Tissue and Perfusate Pharmacokinetics of Melphalan in Isolated Perfused Rat Hindlimb

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ABSTRACT

Melphalan is commonly used as a cytotoxic agent in isolated limb perfusion for locally recurrent malignant melanoma. The time course of melphalan concentrations in perfusate and tissues during a 60-min melphalan perfusion and 30-min drug-free washout in the single-pass perfused rat hindlimb was examined using a physiologically based pharmacokinetic model. The rat hindlimbs were perfused with Krebs-Heinseleit buffer containing 4.7% bovine serum albumin (BSA) or 2.8% dextran 40 at a constant rate of 3.8 ml/min. The concentration of melphalan in perfusate and tissues was determined by high-performance liquid chromatography. The tissue concentrations of melphalan were significantly higher with perfusates containing dextran than BSA during the 60-min perfusion. During the washout period, the melphalan concentration in the perfusates decreased rapidly in first few minutes, followed by a slower monoexponential decline. The estimated half life ($t_{1/2}$) for melphalan removal from skin and fat was 59 ± 2 min for both BSA and dextran perfusates. However, the estimated $t_{1/2}$ for melphalan removal from muscle was 79 and 96 min for BSA and dextran washout perfusates, respectively. The predicted concentration-time profiles obtained for melphalan with BSA and dextran perfusates appear to correspond closely to the observed data. This study showed that the uptake of melphalan into perfused tissues is impaired by the use of perfusates in which melphalan is highly bound. Melphalan washout from muscle, but not skin and fat, was facilitated by the use of perfusates in which melphalan is highly protein bound.

ILP is a form of regional chemotherapy for cancer that involves the exposure of a tumour-bearing limb to a high concentration of anticancer agent, although sparing the patient from systemic toxicity (Ghussen et al., 1985; Krementz et al., 1987; Scott et al., 1992a, Thompson and Gianoutsos, 1992). Creech et al. (1958) first used the isolated cytotoxic limb perfusion technique to treat a patient with multiple superficial recurrences of melanoma localised to the leg. The efficacy and safety of the procedure has improved considerably and ILP is now widely accepted as the treatment of choice for locally recurrent melanoma restricted to the limbs, with response rates of 50 to 80% having been reported (Hartley and Fletcher, 1987; Baas et al., 1988; Kremenz et al., 1987; Scott et al., 1992a; Hafstrom et al., 1991; Thompson et al., 1994). ILP has also been successfully used in treatment of sarcomas of the extremities (Englund et al., 1971; Lejeune et al., 1988; Stehlin et al., 1984; Di Filippo et al., 1988; Kettelhack et al., 1990). The drug of choice in ILP for melanoma is melphalan. Although this drug has been in use for many years, an understanding of the pharmacokinetic behaviour of the melphalan in the perfused tissues, on which an optimal dosage and treatment schedule could be based, has not been available (Hafstrom et al., 1984; Briele et al., 1985; Benchkhijsen et al., 1986; Scott et al., 1992b).

Benchkhijsen et al. (1988) estimated the time course of tissue levels of melphalan during ILP using a biexponential model for the perfusate melphalan concentration versus time curves. Three previous studies (Scotter et al., 1987; Scott et al., 1992a; Klaase et al., 1994) have reported melphalan concentrations in the limb perfusate and tissues during ILP. However, the tissue concentrations of melphalan in these studies were generally lower than those calculated by Benchkhijsen et al. (1988) who also suggested that the uptake of melphalan into the normal tissues during ILP greatly exceeded uptake by the tumor tissue. Quantitative data on the amount of drug taken up by limb tissues during perfusion for different perfusate conditions appears undefined but relevant in determining the optimal composition of perfusate to be used in ILP.

