Neuroimaging Reveals Distinct Brain Glucose Metabolism Patterns Associated with Morphine Consumption in Two Inbreed Rat Models

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Neuroimaging reveals distinct brain glucose metabolism patterns associated with morphine consumption in two inbred rat models

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Running title: Rat strain differences in brain 18F-FDG-PET: implication in morphine abuse

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ABSTRACT

Addiction vulnerability is the individual's risk of developing an addiction during their lifetime. A challenge in the neurobiology of drug addiction is understanding why some people become addicted to drugs. Here, we used positron emission tomography (PET) and statistical parametric mapping (SPM) to evaluate changes in brain glucose metabolism in response to chronic morphine self-administration (MSA) in two rat strains with different vulnerability to drug abuse, Lewis (LEW) and Fischer 344 (F344). Four groups of animals were trained to self-administer morphine or saline for 15 days. 2-deoxy-2-[18F]-fluoro-D-glucose (FDG)-PET studies were performed on the last day of MSA (acquisition phase) and after 15 days of withdrawal. PET data were analyzed using SPM12. LEW-animals self-administered more morphine injections per session than F344-animals. We found significant brain metabolic differences between LEW and F344 strains in the cortex, hypothalamus, brainstem, and cerebellum. In addition, the different brain metabolic patterns observed after the MSA study between these rat strains indicate differences in the efficiency of neural substrates to translate the drug effects, which could explain the differences in predisposition to morphine abuse between one individual and another. These findings have important implications for the use of these rat strains in translational morphine and opiate research.

KEYWORDS: morphine self-administration, FDG-PET, glucose metabolism, drug addiction, Lewis and Fischer strains
INTRODUCTION

Addiction vulnerability is the individual's risk of developing an addiction during their lifetime. Clinical and preclinical studies have shown that among the biological factors involved in this disorder, genetic variability plays an important role in humans, accounting for at least 40-60% of the variation in vulnerability to drug dependence. In this regard, the use of inbred rats has proven to be a valuable tool for identifying differences in vulnerability to drug addiction. The Lewis (LEW) and Fischer 344 (F344) inbred rat strains have been the most widely used in modeling genetic vulnerability to drugs. LEW and F344 rats differ with respect to drug self-administration. Consequently, LEW rats more readily self-administer drugs, such as alcohol, opiates, and cocaine, than F344 rats. At the neurochemical level, F344 rats have high basal levels of tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) protein, proenkephalin, dopamine transporter, glutamate, and μ-opioid receptors in the nucleus accumbens. F344 rats also have high levels of μ-opioid receptors in the striatum (both dorsal and ventral), lateral globus pallidus, basolateral and lateral amygdaloid nucleus, periaqueductal gray matter (PAG), substantia nigra (compact and reticular parts), and locus coeruleus measured by autoradiography. LEW rats, on the other hand, have high basal levels of TH protein and dopamine D1 and NMDA receptors in the ventral tegmental area (VTA), as well as greater activity of the μ-opioid receptor in the nucleus accumbens, septal nuclei, thalamus, VTA, raphe nuclei, and locus coeruleus.

In line with these observations, functional neuroimaging techniques, such as positron emission tomography (PET), single-photon emission computed tomography, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), and electroencephalography, have been widely used to demonstrate the emotional and cognitive-behavioral components of addiction, as well as to study the neurotoxic effects of drugs in the brain. PET with 2-deoxy-2-[18F]-fluoro-D-glucose (FDG) has traditionally been the most commonly used technique for direct quantification of regional brain glucose metabolism in clinical and preclinical studies. It constitutes an invaluable tool for investigating the in vivo changes in brain metabolism as a result of pharmacological manipulation. Given that the LEW and F344 strains show differential behaviours that model...
addiction and therefore different vulnerability to drugs, our working hypothesis is that the metabolism of morphine in reward areas of the brain would be higher in the LEW strain than in the F344 strain. As far as we know, this is the first study to examine the effects of morphine self-administration on glucose metabolism using in vivo FDG-PET and statistical parametric mapping (SPM) in two rat strains with different vulnerability to drug abuse.

