



## Histopathological Effects of Fluoxetine on Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) Gills

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### ABSTRACT

Fluoxetine is an antidepressant which is also known as the trade names Prozac, and Sarafem. It is used for the treatment of depressive disorders such as depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, alcohol dependence and panic disorder. In this study, histopathological effects of fluoxetine on zebrafish gill tissue were investigated. 150 ng/L fluoxetine were exposed to adult individuals and after 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 60 minutes and 8 days fishes were dissected. In 15, 30 and 60 minutes experimental groups, minimal defects were detected. In the 8 day exposure group, thinning at secondary lamellae of gill tissues were observed. Growth were detected in the cell nuclei. Expansion were monitored at the central vena of gills.

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### Introduction

Fluoxetine is an antidepressant which is also known as the trade names Prozac, and Sarafem[1]. It is used for the treatment of depressive disorders such as depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, bulimia nervosa, eating disorder, alcohol dependence and panic disorder [2][3]. The bioavailability of fluoxetine is relatively high and peak plasma concentrations are reached in 6 to 8 hours [4].

Fluoxetine is a potent psychotropic drug, acting as a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) to block the plasmamembrane serotonin transporter, SERT [5] [6] [7] [8]. SSRIs are currently the most prescribed psychotropic medications, and fluoxetine is the most commonly used SSRI. Therefore, fluoxetine has rapidly become one of the most important drugs in biomedicine [9] [10] [11]. Paralleling clinical data, multiple experimental animal models, ranging from rodents [6] [10] [11], to aquatic species [12] [13], have been developed to address various aspects of SSRI antidepressant action and toxicity.

Fluoxetine is one of the most prescribed psychotropic medications, and is an agent of increasing interest for environmental toxicology. Fish and other aquatic organisms are excellent models to study neuroactive small molecules like fluoxetine [14]. In this study, investigation the histological effects of fluoxetine on zebrafish gill tissue were examined.

Zebrafish, *Danio rerio* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822) is a model organism which belongs to the Cyprinidae family. It naturally lives in oxygen-rich fresh waters in Pakistan and India. There are blue and silver stripes on the body of the fish [15]. Its hardness, short generation time and survival skills to severe environmental changes make them excellent test model.

### Material and Methods

#### Animal

Zebrafish were maintained under the standardized conditions at 28°C ± 1 C. The light/dark cycle was 14h/10h. Fish system water was maintained pH between 7.2 and 7.7. test chambers were glass aquaria of about a 20-L capacity. The fish were fed once daily in the morning with flake food (Tetra, Germany) and once daily at dusk with frozen blood worm.

### Exposure and Experimental Design

In the study, one dose group (150 ng / L fluoxetine) and one control group were determined. After 48 hours of adaptation, fluoxetine were added to the aquarium. For the histological analysis, at the end of 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 60 minutes and 8 days gill tissues were dissected. Tissues were fixed with 10% neutral buffered formalin fluid for 24 h. Tissues were dehydrated and embedded in the paraffin wax and sectioned at 5 µm thickness and stained with Hematoxylin Eosin. The samples were evaluated by examining under the light microscope.

### Results

In control group, normal gill histology were seen. Primary lamellae which supported by connective and cartilage tissue and secretory cells in secondary lamellae which are between the outer surfaces separated from primary lamellae were monitored clearly (Fig. 1).

In 15 minutes, 30 minutes and 60 minutes to 150 ng / L fluoxetine exposure group, minimal defects were observed. Deformations and openings were detected at central vena in zebrafish gill tissue. Fragmentations were monitored at secondary lamellae. Swelling was observed because of hypertrophy and hyperplasia at the edge of secondary lamellae (Fig. 2).

In the 8 day fluoxetine exposure group, severe degenerations were monitored. Thinning at secondary lamellae of gill tissues were observed. Growth were detected in the cell nuclei. Expansion were monitored at the central vena of gills (Fig. 3).

