



5-HT_{1A} parital agonism and 5-HT₇ antagonism restore episodic memory in subchronic phencyclidine-treated mice: role of brain glutamate, dopamine, acetylcholine and GABA

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Abstract

Rationale The effect of atypical antipsychotic drugs (AAPDs), e.g., lurasidone, to improve cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia (CIAS), has been suggested to be due, in part, to enhancing release of dopamine (DA), acetylcholine (ACh), and glutamate (Glu) in cortex and hippocampus.

Results The present study found acute lurasidone reversed the cognitive deficit in novel object recognition (NOR) in subchronic (sc) phencyclidine (PCP)-treated mice, an animal model for CIAS. This effect of lurasidone was blocked by pretreatment with the 5-HT_{1A}R antagonist, WAY-100635, or the 5-HT₇R agonist, AS 19. Lurasidone significantly increased medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) ACh, DA, and Glu efflux, all of which were blocked by WAY-100635, with similar effects in the dorsal striatum (dSTR), except for the absence of an effect on Glu increase. AS 19 inhibited Glu, but not DA efflux, in the dSTR. The selective 5-HT₇R antagonist, SB-26970, increased mPFC DA, 5-HT, Glu, and, importantly, also GABA efflux and striatal DA, NE, 5-HT, and Glu efflux, indicating tonic inhibition of the release of these neurotransmitters by 5-HT₇R stimulation. These results provide new evidence that GABA release in the mPFC is tonically inhibited by 5-HT₇R stimulation and suggest that a selective 5-HT₇R antagonist might be clinically useful to enhance cortical GABAergic release. All SB-269970 effects were blocked by AS 19 or WAY-100635, suggesting 5-HT_{1A}R agonism is necessary for the release of these neurotransmitters by SB-269970. Lurasidone increased ACh, DA, and NE but not Glu efflux in mPFC and dSTR DA and Glu efflux in 5-HT₇ KO mice.

Conclusion We conclude that lurasidone-induced Glu efflux in mPFC requires 5-HT₇R antagonism while its effects on cortical ACh and DA efflux are mainly due to 5-HT_{1A}R stimulation.

Keywords Lurasidone · Cognition · Schizophrenia · SB-269970 · WAY-100635

Introduction

Dopamine (DA), norepinephrine (NE), acetylcholine (ACh), serotonin (5-HT), glutamate (Glu), and GABA are among the

most important neurotransmitters involved in cognition. There is extensive evidence that abnormalities in these neurotransmitters contribute to the cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia (CIAS). Preclinical studies are consistent with the now robust clinical evidence that atypical antipsychotic drugs (AAPDs) improve some domains of cognition in some patients with schizophrenia (Désaméricq et al. 2014; Meltzer 2015). Consistent with the clinical findings, AAPDs have been shown to rescue episodic memory and cognitive flexibility deficits produced by subchronic (sc) administration of the *N*-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NMDAR) antagonist, phencyclidine (PCP; Meltzer et al. 2013; Grayson et al. 2016). It has been suggested that this rescue is due, in part, to increased cortical and hippocampal DA and ACh release and that these mechanisms also contribute to their efficacy in treating CIAS (Kuroki et al. 2008; Masana et al. 2012; Meltzer

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and Huang 2008; Meltzer et al. 2013). The mechanisms by which the AAPDs affect the release of monoamines, including DA, NE, ACh, 5-HT, Glu, and GABA, which affect the activity of pyramidal neurons and the multiple types of GABAergic interneurons that are essential for cognition (Fritschy and Panzanelli 2014) are only partially understood (Masana et al. 2012; Huang et al. 2014; Kamińska et al. 2013).

The ability of AAPDs to enhance brain DA and ACh efflux may be due, in part, to 5-HT_{1A} partial agonism and 5-HT₇ antagonism (Assié et al. 2005; Ichikawa et al. 2001; Meltzer and Huang 2008; Ohoyama et al. 2011; Rollema et al. 2000). Some AAPDs, e.g., clozapine, asenapine, lurasidone, quetiapine, and ziprasidone, are direct acting 5-HT_{1A} partial agonists, as indicated by affinities for 5-HT_{1A}Rs and the ability of selective 5-HT_{1A}R antagonists, e.g., *N*-[2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]-*N*-2-pyridinylcyclohexanecarboxamide (WAY-100635), to block the effects of AAPDs on cortical DA and ACh efflux (Ichikawa et al. 2001; Sato et al. 2007), as well as rescue sc NMDAR antagonist, e.g., PCP or (5*S*,10*R*)-5-methyl-10,11-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a,d*]cycloheptan-5,10-imine (MK-801)-induced cognitive deficits in rodents (Horiguchi and Meltzer 2012, 2013). Similar evidence indicates that the AAPDs olanzapine and risperidone are indirect 5-HT_{1A} agonists (Meltzer and Huang 2008). Cortical DA efflux following systemic administration of clozapine and other atypical APDs is absent in 5-HT_{1A} knockout mice (Bortolozzi et al. 2010).

5-HT₇ antagonists, e.g., (2*R*)-1-[(3-hydroxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2-[2-(4-methyl-1-piperidinyl)ethyl]pyrrolidine (SB-269970), significantly increase cortical DA and 5-HT release (Bonaventure et al. 2011; Kusek et al. 2015; Wesolowska and Kowalska, 2008). Lurasidone, an AAPD which fits the canonical model of more potent 5-HT_{2A} than D₂ antagonism (Meltzer et al. 1989), is also a potent 5-HT₇R antagonist and 5-HT_{1A}R partial agonist (Ishibashi et al. 2010). We have previously reported lurasidone increased medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) ACh, DA, and Glu efflux and ventral striatal DA and Glu efflux in awake, freely moving rats (Huang et al. 2014). We also found that the selective 5-HT_{1A}R partial agonist, 3 α , 4 β , 7 β , 7 α alpha-hexahydro-2-(4-(4-(2-pyrimidinyl)-1-piperazinyl)-butyl)-4,7-methano-1*H*-isoindole-1,3(2*H*)-dione dihydrogen citrate (tandospirone; Shimizu et al., 1987), and SB-269970 potentiated sub-effective dose (SED) lurasidone-induced cortical DA efflux in rats (Huang et al. 2012) and rescued novel object recognition (NOR), a measure of episodic memory (Horiguchi and Meltzer 2012; Horiguchi et al. 2011), as well as reversal learning in scPCP-treated rodents (Rajagopal et al. 2016b). There is other evidence that 5-HT₇ blockade by SB-269970 or lurasidone, or 5-HT_{1A}R stimulation by tandospirone, improved cognitive deficits in rodent models relevant to CIAS based on the NMDAR antagonists, PCP, and ketamine (Bonaventure et al. 2011; Horisawa et al. 2013; Millan 2000; Nikiforuk et al. 2013; Schreiber and Newman-Tancredi 2014; Sumiyoshi et al. 2001; Uehara et al. 2014; Yuen et al. 2012). We found that SB-269970 mimicked

the effect of lurasidone to enhance NMDAR-mediated synaptic response and surface expression of NR2A and NR2B subunits in PFC of rats (Yuen et al. 2012). Moreover, tandospirone increased mPFC and dorsal striatal (dSTR) DA, while SB-269970 slightly increased DA, 5-HT, and Glu efflux, in both regions (Huang et al. 2014; Kusek et al. 2015; Wesolowska and Kowalska 2008). Systemic administration of tandospirone did not increase ACh efflux in rat PFC (Huang et al. 2014); however, stimulation of cortical 5-HT_{1A}Rs by 8-OH-DPAT or NAN-190, a 5-HT_{1A} antagonist, was reported to increase cortical ACh release (Fujii et al. 1997; Koyama et al. 1999; Nakai et al. 1998). The atypical APDs, clozapine, quetiapine, and zotepine, which also increase cortical Glu efflux (Yamamoto et al. 1994; Yamamura et al. 2009), have comparable binding affinities for 5-HT₇ and 5-HT_{2A}Rs (Meltzer 2012). Moreover, 5-HT₇Rs and 5-HT_{1A}Rs form hetero- and homodimers. Functionally, heterodimerization decreases 5-HT_{1A}R-mediated activation of Gi protein without affecting 5-HT₇R-mediated signaling (Bélique et al. 2004; Renner et al. 2012). Thus, 5-HT_{1A} and 5-HT₇R mechanisms may contribute to the lurasidone or SB-269970-induced neurotransmitter efflux. However, additional mechanisms may also be involved because 5-HT₇R are important for the co-expression of many other receptors and proteins important for synaptic plasticity that contribute to learning and memory (Amargós-Bosch et al. 2004; Benarroch 2010; Leiser et al. 2015; Li, 2017; Lladó-Pelfort et al. 2012; Renner et al. 2012; Stiedl et al. 2015; Tokarski et al. 2011). It has previously been reported that the 5-HT_{1A}R antagonist, NAN-190, increased GABA release in rat dentate gyrus (DG) slices and that the 5-HT_{1A} agonist, 8-OH-DPAT, blocked this effect, indicating an inhibitory effect of 5-HT_{1A}R on GABA release in this region (Matsuyama et al. 1997). The glutamate agonist, NMDA, also increased the release of DG GABA, an effect blocked by either MK-801 or 8-OH-DPAT alone or synergistically. It has been concluded that NMDARs and 5-HT_{1A}Rs on DG GABA neurons together regulate the acting of GABA neurons and the release of GABA in this region (Matsuyama et al. 1997).