Leakage of drug-containing medium into the systemic circulation after ILP is unavoidable, even if limited in extent.
Experimental Procedures

Before each experiment, melphalan powder (donated by Welcome Australia) was dissolved in HPLC-grade methanol to give a stock solution of 1 mg/ml. Melphalan solution (15.26 µg/ml) was prepared in the perfusate containing 4.7% BSA or 2.8% dextran 40 immediately prior to melphalan perfusion. Rat hindlimbs were perfused with melphalan perfusate for 60 min, followed by a drug-free either BSA or dextran perfusate washout for 30 min. Perfusate inflow and outflow samples (0.5 ml) were taken at 0, 4, 8, 16, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 61, 62, 65, 70 and 90 min. Additional groups of rats were also sacrificed at various times (2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 60, 70 and 90 min) during melphalan perfusion and hindlimb dissected. The perfused rat hindlimb was depilated with commercial Nair hair-removal cream and tissue samples (skin, fat and muscle) (500 mg) were taken in duplicate from selected points in the hindlimb for melphalan analysis.

Determination of Melphalan Concentrations

Melphalan concentrations in perfusate and tissue samples were analyzed by a HPLC assay previously developed in our laboratory (Wu et al., 1995a). Briefly, perfusate samples were analysed following methanol precipitation (100 µl sample with 200 µl methanol containing internal standard, dansyl-arginine), using a phenyl column and fluorescence detection. The detector was programmed to 265 nm excitation and 360 nm emission for melphalan and 265 nm excitation and 575 nm emission for the internal standard. The mobile phase consisted of methanol-water-glacial acetic acid (25:75:2, v/v/v), pH = 2.7, with 1-octanesulphonic acid added at a concentration of 50 mg/100 ml. The flow rate was 2 ml/min and the injection volume 20 µl.

Tissue samples (100 mg) were minced using scissors and suspended in 200 µl of methanol. The mixture was sonicated, on ice, for 1 min using an ultrasonic microtip and centrifuged at 10,000 × g for 15 min. The supernatant was removed and 20 µl injected into the HPLC system. The limit of quantitation of this assay for melphalan was 7.2 ng for tissue sample on column (Wu et al., 1995a).

Determination of Tissue Vascular Space

To calculate the vascular space in each tissue of the perfused rat hindlimb, 125I-labeled albumin was mixed with melphalan in the perfusate of the IPRH. After 60 min perfusion, assuming the albumin had reached steady-state, an inflow sample was taken to measure the dpm/ml of albumin in the perfusate (Cperfusate). The tissue samples (skin, muscle and fat) were taken to determine the concentration of albumin (dpm) per g of tissue (Ctissue). The total weight (g) of each tissue type (Wt) present in the perfused limb was then determined by complete dissection. The skin hair was removed by the commercial Nair hair-removal cream. The quantity of 125I-labeled albumin was determined in a Cobra II gamma-counter (Packard, Meriden, CT). The vascular space of each tissue (Vp) (ml) in the perfused rat hindlimb was then determined from the following formula:

\[ V_p = \frac{C_{\text{perfusate}}}{C_{\text{tissue}}} \times W_t \]  

Determination of Tissue Blood Flow

The blood flow in skin, muscle and fat during perfusion at flow rate of 3.8 ml/min in the IPRH were determined using the radiolabeled microsphere (64Cr, 10 µl) method described in an earlier study (Wu et al., 1995b). The total blood flow to each tissue type in the perfused hindlimb was assumed to equal the blood flow of tissue (ml/min/g of tissue) multiplied by the weight of each tissue type in the perfused hindlimb.
Theoretical Section

Model development. The physiological pharmacokinetic model proposed to describe melphalan distribution into the perfused tissues (skin, fat and muscle) after isolated perfused rat hindlimb is presented in figure 1. Each tissue can be described as a single compartment, connected to a single central plasma compartment (fig. 1). The differential mass balance equations can then be written for four compartments assuming: 1) a pseudo equilibrium exists between a given tissue and the perfusate in the hindlimb; 2) each tissue acts as a well-stirred compartment; 3) lateral spread of melphalan from one tissue to another tissue is negligible; 4) each tissue is a noneliminating organ, except for hydrolysis, where the rate constant in each tissue is the same.

