

Title: Evaluating the Neurophysiologic and Clinical Effects of Single-Dose Baclofen and Placebo in Fragile X Syndrome

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1.0 Introduction

Fragile X Syndrome (FXS) is a family of genetic conditions caused by mutations in the *Fmr1* gene. FXS is the most prevalent cause of inherited intellectual disability (Crawford, Acuna, & Sherman, 2001). Approximately 1:4,000 males and 1:8,000 females have FXS (Crawford et al., 2001). This impairment ranges from learning disabilities to severe intellectual disability. Between 15% and 60% of individuals with FXS have autism (Budimirovic & Kaufmann, 2011). Other symptoms also can include characteristic physical (e.g. elongated face, prominent ears, and enlarged testes) and behavioral (e.g. stereotypic movements and social anxiety) features. Sensory hypersensitivities are an especially common, clinically distressing feature of FXS. The aim of this project is to determine whether single-dose administration of racemic baclofen (subsequently referred to as “baclofen”) reduce (i.e., normalize) sensory evoke-related potentials (ERPs) in FXS patients. The proposed study will contribute to an understanding of neural hyperexcitability as a substrate of sensory hypersensitivities in FXS.

2.0 Specific Aims

Prior research has documented that pharmacological strategies targeting different neural mechanisms can reduce neocortical hyperexcitability in *Fmr1* KO mouse models. Unlike nearly all areas of clinical psychopharmacology, marked to full recovery of function has been shown within hours of drug administration in animal models. We propose to leverage that observation to investigate single-dose drug effects on event-related potential (ERP) biomarkers and behavior in humans with FXS.

Primary Aim

Our aim is to clinically validate the acute pharmacologic recovery of auditory processing deficits seen in *Fmr1* KO mouse models, and to assess the relative impact and consistency of effect across patients of drugs targeting three different mechanisms on this recovery. If ERP normalization is observed in the proposed pharmacologic study, it will not only provide new knowledge about underlying mechanisms, but potentially speed drug development by guiding selection of mechanisms to target, choice of drugs to investigate, and outcomes to assess in next-step early phase clinical trials.

Secondary Aim

Neurophysiologic assessments will mirror the assessments in “Mechanisms and brain circuits underlying fragile X syndrome” IRB # 2015-8425 and include spectral analysis, N1 amplitude and habituation ERP, chirps, and talk/listen paradigms. Behavioral measures were chosen based on prior validation in FXS populations and an ability to allow brief assessments with limited learning effects. The primary clinical measure will be the Clinical Global Impressions Improvement (CGI-I) scale (Guy, 1976). The CGI-I requires the clinician to assess how much the patient's illness has changed relative to pre-dose, from 1 (very much improved) to 7 (very much worse). The recently validated Aberrant Behavior Checklist (ABC) using the 6-factor FXS model (Sansone et al., 2012) will be used as a secondary outcome of behavioral status.

To assess cognitive outcomes as a secondary aim, we selected the following tests: Woodcock Johnson (WJ)-III Spatial Relations (visual spatial thinking/5 min (McGrew & Woodcock, 2001); Grooved Pegboard Test (sensory motor integration/15 min); RBANS List Learning (immediate memory/5 min (Randolph, 1998); and Test of Attentional Performance for Children (KiTAP) (attention and inhibition/30 min (Knox et al., 2012). The WJ-III Auditory Attention test will assess auditory processing-speech sound discrimination, which aligns well with our focus on auditory

cortical function. This test was validated in ages 5-81 and requires 5 min to complete (McGrew & Woodcock, 2001).

3.0 Background:

Fmr1 gene full mutation leads to a cascade of brain changes, which offer multiple potential pharmacologic targets to treat functional deficits associated with FXS (Wijetunge, Chattarji, Wyllie, & Kind, 2013). This protocol is designed to investigate clinical homologues in sensory processing abnormalities that can provide more sensitive and mechanism-related assessments of pharmacologic effects. We plan to evaluate single-dose drug effects on a core symptom of FXS, auditory hypersensitivity, using robust ERP measures of auditory response that translate from mouse models to humans and back. Specifically, our study will evaluate the effects of a single-dose approach to test drug effects on putative ERP biomarkers and behavior of persons with FXS. In 2009, Berry-Kravis et al. (Berry-Kravis et al., 2009) reported that a single oral dose of fenobam, an mGluR5 antagonist (Porter et al., 2005), was well tolerated and resulted in response (defined as 20% improvement) in auditory prepulse inhibition (PPI). These PPI effects were demonstrated just 60 minutes after oral dosing (Berry-Kravis et al., 2009). This study lays a foundation for using acute pharmacologic studies to probe putative etiologic pathways of FXS. We will extend this pharmacologic strategy to test the neurophysiologic effects of multiple drugs targeting different mechanisms in the same patients.

Among the most promising targets for pharmacologic intervention in FXS are treatments targeting mGluR5 and GABA systems and the ERK and MMP-9 pathways (Wijetunge et al., 2013). *Fmr1* mutation results in upregulation of mGluR5 receptors and “downstream” effects of increased mGluR5 signaling in extracellular signal related kinase (ERK) and matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9) pathways that lead to abnormal dendritic spines and auditory circuit hyperexcitability [Preliminary data from our collaborators at UTSW (Huber & Gibson) and UC Riverside (Abdulrazak & Ethell)]. Fortunately, safe and well-tolerated drugs with actions relevant to these mechanisms already exist in agents FDA-approved for other conditions: baclofen potentiates gamma hydroxybutric acid (GABA) type B (GABA(B)) neurotransmission Sinclair et al. 2017). Limited, but growing evidence suggests these agents can counter auditory hyperexcitability associated with the *Fmr1* mutation. In the *Fmr1* KO mouse, baclofen treatment has been associated with rescue of abnormal auditory-evoked gamma oscillations, working memory deficits, and anxiety (Sinclair et al. 2017). The active enantiomer in baclofen, arbaclofen has been associated with rescue of dendritic spine deficits and excessive neuronal protein synthesis in the *Fmr1* KO mouse (Henderson et al. 2012).