The mPFC, hippocampus, and dSTR are central to the pathophysiology of some of the domains of cognition impaired in CIAS (Barch and Ceaser 2012; Devan et al. 2011) and have substantially different 5-HTR inputs. 5-HT_{1A} and 5-HT_{2A}Rs are highly expressed in PFC pyramidal neurons, parvalbumin immunoreactive interneurons (PV-IR IN), and non-PV-IR IN, but expression is low in dSTR. 5-HT₇Rs are highly expressed in frontal cortex, hippocampus, thalamus, and hypothalamus in pyramidal and some GABA interneurons (reviewed in Hedlund and Sutcliffe, 2004) and dSTR choline acetyltransferase IR interneurons (ChAT-IR IN) (de Almeida and Mengod 2007, 2008; Leiser et al. 2015; Pehrson et al. 2015). The dSTR has also been implicated in the positive symptoms of schizophrenia, leading to the suggestion that AAPDs, because of alleged ventral striatal selectivity, may have limited effect on CIAS (Kegeles et al. 2010).

The present study examines the effect of lurasidone and SB-269970 on neurotransmitter release in the cortex and dSTR, an important component of cognition that has received little previous study, in relation to AAPD action. We also investigated if constitutively eliminating 5-HT₇ receptors would influence the effect of lurasidone or SB-269970 on neurotransmitters' efflux. Thus, we tested both compounds in both wild-type (WT) and 5-HT₇ knock out (KO) mice. The 5-HT_{1A} selective antagonist, WAY-100635, and the selective 5-HT₇ agonist, (2S)-(+)-8-(1,3,5-trimethylpyrazolin-4-yl)-2-(dimethylamino) (AS 19), were used to examine the relative importance of the 5-HT_{1A}R and 5-HT₇R s for neurotransmitter efflux in these regions. The importance of both 5-HT_{1A}Rs and 5-HT₇Rs for the ability of SB-269970 to enhance GABA efflux in mPFC was demonstrated.

Materials and methods

Animals and drugs

Male wild-type C57BL/6J mice (Jackson Laboratories, Bar Harbor, Maine, USA) and 5-HT₇RKO (constitutive KO) mice, 5-HT₇^{-/-}, C57BL/6J background breeding pairs, were generously provided by Dr. Hedlund from The Scripps Research Institute and bred at Northwestern University for over 20 generations. For mouse background details, please refer to Sarkisyan and Hedlund (2009). Two- to three-month-old young adult mice, of similar weight, were used throughout the study. They were housed four per cage in a controlled 14:10-h light-dark cycle with free access to food and water.

Lurasidone (Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan) and AS 19 (Tocris Bioscience, Ellisville, MO, USA) were suspended in 0.5% methylcellulose and 0.2% Tween 80 solution. WAY-100635 and SB-269970 (Tocris) were dissolved in saline. PCP was supplied as a generous gift from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (Bethesda, MD) and dissolved in saline. Vehicle or drugs were administered intraperitoneally (i.p.) in a volume of 0.1 ml/10 g body weight to randomly assigned animals. The dose of drugs is selected by referring from our previous studies in rats (Horiguchi and Meltzer 2012; Horiguchi et al. 2011; Huang et al. 2012) and mice (Rajagopal et al. 2016b).

Novel object recognition task

The method has been described in detail elsewhere (Rajagopal et al. 2016a). Male C57BL/6J mice were randomly assigned to treatment groups of ten each for treatment saline (i.p.) or PCP (10 mg/kg, i.p.) twice a day for 7 days in each experiment, followed by a 7-day washout period. Drugs were administered 30 min prior to the NOR acquisition trial. This was followed by a 24-h inter-trial interval, which the mice were returned to

the home cage, until the retention trial. The discrimination index (DI) [(time spent exploring the novel object – time spent exploring the familiar object) / total exploration time] was then calculated for retention trials. All data are expressed as mean ± SEM ($N = 8–10$ per group). Exploration data were analyzed by a repeated-measures two-way ANOVA followed by the pair-wise comparison when a significant effect was detected by the ANOVA. DI data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by the Bonferroni test when a significant effect was detected by the ANOVA.

Microdialysis and neurotransmitter assays

The method has been described in greater detail previously (Huang et al. 2015). Dual cannulas for both mPFC and dSTR were implanted in the same animal. The stereotaxic coordinate of the implanted probe was A + 2.0, L + 0.5 (10° inclination), and V – 3.0 mm for the mPFC and A + 1.0, L – 1.5, and V – 4.5 mm for the dSTR, relative to the bregma. The details of the mass spectrometric/UHPLC (Ultra-HPLC) procedure for measuring neurotransmitter concentrations are described elsewhere (Huang et al. 2014).

Mean pre-drug baseline levels (time points – 90, – 60, – 30, and 0 min before drug or vehicle injection) were averaged and designated as 100%. Output levels for neurotransmitters were then expressed as a percentage of baselines. AUC (% of area under the curve, 0–180 min) were calculated and used for one-way ANOVA-LSD test to determine the group differences in each region (IBM SPSS statistics 20, IBM Co., NY, USA). Two-way ANOVA tests were used to determine the interaction of genotype (WT × KO) on lurasidone-induced neurotransmitter efflux. Two-way repeated measure ANOVAs followed by Bonferroni were used for the time points in time-response curves. A probability of less than 0.05 was considered significant. All results are given as mean ± standard error of mean (SEM).

Results

WAY-100635 and AS 19 block lurasidone-induced restoration of NOR in scPCP-treated mice

There was no significant effect of any of the drug treatments on object exploration during the acquisition trials ($F_{6, 61} = 0.77$; $P = 0.19$). In the retention trials, a significant interaction between drug treatment and object exploration times was found ($F_{6, 61} = 14.16$, $P < 0.001$). Post hoc analysis revealed that the saline but not the scPCP-treated mice explored the novel significantly more than the familiar object ($P < 0.01$). Lurasidone, 0.3 mg/kg, pretreatment restored exploration of the novel object to control levels ($P < 0.001$). WAY-100635 (0.6 mg/kg) and AS 19 (10 mg/kg), by themselves, did not reverse the scPCP-induced NOR

deficit, but each, alone, significantly blocked the ameliorating effect of lurasidone, wherein the animals explored both novel and familiar objects similarly. The DI (Fig. 1) showed significant interaction between groups ($F_{6, 61} = 16.52, P < 0.001$). The DI for scPCP-treated animals given saline was significantly reduced compared to the saline-treated control animals ($***P < 0.001$); lurasidone, 0.3 mg/kg, pretreatment restored DI to normal levels (0.3 mg/kg; $###P < 0.001$). WAY-100635 (0.6 mg/kg) and AS 19 (10 mg/kg), by themselves, did not reverse the scPCP-induced NOR deficit; Pretreatment with either drug 30 min before lurasidone blocked the ameliorating effect of lurasidone ($$$P < 0.01$).

