

Structural and biological evaluation of a platinum complex as a potential anti-neurodegenerative agent

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ABSTRACT

A novel mononuclear platinum complex with N₂O₂ donor atoms was synthesized from the ligand, [N,N'-bis(3-methoxysalicylidene)-2,2-dimethylpropane-1,3-diamine], H₂L. The complex was characterized by microanalysis (C, H, N), spectroscopic studies and single crystal X-ray crystallography. The TGA study revealed that the complex degraded in two distinct steps. The effect of the platinum complex was examined by exposing the synthesized complex to rat embryonic hippocampal neurons. The results exhibited significant neuritogenesis at low doses, suggesting it to be a potential therapeutic candidate for combating the neurodegenerative diseases.

1. Introduction

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common form of aging-associated neurodegenerative diseases which is characterized by an irreversible and progressive cognitive dysfunction [1]. Unfortunately, there is no proper therapy for this devastating disease [2,3]. Although the exact cause of AD is not completely known, but the significant evidences suggest that the aggregation of the β -amyloid peptide, a group of 36–42 amino acids, is supposed to be the pivotal and causative factor in the occurrence and development of AD [4–6]. Therefore, aggregation of β -amyloid peptide is the main hallmark for the diagnosis as well as the target for the therapy of this fatal disease. For this purpose, several strategies aiming at diagnosing or treating AD through detection and modulation of A β aggregation have been developed, in which the direct interaction with A β species has attracted much more attention due to the high efficacy [4,7]. However, neuritogenesis through pharmacological modulation might have potential therapeutic promise in the repairing of damaged neuronal network in degenerating brain disorder like Alzheimer's disease [8]. Over the years, metal ions dyshomeostasis have played significant role in the age-associated neurodegenerative diseases. The free metal ions can bind with the A β , since the amyloid β -peptide (A β) has metal binding sites with three histidines, and form the metal-peptide complexes to accelerate the peptide aggregation

[6,9,10]. The metal-peptide complexes function as seeding factors in the amyloid plaque formation [11], and thus, initiate in the development of diseases as the aggregated A β is toxic in nature [12].

Over the past few years, tremendous research efforts were made to design the metal complexes capable of modulating or detecting the A β aggregation, necessary for the diagnosis and therapeutics of AD [13–15]. Therefore, A β -targeted metal complexes would provide useful strategies for combating AD. The recent investigations by Barnham et al. has shown that the platinum complexes have strong property to weaken the neurotoxicity by inhibiting the aggregation of A β [16–18]. Keeping in mind the work of Barnham and his co-workers, we are describing a novel platinum complex derived from ligand, H₂L, and exploring its role in the treatment of neurodegenerative disease. The structure of the complex is characterized by single crystal X-ray crystallography, various spectroscopic studies and TGA.

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials and methods

K₂PtCl₄, 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-diaminopropane, o-vanillin, dimethyl sulfoxide and other reagents were purchased from Sigma. The ligand, H₂L, and PtCl₂(DMSO)₂ were prepared as reported in literature

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[19,20]. The complex was investigated by carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen analyses, FT-IR and NMR spectroscopic studies using Elementar Varrio EL analyzer, Perkin Elmer 621 spectrophotometer and JEOL spectrometer at 400 MHz in d_6 -DMSO, respectively. The TGA was reported in nitrogen at heating rate 20 °C/minute using Mettler Toldo Switzerland, TGA1/DSC instrument. The Mass spectrometry of the platinum complex was performed with the aid of Micromass Quattro Premier tandem mass spectrometer.

2.2. Synthesis of platinum complex

An alcoholic solution of ligand, H2L (100 mg, 0.27 mmol) was mixed with $[PtCl_2(DMSO)_2]$ in 1:1 equimolar ratio, and magnetically stirred for 10 h at room temperature, leading to the formation of an orange coloured solution with slight turbidity. The coloured crystals were obtained within a week at room temperature after removing the turbidity.

Yield: 65%; Colour: orange; Analytical calculation for $C_{21}H_{24}N_2O_4Pt$: (Calculated): C, 44.76; H, 4.29; N, 4.97; (Found): C, 44.71; H, 4.25; N, 4.95; 1H NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ (ppm) 8.49 (s, 2H), 6.37–7.22 (6H, m); IR (cm^{-1}): 1610 (s)

2.3. Crystal structure measurement

The crystallographic data were collected using Rigaku Synergy Dualflex automatic diffractometer equipped with Pilatus 300 K detector, and monochromated MoK_{α} ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$) radiation at room temperature. The structure was solved using the SHELXS [21], SHELXL [22] and SHELXTL [23] programs. The refinement details, selected bond length and angles are provided in Tables 1–3, respectively. The atomic scattering factors were taken from the literature [24]. [For detailed crystal measurement, please see Supplementary information].

