Differential Effects of U46619 on Renal Regional Hemodynamics in the Rat: Involvement of Endothelin

HERCULE HANTZ, AJAYI ADESUYI, and OYEKAN ADEBAYO

Center for Cardiovascular Diseases, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas

Received March 9, 2001; accepted July 6, 2001

This paper is available online at http://jpet.aspetjournals.org

ABSTRACT

Many vasoactive agents produce qualitatively similar effects on blood flow in the renal cortex and medulla, evoking reductions or increases in blood flow in both regions. We demonstrated previously that endothelin-1 (ET-1) is an exception because it evoked an increase in medullary perfusion despite a potent cortical vasoconstriction (Hercul and Oyekan, 2000). We report here that U46619 (11,9-epoxymethano-prostaglandin H2), a selective agonist of prostaglandin H2 (PGH2)/thromboxane A2 (TXA2) (TP) receptor, evokes similar effects as ET-1. In the pentobarbital-anesthetized (60 mg/kg) rat, 1, 3, and 5 μg/kg U46619 dose dependently reduced mean arterial blood pressure by −2 ± 4, −8 ± 10, and −31 ± 10 mm Hg, respectively; renal cortical blood flow (CBF) by −50 ± 11, −174 ± 45, and −349 ± 43 perfusion units (PU), respectively; but increased medullary blood flow (MBF) by 42 ± 16, 51 ± 18, and 61 ± 21 PU, respectively. Prostaglandin F2α, a TxA2 mimetic, produced similar effects as U46619. SQ29548 ([1S-[1α,2α(Z), 3α,4α]-7-3-[2-[(phenylamino)carbonyl][hydrazino]ethyl]-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-yl]-5-heptenoic acid) (0.1 mg/kg), an antagonist of PGH2/TxA2 (TP), blunted U46619-induced hemodynamic changes without affecting that produced by phenylephrine. BMS182874 [5-((dimethylamino)-N-(3,4-dimethyl-5-isoxazolyl)-1-naphthalene sulfonamide] (40 mg/kg), an ETα-selective antagonist, blunted U46619-induced reduction in CBF by 54 ± 9% (p < 0.05) and the increase in MBF by 59 ± 18% (p < 0.05). Similarly, BQ788 (N-cis 2,6-dimethylpiperidinocarbonyl-L-γ-methylleucyl-o-1-methoxytryptophanyl-o-norleucine) (1 mg/kg), an ETβ-selective antagonist, blunted the effects of U46619 on CBF and MBF by 19 ± 3% (p < 0.05) and 48 ± 19% (p < 0.05), respectively. Combined administration of BMS182874 and BQ788 further attenuated U46619-induced reduction in CBF by 67 ± 8% (p < 0.05) and that on MBF by 61 ± 18% (p < 0.05). Phosphoramidon (10 mg/kg), an endothelin converting enzyme inhibitor, markedly blunted U46619-induced changes on CBF and MBF (p < 0.05). These findings are the first to demonstrate that U46619, through activation of ETα and ETβ receptors, elicits renal cortical vasoconstriction and medullary vasodilation in the rat.

Interactions involving two or more hormonal systems are now widely recognized and well established between angiotensin II (AII), endothelin−1 (ET-1), nitric oxide, and eicosanoids. Thus, eicosanoids are the putative mediators of the effects of many hormones, and a role was proposed for thromboxane A2 (TxA2) in the effects of ET because ET administration evoked increases in TxA2 production (Stier et al., 1992) and antagonism of prostaglandin (PG) H2/TxA2 (TP) receptors blunted ET-1-induced contraction of the aortic ring (Asano et al., 1994). In addition, ET receptor antagonism diminished endothelium-dependent contractions suggesting that endogenous ET may also regulate the release of PGH2

This work was supported by National Institutes of Health Grants R01 HL59884 and UH1 HL38674. Dr. Oyekan is an Established Investigator of the American Heart Association (Award 0040119N). The facilities of the Research Center in Minority Institutions’ program at Texas Southern University were used for these studies.

