

# Protective Role of Endogenous Ovarian Hormones Against Learning and Memory Impairments and Brain Tissues Oxidative Damage Induced by Lipopolysaccharide

Masoume Pourganji<sup>1</sup>; Mahmoud Hosseini<sup>1,\*</sup>; Mohammad Soukhtanloo<sup>2</sup>; Hoda Zabihi<sup>3</sup>; Mosa Al-reza Hadjzadeh<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Neurocognitive Research Center, School of Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, IR Iran

<sup>2</sup>Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, IR Iran

<sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Kharazmi University of Tehran, Tehran, IR Iran

<sup>4</sup>Neurogenic Inflammation Research Center, School of Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, IR Iran

\*Corresponding Author: Mahmoud Hosseini, Neurocognitive Research Center, School of Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, IR Iran. Tel: +98-05118828565, Fax: +98-05118828564, E-mail: hosseinim@mums.ac.ir

Received: July 31, 2013; Revised: December 5, 2013; Accepted: December 16, 2013

**Background:** The contribution of neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's disease (AD) has been widely reported. The effects of female gonadal hormones in both neuroinflammation and brain cognitive functions have also been well considered.

**Objectives:** In the present study, the possible protective role for endogenous ovarian hormones against learning and memory impairment as well as brain tissues oxidative damage induced by lipopolysaccharide (LPS) was investigated in rats.

**Materials and Methods:** The rats were divided into four groups: Sham-LPS, Ovariectomized (OVX)-LPS, Sham, and OVX. The animals of sham group were in proestrous phase in which the serum concentration of estradiol is high. The Sham-LPS and OVX-LPS groups were treated with LPS (250 µg/kg) before acquisition. The animals were examined using passive avoidance (PA) test. The brains were then removed and malondialdehyde (MDA) and total thiol groups concentrations were measured.

**Results:** The time latency to enter the dark compartment by OVX-LPS group was shorter than that of OVX at both first and 24th hours after the shock ( $P < 0.05$  -  $P < 0.001$ ). In Sham-LPS and OVX-LPS groups, total thiol concentration in hippocampal and cortical tissues were significantly lower while MDA concentrations were higher than that of Sham and OVX groups ( $P < 0.05$  -  $P < 0.001$ ). The hippocampal MDA concentration in OVX-LPS group was higher than Sham-LPS group ( $P < 0.01$ ).

**Conclusions:** Brain tissue oxidative damage contributed in deleterious effects of LPS on learning and memory. Some protective effects for the endogenous ovarian hormones against damaging effects of LPS on learning and memory function, as well as brain tissues oxidative damage could be postulated; however, it needs more investigation.

**Keywords:** Learning; Memory; Ovariectomy; Lipopolysaccharide; Oxidative Stress

## 1. Background

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a common type of dementia and about 13 million people suffer from it worldwide. This degenerative disorder is accompanied by a progressive impairment in memory, cognition, and emotional processes and finally, it leads to social or occupational disability (1, 2). Preservation of cognitive functions and individual capability, slowing the progression of the symptoms, and improving the quality of life are the main treatment strategies in AD (3). In addition to the well accepted role of estrogen in female reproductive system, some studies have indicated their effects in the central nervous system (CNS) in regions that are crucial for learning and memory performances (4, 5). The presence of intracellular and membrane receptors of estrogen in several different areas of the brain including hippocampus, provides

another evidence for this idea (5). It is documented that estrogen improves prefrontal cognitive functions such as working memory and attention (6). In addition, the improving role of estrogen in long term potentiation (LTP) in the hippocampus has been well documented (7). It is of interest that studies on proestrus phase in rats, when the peak level of serum estrogen happens, showed LTP and spine density enhancement in hippocampus (7, 8). Many reports have indicated that estrogen affects the spine density in the hippocampus by N-methyl-D-aspartic acid (NMDA) neurotransmission and increasing the NMDA receptor binding (9, 10).

Inflammation is a response of body to the injury. The essential role of immune system in the regulation of tissue homeostasis and the response to infection and

### Implication for health policy makers/practice/research/medical education:

The role of ovarian hormones and neuroinflammation in Alzheimer is the implication of this study.

Copyright © 2014, Iranian Red Crescent Medical Journal; Published by Kowsar Corp. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

injury is explained via microglia that regulates the innate immune system in the CNS (11, 12). They are also the main source of cellular mediators of neuroinflammatory processes (11, 13). They persistently produce agents that affect surrounding astrocytes, neurons, and other cellular components of inflammation such as chemokines and cytokines (13). Significant evidence achieved over the past decade has supported the findings that suggest a clear link between neuroinflammation and AD pathology (13, 14). It is suggested that activation of microglia is followed by an increased in expression of some proinflammatory cytokines such as interleukin- $\beta$  (IL- $\beta$ ), interleukin-6 (IL-6), and tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF $\alpha$ ) in cell surface (15, 16). It was also shown that certain drugs with anti-inflammatory properties can improve memory performance (17, 18). Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) is one of the main parts of the outer membrane of gram-negative bacteria (19). It is suggested that neutrophils and macrophages respond to LPS and release IL- $\beta$  and TNF- $\alpha$  (19). Activation of these cells by LPS has been linked to the pathogenesis of neuronal death, neurogenesis failure, and hippocampus-dependent memory and synaptic plasticity impairments; however, the mechanisms for these effects are not well understood (20). The brain tissues oxidative damage has been considered as an important contributor in memory impairment by LPS (21). It has been illustrated that estrogen has powerful anti-inflammatory effects. A high level of circulating estrogens has been shown to improve inflammatory-related diseases (22). In addition, it has been reported that estrogen can reduce production of some pro-inflammatory cytokines via activation of its receptors such as receptor  $\alpha$  (23). Furthermore, antioxidant properties of estrogens have been well-documented using in vitro and in vivo models (24-27). The protective effects of estrogen against free radical generators and excitotoxicity have also been reported. The beneficial effects of estrogen on learning and memory have been frequently attributed to its protective properties against oxidative damage (27).

