

# Manganese-Induced Neurotoxicity: New Insights Into the Triad of Protein Misfolding, Mitochondrial Impairment, and Neuroinflammation.

Harischandra DS<sup>1</sup>, Ghaisas S<sup>1</sup>, Zenitsky G<sup>1</sup>, Jin H<sup>1</sup>, Kanthasamy A<sup>1</sup>, Anantharam V<sup>1</sup>, Kanthasamy AG<sup>1</sup>.

## Author information

<sup>1</sup> Department of Biomedical Sciences, Parkinson's Disorder Research Laboratory, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, United States.

## Abstract

Occupational or environmental exposure to **manganese** (Mn) can lead to the development of "Manganism," a neurological condition showing certain motor symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease (PD). Like PD, Mn toxicity is seen in the central nervous system mainly affecting nigrostriatal neuronal circuitry and subsequent behavioral and motor impairments. Since the first report of Mn-induced toxicity in 1837, various experimental and epidemiological studies have been conducted to understand this disorder. While early investigations focused on the impact of high concentrations of Mn on the mitochondria and subsequent oxidative stress, current studies have attempted to elucidate the cellular and molecular pathways involved in Mn toxicity. In fact, recent reports suggest the involvement of Mn in the misfolding of proteins such as  $\alpha$ -synuclein and amyloid, thus providing credence to the theory that environmental exposure to toxicants can either initiate or propagate neurodegenerative processes by interfering with disease-specific proteins. Besides manganism and PD, Mn has also been implicated in other neurological diseases such as Huntington's and prion diseases. While many reviews have focused on Mn homeostasis, the aim of this review is to concisely synthesize what we know about its effect primarily on the nervous system with respect to its role in protein misfolding, mitochondrial dysfunction, and consequently, neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration. Based on the current evidence, we propose a 'Mn Mechanistic Neurotoxic Triad' consisting of (1) oxidative stress, (2) protein trafficking and misfolding, and (3) neuroinflammation.

**KEYWORDS:** Parkinson's disease; cell-to-cell transmission and neuroinflammation; protein aggregation

PMID: 31293375 PMCID: [PMC6606738](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31293375/) DOI: [10.3389/fnins.2019.00654](https://doi.org/10.3389/fnins.2019.00654)

## Free PMC Article



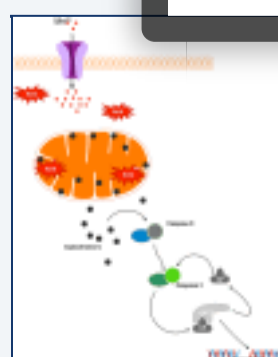
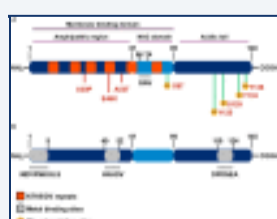
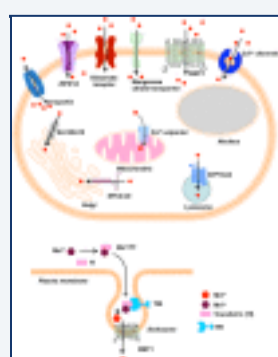
## FIGURE 2


The structure of  $\alpha$ -synuclein. **(A)** Orange boxes denote the characteristic KTKEGV repeat and red lines denote amino acid mutations seen in familial PD patients. The central hydrophobic core (middle light blue), or NAC domain, promotes  $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregation. The C-terminal domain (right dark blue) is the acidic tail and contains most known phosphorylation sites. **(B)** Gray boxes denote known metal-binding sites in the  $\alpha$ -synuclein structure.

[Manganese-Induced Neurotoxicity: New Insights Into the Triad of Protein Misfolding, Mitochondrial Impairment, and Neuroinflammation](#)

Front Neurosci. 2019;13:654.

Images from this publication. See all images (5). Free text



Publication type 

LinkOut - more resources 