Effect of WAY-100635 and AS 19 on lurasidone-induced neurotransmitter efflux in mPFC and dSTR

One-way ANOVA indicated significant neurotransmitter increases induced by treatments, as summarized in Supplemental Table 1. Lurasidone, 1.0 mg/kg, ip, significantly increased cortical ACh ($***P < 0.001$, vs vehicle), DA ($***P < 0.001$), and Glu ($*P = 0.022$) efflux, without producing significant changes in NE, 5-HT, or GABA efflux (Fig. 2a). AS 19, 10 mg/kg, and WAY-100635, 0.6 mg/kg, given alone, did not significantly affect efflux of these neurotransmitters in mPFC. WAY-100635 pretreatment significantly suppressed the lurasidone-induced ACh ($\#P = 0.20$, vs lurasidone, Fig. 2c) and DA ($\#P = 0.026$, Fig. 2d)

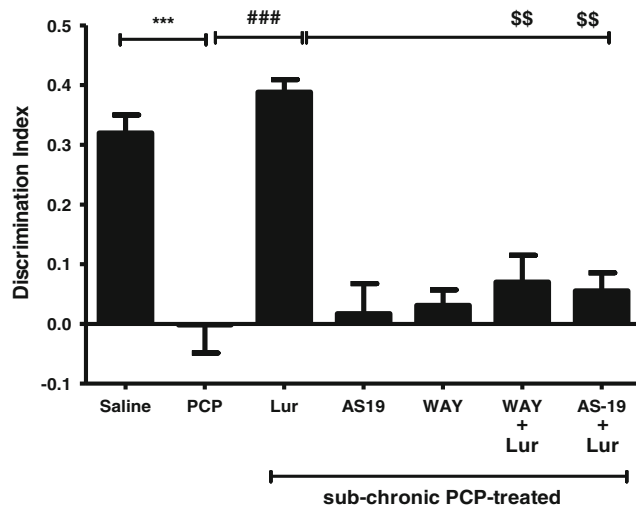


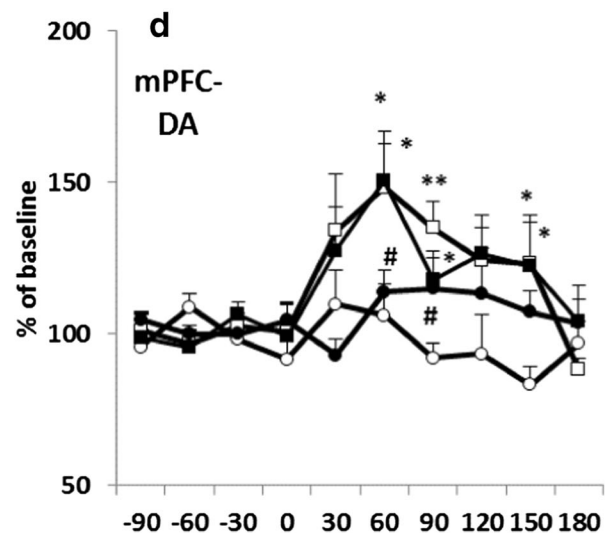
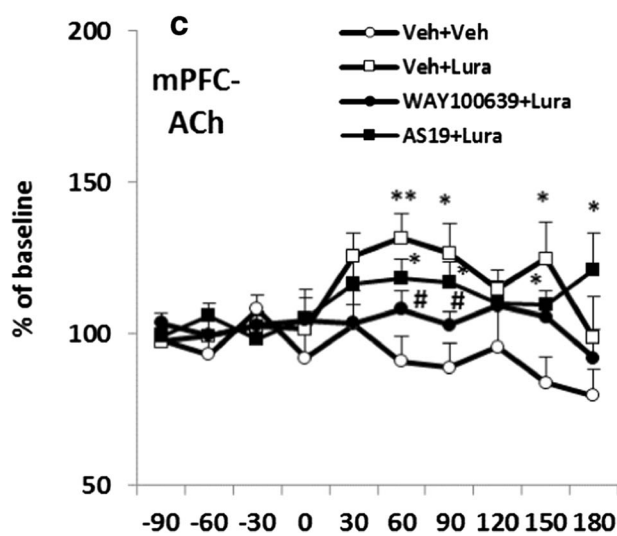
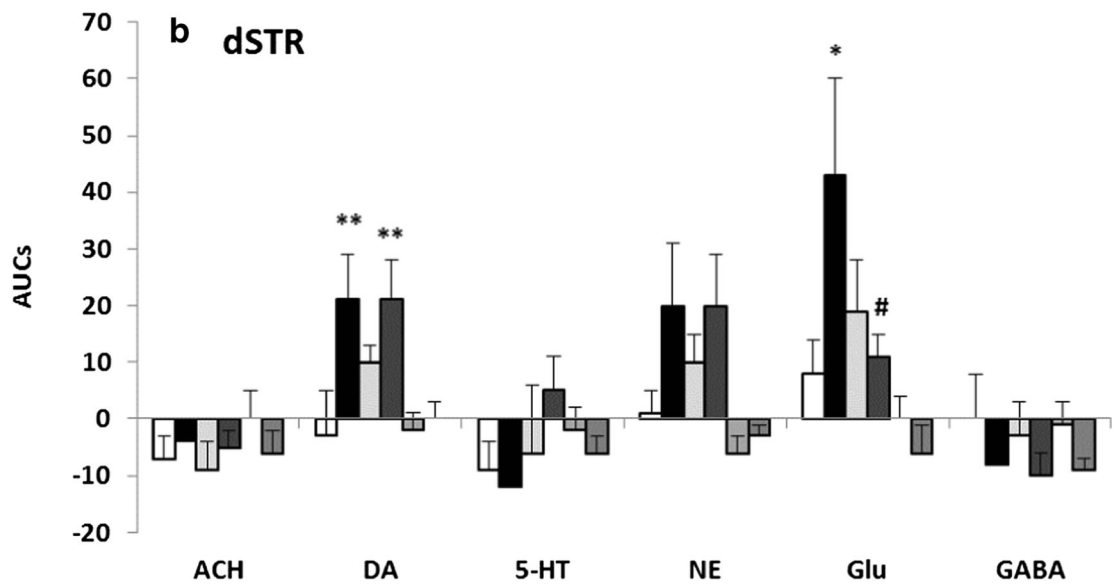
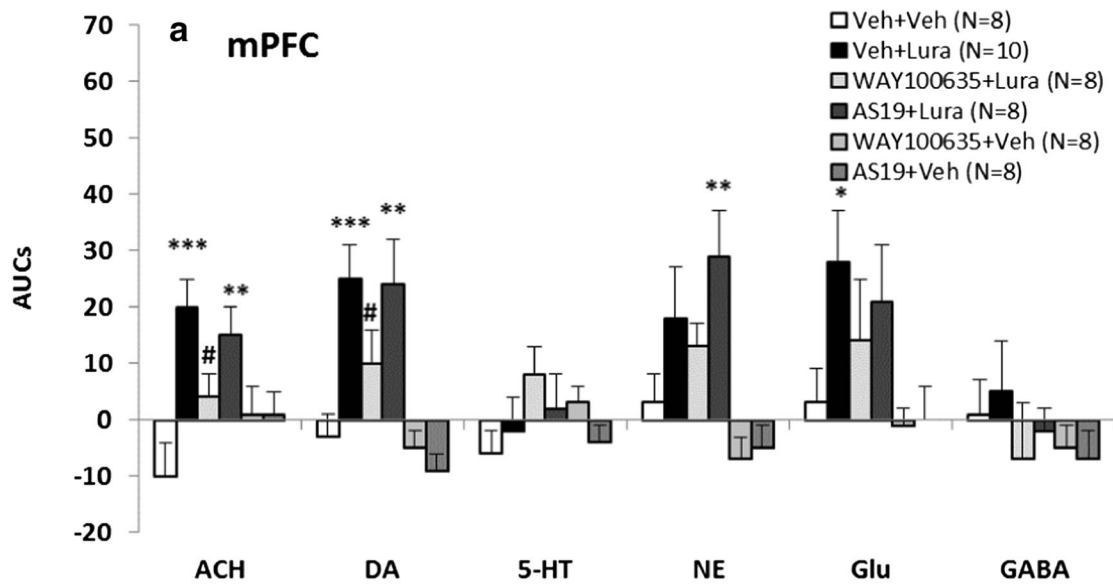
Fig. 1 Effect of AS 19 and WAY-100635 on lurasidone-induced restoration of NOR deficit in scPCP-treated mice. Saline but not scPCP-treated mice explored novel object significantly more than the familiar object. The DI showed significant interaction between the groups ($F_{6, 61} = 16.52, P < 0.001$). The DI for scPCP-treated animals given saline was significantly reduced compared to the saline-treated control animals ($***P < 0.001$), such effect was blocked by lurasidone (0.3 mg/kg; $###P < 0.001$). WAY-100635 (0.6 mg/kg) and AS 19 (10 mg/kg) by themselves did not reverse scPCP-induced NOR deficit but significantly blocked the ameliorating effect of lurasidone ($$$P < 0.01$). $N = 8-10$ for each group

