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Short-term treatment with citicoline (CDP-choline) attenuates some measures of craving in cocaine-dependent subjects: a preliminary report.

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Abstract

The administration of **cytidine-5'-diphosphate choline** (CDP-choline, **citicoline**) to animals increases the rate of membrane phospholipid synthesis and elevates brain dopamine levels. Because cocaine dependence has been associated with increases in brain phospholipid precursors, as well as depletion of dopamine within the central nervous system, the present outpatient study was conducted to assess the safety of **citicoline** (500 mg bid) and to determine if short-term treatment alters mood states and cocaine craving in subjects with a history of cocaine dependence. In addition, measures of drug craving and mood states after presentation of cocaine-related cues were collected on two occasions: before and after 14 days of double-blind treatment with either **citicoline** or placebo. Subjects did not experience any side effects and **citicoline** treatment was associated with decreases in self-reported mood states associated with cocaine craving. These preliminary data are encouraging and suggest that **citicoline** warrants further study as a promising potential treatment for cocaine abuse and dependence that is devoid of side effects.

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