ABBREVIATIONS: AII, angiotensin II; ET, endothelin; TxA2, thromboxane A2; PGH2, prostaglandin H2; TP, PGH2/TxA2; MABP, mean arterial blood pressure; CBF, cortical blood flow; PE, phenylephrine; PU, perfusion units; MBF, medullary blood flow; CVR, cortical vascular resistance; MVR, medullary vascular resistance; U46619, 11,9-epoxymethano-prostaglandin H2; SQ29548, [1S-[1α,2α(Z), 3α,4α]-7-3-[2-[(phenylamino)carbonyl]-hydrazino]ethyl]-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-yl]-5-heptenoic acid; BMS182874, 5-(dimethylamino)-N-(3,4-dimethyl-5-isoxazolyl)-1-naphthalene sulfonamide; BQ788, N-cis 2,6-dimethylpiperidinocarbonyl-L-γ-methylleucyl-o-1-methoxytryptophanyl-o-norleucine.
unique interaction between ET and TP receptors and are supported by the demonstration that treatment of human cerebrocerebrovascular endothelial cells with U46619 (11.9 epoxymethano-prostaglandin H2), a TP agonist, led to an increased production of ET-1 (Spatz et al., 1994; Yakubu and Leffler, 1999).

In evaluating renal hemodynamic changes in response to various agonists, we observed a unique increase in medullary perfusion to U46619 but a strong cortical vasoconstriction, a response hitherto observed only with ET-1 (Gurbanov et al., 1999). Therefore, these experiments tested the hypothesis that the disparate effects of U46619 on renal regional hemodynamics involve ET-1 production and/or activation of ET receptors. Our findings demonstrate that ETα and ETβ receptors are involved in the hemodynamic effects of U46619 in the rat.

Materials and Methods

ET-1 and big ET-1 (Peninsula Laboratories, Belmont, CA) were stored in 0.1% acetic acid at −20°C. U46619 and PGF2α were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO) and initially dissolved in absolute ethanol, 1 mg/ml, diluted in normal saline to 50 µg/ml, and stored frozen in aliquots at −70°C. BMS182874 [5-(dimethylamino)-N-(3,4-dimethyl-5-isoxazolyl)-1-naphthalene sulfonamide], a gift from Dr. Stier (Department of Pharmacology, New York Medical College, New York), was dissolved in 0.1 M NaHCO3 and pH adjusted to 7.6. BQ788 (Peninsula Laboratories) was dissolved in 25% DMSO. Phosphoramidon (Sigma), a prototype endothelin-converting enzyme inhibitor, was dissolved in normal saline. SQ29548 (Cayman Chemical Co., Ann Arbor, MI) was dissolved in absolute ethanol and diluted in normal saline.

The experiments were performed on male Sprague-Dawley rats (Charles River Laboratories, Inc., Wilmington, MA; body weight 309 ± 7 g). The animals were maintained on standard rat food (Purina Chow; Purina, St. Louis, MO) and were allowed ad libitum access to water and food until the beginning of the experiments.

Rats were anesthetized with an intraperitoneal injection of sodium pentobarbital (60 mg/kg) and placed on a heated platform to maintain body temperature at 37°C. A tracheostomy (polyethylene 250) was performed for spontaneous ventilation, and a tail vein was cannulated with a 23G butterfly needle (Abbott Hospitals Inc., North Chicago, IL) for drug administration. A catheter (polyethylene 10) was implanted in the carotid artery and connected to a pressure transducer for recording mean arterial blood pressure (MABP). Re-vascularization, and pH adjusted to 7.6. BQ788 (Peninsula Laboratories) was dissolved in 25% DMSO. Phosphoramidon (Sigma), a prototype endothelin-converting enzyme inhibitor, was dissolved in normal saline. SQ29548 (Cayman Chemical Co., Ann Arbor, MI) was dissolved in absolute ethanol and diluted in normal saline.

