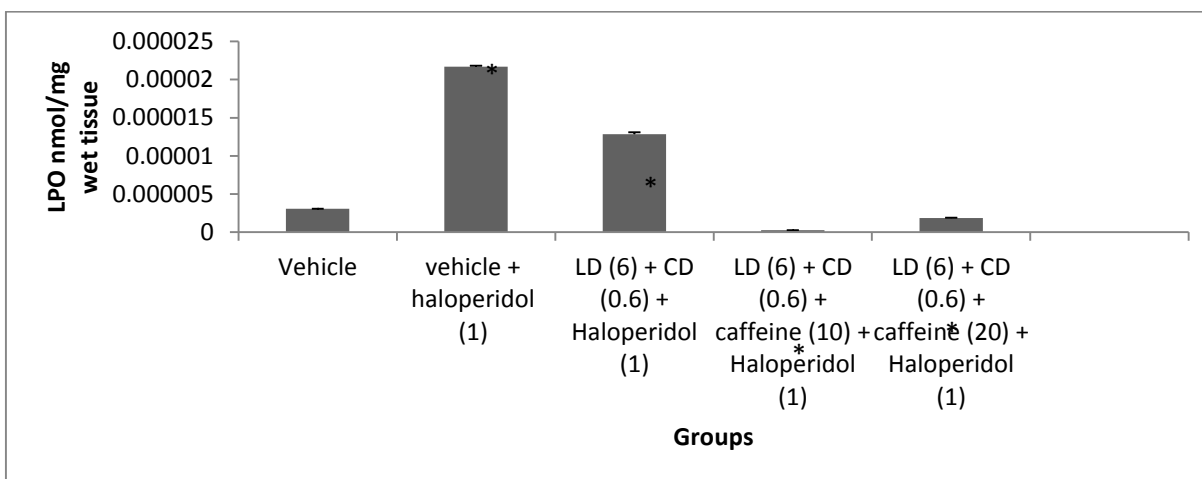


Figure 11: Effect of sub-chronic administration of caffeine on lipid peroxidase level in haloperidol treated mice brain.

$n=5$. The data is expressed as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA is followed by Dunnett's test. $*p < 0.05$ when compared with vehicle.

Haloperidol significantly increased LPO activity in both the vehicle and LD+CD treated mice. LPO level was significantly decreased in caffeine (10) along with LD/CD and caffeine (20) along with LD+CD treated groups as compared to vehicle treated group.

Determination of reduced glutathione

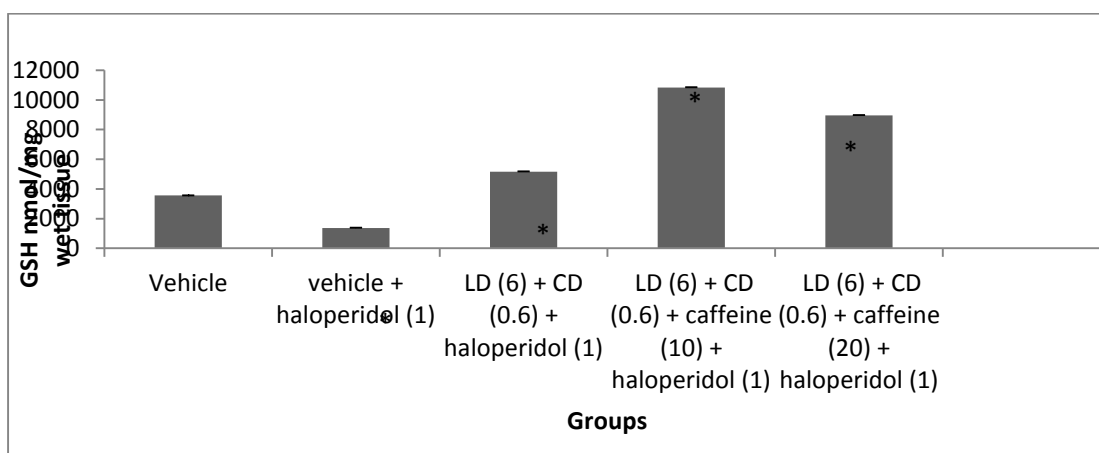


Figure 12: Effect of sub-chronic administration of caffeine on reduced glutathione level in haloperidol treated mice brain.

$n=5$. The data is expressed as mean \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA is followed by Dunnett's test. $*p < 0.05$ when compared with vehicle.

