

**TWO MAJOR GRAPEFRUIT JUICE COMPONENTS DIFFER IN TIME TO ONSET OF  
INTESTINAL CYP3A4 INHIBITION**

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**Running title:** DHB vs. BG in time to onset of intestinal CYP3A4 inhibition

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**Abbreviations:** BG, bergamottin; DHB, 6',7'-dihydroxybergamottin; 1'-OH MDZ, 1'-hydroxymidazolam; 6 $\beta$ -OH TST, 6 $\beta$ -hydroxytestosterone; 1 $\alpha$ ,25-(OH)<sub>2</sub>-D<sub>3</sub>, 1 $\alpha$ ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>; HPLC, high performance liquid chromatography; LC/MS, liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry, HSA, human serum albumin; IOD, integrated optical density

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## ABSTRACT

Grapefruit juice elevates blood levels of some drugs taken orally, primarily by inhibiting intestinal CYP3A4-mediated first-pass metabolism. Two prominent furanocoumarins in the juice, DHB and BG, have been demonstrated as important contributors to grapefruit juice-drug interactions. Using CYP3A4-expressing Caco-2 cells and representative probes from distinct CYP3A4 substrate subgroups (midazolam, testosterone), we compared the time-dependent inhibitory properties of DHB and BG. DHB rapidly inhibited CYP3A4 activity in a substrate-independent fashion, with maximal inhibition ( $\geq 85\%$ ) generally occurring within 30 minutes. In contrast, BG had a slower onset and exhibited substrate-dependent inhibition. Whereas testosterone  $6\beta$ -hydroxylation was inhibited by  $>50\%$  with all exposure times (0.5-3 hours), midazolam 1'-hydroxylation was unaffected, or even activated, with short exposure times ( $<1$  hour). After a 3-hour exposure, however, BG had begun to "catch up" with DHB, causing  $\geq 70\%$  inhibition, independent of substrate. Likewise, loss of CYP3A4 protein, believed to reflect rapid intracellular degradation of the enzyme following mechanism-based inactivation, was comparable between the furanocoumarins (40-50%). The time course of BG-mediated inhibition was similar after just a 30-minute exposure, indicating that the short exposure presumed to occur after juice ingestion is sufficient to initiate the events required to cause substantial inhibition ( $\geq 50\%$ ). These results suggest that, after ingestion of a glass of grapefruit juice, CYP3A4 is maximally inhibited by DHB before BG has the opportunity to act. However, foods containing BG only (e.g., lime juice) could produce a substrate-dependent interaction with drugs consumed concomitantly, but a substrate-independent interaction with drugs taken several hours after food consumption.

Although the primary site of inhibition-based metabolic drug-drug interactions is generally the liver, several studies have shown, for drugs taken orally, that the small intestine can serve as a second, pre-systemic site. In a recent review, of the 24 inhibition-based interactions in which intestinal metabolism was implicated as an important contributor to the potential clinical significance (Doherty and Charman, 2002), all involve the prominent drug metabolizing enzyme CYP3A4. This is not surprising, as CYP3A4 is the major P450 expressed in epithelial cells of the human small intestinal mucosa (enterocytes), at least in most Caucasians, and it has been implicated in the metabolism of >50% of all drugs in clinical use (Thummel and Wilkinson, 1998). While a concomitant medication frequently represents the CYP3A4 inhibitory agent, a number of non-drug (rather, non-regulated) agents are also known to inhibit CYP3A4 *in vivo* and include herbal supplements and dietary substances (Huang and Lesko, 2004). Of these non-regulated agents, grapefruit juice has become one of the most widely recognized. Indeed, grapefruit juice accounted for nearly half (10) of the aforementioned inhibition-based interactions (Doherty and Charman, 2002).

Interactions between drugs and grapefruit juice are unique in that, when the juice is consumed in usual volumes, inhibition occurs essentially exclusively in the small intestine (Lown et al., 1997; Bailey et al., 1998a). Modes of intestinal CYP3A4 inhibition by grapefruit juice include both reversible and mechanism-based (Bailey et al., 1998a; Guo et al., 2000), as well as destruction of CYP3A4 protein (Lown et al., 1997). The loss of protein without a corresponding decrease in mRNA is believed to reflect accelerated intracellular degradation following mechanism-based inactivation (Lown et al., 1997). Of the numerous candidate inhibitors identified in grapefruit juice, a group of compounds termed furanocoumarins have been shown to potently inhibit CYP3A4 by at least one of these modes. The two most abundant furanocoumarins, bergamottin (BG) and 6'7'-dihydroxybergamottin (DHB), inhibit CYP3A4 activity in both a reversible and irreversible manner (Fukuda et al., 1997; Schmiedlin-Ren et al., 1997a; He et al., 1998; Guo et al., 2000; Tassaneeyakul et al., 2000; Paine et al., 2004).

Human volunteer studies with lime juice (which contained BG but undetectable DHB) (Bailey et al., 2003) and an aqueous extract of grapefruit juice (which contained DHB and extremely low concentrations BG or other furanocoumarins) (Kakar et al., 2004) indicated that both furanocoumarins contribute to the “grapefruit juice effect” in vivo.

In a recent systematic comparison of BG and DHB as inhibitors of intestinal CYP3A4 activity, we demonstrated, using human intestinal microsomes, that the two furanocoumarins differ markedly in inhibitory kinetic and binding properties (Paine et al., 2004). As reversible inhibitors, whereas DHB effectively inhibited the hydroxylation of both testosterone and midazolam (apparent  $K_i$  ~0.8  $\mu\text{M}$ ), which are representative of two distinct CYP3A4 substrate subgroups (Kenworthy et al., 1999; Schrag and Wienkers, 2001; Galetin et al., 2003), BG was 8x more effective in inhibiting testosterone than midazolam hydroxylation (apparent  $K_i$  of 1.6 and 13  $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively). In contrast to their behavior as reversible inhibitors, both DHB and BG were found to be substrate-independent mechanism-based inhibitors with comparable potency ( $K_i$  ~25  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $k_{\text{inact}}$  ~0.35  $\text{min}^{-1}$ ).