This pharmacologic study is designed to leverage clinical and preclinical preliminary data showing robust acute drug effects on neurophysiological parameters. If our strategy of single-dose rapid testing of drug effects on ERP biomarkers is effective, the approach would inform preclinical work on the mechanisms most relevant to auditory hyperexcitability, speed the identification of effective pharmacologic treatments, develop an urgently needed biomarker strategy for predicting and evaluating drug effects, and ultimately, could allow for rapid personalization of treatment in FXS.

4.0. Concise Summary of Project:

4.1 Study Design

This pharmacologic study employs a double –blinded 1-drug single dose, 2-period, 2-sequence balanced-crossover design. 36 patients age 15 to 55 years with full mutation fragile X syndrome

characterized by greater than 200 CGG repeats in the FMR1 gene by Southern Blot and PCR genetic testing will be eligible to participate if they previously successfully completed baseline testing (behavioral, medical, neurophysiological tests) for our study “Mechanisms and brain circuits underlying fragile x syndrome (IRB # 2015-8425)”. In this project, subjects will be randomly assigned to 2 different sequences for receiving baclofen and placebo, with a 2-week washout (± 2 days) between administrations. Patients will be stratified based on gender and then randomized in a 1:1 ratio to one of the 2 possible drug sequences (e.g., 1: AB; 2: BA). The study is expected to enroll 36 subjects who randomize, once they are randomized, subjects will not be replaced, Subjects and legally authorized representatives will be informed during consent that they will be blinded to treatment status throughout the study. Agents of this study will be dosed as a single administration to each patient at the following dose: baclofen=30 mg)The timing of evaluations in relation to the single-dose of each agent/placebo is guided primarily by the time to maximum plasma concentration (Tmax) of the drugs but is also supported by considerable preclinical and clinical literature. The Tmax of each drug studied in this project is not significantly impacted by a fasting versus fed state. This is important because we cannot reliably keep subjects in a specifically fasting or specifically fed state post-dosing prior to post-dose evaluations. The primary outcome ERP will be conducted 4 hours post-dosing, with post-dose clinical and cognitive evaluations being done immediately thereafter. Pharmacokinetic data regarding $\frac{1}{2}$ -lives of the drugs support a 2 week washout period between drug exposures.

The power analysis supports our plan to enroll subjects until at least 36 subjects have fully completed the drug dosing protocol. The study will last approximately 6 weeks and there will be a total of 3 visits in the study (and 5 follow-up phone calls or emails with a study coordinator).

4.2 Blindness and Breaking the Blind

The study blind will be maintained throughout the duration of the clinical trial for all study staff interacting with the participants, including research coordinators and study physicians assessing participants during the treatment period. Only the CCHMC Investigational Pharmacy will be aware of study drug assignment. The blind will be broken only at the discretion of a participating study physician or Medical Monitor in cases necessary to assure patient safety. Such significant safety events would include, but are not limited to, any circumstance where an adverse effect documented as possibly, probably, or definitely related to study treatment and moderate or more severe in intensity results in the need for additional medical intervention (hospitalization, emergency/urgent care room visit, additional outpatient prescribing/other management etc.).

Following the Week 6 study call, the participating family will receive a report of the CGI and clinical measure scores including changes with drug/placebo treatment during each treatment period. This will require unblinding of treatment assignment for each participant following the Week 6 call. A clinician not involved with the individual subject's clinical ratings during study will sign off on the CGI and clinical score report provided to the participating family. The clinicians involved in this study who will be designated the responsibility of providing the report is Dr. Erickson.

5.0 Study Procedures:

5.1 Baseline Visit Procedures

All FXS age 15-55, who successfully complete testing (behavioral, medical, neurophysiological tests) for our study “Mechanisms and brain circuits underlying fragile x syndrome (IRB # 2015-

8425)" will be eligible to participate in this pharmacologic study. At the day of recruitment, consenting participants will complete a urine drug screen (if possible) and females of childbearing age (as determined by report regarding age of menarche or menopause) will be required to take a urine or serum pregnancy test before study procedures. A positive test will exclude them from participating in the study. Safety labs including comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP), antinucleotide antibody (ANA), and complete blood count with differential (CBC with differential) will be collected at baseline. All subjects will have the option to provide a blood sample for Extracellular Signal Related Kinase (ERK) Activation Molecular Biomarker Assay and Amyloid Precursor Protein (APP) Molecular Biomarker Assay (described in further detail below). Baseline cognitive and clinical measures (described in further detail below) will be assessed. Each patient will have a medical examination performed by a study physician who will review medical history, and assess height, weight, vitals (Blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and temperature), muscle tone, Tanner staging, head circumference, history of recurrent otitis media, dysmorphologies and other comorbid conditions at baseline. Since the study drug pill is large, in some cases subjects may be given placebo pills to determine whether they are able to swallow the capsule or bring home to practice taking.

Subjects who successfully complete baseline testing will be randomized to study treatment and assigned to 2 different sequences for receiving baclofen and placebo. Subjects will return within 60 days to receive the first dose of baclofen or placebo.

Subjects 01-014, who initially received acamprosate in study participation have the option to re-consent to the updated baclofen and placebo protocol. If subjects re-consent to the study, they will repeat their baseline visit to confirm safety for dosing and tolerance for study procedures. Re-consented participants will still return within 60 days to receive the first dose of baclofen or placebo.

5.2 Drug Administration Visit Procedures

The day of each drug administration day, a medical evaluation/physical exam, vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, weight and temperature), event related potentials (ERP) neurophysiology measures, urine pregnancy test, RBANS, KiTap and CGI-S will be completed as "baseline" assessments for the day. All subjects will have the option to provide a pre-dose blood sample for pharmacokinetics, Extracellular Signal Related Kinase (ERK) Activation Molecular Biomarker Assay and Amyloid Precursor Protein (APP) Molecular Biomarker Assay and Fragile X Mental Retardation Protein (FMRP) assay. PIV placement or venipuncture for blood sampling will be offered as an option to participants and is not required for participation in this study. Approximately two hours later, study drug (baclofen 30 mg) or matching placebo will be administered orally to the subject with FXS. The study drug or placebo will be self-administered by the participant (or administered with the help of a caregiver). Optional pharmacokinetic blood samples will be drawn approximately 90 minutes \pm 5 minutes post dose. Approximately 4 hours following dosing \pm 5 minutes, optional pharmacokinetic blood sampling and molecular assays (ERK/APP) will be drawn. Then, event related potentials (ERP) will be performed, followed immediately thereafter by cognitive, clinical, and side effect/safety (including vital signs-(Blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and temperature \pm 5 minutes) assessments. At the end of single-dose drug administration days, Side Effect/Safety (including vital sign) assessments will be repeated. These visits will take approximately 8 hours to complete. These two drug administration days will occur once every 2 weeks over the course of 4 weeks. A detailed description of each procedure being performed on drug administration days is provided below in Table 2.

