

## EFFECTS OF ACUTE MANGANESE NEUROTOXICITY IN YOUNG CHICKS

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Manganese (Mn) is an industrial neurotoxicant in humans and animal models limited to rodent species. The present study analyses the potential neurotoxicity of acute Mn administration in young chicks. The acute (24 h) LD<sub>50</sub> values of Mn following intraperitoneal, intramuscular, subcutaneous and oral administrations of MnCl<sub>2</sub> in seven-day-old chicks were 21.3 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 28.1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 28.1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 469.5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight of Mn, respectively. Signs of Mn poisoning appeared in the chicks within 2 min and 13 min after parenteral administration and within 20 min and 32 min after oral administration. The signs demonstrated the depressant action of Mn in the chicks. The behavioural effects of Mn given at 5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 20 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> intramuscularly were examined in 7 to 12 day old chicks using the three-minute open-field and tonic immobility tests. Manganese decreased the overall locomotor activity of the chicks in the open-field arena as manifested by a significant increase in the latency to move from the central square and decreases in line crossing, frequency of defecation and vocalization score when compared to control values. It also increased the duration of the chicks' tonic immobility response. Pharmacological challenges of Mn-treated chicks with general anaesthetics xylazine-ketamine and thiopental caused the loss of right reflex at a faster rate in comparison with control values. Thiopental increased the duration of loss of righting reflex in Mn-treated chicks when compared with that of the control group. Chlorpromazine challenge of Mn-treated chicks significantly increased the depressant action of Mn in the open-field arena and increased the duration of tonic immobility response produced by the metal. The injections of Mn at 10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 20 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 50 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 100 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> intramuscularly significantly increased the Mn levels in the plasma, liver, kidneys and entire brain of the chicks. The data suggests acute neurotoxicity of Mn chloride in the young chicks as a form of depressant action that could be determined by open-field and tonic immobility tests with further support from pharmacological challenges.

**KEY WORDS:** chlorpromazine, ketamine, open-field behaviour, xylazine

Manganese (Mn) is an essential metal considered to be a neurotoxicant at high exposure levels in humans (1) and experimentally in rodents (2-4). It is also an occupational neurotoxicant (1). In humans, toxic levels of Mn produce behavioural changes such as nervousness, hallucination, loss of memory and cognitive abnormalities as well as a Parkinson-like syndrome characterized by weakness, tremor,

abnormal posture, rigidity, excessive salivation and speech disorders (1, 5).

Mice and rats are common laboratory animal models used to assess the various effects of overexposure to Mn (2-4). Manganese induces hypoactivity in mice (2) and hyperactivity (3) or hypoactivity (4) in rats.

Studies on the toxicity of Mn in the avian species are rather limited. In one-month old chickens, acute Mn administration at 40 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> given subcutaneously (s.c.) reduced jumping attempts in the open-field behavioural paradigm, increased the duration of tonic immobility, while at 50 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> s.c., increased the depressant effect of xylazine-ketamine anaesthesia (6). The nutritional role of Mn in feeding poultry is well-documented (7). However, no published information is available on the toxic effects of Mn in younger chicks (8). Early postnatal manganese acetate exposure (50 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) modifies the neurobehavioural development of herring gull chicks (9).

The mechanisms of Mn neurotoxicosis and behavioural effects might be related to disturbances of neuronal cells depolarization, blocking calcium channels with catecholamine (10, 11), as well as excitatory and inhibitory amino acids (12). In a rat model of Mn intoxication, dopamine D2 receptors were found to be linked to the inhibitory control of glutamatergic (excitatory) corticostriatal transmission (13). Manganese decreases dopamine, increases homovanilic acid (11), and decreases GABA (14) concentrations in different regions of the brain of laboratory animals. It also alters the glutamate metabolism by attenuating astrocytic glutamate uptake (15) and inhibits NMDA receptors, subsequently causing a deficiency of glutamatergic transmission (16). The neurotoxic effects of Mn could also be the result of oxidative stress to the nervous tissue (17). The neurochemical and neurobehavioural changes induced by Mn might result from the differential uptake of the metal by various brain regions (18, 19). The diagnostic or biomarker endpoint of Mn exposure includes determination of plasma and tissue levels of the metal (20, 21).

