

MINIREVIEW

Perspectives on Intracellular Storage and Transport of Cationic-Lipophilic Drugs (43584)

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The cytoplasmic acidic vesicular compartment, which includes, in addition to lysosomes, endocytic, transport, Golgi, and secretory vesicles, plays an important role in the dynamics of cellular homeostasis in physiologic and disease states. This compartment is involved in processes of intracellular uptake, transport, digestion, synthesis, packaging, and storage as well as extracellular secretion. For example, the storage of lipid, apolipoproteins, and lytic enzymes in lamellar bodies under physiologic conditions serves an essential role in respiration. In particular, the lamellar bodies of lung epithelium are the site of storage for pulmonary surfactant. The lipid component of lung surfactant decreases surface tension to enable optimal gas exchange and a hydrophobic lining which provides protection against environmental influences (1). However, in certain pathologic conditions, as in atherosclerosis or in a number of inherited storage disorders, there is a massive accumulation of lipid-containing lamellar bodies (1–3). The inability of lysosomes to degrade this cellular material in lamellar bodies is proposed to be a factor in lysosomal storage disorders. Regardless of whether there is a deficiency in specific enzymes or transport carriers or an abnormal, excess substrate supply, the changes noted are a storage of uncatabolizable material primarily in nervous tissue, viscera, or both (4, 5). The clinical manifestations of each storage disease are dependent upon the distribution and severity

of stored material. Over the last few years, a number of animal models of lysosomal storage disease have been developed for the elucidation of basic mechanisms of lysosomal functions.

The phenomenon of intralysosomal storage and lamellar body formation can be induced by numerous amphiphilic compounds and this has been the subject of several reviews (3, 6–8). Many of these amphiphilic agents are drugs previously classified as amphiphilic-cationic by Lüllmann *et al.* (9) based on the presence of lipophilic and cationic moieties, and are also known as cationic-amphiphilic or amphiphilic drugs. In this paper, the term cationic-lipophilic drugs (CLD) will be used to designate these amphiphilic compounds. It should be clearly noted that there is no direct relationship between the physicochemical nature of CLD and their pharmacologic properties or therapeutic uses (3, 6, 7). CLD have differing pharmacologic profiles and therapeutic uses, including antimalarial agents, antihistamines, antineoplastics, cardiac antiarrhythmics, and antidepressants.

Concomitant to the storage of lipid-protein-saccharide complexes in lysosomal lamellar bodies, lysosomes were also found to store CLD. Even though a great deal of research has been published on CLD and their storage in cells, the dynamic nature and the biologic meaning of storage is still poorly understood. In recent years, some light has been shed on various manifestations of storage, on the physicochemical properties of CLD responsible for storage in cells, on the involvement of the cytoplasmic acidic vesicular compartment in uptake, storage and transport of CLD, and on the toxicologic significance of storage. This information has provided newer perspectives on intracellular storage and transport of CLD and has been useful in discovery and design of new drugs. In this paper, we will review the biology of and provide perspectives on intracellular storage and transport of CLD.

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Morphologic Manifestations of Storage of CLD

There are various morphologic manifestations of intracellular storage of CLD, the most common of which is concentric lamellar bodies. Electron microscopy is usually required for determining the morphologic features of the alterations associated with storage. The common feature to all alterations is distention of vesicles (membrane-bound vacuoles such as lysosomes and probably other cytoplasmic acidic vesicles). Prior to a description of the morphologic characteristics, the terminology used must be clarified. Synonyms given to the CLD-induced concentric lamellar bodies include myeloid bodies, myelinoid bodies, lamellated cytoplasmic inclusions, multilamellar inclusion bodies, lamellated bodies, lamellar bodies, and osmiophilic lamellar inclusions (7, 10). These are intravesicular, single-membrane, electron-dense concentric configurations. The membranous material is arranged in concentric layers with a periodicity of 40–50 Å (11) and was found to contain primarily stored phospholipid, which resulted from an inability of the cell to catabolize this substrate (12). The lamellae arise from the homogenous lysosomal matrix (3) and, as Reasor (13) demonstrated, may undergo further transformation into amorphous granular or membranous material. Terminology may be confusing and it is important to distinguish concentric lamellar bodies from cytoplasmic membranous whorls (or whorling bodies), which are a concentric proliferation of double membranes originating from either endoplasmic reticulum (e.g., the morphologic manifestation of microsomal enzyme induction associated with excessive treatment with phenobarbital) or from basal cell membrane (e.g., Mallory bodies associated with alcoholism).