METHODS

Animals

Thirteen male F344 and 14 LEW inbred rats (250-300 g body weight) were obtained from the animal facility of the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED). Animals were housed individually when they reached post-natal day 75 (PND75) in order to leave sufficient time between individual housing and the brain metabolic studies and thus avoid any non-specific effects of isolation stress on the metabolic measurements. All animal procedures were conducted in conformity with Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, the ARRIVE guidelines, and approved by the Ethics Committee for Animal Experimentation of UNED and Hospital Gregorio Marañón (number ES2807900000087).

Drug Administration and Experimental Protocol

Figure 1A shows the drug treatment and the design of the study. Twelve operant chambers (Coulbourn Instruments, Allentown, PA, USA) were used for the operant food-reinforced behaviour and morphine self-administration studies. A lever designed to register a response to 3.0 g of force was placed on the front wall of the chamber. Food and morphine operant data were acquired and stored on IBM computers (Med Associates, PA, USA).

Saline or morphine sulphate self-administration (1 mg/kg/injection in 12 h daily sessions) was studied with a fixed-ratio 1 (FR1) schedule of reinforcement for 15 days.

Animals were divided into four groups based on the factors studied: rat strain (LEW and F344) and drug treatment (morphine and saline). The sample
sizes of the groups were as follows: 1) LEW-saline (n = 6); 2) LEW-morphine (n = 8); 3) F344-saline (n = 6); and 4) F344-morphine (n = 7).

**Fixed-ratio1 food-reinforced behavior**

This experimental procedure was performed at PND75. Before starting the training, animals were food deprived to 95%-90% of their free-feeding weight and submitted to an FR1 schedule of food reinforcement in which a single press of the lever turned on a light stimulus above the lever that signalled pellet delivery and reward availability (45 mg; Noyes Pellets, USA). Each delivery of a pellet was followed by a 30-second timeout period in which responses had no scheduled consequence (FR1: TO 30 s). This food-reinforced behavior was acquired over 5 days (30 minutes each day). After this phase, the LEW and F344 rats had *ad libitum* access to food and were thus able to recover their free-feeding weight.

**Morphine self-administration**

When the response rate was sufficient (more than 50 responses per session) and stable (less than 10% variation across three consecutive sessions), subjects were surgically prepared with a chronic intravenous catheter inserted into the right jugular vein. Polyvinylchloride tubing (0.064 i.d.) was implanted approximately at the level of the atrium under anesthesia with ketamine (40 mg/kg, i.p.) and diazepam (10 mg/kg, i.p.). The catheter was passed subcutaneously and located in the midscapular region; it then passed through a spring tether system (Alice King, Chatham, CA, USA) that was mounted on the skull of the rat with dental cement. The animals were given at least five days to recover from the surgery, and the catheters were flushed daily with 0.5 ml of an antibiotic solution (gentamicin 40 mg/ml) dissolved in heparinized saline to prevent infection and to maintain catheter patency.

The drug-reinforced behaviour study was performed during the dark cycle. It involved two phases: 1) The acquisition phase, which started at PND100 and consisted of sessions lasting 12 hours per day (starting at 8:00 pm) with morphine sulphate (1 mg/kg, dissolved in saline [0.9% NaCl] solution) or saline alone under an FR1 schedule of reinforcement for 15 consecutive days; and 2) The withdrawal phase, where the drugs were discontinued for 15 consecutive days.
During acquisition sessions, one active lever press resulted in morphine/saline infusion delivered over 10 seconds and followed by a 10-second time-out. A light cue located above the active lever indicated the availability of the drug; this was turned off only during drug delivery, time out, and at the end of each session. A limit of 50 infusions per session was set in order to avoid overdosing.

**FDG-PET Imaging Studies**

PET images were acquired on two separate days: the first session following morphine self-administration (MSA) (at the end of the MSA phase, −acquisition phase−) and the second session following withdrawal (at the end of the withdrawal phase).