Fig. 2 Effect of AS 19 and WAY-100635 on lurasidone-induced neurotransmitter efflux in mPFC and dSTR. **a, b** The AUCs (0 to 180 min) for all the neurotransmitters. **c-g** The time course response (X -axis for time) on neurotransmitter efflux compared to the averaged baseline (Y -axis for % of baseline). In mPFC (**a**), lurasidone, 1.0 mg/kg, ip, increased cortical ACh (**c**), DA (**d**), and Glu (**e**) efflux. WAY-100635, 0.6 mg/kg, given 30 min before lurasidone, significantly suppressed lurasidone-induced the ACh (**c**) and DA (**d**) efflux. There was no significant increase in Glu efflux by pretreatment with WAY-100635 (**a**). In dSTR (**b**), lurasidone increased DA and Glu efflux. Lurasidone-induced Glu (**f**) efflux was suppressed by AS 19, 10 mg/kg. WAY-100635 partially suppressed lurasidone-induced DA efflux (**g**), and DA increase after WAY-100635 was not significant when compared to vehicle. AS 19 significantly blocked the Glu efflux induced by lurasidone (**f**). $*P < 0.05$, $**P < 0.01$, and $P < 0.001$, vs vehicle; $\#P < 0.05$ vs lurasidone group

efflux. Following pretreatment with either WAY-100635 or AS 19, lurasidone no longer increased Glu efflux (Fig. 2e). However, post hoc testing indicated that the efflux of Glu after WAY-100635 pretreatment was also not significantly less than that of the veh-lurasidone group ($P = 0.217$). AS 19 did not significantly affect the lurasidone-induced increase in DA ($P = 0.924$) or ACh ($P = 0.442$ vs lurasidone group). The combination of AS 19 and lurasidone produced a significant increase in NE efflux in the mPFC not produced by lurasidone alone. In dSTR (Fig. 2b), lurasidone significantly increased DA ($***P = 0.007$) and Glu ($*P = 0.041$) efflux. AS 19 and WAY-100635 alone did not affect dSTR NT efflux. AS 19 pretreatment significantly diminished lurasidone-induced Glu efflux ($\#P = 0.050$, Fig. 2f). WAY-100635 significantly decreased dSTR lurasidone-induced DA efflux (Fig. 2g); the increase in dSTR DA efflux was not significant when compared to vehicle (Fig. 2b, g). Although AS 19 diminished dSTR Glu efflux for most of the period of study, as can be seen in Fig. 2f, a statically significant increase in Glu release was noted between 120 and 180 min. By contrast, pretreatment with WAY-100635 blocked the lurasidone-induced Glu efflux throughout the study period (Fig. 2f).

Effect of WAY-100635 and AS 19 on SB-269970-induced neurotransmitter efflux in mPFC and dSTR

To further clarify the role of 5-HT₇ antagonism and 5-HT_{1A} agonism on neurotransmitter release in the mPFC and dSTR, we assessed the ability of the selective 5-HT₇ antagonist, SB-269970, to stimulate NT efflux with and without pretreatment with either WAY-100635 or AS 19. One-way ANOVA test results for AUCs are summarized in Supplemental Table 2. In mPFC (Fig. 3a), SB-269970, 3.0 mg/kg, ip, increased mPFC DA ($***P < 0.001$), 5-HT ($***P < 0.001$), Glu ($**P = 0.009$), and GABA ($*P = 0.038$) efflux (Fig. 3a). mPFC NE efflux was not affected by SB-269970. WAY-100635 or AS 19, alone, administered 30 min before SB-269970, significantly inhibited the increase in mPFC 5-HT (each $\#P = 0.001$, Fig. 3d) efflux. AS 19, 30 min before



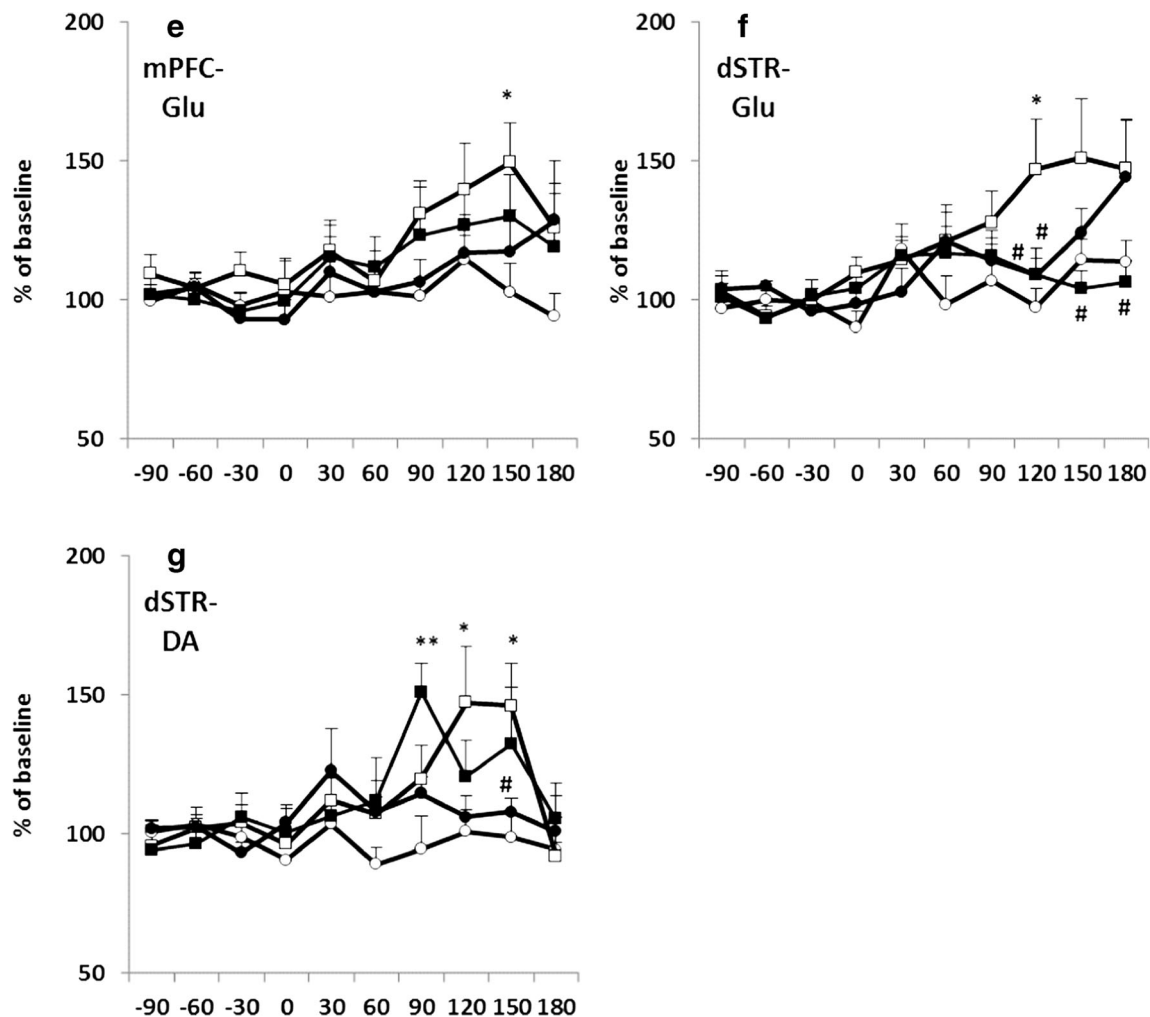


Fig. 2 (continued)

SB-269970, also significantly inhibited the increase in DA ($###P = 0.006$, Fig. 3c) efflux.