2.4. Cell culture and drug treatment

All the experiments were accomplished using the protocols approved by the Dongguk University Animal Care and Use Committee (approval certificate number IACUC-2015-002). Embryonic day 19 (E19) pups brain from Sprague–Dawley rat strain were used to prepare primary hippocampal neurons. Briefly, fetal hippocampi obtained from the isoflurane anesthetized pregnant rat were dissociated and neuronal cultures were prepared as defined earlier [25]. Cells were grown in serum-free neurobasal medium supplemented with B-27 at 37 °C in a humidified 5% CO_2 incubator. Platinum complex or vehicle [DMSO,

Table 2

Selected structural data of Pt compound [\AA , °].

Pt1–N2	1.979(4)
Pt1–N1	2.005(4)
Pt1–O1	2.016(4)
Pt1–O2	2.021(3)
C7–N1	1.292(6)
N1–C8	1.489(6)
C10–N2	1.486(6)
N2–C11	1.292(6)
N2–Pt1–N1	94.67(17)
N2–Pt1–O1	172.50(15)
N1–Pt1–O1	92.79(15)
N2–Pt1–O2	92.26(15)
N1–Pt1–O2	172.77(14)
O1–Pt1–O2	80.31(14)

Table 3

Hydrogen bonds geometry of Pt compound [\AA , °].

D–H...A	d(D–H)	d(H...A)	d(D...A)	< (DHA)
O5–H5O...O2	0.84	2.56	3.350(5)	156.5
O5–H5P...O3	0.90	1.90	2.772(6)	164.0
O5–H5O...O4	0.84	2.06	2.720(6)	135.7
C5–H5...O5 ⁱ	0.93	2.52	3.431(7)	166.2
C8–H8B...O4 ⁱⁱ	0.97	2.54	3.498(6)	169.3
C10–H10A...O1 ⁱⁱ	0.97	2.65	3.330(7)	127.5
C21–H21C...O2 ⁱⁱⁱ	0.96	2.57	3.429(7)	148.5

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: (i) $x - 1/2$, $-y + 1/2$, $+z - 1/2$; (ii) $-x + 1$, $-y + 1$, $-z + 1$; (iii) $-x + 3/2$, $y + 1/2$, $-z + 3/2$.

final concentration < 1.0% (v/v)] were added to the growth media before cell plating. Unless otherwise specified, all cell culture reagents were purchased from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA).

2.5. Immunofluorescence microscopy

Neuronal cells were fixed sequentially with 4% paraformaldehyde in phosphate-buffered saline at room temperature for 10 min followed by methanol at -20°C for 20 min [26]. Cells were treated with neuron specific mouse monoclonal microtubule-associated protein 2 antibody (MAP2; 1:500). Specific binding of primary antibody was visualized by Alexa fluor 488-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG secondary antibody [1:1000, Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR]. Stained cells were visualized under Leica DM IRE2 microscope. Images were captured with high-resolution CCD camera (CoolSNAPTM; Photometrics Inc., Tucson, AZ) and Leica FW4000 program and further processed using Adobe Photoshop 7.0. A minimum of 30 cells were examined for morphometric analysis as described previously [25]. Image J software (version 1.45) plug-in with simple neurite tracer (National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD) was used for this analysis.

2.6. Statistical analysis

Three independent experiments were conducted and outcomes are provided as the means \pm SEM. For statistical analyses, we used ANOVA in SPSS version 17.0 (SPSS Inc.). P values < 0.05 were supposed to be statistically significant.

3. Results and discussion

The molecular structure of platinum complex is given in Fig. 1, which consists of complex molecules derived from the doubly deprotonated N,N' -2,2'-dimethylpropylenebis (3-methoxysalicylideneiminato) ligand chelating with the Pt^{2+} cation and the water molecule located outside the coordination sphere. The complex molecule

Table 1

Crystal and structure refinement data of Pt compound.