## 2. Objectives

Regarding the effects of ovarian hormones on learning and memory in one hand and on neuroinflammation, oxidative stress on the other hand and with consideration of the effects of LPS on learning and memory, the possible protective role for endogenous ovarian hormones against learning and memory impairment as well as brain tissues oxidative damage induced by LPS was investigated in rats.

## 3. Materials and Methods

### 3.1. Animals and Drugs

Sixty female Wistar rats with 12 weeks of age ( $240 \pm 10$  g) were selected. The animals were housed in four to five per standard cages, at room temperature ( $22 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) on

a 12 h light/dark cycle. Food and water were available ad libitum properly. Animal handling and all related procedures were approved by the Mashhad Medical University Committee on Animal Research. The animals were divided into four groups: Sham (n = 20), Ovariectomized (OVX) (n = 10), Sham-lipopolysaccharide (Sham-LPS; n = 20), and ovariectomized-lipopolysaccharide (OVX-LPS; n = 10). In Sham and Sham-LPS groups, nine to ten animals in proestrous phase were selected and used for the behavioral studies. The animals in the Sham-LPS and OVX-LPS groups were treated by single injections of LPS (250  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ; Ip) (21) 30 minutes before training in passive avoidance (PA) test. The animals of Sham and OVX groups received 1 mL/kg of saline instead of LPS. Ketamin was purchased from Alfasan Company (The Netherlands). LPS was purchased from sigma. (Sigma Chemical Co). Other chemicals, which were used to measure malondialdehyde (MDA) and total thiol concentrations, were purchased from Merck Company.

### 3.2. Surgery

Before surgery, the rats were permitted 15 days for acclimatization to the animal house. The animals were ovariectomized under ketamine anesthesia. Abdominal incision was made through the skin of the flank of the rats and ovaries and ovarian fats were removed. The same procedure was performed on the sham rats except the wound was closed without removing the ovaries (28).

### 3.3. Vaginal Cytology

Vaginal cytology investigation was performed in sham and sham-LPS groups to select the animals with proestrous stage for behavioral studies. The estrous cycle of the female rats is lasting four to five days and includes four phases, namely, proestrous, estrous, metaestrous, and diestrous phases. Proestrous phase is defined as the time when estrogen levels are very high and is characterized by the presence of primarily epithelial cells with large nuclei. In estrous phase, the typical cell pattern is the presence of primarily cornified epithelial cells. Metaestrous phase comprises cornified cells, primarily cornified cells, and sometime a few epithelial cells. Diestrous phase typical cell pattern consists of mainly leukocytes with a few number of nucleated epithelial and cornified cells in smears. To ensure that the female rats were cycling, vaginal cytology investigation was started one week before each experiment and was continued every day. The rats were held by a hand and lavaged with approximately 1 mL of saline. Slides were read using light microscopy and estrous categories were classified based on cytological characteristics (29).

Passive avoidance test. Passive avoidance apparatus included light and dark compartments separated by a small removable door. The animals were familiarized with the apparatus for 5 min during two consecutive days. On a training trial, the rats were placed in light compartment facing away from the door that was located between the

two compartments and the latencies to enter the dark compartment were recorded. When the rats were entered completely into the dark compartment, an electric shock (1 mA with the duration of 2 s) was delivered to the floor of the compartment. The animals were then transferred to their cages. At one and 24 hours later, the rats were located in the light room and the latencies to enter the dark room as well as the times spent by the animals in dark and light compartments were recorded and defined as retention trial (30).

### 3.4. Biochemical Assessment

Finally, the rats were sacrificed and the cortical and hippocampal tissues were separated, weighed, and submitted to determine of total thiol (SH) groups and MDA concentrations. DTNB (2, 2'-dinitro-5, 5'-dithiodibenzoic acid) reagent, which reacts with the SH group, was used to determine the total thiol groups. The produced yellow complex has a peak absorbance at 412 nm (31). In brief, 50  $\mu$ L of tissue homogenates was added to 1 ml Tris-EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid) buffer (pH = 8.6) and the absorbance was read at 412 nm against Tris-EDTA buffer alone (A1). Then, 20  $\mu$ L of 10 mM solution of DTNB was mixed with the solution and it was stored in room temperature for 15 minutes and the absorbance was read again (A2). The absorbance of DTNB reagent was also read as blank (B). Total thiol concentration (mM) was calculated as follows (Equation 1) (32):

Equation 1.

$$\text{Total thiol concentration (mM)} = (A2 - A1 - B) \times 1.07 / 0.05 \times 13.6$$

MDA levels are as an index of lipid peroxidation. MDA reacts with thiobarbituric acid (TBA) as a TBA reactive substance (TBARS) and produces a red complex. Briefly, 1 mL of brain homogenates was added to 2 mL of a complex solution containing TBA/trichloroacetic acid (TCA)/hydrochloric acid (HCL) and it was then boiled in a water bath for 40 minutes. After reaching to the room temperature, the solution was centrifuged at 1000 g for 10 minutes. The absorbance was read at 535 nm (33, 34). The MDA concentration was calculated as follows (Equation 2).