The increase in mPFC Glu efflux produced by SB-269970 was also inhibited by either WAY-100635 or AS 19 pretreatment (Fig. 3a for AUCs and Fig. 3e for time-response curves). However, there was no difference in AUC on Glu efflux between the effect of veh + SB-269970 and its effects with either pretreatment (Fig. 3a). The increases in mPFC GABA efflux were also blocked by either WAY-100635 or AS 19 (Fig. 3a, f). In summary, the increases in DA, 5-HT, Glu, and GABA efflux in mPFC following administration of SB-269970 were dependent on both 5-HT₇R blockade and 5-HT_{1A}R stimulation, secondary to the release of 5-HT. In dSTR (Fig. 3b), SB-269970 increased DA ($*P = 0.024$), 5-HT ($**P = 0.003$), NE ($***P < 0.001$), and Glu ($**P = 0.009$) efflux (Fig. 3b). Unlike the mPFC, there was no effect of SB-269970 on dSTR GABA efflux. The SB-269970-induced 5-HT ($\#P = 0.020$), NE ($###P = 0.003$) efflux, and Glu ($P = 0.089$) efflux were suppressed by WAY-100635. AS 19 significantly blocked SB-269970-induced NE ($####P < 0.001$, Fig. 3g) and Glu ($####P < 0.001$, 3h) efflux but not that of

5-HT ($P = 0.594$). Further study is needed to determine the role of 5-HT_{1A}R and 5-HT₇R in the hippocampus and other brain regions critical for specific types of cognition.

Effect of lurasidone on neurotransmitter efflux in 5-HT₇R KO mice mPFC and dSTR

The ability of lurasidone to induce neurotransmitter efflux was also tested in 5-HT₇R KO mice. There were no differences in basal levels of any neurotransmitter in the mPFC or dSTR between the WT and 5-HT₇ knockout mice. Lurasidone significantly increased neurotransmitter efflux in both regions of both type of mice, and one-way ANOVA test results for AUCs were summarized in Supplemental Table 3. As previously noted, lurasidone, 1.0 mg/kg, significantly increased ACh ($P < 0.001$), DA ($P = 0.001$), and Glu ($P = 0.012$) efflux in mPFC (Fig. 4a) and DA ($P = 0.086$) and Glu ($P = 0.041$) efflux in dSTR (Fig. 4b) of WT mice. In 5-HT₇R KO mice, lurasidone increased cortical DA ($P < 0.001$) and striatal DA ($P = 0.02$) efflux; however, lurasidone failed to increase the cortical or striatal Glu

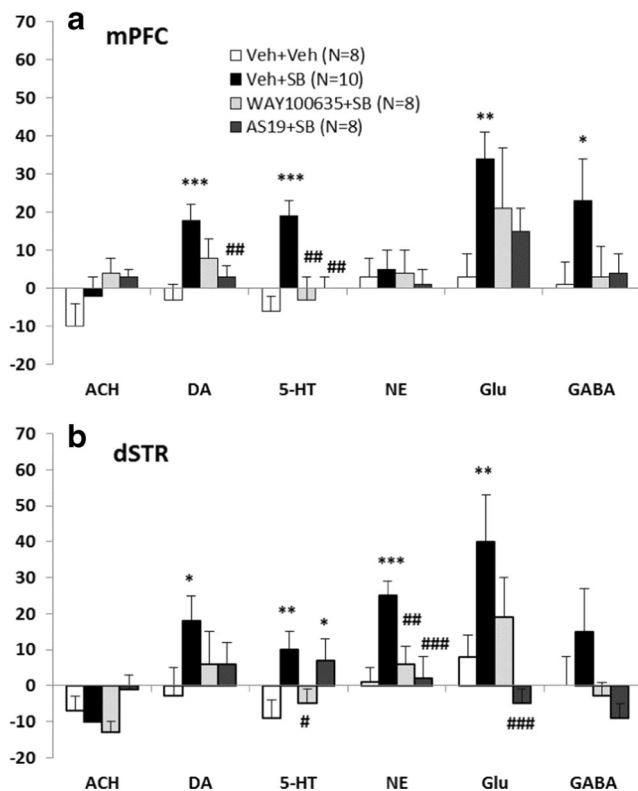


Fig. 3 Effect of WAY-100635 or AS 19 on the selective 5-HT₇ antagonist SB-269970-induced neurotransmitter efflux in both regions. **a, b** The AUCs (0 to 180 min) for all the neurotransmitters. **c–h** Time course response (*X*-axis for time) on neurotransmitter efflux compared to the averaged baseline (*Y*-axis for % of baseline). In mPFC (**a**), SB-269970, 3.0 mg/kg, ip, increased cortical DA, 5-HT, Glu, and GABA efflux. WAY-100635 (0.6 mg/kg) significantly suppressed SB-269970-induced the 5-HT (**d**) efflux. AS 19 (10 mg/kg) significantly suppressed SB-269970-induced the DA (**c**) and 5-HT (**d**) efflux. WAY-100635 or AS 19 did not significantly block lurasidone-induced Glu (**e**) or GABA (**f**) efflux; however, the Glu or GABA increases were not significant when compared to the vehicle group (**a**). In dSTR (**b**), SB-269970 increased DA, 5-HT, NE, and Glu efflux. SB-269970-induced 5-HT and NE (**g**) efflux were suppressed by WAY-100635. AS 19 significantly blocked SB-269970-induced NE (**g**) and Glu (**h**) efflux. WAY-100635 or AS 19 did not significantly block lurasidone-induced DA efflux; however, the DA increase was not significant when compared to the vehicle group (**b**). * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and $P < 0.001$, vs vehicle; # $P < 0.05$, ## $P < 0.01$, and ### $P < 0.001$ vs SB-269970 group

($P = 0.190$ and 0.250 , Fig. 4c and d, respectively, vs KO vehicle group) in the KO mice. However, two-way ANOVA test suggested there was no interaction of genotype (WT \times KO) on lurasidone-induced any neurotransmitter efflux.

Discussion

The present study found that acute treatment with lurasidone restored NOR function in scPCP-treated mice, in agreement with our previous studies in rats (Horiguchi et al. 2011; Horiguchi and Meltzer 2012). Furthermore, WAY-100635 and AS 19 prevented the ability of lurasidone to ameliorate the deficit in NOR

produced by scPCP in both rodent species. The effects of lurasidone and these selective agents on DA, ACh, Glu, GABA, 5-HT, and NE efflux in WT, scPCP, and 5-HT₇ KO mice help to clarify the contributions of these neurotransmitters in these two regions to the amelioration by lurasidone of the NOR deficit in scPCP-treated mice and possibly CIAS as well.

As in rats (Horiguchi et al. 2011; Horiguchi and Meltzer 2012), the ability of lurasidone to restore NOR in scPCP-treated mice was blocked by either the 5-HT_{1A} antagonist WAY-100635 or the 5-HT₇ agonist, AS 19. This is the first report to our knowledge of this effect in mice, which enables studies of transgenic mice and utilization of the extensive literature of scPCP treatment in rats to interpret the murine findings. Thus, 5-HT_{1A} agonism contributes to lurasidone-induced cortical ACh and DA efflux in both rodent species. The effect of lurasidone to increase DA, ACh, and Glu efflux was not significantly different in the 5-HT₇ KO compared to WT mice, indicating that constitutively eliminating 5-HT₇Rs did not influence the ability of lurasidone to increase neurotransmitters, suggesting there must be the result of actions on non-5-HT₇ receptors. However, neurodevelopmental effects of germline deletion of the 5-HT₇R may have contributed to the results reported here, due to compensatory mechanisms during development. Studies in which the 5-HT₇R is deleted or inactivated in adult mice, e.g., by a DREADD or viral mechanism, could clarify this issue.

