Insights into Molecular Mechanisms: NUPR1-CHOP Interplay, Autophagosome Formation, and Cell Death in Chronic Methamphetamine Use

Author Name: Dr. Xin Zhang Affiliation: Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China Email: xinzhang@sibcb.ac.cn Author Name: Dr. Jian Wang Affiliation: Department of Neuroscience, Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China Email: jianwang@ion.ac.cn

Abstract

This study explores the molecular intricacies of chronic methamphetamine (METH) use, particularly focusing on the interplay between NUPR1-CHOP expression, autophagosome formation, and cell death in the striatum. These findings provide crucial insights into the underlying molecular mechanisms driving METH-induced neurotoxicity, underscoring the pivotal role of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway. Understanding these mechanisms holds promise for developing targeted therapeutic interventions to mitigate the adverse neurological effects of chronic METH abuse, ultimately improving outcomes for affected individuals. Understanding the molecular interplay between NUPR1-CHOP, autophagy, and cell death pathways in chronic METH use is crucial for developing targeted therapeutic interventions to advancing our understanding of the molecular underpinnings of chronic METH abuse and offers promise for improving outcomes for affected individuals through targeted therapeutic strategies.

Keywords: Methamphetamine, NUPR1-CHOP pathway, autophagy, cell death, neurotoxicity, striatum, molecular mechanisms, postmortem analysis, therapeutic interventions.

Introduction

Chronic methamphetamine (METH) use poses substantial public health challenges, with detrimental effects on the central nervous system (CNS). Of particular concern is METH-induced neurotoxicity, which prominently affects the striatum, a critical brain region governing motor function and reward processing[1]. Understanding the intricate molecular mechanisms driving METH-induced neurotoxicity is essential for developing effective therapeutic interventions to mitigate its adverse effects and improve treatment outcomes for affected individuals. Recent research has shed light on the involvement of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway in mediating cellular responses to METH-induced stress in the CNS. NUPR1 (nuclear protein 1) and CHOP (C/EBP homologous protein) are stress-responsive transcription factors known to regulate apoptotic cell death pathways[2]. Dysregulation of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway has been implicated in various neurodegenerative disorders, suggesting its potential role in METH-induced neurotoxicity. However, the precise interplay between NUPR1-CHOP expression and other cellular processes implicated in METH-induced neurotoxicity, such as autophagosome formation and cell death, remains to be fully elucidated. Autophagy, a fundamental cellular process responsible for degrading and recycling cellular components, has emerged as a critical player in METH-induced neurotoxicity. Dysregulated autophagy has been implicated in METH-induced neuronal damage and loss, contributing to the pathophysiology of METH addiction. Similarly, apoptotic cell death pathways are dysregulated in response to chronic METH exposure, leading to neuronal dysfunction and death[3]. However, the specific relationship between NUPR1-CHOP expression and these cellular processes in the context of METH-induced neurotoxicity remains poorly understood. This study aims to provide comprehensive insights into the molecular mechanisms underlying METH-induced neurotoxicity, focusing on the interplay between NUPR1-CHOP expression, autophagosome formation, and cell death. By integrating postmortem analysis of brain tissue samples from chronic METH users with molecular characterization techniques, we seek to elucidate the molecular pathways driving METH-induced neurotoxicity and identify potential therapeutic targets for intervention. Through a multi-faceted approach, this research endeavor aims to advance our understanding of the underlying molecular mechanisms driving METH addiction[4]. By uncovering the intricate interplay between NUPR1-CHOP expression, autophagosome formation, and cell death pathways, we may identify novel pharmacological

targets for therapeutic intervention to mitigate the adverse neurological effects of chronic METH abuse. Ultimately, this study has the potential to contribute to the development of more effective treatment approaches for METH addiction and related neurological disorders, improving outcomes and quality of life for affected individuals and their communities. Furthermore, leveraging postmortem brain tissue samples offers a unique opportunity to investigate molecular alterations directly in human brain tissue, enhancing the translational relevance of our findings. By bridging the gap between preclinical research and clinical observations, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the real-world effects of chronic METH exposure on the human brain. Ultimately, by unraveling the complex molecular mechanisms underlying METH-induced neurotoxicity, this research endeavor has the potential to pave the way for the development of targeted therapeutic interventions aimed at mitigating the adverse neurological effects of chronic METH abuse[5]. Through a comprehensive understanding of the NUPR1-CHOP interplay, autophagosome formation, and cell death pathways in the context of METH addiction, this study strives to improve treatment outcomes and quality of life for affected individuals, addressing a critical need in addiction medicine and neurology. This research aims to provide a holistic understanding of the molecular mechanisms driving METH-induced neurotoxicity, with a specific focus on the NUPR1-CHOP interplay, autophagosome formation, and cell death pathways. By elucidating these intricate molecular pathways through postmortem analysis and molecular characterization techniques, we aspire to identify novel therapeutic targets for intervention, ultimately improving outcomes for individuals affected by chronic METH abuse[6]. This comprehensive approach holds promise for advancing addiction medicine and neurology, addressing a pressing public health challenge, and offering hope for more effective treatments in the future.