If mechanism-based inhibition by each furanocoumarin occurs rapidly in vivo, these findings suggest that the substrate-dependent reversible inhibition by BG is clinically irrelevant, and that the effects of the two furanocoumarins in vivo should be similar whether the interacting drug belongs to the testosterone or midazolam subgroup. Extrapolating these in vitro data to the in vivo situation is not straightforward, however, as BG is 1000x more lipophilic than DHB (log P values of 5.6 and 2.6, respectively) (SciFinder Scholar, v2002, American Chemical Society, Columbus, OH). This marked disparity in lipid solubility infers that these furanocoumarins may differ in their rates of entry into enterocytes following ingestion of grapefruit juice. In addition, the two furanocoumarins would be expected to differ in their rates of exit from the basolateral (vascular) side of enterocytes, where serum proteins reside. These factors, combined with a difference in the unbound fraction within enterocytes, could lead to time-dependent differences in the concentration of each furanocoumarin at the enzyme active

site, which could in turn lead to a difference in time to onset of inhibition. An additional issue in extrapolating data obtained from microsomes or recombinant enzymes is that furanocoumarin-mediated loss of enterocyte CYP3A4 protein does not occur in isolated enzyme systems (Edwards et al., 1999).

These observations led us to systematically compare the disposition and CYP3A4 inhibitory properties of BG and DHB using CYP3A4-expressing Caco-2 cell monolayers. In addition to CYP3A4, this modified human intestinal cell line expresses potentially relevant transporters indicative of enterocytes (e.g., P-glycoprotein, multidrug resistance associated proteins 1-5) (Pfrunder et al., 2003). Not only have these cells been shown to serve as a useful model to study the intestinal first-pass extraction of drugs (midazolam, indinavir, sirolimus, saquinavir) (Fisher et al., 1999b; Hochman et al., 2000; Paine et al., 2002; Mouly et al., 2004), but also drug interactions at the level of the intestine (DHB-midazolam, ketoconazole-midazolam) (Schmiedlin-Ren et al., 1997a; Gibbs et al., 2000). We report that BG and DHB differ considerably in rates of entry and time to onset of inhibitory effect, and that substrate-dependent inhibition by BG can be demonstrated in this intact model of enterocytes.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Materials and Chemicals

Cell culture materials and media ingredients (culture inserts, murine laminin, Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium, nonessential amino acids, fetal bovine serum, *dl*- $\alpha$ -tocopherol, zinc sulfate, sodium selenite, gentamicin,  $1\alpha,25$ -dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> ( $1\alpha,25$ -(OH)<sub>2</sub>-D<sub>3</sub>), and all-*trans*-retinoic acid) were purchased from sources as previously described (Mouly et al., 2004). Testosterone,  $6\beta$ -hydroxytestosterone ( $6\beta$ -OH TST), cortisol, midazolam maleate, alprazolam, NADPH, and human serum albumin (fraction V) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). DHB was a gift from the Florida Dept. of Citrus (Lakeland, FL). BG and psoralen were purchased from Indofine Chemical Co. (Hillsborough, NJ). 1'-Hydroxymidazolam (1'-OH MDZ) was purchased from BD Gentest (Woburn, MA). Complete Mini protease inhibitor was purchased from Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc. (Nutley, NJ). Jejunal microsomes were previously prepared from mucosal scrapings from 4 human donor small intestines (Paine et al., 1997); none of the preparations contained readily detectable CYP3A5 immunoreactive protein using a selective antibody to CYP3A5 (BD Gentest). Western blotting materials and reagents (sodium dodecyl sulfate, acrylamide/bis (37.5:1), ammonium persulfate, TEMED, PVDF membrane, enhanced chemiluminescence reagents) were purchased from sources as previously described (Paine et al., 2002). A murine monoclonal antibody that recognizes all human CYP3A isoforms, termed 13-7-10, was a gift from Dr. Pierre Kremers (Universite de Liege, Liege, Belgium). A murine monoclonal antibody raised against human villin was purchased from Chemicon International (Temecula, CA). The secondary antibody, rabbit anti-mouse horseradish peroxidase-conjugated IgG, was purchased from Zymed Laboratories (San Francisco, CA). All other chemicals and reagents were of tissue culture, electrophoresis, or HPLC grade where appropriate.

### Caco-2 Cell Experiments

**Cell Culture Conditions.** The Caco-2 cell clone P27.7 (Schmidlin-Ren et al., 1997b) (passage 24-33) was seeded onto laminin-coated culture inserts (4.2 cm<sup>2</sup> growth area), at a density of  $\sim 5 \times 10^5$  cell/cm<sup>2</sup>, as previously described (Mouly et al., 2004). After reaching confluence ( $\sim 5$  days), the cell cultures were maintained in differentiation medium (Mouly et al., 2004) for 3 weeks. Except for the disposition and  $P_{app}$  determination studies with BG and DHB (preliminary studies with  $1\alpha,25-(OH)_2-D_3$ -treated cells produced nearly identical results with untreated cells), differentiation medium was supplemented with  $1\alpha,25-(OH)_2-D_3$  (a CYP3A4 inducing agent) and all-*trans*-retinoic acid as previously described (Mouly et al., 2004). Cell cultures for a given experiment were maintained throughout the  $\sim 4$ -week period in a 37°C, humidified incubator with a 5% carbon dioxide air atmosphere.

**Time-Course Studies with DHB and BG.** Warm incubation medium (differentiation medium devoid of fetal bovine serum) was spiked with DHB or BG to yield a final concentration of 30  $\mu$ M (0.3% methanol). For apical-to-basolateral (A $\rightarrow$ B) translocation, DHB- or BG-containing incubation medium (1.5 ml) was added to the apical compartment, followed by plain incubation medium (1.5 ml), supplemented with or without human serum albumin (HSA) (4%), to the basolateral compartment of culture inserts. For basolateral-to-apical (B $\rightarrow$ A) translocation, plain incubation medium was added to the apical compartment, followed by DHB- or BG-containing incubation medium to the basolateral compartment. After 0, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, or 4 hours at 37°C, apical and basolateral media were collected and placed on dry ice. The remaining cell monolayers were quickly washed with cold DMEM, then scraped into cold incubation medium (0.4 ml) and placed on dry ice. All collections were stored at -80°C pending analysis for DHB or BG. After thawing each sample, internal standard (psoralen) was added to a volume of 0.4-0.5 ml, which was brought up to 1 ml with DMEM. A standard curve was prepared similarly using known amounts of DHB or BG (0.25-15 nmol). The unknowns and



standards were further processed and quantified for DHB or BG by HPLC as previously described (Paine et al., 2004).

**Apparent Permeability Coefficient of DHB and BG.** To determine the apparent permeability coefficient ( $P_{app}$ ) of each furanocoumarin in the A→B direction, DHB or BG (30  $\mu$ M) was added to the apical compartment, followed by plain incubation medium (with or without HSA) to the basolateral compartment, of at least triplicate culture inserts. For the B→A direction, plain incubation medium was added to the apical compartment, followed by DHB or BG (without HSA) to the basolateral compartment. After 10 or 30 minutes (at which <10% of the initial concentration of DHB or BG, respectively, had translocated to the receiver compartment), apical and basolateral media and remaining cell monolayers were collected and analyzed for DHB or BG as described for the time-course studies.