Administration of the selective 5-HT₇ antagonist, SB-269970, to WT mice produced significant increases in efflux of DA, 5-HT, Glu, and GABA in the mPFC and DA, 5-HT, NE, and Glu, but not GABA, in the dSTR. Bonaventure et al. (2011) previously reported that SB-269970 suppressed MK-801-induced cortical Glu efflux without affecting basal levels of Glu efflux. The reason for this difference is unclear and requires further study. Our data suggests tonic inhibition, in a regionally selective manner, of the activity of cortical glutamatergic neurons, and DA, 5-HT, and NE projection neurons by 5-HT₇R stimulation. The increase in cortical GABA in these mice by SB-269970 is of particular interest because of the extensive evidence for diminished activity of some GABA interneurons in both schizophrenia and depression (Volk et al. 2016; Sibille 2017). We found that the increase in GABA in mPFC by SB-269970 was blocked by either WAY-100635 or AS 19, indicating that 5-HT_{1A}R stimulation is necessary for enhancement of GABA efflux. These results extend the finding that activation of 5-HT₇R results in an enhancement of GABAergic transmission in the hippocampal CA1 area, possibly by enhancement of excitatory glutamatergic input to GABAergic interneurons by presynaptic 5-HT₇Rs or by activation of 5-HT₇R on GABA interneurons (Renner et al. 2012; Tokarski et al. 2011). The effect of SB-269970 on GABA efflux in the mPFC reported here is consistent with the results reported in the rat hippocampus (Tokarski et al. 2011). This effect has been postulated to be important for the rapid

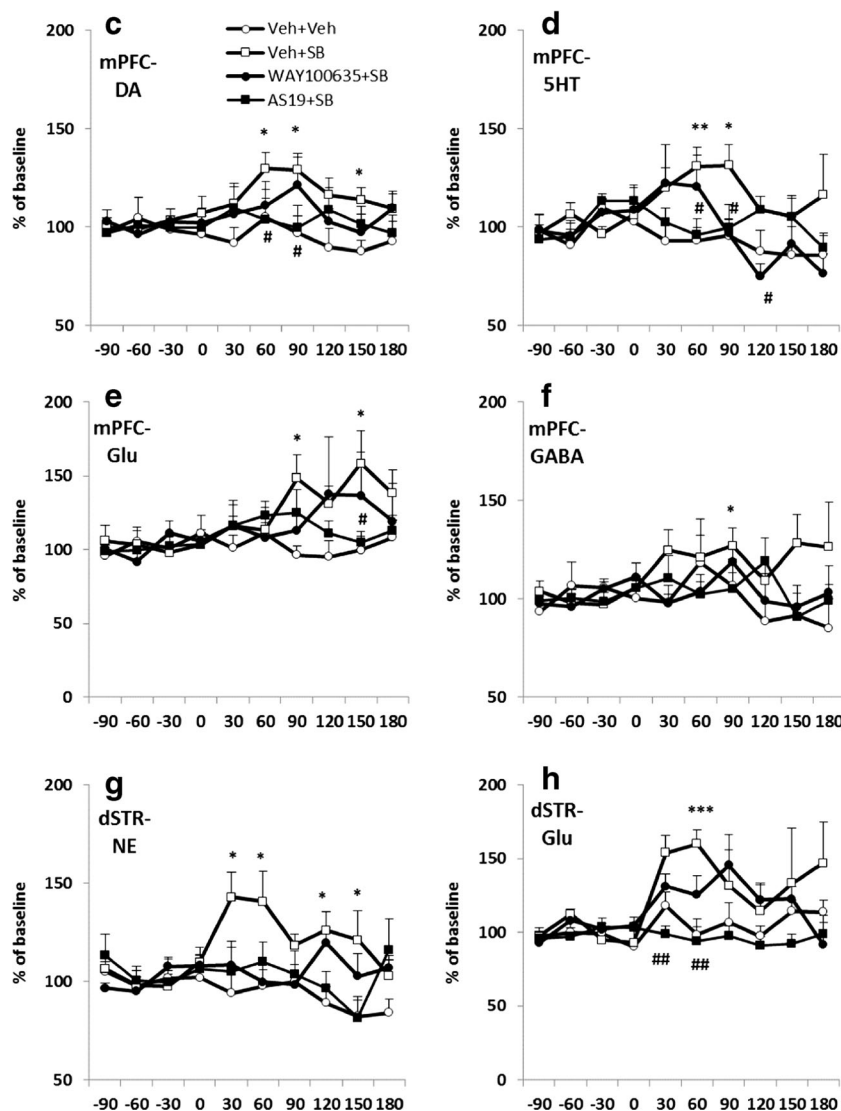


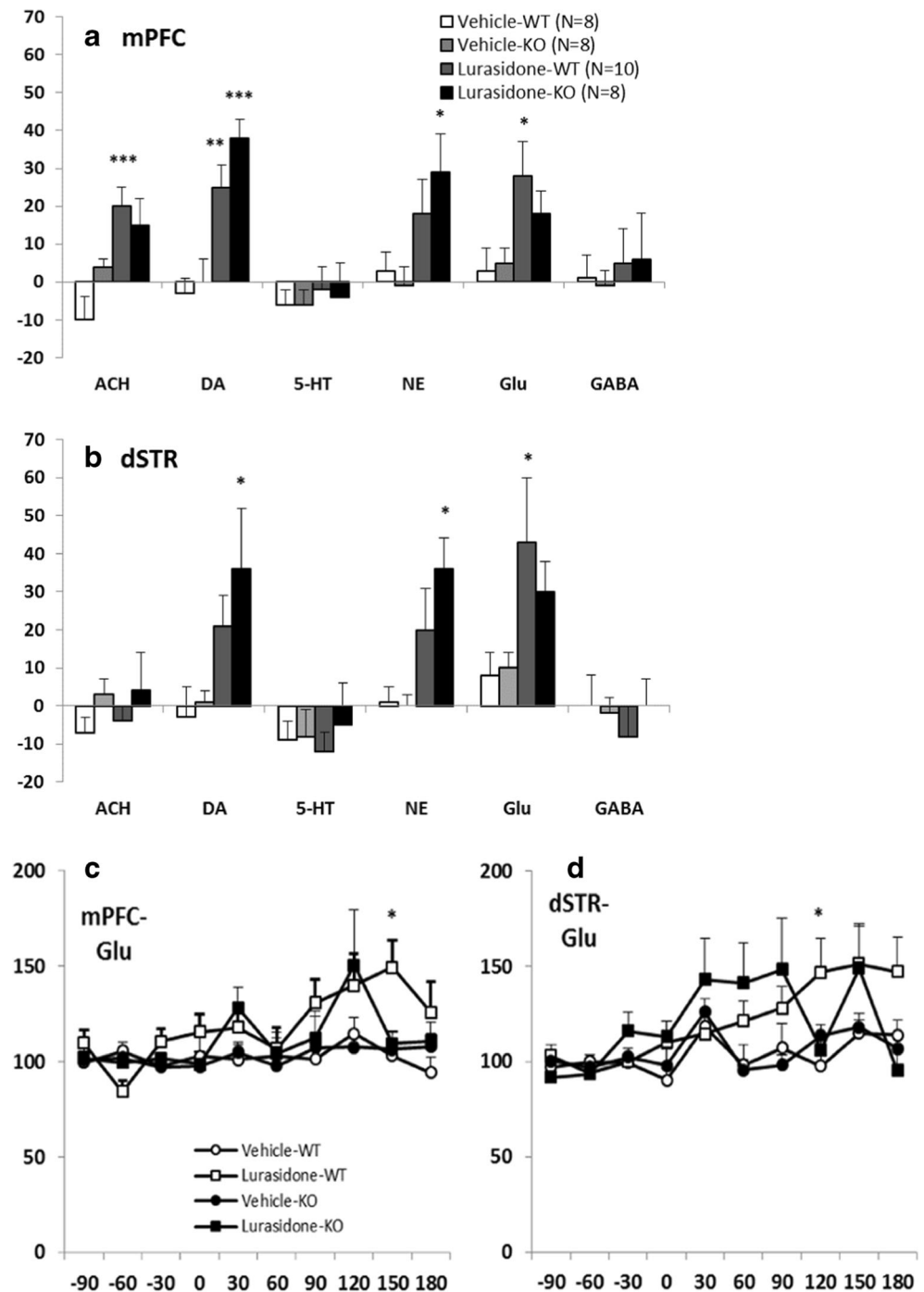
Fig. 3 (continued)

antidepressant effect of 5-HT₇ antidepressants in rodents (Tokarski et al. 2012). SB-269970 has been reported to inhibit the locomotor activity (LMA) produced by amphetamine and PCP in rats (Waters et al. 2012). The effect was greater for amphetamine LMA, which is different from that of AAPDs (Millan et al. 1999) and lurasidone (Meltzer et al., unpublished data). These data support previous suggestions that 5-HT₇ R antagonism could be important for the antipsychotic action of lurasidone. The effect of AS-19 and WAY-100635 to block GABA efflux in SB-269970-treated mice is in accord with the inhibitory effect of 5-HT₇R and the stimulatory effect of 5-HT_{1A}R in rat DG previously mentioned (Matsuyama et al. 1997). The ability of 5-HT₇Rs to regulate GABA release is not evident in the dSTR. It should be noted that the GABA released in the mPFC and dSTR as measured here may be released from vesicular GABA that arises from terminals of DA neurons from the substantia nigra (Tritsch et al. 2012,

2014). GABA can be co-released with DA and ACh, as well as other neurotransmitters in this manner (Tritsch et al. 2016). As pointed out by Tritsch et al. (2016), synergistic actions of GABA, DA, and ACh may have an important effect on synaptic plasticity mechanisms, important for cognition and social interaction.

