

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE MINAS GERAIS – UFMG
Instituto de Ciências Biológicas – ICB
Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Biológicas
Departamento de Fisiologia e Biofísica – Núcleo de Neurociências (NNC)

Thiago Vitarelli da Silva

**AVALIAÇÃO DOS EFEITOS DO CANABIDIOL SOBRE OS
EVENTOS IMUNOLÓGICOS E DEGENERATIVOS INDUZIDOS
PELA ENCEFALOMIELITE AUTOIMUNE EXPERIMENTAL
(EAE) EM CAMUNDONGOS**

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**Dissertação apresentada ao Curso de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Biológicas:
Fisiologia e Farmacologia, ICB – UFMG, como requisito parcial à
obtenção do grau de Mestre. Área de concentração: Fisiologia.**

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Co-Orientador: Prof. Dr. Fabrício de Araújo Moreira

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Resumo

A esclerose múltipla é a doença neurologicamente progressiva e incapacitante mais comum entre adultos jovens. A desordem se caracteriza pela ocorrência de desmielinização, inflamação crônica, perda axonal e de oligodendrócitos. A compreensão dos mecanismos imuno-patológicos e possíveis tratamentos é um grande desafio. Para elucidar algumas destas questões o uso de modelos animais, que reproduzem as alterações da doença, representa uma ferramenta útil. Dentre os modelos cita-se a encefalomielite autoimune experimental (EAE) induzida pela imunização com neuroantígenos. O canabidiol (CBD) é o principal componente da *Cannabis sativa*, destituído de efeitos psicoativos. As suas propriedades neuroprotetoras, anti-inflamatórias e antioxidantes já foram documentadas em estudos de diversas desordens. A partir desse cenário, o objetivo da investigação foi avaliar os efeitos do tratamento crônico e profilático com CBD sobre os eventos imunológicos e degenerativos da EAE.

Para tanto, os camundongos C57Bl/6, fêmeas (10-12 semanas, 17-20 gramas), foram divididos em quatro grupos. Os dois primeiros foram submetidos ao EAE, sendo um deles tratado ao longo dos 14 dias de avaliação da doença, com uma dose diária de 5mg/kg da droga por via intra-peritoneal (i.p), e o outro com correspondentes injeções do veículo (Tween 5%). Os demais animais constituíram os controles (sem EAE) que foram divididos, de modo similar, nos grupos CBD e veículo. O modelo foi induzido por injeção subcutânea de uma emulsão contendo 100µg MOG₃₅₋₅₅ em PBS 1X e solução de 4mg/ml de *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37RA em Adjuvante Completo de Freud, além da administração de pertussis toxina (i.p), 300 ng/200µl/animal, em dois momentos diferentes.

Os animais foram monitorados diariamente quanto ao peso corporal e às manifestações clínicas, através de uma escala de score e periodicamente por teste motor (*Rotarod*) e sensorial (*Tail Flick*). Sendo que o esquema terapêutico aplicado não foi eficaz em reverter a progressão e a gravidade clínica do modelo. No 14º dia pós indução houve a visualização, no cérebro e medula, dos eventos de rolamento e adesão leucocitária através da técnica de microscopia intravital e da integridade da barreira hematoencefálica, pela mensuração do extravasamento do corante azul de Evans. Avaliou-se também, apenas na medula, a expressão por RT-PCR das moléculas de adesão (VCAM-1, ICAM-1) e o infiltrado inflamatório. Em relação a estes parâmetros, o fitocanabinóide atenuou a inflamação central observada no modelo. A determinação indireta nos níveis séricos de óxido nítrico (NO), pela reação de Griess, indicou que o tratamento aumentou a biodisponibilidade desse mediador no EAE, que possivelmente pode ter contribuído para parte dos efeitos citados.

A avaliação *in vitro*, pelo ensaio de redução do MTT, reafirmou a capacidade do CBD de inibir a proliferação das células esplênicas em resposta ao MOG₃₅₋₅₅ por um mecanismo independente de proteína G. Entretanto, a atividade imunossupressora da droga não foi observada *in vivo*, uma vez que o tratamento não reverteu o aumento da contagem global de leucócitos na circulação periférica percebida nos animais EAE.

Considerando os eventos degenerativos característicos do modelo, desmielinização e dano axonal avaliados respectivamente, através da coloração por LFB e pela expressão do neurofilamento-H, a terapia não foi capaz de reverter o decréscimo desses parâmetros.

Em síntese, esse trabalho sugere que o CBD atenuou o processo inflamatório na EAE, interferindo nos vários eventos relacionados à migração leucocitária para o SNC. Entretanto, o canabinoide não alterou os aspectos degenerativos o que refletiu, em parte, na sua ineficácia sobre a clínica do animal.

Abstract

Multiple sclerosis is a progressive and disabling disease neurologically more common among young adults. The disorder is characterized by the occurrence of demyelination, chronic inflammation, axonal and oligodendrocytes loss. Understanding the immuno-pathological mechanisms and possible treatments is a major challenge. To elucidate some of these issues, the use of animal models, that reproduce the disease changes, represent a useful tool. Among the models available, highlights the experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) induced by immunization with neuropeptides. The cannabidiol (CBD) is the main component of *Cannabis sativa* devoid of psychoactive effects. Its neuroprotective, anti-inflammatory and antioxidants properties have been documented in studies of various disorders. From this scenario, the goal of this investigation was to evaluate the effects of chronic and prophylactic treatment with CBD on immune and degenerative events of EAE.

