

Fluoxetine

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Fluoxetine, sold under the brand names Prozac and Sarafem among others, is an [antidepressant](#) of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor class. It is used for the treatment of major depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, bulimia nervosa, panic disorder, and premenstrual dysphoric disorder

Fluoxetine in neurosurgery

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[Cerebellar mutism syndrome](#) (CMS) occurs in 8-29 % of children undergoing [posterior fossa tumor surgery](#). Its main symptoms are [mutism](#) and [emotional lability](#). Although it is always transient, recovery time can be lengthy with long-term cognitive sequelae. There is no approved drug treatment for CMS, but some drugs are used in everyday medical practice. One of these is fluoxetine, which has been used for many years in the Department of Neuropediatrics and Pediatric Neurosurgery, Angers University Hospital, [Angers](#). The main objective of this study was to establish the safety profile of

fluoxetine in this condition.

The records of patients admitted to the pediatric [intensive care unit](#) after brain surgery at Angers University Hospital from 2010 to 2020 were reviewed. Children aged 2 years and older who underwent a posterior fossa tumor surgery and were diagnosed with CMS were included. Data on patient characteristics, prescription of fluoxetine treatment, side effects if any, and complete mutism duration were collected.

Among 246 patients admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit for brain surgery during the study period, 23 had CMS and eight were prescribed fluoxetine. No serious adverse event related to fluoxetine was reported. Complete mutism duration did not differ significantly between the fluoxetine group and the non-fluoxetine group ($p = 0.22$). However, the treatment was initiated after recovery from complete mutism in half of the treated patients.

This study suggests a positive safety profile of fluoxetine used in postoperative CMS. It does not answer the question of whether the treatment is effective for this indication. A randomized controlled trial based on a syndrome severity scale should be conducted to provide a more reliable assessment of the efficacy and safety of fluoxetine ¹⁾

Hosseindoost et al. aims to examine the impact of fluoxetine on HSV-TK/GCV gene therapy in human GBM cells using human olfactory ensheathing cells (OECs) as vectors. The effect of fluoxetine on Cx43 levels was assessed using the western blot technique. GBM-derived astrocytes and OECs-TK were Cocultured, and the effect of fluoxetine on the Antitumor effect of OEC-TK/GCV gene therapy was evaluated using MTT assay and flow cytometry. Our results showed that fluoxetine increased Cx43 levels in OECs and GBM cells and augmented the killing effect of OECs-TK on GBM cells. Western blot data revealed that fluoxetine enhanced the Bax/Bcl2 ratio and the levels of cleaved caspase-3 in the coculture of OECs-TK and GBM cells. Moreover, flow cytometry data indicated that fluoxetine increased the percentage of apoptotic cells in the coculture system. This study suggests that fluoxetine, by upregulating Cx43 levels, could strengthen the Antitumor effect of OEC-TK/GCV gene therapy on GBM cells ²⁾

Fluoxetine is a well-studied serotonin selective reuptake inhibitor (SSRI). However, its role in apoptosis has not been clearly understood. The present investigation assessed the effects of Fluoxetine in apoptosis and the potential Notch1/ASK1/p38 MAPK signaling pathway in EBI after SAH. Adult C57BL/6 J mice were subjected to SAH. Study mice (56) were randomly divided into 4 groups: the surgery without SAH (sham ($n = 8$), SAH+ vehicle; (SAH+V) ($n = 16$), surgery+ Fluoxetine (Fluox), ($n = 16$) and SAH+ Fluoxetine ($n = 16$). Various parameters were investigated 12, 24, 48, and 72 h after induction of SAH. Western blot analysis, terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase-mediated deoxyuridine triphosphate nick-end labeling (TUNEL) staining, Immunohistochemistry (IHC), and flow cytometry were carried out in every experimental group. According to the findings, the SAH downregulated NOTCH1 signaling pathway, Jlk6 inhibited Notch1, Notch1 inactivation increased apoptotic protein expression and suppressed Bax, and cytochrome C. Fluoxetine reversed the effects of notch1 inhibition in SAH. The Neuroprotective Fluoxetine effects involved suppression of apoptosis post-SAH. In summary, early Fluoxetine treatment significantly attenuates apoptosis and the expression of apoptosis-related proteins after 72 h post-SAH. Fluoxetine may ameliorate early brain injury after subarachnoid hemorrhage through anti-apoptotic effects and Notch1/ASK1/p38 MAPK signaling pathway ³⁾.

1)

Varengue R, Delion M, De Carli E, Fournier LL, Durigneux J, Dinomais M, Van Bogaert P. Evaluation of safety of fluoxetine for cerebellar mutism syndrome in children after posterior fossa surgery. Arch Pediatr. 2024 Mar 13:S0929-693X(24)00021-6. doi: 10.1016/j.arcped.2023.10.010. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38485568.

2)

Hosseindoost S, Dehpour AR, Dehghan S, Javadi SAH, Arjmand B, Fallah A, Hadjighassem M. Fluoxetine enhances the antitumor effect of olfactory ensheathing cell-thymidine kinase/ganciclovir gene therapy in human glioblastoma multiforme cells through upregulation of Connexin43 levels. Drug Dev Res. 2023 Dec;84(8):1739-1750. doi: 10.1002/ddr.22119. Epub 2023 Sep 28. PMID: 37769152.

3)

Liu M, Zhong W, Li C, Su W. Fluoxetine attenuates apoptosis in early brain injury after subarachnoid hemorrhage through Notch1/ASK1/p38 MAPK signaling pathway. Bioengineered. 2022 Apr;13(4):8396-8411. doi: 10.1080/21655979.2022.2037227. PMID: 35383529.

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