**Inhibition of CYP3A4 Catalytic Activity by DHB and BG.** *Concentration-dependent inhibition ( $IC_{50}$  determination).* Incubation medium containing DHB or BG and CYP3A4 substrate (midazolam or testosterone) was added to the apical compartment, followed by plain incubation medium, supplemented with or without HSA (4%), to the basolateral compartment of culture inserts. Final concentrations of DHB and BG ranged from 0-10  $\mu$ M and from 0-30  $\mu$ M, respectively (1% methanol). Final concentrations of midazolam and testosterone were 8  $\mu$ M (0.2% DMSO) and 250  $\mu$ M (1% methanol), respectively. After 30 minutes at 37°C, apical and basolateral media were collected, placed on dry ice, then stored at -80°C pending analysis for 1'-OH MDZ or 6 $\beta$ -OH TST. After thawing, internal standard (alprazolam or cortisol) was added to 0.4-0.5 ml of sample, which was brought up to 1 ml with DMEM. A standard curve was prepared similarly using known amounts of 1'-OH MDZ (1-150 pmol) or 6 $\beta$ -OH TST (0.1-5.0 nmol). The unknowns and standards were further processed and quantified for 1'-OH MDZ and 6 $\beta$ -OH TST by LC/MS and HPLC, respectively, as previously described (Paine et al., 2004).

*Time-Dependent Inhibition.* Incubation medium containing DHB or BG (30  $\mu$ M) was added to the apical compartment, followed by plain incubation medium, supplemented with or without HSA, to the basolateral compartment of culture inserts. After 0, 0.5, 1, or 3 hours, apical and basolateral media were aspirated. After washing the cells with warm DMEM, midazolam (8  $\mu$ M) or testosterone (250  $\mu$ M) was added to the apical compartment, followed by plain incubation medium to the basolateral compartment. After 1 hour, apical and basolateral media were collected and processed as described for the preceding experiment. The remaining cell monolayers were washed with cold DMEM, then scraped into 0.5 ml cold lysis buffer (0.5% Triton X-100, 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.15 M NaCl, 8 mM *N*-tris[hydroxymethyl]methyl-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid) containing protease inhibitors. The cell lysates were placed on ice for 1 hour, centrifuged at 16,000  $\times$  *g* for 10 minutes, and the supernatant was collected and stored at -80°C pending analysis for CYP3A4 and villin immunoreactive protein by Western blot (described below).

**Time-Dependent Inhibition of CYP3A4 Catalytic Activity Following a Short Exposure to DHB and BG.** Incubation medium containing DHB or BG (30  $\mu$ M) was added to the apical compartment, followed by plain incubation medium (with or without HSA) to the basolateral compartment. After 30 minutes, apical and basolateral media were aspirated, the cells were washed, and plain incubation medium was added to both compartments (with or without HSA in the basolateral compartment). After 0, 1, 2.5, or 4 hours, the media were aspirated, and substrate (midazolam, 8  $\mu$ M, or testosterone, 250  $\mu$ M) was added to the apical compartment, followed by plain incubation medium (with or without HSA) to the basolateral compartment. After 1 hour, apical and basolateral media and remaining cell monolayers were collected in the same manner as described for the previous experiments.

**Western Blot Analysis of Cell Lysates for CYP3A4.** Total protein concentration of the cell lysates was determined by the method of Lowry (1951) using bovine serum albumin as the reference standard. Cell lysates were diluted in sample buffer, then 20  $\mu$ g protein were

electrophoretically separated on 0.1% SDS-9% polyacrylamide gels and transferred to PVDF membranes as previously described (Paine et al., 2002). The membranes were probed for CYP3A4 and the control protein villin using the appropriate primary and secondary antibodies as described (Paine et al., 2002). Although the primary antibody used has been reported to detect all human CYP3A isoforms, it was previously shown not to detect CYP3A5 in these modified Caco-2 cells; this was likely due to the very low level of expression of CYP3A5 relative to CYP3A4 (Schmiedlin-Ren et al., 1997b). CYP3A4 and villin immunoreactive protein were visualized by enhanced chemiluminescence using the Chemi-Doc imaging system (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). Densitometry was performed with the Bio-Rad software program Quantity One (v4.1). CYP3A4 protein content was expressed as the ratio of the integrated optical density (IOD) of CYP3A4 to that of villin.

### **Human Jejunal Microsomal Incubations**

BG was dissolved as 100-fold concentrated solutions, and midazolam as a 1000-fold concentrated solution, in methanol. Incubation mixtures consisted of 0.1 mg/ml microsomal protein, BG, midazolam, and potassium phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.4). The mixtures were equilibrated in a shaking water bath at 37°C for 5 minutes before initiating the reactions with NADPH (final concentration, 1 mM) to yield a final volume of 0.5 ml. Final concentrations of BG, midazolam, and methanol (v/v) were 0-10  $\mu$ M, 4  $\mu$ M, and 1.1%, respectively. Reactions were terminated after 4 minutes with 1 ml ice-cold acetonitrile. The mixtures were processed and analyzed for 1'-OH MDZ by LC/MS as previously described (Paine et al., 2004). For all microsomal preparations, the amount of 1'-OH MDZ formed was linear with respect to incubation time and amount of microsomal protein.

### **Data Analysis**

**Apparent Permeability Coefficient of DHB and BG.** The apparent permeability coefficient ( $P_{app}$ ) of each furanocoumarin was calculated according to the traditional equation:

$P_{app} = (dQ/dt) \times (1/AC_0)$ , where  $dQ/dt$  denotes the flux (cm/s) of the furanocoumarin from the dosing to receiving compartment under sink conditions (i.e., before >10% of the initial dose translocated to the receiving compartment),  $A$  denotes the surface area of the culture insert (4.2 cm<sup>2</sup>), and  $C_0$  denotes the concentration of furanocoumarin in the dosing compartment at time zero.

**IC<sub>50</sub> Determination for DHB and BG Toward CYP3A4 Activity.** The formation rate of 1'-OH MDZ or 6β-OH TST, as percent of control (vehicle), in the presence of increasing concentrations of DHB or BG was plotted against the natural logarithm of the inhibitor concentration. The concentration of inhibitor corresponding to 50% of the control activity (IC<sub>50</sub>) was calculated by linear regression.

