



Fortification of blood plasma from cancer patients with human serum albumin decreases the concentration of cisplatin-derived toxic hydrolysis products in vitro

Journal:	<i>Metallomics</i>
Manuscript ID:	MT-ART-08-2014-000220
Article Type:	Paper
Date Submitted by the Author:	28-Aug-2014
Complete List of Authors:	Gailer, Juergen; University of Calgary, Dept of Chemistry Morris, Thomas; University of Calgary, Chemistry Ruan, Yibing; Alberta's Children Hospital, Division of Pediatric Oncology Lewis, Victor; Alberta's Children Hospital, Division of Pediatric Oncology Narendran, Aru; University of Calgary, Departments of Oncology, Paediatrics

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15 **Fortification of blood plasma from cancer patients with human serum**
16 **albumin decreases the concentration of cisplatin-derived toxic hydrolysis**
17 **products *in vitro***
18
19
20
21

22 Thomas T. Morris,¹ Yibing Ruan,² Victor A. Lewis,² Aru Narendran² and Jürgen Gailer^{1*}

23
24
25 ¹Department of Chemistry, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, AB, T2N 1N4,
26 Canada. Tel: 403-210-8899, Fax: 403-289-9488, e-mail: jgailer@ucalgary.ca
27

28 ²Division of Pediatric Oncology, Alberta Children's Hospital, Calgary, AB
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

57 *Corresponding author: J. Gailer, Fax: 403-289-9488, e-mail: jgailer@ucalgary.ca
58
59
60

Abstract

While cisplatin (CP) is still one of the world's bestselling anticancer drugs, its intravenous administration is inherently associated with severe, dose limiting toxic side-effects. Although the molecular basis of the latter are not well understood, biochemical transformations of CP in blood and the interaction of the generated platinum species with plasma proteins likely play a critical role since these processes will ultimately determine which platinum-species reach the intended tumor cells as well as non-target cells. Compared to healthy subjects, cancer patients often have decreased plasma human serum albumin (HSA) concentrations. Little, however, is known about how the plasma HSA concentration will affect the metabolism of CP. To gain insight, we obtained blood plasma from healthy adults (n=20, 42 ± 4 g HSA/L) and pediatric cancer patients (n=11, 26 ± 7 g HSA/L). After the incubation of plasma at 37° C, a pharmacologically relevant dose of CP was added and the Pt-distribution therein was determined by size-exclusion chromatography coupled on-line to an inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometer. At the 2 h time point, a 5.9% increase of toxic CP-derived hydrolysis products was detected in pediatric cancer patient plasma, while 9.8% less platinum was protein bound compared to plasma from healthy controls. These *in vitro* results suggest that the elevated concentration of free CP-derived hydrolysis products in plasma may cause the toxic side-effects in cancer patients. More importantly, the deliberate increase of the plasma HSA concentration in cancer patients prior to CP treatment would represent a simple strategy to possibly alleviate the fraction of patients that suffer from toxic side-effects.

Key words

Cisplatin, toxic side-effects, human serum albumin, chemotherapy, metalloomics

Introduction

Cisplatin (CP), which was serendipitously discovered by Rosenberg and co-workers in the mid-sixties remains one of the most widely used anti-cancer drugs worldwide¹. Despite its remarkable anti-cancer properties, this intravenously administered platinum-based medicinal drug is associated with severe toxic side-effects, including nephrotoxicity, ototoxicity and neurotoxicity². Although nephrotoxicity can be somewhat ameliorated by the administration of patients with hypertonic saline or mannitol,³ no clinical procedures exist to completely eliminate ototoxicity or neurotoxicity⁴. Therefore, the inherent toxic side-effects constitute the primary dose limiting factor of this metal-based drug. One strategy to ‘transform’ CP into a better drug would be to somehow mitigate its toxic side-effects in patients. To this end, its co-administration with small-molecular-weight compounds – so-called ‘chemoprotective agents’ – has been demonstrated to effectively reduce the toxic side-effects and recent *in vitro* studies have provided a first glimpse into the possible biomolecular mechanisms of action⁵. Seemingly unrelated to this, it has long been known that decreased human serum albumin (HSA) concentrations in blood plasma can significantly increase the fraction of patients that suffer from toxic side-effects following the intravenous administration of medicinal drugs.⁶ The administration of patients (n = 1202) with the anti-anxiety drug diazepam (also known as Valium), for example, resulted in unwanted CNS depression in only 2.9% of patients with normal plasma HSA concentrations (>40 g HSA/L), while 9.3% of patients with severe hypoalbuminemia (<30 g HSA/L) displayed these symptoms.^{6a} Similar observations were reported for the anticonvulsant drug phenytoin.⁷ Considering that HSA is thought to play a critical role in the metabolism of CP,⁸ systematic studies into the effect of the plasma HSA concentration on the metabolism of CP could provide guidance to develop strategies to mitigate the toxic side-effects of this otherwise very effective anti-cancer drug. To this end, an *in vitro* approach was chosen which involved the addition of a pharmacologically relevant dose of CP to human plasma from healthy adults (range 35-50 g HSA/L;

1
2 42 ± 4 g HSA/L) and pediatric cancer patients (range 8-34 g HSA/L; 26 ± 7 g HSA/L). The
3
4 determination of all Pt-containing metabolites in plasma was achieved by using an established
5
6 metallomic tool comprised of size exclusion chromatography (SEC) coupled on-line to an inductively
7
8 coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometer (ICP-AES).⁹ Monitoring dynamic changes of the Pt-
9
10 distribution in plasma over a 2 h period was intended to reveal differences in the metabolism of CP in
11
12 the respective groups. The obtained results were rationalized based on relevant blood plasma
13
14 parameters, which included the HSA concentration and the concentrations of transferrin (Tf),
15
16 creatinine and blood urea nitrogen (B.U.N.). Based on the differences that were observed for the
17
18 metabolism of CP *in vitro*, it is recommended that boosting the plasma HSA concentration of cancer
19
20 patients to levels that are prevalent in healthy individuals may represent a feasible strategy to decrease
21
22 the fraction of cancer patients that suffer from severe drug related toxic side-effects.
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

30 **Experimental**

31 **Chemicals and Solutions**

32
33 Cisplatin (1 mg cis-Pt(NH₃)₂Cl₂/mL; this sterile solution also contained 1 mg mannitol and 9 mg NaCl)
34
35 was obtained from Hospira (Montreal, QC, Canada). An aqueous solution of highly pure HSA (12.5 g
36
37 in 50 mL of buffered diluent, stabilized with 0.02 M sodium caprylate and 0.02 M sodium
38
39 acetyltryptophanate) was obtained from CSL Behring AG (Bern, Switzerland). Phosphate-buffered
40
41 saline (PBS) tablets were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA) and the corresponding
42
43 buffer (10 mM phosphate, 2.7 mM KCl, 137 mM NaCl) was prepared by dissolving PBS tablets in the
44
45 appropriate volume of de-ionized water derived from a Simplicity water purification system
46
47 (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA) followed by pH adjustment to 7.4 with dilute HCl. The obtained
48
49 solution was filtered through 0.45 µm nylon-filter membranes (Mandel Scientific, Guelph, ON,
50
51 Canada) before use. A mixture of protein standards which contained thyroglobulin (670 kDa), γ-
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2 globulin (158 kDa), ovalbumin (44 kDa), myoglobin (17 kDa), and vitamin B12 (1.35 kDa) was
3
4 obtained from Bio-Rad Laboratories (Hercules, CA, USA) to calibrate the employed Superdex™ 200
5
6 SEC column.
7
8
9