The present study aimed to examine the potential acute neurotoxicity of Mn in the 7 day to 14 day old chicks by using a set of neurobehavioural tests and pharmacological challenges. We hypothesized that Mn administration results in the accumulation of the metal in the brain which may subsequently cause alterations in the behavioural response of the chicks.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

One-day-old broiler chicks of both sexes obtained from a commercial hatchery in Mosul, Iraq were housed under constant light at a temperature of 32 °C to 35 °C. Water and commercial poultry feed were

available ad libitum and wood shavings were used as floor litter. We performed our experiments on the chicks when they turned seven days old (60 g to 85 g body weight). The Scientific Committee of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Mosul reviewed and approved the study protocol. All the experiments complied with University regulations addressing the humane and proper use of laboratory animals in experimental studies. All experiments were conducted between 9 and 12 AM. The injectable solution of Mn was prepared by dissolving manganese chloride (MnCl<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O, Avishkar, India) in deionized distilled water, and all doses were based on the amount of the ionic Mn in the administration volume which was given intramuscularly (i.m.) at 5 mL kg<sup>-1</sup>.

### *Acute toxicity of Mn*

We first determined the acute (24-hour) median lethal dose (LD<sub>50</sub>) of Mn given orally, s.c., i.m. or intraperitoneally (*i.p.*) using the up-and-down method (22). We observed each chick for the appearance of any sign of toxicosis for one hour and then recorded the 24-hour lethality. For the LD<sub>50</sub> experiments, we used only five to ten chicks for each route of administration group. The LD<sub>50</sub>s of Mn were determined so that they could be used in subsequent experiments.

### *Effect of Mn on open-field activity and tonic immobility*

Thirty two chicks were randomly divided into four groups of eight birds each. The chicks were injected with either saline solution at 5 mL kg<sup>-1</sup> or with Mn at (5, 10, or 20) mg kg<sup>-1</sup> i.m. The doses of Mn were chosen after preliminary experiments on chicks in which these doses did not produce obvious signs of poisoning within one hour after treatment. Thirty minutes after the injection of saline or Mn, the chicks were examined during three-minute open-field activity as described before (23). After the open-field activity test, each chick was used for the tonic immobility behavioural paradigm (23).

### *Pharmacological challenges of chicks treated with Mn*

#### *Anaesthetic challenge*

Eight chicks in each group were treated with saline solution at 5 mL kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight (control) or with manganese at 10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight, i.m. Fifteen minutes after saline or Mn administration, each chick

was injected i.m. with the anaesthetic mixture of xylazine (2 % solution, Alfasan, The Netherlands) 5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and ketamine (5 % solution, Trittau, Germany) 20 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> or thiopental sodium (Bodene, South Africa) at 30 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, i.p. (6, 24). The latency to the onset of righting reflex loss after positioning the chick on its side and the duration of loss of righting reflex were recorded.

#### *Chlorpromazine Challenge*

Eight chicks in each group were treated with saline solution at 5 mL kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight (control) or with manganese at 10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight, i.m. Thirty minutes following the saline or Mn administration, each chick was injected i.m. with chlorpromazine (NDA, Mosul, Iraq) at 5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, i.m. (24). Thirty minutes post chlorpromazine injection, we subjected the chicks to the three-minute open-field behavioural test and tonic immobility behavioural paradigm as mentioned before.

#### *Determination of Mn in the plasma and tissues*

Chicks were injected with either saline solution at 5 mL kg<sup>-1</sup> i.m. (control group, n=12) or with Mn (6 per group) at (10, 20, 50 and 100) mg kg<sup>-1</sup> i.m. Thirty minutes later, the blood was obtained from the jugular vein and then the chicks were sacrificed by dislocating the neck to obtain the brain, liver and kidneys. Blood samples were collected into heparinized test tubes and centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 15 min to obtain the plasma. The plasma and tissue samples were placed in suitable volumes of 65 % nitric acid for digestion (25). The concentration of Mn was determined using

an atomic absorption spectrometer (Novaa 350, Germany) supplied with UV-visible light and air-acetylene burner.

Continuous data was subjected to a one-way analysis of variance followed by the post-hoc LSD analysis (26). Non-parametric data (ranked or discontinuous) of the open-field test was analysed by the Mann-Whitney-U-test (46). We used the Past Statistics Package (<http://folk.uio.no/ohammer/past/index.html>) for the statistical analysis. The level of significance was at P < 0.05.