To reach this aim, C57BL/ 6 female mice (10-12 weeks, 17-20 g) were divided into four groups. Two groups were subjected to EAE model induction, one being treated daily with CBD (5 mg/kg, i.p.) from day 0 to 14 post induction and the second was treated with vehicle (5% Tween). Control groups were divided similarly into vehicle and CBD. The EAE was induced by subcutaneous injection of an emulsion containing 100µg MOG 35-55 plus 4mg/ml of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Ra in Freud's Complete Adjuvant. Pertussis toxin (300 ng/animal, i-p.) was injected on the day of immunization and 48 h later.

The animals were monitored daily for body weight and clinical manifestations, across a range of scores, and periodically for motor (*Rotarod*) and sensory (Tail Flick) tests. The therapy used was not effective in reversing the progression and severity of the clinical model. On day 14 post induction, there was visualization of leukocyte adhesion and rolling by intravital microscopy technique, and integrity of the blood brain barrier by measuring of Evans blue dye extravasation in the brain and spinal cord. The expression of adhesion molecules (VCAM-1, ICMA-1) was also evaluated, only in the spinal cord, by RT-PCR and the inflammatory cell infiltration. In relation to these parameters, the drug attenuates central inflammation observed in the model. The indirect determination in serum nitric oxide (NO) by Griess reaction, indicated that treatment increased the bioavailability of this mediator in EAE, which possibly may have contributed to some of the effects mentioned.

The in vitro evaluation, by the MTT reduction assay, confirmed the ability of CBD to inhibit proliferation of splenic cells in response to MOG35-55 by a mechanism independent of G protein. However, the immunosuppressive activity of the drug was not observed in vivo, since the treatment did not reverse the increased total count of the leukocytes in the peripheral circulation seen in EAE animals.

The therapy, though, was not able to reverse the decline of characteristic degenerative events of the model, demyelination and axonal damage, evaluated respectively by staining for LFB and neurofilament-H expression.

In summary, this study suggests that CBD attenuated the inflammatory process in EAE by interfering in various events related to leukocyte migration into the CNS. Nevertheless, the cannabinoid did not alter the degenerative process which reflects, in part, its clinical inefficacy on the animal model.

Lista de Abreviaturas

μm – micrômetro
μg – micrograma
μl - microlitro
2-AG- 2- aradonoil-glicerol
2-AGE- 2- aradonoil-glicerol-eter
5-HT_{1A}- receptor de serotonina
AEA- aradonoil-etanolamida
AMPC- adenosina monofosfato cíclico
AMT- transportadores de membrana de anadamida
ANOVA - Análise de variância
BHE – Barreira hematoencefálica
CB- canabinóides
CBD- canabidiol
CD- grupamento de diferenciação (*cluster of differentiation*)
CEBIO- Centro de Bioterismo
CETEA - Comitê de Ética em Experimentação Animal
CFA- Complexo adjuvante de Freud
cm- centímetro
CSF – Fluido cerebrospinal
d.p.i- dias pós indução
DMEM- *Dulbeccos's Modified Medium*
DNA- ácido desoxiribonucleico
cDNA- DNA complementar
EAE - Encefalomielite autoimune experimental
EM- Esclerose múltipla
FAAH: amida hidrolase de ácidos graxo
g - grama
h - horas
H&E – Hematoxilina-eosina
i.p. - Injeção intraperitoneal
i.v. - Injeção intravenosa
ICAM - Molécula de adesão intercelular (*Intercellular adhesion molecule*)
IFN-γ - Interferon gama
Ig- imunoglobulina
IL - Interleucina
iNOS - óxido nítrico sintase induzível
JAMs- moléculas de adesão juncional
LFB - *Luxol fast blue*
LPS - lipopolissacarídeo
M - Molar
MAGL - monoacilglicerol lipase
mg - miligrama
mg/Kg - miligrama por Kilograma
MHC - Complexo principal de histocompatibilidade
min- minuto
mL– mililitro
MOG- glicoproteína da mielina de oligodendrócito

MPB- proteína básica da mielina
MTT- 3-(4,5-dimetil-2-tiazolil)-2,5-difenil-2*H*-brometo de tetrazolium
NADA- N-aracdonoil-dopamina
Nf- neurofilamento
NF- κ B: fator nuclear κ B
ng- nanograma
nm- nanômetro
NNC- Núcleo de neurociências
NO - óxido nítrico
NOs- óxido nítrico sintase
°C - graus celsius
OPCs- células progenitoras de oligodendrócitos
p/v- peso por volume
PAG- substância cinzenta periaquedutal
PBS - salina tampão fosfato
PCAM- *platelet cell adhesion molecule*
pg- picograma
pH – potencial hidrogeniônico
PI3K- fosfatidilinositol 3-quinase
PLP- proteína proteolipídica
PPAR- γ -receptor gama ativado pelo proliferador de peroxissomos
PSGL-1- glicoproteína ligante da P-selectina
PTX- *Pertussis* toxina
RNA- ácido ribonucleico
rpm - rotações por minuto
RT-PCR- reação em cadeia da polimerase em tempo real
ROS- espécie reativa de oxigênio
s- segundos
s.c. – subcutâneo
SNC – Sistema nervoso central
SUS- Sistema único de saúde
TCR- receptores de células T
Th- linfócito T *helper*
THC- Δ 9- tetrahydrocannabinol
TMEV- *Theiler's murine encephalomyelitis virus*
TNF- α - Fator de necrose tumoral alfa
TPVR-1- receptor vanilóide tipo 1
Treg- linfócito T regulador
U/ μ L- unidades por microlitro
UFMG- Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
v/v- volume por volume
VCAM- Molécula de adesão celular vascular (*vascular cell adhesion molecule*)
ZO-1-zona ocludina -1

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