Imaging was performed using a dedicated small animal PET scanner (rPET, SUINSA Medical Systems, Madrid). 2-deoxy-2-[18F]fluoro-D-glucose (FDG: 1.99 ± 0.24 mCi) was injected through the catheter inside the jugular vein, and, after an uptake period of 35 minutes, the animals were imaged for 60 minutes under isoflurane anesthesia (5% for induction and 1–1.5% for maintenance in 100% O₂).

Tomographic images were reconstructed with a 3D filtered back projection (3D-FBP) algorithm using a 12th-order Butterworth filter at a 35% Nyquist frequency cut-off. The trans-axial and axial resolutions of the PET scanner were 1.65 mm and 1.9 mm full width at half-maximum (FWHM), respectively. The voxel size of the reconstructed images was isometric (0.81 mm³), the energy window was 400–700 keV, and decay, alignment, normalization, and deadtime corrections were applied.

**Magnetic Resonance Study**

An MRI study of one animal at PND100 was acquired with a 7-Tesla Biospec 70/20 scanner (Bruker, Ettlingen, Germany) using a rat head surface array coil centred on the brain. The animal was anesthetized with sevoflurane (4.5% for induction and 2.5% for maintenance in 100% O₂) and placed on a stereotactic device to prevent movement during the acquisition. A T2-weighted spin echo sequence was acquired, with TR=4062 ms, TE=33 ms, flip angle=90°, RARE factor=8. FOV=3.7 × 3.7 cm, matrix size=256 × 256, slice thickness=0.8
mm (37 slices). The inhomogeneity of magnetic field caused by the surface antenna was corrected.

This MRI study was only used as an anatomical template in order to display the results of the statistical analysis, since PET imaging has a lower anatomical resolution.

**Data Analysis**

**Morphine self-administration**

The statistical analysis of behavioral data consisted in a repeated-measures three-way ANOVA including the strain (LEW vs F344), treatment (morphine vs saline), and repetition time as factors. The average number of self-administered injections was also determined and analyzed using two-way ANOVA followed by a post hoc Bonferroni correction.

**PET: statistical parametric mapping analysis**

PET image post-processing and intensity normalization were performed following protocols previously described by our group. Briefly, the reconstructed images were spatially registered using rigid transformations with an automatic algorithm based on mutual information, thereby enabling voxel-to-voxel comparisons. All PET data were smoothed with a 2-mm FWHM isotropic Gaussian kernel. A brain mask was manually segmented onto the MRI template and applied to the PET studies to remove extracerebral voxels and to ensure that only voxels mapping brain tissue were included in the analysis. Image intensity was normalized to the brain average value (100%).

The statistical analysis was performed using SPM12 (Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology, London, UK) and consisted in the analysis of variance (ANOVA) of three fixed factors with repeated measures on one of them: strain (inter-subject factor; levels: LEW, F344), condition (inter-subject factor; levels: saline, morphine), and time (within-subject factor, levels: at the end of the MSA phase, at the end of the withdrawal phase). Results were considered significant at a threshold of p<0.01, uncorrected at the voxel level, but cluster-based–corrected by FWE in order to avoid a type II error. Only strain differences were significant for multiple comparisons using the family-wise error (FWE) rate with a significance level of p<0.05. A 10-voxel clustering (spatial-extent) threshold
was also applied to reduce the possibility of a type I error; therefore, significant regions smaller than ten adjacent activated voxels were not admitted.

RESULTS

Morphine self-administration

The three-way ANOVA revealed a statistically significant effect of the strain (p<0.01), treatment (p<0.001), and time (p<0.001). We also found an interaction for strain × treatment (p<0.001) and time × treatment (p<0.001). Thus, the number of morphine injections per session was greater for LEW animals than for F344 animals (p<0.01) (Figure 1B). In addition, the average number of self-administered injections over the 15 sessions was greater in the LEW-morphine (48.58 ± 6.71) group than in the LEW-saline (9.90 ± 3.32) and F344 rats (morphine: 15.36 ± 4.40; saline: 6.66 ± 1.79).

PET: statistical parametric mapping analysis

Table 1 shows the differences in brain glucose metabolism between rat strains, and the brain metabolic changes after the MSA study.