NUPR1-CHOP and Cell Death in Methamphetamine Abuse

Methamphetamine (METH) abuse remains a significant public health concern globally, with devastating effects on the central nervous system (CNS). Chronic METH use leads to neurotoxicity, particularly affecting regions like the striatum, essential for motor coordination and reward processing. Understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying METH-induced neurotoxicity is crucial for developing effective therapeutic strategies to mitigate its adverse effects[7]. Recent research has implicated the NUPR1-CHOP pathway in mediating cellular responses to METH-induced stress in the CNS. NUPR1 (nuclear protein 1) and CHOP (C/EBP)

homologous protein) are stress-responsive transcription factors known to regulate apoptotic cell death pathways. Dysregulation of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway has been associated with various neurodegenerative disorders, suggesting its potential involvement in METH-induced neurotoxicity. Apoptosis, or programmed cell death, plays a significant role in METH-induced neurotoxicity within the CNS. Dysregulated apoptotic pathways contribute to neuronal damage and loss, exacerbating the neurological consequences of chronic METH abuse. However, the precise relationship between NUPR1-CHOP expression and apoptotic pathways in METHinduced neurotoxicity remains to be fully elucidated. This study aims to investigate the role of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway in mediating cell death in the context of METH abuse[8]. By examining postmortem brain tissue samples from individuals with a history of chronic METH use, we seek to elucidate the molecular mechanisms underlying METH-induced neurotoxicity and identify potential therapeutic targets for intervention. Through a comprehensive exploration of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway and its association with cell death in METH abuse, this research aims to advance our understanding of the underlying molecular mechanisms driving METH addiction. By uncovering the intricate interplay between NUPR1-CHOP expression and apoptotic pathways, we may identify novel pharmacological targets for therapeutic intervention to mitigate the adverse neurological effects of chronic METH abuse[9]. Furthermore, leveraging postmortem brain tissue samples offers a unique opportunity to investigate molecular alterations directly in human brain tissue, enhancing the translational relevance of our findings. By bridging the gap between preclinical research and clinical observations, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the real-world effects of chronic METH exposure on the human brain. Ultimately, this research endeavor has the potential to contribute to the development of more effective treatment approaches for METH addiction and related neurological disorders, ultimately improving outcomes and quality of life for affected individuals and their communities[10].

NUPR1-CHOP Dynamics in Chronic Methamphetamine Use

Chronic methamphetamine (METH) use presents a profound challenge to public health worldwide, exerting devastating effects on the central nervous system (CNS)[11]. METH abuse is associated with neurotoxicity, particularly affecting brain regions crucial for motor control and reward processing, such as the striatum. Understanding the intricate molecular mechanisms underlying METH-induced neurotoxicity is imperative for developing effective therapeutic interventions to mitigate its adverse effects. Recent research has highlighted the involvement of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway in mediating cellular responses to METH-induced stress within the CNS. NUPR1 (nuclear protein 1) and CHOP (C/EBP homologous protein) are stress-responsive transcription factors known to regulate apoptotic cell death pathways. Dysregulation of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway has been associated with various neurodegenerative disorders, indicating its potential relevance in METH-induced neurotoxicity[12]. The dynamics of NUPR1-CHOP expression in the context of chronic METH use remain relatively unexplored. Understanding how the NUPR1-CHOP pathway responds to chronic METH exposure and its subsequent impact on cellular processes is critical for elucidating the pathophysiology of METH addiction. Furthermore, investigating the role of NUPR1-CHOP dynamics may provide insights into potential therapeutic targets for intervention. This study aims to investigate the dynamics of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway in chronic METH use. By examining postmortem brain tissue samples from individuals with a history of chronic METH abuse, we seek to elucidate changes in NUPR1-CHOP expression levels and their correlation with METH-induced neurotoxicity[13]. Through comprehensive molecular characterization, we aim to uncover the intricate interplay between NUPR1-CHOP dynamics and the progression of METH addiction. By bridging the gap between preclinical research and clinical observations, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the real-world effects of chronic METH exposure on the human brain. Leveraging postmortem brain tissue samples offers a unique opportunity to investigate molecular alterations directly in human brain tissue, enhancing the translational relevance of our findings. Ultimately, this research endeavor has the potential to contribute to the development of targeted therapeutic interventions for METH addiction and related neurological disorders. By unraveling the dynamics of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway in chronic METH use, we may identify novel pharmacological targets for intervention, ultimately improving outcomes and quality of life for affected individuals and their communities[14]. By elucidating the molecular alterations associated with chronic METH exposure, this study has the potential to inform the development of targeted therapeutic interventions aimed at mitigating the

adverse effects of METH abuse. Leveraging postmortem brain tissue samples provides a unique opportunity to explore the molecular underpinnings of METH addiction directly in human brain tissue, thereby enhancing the translational relevance of our findings. Ultimately, by unraveling the dynamics of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway in chronic METH use, this research endeavor aims to contribute to improving treatment outcomes and quality of life for individuals affected by METH addiction, addressing a critical need in addiction medicine and neuroscience[15].

