

Intracellular Ca²⁺ monitoring

Cerebrocortical neuron cultures were used for [Ca²⁺]_i measurements at day 12 *in vitro* (DIV12) as previously described (Cao et al., 2010). Briefly, the growth medium was removed and replaced with dye loading medium (100 µl per well) containing 4 µM fluo-3 AM and 0.04% Pluronic acid in Locke's buffer (8.6 mM HEPES, 5.6 mM KCl, 154 mM NaCl, 5.6 mM glucose, 1.0 mM MgCl₂, 2.3 mM CaCl₂, 0.0001 mM glycine, pH 7.4). After 1 hour incubation in dye loading medium, the neurons were washed four times in fresh Locke's buffer (180 µl per well) using an automated microplate washer (Bio-Tek Instruments Inc, VT, USA) and transferred to a FLIPR II (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, USA). Cells were excited at 488 nm and Ca²⁺-bound fluo-3 emission was recorded at 515-575 nm at 1.2 second intervals for calcium influx and 0.5 second intervals for calcium oscillations. For calcium influx, baseline fluorescence was recorded for 1 minute, 20 µl of 10X concentrations of compounds were added to wells at a rate of 20 µl/s, the fluorescence was monitored for an additional 5 minutes. For calcium oscillations, baseline fluorescence was recorded for 2 minutes, 20 µl of 10X concentrations of compounds were added to wells at a rate of 20 µl/s, the fluorescence was monitored for an additional 2 minutes.

Data analysis

Graphpad Prism 7 software (San Diego, CA) was used to analyze time and concentration response relationships. Calcium oscillation data is a plot of the raw Fluo3 fluorescence reads over time. With calcium influx, Fluo3 fluorescence was expressed as ($F_{max} - F_0$), where F_{max} is the maximum and F_0 is the baseline line fluorescence measured in each well.

REFERENCES

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Cao Z, George J, Gerwick WH, Baden DG, Rainier JD, Murray TF. Influence of lipid-soluble gating modifier toxins on sodium influx in neocortical neurons. *J Pharmacol Exp Ther.* 2008. Aug;326(2):604-13.