Given that a monoexponential decline was observed in the concentration of melphalan due to hydrolysis in inflow perfusate solution (fig. 2), the concentration of melphalan before reaching the perfused rat hindlimb at any time is defined by

\[ C_t = C_0 \exp(-K_m t) \]  

(2)

The rate of amount change of melphalan in the perfusate \( (dA_p/dt) \) at any time during the perfusion period \( (t \leq 60) \) is defined by

\[ \frac{dA_p}{dt} = C_0 \frac{Q \exp(-K_m t) - f_e \frac{V_p}{V_p}}{V_p} (PS_s + PS_m + PS_f) A_p + \frac{f_{fe} \frac{V_t}{V_t}}{V_t} PS_f A_f \]

\[ + \frac{f_{fe} \frac{V_t}{V_t}}{V_t} PS_m A_m + \frac{f_{fe} \frac{V_t}{V_t}}{V_t} PS_f A_f - QC_p \]  

(3)

where \( A_p \) is the amount of melphalan in perfusate, \( A_s, A_m, \) and \( A_f \) are the amounts of melphalan in skin, muscle and fat; \( PS_s, PS_m, \) and \( PS_f \) are the permeability-surface area products for the movement of melphalan from the perfusate into skin, muscle and fat, respectively; \( V_p \) is the vascular space in whole hindlimb; \( V_t, V_fe, \) and \( V_f \) are the apparent distribution volume of melphalan in each tissue and \( f_{fe}, f_{fu}, \) and \( f_{fu} \) are fractions unbound of melphalan in perfusate and each tissue, respectively. \( C_0 \) is the initial concentration of melphalan in the perfusate reservoir, \( K_m \) is the melphalan hydrolysis rate constant in the perfusate and \( Q \) is the perfusion flow rate (ml/min).

Equation 3 can also be expressed in terms of the rate of change of melphalan concentration in the perfusate with time \( (dC_p/dt) \):

\[ \frac{dC_p}{dt} = C_0 \frac{Q \exp(-K_m t) - f_e \frac{V_p}{V_p}}{V_p} (PS_s + PS_m + PS_f) C_p \]

\[ + \frac{f_{fe} \frac{V_t}{V_t}}{V_t} PS_m A_m + \frac{f_{fe} \frac{V_t}{V_t}}{V_t} PS_f A_f - QC_p \]  

(4)

During the 30-min drug-free washout period after melphalan perfusion \( (t > 60) \), the input concentration of melphalan was effectively zero, and equation 4 reduces to:

\[ \frac{dC_p}{dt} = \left( \frac{f_{fu} \frac{V_t}{V_t}}{V_t} \right) A_s + \left( \frac{f_{fu} \frac{V_t}{V_t}}{V_t} \right) A_m + \left( \frac{f_{fu} \frac{V_t}{V_t}}{V_t} \right) A_f - QC_p \]  

\[ + f_e \frac{V_p}{V_p} (PS_s + PS_m + PS_f) C_p \]  

(5)

The change in the amount of melphalan in the perfused skin with time can be expressed as

\[ \frac{dA_s}{dt} = f_e \frac{V_p}{V_p} A_p - f_{fu} \frac{V_t}{V_t} PS_m A_m - K_m A_s \]  

(6)

where \( A_p = C_p V_p \) and \( K_m \) is the rate constant of melphalan hydrolysis, and thus equation 6 can be modified to:

\[ \frac{dA_s}{dt} = f_e PS_s C_p - f_{fu} \frac{V_t}{V_t} PS_m A_m - K_m A_s \]  

(7)

The corresponding expressions for the change in the amount of melphalan with time in perfused muscle and fat are defined by equations 8 and 9:

\[ \frac{dA_m}{dt} = f_e PS_m C_p - f_{fu} \frac{V_t}{V_t} PS_m A_m - K_m A_m \]  

(8)

\[ \frac{dA_f}{dt} = f_e PS_f C_p - f_{fu} \frac{V_t}{V_t} PS_f A_f - K_m A_f \]  

(9)

Data analysis. The concentration of melphalan in the inflow perfusate at time zero is defined as \( C_0 \). The rate constant of melphalan hydrolysis in inflow perfusate was calculated from a semilogarithmic plot of concentration versus time (equation 2). The total amount of melphalan in the perfused hindlimb was calculated from the concentration of melphalan in each tissue (\( \mu g/g \) of tissue) multiplied by the weight of each tissue. The total vascular space was taken as the sum of the estimated vascular spaces for skin, muscle and fat.