11 **SEC-ICP-AES system**

14 This system was comprised of a Smartline 1000 HPLC pump (Knauer, Berlin, Germany) and a
15
16 Rheodyne 9010 PEEK injection valve (Rheodyne, Rhonert Park, CA, USA) which was equipped with
17
18 a 0.5 mL PEEK injection loop (0.5 mL). A pre-packed Superdex™ 200 10/300 GL Tricorn™ high
19
20 performance size-exclusion chromatography column (30 x 1.0 cm I.D., fractionation range 600 - 10
21
22 kDa; GE Healthcare, Piscataway, NJ, USA) was used in conjunction with PBS-buffer mobile phase at
23
24 a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min (column temperature 22° C). Simultaneous multielement-specific detection
25
26 of C (193.091 nm), Cu (324.754 nm), Fe (259.940 nm), Pt (214.423 nm), S (180.731 nm) and Zn
27
28 (213.856 nm) in the column effluent was achieved with a Prodigy, high-dispersion, radial-view ICP-
29
30 AES (Teledyne Leeman Labs, Hudson, NH, USA) at an Ar gas-flow rate of 19 L/min, an RF power of
31
32 1.3 kW and a nebulizer gas pressure of 35 psi. The nebulizer gas flow rate was 1.4 L of Ar/min. A 360
33
34 s delay was implemented between sample injection and data acquisition based on the void volume that
35
36 was determined by the injection of blue dextran and monitoring of the C emission line. The data
37
38 acquisition window was 1800 s. Raw data were imported into Sigmaplot 12 software, smoothed
39
40 (bisquare algorithm) and the peak areas were determined using Origin 9 Data Analysis and Graphing
41
42 software (OriginLab Corporation, Northampton, MA, USA). If two platinum peaks were not baseline
43
44 separated, the point of lowest intensity between both peak maxima was used as the dividing line to
45
46 obtain areas for each peak.
47
48
49
50
51
52

56 **SEC-ICP-AES analysis of CP spiked human plasma**

1
2 The collection of blood from humans was approved by the Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics
3 Board (CHREB Approval No. E-25315). Over an 8 month period, a cross section of 11 pediatric
4 cancer patients (age 3-18) were recruited for blood withdrawal based on pre-defined inclusion criteria,
5 which stipulated that the HSA level in plasma had to be ≤ 30 g/L^{6a} and that the patients must not have
6 received treatment with Pt-based anticancer drugs. Owing to the ethical difficulty that is associated
7 with the collection of blood from healthy children (the proper control group), we instead recruited 20
8 healthy male and female adults (age 18-45). All subjects provided written informed consent for sample
9 collection. Due to software related problems and isolated ICP-instrument failures, we obtained useful
10 results only for 14 plasma samples (range 35-50 g/L) of the healthy control group. Approximately 12
11 mL of blood was collected from healthy controls into heparinized trace metal testing blood collection
12 tubes (6 mL; Greiner-Bio-One VacuetteTM, NC, USA) by a certified nurse from the Department of
13 Kinesiology (University of Calgary). Blood was collected from pediatric cancer patients at the Alberta
14 Children's Hospital (the cancer types are listed in supplementary information S1) in a similar manner
15 using the same blood collection tubes. After centrifugation at 1000 rpm (4° C) for 10 min, the buffy
16 coat was removed and the supernatant plasma was withdrawn using a micropipette and pooled. If a
17 sufficient amount of homogenous plasma stock was obtained, 1.6 mL were transferred to cyrovials and
18 stored in liquid nitrogen. For analysis, plasma was thawed at room temperature for 45 minutes and
19 incubated in a rotary shaker at 37° C for 30 min. Then, a pharmacologically relevant dose of CP was
20 added (0.04 mg CP/mL of plasma; ~ 0.13 mM)¹⁰. This mixture was kept at 37° C and samples were
21 withdrawn for analysis (0.5 mL) after 5 min and 2 h. In order to corroborate the results that were
22 obtained with plasma from pediatric cancer patients, aliquots of the latter were fortified with pure HSA
23 (Alburex 25) to achieve a total plasma concentration of 36 g HSA/L and 42 g HSA/L, respectively.
24 This "HSA fortified" plasma was then spiked with the same dose of CP and analyzed in the same
25 manner as outlined before. The recovery of Pt was determined by injecting a fresh solution of

1
2 carboplatin in PBS-buffer (which had the same Pt concentration as that in the spiked plasma) before
3
4 and after all plasma injections and expressing the total Pt peak area as a percentage of the carboplatin
5
6 peak area. The Pt recovery was $97 \pm 14\%$.
7
8
9

10 11 **Statistical Analysis**

12
13
14 Due to an unequal variance between the two groups, a two-tailed Welch's t-test was used to compare
15
16 the results for healthy vs pediatric cancer patients. ANOVA was used to assess statistical significance
17
18 among the results obtained for plasma from pediatric cancer patients and the HSA-fortified
19
20 equivalents. With regard to both tests p-values of less than 0.05 indicate statistical significance.
21
22
23
24

25 26 **Analysis of plasma for relevant analytes**

27
28 Aliquots of all blood plasma samples were analyzed for HSA, Tf, creatinine, and blood urea nitrogen
29
30 (BUN) by an accredited medical diagnostic laboratory (Calgary Laboratory Services, CLS) using
31
32 validated analysis protocols. This involved colorimetric (HSA, creatinine) or immunoturbidimetric
33
34 assays (Tf), while BUN was determined using a kinetic UV assay. A BUN/creatinine ratio of ≥ 20 in
35
36 plasma is indicative of dehydration of a patient. This ratio was 9.1-24 in healthy adults and 5.6-121 in
37
38 pediatric cancer patients. The plasma chloride concentration of all pediatric cancer patients was
39
40 extracted from patient charts within ± 1 day of the date of blood collection.
41
42
43
44
45
46

47 48 **Results and Discussion**

49
50 Ever since CP was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in 1978, numerous
51
52 treatment regimens that involved CP have had a major clinical impact in cancer patients, particularly
53
54 with regard to testicular and ovarian cancer.^{1c} After the intravenous administration of patients with CP,
55
56 the parent drug as well as CP-derived Pt species will interact with blood constituents and eventually
57
58
59
60