**Statistical Analysis.** All statistical tests were performed using Statview (v5.01, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC). Data are presented, where appropriate, as means ± SDs of at least 3 culture inserts. Comparisons between  $P_{app}$  values were made using the Student's unpaired  $t$ -test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ). Comparisons among the extents of CYP3A4 inhibition by DHB or BG after different exposure times were made using 1-way ANOVA, followed by the Student-Newman-Keuls (for equal sample sizes) or Scheffe's (for unequal sample sizes) post hoc test when an overall significant difference ( $p$ -value < 0.05) ensued.

## RESULTS

**Disposition of DHB and BG.** In the absence of HSA in the basolateral compartment,  $\geq 90\%$  of the DHB dose was recovered throughout the time course, whether the dose was applied to the apical or basolateral compartment. Recovery of the BG dose following apical dosing was similar at early time points (0-2 hours) but was decreased at the later time points (to  $\sim 70\%$  by 4 hours). Recovery of the BG dose following basolateral dosing continuously decreased over time (to  $\sim 40\%$  by 4 hours). These incomplete recoveries were attributed to non-specific binding by BG to the inserts and/or wells rather than the laminin coating the inserts, as studies repeated with Caco-2 cells cultured on uncoated (i.e., laminin-free) inserts produced identical results (not shown). Therefore, to compare the disposition profiles of DHB and BG in the Caco-2 cell system, the amount of each furanocoumarin measured in the apical, basolateral, or cellular compartment was normalized to the total amount recovered.

Whether applied to the apical (Figure 1A) or basolateral (not shown) compartment, DHB rapidly diffused across the cell monolayer such that, by 4 hours,  $\sim 50\%$  of the total amount recovered resided in the receiver compartment. Relatively constant amounts of DHB were measured in the cell scrapings throughout the time course (4-5% and 2-3% of the total amount recovered following apical and basolateral dosing, respectively). The  $P_{app}$  of DHB in the A $\rightarrow$ B direction ( $3.0 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{-5}$  cm/s) was similar to that in the B $\rightarrow$ A direction ( $3.2 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-5}$  cm/s) ( $p = 0.17$ ). The presence of HSA in the basolateral compartment accelerated the A $\rightarrow$ B translocation of DHB such that, by 1 hour,  $\sim 50\%$  of the total amount recovered resided in the basolateral compartment (Figure 1B). By 4 hours,  $>90\%$  of the dose was recovered from the basolateral compartment. The amount measured in cell scrapings was relatively constant ( $\sim 3\%$ ) up to 30 minutes, then continually declined for the remainder of the time course (to  $<0.5\%$  by 4 hours). The A $\rightarrow$ B  $P_{app}$  approximately doubled (to  $6.4 \pm 0.6 \times 10^{-5}$  cm/s) ( $p < 0.001$ ).

In contrast to DHB, whether dosed apically (Figure 1C) or basolaterally (not shown), BG was below the limit of quantification (0.25 nmol) in the receiver compartment throughout the time course. Consequently, neither the A→B nor B→A  $P_{app}$  for BG could be determined. The amount of BG measured in cell scrapings increased with time following either route of administration. By 4 hours, approximately 60% and 40% of the total amount recovered was measured in the cell scrapings following apical (Figure 1C) and basolateral dosing, respectively. The presence of HSA in the basolateral compartment improved the total recovery of apically applied BG at the later time points to nearly 100%. Basolateral HSA facilitated the A→B translocation of BG such that BG was easily detected in the basolateral compartment at all time points (Figure 1D). By 4 hours, 55% of the dose had translocated to the basolateral compartment. The amount of BG measured in cell scrapings increased with time to 2 hours (from 2 to ~15%), at which an apparent steady state was achieved (Figure 1D). Basolateral HSA enabled the calculation of the A→B  $P_{app}$  for BG ( $0.74 \pm 0.03 \times 10^{-5}$  cm/s).

**Comparison of DHB and BG as Inhibitors of CYP3A4.** For all ensuing experiments, to mimic the inhibitory effect of grapefruit juice toward intestinal CYP3A4 catalytic activity and protein content, DHB and BG were applied only to the apical compartment of culture inserts. In addition, the incubation periods with each furanocoumarin were at most 3 hours. The effects of non-specific binding by BG to the culture inserts and/or wells (in the absence of basolateral HSA) were therefore assumed to be minimal.

*IC<sub>50</sub> determination.* With DHB, using midazolam as the substrate, in the absence of basolateral HSA, 1'-OH MDZ formation decreased with increasing concentrations of DHB (Figure 2A). The presence of basolateral HSA attenuated the inhibition of 1'-OH MDZ formation at all concentrations of DHB (Figure 2B). The  $r^2$  values for the linear regression of the natural logarithm of the average percent control activity vs. [DHB] were >0.99, yielding  $IC_{50}$  values of 2.4 and 5.4  $\mu$ M, respectively, in the absence and presence basolateral HSA. In contrast to

DHB, 1'-OH MDZ formation increased with increasing concentrations of BG up to 10  $\mu$ M in both the absence (Figure 2C) and presence (Figure 2D) of basolateral HSA and remained relatively constant above 10  $\mu$ M. As such, an  $IC_{50}$  could not be determined. This apparent activation of CYP3A4 activity was also observed with 3 of the 4 human jejunal microsomal preparations at BG concentrations of 1-2.5  $\mu$ M (Figure 3). Using testosterone as the substrate, in the absence of basolateral HSA, 6 $\beta$ -OH TST formation decreased with increasing concentrations of DHB (Figure 2E). The presence of basolateral HSA had minimal effect on the inhibition of 6 $\beta$ -OH TST formation (Figure 2F). The  $r^2$  values for the linear regression of the natural logarithm of the average percent control activity vs. [DHB] were  $\geq 0.96$ , yielding  $IC_{50}$  values of 1.0 and 0.7  $\mu$ M, respectively, in the absence and presence of basolateral HSA. Although BG inhibited testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation in the absence of basolateral HSA, the average percent inhibition never exceeded 30% (Figure 2G), even at concentrations up to 100  $\mu$ M (not shown). Similarly, in the presence of basolateral HSA, the percent inhibition never exceeded 25% (Figure 2H).  $IC_{50}$ 's therefore could not be determined. Activation of testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation by BG was not evident.

