

# Vascular dementia and aliamides: A new approach for the future

Cordaro M<sup>1</sup>, Cuzzocrea S<sup>1,2\*</sup> and Di Paola R<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemical, Biological, Pharmaceutical and Environmental Sciences, University of Messina, Viale Ferdinando Stagno D'Alcontres 31, 98166 Messina, Italy

<sup>2</sup>Department of Pharmacological and Physiological Science, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, 1402 South Grand Blvd, St Louis, MO 63104, USA

## Abstract

Vascular dementia (VaD) is the first usual cases of dementia after Alzheimer's disease, causing approximately 15% of instances. Yet, unlike Alzheimer's disease, there are no treatments to diminish the inflammatory process correlated to vascular dementia.

Palmitoylethanolamide (PEA) was discovered more than five decenniums ago and has been proved to counteract peripheral inflammation and mast-cell degranulation, as good as to exert neuroprotective and antinociceptive effects in rats and mice experimental model.

Luteolin (Lut) is an important flavone that has advantageous neuroprotective impacts both *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

This mini-review gives a little outline of current information of PEA and Luteolin impact on various experimental model and the novel possible PEA-Lut use for the treatment of VaD.

## Background

Vascular dementia (VaD) is a dynamic disorder that influences psychological capacities that were caused by lessened blood stream to the cerebrum [1]. VaD patients may suffer both distinctive subjective impedance, for example, discouragement and tension and additionally the loss of executive capacities [1]. Until today, no other medication, excluding cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine, has demonstrated a particular advantage in the treatment of VaD, anyway they are dubious clinical criticalness; likewise Cerebrolysin has indicated advantageous impacts on VaD patients, notwithstanding, an ongoing meta-examination presumed that there is as yet lacking confirmation to prescribe it as a normal treatment for VaD [2,3]. Therefore is required to test constantly new particles, in order to find a treatment that is able to stop the progression of this pathology.

Neuroinflammation and oxidative stress (OS) has been widely correlated to be involved in the pathogenesis of both Alzheimer's disease (AD) and VaD.

Experimental evidence suggests that after stroke, the microglia acquires a M2 phenotype, which step by step changes into a pro-inflammatory M1 phenotype in the peri-infarct area [4]. The pathologic mechanism, for example, oxidative/nitrosative stress and apoptosis can stimulate the release of a proinflammatory mediators by receptive glial cells (microglia and astrocytes), and this impact can be exacerbated by an enlargement in BBB permeability, in this manner empowering the penetration of proinflammatory factors, for example, interleukins (IL-1, IL-6) and TNF- $\alpha$  and prompt neurodegeneration and cell passing in various cerebral locales, including those associated with psychological capacities, for example, the hippocampus [1,5-7].

Developing confirmation exhibited that OS isn't just connected to VaD, yet additionally to all its hazard factors, for example, diabetes,

hypercholesterolemia and hyperhomocysteinemia [8-10]. The importance of OS in such a significant number of neurodegenerative issue the brain is highly susceptible to reactive oxygen species (ROS), since it is wealthy in unsaturated fats, which are sensible to peroxidation, moreover it has not a powerful antioxidant activity, and considering that it expends a ton of oxygen it is presented to a vital free-radicals amassing [11,12].

Several researches have been directed with a specific end goal to explore whether antioxidant and neuroprotective exerts a role in the prevention and treatment of VaD. In fact, in the last year, more than fifteen author all over the world, have focused their attention on the link between vascular dementia and neuroinflammation/oxidative stress relationship (Table 1).

One of the most widely studied families of molecules in recent years in the field of neuroinflammation is the family of ALIAMides.

ALIAMides stands for Autacoid Local Injury Antagonist amides (ALIAMides) and rapresent a group of endogenous bioactive acyl ethanolamides that include the renowned palmitoyl ethanolamide (PEA), stearoyl ethanolamide (SEA), and oleoyl ethanolamide (OEA) and that are involved in several biologic processes such as nociception, lipid metabolism and inflammations [13]. Several mechanisms describe the anti-inflammatory, anti-hyperalgesic and neuroprotective effects of PEA. In particular, PEA down-regulates mast cell activation and prevent

\*Correspondence to: Salvatore Cuzzocrea, Department of chemical, biological, pharmaceutical and environmental sciences, University of Messina, Viale Ferdinando Stagno D'Alcontres n°31 98166 Messina, Italy, Tel: (39) 090-6765208; E-mail: salvator@unime.it

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**Table 1.** Last year publications on vascular dementia an oxidative stress