1
2 with cancer cells (intended) as well as healthy tissue cells (unintended). Conceptually, changes in the
3
4 concentration of plasma proteins that are known to play a critical role in the metabolism of CP may
5
6 contribute to determine the severity of the toxic side-effects at the organ level (e.g. nephrotoxicity).
7
8 Cancer patients, for example, often display greatly decreased plasma HSA concentrations due to its
9
10 decreased synthesis, its increased catabolism and/or the loss of HSA by kidney damage.¹¹ From a
11
12 biochemical perspective three separate events occur after CP is injected into the bloodstream: (a)
13
14 hydrolysis of CP, (b) binding of CP-derived hydrolysis products to plasma proteins (as well as
15
16 erythrocytes and/or endothelial cells) and (c) the uptake of CP and/or CP-derived hydrolysis products
17
18 (free or protein bound) into organ/tumor cells⁹. The hydrolysis of the neutral dichloro complex CP
19
20 critically depends on the chloride concentration (~103 mM in plasma¹² vs ~4-20 mM in the cell
21
22 cytosol¹³) and results in the formation of the aqua-adducts $[\text{PtClOH}_2(\text{NH}_3)_2]^+$ and $[\text{Pt}(\text{OH}_2)_2(\text{NH}_3)_2]^{2+}$
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
14, as well as other Pt-containing compounds, such as dimer and trimer complexes¹⁵. In blood plasma,
CP-derived hydrolysis products can then bind to HSA (methionine and cysteine residues^{8a}) and Tf
(threonine, tyrosine, methionine and histidine residues¹⁶). This binding of Pt-species to plasma proteins
can be directly visualized by analyzing plasma for Pt-species using metalloomics methods, such as
SEC-ICP-AES⁹ and/or SEC-ICP-MS¹⁷. With regard to the transfer of Pt-species into cells, it is known
that the uptake of CP is mediated by the copper transport uptake protein CTR-1,¹⁸ but little is known
about whether CP-derived hydrolysis products are transported into cells as efficiently as CP.¹⁹

Representative Pt-specific chromatograms that were obtained after the analysis of plasma from
healthy adults are depicted in Figure 1. At the 5 min time point $2.4 \pm 0.3\%$ of total platinum eluted in
the form of a CP-derived hydrolysis product and 97.6% eluted in form of CP. At the 2 h time point,
 $53.0 \pm 2.8\%$ of Pt was protein bound, while $15.9 \pm 1.7\%$ corresponded to CP-derived hydrolysis
products, and $31.1 \pm 1.7\%$ eluted as CP. The distribution of protein bound Pt peaks (referred to as PP-
1, PP-2, PP-3), CP-derived hydrolysis products (HP-1, HP-2) and free CP are depicted in a

1
2 representative chromatogram in Figure 1 and the quantitative distribution is summarized in Table 1.
3
4 The first protein bound Pt peak (PP-1) co-eluted with Zn (data not shown), which is in agreement with
5
6 our previous observations⁹ and can be explained by the formation of a Pt-containing α_2 -macroglobulin
7
8 complex²⁰. Since PP-3 co-eluted with HSA (as evidenced by the co-elution of an intense sulfur-peak),
9
10 this Pt-peak was assigned to a Pt-HSA complex^{8a}. Based on the limited resolution of the utilized SEC
11
12 column and considering that CP-derived hydrolysis products are known to bind to Tf,^{16c} it is
13
14 impossible to delineate whether PP-3 corresponds to a Pt-Tf (~79 kDa) and/or a Pt-HSA complex
15
16 (~66.3 kDa). Owing to the >10 fold higher molar concentration of HSA in plasma and the
17
18 comparatively higher affinity of CP hydrolysis products for HSA compared to Tf,²¹ PP-3 most
19
20 probably corresponds predominantly to Pt-HSA complexes. PP-2 was tentatively assigned to Pt-HSA-
21
22 multimer complexes based on previous observations by others^{8a}. Because Pt-peaks 4 & 5 eluted near
23
24 the inclusion volume, they likely correspond to small molecular weight CP-derived hydrolysis
25
26 products which will be referred to as HP-1 and HP-2. HP-2 was the more abundant Pt-species at the 5
27
28 min time point, which is in accord with previous studies.⁹ Therefore, this Pt-species likely corresponds
29
30 to the first hydrolysis product $[\text{PtClOH}_2(\text{NH}_3)_2]^+$. HP-1 – which was not detected at the 5 min time
31
32 point – but was present at the 2 h time point and likely corresponds to the second hydrolysis product
33
34 $[\text{Pt}(\text{OH}_2)_2(\text{NH}_3)_2]^{2+}$. In accord with previous studies the Pt-peak with the largest retention time was
35
36 assigned to the parent drug CP and its elution past the inclusion volume can be rationalized in terms of
37
38 an unknown interaction of CP with the stationary phase^{17b}.
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

47 The results that were attained for pediatric cancer patient plasma yielded Pt-specific
48
49 chromatograms, a representative of which is shown in Figure 1. In sync with the results that were
50
51 obtained for plasma from healthy adults 2.4 ± 0.4% of platinum eluted in form of HP-2 and 97.6% as
52
53 the free drug. At the 2 h time point, 43.2 ± 9.5% of the Pt was protein bound, with the majority bound
54
55 to PP-3 (22.3 ± 5.7%), while 21.2 ± 5.7% eluted as hydrolysis products, and 35.6 ± 4.4% as CP. Table
56
57
58
59
60

1
2 summarizes the quantitative distribution of protein bound Pt, CP-derived hydrolysis products and
3
4 CP.
5