5.3 Follow Up Phone Call/Email Procedures

We will bolster safety by adding weekly Side Effect/Safety assessments by phone or email midway between planned drug administration visits and the day following drug administration and finally 1 month after final study drug administration. Additional visits will be provided at any time that signs of concern arise.

Table 2. Schedule of Assessments

Visit	1 Base line	2 Pre- Dose	2 Post- Dose	Call	Call	3 Pre- Dose	3 Post- Dose	Call	Call	Safety follow-up Call
Day	Day -7to 0	Day 1	Day 1	Day 2	Day 8	Week 2	Week 2	Week 2+1	Week 3	Week 6
Informed Consent	X									
Physical Exam	X	X				X				
Urine drug screen	X									
Medical History	X									
Vital Signs	X	X	X			X	X			
Urine pregnancy test	X	X				X				
Safety Labs	X									
Biomarker Molecular Assays (optional)	X	X	X			X	X			
Pk Assays (optional)		X	X			X	X			
Neurophysiology /Eye tracking		X	X			X	X			
CGI		X	X			X	X			
ABC	X	X				X				X
WJ Subtests and Pegboard Test	X		X				X			
RBANS and KITap		X	X			X	X			
Side effects/ Safety		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X*
Randomization	X									

*The Safety Follow-up visit at week 6 will include phone call with study coordinator regarding participants overall health status and a general inquiry about AE's. Day 0 and Day 1 may occur on the same day. Safety labs include comprehensive metabolic panel, ANA, and CBC.

5.4 Neurophysiology Measures

For acquisition of electrophysiological data, we will use up to 128 lead channels placed according to the standard 10-20 electroencephalography array (which allows for a brief 5-10 minute setup) referenced to the CMS-DRL ground. We will use an EGI NetAmp400 (EGI, Eugene, OR) with hydrocel nets. Participants will view a standard silent movie during acquisition for all paradigms except talk-listen, as is common practice to facilitate participation with developmentally disabled subjects. Auditory stimuli will be delivered with Etymotic or Seinheiser earphones via a programmable sound module (Presentation Software). Data will be acquired continuously, amplified (12,500x), and digitized (1000 Hz). Eye movements will be recorded (EOG) for offline data correction. For all neurophysiology studies, data will be average referenced and artifacts related to muscular, cardiac and ocular activity will be corrected using the ICA toolbox in Matlab. Source estimates of ERP components and power spectra in frequency bands of interest are computed for time epochs of interest implemented on the canonical mesh using multiple sparse priors under group constraints.

Spectral analysis: Spectra analysis will be completed on data acquired with eyes open for 5 minutes. Data will be segmented into 1-sec epochs, detrended, and transformed into time-frequency space in Matlab with a fast Fourier transform (FFT) algorithm, yielding 1Hz frequency steps.

Auditory habituation ERP: ERPs will be recorded during passive listening (150 sets of four 75 ms broadband noise bursts) separated by an ISI of 500 ms, with inter-set interval of 4000 ms, for ~14 minutes of recording. Data will be filtered from .5-55 Hz (6 and 12 db/octave rolloff, respectively, zero-phase). For each 4 stimulus train, trials will be blocked into 3000ms epochs, from 500 ms prior to stimulus onset to 500 ms after stimulus offset, baseline corrected using the prestimulus interval, and averaged across trials. Spatial PCA in BESA 5.3 (MEGIS Software, Grafelfing, Germany) will be used to define spatial topographies for ERP components in the grand average of all subjects. The PCA component capturing the N1 waveform will be identified with topography defined as the largest negative deflection between 50-200 ms post-stimulus.

Chirp modulated sweep: Subjects will passively listen to auditory stimuli consisting of a 1000 Hz tone amplitude modulated (AM) by a chirp sinusoid that linearly increases in frequency from 0-100 Hz over a period of 2 sec. Two hundred of these stimuli will be separated by a 1.5-2 sec inter-trial interval, for ~12.5 minutes of testing. Data will be filtered from .5-120 Hz (6 and 12 db/octave rolloff, respectively, zero-phase). Trials will be blocked into 3500 ms epochs, from 500 ms before to 1000 ms after stimulus offset. Representative topographies for the steady-state response will be computed using spatial PCA in BESA 5.3 (MEGIS Software, Grafelfing, Germany) on the grand average of all subjects to determine the sensors used for the final analysis. Data will be averaged over the representative sensors and Morlet wavelets and/or Gabor transform will be utilized to compute time-frequency plots, single trial power and phase locking across trials.

Talk/Listen Paradigm: In the Talk condition, participants pronounce short (<300ms), sharp vocalizations of the phoneme “ah” in a self-paced manner about every 1-2s, for 180s. The speech is recorded and transmitted back to participants through headphones in real time (zero delay). In the Listen condition, participants listen to the recording from the Talk condition played back. Participants are coached to produce “ah” vocalizations >75dB and < 85dB by monitoring intensity with a dB meter. Sound intensity is kept the same in Talk and Listen conditions for each participant by ensuring that a 1000Hz tone (generated by a Quest QC calibrator) produces equivalent dB intensities when delivered through earphones during the Talk and Listen

conditions. Data will be filtered 1- 50Hz and then epoched from -800 to 800 ms with respect to the onset of each “ah” and baseline corrected using data from the -800 to -500ms epoch preceding vocalization. ERP averages are generated using a robust averaging approach included in SPM8. Inspection of the grand average ERP waveform in preliminary studies and previous work with this paradigm indicates three components: N1 peak at ~100ms after speech onset, P2 peak at ~200ms after speech onset, and a slow negative component before speech onset from -300 to 0 ms. Mean amplitudes of these components will be extracted at the anterior locus from which each of these three components are robust (collapsed across 26 electrodes surrounding FCz): N1: 80-120ms; P2: 170-210 ms; pre-speech: -300-0 ms. Correlations will be computed between amplitude of the pre-speech component and N1 ERP suppression (difference between N1 amplitude in the Talk vs. Listen conditions).