*Onset of inhibition of CYP3A4 catalytic activity.* Using midazolam as substrate, in the absence of basolateral HSA, DHB had both a greater and more rapid inhibitory effect on 1'-OH MDZ formation compared to BG (Figure 4A). With a pre-incubation time of <1 minute (time zero), relative to vehicle, DHB inhibited activity (by 60%), while BG had no effect. With a 0.5-hour pre-incubation, DHB inhibited activity by 85% and BG by only 15%. With a 1-hour pre-incubation, DHB inhibited activity by 95% and BG by 60%. With a 3-hour pre-incubation, DHB showed no further inhibition while BG inhibited by 90%. The presence of basolateral HSA had no effect on inhibition by DHB with the shorter pre-incubation times (0, 0.5 hour) and slightly attenuated the inhibitory effect with the longer times (Figure 4B). In contrast, basolateral HSA prevented inhibition by BG following a 0.5- and 1-hour pre-incubation and attenuated the

inhibitory effect following a 3-hour pre-incubation. Using testosterone as substrate, with all pre-incubation times, in the absence of basolateral HSA, both furanocoumarins inhibited CYP3A4 catalytic activity to a greater extent than with midazolam (Figure 4C vs. Figure 4A). However, DHB again had both a greater and more rapid inhibitory effect on CYP3A4 activity compared to BG (Figure 4C). With a 0-hour pre-incubation, DHB inhibited 6 $\beta$ -OH TST formation by 80%, while BG had no effect. Whereas the maximum inhibitory effect of DHB (95%) appeared to occur within 0.5 hour, the effect of BG progressively increased the longer the pre-incubation time (by 60%, 80%, and >95% with 0.5, 1, and 3 hours, respectively). The presence of basolateral HSA attenuated the inhibitory effect of DHB with all pre-incubation times, but again the maximum effect (>85%) occurred within 0.5 hour (Figure 4D). The inhibitory effect of BG was also attenuated but progressively increased the longer the pre-incubation time (by 60%, 65%, and 75% with 0.5, 1, and 3 hours, respectively).

*Onset of CYP3A4 protein loss.* Cell lysates from the pre-incubation studies were analyzed for villin and CYP3A4 immunoreactive protein by Western blot. In the absence of basolateral HSA, with a 0.5-hour pre-incubation, compared to vehicle, DHB decreased average CYP3A4 protein content (by 30%) while BG had no effect (Figures 5A and 5C). With a 1-hour pre-incubation, DHB further decreased average CYP3A4 content (by 40%), while BG had only a modest effect (15%). However, with a 3-hour pre-incubation, both furanocoumarins caused a similar loss (~50%) in average CYP3A4 content. The presence of basolateral HSA attenuated CYP3A4 protein loss (by 10-20%) by both furanocoumarins with all pre-incubation times (Figures 5B and 5D).

**Time-Dependent Effects of Short-Term Exposure to DHB and BG.** *CYP3A4 catalytic activity.* Following consumption of a single glass of grapefruit juice, it seemed reasonable to assume that the exposure of enterocytes to BG or DHB occurs during the finite period of juice absorption. As such, the effects of a short-term (30-minute) exposure of Caco-2 cells to each furanocoumarin were examined. Immediately following exposure to DHB, in the absence of



basolateral HSA, midazolam 1'-hydroxylation was inhibited by 90% (Figure 6A). This pronounced inhibitory effect was sustained for as long as 4 hours following removal of DHB, during which CYP3A4 activity remained inhibited by ~85%. In contrast, immediately following exposure to BG, midazolam 1'-hydroxylase activity was unaffected. However, 1 hour following the 30-minute exposure to BG, activity was inhibited by 60%, and was inhibited to an even greater extent (~80%) with a longer time period ( $\geq 2.5$  hours) following exposure to BG. In the presence of basolateral HSA, midazolam 1'-hydroxylation was again inhibited to a large extent (~80%) immediately following exposure of the cells to DHB (Figure 6B), and the inhibitory effect was attenuated with longer time periods following removal of DHB (by 10-20% with a 1- to 4-hour time period, respectively). The inhibitory effect of BG was attenuated in the presence of basolateral HSA with all time periods  $\geq 1$  hour following BG removal (by ~50%). Using testosterone as the substrate, in the absence of HSA, exposure of the cells to both furanocoumarins led to a greater inhibitory effect on CYP3A4 activity compared to the inhibitory effect using midazolam after all time periods following removal of the furanocoumarin (Figure 6C vs. Figure 6A). As with midazolam 1'-hydroxylation, however, testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation was markedly inhibited immediately following exposure of the cells to DHB (by 95%), and this extent of inhibition ( $\geq 90\%$ ) remained for up to 4 hours following removal of the furanocoumarin (Figure 6C). Unlike with midazolam 1'-hydroxylation, testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation was effectively inhibited (65%) immediately following the 30-minute exposure to BG. This extent of inhibition was greater 1 hour after removal of BG (80%). As observed with midazolam 1'-hydroxylation, the extent of inhibition of testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation was even greater 2.5 hours after removal of BG and appeared sustained up to 4 hours. In the presence of basolateral HSA, immediately following exposure to DHB, the extent of inhibition of testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation (Figure 6D) was similar to that in the absence of HSA (~95%). However,  $\geq 1$  hour after DHB removal, basolateral HSA slightly attenuated the inhibitory effect (by ~10%).

Immediately following exposure to BG, as in the absence of basolateral HSA, testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation was effectively inhibited (by 75%) (Figure 6D). With time periods  $\geq$ 1 hour after BG removal, basolateral HSA attenuated the inhibitory effect by 20-30%. *CYP3A4 immunoreactive protein*. The time-course of CYP3A4 protein loss following the 30-minute exposure to either furanocoumarin (Figure 7) was similar to that following continuous exposure (Figure 5).

## DISCUSSION

Human studies have demonstrated that two prominent furanocoumarins contained in grapefruit juice, DHB and BG, are important contributors to grapefruit juice-drug interactions (Bailey et al., 1998b; Bailey et al., 2000; Bailey et al., 2003; Kakar et al., 2004). Using human intestinal microsomes, we recently reported that BG, but not DHB, acts as a substrate-dependent reversible inhibitor of CYP3A4 (Paine et al., 2004). The *in vivo* relevance of the substrate dependency of BG was unclear, however, as both furanocoumarins rapidly inactivated the enzyme in a substrate-independent fashion. In addition, the 1000-fold difference in lipid solubility (BG > DHB) might be associated with a time-dependent difference in the concentration of each inhibitor near the enzyme within enterocytes. We therefore compared the time-dependent inhibitory effects of each furanocoumarin using CYP3A4-expressing Caco-2 cells as a model of the human small intestinal epithelial layer.