6
7 A comparison of the plasma Pt-distribution that was obtained for healthy adults (n=14) with those
8
9 of pediatric cancer patients (n=11) are depicted in Table 3. The results that were obtained for the 5 min
10
11 time point are virtually identical between the respective groups. At the 2 h time point, however, a
12
13 different plasma Pt-distribution was observed between healthy adults and that of pediatric cancer
14
15 patients with P-values <0.05 for PP-1, PP-3, HP-2 and CP. For the sake of clarity it is useful to discuss
16
17 the results pertaining to CP first, followed by those corresponding to the hydrolysis products (HP-1 and
18
19 HP-2), and finally the results that pertain to protein bound Pt (PP-1, PP-2 and PP-3). Overall, pediatric
20
21 cancer patient plasma contained, on average, 4.5% more of the parent drug CP (P<0.05) as well as
22
23 5.3% more hydrolysis products [+1.2% of HP-1 (P>0.05) and 4.1% more of HP-2 (P<0.05) compared
24
25 to healthy adults]. The latter increase in hydrolysis products represents a net increase of 32% compared
26
27 to the healthy controls. Related to this, the total protein bound Pt in pediatric cancer patient plasma was
28
29 9.8% less compared to that in plasma from healthy adults (Table 3). In contrast to this trend, the
30
31 percentage of Pt bound to PP-1 was 1.9% higher in the pediatric cancer patients (P<0.05). The
32
33 increased percentage of Pt bound to PP-1 in pediatric cancer patient plasma can be rationalized by the
34
35 apparently increased concentration of α_2 -macroglobulin as evidenced by the corresponding Zn-specific
36
37 chromatograms (supplementary information S2)¹¹. The increased concentration of α_2 -macroglobulin
38
39 (725 kDa) in plasma of pediatric cancer patients may be attributed to the relative loss of small
40
41 molecular weight plasma proteins from the bloodstream by chemotherapy-induced kidney damage.¹¹
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49 Based on the assumption that PP-2 and PP-3 both likely correspond to HSA bound Pt, it is unsurprising
50
51 that both Pt-peak areas were lower in the pediatric cancer patients [by 1.6% (P>0.05) and 9.9%
52
53 (P<0.05)] compared to those observed for healthy adults.
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2 To corroborate the different plasma Pt-distribution between healthy adults and pediatric cancer
3 patients, aliquots of individual pediatric cancer patient plasma were fortified with highly pure HSA to
4 achieve a final concentration of 42 g HSA/L and – if sufficient plasma was available – to 36 g HSA/L.
5
6 At the 5 min time point, the plasma Pt-distribution was unaffected by the HSA concentration (Table 4,
7 Figure 2). With regard to the 2 h time point, however, considerable differences were observed. It is
8 useful to discuss the results pertaining to CP first, followed by those pertaining to the hydrolysis
9 products, and lastly those for protein bound Pt. The plasma concentration of CP was essentially
10 independent of the HSA concentration, which can be rationalized in terms of its hydrolysis being
11 mainly driven by water and the chloride concentration in plasma¹⁹. In contrast, the Pt-area of both
12 hydrolysis products gradually decreased by 5.6% upon fortification to 36 g HSA/L, and by another
13 2.7% when the plasma concentration was increased to 42 g HSA/L. In the 42 g HSA/L fortified
14 pediatric cancer patient plasma, the Pt-area of both hydrolysis products was 12.9%. Although this is
15 lower than the 15.9% obtained for healthy adults (42 ± 4 g HSA/L), one needs to take into account that
16 the hydrolysis of CP was faster in healthy adults. Related to this, the total protein bound Pt increased
17 by 5.3% for a plasma HSA concentration of 36 g HSA/L and by another 4.1% for a plasma
18 concentration of 42 g HSA/L, respectively. With regard to protein bound Pt, the percentage of Pt
19 bound to PP-1 was essentially unaffected by the plasma HSA concentration, while the amount of Pt
20 that eluted as PP-2 marginally decreased by 1.7% at 36 g HSA/L and remained essentially unchanged
21 at 42 g HSA/L. The Pt-peak area that was obtained for PP-3 gradually increased by 10.5% over the
22 investigated HSA concentration range and was expected since more binding sites were available for
23 the *in situ* generated CP-derived hydrolysis products. As depicted in Fig. 2, the overall average change
24 of PP-3 (increase), HP-1 (decrease) and HP-2 (decrease) were statistically significant (p<0.001).
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53

54 In order to rationalize the observed differences in the plasma Pt-distribution between pediatric
55 cancer patients and healthy adults at the 2 h time point, it is instructive to discuss the percentages of Pt
56
57
58
59
60

1
2 eluting in form of three major kinds of platinum species in human plasma, namely protein bound
3
4 platinum (PP-1, PP-2 and PP-3), CP-derived hydrolysis products (HP-1 and HP-2) and parent CP.
5
6 Pediatric cancer patient plasma contained on average 4.5 % more of the parent CP which implies less
7
8 hydrolysis compared to that observed in plasma from healthy adults. We hypothesized that this finding
9
10 may be related to the increased dehydration of cancer patients (BUN/creatinine ratio 5.6-121 in
11
12 pediatric cancer patients compared to 9.1-24 in healthy adults), which may in turn indicate an
13
14 increased plasma chloride concentration. The consultation of patient charts for the plasma chloride
15
16 concentration (± 1 day around the time of blood collection), however, revealed an average chloride
17
18 concentration of 101 ± 4 mM. Since this concentration is essentially identical to the 103 mM that has
19
20 been reported for healthy adults¹² other factors must be responsible for the decreased hydrolysis of CP
21
22 in pediatric cancer patient plasma.
23
24
25
26
27

28 Pediatric cancer patient plasma also contained on average 5.3% more CP-derived hydrolysis
29
30 products. This apparent contradiction can only be rationalized if one also considers that pediatric
31
32 cancer patient plasma contained 9.3% less protein bound platinum. It therefore appears that the
33
34 decreased HSA concentration in pediatric cancer patient plasma (26 ± 7 g HSA/L) resulted in a
35
36 reduced binding capacity for the *in situ* generated CP-derived hydrolysis products which increased the
37
38 concentration of the unbound hydrolysis products HP-1 and HP-2 in plasma at the 2 h time point. The
39
40 concentrations of free hydrolysis products may therefore exceed critical thresholds to result in toxic
41
42 side effects as illustrated by the schematic depicted in Figure 3. More importantly, the fortification of
43
44 pediatric cancer patient plasma with pure HSA to 42 g/L decreased the fraction of free HP-1 and HP-2
45
46 in plasma by ~40%, while the hydrolysis of CP was essentially unaffected (Table 4). Although it is
47
48 impossible to predict if the same would occur *in vivo*, our findings do suggest that the intravenous
49
50 administration of cancer patients with exogenous HSA will increase the number of available binding
51
52 sites for highly toxic CP-derived hydrolysis products, such as $[\text{PtClOH}_2(\text{NH}_3)_2]^+$ ²². The associated
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2 decrease of the concentration of highly toxic CP-derived hydrolysis products in the blood circulation
3
4 (Figure 3) could therefore mitigate the toxic side-effects of intravenously administered CP.
5
6
7
8

9 **Conclusion**

10
11 In the context of developing a clinical treatment protocol to reduce the toxic side-effects of CP in
12 cancer patients, it is critical to better understand the role that the concentration of endogenous plasma
13 proteins may play. To this end, we have conducted *in vitro* experiments in which human plasma from
14 healthy controls and pediatric cancer patients was spiked with a pharmacological dose of CP and
15 analyzed for the contained Pt-species by SEC-ICP-AES. At the 2 h time point, the decreased HSA
16 concentration in pediatric cancer patient plasma (26 ± 7 g HSA/L) resulted in 9.8% less protein bound
17 Pt (including HSA) and a 5.3% increase of the total Pt eluting in form of hydrolysis products. These
18 results were corroborated by fortifying individual cancer patient plasma samples to 36 and 42 g
19 HSA/L, which produced results that were somewhat similar to those observed for plasma from healthy
20 adults. Given that CP-derived hydrolysis products are highly reactive and toxic,²²⁻²³ our *in vitro* results
21 – although obtained with a relatively small number of plasma samples – suggest that HP-1 and HP-2
22 possibly represent the species that cause the toxic side-effects *in vivo*. Although these findings need to
23 be corroborated by *in vivo* studies using animal models²⁴, a putative model suggests that increasing the
24 plasma HSA concentration in cancer patients before CP is administered may alleviate some of its
25 severe toxic side-effects.
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

49 **Acknowledgements**

50
51 This project was funded by a grant from Alberta Innovates Health Solutions (AIHS grant 201000689),
52 while AN was supported by a research grant from the Alberta's Children's Hospital Foundation.
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Figure Captions:

Figure 1: Representative Pt-specific chromatograms obtained for the analysis of plasma from a healthy human adult (H-17) and a pediatric cancer patient (C-11) spiked with CP (0.04 mg/mL). The mixture was incubated at 37 °C and analyzed after 5 min and 2 hr. Stationary phase: Superdex 200 10/300 GL column (30x1.0 cm I.D., 13 µm particle size) at 22°C. Mobile phase: PBS buffer (pH 7.4). Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min. Injection volume: 500 µL. Detector: ICP-AES at 214.423 nm (Pt). Peaks 1-3: protein bound Pt-species, peaks 4-5: Pt-containing hydrolysis products, peak 6: CP. The retention times of the molecular weight markers are depicted on top.