The effects of WAY-100635 and AS 19 themselves and on lurasidone-induced neurotransmitter release provide functional information about the role of 5-HT_{1A}Rs and 5-HT₇Rs on the activity of subcortical and cortical neurons. Neither WAY-100635 nor AS 19 alone affected the release of any neurotransmitter during the collection period indicating stimulation of 5-HT_{1A}R does not inhibit basal release of these neurotransmitters. The absence of an effect of AS 19 by itself indicates endogenous 5-HT₇ tone leave as is or does not affect neurotransmitter release. By contrast, both drugs blocked the increase in cortical Glu produced by

Fig. 4 Effect of lurasidone on NT efflux in 5-HT₇R KO mice mPFC and dSTR. **a, b** AUCs (0 to 180 min) for all the neurotransmitters. **c, d** Time course response (*X*-axis for time) on neurotransmitter efflux compared to the averaged baseline (*Y*-axis for % of baseline). Lurasidone significantly increased ACh, DA, and Glu efflux in mPFC (**a**) and DA and Glu efflux in dSTR (**b**) of WT mice. In 5-HT₇R KO mice, lurasidone-induced a similar efflux on cortical DA and striatal DA efflux; however, the increase-induced by lurasidone on Glu efflux were not significant by different to that of KO vehicle group in either mPFC or dSTR (**c** and **d**, respectively). * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and $P < 0.001$, vs WT or KO vehicle groups



lurasidone, indicating 5-HT_{1A}R stimulation and 5-HT₇R antagonism contribute to this effect of lurasidone. Only WAY-100635 blocked the lurasidone-induced increases in cortical DA, ACh, and DA metabolites, indicating that 5-HT_{1A}R stimulation by lurasidone is necessary for its ability to activate DA and ACh neurons. These findings are consistent with the ability of SB-269970 to increase DA, 5-HT, Glu, and GABA efflux in the mPFC, all of which were blocked by either AS 19 or WAY-100635.

Role of 5-HT_{1A} and 5-HT₇ receptors on GABA_A interneurons in cortical neurotransmitter release.

Various subtypes of GABA neurons and GABA_AR on interneurons and principal neurons play a critical role in the regulation of neurotransmitter release during cognitive function. Systemic administration of 5-HT_{1A} agonists, e.g., 8-OH-DPAT, selectively stimulates 5-HT_{1A}Rs located on GABA interneurons in the PFC (Lladó-Pelfort et al. 2012), leading

to disinhibition of Glu neurons and activation of DA neurons in the ventral tegmental area (VTA) which project to mPFC. Local blockade of GABA_A inputs with the GABA_A antagonist, gabazine, prevented 8-OH-DPAT-induced excitation of pyramidal neurons (Lladó-Pelfort et al. 2012). Moreover, the highly selective 5-HT_{1A} agonist, BAY x 3702, increased the firing rate and burst firing of DA neurons in the VTA and DA release in the VTA and mPFC, which was blocked by WAY-100635. Intracortical BAY x 3702 in both rat and mouse increased local extracellular DA in WT but not 5-HT_{1A} KO mice or in the presence of the GABA_A antagonist, bicuculline (Díaz-Mataix et al. 2005), indicating that this effect was mediated by GABA interneurons. Furthermore, administration of the AAPDs, clozapine and olanzapine, locally and systemically, increased cortical DA efflux in the wild type, and 5-HT_{2A} KO, but not in, 5-HT_{1A} KO, mice (Bortolozzi et al. 2010; Díaz-Mataix et al. 2005). Local mPFC perfusion of WAY-100635 or bicuculline prevented mPFC DA efflux induced by local or systemic administration of clozapine, risperidone, and olanzapine (Díaz-Mataix et al. 2005; Li et al. 2009). Thus, the direct and indirect effects of AAPDs on 5-HT_{1A}Rs could be a crucial component of the efficacy of AAPDs to treat CIAS and variations in the genetics of 5-HT_{1A}Rs within patients are likely to affect cognitive and other response to AAPDs (Bosia et al. 2011).

WAY-100135 completely blocked the enhancement of ACh release induced by locally applied 8-OH-DPAT and partially reduced the effects of systemic 8-OH-DPAT (Nakai et al. 1998). This suggests that lurasidone activates mPFC 5-HT_{1A}Rs located on GABAergic interneurons regulating glutamatergic neurons, via inhibition-enhanced cortical GABA neurons, disinhibiting Glu neurons, leading cortical DA and ACh release.

5-HT_{1A}R on GABA interneurons and regulation of cortical neurotransmitter release

The PFC receives serotonergic inputs from raphe nuclei (Pehrson et al. 2015); 5-HT_{1A}R agonists suppress the firing of 5-HT neurons in raphe nuclei, increase the firing of cortical pyramidal neurons, and reduce that of fast-spiking GABA interneurons (Celada et al. 2013). The inhibitory responses elicited in mPFC pyramidal neurons by raphe stimulation are blocked by the GABA_A antagonist, picrotoxin (Puig et al. 2005). As with pyramidal neurons, endogenous 5-HT_{1A}R stimulation inhibits, and 5-HT_{2A}R stimulation excites, PFC PV-expressing fast-spiking interneurons in vivo (Puig et al. 2010). Local administration of bicuculline disinhibits GABA interneurons, increasing DA and ACh efflux in PFC and STR, an effect blocked by the GABA_A agonist, muscimol (Deboer and Westerink 1994; Kommalage and Höglund 2005; Santiago and Westerink, 1992). Moreover, intracortical bicuculline increased dSTR DA efflux, whereas muscimol reduced DA efflux, suggesting the

PFC regulates DA efflux from the STR projections to dSTR GABA interneurons (Matsumoto et al. 2003). 5-HT_{1A} and 5-HT_{2A}R are heavily co-expressed in at least 80% of pyramidal neurons and GABAergic interneurons in rat and mouse PFC (Celada et al. 2013), enabling integrated inhibitory (5-HT_{1A}) and excitatory (5-HT_{2A}) stimuli to these cells (Avesar and Gullledge 2012). Presynaptic and postsynaptic reduction of GABAergic transmission due to 5-HT_{1A}- and 5-HT_{2A}-mediated inhibition or stimulation, respectively, has been postulated (García-Oscos et al. 2015). In addition to 5-HT_{1A} stimulation, cortical ACh efflux secondary to DA D₁R stimulation to DA efflux in NAC or STR has must be considered, since 8-OH-DPAT-induced cortical ACh efflux is blocked by WAY-100635 and the D₁ antagonist, SCH 23390 (Consolo et al. 1996).

5-HT₇Rs and 5-HT_{1A}Rs heterodimerization decreases 5-HT_{1A}R-mediated activation of Gi protein and markedly decreased the ability of the 5-HT_{1A}R to activate potassium channels in hippocampal neurons in vivo (Renner et al. 2012). We have recently found that the top hit predicting response to lurasidone in acutely psychotic schizophrenia patients at genome wide significance level is the two-pore potassium channel gene, KCNK9 (Li et al. 2018). Here we report that SB-269970 increases the efflux of GABA in the mPFC, in agreement with the results of Tokarski et al. (2011). Taken together with the electrophysiological data from our group (Yuen et al. 2012), it can be suggested that stimulation of pyramidal neurons in PFC produced by lurasidone is causally related to its 5-HT₇R antagonism.

