



Review

GABA_B receptors in drug addiction

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Abstract:

Preclinical studies and clinical trials carried out within the past few years have provided a premise that γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) transmission and GABA_B receptors play a modulatory role in the mechanism of action of different drugs of abuse. The present review summarizes the contribution of GABA_B receptors to the rewarding, locomotor and discriminative stimulus properties of drugs of abuse and their withdrawal symptoms in laboratory animals. It also reviews the current knowledge about the GABA_B receptor ligands in clinical trials, with a focus on their effects on presentation of the drug-associated cues and withdrawal-induced drug craving.

Key words:

addictive substances, discrimination, GABA_B receptor ligands, locomotion, reward, reinstatement of seeking behavior, withdrawal, laboratory animals, clinical trials
