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Drug synergism: The combined effects of fluoxetine and memantine on an animal model of obsessive compulsive disorder

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Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) is currently treated with behavioral modification and psychotropic medications, with varying degrees of success. The most popular drugs for the treatment of OCD are the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's). Another drug, the N-methyl-D-aspartate antagonist memantine, has recently been tested in the treatment of OCD. The present study investigates the effect of fluoxetine and memantine alone and in combination on a mouse model of compulsive behavior. In this model, compulsive scratching is induced by a subcutaneous injection of serotonin or a serotonin releasing agent, compound 48-80, in the back of the neck. The effects of memantine and fluoxetine combination were found to be synergistic, specifically as defined by an isobologram. The results of the present investigation suggest the potential of a more effective management of the symptoms of OCD.

Biography

Dr. Raphael Wald is a licensed psychologist practicing in Boca Raton, Florida. He has a range of experiences including individual therapy and neuropsychological assessment. Dr. Wald has worked with individuals of all ages, from young children all the way through older populations, typically addressing concerns related to depression, anxiety, and neurologic disorders. Dr. Wald has also conducted research for a number of years at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. He has been published as a first author in the Journal of Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology, and has published a book focusing on the causes and treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.