Equation 2.

$$C (M) = \text{Absorbance} / (1.56 \times 10^5)$$

### 3.5. Statistical Analysis

All data were expressed as means  $\pm$  SEM. The data were evaluated by one-way ANOVA and post hoc test. Differences were considered statistically significant when  $P < 0.05$ .

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Behavioral Results

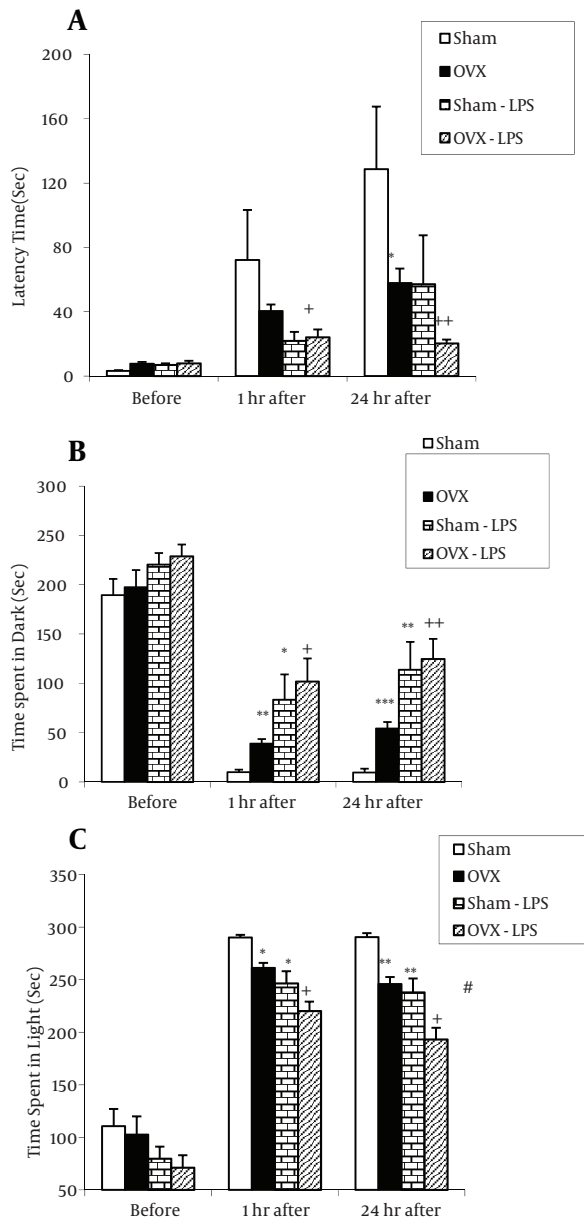
As shown in Figure 1 A, there was no significant difference between groups in time latency to enter the dark

compartment before receiving shock. In OVX group, the time latency to enter the dark compartment at the first hour after receiving shock was not significant and at 24th hours after receiving shock was significantly lower than in Sham group (Figure 1 A,  $P < 0.05$ ). The time latency to enter the dark compartment by the animals of OVX-LPS group was lower than that by OVX group at both the first and the 24th hours after receiving shock ( $P < 0.05$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ); however, there was no significant difference between Sham-LPS and Sham group. In addition, there was no significant difference between Sham-LPS and OVX-LPS group when the time latency was compared at the first and the 24th hours after receiving shock (Figure 1 A). When the total time spent in dark compartment were compared between four groups, there was no significant difference amongst them before receiving shock (Figure 1 B). The total time spent in dark compartment by the animals of OVX group was significantly longer than sham group at the first and the 24th hours after receiving shock ( $P < 0.01$  and  $P < 0.001$ ) (Figure 1 B). The animals of Sham-LPS group spent longer times in dark compartment in comparison with Sham group at the first and the 24th hours after receiving shock ( $P < 0.05$  and  $P < 0.01$ ) (Figure 1 B). The time spent by the animals of OVX-LPS group was significantly longer than that of OVX group at both the first and the 24th hours after receiving shock ( $P < 0.05$  and  $P < 0.01$  respectively) (Figure 1 B). Moreover, there was no significant difference between Sham-LPS and OVX-LPS group when the total time spent in dark compartment was compared at the first and the 24th hours after receiving shock (Figure 1 B). The Figure 1 C shows that there was no significant difference in the total time spent in light compartment before receiving shock. The total time spent in light compartment by the animals of OVX group was shorter than sham ones at both the first and the 24th hours after shock ( $P < 0.05$  and  $P < 0.01$ ) (Figure 1 C). The total time spent in light compartment in both sham and OVX rats treated by LPS was lower than none treated ones ( $P < 0.05$  to  $P < 0.01$ ) (Figure 1 C). The total time spent in light compartment in OVX-LPS group was lower than Sham-LPS group at the 24th hour after receiving shock ( $P < 0.05$ ) (Figure 1 C).

### 4.2. Biochemical Results

The total thiol concentration in cortical tissues of ovariectomized rats was significantly lower than sham animals ( $P < 0.001$ ). In Sham-LPS group, the total thiol concentration was significantly lower than Sham group ( $P < 0.01$ ). There was no significant difference between OVX-LPS and OVX groups in thiol concentration. Moreover, here was no significant difference between OVX-LPS and Sham-LPS groups (Figure 2 A). MDA concentration in cortical tissues of ovariectomized animals was higher than sham operated ones ( $P < 0.01$ ). Injection of the sham-operated animals by LPS increased the MDA concentration in cortical tissues in contrast to sham group ( $P < 0.00$ )