In order to facilitate accurate EEG electrode locations on the scalp during analysis any subject that receives an EEG will have a 5-10 minute procedure in which the EEG net and electrode positions are captured using photogrammetry software and a stereoscopic camera. Data will be used to generate a numerical coordinates file.

All samples will be deidentified and sent with the subject’s unique study number to Lauren Ethridge’s lab at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Jun Wang’s lab at Zhejiang Normal University whom have extensive experience analyzing EEG and ERP.

5.5 Eye Tracking

Persons with full mutation FXS clinically show gaze avoidance. This phenomena has been described during application of eye tracking procedures utilizing the presentation of faces from the NimStim face set to persons with full mutation. Using this method, what has been reported in the literature is reduced gaze towards eye regions in full mutation probands (Farzin et al. 2009; Farzin et al. 2011). All study subjects will undergo eye tracking evaluation utilizing a hands-free Tobii eye tracking unit presenting paradigms (maximum duration 10 minutes) that will assess gaze preference. We will utilize this data to correlate eye gaze finding to other metrics employed in this cross-sectional study.

5.6 Blood Sampling

All subjects will have the option to provide a blood sample as noted in Table 2 to complete both molecular pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic studies. Pharmacokinetic data will be collected pre-dose, approximately 90 minutes post-dose and approximately 4 hours following dosing. Molecular assays will be drawn at the same time as pK draw and at Baseline.

5.6.1 Extracellular Signal Related Kinase (ERK) Activation Molecular Biomarker Assay

ERK is a central cellular signaling kinase who dysregulation is implicated in the pathophysiology of FXS and in autism spectrum disorder. Our group has previously utilized ERK activation as a pharmacodynamics marker in FXS drug study (Erickson et al. 2011). For ERK biomarker assays, blood will be drawn at Baseline, pre-dose, approximately 90 minutes and 4hours post dose at all drug dosing days. Assays will be analyzed in Dr. Craig Erickson’s Molecular Translational

Biomarker Lab at CCHMC. All blood biomarker assays will be performed blinded to study assignment. Blood will be collected and lymphocytes will be isolated, washed, counted, and re-suspended. Samples will be frozen until ERK total and phosphorylated ERK levels will be determined in duplicate using commercially available ELISA kits (Abcam) per manufacture instructions. *All ERK measurements will be attempted, but are not required for study participation.*

5.6.2 Amyloid Precursor Protein (APP) Molecular Biomarker Assay

APP and its derivatives are involved in neuronal growth, maturation, and senescence. APP dysregulation has been implicated in the pathophysiology of FXS and autism of unknown cause. Our group has published on the use of plasma APP derivative analysis in FXS clinical trials (Erickson et al. 2014). For APP biomarker assays assessing plasma levels of sAPP (total), sAPP α , A β 40, and A β 42, blood will be drawn at Baseline, pre-dose 90 minutes and 4 hours post dose at all drug dosing days. Assays will be analyzed in Dr. Craig Erickson's Molecular Translational Biomarker Lab at CCHMC. All blood biomarker assays will be performed blinded to study assignment. Plasma will be isolated and platelets will be removed prior to platelet-free plasma storage at -80°C. Aliquots will be thawed and pre-coated ELISA plates will be used to determine the amount of sAPP α (IBL), sAPP (IBL), and A β peptides (Wako Chemical Industries, Japan) in duplicate per manufacturer instructions. *All APP measurements will be attempted, but are not required for study participation.*

5.6.3 Fragile X Mental Retardation Protein (PK) Assay

FMRP assay will be conducted to quantify of the level of the fragile X mental retardation protein in cells. For FMRP assays, blood will be drawn at Baseline, pre-dose, approximately 90 minutes and 4 hours post dose at all drug dosing days. Assays will be analyzed in Dr. Craig Erickson's Molecular Translational Biomarker Lab at CCHMC. All blood biomarker assays will be performed blinded to study assignment. Blood will be collected and spotted onto Whatman Bloodstain Cards. The samples will be allowed to dry between 4 and 24 hours before being stored in a gas-permeable bag with desiccant and frozen until analysis. Upon analysis, three 6-mm disk punches will be collected from separate blood spots within the same card. The proteins from the disks will be eluted and analyzed in triplicate using a custom bead-based Luminex assay to obtain quantitative measures of FMRP. *All FMRP draws will be attempted, but are not required for study participation*

5.6.4 Pharmacokinetic (PK) sampling

Pharmacokinetic evaluation blood samples will be drawn pre-dose, 90 minutes, and 4 hours post dose on each of four drug dosing days. *All PK measurements will be optional and are not required for study participation.*

Baclofen concentrations will be determined with a low volume, validated liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) assay provided by the iC42 Clinical Research and Development Laboratory (Uwe Christians, MD, PhD, director), University of Colorado, Aurora, Colorado, USA.

Concentration data will be analyzed by compartmental and non-compartmental pharmacokinetic analysis with the software package WinNonlin (Version 4.0.1, Pharsight Corporation, Palo Alto, CA) using a weighed least-squares algorithm. Population PK analysis will be conducted using NONMEM version 7.2.0 (ICON, Ellicott City, MD) on a 64-bit Linux Operation System with an

Intel Fortran Compiler (v 12.0). PDx-Pop (version 5, ICON, Ellicott City, MD) will be used as the graphical user interface for running NONMEM and for processing NONMEM output. Visualization of NONMEM output was implemented by Xpose 4 package in R (v 2.15.0.). First order conditional estimation with interaction (FOCE-I) will be employed throughout to simultaneously estimate the typical population PK parameters, random effect of inter-individual variability and residual errors. Model structure selection will be based on goodness-of-fit criteria, including convergence with at least 3 significant digits, diagnostic plots, physiological plausibility of the parameter estimates and Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). Inter-individual variability (IIV) will be modeled using an exponential model which assumes a normally distributed inter-individual variable with a mean of zero and a variance of ω^2 .