Our finding that the effect of lurasidone on mPFC DA efflux was not blocked by AS 19 suggests that 5-HT₇ blockade contributes relatively little to DA efflux by lurasidone, compared to its effect on Glu efflux, and compared to its importance for the effect of SB-269970, on cortical DA, 5-HT, Glu, and GABA efflux. WAY-100635 had no significant effect on lurasidone-induced NT efflux in the dSTR, perhaps, consistent with the low level of expression of 5-HT_{1A}Rs in this region (Leiser et al. 2015; Pehrson et al. 2015). However, AS 19 significantly blocked dSTR lurasidone- and SB-269970-induced Glu efflux. The principle neurons in the dSTR are GABAergic medium spiny neurons (MSN, > 80% of striatal neurons), some of which are PV-immunoreactive (IR) interneurons and others choline acetyltransferase (ChAT-IR) interneurons. 5-HT₇R are highly expressed in the latter group of interneurons (Leiser et al. 2015; Pehrson et al. 2015). Because the ChAT-IR neurons have a complex mix of excitatory and inhibitory effects on the activity of both PV-IR interneurons and MSNs (Pehrson et al. 2015) and contain depolarizing 5-HT_{2A}R as well, lurasidone may, through 5-HT₇ and 5-HT_{2A}R antagonism, diminish the activity of the inhibitory MSNs, resulting in increased DA and Glu efflux. Since all compounds were given systemically in this study, the effects reported here reflect both local and external inputs.

The dSTR receives 5-HT input from raphe nuclei and Glu input from cortex and thalamus (Pehrson et al. 2015). 5-HT released by serotonergic fibers originating in the dorsal raphe nuclei (DRN) has a potent excitatory effect on striatal cholinergic interneurons. The depolarizing response to 5-HT is blocked by SB-269970, mimicked by the 5-HT₇ agonist, 5-CT, and the 5-HT₂R agonist 2,5-dimethoxy-4-iodoamphetamine, and antagonized by ketanserin, a 5-HT_{2A/2C} antagonist (Bonsi et al. 2007). In DRN slices, blockade of 5-HT₇Rs produced a decrease in the mean frequency of spontaneous inhibitory postsynaptic currents (sIPSCs), while activation induced an increase. This indicates ionically active 5-HT₇Rs modulate the activity of GABAergic interneurons and/or other interneurons which regulate the activity of DRN serotonergic projection neurons (Kusek et al. 2015).

Lurasidone as well other atypical APDs, e.g., like asenapine, blonanserin, olanzapine, quetiapine, and risperidone, have no significant effect on extracellular GABA efflux in either mPFC or NAC (Huang et al. 2008, 2014; Ohoyama et al. 2011; Yamamura et al. 2009). However, the absence of a detectable effect on GABA release in microdialysis studies does not rule out it having an effect on GABAergic interneurons, where is not detectable by microdialysis. The ability of SEDs of lurasidone to restore NOR in scPCP-treated rodents

is enhanced by SEDs of the neurosteroid pregnenolone sulfate, a negative GABA_AR modulator (Rajagopal et al. 2018). We, and others (Damgaard et al. 2011), have also found that a variety of GABA_AR agonists can also restore NOR in scPCP-treated rodents. This apparent paradox probably reflects the relative impact of these drugs on specific types of synaptic and extrasynaptic GABA_ARs and, perhaps, inverted U-shaped dose–response curves. What can be concluded from the results reported here is that 5-HT₇Rs have a tonic inhibitory effect on some GABA interneurons in the mPFC and the hippocampus (see also Matsuyama et al. 1997). It has been suggested that E-I imbalance due to hypoglutamatergic activity in principal neurons and loss of PV-positive GABA interneurons in the PFC produces sustained neural firing and gamma oscillations, a possible major cause of impaired CIAS (Murray et al. 2015; Uehara et al. 2015). 5-HT₇Rs also have a key role in theta band oscillations (Zlojutro et al. 2011). A possible mechanism for lurasidone to promote neurotransmitter release in the mPFC and dSTR based on this hypothesis is given in Fig. 5 and discussed in the legend.

The present study has some limitations as indicated here: (1) the microdialysis experiments were performed in normal animals, while scPCP mice were the bases of NOR studies. Thus, the mechanisms discussed here could be different in

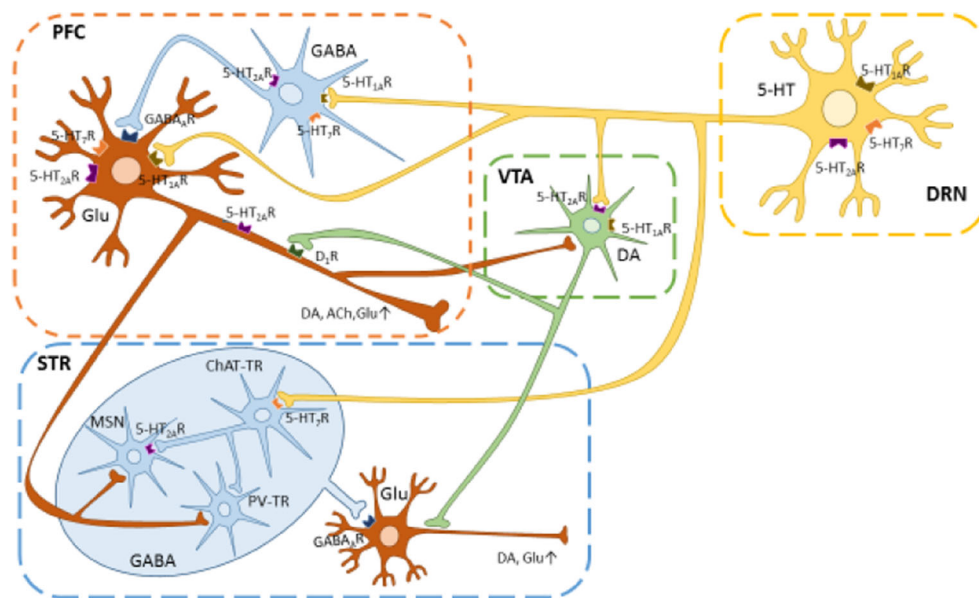


Fig. 5 Hypothesis for the mechanism of action of lurasidone to increase neurotransmitter efflux in the mPFC and dSTR. The effects of lurasidone on neurotransmitter release in the mPFC may result, in part, from the stimulation of DRN 5-HT_{1A} and/or mPFC 5-HT_{1A} receptors located on GABAergic interneurons which project to mPFC principal (pyramidal) neurons. Inhibition of cortical GABA interneurons disinhibits the glutamatergic principal neurons. This, in turn, stimulates cortical DA and ACh release leading to increases cortical DA and ACh release. The latter is partially blocked by the 5-HT_{1A} antagonist, WAY-100635. Direct 5-HT_{2A} and 5-HT₇ antagonism as well as indirect D₁ agonism also

contribute to the ability of lurasidone to stimulate the release of DA and ACh but are less influential than 5-HT_{1A} agonism. In dSTR, lurasidone, through 5-HT₇ antagonism, inhibits the activity of ChAT-IR interneurons which produce a complex mix of excitatory and inhibitory effects on the behavior of both PV-IR interneuron and MSNs. Lurasidone, by antagonism of 5-HT_{2A} receptors on MSN, inhibits their activity, which leads to disinhibition of dSTR pyramidal neurons, thus enhancing DA and Glu efflux in the dSTR. These effects of lurasidone are blocked by pretreatment with the 5-HT₇ agonist AS 19

scPCP mice; (2) the ongoing of the glutamate and GABA in the dialysate also could be from non-neuronal pools like astrocytes as well as neurons (Del Arco et al. 2003); and (3) the 5-HT₇ KO mouse data was evaluated only for mice with constitutive KO of the 5-HT₇Rs.

In summary, the present study established that 5-HT_{1A}R agonism is important to the ability of lurasidone to enhance cortical ACh and DA release, while its 5-HT₇R antagonism is more important to its ability to promote Glu and GABA efflux. The effects of lurasidone on these neurotransmitters and possibly GABA were shown to contribute to the ability of lurasidone to ameliorate the scPCP-induced cognitive deficit in scPCP-treated mice; meanwhile, this ability may be relevant to its effects to improve cognitive deficits in at least some patients with schizophrenia. We hypothesize that lurasidone may reduce GABAergic inhibitory tone on various principal neurons in cortex, hippocampus, and other brain regions, through a variety of serotonergic mechanisms, including 5-HT_{1A} agonism, 5-HT_{2A}, and 5-HT₇ antagonism, leading to an increase in the activity of glutamatergic pyramidal projection neurons which can influence ACh, DA, and Glu efflux in many brain regions (Fig. 5). The net effect in scPCP mice is to restore synaptic plasticity. This study provides additional support for current efforts to test 5-HT_{1A} partial agonists, e.g., tandospirone and 5-HT₇R antagonists, as augmentation treatment for CIAS by lurasidone and other AAPDs.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest Other authors do not have any conflicts of interests.

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