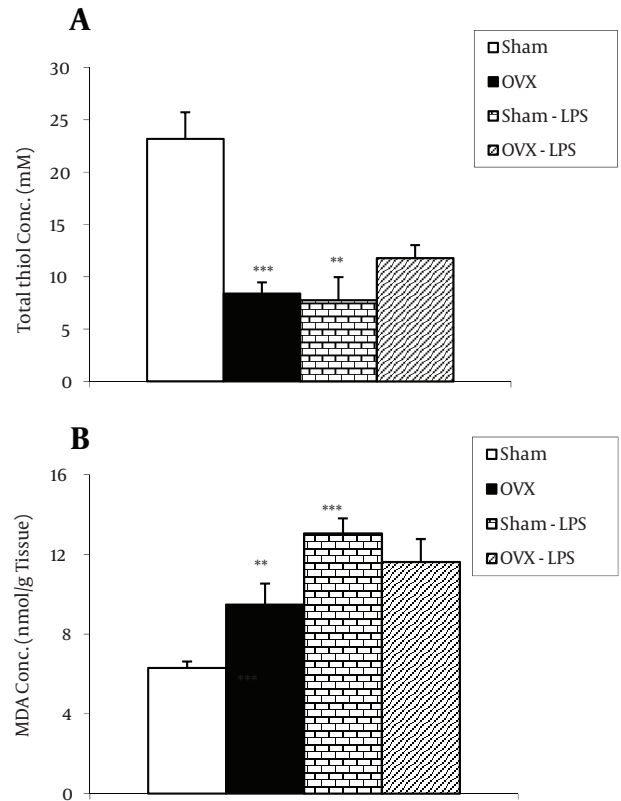
**Figure 1.** Comparison of Time Latency for Entering the Dark Compartment



A. the total time spent in the dark compartment; B. the total time spent in the light compartment; C. at the first and the 24th hours after receiving shock in the experimental groups. Data are presented as Mean  $\pm$  SEM (n = 9-10 in each group). The animals of Sham-LPS and OVX-LPS groups were treated by 250  $\mu$ g/kg LPS before the training phase in passive avoidance test. The Sham and OVX groups were injected by saline instead of LPS. \* P < 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\* P < 0.001 compared to Sham group, + P < 0.05, ++ P < 0.01 compared to the OVX group, # P < 0.05 compared to Sham-LPS group.

(Figure 2 B); however, there was no significant difference between OVX-LPS and OVX groups. There was also no significant difference between OVX-LPS and Sham-LPS groups (Figure 2 B). As Figure 3 A shows, the total thiol concentration in hippocampal tissues of ovariectomized

**Figure 2.** The Total Thiol Concentrations

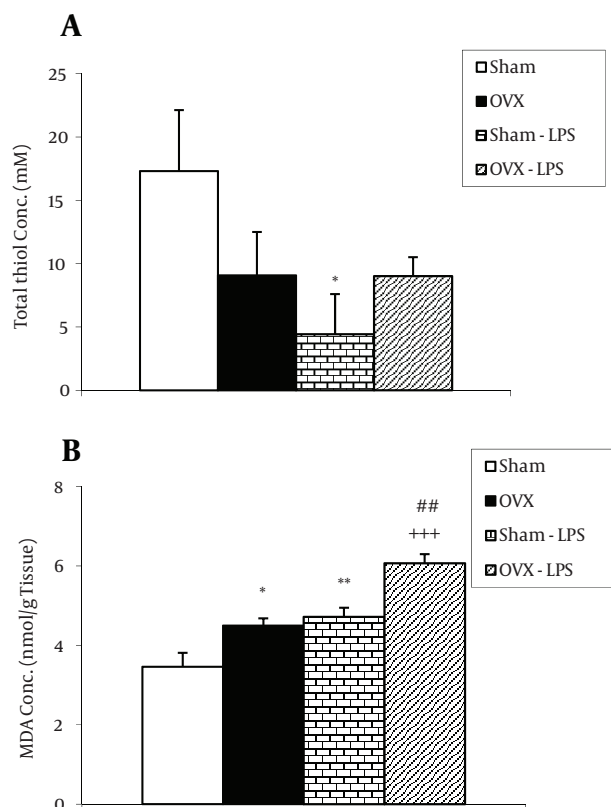


A. MDA concentrations; B. in cortical tissues of four groups. Data are shown as Mean  $\pm$  SEM of 9-10 animals per group. \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\* P < 0.001 compared to Sham group.

rats was lower than that sham animals; however, it was not statistically significant. Treatment of the sham-operated rats by LPS significantly attenuated the total thiol concentration (P < 0.05); however, it was not effective in ovariectomized rats. In addition, there was no significant difference between OVX-LPS and Sham-LPS groups. The results showed that hippocampal MDA concentration in OVX group was significantly higher than that Sham group (P < 0.05) (Figure 3 B). MDA concentration in hippocampal tissues of both Sham-LPS and OVX-LPS groups was significantly higher than Sham and OVX groups (P < 0.01 and P < 0.001, respectively) (Figure 3 B). The hippocampal MDA concentration in OVX-LPS group was higher than Sham-LPS group (P < 0.01) (Figure 3 B).