Figure 2: Comparison of the Pt-peak areas expressed as % of total Pt for plasma from pediatric cancer patients (HSA = 26 g/L) and HSA fortified plasma (HSA = 36 and 42 g/L) spiked with CP after incubation at 37°C for 2 h. The increase of Pt eluting as PP-3 and the decrease of Pt eluting as HP-1 and HP-2 were statistically significant.

Figure 3: Putative model which may explain the toxic side-effects of CP *in vivo* based on the obtained *in vitro* results. Lower curve: reduced concentration of hydrolysis products in plasma of healthy controls with >30 g HSA/L. Upper curve: increased concentration of hydrolysis products in patient plasma with <30 g HSA/L which exceeds the threshold for organ based toxicity.

Table 1 Pt-peak areas expressed as % of total Pt obtained after SEC-ICP-AES analysis of human plasma from healthy adults spiked with CP after incubation at 37°C for 2 h. * Corresponds to one analysis. **Corresponds to the average of two analyses. The average difference between two consecutive analyses for PP-3 was 0.7%. PP = protein bound Pt-species, HP = Pt-containing hydrolysis product.

Table 2 Pt-peak areas expressed as % of total Pt obtained after SEC-ICP-AES analysis of human plasma from pediatric cancer patients spiked with CP after incubation at 37°C for 2 h. PP = protein bound Pt-species, HP = Pt-containing hydrolysis product.

Table 3 Pt-peak areas expressed as % of total Pt obtained after SEC-ICP-AES analysis of plasma from healthy adults (average concentration 42 g HSA/L) and pediatric cancer patients (average concentration 26 g HSA/L) spiked with CP after incubation at 37°C for 5 min and 2 h. PP = protein bound Pt-species, HP = Pt-containing hydrolysis product, H = healthy adults, C = pediatric cancer patients.

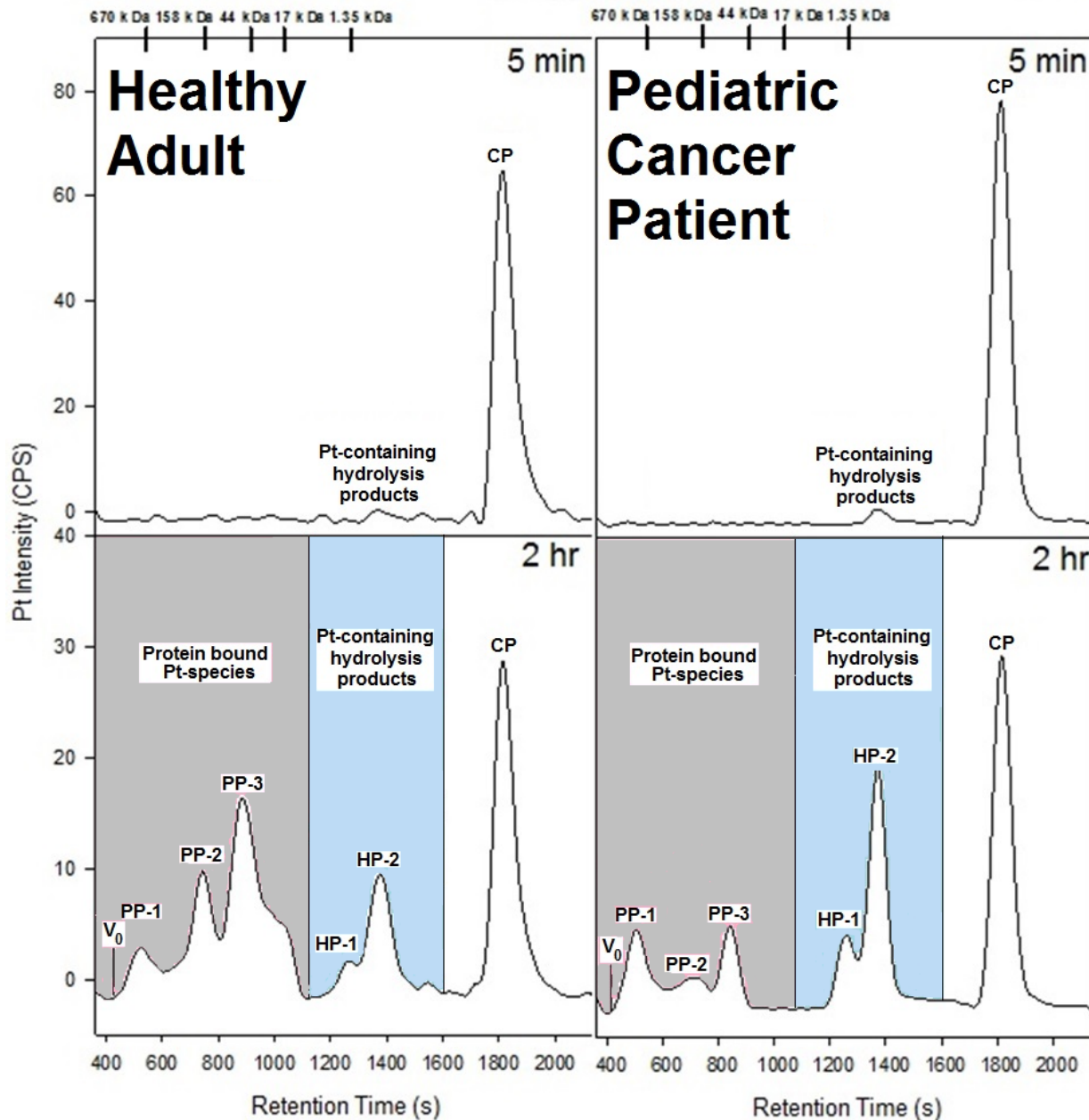
Table 4 Pt-peak areas expressed as % of total Pt obtained after SEC-ICP-AES analysis of plasma from pediatric cancer patients and HSA fortified plasma spiked with CP after incubation at 37°C for 5 min and 2 h. PP = protein bound Pt-species, HP = Pt-containing hydrolysis product, C = pediatric cancer patients.