## RESULTS

#### *LD<sub>50</sub> experiment*

The acute (24-hour) LD<sub>50</sub> values of Mn following i.p., i.m., s.c. and oral administrations in chicks were (21.3, 28.1, 28.1 and 469.5) mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (Table 1). The signs of poisoning appeared in the chicks within 2 min and 13 min after parenteral administration and within 20 min and 32 min after oral administration. The signs comprised drooping of the head, closing eyelids, ataxia, ruffled feathers, reduced motility or immotility and recumbency on the sternum regardless of the route of administration.

#### *Open-field activity and tonic immobility*

The three-minute open-field activity patterns and tonic immobility performance of chicks treated with Mn at (5, 10 and 20) mg kg<sup>-1</sup> i.m. are shown in Table 2. Generally, Mn did not produce overt signs of

**Table 1** Determination of the 24-h median lethal dose (LD<sub>50</sub>) of manganese administered as manganese chloride in chicks by the up-and-down method

| Variable   | Intraperitoneal | Intramuscular | Subcutaneous  | Oral          |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| LD <sub>50</sub> / mg kg <sup>-1</sup>             | 21.3            | 28.1          | 28.1          | 469.5         |
| Range of the doses used / mg kg <sup>-1</sup>      | 50-25 = 25      | 50-30 = 20    | 50-30 = 20    | 750-250 = 500 |
| Initial dose / mg kg <sup>-1</sup>                 | 50              | 50            | 50            | 750           |
| Last dose / mg kg <sup>-1</sup>                    | 25              | 30            | 30            | 250           |
| Number of chicks used                              | 10              | 9             | 9             | 5             |
| Number of chicks died *                            | 8 (XXXXXXOXOX)  | 7 (XXXXXOOXX) | 7 (XXXXXOOXX) | 3 (XOXXO)     |
| Increase or decrease in dose / mg kg <sup>-1</sup> | 5               | 5             | 5             | 250           |
| Range of latency to the onset of poisoning / min   | 10-2 = 8        | 13-4 = 9      | 13-4 = 9      | 32-20 = 12    |

\*X = death; O = survival

poisoning as seen in the LD<sub>50</sub> experiments, but it did decrease the overall locomotor activity performance of the chicks in the open-field arena. The chicks showed a significant delay in moving from the central square of the arena as well as reductions in the number of lines crossed, frequency of defecation and vocalization score when compared with respective control values (Table 2). Manganese also increased the duration of the chicks' tonic immobility response compared with that of the control group (Table 2).

#### Pharmacological challenges

Pre-treatment of chicks with Mn at 10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> i.m. significantly reduced the time needed for the onset of righting reflex loss induced by both xylazine-ketamine and thiopental anaesthetics when compared with the respective saline-control group (Table 3). Manganese treatment significantly prolonged the duration of righting reflex loss of thiopental but not that of xylazine-ketamine (Table 3).

Chlorpromazine challenge of Mn-treated chicks significantly increased the depressant action of Mn in the open-field arena as manifested by the immobility, reduced escape jumps, reduced defecation scores and

reduced number of distress calls (Table 4). Furthermore, chlorpromazine increased the time during which the chicks remained immobile in the tonic immobility test as a result of Mn treatment (Table 4). These changes occurred in spite of the apparently non-depressant action of chlorpromazine at the dosage used (5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) (Table 4).

#### Manganese contents in the plasma and tissues

The injections of Mn at (10, 20, 50 and 100) mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, i.m. significantly elevated Mn contents in the plasma, entire brain, liver and kidney of the chicks in a manner dependant on the dose of the metal (Figure 1).

## DISCUSSION

The LD<sub>50</sub> values of Mn injected i.p., s.c. and i.m. or dosed orally are the first report of an acute toxicity of this metal in seven-day-old chicks. Comparatively, the reported LD<sub>50</sub> values of Mn administered as MnCl<sub>2</sub> in mice and rats were 53 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 38 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, i.p.,