Parameter estimates generated will include Cmax, total body clearance, distribution and elimination half-lives, volume of distribution and the area under the curve (AUC).

6.0 Study Outcome Measures

6.1 Clinical Assessments

- CGI-I: The Clinical Global Impressions Improvement (CGI-I) will be the primary clinical measure completed both before and after the subject receives study medication. The CGI-I requires the clinician to assess how much the patient's illness has changed relative to pre-dose, from 1 (very much improved) to 7 (very much worse).
- CGI-S: The Clinical Global Impressions Severity scale (CGI-S) will be a secondary outcome measure completed before the subject receives study medication. The CGI-S is a 7-point scale designed to measure global severity of illness over the previous seven days.
- ABC: The recently validated Aberrant Behavior Checklist (ABC) using the 6-factor FXS model will be used as a secondary outcome of clinical status. This test will be completed only after the subject receives study medication.

6.2 Cognitive Assessments

To assess cognitive outcomes as a secondary aim, we selected tests with minimal practice effects, good reliability (weighted kappa scores ≥ 0.7), and a lack of floor effects in persons with FXS with a mental age of 3+ years (Berry-Kravis, Sumis, Kim, Lara, & Wu, 2008). See Table 1 below for descriptions of each of the tests.

Table 1. Cognitive and neuropsychological assessment measures

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Domain</i>	<i>Task Description</i>	<i>Estimated Time</i>
WJ-III Spatial Relations (McGrew & Woodcock, 2001)	Visual Spatial Thinking	Identify parts needed to form a complete shape. Responses can be oral or motoric (pointing).	5 minutes
RBANS: List Learning (Randolph, 1998)	Immediate Memory	A 10-item list of unrelated words is presented orally to the examinee who is then required to immediately recall words presented.	5 minutes
KiTAP: Test of Attentional	Attention and Inhibition	Computerized task comprised of 8 subtests where an examinee is	30 minutes

Performance for Children (Knox et al., 2012)		required to push a key when a target stimulus is presented on the screen.	
Grooved Pegboard Test	Sensory Motor Integration	Pegs, with a key along one side, must be rotated to match the holes in the pegboard before they can be inserted.	15 minutes
WJ-III Auditory Attention (McGrew & Woodcock, 2001)	Auditory Processing-Speech Sound Discrimination	Identify orally presented words amid increasingly intense background noise. Examinee points to a picture of the word presented.	5 minutes

7.0 Side Effect/Safety Assessments

Safety assessments will include comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP), ANA, complete blood count with differential (CBC with differential), urine drug screen, urine pregnancy test in female participants of childbearing age, physical exam, medical history, concomitant medication review, vital signs at baseline.

At dosing visits, Side Effect/Safety Assessments will include: a general inquire about AE's, a detailed inquiry of common side effects of the 3 study drugs, and vital signs. In an effort to ensure subject safety, we plan to schedule all study drug dosing visits at the CTRC. Coordinators will call or email the family to ask if they have seen any changes in subject symptomology. If the parent/guardian reports no change, the follow up exchange will be considered completed. If the parent/guardian reports change in symptomology, a call will be scheduled with a study physician to review reported changes and asses safety. Once the study physician speaks with the parent/guardian and records their assessment, the follow up will be considered completed. This applies to all during study follow up calls as well as the Week 6 call. The Safety Follow-up call at week 6 will follow the same follow up call structure as the during study follow up calls. Following the Week 6 call, the participating family will receive a report of the CGI and clinical measure scores including changes with drug/placebo treatment during each treatment period. This will require unblinding of treatment assignment for each participant following the Week 6 call. A clinician not involved with the individual subject's clinical ratings during study will sign off on the CGI and clinical measures score report provided to the participating family.

Additional study safety oversight will be provided by Dr. Sergio Delgado, Outpatient Clinical Director and Professor with the division of child and adolescent psychiatry at Cincinnati Children's Hospital will serve as independent study medical monitors for the study. The monitors will review recruitment and adverse events every 6 months and report assessment to PI.

8.0 Research Methods

8.1 Criteria for Inclusion of Subjects:

- Subjects ages 15-55, with FXS who completed the study entitled "Mechanisms and brain circuits underlying fragile X syndrome (IRB # 2015-8425). FXS is defined as full FMR1 mutations (>200 CGG repeats) confirmed by genetic testing.

- General good health as determined by physical exam, medical history and laboratory work up.

8.2 Criteria for Exclusion of Subjects:

- Subjects with a history of intolerance to baclofen will be excluded.
- Subjects will also be excluded if they have taken any investigational drug within 3 months, have a history of substance abuse or dependence within 6 months, or significant psychiatric or CNS neurological disease unrelated to FXS.
- Uncontrolled seizures impact EEG data as do anticonvulsants, barbiturates, lithium and benzodiazepines and are exclusions (within 5 half-lives). Those taking other psychiatric medications must be on stable doses for 4 weeks before any testing.
- For female subjects of child bearing potential, a positive urine pregnancy test.
- Potential subjects with a creatinine clearance < 50 mL/min will be excluded.
- Identified medical issues, inability to tolerate study procedures or study drug per the discretion of the Principal Investigator.

8.3 Vulnerable Populations:

Inclusion of Children in Research:

One special class of subjects that will be involved in this study is children. FXS is a genetic disorder that is a cause of intellectual disability and neuropsychiatric disorders. A central aim of this study is to examine the effects to investigate single-dose drug effects on event-related potential (ERP) biomarkers and behavior in humans with FXS. This can only be done by studying affected individuals across the age span. We have chosen ages 15-55 to represent a broad developmental spectrum. The upper age of 55 is chosen because of variable and common age-related changes in behavior, sensory function and brain function beyond that age. The age 15 is chosen for the low end of the age range because of the level of cooperation required to complete procedures.

Persons with Cognitive Impairment or other limited decision making capacity

To be inclusive and most generalizable in our study findings, and because some elements of our protocol can be completed with minimal cognitive requirements such as ERP monitoring of cortical responses to tones, we will recruit any study eligible patient with Fragile X Syndrome regardless of level of cognitive disability into as many study components as they can complete. We will recruit all FXS patients who we believe can complete study procedures and use IQ scores to describe study participants in research reports.