Author(s)	Title	References
Du et al.	Molecular Mechanisms of Vascular Dementia: What Can Be Learned from Animal Models of Chronic Cerebral Hypoperfusion?	[6]
El-Dessouki et al.	Neuroprotective Effects of Simvastatin and Cilostazol in L-Methionine-Induced Vascular Dementia in Rats.	[69]
Ye et al.	Mechanisms of acupuncture on vascular dementia-A review of animal studies	[70]
Singh et al.	Possible role of endothelin receptor against hyperhomocysteinemia and $\beta$ -amyloid induced AD type of vascular dementia in rats.	[71]
Siracusa et al.	Anti-Inflammatory and Neuroprotective Effects of Co-UltraPEALut in a Mouse Model of Vascular Dementia.	[25]
Yadav et al.	Resveratrol loaded solid lipid nanoparticles attenuate mitochondrial oxidative stress in vascular dementia by activating Nrf2/HO-1 pathway.	[72]
Wang et al.	Calmodulin inhibitor ameliorates cognitive dysfunction via inhibiting nitrosative stress and NLRP3 signaling in mice with bilateral carotid artery stenosis	[73]
Tanaka et al.	Thioredoxin-albumin fusion protein prevents copper enhanced zinc-induced neurotoxicity via its antioxidative activity.	[74]
Zangh et al.	Edaravone attenuates oxidative stress induced by chronic cerebral hypoperfusion injury: role of ERK/Nrf2/HO-1 signaling pathway.	[75]
Hu et al.	Postoperative intermittent fasting prevents hippocampal oxidative stress and memory deficits in a rat model of chronic cerebral hypoperfusion.	[76]
Zhu et al.	Anti-oxidative and Anti-apoptotic Effects of Acupuncture: Role of Thioredoxin-1 in the Hippocampus of Vascular Dementia Rats.	[77]
Bin-Jaliliah and Sakr.	Melatonin ameliorates brain oxidative stress and upregulates senescence marker protein-30 and osteopontin in a rat model of vascular dementia.	[78]
Tiwari et al.	Potential of carnosine, a histamine precursor in rat model of bilateral common carotid artery occlusion-induced vascular dementia.	[79]
Kaundal et al.	Betulonic acid, a natural PDE inhibitor restores hippocampal cAMP/cGMP and BDNF, improve cerebral blood flow and recover memory deficits in permanent BCCAO induced vascular dementia in rats.	[80]
Zhao et al.	Ling-Yang-Gou-Teng-decoction prevents vascular dementia through inhibiting oxidative stress induced neurovascular coupling dysfunction.	[81]
Du et al.	Acupuncture inhibits TXNIP-associated oxidative stress and inflammation to attenuate cognitive impairment in vascular dementia rats.	[82]

their degranulation, modulates the activation of nuclear factor kB (NF-kB) and the synthesis of pro-inflammatory enzymes and promotes the activation of a cell surface cannabinoid CB2-like receptor, or a nuclear receptor of the peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPARs) family [14]. However, the PEA does not have direct antioxidant action to prevent oxidative stress and counteract injury to proteins and DNA.

For this reason during the years, PEA was associated with different antioxidant molecules such as a (trans)resveratrol glucoside(s), polydatin [15-18] and (trans)polydatin [19-23] as well as a flavonoid luteolin [24-38].

Luteolin (Lut), like PEA, exerts a variety of pharmacological activities and anti-oxidant properties related with its great ability to scavenge oxygen and nitrogen species. Luteolin has been appeared to constrain cytokine expression and modulates NF-kB and TLR4 signalling at micromolar concentrations in immune cells, including mast cells [39-41]. Moreover, luteolin has been shown to attenuate microglial activation and mediate BDNF-like behavior both in-vitro and in-vivo [42,43]. Until today, luteolin has been shown a protective effect on several experimental model such as epilepsy [44-48], autism spectrum disorders [26,49-60], AD [61-65] and Parkinson Disease [63,66-68].

Until now, the only work that has analyzed the antioxidant, neuroprotective and anti-inflammatory of the PEA and luteolin in an experimental model of vascular dementia was made by Siracusa et colleagues [25].

In this work co-ultraPEALut, a compound based on the association of PEA and Luteolin in a ratio of 10:1, was able to improving the behavior and histopathological features in mice after VaD-induction ameliorating cognitive and social function VaD-reduced, modulating the NF-kB and apoptotic pathway, decreasing iNOS and COX-2 expression VaD-induced and increasing BDNF and NT-3 expression.

## Conclusion

Growing evidence has indicated that oxidative stress and neuroinflammation plays a key role in the progression of VaD. Disparity between antioxidant enzyme activities and ROS generation will cause

lipid peroxidation, protein oxidation and nuclear and mitochondrial DNA damage, resulting in brain damage. PEA possess a very important capacity to counteract inflammation but intriguingly, has no antioxidant property per se, however its co-ultramicrozonization with luteolin is more efficacious than both molecule alone. This could be represents a complementary therapeutic treatment to manage VaD-associated neuroinflammation.

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