As predicted, DHB and BG differed markedly in their disposition properties in Caco-2 cells. In the absence of basolateral HSA, the superimposable time-course profiles and similar  $P_{app}$ 's for DHB with apical and basolateral dosing indicated that DHB was absorbed across the cell monolayer by passive diffusion. In contrast, BG was never recovered in the receiver compartment (Figure 1C vs. Figure 1A), thus its means of absorption could not be ascertained. Whereas steady state cellular levels of DHB were rapidly achieved (within <1 minute), cellular levels of BG continually increased over time. The presence of a physiologically relevant concentration of HSA in the basolateral compartment facilitated the A→B translocation of DHB and BG. This, coupled with lowered cellular levels, suggests that both furanocoumarins bind to HSA. These findings support the contention that, if DHB and BG are absorbed into the vasculature, binding to plasma proteins could explain in part why grapefruit juice does not inhibit hepatic CYP3A4 *in vivo* (when consumed in usual volumes).

DHB and BG also differed in the concentration-dependent ability to inhibit CYP3A4 catalytic activity. The  $IC_{50}$ 's determined for DHB (~1-5  $\mu$ M), using testosterone and midazolam as substrate, are at or near the low end of the range of concentrations reported for various brands of grapefruit juice (~1-60  $\mu$ M) (Schmiedlin-Ren et al., 1997a; Fukuda et al., 2000; Guo et al., 2000), supporting a role for reversible CYP3A4 inhibition by DHB in grapefruit-drug interactions. With midazolam as substrate, the ~2-fold higher  $IC_{50}$  for DHB in the presence of HSA likely reflected the 2-fold higher  $P_{app}$ , and hence lower cellular content of DHB (Figure 1B vs. Figure 1A). (Cellular midazolam content was minimally reduced by basolateral HSA over a 30-minute time interval (Fisher et al., 1999a)). With testosterone as substrate, the lack of an effect of HSA on the  $IC_{50}$  for DHB could have reflected the 2-3-fold reduction in cellular testosterone content in the presence of HSA (data not shown), thereby offsetting the reduction in cellular DHB content.

In contrast to DHB, an  $IC_{50}$  for the more lipophilic BG could not be determined. However, consistent with our recent findings with human intestinal microsomes (Paine et al., 2004), substrate-dependent inhibition by BG was evident at concentrations of 10 and 30  $\mu$ M. Whereas testosterone hydroxylation was inhibited, midazolam hydroxylation was increased (especially in the presence of HSA) (Figures 2G and 2H vs. Figures 2C and 2D). The apparent activation of midazolam hydroxylation was not an artifact of the cell system, as BG-mediated activation also occurred in incubations with 3 of 4 human intestinal microsomal preparations. The one preparation (HI-21) that did not exhibit activation is unexplained, but it was the same preparation used in our recent work (Paine et al., 2004), which accounts for why this was not observed previously. In an earlier study using fresh human hepatocytes and testosterone as substrate, an  $IC_{50}$  of ~1  $\mu$ M was reported (Wen et al., 2002). The discrepancy between this and the current results could have been due to the different solvents used to dissolve the BG powder (DMSO and methanol, respectively) and/or to differences between cells of hepatic and intestinal origin.

As anticipated, based on lipid solubility, DHB and BG differed in the time to onset of CYP3A4 inhibition. For DHB, the rapid onset of substrate-independent inhibition following either continual (Figure 4) or a short-term (Figure 6) exposure, and the mild attenuation of inhibition in the presence of HSA, suggested rapid mechanism-based inhibition as being the primary mode of inhibition. Inhibition by BG, however, was delayed in onset (relative to DHB) and showed substrate dependency. With short exposure times, especially in the presence of HSA, the mild or lack of inhibition of midazolam 1'-hydroxylation by BG could have reflected enzyme activation in the face of inhibition (Figures 4B and 6B). If the presence of basolateral HSA is assumed to represent the more physiologically relevant situation, and that 30 minutes mimics a time the enterocytes are exposed to the furanocoumarins after consumption of a glass of grapefruit juice, these findings suggest that BG would have minimal interaction potential with a rapidly absorbed substrate belonging to the midazolam subgroup (midazolam is generally absorbed within 1 hour (Dundee et al., 1984)). Moreover, if activation of CYP3A4 by BG (Figure 2D) occurs in vivo, the current findings also suggest that co-ingestion of the substrate with BG might result in an interaction opposite to that expected from grapefruit juice (i.e., a decrease in substrate AUC). However, if the substrate belongs to the testosterone subgroup, ingestion with BG might result in a grapefruit juice-type interaction, even if the substrate were rapidly absorbed. The delayed inhibitory effect by BG may also explain why a single glass of lime juice (recently reported to contain a high concentration of BG (100  $\mu$ M) but undetectable DHB (Bailey et al., 2003)) had minimal effect on the AUC of felodipine (Bailey et al., 2003), which belongs to neither the midazolam nor testosterone subgroup (Galetin et al., 2003).

With continual exposure of Caco-2 cells to BG (Figure 4), the extent of inhibition of CYP3A4 activity appeared to "catch up" with DHB by 3 hours, with a loss in the substrate-dependent nature of inhibition. This was consistent with the time-dependent rise in the cellular content of BG (Figures 1C and 1D). However, a time-dependent loss of substrate-dependent inhibition also occurred after a short-term exposure (Figure 6), when cellular BG levels should

have been decreasing. This, along with the BG-mediated decline in CYP3A4 protein suggested gradual mechanism-based inhibition of the enzyme by BG. Hence, despite that BG is slow to act, a short exposure appears sufficient to initiate the events necessary for substantial inhibition. It is also reasonable to speculate that the concentration of BG at the enzyme gradually rises despite a decrease in cellular content, due to slow diffusion through the cell. Regardless of the mechanism, the current results would predict a greater magnitude of interaction with a substrate that is ingested several hours after consumption of food containing BG but not DHB (e.g., lime juice). Although lime juice is not routinely ingested per se, it is used to prepare a number of popular beverages (e.g., margaritas), as well as marinades and salad dressings. Whether these lime juice-derived foods contain sufficient BG to cause an interaction remains to be determined.

As with CYP3A4 activity, the time-dependent decrease in CYP3A4 protein content by BG appeared delayed, but had caught up with DHB over time (Figures 5 and 7). This was surprising since the onset of mechanism-based inhibition (of activity) was considerably delayed with BG relative to DHB. Because protein loss is believed to reflect intracellular degradation after mechanism-based inactivation (Lown et al., 1997), these findings suggest that the half-life of BG-inactivated CYP3A4 may be shorter than that of DHB-inactivated CYP3A4.