The nonlinear regression program MINIM V3.08 (Shen et al., 1989), was used to numerically integrate four differential equations defined by the sum of equations 4 and 5, together with equations 7, 8 and 9 to fit the melphalan data obtained from the outflow perfusate, skin, muscle and fat using weighted \( (1/y_{obs}) \) least squares with the Hartley modification of the Gauss-Newton algorithm. The final model fitting was deemed acceptable on the basis of the regression goodness-of-fit criteria that included the Akaike information criteria (AIC) (Landlaw and Distefano, 1984), a lack of systemic deviations in
the residuals, and the percentage of data accounted for by the regression ($R^2 > 0.99$).

Simulations of the model were performed using the equations defined earlier for the nonlinear regression of eqs 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9, with varying fractions unbound of melphalan in the perfusate (0.01–1), corresponding to possible perfusates of plasma, dextran, red blood cell solution and other solutions. The perfusate and tissue profiles were also simulated for variable amount of melphalan hydrolysed in tissues ($K_{\text{m}}$ from 0–0.1). In addition, the simulations were used to estimate the speed at which melphalan could be removed from each tissue during washout.

Each observation is the mean ± S.D. of three or four determinations. Statistical analyses were carried out using Student’s $t$ test for two groups and analysis of variance and Tukey test for more than two groups. Statistical significance was accepted at $P < .05$.

**Results**

**Tissue vascular volume and blood flow.** Individual perfusate flow rates in skin, muscle and fat determined in the rat hindlimb by perfusion with microspheres and perfused tissue vascular volumes determined by $^{125}$I albumin perfusion are given in table 1. The volume and blood flow of each tissue were in the order of muscle $>$ skin $>$ fat, the vascular volume ratio of skin to fat and muscle to fat were 6.7 and 21.4, respectively, in correspondence with perfusate flow ratios of skin/fat and muscle/fat of 7.8 and 23.0, respectively.

**Perfusate kinetics of melphalan.** Melphalan hydrolysis in the perfusate followed an apparent monoexponential decline (fig. 2) with a hydrolysis rate constant of 0.011 ± 0.001 (4.7% BSA perfusate) or 0.011 ± 0.0004 min$^{-1}$ (2.8% dextran 40 perfusate).

Figures 3A and 4A show the outflow profiles of melphalan concentration obtained using both BSA and dextran perfusate during melphalan perfusion. Also shown in figures 3A and 4A are the washout profiles obtained from the drug-free perfusate during removal of melphalan from IPRH. It was observed that the melphalan concentration in both perfusates (BSA and dextran) decreased rapidly during the first few minutes of the washout period, followed by a slower monoexponential decline. The estimated half-life for melphalan removal during this latter washout phase was 71 ± 9, and 86 ± 12 min, for BSA and dextran perfusates respectively.

**Distribution and pharmacokinetics of melphalan in perfused tissues.** The total amount of melphalan in skin, muscle and fat in the IPRH increased with the time during melphalan (15.26 μg/ml) perfusion. The relative amounts of melphalan in each tissue was in the order: muscle $>$ skin $>$ fat for both BSA and dextran perfusions (figs. 3 and 4). A comparison of figures 3 and 4 shows that the amount of melphalan in each tissue was significantly higher using dextran perfusate than using BSA perfusate ($P < .05$). The amount of melphalan washed out from skin and fat using

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Skin</th>
<th>Muscle</th>
<th>Fat</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blood flow</td>
<td>0.90 ± 0.01</td>
<td>2.65 ± 0.03</td>
<td>0.12 ± 0.02</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular volume</td>
<td>0.15 ± 0.01</td>
<td>0.48 ± 0.11</td>
<td>0.02 ± 0.001</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 3. Concentration or amount-time profiles for melphalan (●) in the outflow perfusate (A), skin (B), muscle (C) and fat (D) during 60 min melphalan perfusion followed by 30-min drug-free washout with 4.7% BSA containing perfusate. The solid line is the prediction from the model shown in figure 1, according to equations 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9. Values are reported as mean ± S.D. ($n = 3$).