SPM analysis revealed a significant effect of the rat strain with higher metabolism in the hypothalamus and the cerebral cortex and lower FDG uptake in the brainstem (locus coeruleus) and PAG in the LEW animals than in the F344 animals (Figure 1C).

During the drug acquisition phase, F344-morphine animals showed higher glucose metabolism in the cortical area and lower FDG uptake in the motor and piriform cortex than the F344-saline animals (Figure 2A). LEW-morphine animals showed lower metabolism in the somatosensory and cingulate cortex and the thalamus and higher FDG uptake in the cerebellum than the LEW-saline animals (Figure 2A).

During drug withdrawal, F344-morphine animals showed higher metabolism in the left cortex and lower FDG uptake in the restrosplenial and motor cortices than the F344-saline animals (Figure 2B). LEW-morphine animals showed higher metabolism in the cerebellum and piriform cortex and lower FDG uptake in the cortex, thalamus, hippocampus, and caudate putamen than the LEW-saline animals (Figure 2B).
DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, this is the first report to show that brain glucose metabolism differs from strain to strain, and that this finding may account, among others, for the differences in morphine self-administration (MSA) between LEW and F344 animals.

One of the core traits shown by rat strains with differential vulnerability to drug addiction is the capacity to self-administer more drug than other rat strains. According to this, drug intake is very high in some vulnerable animals and very low in other resistant ones. Both inbred rat lines, LEW and F344, can learn to self-administer opioid drugs for extended periods, but even with equivalent exposure to the drugs, LEW rats are more likely to transition to addiction and are more likely to relapse than F344 rats.

In this study, we found that LEW rats self-administered more morphine injections per session than F344 rats, as previously reported by others and also by our group. Furthermore, the average number of self-administered injections over the 15 sessions was higher in LEW rats than in F344 rats, as previously shown. Our data reinforce the fact that the LEW strain is a morphine-vulnerable phenotype predisposed to higher doses of morphine intake than the F344 strain.

The role of individual differences in the responses to drugs of abuse, and thus predisposition to addiction is not new, and it has been widely demonstrated in humans and laboratory animals. An important issue in drug addiction is to understand whether a person is predisposed to addiction. Thus, differences in vulnerability to drug dependence may be associated with differences in the efficiency of neural substrates to translate the drug effects and, in turn, to differences in brain metabolism. In this respect, the development of PET scanners for laboratory animals enabling the in vivo study of the neurotoxic effects of drugs in a non-invasive follow-up provides an alternative way to explore the underlying mechanisms of morphine-induced neurotoxicity. In the present study, $^{18}$F-FDG was used as a marker of cerebral glucose consumption, which indicates neuronal activity. Our $^{18}$F-FDG data showed that the LEW animals exhibited increased glucose metabolism in cortical areas, including the somatosensory and the entorhinal cortices and the hypothalamus compared with
the F344 animals. Sensory system information plays an important role in responses related to drug addiction, and, specifically, the somatosensory system is required for the positive reward property of drugs. In this sense, the higher level of glucose metabolism in this area in the LEW rats could indicate differences in sensory information between the strains.

In general, addiction involves pathological learning in the neural processes related to the reward system and, therefore, underlies long-term associative memory deficits. Here, we demonstrated differences in glucose metabolism in the entorhinal cortex between LEW and F344 rats. This area is closely related to learning and memory and connects the hippocampal neocortex and the hypothalamus, which is the main source of afferents to the hippocampus. Research has shown genetic differences between both strains in synaptic plasticity in the hippocampus, which are translated into spatial learning and memory deficits. Thus, F344 animals are less effective at performing some behavioral tasks, such as the radial arm maze test and the Morris maze test, in that they are more liable to errors and take longer to learn the task. The increased metabolism in this area in the LEW strain, together with the fact that more morphine was self-administered than the F344 strain, might be related to the higher learning capacity shown in the LEW strain.

