

Study of Anxiolytic Activity in Behavioural Models

Practical 14 | Pharmacology I

Aim

To study Anxiolytic Activity in Behavioural Models, and interpret the recorded observations.

Principle

- Anxiety-related model choices must be interpreted alongside locomotor activity. Increased exploration does not alone establish an anxiolytic mechanism.
- This exercise uses a software/video simulation or an instructor-provided dataset.
- A response depends on the model, intervention, controls and observation period; comparisons must use the same endpoint.

Materials and Apparatus

- Assigned model/video and labelled completed pharmacology observations.
- Assigned pharmacology simulation/video and completed observation dataset.
- Computer, graphing or calculation software and a structured record sheet.

Method

1. Identify the simulated preparation, control group and response being measured.
2. Record the model settings and treatment labels supplied in the exercise.
3. Review the baseline or control trace before comparing the intervention traces.
4. Read the stated response endpoint using the same definition for every group.
5. Tabulate the completed simulation observations and calculate the assigned comparison.
6. Explain the mechanism, control response and any limitation of the model.

Observation Record

Complete this record using actual laboratory findings or the provided teaching data.

Observation / parameter	Record / finding
Model zone/choice	_____
Time spent	_____
Entries	_____
Movement control	_____

Calculations and Interpretation

- Percentage open/target-zone time = target-zone time/total scored time × 100, when that metric is assigned.

Result

Report the supplied simulated response, its defined comparison and the mechanism supported by the model. Label the observations as simulated.

Finding: _____

Conclusion: _____

Precautions

- Keep software units, treatment labels and endpoint definitions consistent.
- Use supplied simulation data and distinguish an illustration from an observed outcome.
- A model demonstrates an experimental principle; it does not establish an individual patient treatment.

Viva Questions

1. Why use a control response?

It separates the intervention effect from baseline variation in the simulated model.

2. Why define the endpoint before comparison?

Changing the endpoint after reviewing results can bias the interpretation.

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