Inclusion of Women and Minorities:

No person shall be excluded from participation in this research study on the basis of gender alone. However, FXS occurs at a higher rate in males than in females. Therefore, it is anticipated that the largest number of proband participants will be male. Every effort will be made to recruit and include minorities among the participants in this research study. In regard to gender and minority representation, our research cohort will reflect consecutive referrals to

our clinic meeting the inclusion-exclusion criteria of the study. Recruitment is expected to be 30% minority because of the population our clinics serve.

9.0 Sources of Research Material:

In addition to sociodemographic information, we may collect sensitive clinical information including information about medical history, drug use, psychiatric symptoms and developmental history during individual testing sessions and via questionnaires completed during pre-screening or testing sessions. This information can be collected as part of structured and semi-structured interviews, self-report and caregiver questionnaires, and clinical tests of behavioral functioning.

Neuropsychological and electrophysiological data may be acquired during individual testing sessions. Medical records may be obtained after obtaining a signed permission for release of records.

All information collected is for research purposes only. If some assessments were recently done in the clinic by our faculty before recruitment, then we will use the existing clinical data to reduce patient burden; but we expect this overlap to be rare. All material will be protected by limited access and stored under a unique ID number.

10.0 Recruitment Methods and Consenting Process:

10.1 Recruitment

Recruitment for the study will be conducted by the Cincinnati Fragile X Research and Treatment Center. Subjects ages 15-55, will be recruited from participants who have completed the study entitled "Mechanisms and brain circuits underlying fragile X syndrome (IRB #2015-8425).

10.2 Informed Consent Process

Screening and consent procedures for the study will be completed prior to enrollment. Participants (if they have decisional capacity) or legally authorized representatives together with participants initially will receive written materials and be given an oral explanation of the study. Informed consent procedures will be conducted by research staff or investigators. In addition, members of the protocol team will be available to address any questions for participants or families.

Each participant must give informed consent or assent to participate when possible. Given the developmental disability associated with FXS, particularly in males, some subjects themselves will not be able to provide assent or consent. Consent also will be provided by the guardian of minors and from adult subjects who are not their own legal guardian.

Participants (and if they have one, their legally authorized representative) will be informed during their initial consent, prior to the initiation of the pharmacologic study, and on several additional occasions throughout their experience in the study that they may elect to not to participate at any time.

Consent and assent will be collected using the procedures outlined above. This will take place after initial screening but before any formal assessments and experimental procedures begin. Both written and oral information will be provided to participants and legally authorized representatives. Refusal to participate in the study will not limit their ability to seek services at

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. One signed and witnessed copy of the consent and assent forms will be stored in secure storage and the participant and legally authorized representative will each be given a copy of the signed forms, as is appropriate. Participants will receive payment for taking part in this study.

Some individuals may be interested in study participation but live far away from CCHMC. In these circumstances, the consent forms will be mailed to potential participants after they have initiated contact with our research program. Our research team will arrange for a conversation with the potential participant by phone after the documents have been received. During the phone conversation, our research team member will review the consent form (i.e., study purpose, voluntary participation, study procedures, risks and benefits, and confidentiality) and answer any questions. Then, the participant will sign the documents and mail the documents back to the researcher. Once the researcher at our Center receives them, he/she will sign the consent forms and return copies of the documents to the participant for their records and place the originals in a secure area and a screening visit will be set up with the participant at CCHMC

The study team will attempt to obtain consent/assent from all participants potentially eligible for the study. All participants who are cognitively unable (due to limited cognitive functioning and/or to provide assent or consent will require a parent or legal guardian to consent on study. Since about 3 in 4 persons with autism spectrum disorder have intellectual disability, we anticipate that a majority of subjects will not have the cognitive ability and understanding to give their consent or assent to participate in the project.

If a subject turns 18 years-old while enrolled in the study, the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be asked to provide appropriate documentation indicating that they are actively seeking legal guardianship. Copies of documentation will be filed in the subject's study chart. If parent(s)/legal guardian(s) are not pursuing legal guardianship when the subject turns 18 years-old, then the subject will need to demonstrate the capacity to provide informed consent and voluntarily sign the informed consent document in order to continue participation in the study.

11.0. Potential Risks:

11.1 Study Drugs

All participants will receive a single dose of an FDA-approved drug (baclofen) that have proven benign safety profiles during chronic treatment. **Arbaclofen (the active enantiomer in racemic baclofen) was well-tolerated in studies of humans with FXS** (Erickson et al., 2013; Leigh et al., 2013) At the doses proposed for this study the incidence of adverse effects is low. Furthermore the administration of a single dose will limit the risk for side effects that might emerge with longer term treatment. The study PI (Dr. Erickson) has experience in the use of pharmacotherapy in persons with FXS. All participants will be able to leave the clinic during breaks, however must remain on the CCHMC campus. Participants will be given the PI's contact information if any issues or side effects arise. All participants will have a careful medical examination and detailed monitoring of side effects in the Clinical Translational Research Center.

11.1.1 Baclofen

Common side effects (more than 1 in 100 patients):

- hypotension, nausea, constipation, diarrhea, emesis, dryness of mouth, myalgias, muscular weakness

- sedation, drowsiness, dizziness, vertigo, headache, insomnia, euphoria, depressive state, ataxia, tremor, nightmares
- tinnitus, nystagmus, visual disturbance, rash, pruritus, hyperhidrosis
- fysuria, enuresis

Less common side effects (between 1 in 1000 patients and 1 in 100 patients):

- arrhythmias, dyspnea, palpitations, chest pain, ankle edema
- abdominal pain, anorexia, disorders of hepatic function
- paresthesias, taste disturbance, dysarthria, syncope, dyskinesia, coma urine retention, impotence, inability to ejaculate, nocturia, hematuria
- nasal congestion, weight gain

11.2 Cognitive Testing

There are minimal risks anticipated to individuals participating in observational or clinical behavioral assessments. In the rare case that an individual becomes overly fatigued or distressed during assessment sessions, the session will be discontinued and rescheduled. Evaluation procedures, when appropriate, are designed in a way that is compatible with the attention span of a person with an intellectual disability, greater activity level, and need for access to his or her parents. In addition, specialized procedures for children with FXS (e.g., reducing language demands, providing praise for task attention and attempts, using work-reward routines) will be implemented. Three clinical psychology investigators with extensive experience working clinically with developmentally disabled patients are investigators in the study.