References

1. (a) K. Lovejoy, S. Lippard, Non-traditional platinum compounds for improved accumulation, oral bioavailability, and tumor targeting. *Dalton Transactions* 2009, 10651-10659; (b) A. M. Pizarro, P. J. Sadler, Unusual DNA binding modes for metal anticancer complexes. *Biochimie* 2009, 91, 1198-1211; (c) L. Kelland, The resurgence of platinum-based cancer chemotherapy. *Nature Reviews Cancer* 2007, 7, 573-584.
2. A. Maccio, C. Madeddu, Cisplatin: an old drug with a newfound efficacy - from mechanisms of action to cytotoxicity. *Expert Opin. Pharmacother.* 2013, 14, 1839-1857.
3. K. Campbell, L. P. Rybak, R. P. Meech, L. Hughes, D-Methionine provides excellent protection from cisplatin ototoxicity in the rat. *Hearing research* 1996, 102, 90-98.
4. J. M. Berry, C. Jacobs, B. Sikic, J. Halsey, R. F. Borch, Modification of cisplatin toxicity with diethyldithiocarbamate. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 1990, 8, 1585-1590.
5. (a) M. Sooriyaarachchi, A. Narendran, J. Gailer, The effect of sodium thiosulfate on the metabolism of *cis*-platin in human plasma *in vitro*. *Metalloomics* 2012, 4, 960-967; (b) M. Sooriyaarachchi, A. Narendran, J. Gailer, N-acetyl-L-cysteine modulates the metabolism of *cis*-platin in human plasma *in vitro*. *Metalloomics* 2013, 5, 197-207; (c) M. Sooriyaarachchi, A. Narendran, W. H.

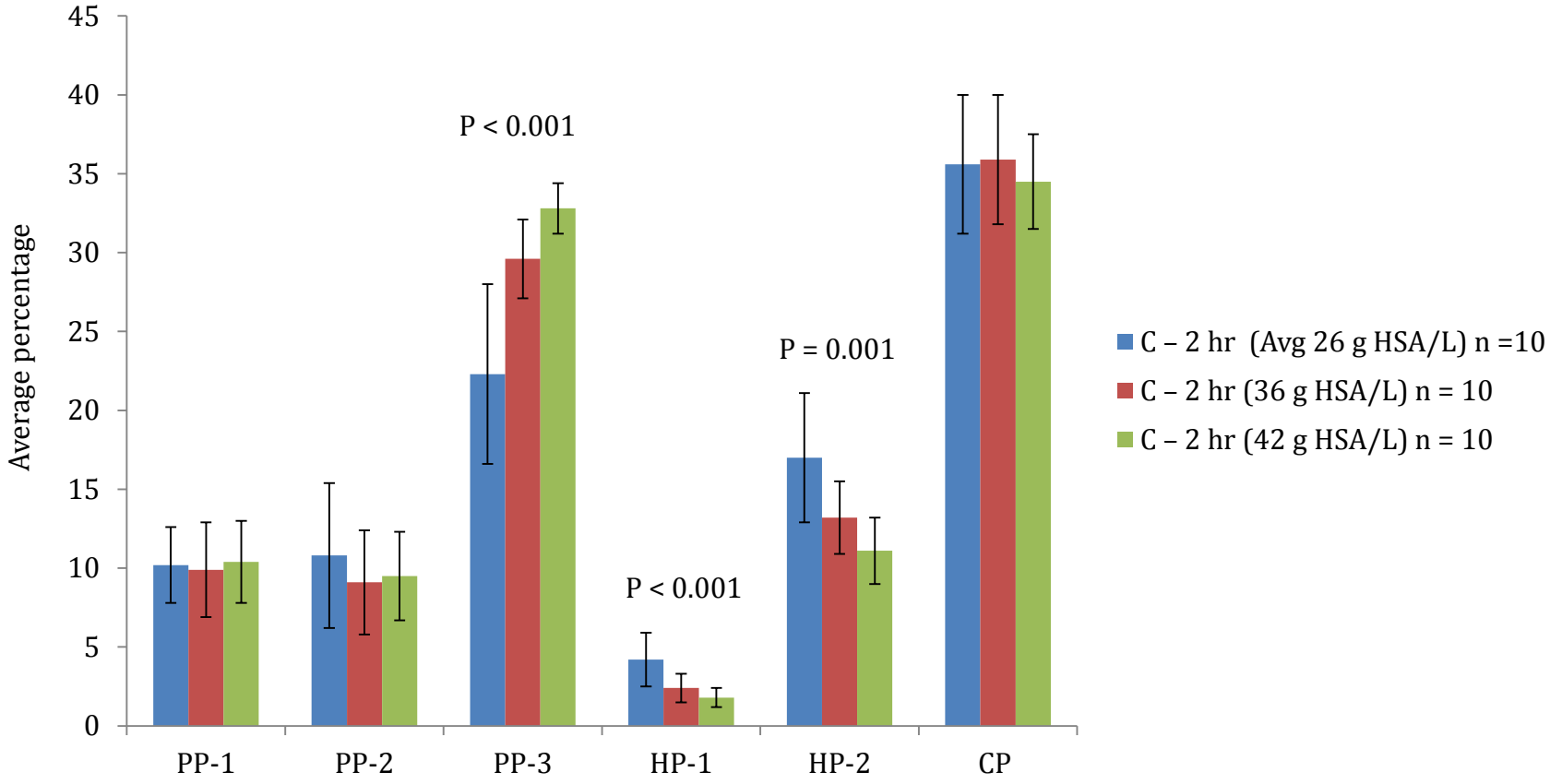
- 1
2 White, J. Gailer, Chemoprotection by D-methionine against cis-platin-induced side-effects: Insight
3 from in vitro studies using human plasma *Metallomics* 2014, 6. 532-541.
- 4
5 6. (a) D. J. Greenblatt, J. Koch-Weser, Clinical toxicity of chlordiazepoxide and diazepam in
6 relation to serum albumin concentration: a report from the Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance
7 Program. *Eur. J. Clin. Pharmacol.* 1974, 7. 259-262; (b) M. C. Meyer, D. E. Guttman, The binding of
8 drugs by plasma proteins. *J. Pharm. Sci.* 1968, 57. 895-918; (c) D. Gupta, C. G. Lis, Pretreatment
9 serum albumin as a predictor of cancer survival: a systematic review of the epidemiological literature.
10 *Nutr. J.* 2010, 9. 1-16.
- 11
12 7. J. J. Vallner, Binding of drugs by albumin and plasma protein. *J. Pharm. Sci.* 1977, 66. 447-
13 465.
- 14
15 8. (a) A. Ivanov, J. Christodoulou, J. Parkinson, K. Barnham, A. Tucker, J. Woodrow, P. Sadler,
16 Cisplatin binding sites on human albumin. *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 1998, 273. 14721-14730;
17 (b) A. Sparreboom, K. Nooter, W. J. Loos, J. Verweij, The (ir)relevance of plasma protein binding of
18 anticancer drugs. *Net. J. Med.* 2001, 59. 196-207.
- 19
20 9. M. Sooriyaarachchi, A. Narendran, J. Gailer, Comparative hydrolysis and plasma binding of
21 cis-platin and carboplatin in human plasma in vitro. *Metallomics* 2011, 3. 49-55.
- 22
23 10. R. S. Go, A. A. Adjei, Review of the comparative pharmacology and clinical activity of
24 cisplatin and carboplatin. *J. Clin. Oncol.* 1999, 17. 409-422.
- 25
26 11. W. Y. Craig, T. B. Ledue, R. F. Ritchie *Plasma proteins. Clinical Utility and Interpretation*;
27 Dade Behring Inc.: Newark, 2000.
- 28
29 12. S. E. Sherman, S. J. Lippard, Structural aspects of platinum anticancer drug interactions with
30 DNA. *Chem. Rev.* 1987, 87. 1153-1181.
- 31
32 13. J. K. C. Lau, D. V. Deubel, Hydrolysis of the anticancer drug cisplatin: pitfalls in the
33 interpretation of quantum chemical calculations. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* 2006, 2. 103-106.
- 34
35 14. K. J. Haxton, H. M. Burt, Polymeric drug delivery of platinum-based anticancer agents. *J.*
36 *Pharm. Sci.* 2009, 98. 2299-2316.
- 37
38 15. (a) D. Esteban-Fernandez, E. Moreno-Gordaliza, B. Canas, M. A. Palacios, M. M. Gomez-
39 Gomez, Analytical methodologies for metallomics studies of antitumor Pf-containing drugs.
40 *Metallomics* 2010, 2. 19-38; (b) M. C. Lim, R. B. Martin, The nature of cis amine Pd(II) and
41 antitumour cis amine Pt(II) complexes in aqueous solutions *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem.* 1976, 38. 1911-
42 1914; (c) K. W. Lee, D. S. J. Martin, Cis-dichlorodiammineplatinum(II). Aqueation equilibria and
43 isotopic exchange of chloride ligands with free chloride and tetrachloroplatinate(II) *Inorg. Chim. Acta*
44 1976, 17. 105-110.
- 45
46 16. (a) C. S. Allardyce, P. J. Dyson, J. Coffey, N. Johnson, Determination of drug binding sites to
47 proteins by electrospray ionisation mass spectrometry: the interaction of cisplatin with transferrin
48 *Rapid Commun. Mass Spectrom.* 2002, 16. 933-935; (b) I. Khalaila, C. S. Allardyce, C. S. Verma, P. J.
49 Dyson, A mass spectrometric and molecular modelling study of cisplatin binding to transferrin.
50 *ChemBioChem* 2005, 6. 1788-1795; (c) W. Guo, W. Zhang, Q. Luo, X. Li, Y. Zhao, S. Xiong, F.
51 Wang, Transferrin serves as a mediator to deliver organometallic ruthenium(II) anticancer complexes
52 into cells. *Inorg. Chem.* 2013, 52. 5328-5338.
- 53
54 17. (a) D. Esteban-Fernandez, M. Montes-Bayon, E. B. Gonzalez, M. M. Gomez Gomez, M. A.
55 Palacios, A. Sanz-Medel, Atomic (HPLC-ICP-MS) and molecular mass spectrometry (ESI-Q-TOF) to
56 study cis-platin interactions with serum proteins. *J. Anal. At. Spectrom.* 2008, 23. 378-384; (b) J.
57 Szpunar, A. Makarov, T. Pieper, B. K. Keppler, R. Lobinski, Investigation of metallodrug-protein
58 interactions by size-exclusion chromatography coupled with inductively coupled plasma mass
59 spectrometry (ICP-MS). *Anal. Chim. Acta* 1999, 387. 135-144.
- 60
61 18. S. S. More, O. Akil, A. G. Ianculescu, E. G. Geier, L. R. Lustig, K. M. Giacomini, Role of the
62 copper transporter, CTR1, in platinum-induced ototoxicity. *J. Neurosci.* 2010, 30. 9500-9509.