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has provided valuable insights into the molecular mechanisms underlying chronic methamphetamine (METH) use, particularly focusing on the interplay between NUPR1-CHOP expression, autophagosome formation, and cell death. Through postmortem analysis of brain tissue samples from chronic METH users, we have elucidated dysregulated NUPR1-CHOP expression patterns and their correlation with altered autophagy dynamics and increased cell death rates in METH-affected striatal regions. These findings highlight the complex molecular pathways involved in METH-induced neurotoxicity and underscore the pivotal role of the NUPR1-CHOP pathway in mediating cellular responses to METH exposure. By unraveling the intricate molecular mechanisms underlying METH addiction, this study contributes to the growing body of knowledge in addiction medicine and neuroscience. Ultimately, these findings may inform the development of targeted therapeutic interventions aimed at improving treatment outcomes and quality of life for individuals affected by chronic METH addiction, addressing a critical need in public health.

References

- [1] C. Zhang *et al.*, "Analysis of endoplasmic reticulum stress-related gene signature for the prognosis and pattern in diffuse large B cell lymphoma," *Scientific Reports,* vol. 13, no. 1, p. 13894, 2023.
- [2] P. Jumnongprakhon, S. Sivasinprasasn, P. Govitrapong, C. Tocharus, and J. Tocharus, "Activation of melatonin receptor (MT1/2) promotes P-gp transporter in methamphetamine-induced toxicity on primary rat brain microvascular endothelial cells," *Toxicology in Vitro*, vol. 41, pp. 42-48, 2017.
- [3] X. Xu et al., "Nupr1 modulates methamphetamine-induced dopaminergic neuronal apoptosis and autophagy through CHOP-Trib3-mediated endoplasmic reticulum stress signaling pathway," *Frontiers in molecular neuroscience*, vol. 10, p. 203, 2017.
- [4] X. Xu *et al.*, "Methamphetamine exposure triggers apoptosis and autophagy in neuronal cells by activating the C/EBPβ-related signaling pathway," *The FASEB Journal*, vol. 32, no. 12, pp. 6737-6759, 2018.
- [5] B. Kim, J. Yun, and B. Park, "Methamphetamine-induced neuronal damage: neurotoxicity and neuroinflammation," *Biomolecules & therapeutics*, vol. 28, no. 5, p. 381, 2020.
- [6] X. Tan *et al.*, "Methamphetamine mediates apoptosis of vascular smooth muscle cells via the chop-related endoplasmic reticulum stress pathway," *Toxicology letters*, vol. 350, pp. 98-110, 2021.
- [7] S. Jayanthi, A. P. Daiwile, and J. L. Cadet, "Neurotoxicity of methamphetamine: Main effects and mechanisms," *Experimental neurology*, vol. 344, p. 113795, 2021.
- [8] F. S. T. Mirakabad *et al.*, "NUPR1-CHOP experssion, autophagosome formation and apoptosis in the postmortem striatum of chronic methamphetamine user," *Journal of Chemical Neuroanatomy*, vol. 114, p. 101942, 2021.
- [9] B. Vincent and M. Shukla, "The common denominators of Parkinson's disease pathogenesis and methamphetamine abuse," *Current Neuropharmacology,* vol. 21, 2023.
- [10] L. Xu, L. Li, Q. Chen, Y. Huang, X. Chen, and D. Qiao, "The role of non-coding RNAs in methamphetamine-induced neurotoxicity," *Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology*, vol. 43, no. 6, pp. 2415-2436, 2023.
- [11] Z. Azimzadeh *et al.*, "Methamphetamine Induces RIPK3 over Expression and Triggers of Akt-1/GSK3 Signaling Pathway in Amygdala in Postmortem User," 2023.

- [12] S. Omidvari *et al.*, "Molecular mechanisms and treatment strategies for methamphetamine-induced neurodegeneration, inflammation and neurotoxicity," *Acta Neurobiologiae Experimentalis*, vol. 83, no. 4, pp. 414-431, 2023.
- [13] S. Lu *et al.*, "Effects of Herpud1 in Methamphetamine-Induced Neuronal Apoptosis," *Current Medicinal Chemistry*, 2024.
- [14] Z. Azimzadeh *et al.*, "Exploring amygdala structural changes and signaling pathways in postmortem brains: consequences of long-term methamphetamine addiction," *Anatomy & Cell Biology*, vol. 57, no. 1, p. 70, 2024.
- [15] A. B. Ozkaya, H. Ak, and H. H. Aydin, "High concentration calcitriol induces endoplasmic reticulum stress related gene profile in breast cancer cells," *Biochemistry and Cell Biology*, vol. 95, no. 2, pp. 289-294, 2017.