The experiments were performed on male Sprague-Dawley rats (Charles River Laboratories, Inc., Wilmington, MA; body weight 309 ± 7 g). The animals were maintained on standard rat food (Purina Chow; Purina, St. Louis, MO) and were allowed ad libitum access to water and food until the beginning of the experiments.

Rats were anesthetized with an intraperitoneal injection of sodium pentobarbital (60 mg/kg) and placed on a heated platform to maintain body temperature at 37°C. A tracheostomy (polyethylene 250) was performed for spontaneous ventilation, and a tail vein was cannulated with a 23G butterfly needle (Abbott Hospitals Inc., North Chicago, IL) for drug administration. A catheter (polyethylene 10) was implanted in the carotid artery and connected to a pressure transducer for recording mean arterial blood pressure (MABP). Regional blood flow was determined as described previously (Hercule and Oyekan, 2000). Briefly, a left laparotomy was performed and a laser-Doppler surface probe (PF 407) was placed on the kidney surface to measure cortical blood flow (CBF), or an optic fiber laser-Doppler probe (PF 402) fixed to a micromanipulator and placed in the medulla (5 mm below the kidney surface) to evaluate medullary blood flow (MBF). CBF and MBF measured simultaneously by laser-Doppler flowmeter (Periflux System 5000 version 1.20; Perimed, Stockholm, Sweden) were obtained as perfusion units (PU) and expressed as volts (100 U corresponding to 1 V). Cortical and medullary vascular resistance (CVR and MVR) were calculated as ratios of MABP to CBF and MBF (mm Hg/perfusion units).

Experimental Protocol. After surgery and placing of probes for recording regional blood flows, a 30- to 45-min equilibration period was allowed after which a dose-response relationship was established to U46619 (1, 3, and 5 or 10 µg/kg). Responses to big ET-1 (2.0 µg/kg), precursor of ET-1; PGF2α (0.3 and 1.0 µg/kg), a TXA2 mimic; and phenylephrine (PE, 10 µg/kg), a negative control, were also evaluated. These doses were given randomly by bolus intravenous injection. The rat was allowed to recover fully from the effect of one dose before another dose was given. After the responses to the last dose of U46619 were tested, an inhibitor/antagonist or its vehicle was administered and responses to U46619 or the other agonists were reestablished after 5 min. In time controls (n = 5), responses to U46619 obtained 1 h after the equilibration period were repeated 45 min later.

The effects of U46619 on regional blood flows were studied in the presence of SQ29548, a TP receptor agonist (0.1 mg/kg i.v.; n = 4); BMS182874, an ETα receptor antagonist (40 µg/kg i.v.; n = 5); BQ788, an ETβ receptor antagonist (0.5 mg/kg i.v., n = 5); combination of BMS182874 and BQ788 (n = 5–7); phosphoramidon (10 µg/kg i.v., n = 6); or their respective vehicles: 0.1 M NaHCO3 for BMS182874, 25% DMSO for BQ788, 5% ethanol for SQ29548, and normal saline for phosphoramidon. In all cases, changes in CBF and MBF were continuously monitored. The doses of BMS182874 and BQ788 used were those that we used in our previous studies to effectively antagonize ET-1 and/or ET-3 renal hemodynamic responses (Hercule and Oyekan, 2000). The effects of the inhibitors/antagonists on U46619-induced changes in hemodynamics were evaluated by comparing renal effects with U46619, big ET-1, or PE before and after the administration of the inhibitors/antagonists.