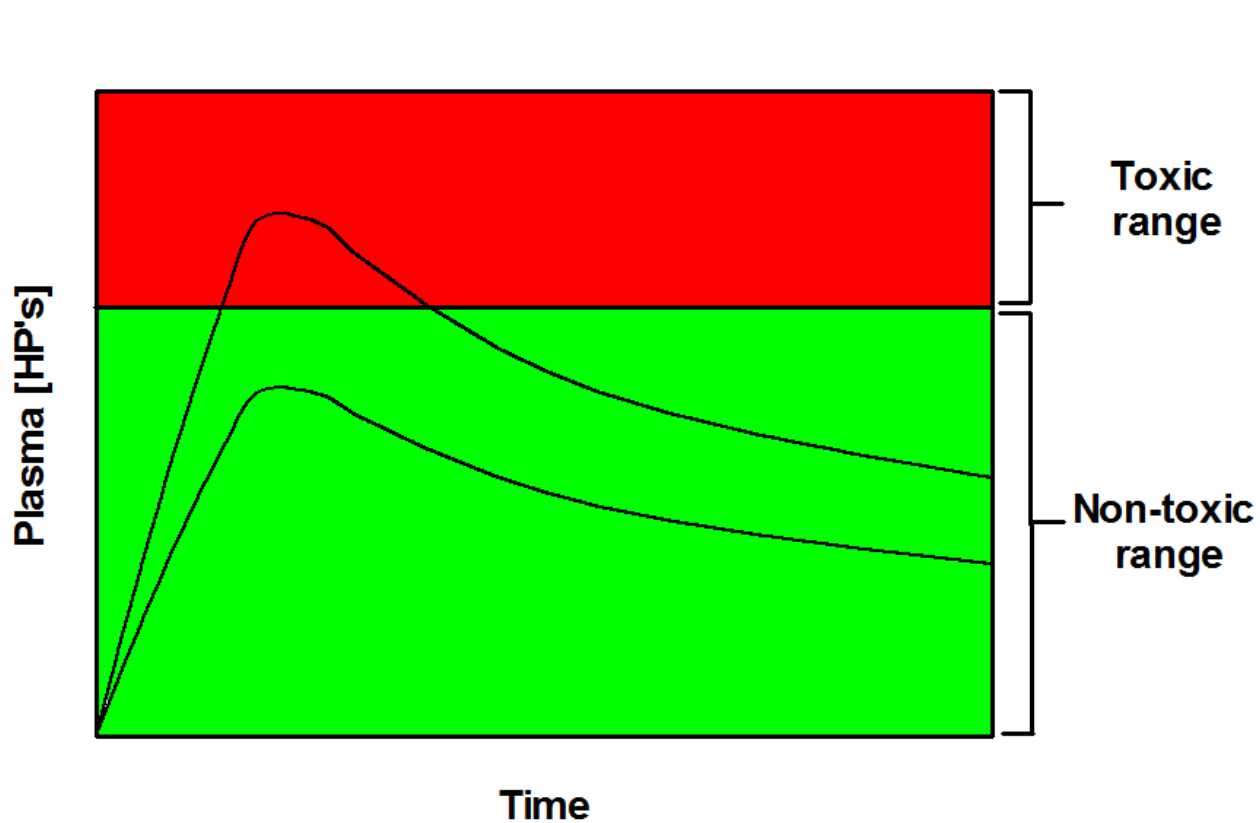
- 1
2 19. M. Jennerwein, P. A. Andrews, Drug accumulation and DNA platination in cells exposed to
3 aquated cisplatin species *Cancer Letters* 1994, *81*. 215-220.
4 20. S. V. Pizzo, P. A. Roche, S. R. Feldman, S. L. Gonias, Further characterization of the platinum-
5 reactive component of the alpha 2-macroglobulin-receptor recognition site. *Biochem. J.* 1986, *238*.
6 217-225.
7 21. A. Martincic, R. Milacic, M. Cemazar, G. Sersa, J. Scancar, The use of CIM-DEAE monolithic
8 chromatography coupled to ICP-MS to study the distribution of cisplatin in human serum *Anal.*
9 *Methods* 2012, *4*. 780-790.
10 22. A. Ekborn, A. Lindberg, G. Laurell, I. Wallin, S. Eksborg, H. Ehrsson, Ototoxicity,
11 nephrotoxicity and pharmacokinetics of cisplatin and its monhydrated complex in guinea pig. *Cancer*
12 *Chemother. Pharmacol.* 2003, *51*. 36-42.
13 23. J. H. van den Berg, J. H. Beijnen, A. J. M. Balm, J. H. M. Schellens, Future opportunities in
14 preventing cisplatin induced ototoxicity. *Cancer Treatment Rev.* 2006, *32*. 390-397.
15 24. J. Moretto, B. Chauffert, F. Ghiringhelli, J. R. Aldrich-Wright, F. Bouyer, Discrepancy
16 between in vitro and in vivo antitumor effect of a new platinum(II) metallointercalator. *Invest. New*
17 *Drugs* 2011, *29*. 1164-1176.
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43





