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Authors: Kathy Y. Liu, Aisling E. Stringer, Suzanne J. Reeves, Robert J. Howard

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The neurochemistry of agitation in Alzheimer's disease: a systematic review

Authors:

Kathy Y. Liu[1]*, Aisling E. Stringer[1], Suzanne J. Reeves[1], Robert J. Howard[1].

Affiliations:

[1] Division of Psychiatry, University College London, UK

*corresponding author. Email address kathy.liu@ucl.ac.uk

Highlights:

- Neurotransmitter studies of agitation in Alzheimer's disease are reviewed.
- The dynamic balance between multiple neurotransmitter systems is disrupted.
- Recommendations to optimize the validity of future studies are made.

Abstract

Objective: To provide an up-to-date systematic review of the characteristics, methodology and findings of studies that have investigated the neurochemistry of agitation in Alzheimer's disease (AD).

Methods: Electronic databases were searched for published peer-reviewed articles which provided data on any neurotransmitter system in relation to agitation in AD. Screening of titles and abstracts and data extraction from full texts were conducted in duplicate.

Results: Forty-five studies were included. Monoamines (serotonin, dopamine and noradrenaline) were most commonly investigated. A variety of methods were used to investigate the neurochemistry underlying agitation in AD and, although there were