drug-free perfusate was characterized by an estimated apparent $t_{1/2}$ of 59 ± 2 min for both BSA and dextran perfusate (fig. 5A). However, the amount of melphalan removal from muscle was much slower and characterized by an estimated $t_{1/2}$ of 79 and 96 min for both BSA and dextran washout perfusates respectively (fig. 5A). The melphalan concentration remaining in the tissues after 30 min washout with dextran drug-free perfusate was slightly higher but not significantly different from a washout with BSA perfusate after 60 min melphalan perfusion with 4.7% BSA perfusate ($P > .05$) (fig. 5B). A similar result was obtained following perfusion of melphalan for 60 min using 2.8% dextran 40 perfusate ($P > .05$) (fig. 5C).

The nonlinear regression of experimental data with equations 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 yielded predicted concentrations or amounts of melphalan in perfusate and each tissue which corresponded closely to the observed data (figs. 3 and 4). The percentage of data accounted for by the regression, $R^2$, for melphalan in both BSA and dextran perfusate exceeded 0.99. Table 2 shows the estimated parameters in the pharmacokinetic model for melphalan disposition for both BSA and dextran perfusate. The PS products of melphalan into each tissue were muscle $>$ skin $>$ fat, and $f_{up}/V_t$ were fat $>$ skin $>$ muscle (table 2). The values for the PS product and $f_{up}/V_t$ of melphalan were not significantly different between BSA and dextran perfusates during perfusion. The melphalan hydrolysis in the tissues appeared to be insignificant.

Figure 4 also shows the simulations of melphalan perfusate concentrations and amounts in each tissue for dextran perfusate using the parameters estimated by nonlinear regression of the BSA perfusate data together with a $f_{up}$ for melphalan in dextran perfusate of 0.87. The $f_{up}$ of melphalan

![Image](https://example.com/image.jpg)
in albumin perfusate is 0.52. Comparable profiles were observed for the simulated, nonlinear regression and the experimental data for both perfusate and tissues (fig. 4).

Discussion

This work has shown that melphalan concentrations differ significantly in muscle, skin and fat after perfusion in the IPRH. Scott et al. (1992a), in measuring the concentration of melphalan in skin and fat during in ILP, had previously shown a significantly lower melphalan concentration in fat (1.48 μg/g) than in skin (3.83 μg/g). Klaase et al. (1994) reported that the uptake of melphalan into muscle (6.5 μg/g) was higher than into skin (3.2 μg/g) after ILP. Our results are consistent with these reports in that the melphalan concentration in each tissue after melphalan perfusion with 4.7% BSA was of the order: muscle (18.38 μg/g), skin (12.94 μg/g), and fat (9.76 μg/g). The differences in melphalan tissue concentration in this study compared to earlier work in humans arises in part from the use of the constant infusion input in this study as distinct from the bolus input used in the previous studies (Scott et al., 1992a; Klaase et al., 1994).

In the IPRH, the amount melphalan in each tissue increased during the time of perfusion (60 min) (figs. 3 and 4). The physiological pharmacokinetic model proposed appears to adequately describe the amount of melphalan in each tissue during this perfusion period. The only other data on melphalan tissue concentration-time profiles in a single subject have been reported by Benckhuijsen et al. (1988). However, these authors deduced, rather than measured, the tissue concentrations using a biexponential representation of the melphalan perfusate concentration-time data obtained during 60 min ILP after an initial bolus input of melphalan. They suggested a peak tissue concentration of melphalan at 15 min and the model assumed a single homogeneous tissue compartment in the ILP. In present work, melphalan concentrations had not reached steady-state during the 60 min infusion. This result is consistent with a report by Thompson et al. (1995), who used a noncompartmental moment analysis to show that the mean residence time of melphalan is 43 to 51 min during ILP.