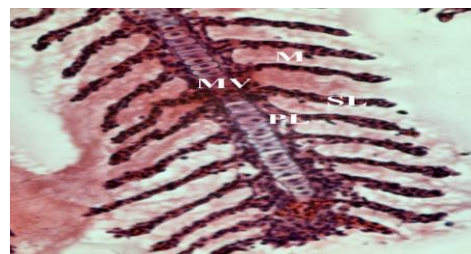
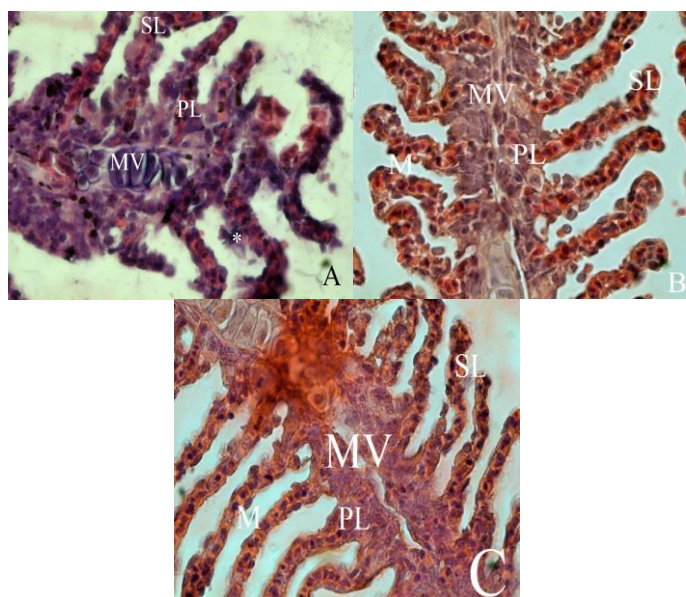
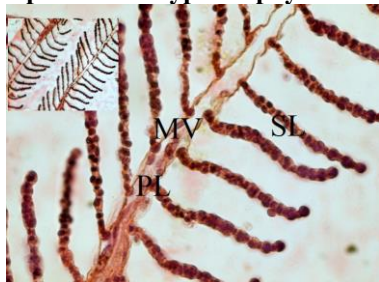


Figure 1. Control group gill tissue; MV: Central vena, PL: Primary lamellae, SL: Secondary lamellae, M: Mucosa cells. H&E X100



**Figure 2. a) 15minutes b) 30 minutes c)60 minutes  
Experimental group gill tissue: MV: Central vena, PL:  
Primary lamellae, SL: Secondary lamellae, M: Mucus cell, \*:  
Hyperplasia and Hypertrophy H&E X100**



**Figure 3. 8 days exposure group gill tissue; MV: Central  
vena, PL: Primary lamellae, SL: Secondary lamellae H&E  
X100**

## Discussion

Gills in direct contact with the external environment and breathing as well as osmoregulation, acid-base in the discharge of nitrogenous waste to the regulation of the balance of the officials and environmental changes and structures affected primarily with the skin of the water chemicals [16].

Saglam and Ural [17] determined to be healthy in the clinic of his work in rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), copper sulfate ( $\text{CuSO}_4$ ) keeping the 1 ppm, 8 ppm, 16 ppm and 32 ppm concentration was examined the effect on fish. Macroscopically, accumulating  $\text{CuSO}_4$  on the operculum, tip of fins and gill filaments of fish, sticking each other of gill lamellae, and severe mucus secreting on the hole body surface were observed. Microscopically, pillar and epithelial cells degeneration in the gill lamellae, vacuoler degeneration, and hyperaemia and haemorrhage in the vessel were defined.

Gill tissues are in direct contact with the substance soluble in their environment. Hence the strength of the respiratory epithelium of the gills of fish is determined that no damage will occur to adversely affect overall health [18].

Fanta and colleagues [19] analysed lethal dose and water contamination effects of organophosphate methyl parathion on *Corydoras paleatus* gill and liver. Hyperplasia and edema were detected at gill epithelium. These results are consistent to our study. Similarly, in our study hyperplasia was detected.

Üçüncü and colleagues Dioctyl adipate (DOA) of ourselfs caeruleus, in them study on the impact gill histology the tissues were removed for histological examination. When compared to the untreated and 2.5 ppm acetone exposed controls, the gills of

the experimental animals that exposed to 0.75 ppm DOA showed remarkable histopathological changes distinguished as hypertrophy, severe hyperplasia, aneurysma, oedema, epithelial lifting, and striking fusion [20]

Lamella take place in epithelial hyperplasia and hypertrophy, increase the transition from defense purposes movement of chemicals in the aquatic environment creates a physical barrier. This barrier effect of narrowing the lamella structure to the support surface fusions. So many well-vascularised respiratory surface, which is thickened, narrowing of the blood tissue and undergo chemical can be prevented to some extent [21].

Hypertrophy and hyperplasia were monitored in fluoxetine exposure groups in our study. Hypertrophy, degenerations and hyperplasia were increased time dependent. Our results indicate that fluoxetine exposure cause degenerations at gill tissues so it can be harmful to aquatic organisms.

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