We also found higher metabolism levels in the hypothalamus (including the mammillary bodies, the VTA, and the medial forebrain bundle) in the LEW animals than in F344 animals. Of note, the mammillary bodies are also involved (with anterior and dorsomedial nuclei of the thalamus) in recognition memory. Together with the increased metabolism in the cortical area, these results represent a plausible explanation for the greater learning capacity of the LEW strain. In addition, the hypothalamus is part of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, and differences in HPA axis reactivity between LEW and F344 strains have been reported. Therefore, the increased glucose metabolism in the hypothalamus in the LEW strain would support this alteration in the HPA axis, which is consistent with the alteration of the reward and motivational processes reported for these strains.

In contrast, glucose metabolism was lower in the brainstem and PAG in the LEW strain than in the F344 strain. The brainstem controls basic vital
functions, such as heart rate, breathing, and sleeping, but it is also involved in emotional responses and episodes of distress. In this respect, an increased state of anxiety in LEW rats has been associated with alteration of the HPA axis. Furthermore, while the PAG is a key area in acute and chronic pain processing, it is also involved in mediating fear-evoked behavior, which is in turn related to anxiety and depression. Taken together, these results could also account for the differences in HPA axis reactivity between the strains.

Regarding the morphine self-administration study, during acquisition, morphine-F344 animals showed increased glucose metabolism in cortical areas, with more changes in the left hemisphere than in the right, and decreased FDG uptake in the motor and piriform cortices than saline-F344 animals. These changes were mainly maintained during drug withdrawal. However, the metabolism pattern of the morphine-LEW animals was completely different when compared to saline-LEW animals, with decreases in the somatosensory cortex, thalamus, and cingulate cortex that were maintained and extended during withdrawal. The different brain metabolic patterns observed after the MSA study between these rat strains indicate differences in the efficiency of neural substrates to translate the drug effects and, in turn, possible differences in vulnerability to morphine abuse.

Few in vivo imaging studies have evaluated the effect of morphine or other opioids on glucose metabolism using PET or single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) in humans, probably because of the radioactive nature of these techniques, being most of them from the 1990s and beginning of this century. London and coworkers showed that acute administration of morphine in humans reduces glucose uptake in the brain by 10% on average, with more changes in the left hemisphere than in the right hemisphere. In our study, repeated exposure to morphine induced different patterns of brain changes depending on the rat strain. During acquisition phase, morphine resulted in reduced glucose metabolism in cortical areas in both strains. This pattern of cortical reduction increased after withdrawal in the LEW animals but not in the F344 animals. Repeated exposure to morphine is usually accompanied by the development of tolerance and dependence. In addition, although the exact mechanisms underlying these phenomena are not yet fully understood, they are
known to be associated with drug-induced neuroadaptations. In this respect, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy studies demonstrated that acute administration of morphine produces a significant decrease in glycine and glutamate levels that were dramatically increased or overcompensated, when naloxone was used to precipitate withdrawal. Thus, in our F344 animals, chronic morphine may have triggered some compensatory mechanisms in order to normalize glucose metabolism, which were not triggered in the LEW animals.

During drug withdrawal in the LEW strain, glucose metabolism decreased dramatically in brain regions associated with reward and drug dependence, such as the hippocampus, thalamus, caudate-putamen, and cingulate cortex; while glucose metabolism changes in the F344 strain were modest compared to the LEW strain. In humans, neurobiological abnormalities in the regional cerebral metabolic rate for glucose were found in chronic opiate users several years after methadone detoxification. This widespread pattern of abnormal cortical activity involved the anterior cingulate cortex, left mid-cingulate cortex, left insula, and right superior frontal cortex, similar to some of our cortical changes. In addition, SPECT studies have shown perfusion deficits during heroin withdrawal in several brain areas, including the temporal lobe and the frontal, parietal, and temporal areas in a chronic opioid user after one week of interrupted administration. In our study, 15 days of morphine abstinence induced a pattern of abnormal brain activity in the LEW animals similar to that found in humans. However, this abnormal metabolic pattern was not found in the F344 animals, suggesting that the genetic background (and other factors) makes one individual more susceptible to developing morphine addiction than another. Furthermore, the LEW strain showed increased metabolism in the piriform cortex. This structure is an olfactory region, and its involvement in the behavioral effects of drugs is limited. Thus, the increased expression of the activity marker c-Fos in the piriform cortex has been associated with cocaine-induced conditioned place preference and has also been associated with relapse in opioid seeking after food choice–induced voluntary abstinence. Therefore, the increased metabolism in the piriform cortex in the LEW strain could respond to morphine seeking after the withdrawal period and could explain in part the implication of the piriform cortex in morphine addiction and dependence.
Nonetheless, our study had several limitations. First, we only evaluated males. The effect of morphine on females could be different, so further studies would be advisable to determine how the gender may influence on the effect of morphine in brain metabolism. Second, we have not corrected for multiple comparisons since individual analysis methods (SPM) provide some correction, being a common practice in exploratory works\textsuperscript{58}. In addition, Bonferroni correction assumes independence of the voxels, which is not true in brain imaging studies and would underestimate the real effects.