A limitation in the analysis of data shown in figures 3 and 4 is the use of a compartmental model, in which each plasma or tissue compartment is regarded as being well-stirred (Wagner, 1988). The model is consistent with the physiologically based pharmacokinetic model developed by Bischoff and Dedrick (1968) which depicts the body as a number of well-stirred vascular compartments representing individual
The fraction unbound of drug in each tissue is related to the melphalan of $K_a$ in perfusate. In this study, a four-compartment model was used to describe the amount of melphalan in each tissue and in the perfusate. A simpler model, in which each tissue is considered separately as a two-compartment model with distribution of melphalan from the vascular space to the tissue defined by the measured blood flow, was also applied to the tissue data. The summed predicted perfusate concentration time course arising from the three tissues, with corrections for the flow rate in each tissue, appeared to correspond closely to the observed total perfusate outflow concentration profile for melphalan with time. Although the two compartment model of each tissue allows the description of the melphalan disposition in the IPRH, a more complicated model is needed to fit the observed perfusate and tissue data simultaneously.

In this study, the $PS$ of melphalan was estimated to be 1.7 ml/min, the molecular weight (MW) is 305, pKa at pH 7.4 are 1.83 and 9.13 (Fasman, 1976). Sexton and Laughlin (1994) and Paaske (1976). Sexton and Laughlin (1994) have reported that $^{51}$Cr-EDTA (MW 341) has a $PS$ of 1.18 ml/min. The main source of the difference is likely to be differences of the chemical properties of melphalan and EDTA. The $PS$ products for melphalan in each tissue is of the order: muscle > skin > fat, consistent with the $^{51}$Cr-EDTA results published by Sexton and Laughlin (1994) and Paaske (1976). Rowland and Tozer (1989) reported that the protein concentration in various tissues are also in the order: muscle > skin > fat. As an approximation, the fraction unbound of drug in a given tissue is given by: $f_{u} = 1/(1 + K_a \times P_i)$, where $K_a$ is the association constant of drug for the protein in the tissue and $P_i$ is the total amount of protein in the tissue. Accordingly, the fraction unbound of drug in each tissue is of the order: muscle < skin < fat. Noting that the distribution volume ($V_i$) in each tissue is in the order of muscle > skin > fat, the $f_{u}/V_i$ in each tissue is predicted to be in the order: $f_{u}/V_{t_m} > f_{u}/V_{t_s} > f_{u}/V_{t_f}$. Our results for $f_{u}/V_i$ in various tissues (table 2) are consistent with this finding. The overall effect of these relationships is an outcome of the amount of melphalan uptake into muscle being significantly higher than that of into skin and fat.

As an alternative to $PS$ and $f_{u}/V_i$, the rate constant of influx in each tissue could also be expressed as $K_{21i} = (f_{u}/V_i) \times PS_i$, and the rate constant of efflux from each tissue by $K_{21i} = (f_{u}/V_i) \times PS_i$, where $i$ represents each tissue. Whereas $PS_i$ and $f_{u}/V_i$ are not significantly different between 4.7% BSA and 2.8% dextran 40 perfusate, for the $K_{21i}$, the dextran 40 perfusate is significantly higher than the BSA perfusate. The differences in $K_{21i}$ arise from the presence of $f_{u}$ in this parameter. The fraction of melphalan unbound in the dextran perfusate (0.87 ± 0.10) is significantly higher than in BSA perfusate (0.52 ± 0.04) perfusate. In contrast, $f_{u}$ is not a component of $K_{21i}$, and similar values for $K_{21i}$, were obtained for perfusates containing BSA and dextran.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>BSA perfusate</th>
<th>Dextran perfusate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$Q$ (ml/min)</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_0$ (μg/ml)</td>
<td>15.26 ± 0.29</td>
<td>15.33 ± 0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_f$ (ml)</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>$K_a$ (min$^{-1}$)</td>
<td>0.010 ± 0.0010</td>
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<tr>
<td>$PS_i$ (ml/min)</td>
<td>0.62 ± 0.05</td>
<td>0.72 ± 0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>$f_{u}/V_i$ (ml$^{-1}$)</td>
<td>0.030 ± 0.0030</td>
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<tr>
<td>$PS_i$ (ml/min)</td>
<td>1.74 ± 0.10</td>
<td>1.71 ± 0.09</td>
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<td>$f_{u}/V_i$ (ml$^{-1}$)</td>
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<td>$PS_t$ (ml/min)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$f_{u}$ (mg/ml)</td>
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<td>15.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K_m$ (min$^{-1}$)</td>
<td>0.52 ± 0.04*</td>
<td>0.87 ± 0.07*</td>
</tr>
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* Wu et al., 1995a.