In summary, a systematic comparison of BG and DHB using a physiologically relevant intestinal cell system demonstrated a marked difference in both the rate of cell entry and time to onset of CYP3A4 inhibition, consistent with the 1000-fold difference in lipid solubility. DHB rapidly diffused across the apical membrane within minutes and effectively inhibited enzyme activity in a substrate-independent manner, which likely involved rapid mechanism-based inactivation. In contrast, the more lipophilic BG had a much slower rate of entry and a delayed onset of inhibition. With grapefruit juice, the current work suggests that CYP3A4 is maximally inhibited by DHB before BG has the opportunity to cause an effect. With foods containing BG only, minimal interaction should occur with rapidly absorbed drugs belonging to the midazolam

subgroup. However, an interaction is predicted when the drug, whether it belongs to the midazolam or testosterone subgroup, is ingested several hours after consumption of the BG-containing food.

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## **FOOTNOTES**

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## LEGENDS FOR FIGURES

**Figure 1.** Time-course of disposition of DHB and BG in modified Caco-2 cells following application (30  $\mu$ M) to the apical compartment. Incubation medium in the basolateral compartment was devoid of (A, C) or supplemented with (B, D) HSA (4%). For BG, in the absence of basolateral HSA (C), the amount detected in the basolateral compartment was below the limit of quantification (0.25 nmol).

**Figure 2.** Concentration-dependent inhibition of midazolam 1'-hydroxylation and testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation by DHB and BG in modified Caco-2 cells. Substrate (midazolam, 8  $\mu$ M; testosterone, 250  $\mu$ M) and furanocoumarin were co-applied to the apical compartment and incubated for 30 minutes. Incubation medium in the basolateral compartment was devoid of (A, C, E, G) or supplemented with (B, D, F, H) HSA (4%). Symbols and error bars denote the means and SDs, respectively, of 3-5 culture inserts.

**Figure 3.** Apparent activation of midazolam 1'-hydroxylation by BG in (3 of 4) human intestinal microsomal preparations, none of which contained readily detectable immunoreactive CYP3A5 protein. Each symbol denotes the mean of duplicate incubations. *HI*, human intestine.

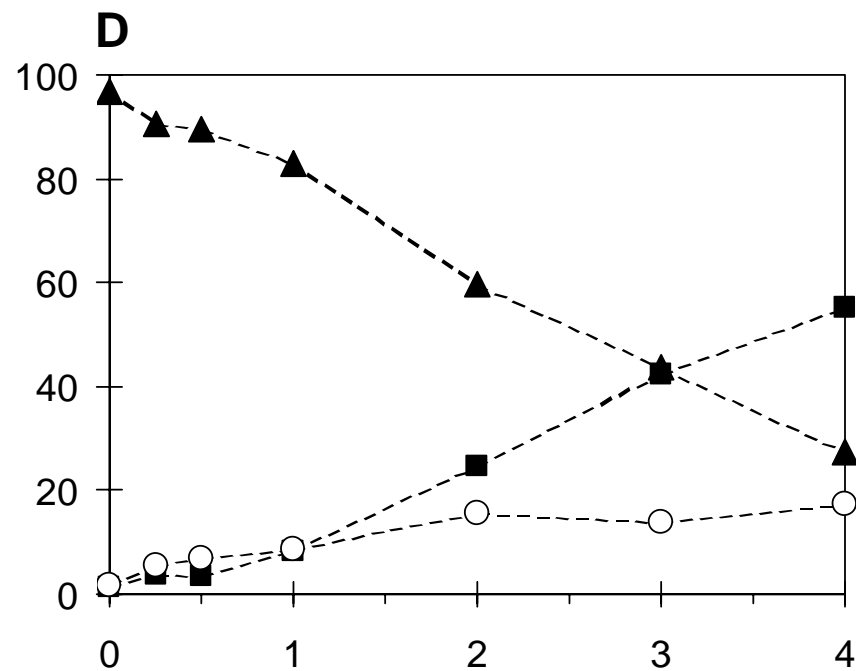
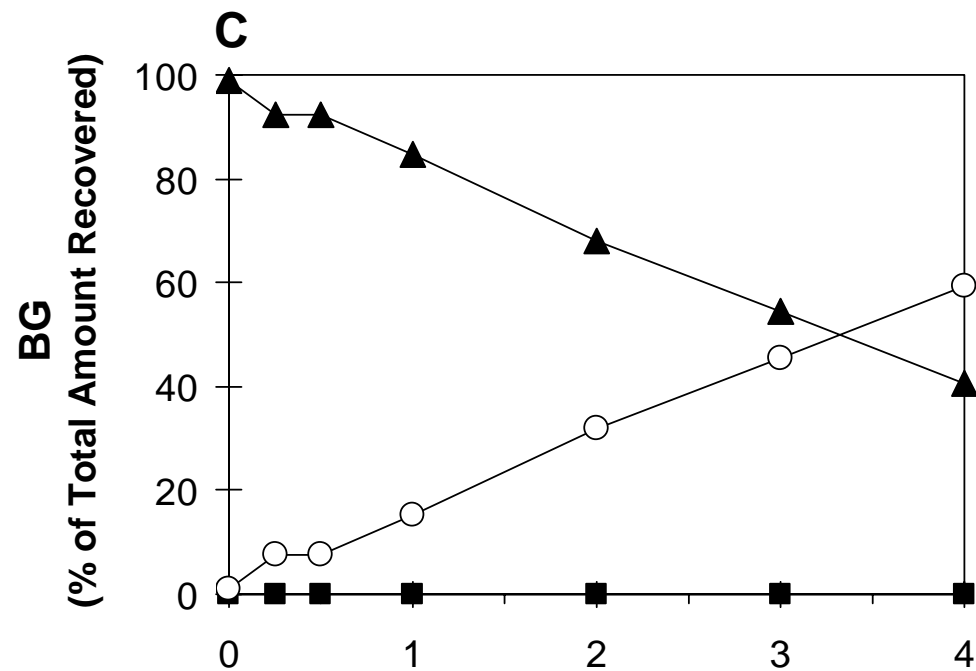
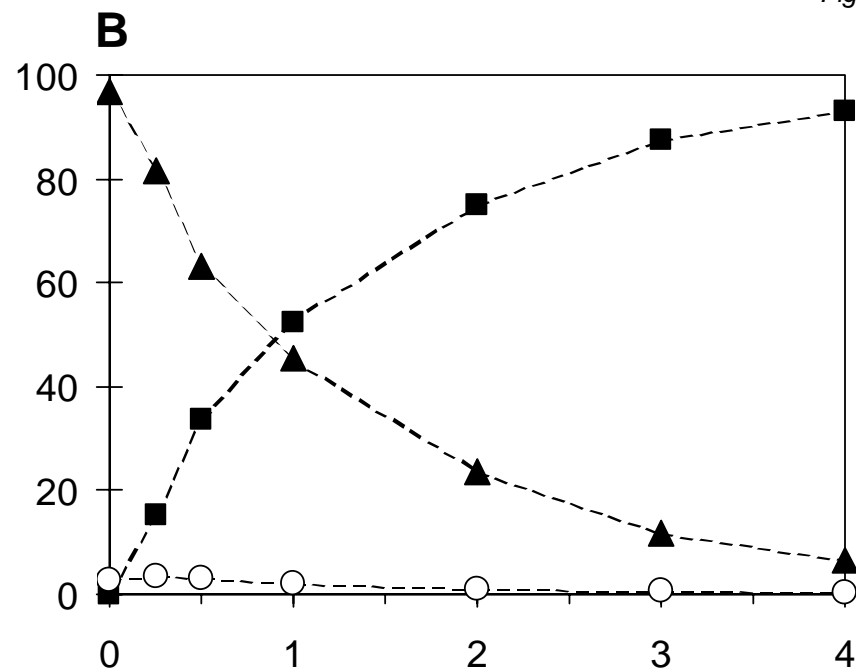
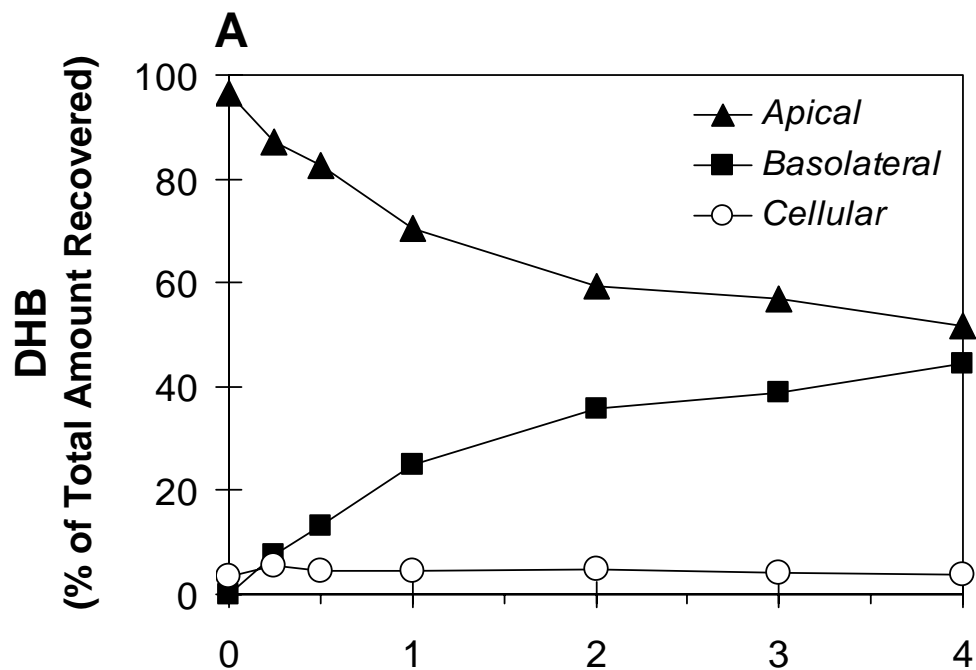
**Figure 4.** Time-dependent inhibition of midazolam 1'-hydroxylation and testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation in modified Caco-2 cells following continual exposure to DHB or BG (30  $\mu$ M). DHB or BG was applied to the apical compartment and incubated for the indicated times. After removing the furanocoumarin, substrate (midazolam, 8  $\mu$ M; testosterone, 250  $\mu$ M) was added alone to the apical compartment and incubated for 1 hour. Incubation medium in the basolateral compartment was devoid of (A, C) or supplemented with (B, D) HSA (4%) throughout the experiment. Bars and error bars denote the means and SDs, respectively, of 3-4 culture inserts.  
\* $p$  < 0.05 (vs. time zero); \*\* $p$  < 0.01 (vs. time zero); \*\*\* $p$  < 0.001 (vs. time zero).