### 5. Discussion

The results of the present study showed that deprivation of ovarian hormones impaired learning and memory in rats. The results of passive avoidance test indicated that the time latency to enter the dark compartment by ovariectomized rats was shorter than sham operated rats. The total time spent in dark compartment by the animals of OVX group was also longer than by Sham group while the

**Figure 3.** The Total Thiol Concentrations

A. The MDA concentrations; B. in hippocampal tissues of four groups. Data are shown as Mean  $\pm$  SEM of 9-10 animals per group. \*  $P < 0.05$ , \*\*  $P < 0.01$  compared to Sham group, +++  $P < 0.001$  compared with the OVX group, ##  $P < 0.01$  compared to Sham-LPS group.

animals of OVX rats spent shorter time in light compartment in comparison to the sham-operated ones. The results of the present study confirmed the results of animals and human studies that reported learning and memory impairment by ovariectomy (28, 35-41). Co-localization of estrogen receptors as well as NMDA receptors in the hippocampus and neocortex might be another explanation for the role of estrogen in learning and memory (5, 42). Additionally, the interaction of estrogen with other neurotransmitters such as cholinergic and glutamate system has been considered. Another possible mechanism by which the ovariectomy influences learning and memory might be the decreases in NMDA receptor binding and/or calcium signaling pathways in hippocampal CA1 dendrites (43). In contrast to our results, no effect of estrogen status on learning and memory or even negative effects were reported (44, 45). In addition to multiple pathways (46), estrogen seems to exert its memory-related effect via antioxidant properties which might also have a role in its neuroprotective effects (47-49). Removal or blocking of the phenolic hydroxyl group on the A-ring of the steroid eliminates the antioxidant as well the neuropro-

TECTIVE properties; therefore, the antioxidative effects of estradiol might be in part due to the phenolic hydroxyl group (50-54). The results of the present experiment demonstrated that after ovariectomy, thiol contents in cortical and hippocampal tissues were decreased and MDA concentration increased. Ovariectomy model has been widely used as an animal model to mimic postmenopausal pathophysiological changes in learning and memory (55, 56). Therefore, it is suggested that learning and memory impairments that were seen in ovariectomized rats might be in part due to the oxidative damage to the brain tissues. The cognitive impairments due to human menopausal conditions might be related to the oxidative damage to the brain. The results of previous studies have also confirmed that ovariectomy of animals or postmenopausal conditions in women increased lipid peroxidation in brain, erythrocytes, and plasma (57, 58).

The impressive effects of neuroinflammation on neurodegenerative disorders such as AD have been well documented (14, 59, 60). Neuroinflammation induced by LPS has been shown to cause neuronal death, neurogenesis failure, and hippocampus-dependent memory and synaptic plasticity impairments (19, 20, 61, 62). The results of the present study showed that both ovariectomized and sham-operated rats injected by LPS had memory impairments in passive avoidance test. The results of present study confirmed LPS-induced learning and memory impairments which had been repeatedly reported (63-65). The results also confirmed the role of neuroinflammation in neurodegenerative disorders such as AD (14, 59, 60). Many different cell types such as neutrophils and macrophages are activated in neuroinflammation conditions induced by LPS that leads to release of the inflammatory mediators including IL- $\beta$  and TNF- $\alpha$  (61, 66). The brain tissues oxidative damage has been considered as an important contributor in memory impairment by LPS (21, 67). The results of present study confirmed this hypothesis; total thiol concentrations decreased and MDA concentrations increased in brain tissues of both sham and ovariectomized rats treated by LPS. As it was discussed previously, endogenous estradiol has considerable improving effects on learning, memory, and cognition. On the other hand, its anti-oxidant effects has been well documented. Regarding these facts, we hypothesized that ovarian hormones might have a protective role against impairments of learning and memory, as well as brain tissues oxidative damage induced by LPS. In the present study, LPS impaired learning and memory in both presence and absence of the ovarian hormones. The results of passive avoidance test showed that the animals OVX-LPS group spent a shorter times in light compartment after receiving shock in comparison to Sham-LPS group; however, there were no significant differences between these two groups when latency time and total time spent in dark compartment were compared. The sham-operated rats with proestrous phase were examined.

It has been well documented that the plasma estradiol is in the highest level in comparison to the other phases such (8, 29). Therefore, it might be postulated that this high physiologic level of estradiol might be protective against learning and memory impairments induced by LPS; however, it needs to be more investigated. It has been previously reported that estradiol has a protective role in oxidative damage (68). Tang et al. found that oxidative damage significantly increased in rats eight weeks after ovariectomy (69). It is illustrated that the cytoprotection of estradiol is mediated through the reduction of reactive oxygen species production and induction of cellular antioxidant genes (70). In the present study, treatment by LPS increased the brain tissues MDA and decreased thiol concentrations in both the absence and presence of ovarian hormones. Regarding the higher level of MDA concentrations in brain tissues of OVX-LPS group in comparison to Sham-LPS, it seems that high level of estradiol has a protective role against brain tissues oxidative damage induced by LPS; however, it needs to be more investigated. Finally, it is concluded that brain tissue oxidative damage has a role in deleterious effects of LPS on learning and memory. Some protective effects for the endogenous ovarian hormones against damaging effects of LPS on learning, memory, and brain tissues oxidative damage could be postulated however, it needs to be more investigated.

## Acknowledgements

The results described in this paper were from a M.Sc. degree thesis. The authors expressed their thanks to the Vice Chancellor of Research Affairs of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences for financial assistance.

## Authors' Contribution

Masoume Pourganji: performing the experiments; Mahmoud Hosseini: supervision of performing the experiments, writing the manuscript, and statistical analysis; Mohammad Soukhtanloo: performing the biochemical measurements; Hoda Zabihi: helping to perform the behavioral experiments; Mosa Al-Reza Hadjzadeh: adviser for performing vaginal cytology.

## Financial Disclosure

There was no financial disclosure.

## Funding/Support

There was no funding or supports.