In conclusion, we found significant brain metabolic differences between LEW and F344 strains in brain regions associated with reward and drug dependence. In addition, the different brain metabolic patterns observed after the MSA study between these rat strains indicate differences in the efficiency of neural substrates to translate the drug effects, which could explain the differences in predisposition to morphine abuse between one individual and another. These findings have important implications for the use of these rat strains in translational morphine and opiate research.

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**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

**MLS:** Acquisition and analysis of imaging studies, writing-original draft. **VG:** Analysis of imaging studies. **NLR:** Analysis of behavioral studies, writing-original draft. **GLM:** Animal handle, review & editing. **MD:** Review & editing. **EA:**
Conception of the study, animal handle, review & editing. All authors reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript to be published.

COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICAL STANDARDS

Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

Ethical approval: All applicable international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for the care and use of animals were followed.

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Study design, behavioral study and differences in brain glucose metabolism between rat strains. A) Representative diagram of the chronology of the experimental procedures performed during the study according to the age of the animals. Abbrev.: CT, computerized tomography; GD, gestational day; 18FDG, [18F]-Fluorodeoxyglucose; IOS, inflammatory/oxidative markers, PET, positron emission tomography; PND, postnatal day. B) MSA study in LEW and F344 rats. Morphine (1 mg/kg) or saline self-administration in adult LEW and F344 rats under an FR1 schedule of reinforcement. The values are expressed as the mean ± SEM: LEW-saline (n = 6), LEW-morphine (n = 8), F344-saline (n = 6), and F344-morphine (n = 7). The number of morphine injections per session was greater for LEW animals than for F344 animals. 3-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni’s multiple comparisons test [*p<0.5 and **p<0.01 vs saline animals]. C) Colored PET overlays on the MRI reference indicate increased FDG uptake (hot colors) or decreased FDG uptake (cold colors) in LEW animals compared with F344 animals. Statistics corrected for multiple comparisons (FWE, p<0.05). Region of interest (BS: brainstem, Cb: Cerebellum, Hypoth: hypothalamus, PAG: periaqueductal gray matter). Side: left (L) and right (R). k: cluster size, T: Student t. Glucose metabolism: increase (↑) and decrease (↓). p: p value (unc: uncorrected, FWE: family-wise error).

Figure 2. Brain glucose metabolism patterns associated with morphine consumption in F344 and LEW rat strains. Colored PET overlays on the MRI reference indicate increased FDG uptake (hot colors) or decreased FDG uptake (cold colors) in the F344 (Left) and LEW (Right) strains after the acquisition (A) or the withdrawal (B) phases compared with the saline-treated: LEW-saline (n = 5), LEW-morphine (n = 6), F344-saline (n = 7), and F344-morphine (n = 6). Threshold for statistical significance of p<0.01. Region of interest (C: cortex, CC: cingulate cortex, Cb: Cerebellum, CP: caudate putamen, Hipp: hippocampus, MC: motor cortex, PirC: piriform cortex, RSC: retrosplenial cortex, Sept: septum, SSC: somatosensory cortex; Th: thalamus). Side: left (L) and right (R). k: cluster size, T: Student t. Glucose metabolism: increase (↑) and decrease (↓). p: p value (unc: uncorrected, FWE: family-wise error).
### Table 1

