

TRIER SOCIAL STRESS TEST IN COCAINE DEPRESSED PATIENTS

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Aim

To study clinical and neurobiological differences among Primary Major Depression and Cocaine-Induced Depression in subjects with Cocaine Dependence Disorder, by the study of stress response mean the Trier Social Stress Test.

Methods

Subjects: A total of 15 patients diagnosed of Cocaine Dependence and Primary Major Depression; 9 patients diagnosed of Cocaine Dependence and Substance-Induced Depression; 10 patients with Cocaine Dependence without any other psychiatric diagnoses, and 20 healthy controls. The patients with cocaine dependence must have an abstinence of consume at least of 2 weeks long. The patients with major depression must be in a remission episode.

Instruments: psychiatric diagnoses mean Psychiatric Research Interview for Substance and Mental Disorders, personality traits by Temperament and Character Inventory-R, Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory and visual analogic scales.

Functional test: Trier social stress test

Experimental session's variables: Cortisol plasma level, heart rate, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, breathing frequency, temperature, STAI-E and Visual analog scales (sadness, irritability, anxiety, happiness, upset stomach, dizziness)

Preliminary Results

- The three groups of patients showed a flatter response on cortisol plasma levels after the TTS than Healthy Controls.
- The changes in cortisol levels after TTS, did not differ among patients with Cocaine Dependence and Primary Major Depression or Cocaine-Induced Depression
- The performance on the Test Tryptophan Depletion did not affect the response to the TTS.

Figure 1. Cortisol levels after TTS in subject without Tryptophan Depletion

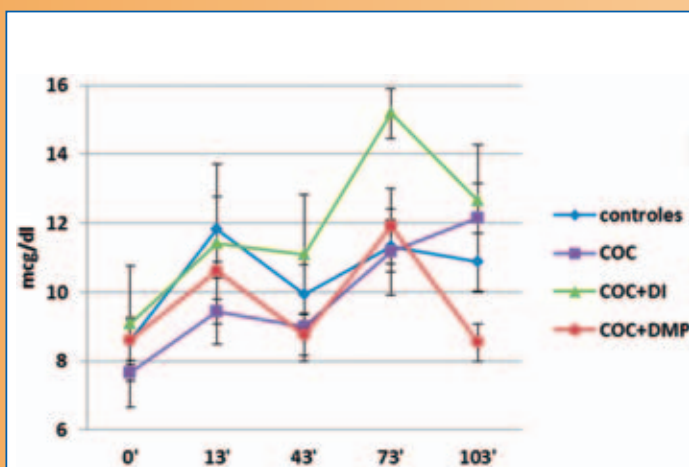


Figure 2. Cortisol levels after TTS in subject with Tryptophan Depletion

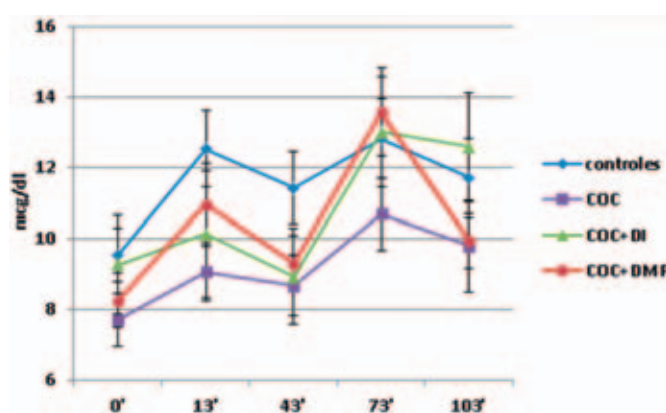
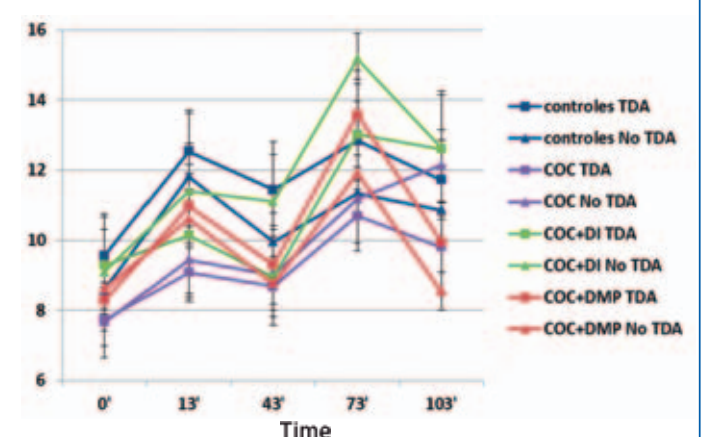


Figure 3. Changes in tryptophan plasma level during Acute Tryptophan depletion test



Conclusions

In cocaine dependent patients they are not differences in the stress response among concurrent cocaine-induced depression and primary major depression.

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