## References

- Mangialasche F, Kivipelto M, Solomon A, Fratiglioni L. Dementia prevention: current epidemiological evidence and future perspective. *Alzheimers Res Ther.* 2012;**4**(1):6.
- Bedell HE. Directionalization of visual targets during involuntary eye movement. *Optom Vis Sci.* 1990;**67**(8):583-9.
- Geldmacher DS. Treatment guidelines for Alzheimer's disease: redefining perceptions in primary care. *Prim Care Companion J Clin Psychiatry.* 2007;**9**(2):113-21.
- Cornil CA, Ball GF, Balthazart J. Functional significance of the rapid regulation of brain estrogen action: where do the estrogens come from? *Brain Res.* 2006;**1126**(1):2-6.
- Mehra RD, Sharma K, Nyakas C, Vij U. Estrogen receptor alpha and beta immunoreactive neurons in normal adult and aged female rat hippocampus: a qualitative and quantitative study. *Brain Res.* 2005;**1056**(1):22-35.
- Joffe H, Hall JE, Gruber S, Sarmiento IA, Cohen LS, Yurgelun-Todd D, et al. Estrogen therapy selectively enhances prefrontal cognitive processes: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study with functional magnetic resonance imaging in perimenopausal and recently postmenopausal women. *Menopause.* 2006;**13**(3):411-22.
- Good M, Day M, Muir JL. Cyclical changes in endogenous levels of estrogen modulate the induction of LTD and LTP in the hippocampal CA1 region. *Eur J Neurosci.* 1999;**11**(12):4476-80.
- Warren SG, Humphreys AG, Juraska JM, Greenough WT. LTP varies across the estrous cycle: enhanced synaptic plasticity in proestrus rats. *Brain Res.* 1995;**703**(1-2):26-30.
- Woolley CS, Weiland NG, McEwen BS, Schwartzkroin PA. Estradiol increases the sensitivity of hippocampal CA1 pyramidal cells to NMDA receptor-mediated synaptic input: correlation with dendritic spine density. *J Neurosci.* 1997;**17**(5):1848-59.
- Romeo RD, McCarthy JB, Wang A, Milner TA, McEwen BS. Sex differences in hippocampal estradiol-induced N-methyl-D-aspartic acid binding and ultrastructural localization of estrogen receptor-alpha. *Neuroendocrinology.* 2005;**81**(6):391-9.
- Weitz TM, Town T. Microglia in Alzheimer's Disease: It's All About Context. *Int J Alzheimers Dis.* 2012;**2012**:314185.
- Akiyama H, Arai T, Kondo H, Tanno E, Haga C, Ikeda K. Cell mediators of inflammation in the Alzheimer disease brain. *Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord.* 2000;**14 Suppl 1**:S47-53.
- Schlachetzki JC, Hull M. Microglial activation in Alzheimer's disease. *Curr Alzheimer Res.* 2009;**6**(6):554-63.
- Sardi F, Fassina L, Venturini L, Inguscio M, Guerriero F, Rolfo E, et al. Alzheimer's disease, autoimmunity and inflammation. The good, the bad and the ugly. *Autoimmun Rev.* 2011;**11**(2):149-53.
- Verri M, Pastoris O, Dossena M, Aquilani R, Guerriero F, Cuzzoni G, et al. Mitochondrial alterations, oxidative stress and neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's disease. *Int J Immunopathol Pharmacol.* 2011;**25**(2):345-53.
- Henry CJ, Huang Y, Wynne AM, Godbout JP. Peripheral lipopolysaccharide (LPS) challenge promotes microglial hyperactivity in aged mice that is associated with exaggerated induction of both pro-inflammatory IL-1beta and anti-inflammatory IL-10 cytokines. *Brain Behav Immun.* 2009;**23**(3):309-17.
- Morihara T, Teter B, Yang F, Lim GP, Boudinot S, Boudinot FD, et al. Ibuprofen suppresses interleukin-1beta induction of pro-amyloidogenic alpha-secretase to ameliorate beta-amyloid (Abeta) pathology in Alzheimer's models. *Neuropsychopharmacology.* 2005;**30**(6):1111-20.
- Cole GM, Morihara T, Lim GP, Yang F, Begum A, Frautschy SA. NSAID and antioxidant prevention of Alzheimer's disease: lessons from in vitro and animal models. *Ann N Y Acad Sci.* 2004;**1035**:68-84.
- Song C, Horrobin D. Omega-3 fatty acid ethyl-eicosapentaenoate, but not soybean oil, attenuates memory impairment induced by central IL-1beta administration. *J Lipid Res.* 2004;**45**(6):1112-21.
- Monje ML, Toda H, Palmer TD. Inflammatory blockade restores adult hippocampal neurogenesis. *Science.* 2003;**302**(5651):1760-5.
- Hritcu L, Ciobica A, Stefan M, Mihasan M, Palamiuc L, Nabeshima T. Spatial memory deficits and oxidative stress damage following exposure to lipopolysaccharide in a rodent model of Parkinson's disease. *Neurosci Res.* 2011;**71**(1):35-43.
- Vegeto E, Bonincontro C, Pollio G, Sala A, Viappiani S, Nardi F, et al. Estrogen prevents the lipopolysaccharide-induced inflammatory response in microglia. *J Neurosci.* 2001;**21**(6):1809-18.
- Smith JA, Das A, Butler JT, Ray SK, Banik NL. Estrogen or estrogen receptor agonist inhibits lipopolysaccharide induced microglial

