Developmental pyrethroid exposure disrupts molecular pathways for circadian rhythms and MAP kinase in mouse brain.

Jennifer H. Nguyen¹, Melissa A. Curtis¹, Ali S. Imami¹, William G. Ryan¹, Khaled Alganem¹, Kari L. Neifer¹, Nilanjana Saferin¹, Charlotte N. Nawor¹, Brian P. Kistler¹, Gary W. Miller, PhD³,⁴, Rammohan Shukla, PhD²,⁵, Robert E. McCullumsmith, MD, PhD², James P. Burkett, PhD²

¹College of Medicine and Life Sciences, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43614
²Department of Neurosciences, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43614
³Department of Environmental Health, Emory Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA 30322
⁴Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY 10032
⁵Department of Zoology and Physiology, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071

*Corresponding author: jennifer.nguyen@rockets.utoledo.edu

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Introduction: Neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) are a category of pervasive disorders of the developing nervous system with few or no recognized biomarkers. A significant portion of the risk for NDDs, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), is contributed by the environment, and exposure to pyrethroid pesticides during pregnancy has been identified as a potential risk factor for NDD in the unborn child. We recently showed that low-dose developmental exposure to the pyrethroid pesticide deltamethrin in mice causes male-biased changes to ADHD- and NDD-relevant behaviors as well as the striatal dopamine system.

Objective: Here, we used an integrated multiomics approach to determine the broadest possible set of biological changes in the mouse brain caused by developmental pyrethroid exposure (DPE).

Methods: Using a litter-based, split-sample design, we exposed mouse dams during pregnancy and lactation to deltamethrin (3 mg/kg or vehicle every 3 days) at a concentration well below the EPA-determined benchmark dose used for regulatory guidance. We raised male offspring to adulthood, euthanized them, and pulverized and divided whole brain samples for split-sample transcriptomics, kinomics and multiomics integration.

Results: Transcriptome analysis revealed alterations to multiple canonical clock genes, and kinome analysis revealed changes in the activity of multiple kinases involved in synaptic plasticity. Multiomics integration revealed a dysregulated protein-protein interaction network containing primary clusters for mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinase cascades, regulation of apoptosis, and synaptic function.
Conclusion: These results demonstrate that DPE causes a multi-modal biophenotype in the brain relevant to ADHD and identifies new potential mechanisms of action.