Haloperidol reduced the glutathione level significantly as compared to the vehicle treatment. LD+CD significantly increased the GSH level in mice that received LD+CD with or without caffeine and the mice that received caffeine (10) along with LD+CD showed maximum increase in the GSH level as compared to the mice receiving caffeine (20) along with LD+CD.

DISCUSSION

The important findings of this study showed that: a) haloperidol induced catalepsy and VCMs intensified with the repeated administrations, b) The combination of LD and CD exaggerated the effect of haloperidol, c) Caffeine significantly reduced the effect of haloperidol on catalepsy as well as VCMs, and d) Haloperidol induced changes in the biochemical markers of stress were inhibited by LD+CD and caffeine. The interaction between levodopa and caffeine seems to be dose dependent. Lucca *et al.*, (2015) observed pharmacodynamic drug interaction between levodopa and haloperidol in PD patient. Very interestingly, an apparent enhancement of the levodopa action by the low-dose haloperidol improved the symptoms of PD and delayed the progressive increases in the L-DOPA doses, which are usually found necessary in treating Parkinson diseased patients (Hudson *et al.*, 2014).

The inhibition of catalepsy by caffeine, observed in this study is in line with the previous observations reported by Moo-Puc *et al.*, (2003) and Trevitt *et al.*, (2009). Caffeine and antimuscarinic drugs act synergistically to inhibit haloperidol induced catalepsy (Moo-Puc *et al.*, 2003) and low dose caffeine enhances usefulness of muscarinic antagonists in PD. Based on antagonism between adenosine antagonists and haloperidol, Trevitt *et al.* (2009) also suggested use of adenosine antagonists in treatment of PD. The reduction in haloperidol induced VCMs by caffeine observed in our study is in congruence with the observations of Bishnoi *et al.*, (2006). Yu *et al.*, (2006) reported cross sensitization between caffeine and levodopa in hemiparkinsonian mice using rotational behaviour as a parameter suggesting that repeated co-administration of caffeine alters levodopa responses in PD. The human studies caffeine administered before levodopa improved levodopa pharmacokinetics (Deleu *et al.*, 2006) supporting the possibility of caffeine reducing chances of developing dyskinesia (Wills *et al.*, 2013).

Since levodopa-induced dyskinesia are a matter of great concern, there are efforts aimed at reducing the dose of levodopa by using add-on therapies. Caffeine is the most commonly used psychoactive drug which acts as a stimulant by reducing adenosine transmission in the brain. Caffeine acts as an antagonist to both types of Adenosine A₁ and A_{2A} receptors expressed in the basal ganglia (Fisone *et al.*, 2004). The deficit of dopamine is correlated with a complex onset of

motor symptoms (Fahn & Jankovic, 2007). Roshan et al., (2016) showed that caffeine has a potential role in the treatment of PD and have suggested need for exploring the possibilities of identifying that range of therapeutic effects using randomized clinical trials.

The mechanisms involved in haloperidol-induced catalepsy are complex and are still poorly understood. Haloperidol increases cAMP and inositol triphosphate concentration in the striatum and these effects might be due to blocking of dopamine D2 receptors (Kaneko et al., 1992). Santini et al., (2008) have indicated that persistent hyperactivation of cAMP signalling in the medium spiny neurons of the direct striato-nigral pathway play a critical role in the parkinsonian dyskinesia. Recently Kharkwal et al., (2016) revealed that the neurotransmitter acetylcholine triggers haloperidol induced catalepsy. Many studies have shown usefulness of antioxidants in reducing dyskinesia and catalepsy induced by haloperidol, however, no study has explained the mechanism involved in such an effect (Singh et al., 2003; Thaakur & Himabindhu, 2009; Lister et al., 2014). Bishnoi et al., (2006) have reported reversal haloperidol induced changes in the SOD, catalase, LPO, and GSH levels by antioxidants of plant origin. Recently, Lister et al., reported antioxidant lipoic acid reduced haloperidol induced VCMs which is in congruence with our observations. Przedborski et al., (1993) have reported that chronic administration of levodopa can cause alterations in mitochondrial respiratory chain activity in rats that are most likely related to an oxidative stress provoked by the increase in dopamine turnover.

Thus, in conclusion, levodopa + Carbidopa enhanced haloperidol induced catalepsy and vacuous chewing movements which were inhibited by caffeine. Caffeine also normalized the levels of antioxidant enzymes. Further research is necessary to understand the mechanisms involved in the potentially beneficial effect of these interactions between caffeine, levodopa and haloperidol with respect to the involvement of antioxidant enzymes.

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