1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ID #	PP-1 ($t_r=527 \pm 9s$)	PP-2 ($t_r=751 \pm 8s$)	PP-3 HSA ($t_r=890 \pm 7s$)	HP-1 ($t_r=1273 \pm 20s$)	HP-2 ($t_r=1388 \pm 10s$)	CP ($t_r=1830 \pm 12s$)
H-02*	8.1	13.5	32.1	3.7	13.3	29.2
H-04*	7.7	11.7	34.2	3.8	12.5	30.3
H-05**	6.8	11.2	31.1	4.0	13.9	33.0
H-06**	12.2	12.6	30.5	2.7	12.8	29.3
H-07*	9.2	13.1	29.9	4.3	12.8	30.6
H-08**	8.7	14.8	31.5	2.9	11.7	30.5
H-11*	8.3	11.9	33.2	3.3	12.3	30.9
H-12**	7.3	12.5	32.5	2.9	13.1	31.6
H-13**	9.3	9.7	28.6	2.5	14.4	35.5
H-14*	6.7	11.6	31.0	3.0	15.2	32.4
H-15*	8.5	12.6	32.0	1.6	13.6	31.7
H-16*	9.1	12.4	33.1	3.1	12.7	29.5
H-17**	6.9	13.3	33.6	2.6	12.3	31.3
H-19*	7.9	13.2	37.6	1.3	10.0	29.9
Avg \pm STD	8.3 \pm 1.4	12.4 \pm 1.2	32.2 \pm 2.2	3.0 \pm 0.8	12.9 \pm 1.2	31.1 \pm 1.7

ID #	PP-1 (t_r= 510 ± 9s)	PP-2 (t_r= 724 ± 8s)	PP-3 HSA (t_r= 868 ± 12s)	HP-1 (t_r= 1259 ± 15s)	HP-2 (t_r= 1377 ± 8s)	CP (t_r= 1820 ± 8s)
C-01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
C-02	6.4	8.9	24.2	4.7	18.4	37.4
C-03	10.1	9.8	24.1	3.3	15.9	36.8
C-04	9.7	8.8	21.8	5.6	18.5	35.6
C-05	7.2	21.3	26.8	2.3	11.8	30.6
C-06	13.0	15.5	28.3	2.4	11.7	29.1
C-07	11.2	11.2	25.0	3.8	15.4	33.3
C-08	8.4	7.9	23.2	3.1	16.3	41.1
C-09	11.7	7.0	16.6	6.3	20.6	37.8
C-10	13.6	11.6	24.0	3.1	16.1	31.6
C-11	10.8	5.5	8.9	7.2	25.4	42.3
Avg ± STD	10.2 ± 2.4	10.8 ± 4.6	22.3 ± 5.7	4.2 ± 1.7	17.0 ± 4.1	35.6 ± 4.4

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Time	PP-1	PP-2	PP-3 (HSA)	Total PP	HP-1	HP-2	Total HP	CP
H - 5 min n =13	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	2.4 ± 0.3	2.4 ± 0.3	97.6 ± 0.3
C - 5 min n = 11	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	2.4 ± 0.4	2.4 ± 0.4	97.6 ± 0.5
H - 2 hr n =14	8.3 ± 1.4	12.4 ± 1.2	32.2 ± 2.2	53.0 ± 2.8	3.0 ± 0.8	12.9 ± 1.2	15.9 ± 1.7	31.1 ± 1.7
C - 2 hr n = 10	10.2 ± 2.4	10.8 ± 4.6	22.3 ± 5.7	43.2 ± 9.5	4.2 ± 1.7	17.0 ± 4.1	21.2 ± 5.7	35.6 ± 4.4
P value 2 hr	0.042	0.287	<0.001		0.061	0.011		0.011

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Time / [HSA]	PP-1	PP-2	PP-3 (HSA)	Total PP	HP-1	HP-2	Total HP	CP
C - 5 min (Avg 26 g HSA/L) n =11	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	2.4 ± 0.4	2.4 ± 0.4	97.6 ± 0.4
C - 5 min (36 g HSA/L) n = 3	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	2.3 ± 0.4	2.3 ± 0.4	97.7 ± 0.4
C - 5 min (42 g HSA/L) n = 9	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	2.1 ± 0.4	2.1 ± 0.4	98.0 ± 0.4
C - 2 hr (Avg 26 g HSA/L) n =10	10.2 ± 2.4	10.8 ± 4.6	22.3 ± 5.7	43.2 ± 9.5	4.2 ± 1.7	17.0 ± 4.1	21.2 ± 5.7	35.6 ± 4.4
C - 2 hr (36 g HSA/L) n = 10	9.9 ± 3.0	9.1 ± 3.3	29.6 ± 2.5	48.5 ± 5.7	2.4 ± 0.9	13.2 ± 2.3	15.6 ± 3.0	35.9 ± 4.1
C - 2 hr (42 g HSA/L) n = 10	10.4 ± 2.6	9.5 ± 2.8	32.8 ± 1.6	52.6 ± 4.3	1.8 ± 0.6	11.1 ± 2.1	12.9 ± 2.5	34.5 ± 3.0

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60