**Table 2.** Pharmacokinetic parameters of melphalan during isolated rat hindlimb perfusion using 4.7% BSA or 2.8% dextran perfusate.
containing BSA to reduce the amount of melphalan reaching the systemic circulation will be that primarily from the perfused muscle.

In this work, a comparison of drug-free BSA or dextran perfusates during the washout period was conducted following identical melphalan perfusion conditions. With either 4.7% BSA or 2.8% dextran perfusate with melphalan perfusion, the amount of melphalan in each tissue after 30 min washout was less for the 4.7% BSA drug free perfusate than for the 2.8% dextran perfusate (fig. 5). This result suggests that using washout solutions that bind melphalan highly may facilitate melphalan removal from the perfused limb. However, the removal of 50% of the melphalan from each tissue by 4.7% BSA perfusate would require more than 1 hr washout time, especially for muscle. At present, the washout time in clinical practice is between 3 min (Scotter et al., 1987) and 4 min (Rauschecker et al., 1991).

A variety of media has been used that are likely to influence oxygen supply, arteriolar recruitment, drug binding in blood and perfusion pressure (Wu et al., 1993). What the desirable composition of the perfusate should be was raised by Kroon (1988) in his review of ILP procedures. Our work has suggested that protein binding influences both the input and output of melphalan in muscle during perfusion and washout. Melphalan has been reported (Greig et al., 1987) to bind to red blood cells (36.7%), plasma (84.1%) and human albumin (46.1%). Wu et al. (1995a) reported that melphalan binding to 4.7% BSA was 47.9%. In figure 6, the effect of changing $f_u$ in the perfusate to the melphalan concentration-time profiles in outflow perfusate, skin, muscle and fat after the application of a constant input source to the IPRH is examined using the pharmacokinetic model (fig. 1) derived in this work. The conditions used were an initial applied concentration of 15.26 $\mu$g/ml and a perfusion flow rate of 3.8 ml/min with perfusate containing BSA, dextran, RBC, plasma or other solutions. The melphalan concentrations in the outflow perfusate with varying $f_u$ of melphalan in the perfusate are in the order: $f_u = 0.01 > f_u = 0.16$ (plasma) > $f_u = 0.52$ (4.7% BSA) > $f_u = 0.63$ (RBC) > $f_u = 0.87$ (2.8% dextran 40) > $f_u = 1$. Consistent with model predictions, the amount of melphalan uptake into each tissue was highest for the highest $f_u$ with an order: $f_u = 1 > f_u = 0.87$ (2.8% dextran 40) > $f_u = 0.63$ (RBC) > $f_u = 0.52$ (4.7% BSA) > $f_u = 0.16$ (plasma) > $f_u = 0.01$. It is apparent that a perfusate with a high protein content perfusate impairs melphalan uptake into perfused tissues.

Because the commonly applied process of hyperthermia may enhance melphalan hydrolysis, the effect of potential hydrolysis in tissues was examined in figure 7. The simulated melphalan concentration-time profile in the outflow perfusate was constant for $K_m$ ranging from 0 to 0.1. However, the amount of melphalan in each tissue decreased proportionately as $K_m$ increased.

**Conclusion**

A physiological pharmacokinetic model has been developed to describe the concentration-time profile of melphalan in both perfusate outflow and tissues in the isolated perfused rat hindlimb during perfusion with melphalan and washout periods. The predicted concentration-time profiles obtained appear to correspond closely to the observed data. Further simulations enabled the prediction of melphalan perfusate and tissue profiles with a dextran perfusate, after correction for difference in melphalan binding to perfusate components. The work also shown that higher melphalan protein binding in the perfusate impairs its uptake into tissue. However, the
effect of protein binding on the washout kinetics was small, a comparable rate of elimination being observed for dextran and albumin perfusates. It is implied throughout that this physiological pharmacokinetic model will have use in the understanding of systemic drug exposure.

References