Empirical formula	$C_{21}H_{26}N_2O_5Pt$
Formula weight	581.53
Crystal system, space group	monoclinic, $P2_1/n$ (No.14)
Unit cell dimensions [\AA , °]	$a = 13.7159(2)$ $b = 10.3204(2)$ $c = 14.9899(3)$ $\beta = 104.595(2)$
Volume [\AA^3]	2053.40(7)
Z, Calculated density [Mg/m^3]	4, 1.881
$F(000)$	1136
Crystal size [mm]	0.127, 0.114, 0.099
θ range for data collection [°]	3.433 to 32.272
Index ranges	$-20 \leq h \leq 19$, $-13 \leq k \leq 13$, $-20 \leq l \leq 22$
Reflections collected/unique	42254/6404 [$R_{int} = 0.0828$]
Completeness [%]	99.8 (to $\theta = 25^\circ$)
Data/restraints/parameters	6404/0/266
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.033
Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	$R1 = 0.0436$, $wR2 = 0.1086$
R indices (all data)	$R1 = 0.0571$, $wR2 = 0.1186$
Largest diff. peak and hole [$e\text{-\AA}^{-3}$]	3.727 and -4.438

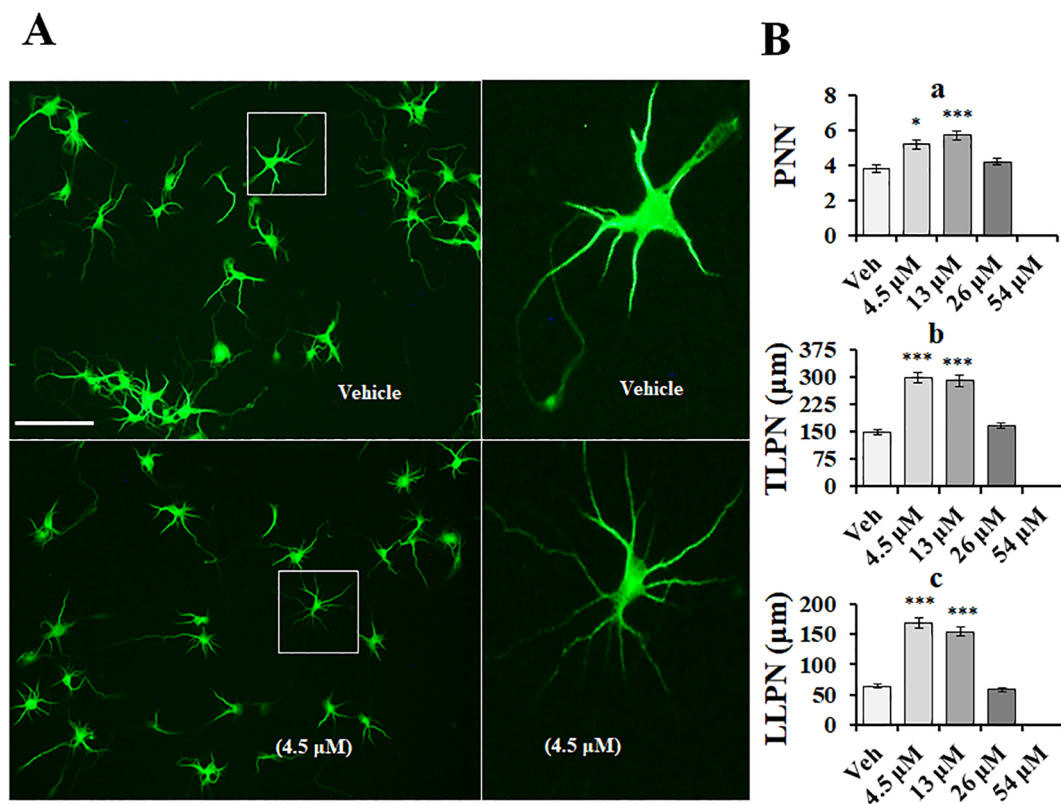


Fig. 2. Evaluation of the neuritogenic activities of the platinum complex. The complex was added to hippocampal cultures at different concentrations for 3 days. Result represents representative fluorescence photomicrograph after treatment of different compound with their highest neuritogenic activity (Fig. 2A). The statistical analysis differential neuritogenic activity of different compound at various concentrations were conducted to determine the effects primary hippocampal neurons on the basis of various morphometric characters that is (Fig. 2B-a) the primary neurites number (PNN, neurites originated directly from soma), (Fig. 2B-b) total length of primary neurites (TLPN; sum of the length of primary neurites) and (Fig-2B-c) the longest length of primary neurites (LLPN). Scale bar 40 μm. Bars represent means \pm SEM (n = 30 individual neurons). Statistically significant vs. vehicle: * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, and *** p < 0.001 (ANOVA).

4. Conclusion

We have successfully synthesized a novel platinum complex possessing N_2O_2 donor atoms and its usage as a potential anti-neurodegenerative agent.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

The whole crystallographic data has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre under No. CCDC 1866259. Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ica.2019.03.027>.

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