- activation and death. *Neurochem Res.* 2011;**36**(9):1587-93.
24. Behl C, Moosmann B. Antioxidant neuroprotection in Alzheimer's disease as preventive and therapeutic approach. *Free Radic Biol Med.* 2002;**33**(2):182-91.
  25. Behl C, Skutella T, Lezoualc'h F, Post A, Widmann M, Newton CJ, et al. Neuroprotection against oxidative stress by estrogens: structure-activity relationship. *Mol Pharmacol.* 1997;**51**(4):535-41.
  26. Behl C, Widmann M, Trapp T, Holsboer F. 17-beta estradiol protects neurons from oxidative stress-induced cell death in vitro. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun.* 1995;**216**(2):473-82.
  27. Green PS, Gridley KE, Simpkins JW. Nuclear estrogen receptor-independent neuroprotection by estratrienes: a novel interaction with glutathione. *Neurosci.* 1998;**84**(1):7-10.
  28. Hosseini M, Sadeghnia HR, Salehabadi S, Alavi H, Gorji A. The effect of L-arginine and L-NAME on pentylentetrazole induced seizures in ovariectomized rats, an in vivo study. *Seizure.* 2009;**18**(10):695-8.
  29. Wagner AK, Willard LA, Kline AE, Wenger MK, Bolinger BD, Ren D, et al. Evaluation of estrous cycle stage and gender on behavioral outcome after experimental traumatic brain injury. *Brain Res.* 2004;**998**(1):113-21.
  30. Naghibi SM, Hosseini M, Khani F, Rahimi M, Vafae F, Rakhshandeh H, et al. Effect of Aqueous Extract of Crocus sativus L. on Morphine-Induced Memory Impairment. *Adv Pharmacol Sci.* 2012;**2012**:494367.
  31. Ellman GL. Tissue sulfhydryl groups. *Arch Biochem Biophys.* 1959;**82**(1):70-7.
  32. Hosseinzadeh H, Sadeghnia HR. Safranal, a constituent of Crocus sativus (saffron), attenuated cerebral ischemia induced oxidative damage in rat hippocampus. *J Pharm Pharm Sci.* 2005;**8**(3):394-9.
  33. Janero DR. Malondialdehyde and thiobarbituric acid-reactivity as diagnostic indices of lipid peroxidation and peroxidative tissue injury. *Free Radic Biol Med.* 1990;**9**(6):515-40.
  34. Sharma JB, Sharma A, Bahadur A, Vimala N, Satyam A, Mittal S. Oxidative stress markers and antioxidant levels in normal pregnancy and pre-eclampsia. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet.* 2006;**94**(1):23-7.
  35. Hosseini M, Hadjzadeh MA, Derakhshan M, Havakhah S, Rassouli FB, Rakhshandeh H, et al. The beneficial effects of olibanum on memory deficit induced by hypothyroidism in adult rats tested in Morris water maze. *Arch Pharm Res.* 2010;**33**(3):463-8.
  36. Saffarzadeh F, Eslamizade MJ, Nemati Karimooy HA, Hadjzadeh MA, Khazaei M, Hosseini M. The effect of L-arginine on Morris water maze tasks of ovariectomized rats. *Acta Physiol Hung.* 2010;**97**(2):216-23.
  37. Singh M, Meyer EM, Millard WJ, Simpkins JW. Ovarian steroid deprivation results in a reversible learning impairment and compromised cholinergic function in female Sprague-Dawley rats. *Brain Res.* 1994;**644**(2):305-12.
  38. Azizi-Malekabadi H, Hosseini M, Soukhtanloo M, Sadeghian R, Fe-reidoni M, Khodabandehloo F. Different effects of scopolamine on learning, memory, and nitric oxide metabolite levels in hippocampal tissues of ovariectomized and Sham-operated rats. *Arq Neuropsiquiatr.* 2012;**70**(6):447-52.
  39. Markham JA, Pych JC, Juraska JM. Ovarian hormone replacement to aged ovariectomized female rats benefits acquisition of the morris water maze. *Horm Behav.* 2002;**42**(3):284-93.
  40. Bimonte HA, Denenberg VH. Estradiol facilitates performance as working memory load increases. *Psychoneuroendocrinology.* 1999;**24**(2):161-73.
  41. El-Bakri NK, Islam A, Zhu S, Elhassan A, Mohammed A, Winblad B, et al. Effects of estrogen and progesterone treatment on rat hippocampal NMDA receptors: relationship to Morris water maze performance. *J Cell Mol Med.* 2004;**8**(4):537-44.
  42. Weiland NG. Estradiol selectively regulates agonist binding sites on the N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor complex in the CA1 region of the hippocampus. *Endocrinology.* 1992;**131**(2):662-8.
  43. Cyr M, Ghribi O, Di Paolo T. Regional and selective effects of oestradiol and progesterone on NMDA and AMPA receptors in the rat brain. *J Neuroendocrinol.* 2000;**12**(5):445-52.
  44. Chesler EJ, Juraska JM. Acute administration of estrogen and progesterone impairs the acquisition of the spatial morris water maze in ovariectomized rats. *Horm Behav.* 2000;**38**(4):234-42.
  45. Galea LA, Kavaliers M, Ossenkopp KP, Hampson E. Gonadal hormone levels and spatial learning performance in the Morris water maze in male and female meadow voles, *Microtus pennsylvanicus.* *Horm Behav.* 1995;**29**(1):106-25.
  46. Sherwin BB. Estrogen and cognitive functioning in women. *Endocr Rev.* 2003;**24**(2):133-51.
  47. Huh K, Shin US, Choi JW, Lee SI. Effect of sex hormones on lipid peroxidation in rat liver. *Arch Pharm Res.* 1994;**17**(2):109-14.