11.3 Neurophysiology Procedures

There are minimal risks associated with participation in the neurophysiology part of the study. The auditory stimuli presented are relatively benign, and have been well tolerated in our pilot studies. We are sensitive to monitoring participant distress associated with sensory paradigms, which we have found more commonly in participants younger than 12 years of age. The most common risk associated with these tasks is boredom. In rare circumstances the electrode gel used to place the recording electrodes to the scalp can cause minor irritation to the skin, which resolves rapidly with no permanent effects.

11.4 Pregnancy and Protection against Risk

Females of childbearing age (as determined by report regarding age of menarche or menopause) enrolling in the pharmacologic study will be required to take a urine pregnancy test before study procedures and prior to study drug at each visit. A positive test will exclude them from participating in this portion of the study. The PI or his designee will discuss with the subject in private the results of any drug screen and/or pregnancy test and if positive, that they will no longer be able to participate in the study. Consent forms will make clear that this information will be shared with parents of minors. A subject who tests positive will be referred to appropriate medical care.

11.5 Risk of Discrimination

There is a theoretical risk for discrimination towards individuals who are at risk for a medical disorder or have a medical disorder in their family. Potential discrimination may include barriers to insurability, employability, or other unidentified adverse effects. Extensive efforts are made to protect all research subjects from prejudice, discrimination, or uses of this information that will adversely affect them.

11.6 Venipuncture and Peripheral IV Placement Safety

The risks of venipuncture PIV placement are modest and include mild discomfort, infection, bleeding, and fainting. Standard methods and precautions will be used to protect the puncture site from bleeding and infection. The Research Coordinator or Research Assistant will be familiar with the subjects and will accompany the subject and their parents to the blood drawing setting. Parents are encouraged to remain with the subject at all times. To minimize the subject's anxiety and phobic reactions, we utilize Child Life personnel when needed and available. We also suggest that the parents reassure the subject concerning their safety. At the discretion of the nurse or the investigator, to help reduce pain at the site of the venipuncture, we will offer the use of a topical anesthetic.

12.0 Procedures for Protecting Against and Minimizing Potential Risks

Effective screening will be used to eliminate subjects who are at greatest risk because of concurrent medical conditions. The subjects will be evaluated and cared for in an advanced well-staffed pediatric neuropsychiatric research environment. Thus, the direct observation by nursing staff and research psychiatrists will allow for careful monitoring of potential adverse effects including drug side effects. During study visits, subjects will be allowed to leave the research clinic, but will be asked to remain on the hospital campus. If adverse reactions become excessive, the subject will be treated and removed from the study. There will be repeated monitoring of behavior and vital signs that will allow the treatment team to assess the status of the subject and alter or terminate the study if this is warranted. All of the research data is kept in locked files to ensure confidentiality. The other procedures to ensure confidentiality follow the regulations and policies of the Medical Center.

All SAEs will be reviewed in detail by the PIs and Independent Safety Monitor. If the stopping rule is met, the study will close to enrollment for interim analysis of safety and efficacy data and the Safety Monitor would provide a recommendation to the PI regarding continuation of the trial.

13.0. Potential Benefits:

Subjects may or may not benefit directly from study participation. The possibility of contributing to the discovery of treatments for FXS may benefit all affected individuals and their families. The following knowledge can be gained from this research: a more detailed understanding of auditory processing abnormalities in FXS, a better understanding of the pathophysiology of FXS, new perspectives on pharmacologic mechanisms in FXS, and insight into possible biomarkers that can be used to track drug effects in FXS.

The potential gain in knowledge can change our clinical understanding and treatment of FXS and related disorders. This could lead to more effective treatments and possibly earlier identification and personalized treatment of at-risk children. Given the severity of impairments

associated with FXS, this could dramatically impact the lives of affected individuals and their families. Given the potential for gain, the relatively modest risks are reasonable for the study participants, most of whom stand to receive modest personal gains by participating in the research.

13.1 Risk vs Benefit Ratio

The subjects will be exposed to the risks of blood sampling and the potential side effects of baclofen. For the patients, the benefits potentially offsetting this will be a more intensive and thorough psychiatric and medical evaluation, a documented objective treatment trial, and the possibility of more accurate prescription of treatment designed to meet the individual subject's needs. Since some of the subjects will have had previous drug trials with poor response or intolerable or dangerous side effects, the opportunity for a more thorough evaluation and clinical trial may be beneficial. Thus, with the risk of drug treatment minimized, the more intensive evaluation and treatment may compensate for the negative risks. The overall benefit to family members and society is considerable.

14.0. Subject Safety and Data Monitoring:

Dr. Sergio Delgado, Outpatient Clinical Director with the division of child and adolescent psychiatry at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), will serve an independent study monitor for the study. The PI and Co-investigators at CCHMC will be primarily responsible for monitoring data quality and adverse events. A physician will monitor adverse effects at each visit. In addition, he or she will review vital signs and laboratory data, as they become available. All of these values are reviewed continuously by a physician. The monitor will review recruitment and adverse events every 6 months and report their assessment to the PI. The independent monitor will also review any SAEs and significant unanticipated events as they occur.

All problems (i.e. adverse events, unanticipated events, etc.) will be characterized by the following:

- Severity = Mild, Moderate or Severe
- Relatedness = Definite, Probable, Possible, Unlikely or Unrelated
- Expectedness = Expected or Not Expected

A stopping rule for excessive toxicity is in place in the event of ≥ 2 SAEs considered possibly, probably or definitely related to treatment on study. All SAEs will be reviewed in detail by the PIs and Independent Safety Monitor. If the stopping rule is met, the study will close to enrollment for interim analysis of safety and efficacy data and the Safety Monitor would provide a recommendation to the PI regarding continuation of the trial.