Data Analysis. All responses were recorded as changes (Δ) relative to preinjection values and data expressed as mean ± S.E. Analysis of variance was used to compare dose-response curves between control (vehicle-treated) and treated groups followed by Newman-Keuls test. In all cases, p < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Effect of U46619 on Renal Cortical and Medullary Blood Flows. Basal MABP, CBF, MBF, CVR, and MVR in pentobarbital-anesthetized (n = 11) rats were 113 ± 5 mm Hg, 485 ± 33 PU, 138 ± 8 PU, 0.24 ± 0.03 mm Hg/PU, and 0.88 ± 0.12 mm Hg/PU, respectively. Figure 1 shows a representative tracing of the response to U46619, PGF2α, or phenylephrine on CBF and MBF. U46619 and PGF2α evoked reductions in MBF but increases in MABP, whereas phenylephrine elicited reductions in both CBF and MBF. Figures 2 and 3 show that 1, 3, and 10 µg/kg U46619 (threshold dose, 300 ng/kg) reduced CBF (−50 to −349 PU) and increased MBF (42–61 PU) in a dose-dependent manner. Similarly, PGF2α at doses of 0.3 and 1 µg/kg, produced effects qualitatively similar to those of U46619 (Fig. 2). Despite its consis-

![Fig. 1](https://example.com/fig1.png)
tent effects on CBF and MBF, U46619 produced inconsistent effects on MABP, eliciting hypotension (5 of 11 experiments), hypertension (3 of 11 experiments), and biphase effect pronounced initial and prolonged fall followed by a brief rise in blood pressure (3 of 11 experiments). In general, U46619 elicited net reductions in MABP, increases in CVR, and reductions in MVR (Table 1). In time controls (n = 5), responses to U46619 were not different between the first and second dose-response determinations. Thus, changes in CBF in response to 1, 3, and 5 µg/kg U46619 were −40 ± 4, −102 ± 19, and −201 ± 17 PU, respectively, values not different from those obtained during the second dose-response determination (i.e., 45 ± 15, 116 ± 19, and 196 ± 21 PU, respectively). SQ29548 (0.1 mg/kg), a selective PGH2/TxA2 receptor antagonist, virtually abolished the effects of U46619 and PGF2α (p < 0.05, n = 4) on CBF and MBF without affecting the hemodynamic effects of 10 µg/kg PE (Fig. 2). SQ29548 also markedly blunted the effects of U46619 on MABP, CVR, and MVR without altering a PE-induced increase in MABP or the increases in CVR and MVR (Table 1).

Effects of ET Receptor Antagonists and an ET Synthesis Inhibitor on U46619-Induced Renal Hemodynamics. BMS182874 reduced MABP but increased CBF and MBF, eventuating in reductions in CVR and MVR. By contrast, BQ788 increased MABP, CBF, and MBF. However, CVR and MVR were unchanged in the presence of BQ788 (Table 2). Combined administration of BMS182874 and BQ788 evoked hemodynamic changes that were less than those produced by either BMS182874 or BQ788. Figure 3 shows that BMS182874 not only attenuated U46619-induced reduction in CBF (54 ± 9%; p < 0.05, n = 6) but also attenuated the increase in MBF (59 ± 18%; p < 0.05, n = 6). Similarly, BQ788 produced a slight but significant attenuation of the reduction produced by U46619 in CBF (19 ± 3%; p < 0.05, n = 5) and markedly attenuated the increase in MBF by 48 ± 19% (p < 0.05, n = 4). Combined administration of BMS182874 and BQ788 (n = 5–7) further attenuated the effects of U46619 on CBF and MBF by 67 ± 8% (p < 0.05) and 61 ± 18% (p < 0.05), respectively. Phosphoramidon (10 mg/kg) blunted the effects of big ET-1 (2 µg/kg) on CBF and MBF by 74 ± 10 and 77 ± 4%, respectively (p < 0.05). Similarly, phosphoramidon blunted U46619-induced reduction in CBF by 34 ± 6% (p < 0.05, n = 6) and the increase in MBF by 65 ± 10% (p < 0.05, n = 4) (Fig. 4) without affecting responses to PE (CBF, −139 ± 28 [control] versus −124 ± 14 PU [experimental]; MBF, −31 ± 8 [control] versus −27 ± 4 PU [experimental]).