**Table 2** Effects of manganese on three-minute open-field activity and tonic immobility test in chicks

| Variable                | Manganese / mg kg <sup>-1</sup> , intramuscularly |              |                          |              |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
|                         | 0 (control)                                       | 5            | 10                       | 20           |
| Latency to move / s     | 10.4 ± 2.9  | 86.8 ± 19.4* | 40.7 ± 21.3 <sup>a</sup> | 38.8 ± 10.9* |
| Lines crossed           | 6.8 ± 1.4   | 3.8 ± 1.7    | 1.9 ± 1.3*               | 2.1 ± 1.4*   |
| Escape jumps            | 0.5 ± 0.3   | 0.5 ± 0.3    | 0.4 ± 0.3                | 0.5 ± 0.4    |
| Distress calls (scores) | 3.0 ± 0.0   | 2.3 ± 0.4    | 1.8 ± 0.5*               | 1.6 ± 0.4*   |
| Pecking (scores)        | 0.8 ± 0.5   | 0.0 ± 0.0    | 0.0 ± 0.0                | 0.4 ± 0.2    |
| Defecations             | 0.6 ± 0.2   | 0.0 ± 0.0*   | 0.0 ± 0.0*               | 0.5 ± 0.2    |
| Tonic immobility / s    | 19.4 ± 6.8  | 51 ± 14.5*   | 50.6 ± 11.3*             | 78.6 ± 23.2* |

Values are mean ± SE of 8 chicks per group.

\* Significantly different from the respective control value,  $P < 0.05$ .

<sup>a</sup> Significantly different from the 5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> treatment group,  $P < 0.05$ .

Behavioural measures were taken 30 min after the manganese injection.

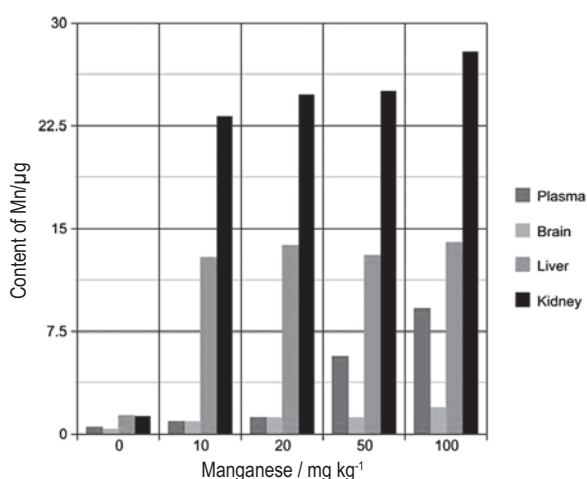
**Table 3** Loss of righting reflex by anaesthetics in chicks treated with manganese (10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, intramuscularly)

| Variables   | Saline-control | Manganese   |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| Xylazine-ketamine                                 |                |             |
| Latency to onset of loss of righting reflex / min | 2.6 ± 0.3      | 1.0 ± 0.2*  |
| Duration of loss of righting reflex / min         | 82.8 ± 9.9     | 87.2 ± 15.0 |
| Thiopental sodium                                 |                |             |
| Latency to onset of loss of righting reflex / min | 4.8 ± 0.5      | 2.3 ± 0.4*  |
| Duration of loss of righting reflex / min         | 56.4 ± 8.7     | 80.8 ± 9.8* |

Values are mean ± SE of 8 chicks per group. Intramuscular xylazine (5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>)-ketamine (20 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) combination or intraperitoneal thiopental sodium (30 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) anaesthetics were injected 15 minutes after the saline or manganese injection.

\* Significantly different from the respective control value,  $P < 0.05$ .





**Figure 1** Plasma and tissue manganese content after a single intramuscular injection with manganese [10, 20, 50 or 100 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>] in chicks. Manganese concentration in the plasma is expressed as μg mL<sup>-1</sup> and mass fractions in the tissues as μg g<sup>-1</sup>. Manganese was determined 30 mins after the injection. Values are mean of 6 chicks per group, except the saline control, n=12. The % of SE of the means ranged from 4.3 to 17.5 in the control group and from 5 % to 49 % in the manganese-treated groups. Manganese concentrations in the treated chicks were significantly different from the respective saline-control (0) values, P < 0.05.

respectively (27) and 450 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and (410 to 475) mg kg<sup>-1</sup> when dosed orally, respectively (27). Expectedly, the oral dosage form of Mn exerts a lesser toxicity than the parenteral ones because of the differences in the absorption rate and distribution between the routes of administration (27-29). However, all discrepancies in the LD<sub>50</sub> values of Mn between rodents and chicks could be attributed to

species variation and their physiological inputs into metal bioavailability (29). The toxic signs in the chicks during the LD<sub>50</sub> experiments were characterized by depressive effects before recumbency. According to the LD<sub>50</sub> values of Mn in chicks, the metal can be categorized as highly toxic when given parenterally (30), although we do not intend to claim direct extrapolation from the avian species to mammals.