Events will be reported consistent with Institutional IRB reporting policies. An aggregate listing of all safety events will be reported to the IRB in summary form at the time of continuing review. These reports will also be provided to any applicable regulatory agencies per applicable regulatory agency requirements. Data (such as lab values, vital signs, and outcome measure data) will be entered from source documents to Case Report Forms by the study coordinator. The study coordinator will review case report form entries for accuracy by comparison with the source documents. Research records and source documents will be maintained in a research chart and stored in the investigator's locked file cabinet. Information will be kept in a secure

database that is password protected. Records will be kept secure, and individually identifiable information will not be included in any reports or data sets.

All subjects will be assured that data will be kept confidential. Data will be identified only by a unique identification number and not by the subject's name. Paper data will be stored in a locked office in a locked cabinet to which only staff affiliated with the project will have access. Any discrepancies in the maintenance of confidentiality or other irregularities involving the data will be reported to the PI. Any such events will be documented and reviewed by the PI and reported to the IRB within a timeframe set out by guidelines set forth by the CCHMC IRB.

14.1 Adverse Events

Any adverse events--whether due to assessment, medication or other aspects of the study--will be reported to the PI. Adverse events will be documented and reviewed by the PI within 24 hours of receipt. Serious/unanticipated events will be reported to the IRB within 48 hours by phone, email, or fax. All adverse events will be compiled, and reported in summary form to the IRB, on an annual basis and at the conclusion of the study.

15.0 Procedures to Maintain Confidentiality:

Unique numeric identifiers that do not include any PHI will be assigned. All data will be maintained either in locked storage facilities with limited access or in secure, electronic facilities. Data transmitted electronically will be protected by encryption over a very secure network that limits access only to CCHMC faculty and staff who are reviewed and specifically cleared for access to the password protected, secure network. The data will be stored in protected hard drives in a server system that is protected by two firewalls, one at the hospital level and a second at the Departmental level. De-identified data will be shared with the national database for ASD research (NDAR) as may be required as part of NIH funding via this mechanism, using a Global Unique Identifier (GUID) and the Data Dictionary technology developed by NIH. We have successfully used these methods during the past 5 years to share behavioral phenotyping and genetic information (a more detailed description of data sharing procedures is below).

15.1 Data Management

Data will be collected on paper source documents, CRFs, and/or in the electronic medical record and will be entered by study staff in a password protected, encrypted REDCap(Harris, Taylor et al. 2009) database. The REDCap database will be built upon a developmental disability-focus clinical trial REDCap database. REDCap data collection projects rely on a thorough study-specific data dictionary defined in an iterative self-documenting process by the research team. REDCap provides a secure, web-based application that is flexible and provides 1) an intuitive interface for users to enter data and have real time validation rules (with automated data type and range checks) at the time of entry; 2) HIPAA-compliant and 21 CFR Part 11-ready audit trails for tracking page views, data manipulation and export procedures; 3) record locking and electronic signature functions; 4) fine grained control of user rights to view and manipulate data; 5) a report builder for reporting, monitoring and querying patient records; 6) automated export procedures for seamless data downloads.

16.0 Biostatistics:

The sample size analysis was based on a primary outcome of N1 amplitude. This is the best established ERP abnormality and the only validated ERP drug outcome measure in FXS

patients. The estimate of effect size was drawn from a double-blind trial of minocycline vs. placebo in FXS on N1 amplitudes (Schneider et al., 2013). Assuming that omnibus drug effect size of $d \sim 0.68$, and no carryover or period effects, then 36 patients (9 in each of 4 drug sequences) provides power of 0.80 with α of 0.05 (two-tailed) ("Power Analysis and Sample Size (PASS)," 2008). Patients will be recruited from the STU 052013-043 population until 36 patients have completed the pharmacologic study.

A 4-drug, 4-period, 4-sequence balanced-crossover design (Williams, 1989) will be used for the proposed pharmacologic study. The primary ERP outcome will be N1 amplitude. Secondary outcomes will be N1 habituation, auditory evoked gamma power in the AM modulated chirps, and N1 amplitude reduction during the talk/listen task, and clinical and cognitive outcomes.

The analysis will be a linear mixed model analysis of repeated measures. A separate mixed model analysis will be conducted on each outcome. If deemed necessary, the outcomes will be appropriately transformed to obtain a more normal distribution. The fixed effects of drug, drug sequence, and drug period will be examined. Potential carryover effects of drug will be estimated in the mixed model and, if significant, the drug effects will be adjusted. Patients will be nested within drug sequence and accounted for as a random effect in the mixed model. The intercept will be included as a random effect (if it improves model fit). Sex, age, and IQ will be considered as covariates in the respective mixed models, as will baseline clinical and cognitive data for analyses of those parameters. Restricted maximum likelihood estimation, Type 3 tests of fixed effects, and generalized least-squares will be used, with the Kenward-Roger correction (Kenward & Roger, 1997) applied to the appropriate and best fitting covariance structure. The robust covariance matrix estimator will also be considered. The six pairwise differences of least squares means among the drug effects will be estimated, and these comparisons will be carried out using the Tukey multiple comparison procedure. Hedges' \hat{g} will be calculated and interpreted as the effect size estimator for the pairwise contrasts between the drug effects. Findings will be examined in relation to *Fmr1* gene expansion and methylation. Baseline and changes in neurophysiologic measures will be examined for relationships to cognitive and clinical outcomes as an exploratory evaluation of these variables as potential biomarkers of drug effects in FXS. The mixed model procedures of PROC MIXED in SAS software (SAS Institute, Inc., Cary, NC) will be used to conduct the mixed model analysis making use of all available data from all participants to provide a robust mechanism for handling data that are assumed missing at random (Little, 1995) (Mallinckrodt et al., 2003) (Rubin, 1976) (Wolfinger & Chang, 1995). The level of significance for all tests will be set at $\alpha = .05$ (two-tailed) and, to address multiple testing, p-values will be adjusted using the False Discovery Rate (Benjamini & Hochberg, 1995).

17.0 Subject Cost and Payment:

Subjects will be paid \$100 on a ClinCard for their time and transportation at the end of each fully completed visit. Other than cost of travel to and from visits and potential time away from work for caregivers, we anticipate no other costs for subjects associated with study participation. Travel expenses up to \$7500 may be reimbursed for subjects that come from distances far from the study site.

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