Discussion

The findings in this study demonstrate two major novel observations, namely, U46619 evokes differential effects on renal hemodynamics and that ETs are involved in these effects. These findings are based on the following observations: 1) U46619 dose dependently increased MBF despite a potent renal vasoconstriction; 2) PGF2α produced similar effects as U46619; 3) ETα and/or ETβ receptor antagonism blunted the cortical and medullary hemodynamic effects of
U46619; and 4) inhibition of ET production attenuated U46619-induced changes on renal hemodynamics.

A two-way interaction between humoral factors in the regulation of vasomotor tone and renal function is an area of growing interest. A typical interaction exists between AII and ET-1 because AII potently stimulates ET-1 synthesis/release (Scott-Burden et al., 1991), and ET-1 dose dependently increased AII production by an enalapril-sensitive mechanism (Kawaguchi et al., 1990, 1991). A two-way interaction has been demonstrated between ET and U46619. Thus, ETs increase the production of TxA2 in the kidney (Stier et al., 1992) and may regulate the release of PGH2 and Leffler, 1999), and blockade of TP receptors attenuated the vasodepression by U46619 that was blunted by antagonism of TxA2 receptors with SQ29548 demonstrates that these effects involve activation of TxA2 receptors. The blunting of the vasodepression by U46619 following blockade of TP receptors is in agreement with the studies of Hui and Ogle (1993). TxA2 receptors in the kidney have been well described, and available information demonstrates that there are two subtypes—a vascular type found predominantly in glomerular mesangial cells (Abe et al., 1995) and a tubular subtype found in glomerular capillaries (Bresnahan et al., 1996). It does not appear that the differential effects to U46619 in the medulla versus the cortex are related to differential sensitivity of the receptor subtypes to U46619 because SQ29548 virtually abolished the effects of U46619 in

### TABLE 1
Changes in mean arterial blood pressure, cortical and medullary vascular resistance in response to U46619 and PE in pentobarbital-anesthetized rats. Rats were treated with BMS182874 (40 mg/kg, n = 5), BQ788 (0.5 mg/kg, n = 5), BMS182874 and BQ788 (BMS/BQ, n = 5), SQ29548 (0.1 mg/kg, n = 4), or phosphoramidon (10 mg/kg, n = 5). Values represent changes from basal values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dose (μg/kg)</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>BMS182874</th>
<th>BQ788</th>
<th>BMS/BQ</th>
<th>SQ29548</th>
<th>Phosphoramidon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Arterial blood pressure (mm Hg)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U46619 1</td>
<td>−2 ± 4</td>
<td>3 ± 5</td>
<td>−6 ± 3</td>
<td>−1 ± 2*</td>
<td>0 ± 2*</td>
<td>2 ± 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>−8 ± 6</td>
<td>−1 ± 12</td>
<td>−10 ± 9</td>
<td>−3 ± 5*</td>
<td>0 ± 3*</td>
<td>−2 ± 3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>−31 ± 10</td>
<td>−14 ± 5*</td>
<td>−7 ± 11*</td>
<td>−5 ± 4*</td>
<td>−5 ± 4*</td>
<td>−18 ± 5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE 10</td>
<td>45 ± 5</td>
<td>39 ± 5</td>
<td>48 ± 3</td>
<td>36 ± 2</td>
<td>42 ± 4</td>
<td>47 ± 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortical vascular resistance (mm Hg/PU)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U46619 1</td>
<td>0.13 ± 0.04</td>
<td>0.02 ± 0.02*</td>
<td>0.01 ± 0.01*</td>
<td>−0.01 ± 0.01*</td>
<td>0.03 ± 0.03*</td>
<td>0.05 ± 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.21 ± 0.11</td>
<td>0.05 ± 0.02*</td>
<td>0.05 ± 0.03*</td>
<td>0.12 ± 0.02*</td>
<td>0.07 ± 0.04*</td>
<td>0.08 ± 0.05*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.49 ± 0.13</td>
<td>0.12 ± 0.04*</td>
<td>0.38 ± 0.07</td>
<td>0.25 ± 0.14*</td>
<td>0.09 ± 0.06*</td>
<td>0.29 ± 0.09*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE 10</td>
<td>0.25 ± 0.07</td>
<td>0.23 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.24 ± 0.08</td>
<td>0.19 ± 0.03</td>
<td>0.26 ± 0.05</td>
<td>0.28 ± 0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medullary vascular resistance (mm Hg/PU)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U46619 1</td>
<td>−0.02 ± 0.08</td>
<td>−0.2 ± 0.09</td>
<td>0.01 ± 0.03</td>
<td>0.04 ± 0.03*</td>
<td>0.04 ± 0.03*</td>
<td>0.00 ± 0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>−0.08 ± 0.04</td>
<td>−0.02 ± 0.12</td>
<td>0.01 ± 0.04*</td>
<td>0.03 ± 0.03*</td>
<td>0.03 ± 0.03*</td>
<td>−0.01 ± 0.02*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>−0.19 ± 0.05</td>
<td>−0.29 ± 0.09</td>
<td>−0.09 ± 0.03*</td>
<td>0.09 ± 0.04*</td>
<td>−0.04 ± 0.03*</td>
<td>−0.09 ± 0.09*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE 10</td>
<td>0.88 ± 0.12</td>
<td>0.82 ± 0.08</td>
<td>0.86 ± 0.09</td>
<td>0.79 ± 0.08</td>
<td>0.84 ± 0.10</td>
<td>0.91 ± 0.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < 0.05 versus vehicle.

