

Rational design, synthesis, and in-silico evaluation homologous local anesthetic compounds as TASK-1 channel blockers

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Introduction











TASK-1 Channel





Bupivacaine IC₅₀ 12.1 μM

Homology model of the TASK-1 channel based on the TWIK-1 crystal (PDB: 3UKM). (a) Residues of the bupivacaine binding site in the M2 and M4 segments aligned with the lateral fenestrations. (b) Enlargement of bupivacaine interacting residues (c) Bupivacaine located below the second pore helix along with the binding residues at M2 and M4. Modified from Rinné, 2019 (19).









Local anesthetics peers design phase







Synthesis and Characterization Phase





Synthesis and Characterization Phase



 $R_1 = R_2 = Et$, Bu, isopropyl, pyrrolidine

Scheme 1. Synthesis of LA homologous compounds









Common structural features of local anesthetics





Pharmacophore



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Synthesized compounds



Compound	IFD Score	Pose	Interactions	Total	Total EIS
6_prot	-1052.16	7	A93, B93, B114, A118, B118, A126, A171, A194, A198, B198, A199, B199, A235, A236, A238, A239	16	91.85
6_neut	-1051.13	5	A93, B93, B111, B114, A118, B118, A126, A171, A194, A198, A199, B199, A235, A236, A238, A239	16	90.45
9_neut	-1052.34	8	A93, B93, B114, A118, B118, A126, A194, A198, A199, B199, A235, A236, A238, A239	14	85.42
8_neut	-1050.38	9	A93, B93, B111, B114, B118, A194, A198, A199, B199, A235, A236, A238, A239	13	82.14
5_prot	-1048.26	9	A93, B93, B114, B118, A194, A198, A199, B199, A235, A236, A238, A239	12	80.17
1_prot	-1051.92	3	A93, B93, B114, A118, B118, A126, A171, A194, A198, A199, A235, A236, A238, A239	14	78.26
3_prot	-1049.29	7	A93, B93, B114, A118, B118, A126, A171, A194, A198, A199, A235, A236, A238, A239	14	78.26
4_neut	-1051.27	1	A93, B93, B114, B118, A171, A194, A198, A199, A235, A236, A238, A239	12	73.01
3_neut	-1046.00	8	A93, B93, B114, B118, A126, A194, A198, A199, A235, A236, A238, A239	12	72.98
5_neut	-1050.12	7	A93, B93, B114, B118, A126, A194, A198, A199, A235, A236, A238, A239	12	72.98
7_prot	-1052.30	2	B93, B114, B118, A171, A194, A198, A199, A234, A235, A236, A238, A239	12	70.60
2_neut	-1049.67	10	A93, B93, B114, B118, A194, A198, A199, A235, A236, A238, A239	11	69.94
9_prot	-1053.36	6	A93, B93, B114, B118, A194, A198, A199, A235, A236, A238, A239	11	69.94
Bupivacaine	-1051.66	1	B93, B114, B118, A171, A194, A198, B198, A235, A236, A238, A239	11	62.78
2_prot	-1050.13	9	B93, B114, B118, A194, A198, A199, A235, A236, A238, A239	10	59.71
8_prot	-1051.78	4	B93, B111, B114, B118, A171, A194, A198, A199, A235, A238, A239	11	59.57
4_prot	-1050.99	1	B93, B114, B118, A171, A194, A198, A199, A235, A238, A239	10	57.61

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Molecular coupling results for each of the synthesized LA homologous compounds and their possible interactions with key bupivacaine blocking binding residues in the TASK-1 channel.

TASK-1 model of the 6RV3 crystal. (a) Canal model with LA homologues aligned with lateral fenestrations. (b) Top view of the canal. (c) Enlargement of LA interaction residues with those reported for bupivacaine located below the second helix of the pore along with the binding residues in M2 and M4.







Comparison of the interaction of compound 6 (green) with bupivacaine (orange) in TASK-1 (a) View from the plane of the membrane (b) Top view





A rational design of LAs homologous compounds was carried out, based on the common structural chemical characteristics of LA, the identified pharmacophore, the reported binding site for bupivacaine in TASK-1 channel, and it was possible to establish that the binding site of these new compounds has similarities with bupivacaine BS. Such new compounds could be used in the treatment of AF through the modulation of the action potential.

Through molecular docking analysis it was possible to establish the most stable poses for each ligand with the channel, and by comparative analysis with the bupivacaine binding residues it was possible to calculate the EIS values obtaining higher values for the LAs homologues than for bupivacaine, which converted into interesting compounds as potential TASK-1 channel blockers.



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