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# Chemical modification of opiate receptors with ethoxyformic anhydride and photo-oxidation: Evidence for essential histidyl residues

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### Abstract

Rat-brain membrane preparations containing opiate receptors were ethoxyformylated (EFA) in order to identify the presence of histidine residues at the binding site. A complete loss of binding activity resulted within a few minutes. The inhibitory effect of EFA was reversed by hydroxylamine incubation. The activity of the receptors was found to decrease in a dose-response manner after photo-oxidation with Rose Bengal. When the receptors were pre-incubated with  $\hat{I}^2$ -endorphin or methionine enkephalin, they were found to be protected from EFA inhibition. These findings suggest that histidine residues may be involved in the binding of opiate receptors to their ligands.



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Owen Flanagan, The Bodhisattva's Brain: Buddhism Naturalized.

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