The acute single dose administration of Mn at (5 to 20) mg kg<sup>-1</sup> i.m. produced a behavioural pattern in the open-field test characterized by reduced general locomotor activity. The tonic immobility test further suggested the depressant action of Mn in chicks. These effects suggest the depressant action of the metal on the brain (31, 32). Limited information is available on the toxicological profile of Mn in the avian species. However, acute Mn administration at 40 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> s.c. reduced jumping behaviour and increased the duration of tonic immobility in one-month-old chickens (6). Our results are in agreement with the reports describing Mn as a depressant in rodents according to locomotor activity measures (2, 4). It is well-known that drugs that depress brain activities decrease general locomotion of chicks and rodents in the open-field behavioural paradigm, whereas stimulants increase it (31-34). The open-field activity and tonic immobility tests are robust observational behavioural tools that detect initial behavioural anomalies in the test animal (23, 31, 35). During these tests, the experimental animal must cope with a strange environment in a manner that reflects the overall activity status of the brain (31, 35). Furthermore, the changes in the behavioural patterns of Mn-treated chicks from the

**Table 4** Effects of chlorpromazine (5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, intramuscularly) on 3-minute open-field activity and tonic immobility test in chicks treated with manganese (10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, intramuscularly)

| Variable                | Treatment groups |             |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
|                         | Saline (control) | Manganese   | Chlorpromazine          | Manganese + Chlorpromazine |
| Latency to move / s     | 13.3 ± 5.2       | 43.3 ± 5.1* | 10.5 ± 4.4 <sup>a</sup> | No movement                |
| Lines crossed           | 16.6 ± 1.6       | 4.3 ± 1.8*  | 16.3 ± 4.9 <sup>a</sup> | 0.0 ± 0.0 <sup>b*</sup>    |
| Escape jumps            | 3.0 ± 1.4        | 0.13 ± 0.13 | 0.13 ± 0.13             | 0.0 ± 0.0*                 |
| Distress calls (scores) | 3.0 ± 0.0        | 3.0 ± 0.0   | 3.0 ± 0.0               | 1.5 ± 0.4*                 |
| Pecking (scores)        | 0.0 ± 0.0        | 0.0 ± 0.0   | 0.0 ± 0.0               | 0.0 ± 0.0                  |
| Defecations             | 0.8 ± 1.2        | 0.13 ± 0.13 | 0.13 ± 0.13             | 0.0 ± 0.0*                 |
| Tonic immobility / s    | 16.5 ± 4.4       | 41.6 ± 13.2 | 16.6 ± 4.4              | 189 ± 22.5 <sup>ab*</sup>  |

Values are mean ± SE of 8 chicks per group.

\* Significantly different from the respective control value, P < 0.05.

<sup>a</sup> Significantly different from the respective manganese treatment group, P < 0.05.

<sup>b</sup> Significantly different from the respective chlorpromazine group, P < 0.05.

Chlorpromazine was injected 30 min after the manganese injection and the behavioural measures were taken 30 min thereafter.

present study could be regarded as a sort of open-field behavioural sickness (35) which we suggest naming "Mn-sickness behaviour".

Challenging Mn-treated chicks with central nervous system (CNS) active drugs revealed the sensitivity of the birds to general anaesthetics (xylazine-ketamine and thiopental). This was revealed by the decreases in the latencies of the onset of righting reflex loss and the prolongation of the duration of thiopental sleep time. Our findings further support a previous report of Mn enhancing the anaesthetic effect of xylazine-ketamine (increased durations of analgesia and sleep time) in chickens (6). Manganese also enhances ethanol-induced sleep in mice and rats (36). Another pharmacological challenge in the present study was using the tranquilizer chlorpromazine. The unique feature of chlorpromazine as a successful pharmacological challenge might be related to its antidopaminergic action as a phenothiazine tranquilizer (37), which was presumed to modulate the Mn-induced behavioural changes. Indeed, this was the case; chlorpromazine increased the depressant action of Mn in the open-field and increased the duration of the tonic immobility response of Mn in the chicks. Manganese modulates catecholamine levels and turnover in the brain by decreasing dopamine and increasing homovanilic acid levels (11). Dopaminergic activity in the CNS of the chicks has been said to control general locomotor activity (38) as well as modulate vigilance-related behaviours such as pecking and vocalization (39). Pharmacological challenges in the form of depressant or stimulant drugs are used to reveal rather subtle effects of toxic agents affecting the CNS (6, 32, 33).