1. Brain metabolic changes after the MSA study

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2. Differences in brain glucose metabolism between rat strains

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<td>13.08</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>R</td>
<td>9.72</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>9.72</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>420</td>
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<tr>
<td>BS &amp; Cb</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAG</td>
<td>--</td>
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<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Abbrev.: BS: brainstem; C: cortex; Cb: cerebellum; CC: cingulate cortex; CP: caudate-putamen; Ent C: entorhinal cortex; Hipp: hippocampus; Hypoth: hypothalamus; PAG: periaqueductal gray matter; Pir C: piriform cortex; RSC: retrosplenial cortex; SSC: somatosensory cortex; Th: thalamus

Table 1. Brain metabolic changes after the MSA study (1) and differences in brain glucose metabolism between rat strains (2). Type of change (↑ increase, ↓ decrease), ROI: region of interest, Side (L: left, R: right), t-value (T), statistical p-value (p) (uncorrected and corrected for multiple comparisons, FWE) at peak and cluster level, k (cluster size in number of voxels). Abbrev.: BS: brainstem; C: cortex; Cb: cerebellum; CC: cingulate cortex; CP: caudate-putamen; Ent C: entorhinal cortex; Hipp: hippocampus; Hypoth: hypothalamus; PAG: periaqueductal gray matter; Pir C: piriform cortex; RSC: retrosplenial cortex; SSC: somatosensory cortex; Th: thalamus
Study design, behavioral study and differences in brain glucose metabolism between rat strains. A) Representative diagram of the chronology of the experimental procedures performed during the study according to the age of the animals. Abbrev.: CT, computerized tomography; GD, gestational day; 18FDG, [18F]-Fluorodeoxyglucose; IOS, inflammatory/oxidative markers, PET, positron emission tomography; PND, postnatal day. B) MSA study in LEW and F344 rats. Morphine (1 mg/kg) or saline self-administration in adult LEW and F344 rats under an FR1 schedule of reinforcement. The values are expressed as the mean ± SEM: LEW-saline (n = 6), LEW-morphine (n = 8), F344-saline (n = 6), and F344-
morphine (n = 7). The number of morphine injections per session was greater for LEW animals than for F344 animals. 3-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni’s multiple comparisons test [*p<0.5 and **p<0.01 vs saline animals]. C) Colored PET overlays on the MRI reference indicate increased FDG uptake (hot colors) or decreased FDG uptake (cold colors) in LEW animals compared with F344 animals. Statistics corrected for multiple comparisons (FWE, p<0.05). Region of interest (BS: brainstem, Cb: Cerebellum, Hypoth: hypothalamus, PAG: periaqueductal gray matter). Side: left (L) and right (R). k: cluster size, T: Student t. Glucose metabolism: increase (↑) and decrease (↓). p: p value (unc: uncorrected, FWE: family-wise error).
Figure 2

Brain glucose metabolism patterns associated with morphine consumption in F344 and LEW rat strains. Colored PET overlays on the MRI reference indicate increased FDG uptake (hot colors) or decreased FDG uptake (cold colors) in the F344 (Left) and LEW (Right) strains after the acquisition (A) or the withdrawal (B) phases compared with the saline-treated: LEW-saline (n = 5), LEW-morphine (n = 6), F344-saline (n = 7), and F344-morphine (n = 6). Threshold for statistical significance of p<0.01. Region of interest (C: cortex, CC: cingulate cortex, Cb: Cerebellum, CP: caudate putamen, Hipp: hippocampus, MC: motor cortex, PirC: piriform cortex, RSC: retrosplenial cortex, Sept: septum, SSC: somatosensory cortex; Th: thalamus). Side: left (L) and right (R). k: cluster size, T: Student t. Glucose metabolism: increase (増) and decrease (減). p: p value (unc: uncorrected, FWE: family-wise error)