### TABLE 2
Basal values (vehicle-treated rats) and changes in MABP, CBF, MBF, CVR, and MVR in pentobarbital-anesthetized rats. Rats were treated with BMS182874 (40 mg/kg, n = 5), BQ788 (0.5 mg/kg, n = 5), BMS182874 and BQ788 (BMS/BQ, n = 5), SQ29548 (0.1 mg/kg, n = 4), or phosphoramidon (10 mg/kg, n = 5). Values represent changes from basal values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MABP (mm Hg)</th>
<th>CBF (PU)</th>
<th>MBF (PU)</th>
<th>CVR (mm Hg/PU)</th>
<th>MVR (mm Hg/PU)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basal</td>
<td>113 ± 5</td>
<td>485 ± 33</td>
<td>138 ± 8</td>
<td>0.24 ± 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS182874</td>
<td>−8 ± 4</td>
<td>49 ± 6*</td>
<td>38 ± 10*</td>
<td>−0.03 ± 0.01*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BQ788</td>
<td>12 ± 8*</td>
<td>24 ± 15*</td>
<td>38 ± 10*</td>
<td>−0.03 ± 0.01*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS/BQ</td>
<td>−2 ± 4</td>
<td>19 ± 8*</td>
<td>15 ± 11*</td>
<td>−0.01 ± 0.01*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQ29548</td>
<td>−2 ± 2</td>
<td>10 ± 3</td>
<td>6 ± 3</td>
<td>−0.02 ± 0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphoramidon</td>
<td>0 ± 3</td>
<td>8 ± 2</td>
<td>4 ± 2</td>
<td>0.00 ± 0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < 0.05 versus basal.
for increased ET-1 production in U46619 responses, we employed phosphoramidon that competitively blocked responses to big ET-1 and big ET-3 but not big ET-1 or ET-3 (Pollock et al., 1993). The attenuation by phosphoramidon of U46619-induced cortical vasoconstriction and medullary perfusion does not equivocally demonstrate ET-1 production by U46619 but suggests that a background tone of endothelin is required for full expression of the effects of TP receptor activation on cortical and medullary renal blood flow in the rat.

In conclusion, this study demonstrated a role for endothelin in the activation of PGI2/TxA2 receptors leading to an ETα and ETB-mediated cortical vasoconstriction but a predominant ETB-mediated vasodilatation in the rat.

References