The neurochemical and neurobehavioural changes induced by Mn might be associated with the accumulation of the metal in different regions of the brain (18, 19, 28). Manganese accumulates in brain regions rich in dopamine (40). In support of this claim, Mn levels increased in the entire brain 1.25 to 4 times following i.m. administration at doses of (10 to 100) mg kg<sup>-1</sup> (Figure 1). It is also speculated that the differential Mn distribution in brain tissues might contribute to different behavioural outcomes (18, 19, 28). Further, the doses of Mn used in the present study were lower than those used in rats [(25, 50 and 100) mg kg<sup>-1</sup> MnCl<sub>2</sub> *i.p.*] which were reported to induce oxidative stress in the CNS (40). We did not attempt to measure Mn accumulation in the different brain regions of the chicks. However, when Mn treatment was sufficiently high (100 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> *i.p.*), it

was reported to accumulate almost equally in various brain regions of rats (40). The high levels of Mn in the plasma, liver and kidney of the chicks are in accordance with the peripheral effects of the metal on other organs and body systems (21, 27). Increased Mn contents in plasma and tissues could be considered biomarkers of high exposure or intake levels (21, 27, 41). The contribution of the peripheral effects of Mn to the behavioural changes in laboratory animals is not yet clear.

In conclusion, the data suggests acute neurotoxicity of Mn chloride in young chicks in the form of a depressant action that could be described by open-field and tonic immobility tests with further support from pharmacological challenges including CNS active drugs.

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**Sažetak**

## UČINCI AKUTNE NEUROTOKSIČNOSTI MANGANA KOD MLADIH PILIĆA

Mangan (Mn) esencijalni je element, a u povišenim razinama neurotoksičan za ljude i glodavce. Ova studija analizira potencijalnu neurotoksičnost mangana u mladih pilića. Akutne (24-satne) LD<sub>50</sub>-vrijednosti mangana nakon intraperitonealnog, intramuskularnog, potkožnog i oralnog davanja MnCl<sub>2</sub> sedmodnevnim pilićima bile su 21,3 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 28,1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 28,1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, odnosno 469,5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> tjelesne mase. Znakovi trovanja manganom postali su vidljivi na pilićima 2 min do 13 min nakon parenteralne te 20 min do 32 min nakon oralne primjene. Znakovi su jasno prikazali depresivnu aktivnost mangana kod pilića. Bihevioralni učinci mangana pri 5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> i 20 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> danog intramuskularno ispitani su na sedmodnevnim do dvanaestodnevnim pilićima trominutnim testom otvorenog polja (*open-field test*) i testom tonične nepomičnosti (*tonic immobility test*). Mangan je smanjio ukupnu lokomotornu aktivnost pilića u areni otvorenog polja, što je bilo vidljivo iz značajnog povećanja sklonosti kretanju od središnjeg kvadrata i smanjenju broja prelazaka linije, frekvencije defekacije i rezultata vokalizacije u usporedbi s kontrolnim vrijednostima. Također je djelovao na produljenje odgovora pilića na test tonične nepomičnosti. Farmakološki pripravci kao što su opći anestetici ksilazin, ketamin i tiopental davani su pilićima nakon mangana te su uzrokovali gubitak posturalnih refleksa unutar kraćeg vremena od kontrolnih vrijednosti. Tiopental je produljio trajanje gubitka posturalnih refleksa u usporedbi s kontrolnom skupinom. Klorpromazin je značajno povećao depresivnu aktivnost mangana u pilića ispitanih testom otvorenoga polja, kao i trajanje odgovora na test tonične nepomičnosti izazvanog manganom. Doze mangana od 10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 20 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 50 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> i 100 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> dane intramuskularno značajno su povećale razine mangana u plazmi, jetrima, bubrezima i cijelome mozgu pilića. Podaci upućuju na akutnu neurotoksičnost manganova klorida kod mladih pilića, očitovanu kao depresivna aktivnost koja se može odrediti testovima otvorenog polja i tonične nepomičnosti uz potporu farmakoloških dodataka.

**KLJUČNE RIJEČI:** *ketamin, klorpromazin, ksilazin, ponašanje u otvorenom polju*

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