**Figure 5.** Time-dependent loss of CYP3A4 immunoreactive protein in modified Caco-2 cells following continual exposure to DHB or BG (30  $\mu$ M). Cell monolayers were harvested for Western blot analysis after incubation with substrate (see Figure 4). A representative blot probed for villin (control protein) and CYP3A4 is shown (**A, B**). For each of 3-4 blots, CYP3A4 protein content (CYP3A4/villin IOD ratio) in lysates prepared from furanocoumarin-treated cells was normalized to that in vehicle-treated cells; the values obtained from all blots were averaged for each exposure time (0, 0.5, 1, and 3 hours) (**C, D**). Incubation medium in the basolateral compartment was devoid of (**A, C**) or supplemented with (**B, D**) HSA (4%) throughout the experiment. Bars and error bars denote means and SDs, respectively, of 3-4 culture inserts. V, vehicle; D, DHB; B, BG. \* $p < 0.05$  (vs. time zero); \*\* $p < 0.01$  (vs. time zero); \*\*\* $p < 0.001$  (vs. time zero).

**Figure 6.** Time-dependent inhibition of midazolam 1'-hydroxylation and testosterone 6 $\beta$ -hydroxylation in modified Caco-2 cells following short-term exposure to DHB or BG (30  $\mu$ M). DHB or BG was applied to the apical compartment and incubated for 30 minutes. After removing the furanocoumarin, plain incubation medium was added and incubated for the indicated times. Substrate (midazolam, 8  $\mu$ M; testosterone, 250  $\mu$ M) was then added alone to the apical compartment and incubated for 1 hour. Incubation medium in the basolateral compartment was devoid of (**A, C**) or supplemented with (**B, D**) HSA (4%) throughout the experiment. Bars denote the means of duplicate culture inserts.

**Figure 7.** Time-dependent loss of CYP3A4 immunoreactive protein in modified Caco-2 cells following short-term exposure to DHB or BG (30  $\mu$ M). Cell monolayers were harvested for Western blot analysis after incubation with substrate (see Figure 6). A representative blot probed for villin (control protein) and CYP3A4 is shown (**A, B**). For each of 2 blots, CYP3A4 protein content (CYP3A4/villin IOD ratio) in lysates prepared from furanocoumarin-treated cells was normalized to that in vehicle-treated cells; the values obtained from the 2 blots were

averaged for each exposure time (0, 1, 2.5, and 4 hours) (**C**, **D**). Incubation medium in the basolateral compartment was devoid of (**A**) or supplemented with (**B**) HSA (4%) throughout the experiment. Bars denote the means of duplicate culture inserts. *V*, vehicle; *D*, DHB; *B*, BG.



Time (hours)