  48. Lacort M, Leal AM, Liza M, Martin C, Martinez R, Ruiz-Larrea MB. Protective effect of estrogens and catecholestrogens against peroxidative membrane damage in vitro. *Lipids.* 1995;**30**(2):141-6.
  49. Niki E, Nakano M. [34] Estrogens as antioxidants. In: Lester Pack-er ANG editor. *Methods in Enzymology.*: Academic Press; 1990. pp. 330-3.
  50. Green PS, Gordon K, Simpkins JW. Phenolic A ring requirement for the neuroprotective effects of steroids. *J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol.* 1997;**63**(4-6):229-35.
  51. Miller CP, Jirkovsky I, Hayhurst DA, Adelman SJ. In vitro antioxidant effects of estrogens with a hindered 3-OH function on the copper-induced oxidation of low density lipoprotein. *Steroid.* 1996;**61**(5):305-8.
  52. Prokai L, Oon SM, Prokai-Tatrai K, Abboud KA, Simpkins JW. Synthesis and biological evaluation of 17beta-alkoxyestra-1,3,5(10)-trienes as potential neuroprotectants against oxidative stress. *J Med Chem.* 2001;**44**(1):110-4.
  53. Aspestrand F, Tofte AJ, Igesund A. [The value of computer tomography in assessing operability in advanced bladder cancer]. *Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen.* 1981;**101**(26):1445-7.
  54. Esser K. [The phenoloxydases of the ascomycete *Podospora anserina*. 3. Quantitative and qualitative enzyme differences after mutation in non-linked loci]. *Z Vererbungsl.* 1966;**97**(4):327-44.
  55. Monteiro SC, Matte C, Bavaresco CS, Netto CA, Wyse AT. Vitamins E and C pretreatment prevents ovariectomy-induced memory deficits in water maze. *Neurobiol Learn Mem.* 2005;**84**(3):192-9.
  56. Sato T, Teramoto T, Tanaka K, Ohnishi Y, Irifune M, Nishikawa T. Effects of ovariectomy and calcium deficiency on learning and memory of eight-arm radial maze in middle-aged female rats. *Behav Brain Res.* 2003;**142**(1-2):207-16.
  57. Dilek M, Naziroglu M, Baha Oral H, Suat Ovey I, Kucukayaz M, Mungan MT, et al. Melatonin modulates hippocampus NMDA receptors, blood and brain oxidative stress levels in ovariectomized rats. *J Membr Biol.* 2010;**233**(1-3):135-42.
  58. Naziroglu M, Simsek M, Simsek H, Aydielik N, Ozcan Z, Atilgan R. The effects of hormone replacement therapy combined with vitamins C and E on antioxidants levels and lipid profiles in postmenopausal women with Type 2 diabetes. *Clin Chim Acta.* 2004;**344**(1-2):63-71.
  59. Kuyumcu ME, Yesil Y, Ozturk ZA, Kizilarslanoglu C, Etlug S, Halil M, et al. The evaluation of neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in Alzheimer's disease. *Dement Geriatr Cogn Disord.* 2012;**34**(2):69-74.
  60. Johnston H, Boutin H, Allan SM. Assessing the contribution of inflammation in models of Alzheimer's disease. *Biochem Soc Trans.* 2011;**39**(4):886-90.
  61. Pugh CR, Kumagawa K, Fleshner M, Watkins LR, Maier SF, Rudy JW. Selective effects of peripheral lipopolysaccharide administration on contextual and auditory-cue fear conditioning. *Brain Behav Immun.* 1998;**12**(3):212-29.
  62. Cacquevel M, Lebourrier N, Cheenne S, Vivien D. Cytokines in neuroinflammation and Alzheimer's disease. *Curr Drug Targets.* 2004;**5**(6):529-34.
  63. Metoki K, Hommes FA. The pH of mitochondria of fibroblasts from a hyperornithinaemia, hyperammonaemia, homocitrullinuria-syndrome patient. *J Inherit Metab Dis.* 1984;**7**(1):9-11.
  64. Bilbo SD, Biedenkapp JC, Der-Avakian A, Watkins LR, Rudy JW, Maier SF. Neonatal infection-induced memory impairment after lipopolysaccharide in adulthood is prevented via caspase-1 inhibition. *J Neurosci.* 2005;**25**(35):8000-9.
  65. Cui CA, Jin DQ, Hwang YK, Lee IS, Hwang JK, Ha I, et al. Macellignan attenuates LPS-induced inflammation and reduces LPS-induced spatial learning impairments in rats. *Neurosci Lett.* 2008;**448**(1):110-4.

66. Singh AK, Jjiang Y. How does peripheral lipopolysaccharide induce gene expression in the brain of rats? *Toxicology*. 2004;**201**(1-3):197-207.
67. Lante F, Meunier J, Guiramand J, De Jesus Ferreira MC, Cambonie G, Aïmar R, et al. Late N-acetylcysteine treatment prevents the deficits induced in the offspring of dams exposed to an immune stress during gestation. *Hippocampus*. 2008;**18**(6):602-9.
68. Bokov AF, Ko D, Richardson A. The effect of gonadectomy and estradiol on sensitivity to oxidative stress. *Endocr Res*. 2009;**34**(1-2):43-58.
69. Tang XL, Liu XJ, Tian Q, Zhang W. Dynamic oxidative stress and DNA damage induced by oestrogen deficiency and protective effects of puerarin and 17beta-oestradiol in ovariectomized rats. *Basic Clin Pharmacol Toxicol*. 2012;**111**(2):87-91.
70. Giddabasappa A, Bauler M, Yepuru M, Chaum E, Dalton JT, Eswaraka J. 17-beta estradiol protects ARPE-19 cells from oxidative stress through estrogen receptor-beta. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2010;**51**(10):5278-87.