Concentric lamellar bodies are believed to arise from heterophagic or autophagic processes. In autophagy, membranous material originates from within the cellular components such as organelles, endoplasmic reticulum, etc., and is surrounded by sequestering cisternae to form a vacuole. Subsequently, the thin membranes of sequestering cisternae are transformed into a thick limiting membrane of the lysosome. In the endoplasmic reticulum, the synthesized hydrolytic enzymes are transported within primary lysosomes to the autophagic vacuole. The sequestered organelles are digested by the hydrolytic enzymes and the autophagic vacuole is transformed into a heterogeneous dense body or secondary lysosome. In heterophagy, the extracellular material enters the cell via endocytic/phagocytic vesicles; these fuse with primary lysosomes, which release hydrolytic enzymes and subsequently digest the captured material. Clearly, if for whatever reason the degradation of substrate sequestered within lysosomes is impaired, there is a resultant accumulation

of substrate and the lysosome becomes a storage site (7).

Although the CLD-induced concentric lamellar bodies have been studied extensively, it should be noted that the presence of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles is another morphologic manifestation of CLD storage. These are distended membrane-bound vesicles whose content is predominantly electron-lucent material. Concentric lamellar bodies and clear cytoplasmic vacuoles may be recognized by histologic methods, and can be definitely differentiated by electron microscopic methods. In the toxicologic evaluation of the cardiac antiarrhythmic CLD disobutamide, Ruben *et al.* (14) found the predominance of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles over concentric lamellar bodies. Histochemical study of vacuolated cells revealed the presence of phospholipid accumulation (14) similar to that shown by Kozumi *et al.* (15). By electron microscopy, Ruben *et al.* (14) demonstrated that the disobutamide-induced changes in dog coronary artery muscle cells were in the Golgi area and included clear cytoplasmic vacuoles and concentric lamellar bodies. Most of these structures are membrane bound. The vacuoles become progressively larger with time and apparently accumulate electron-lucent material. Vacuolar size also increases by coalescence of adjacent vacuoles. There is morphologic evidence of vacuolar coalescence through a process of protrusion-invasion of adjacent vacuoles. Progressive vacuolar coalescence and accumulation of electron-lucent material results in cellular enlargement. It is of interest that other CLD, including tilorone, chloroquine, and piperamide maleate, were reported to induce the formation of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles (16–18).

Another morphologic feature associated with CLD storage is clear cytoplasmic vacuoles with electron-dense periphery; these have been linked with accumulation of glycosaminoglycans (19). Other morphologic features of storage are flocculent electron-dense structures as well as crystalline electron-dense bodies (3, 14). More importantly, combinations and variations of any of the morphologic alterations may occur. There is morphologic evidence for a relationship among the various electron-dense structures, the electron-lucent material, and the peripheral membrane of vesicles. It is possible that there are bidirectional processes between states of liquification and coacervation resulting in heterogeneity of the morphologic alterations. Artifactual effects caused by methods of tissue processing for microscopy should always be taken into account, and *in situ* observations on cultured cells may be advantageous.

Despite the importance of morphology, it is not possible to provide a pathogenomic description for intracellular storage of CLD. There are a number of confounding factors to consider that complicate the issue. CLD may cause various alterations in different

animal species, in different cell types in an animal, and in different cell types in an organ. Similarly, in cultured cells, the predominant morphologic alterations induced by a CLD (e.g., tilorone) may vary dependent upon the duration of exposure and/or the concentration of the CLD (20, 21). More importantly, a correlation between the types of morphologic and chemical changes induced by CLD does not always exist.

Molecular Structure Determinants

The physicochemical characteristics of CLD associated with the development of concentric lamellar bodies have been reviewed extensively in recent years (8, 10). Physicochemically, the CLD molecule contains both a hydrophobic (lipophilic) moiety and a cationic hydrophilic moiety. The hydrophobic component of the molecule consists of a ring system that is usually aromatic but may contain both aromatic and aliphatic structures. The hydrophilic property resides in an amine moiety that is highly protonated at physiologic pH (22). Drugs with two basic amines and a well-defined lipophilic region, such as chloroquine and disobutamide, are capable of inducing a mixture of concentric lamellar bodies and clear cytoplasmic vacuoles (14, 17). For drugs with only one basic amine on the side chain and a well-defined lipophilic region, it was found that halogen substitution on the lipophilic ring structure, or on the basic amine side chain, resulted in a more potent induction of concentric lamellar bodies (23). The presence of a halogen on the aromatic ring of CLD, however, was not essential for induction of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles (24).

Extensive studies were carried out by Ruben and colleagues (14, 24–26) to establish structure-activity relationships of CLD and the induction of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles. The phenomenon was unraveled with the use of cultured cell preparations of either rabbit aorta muscle or rat urinary bladder carcinoma cells. The importance of the strongly basic cationic moiety as the determinant for the induction of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles was clearly demonstrated; a moiety of bis-tertiary amine, of which the pK_a of each amine is greater than 8.0, was found to be a highly potent vacuole inducer (24).

There is a complimentary link between the high basicity of the cationic moiety and the storage of CLD in the cytoplasmic acidic vesicular compartment; the vesicles of this compartment have three important properties pertaining to CLD storage: limiting membrane, acidic content, and distention capacity. In fact, disobutamide was found in the cell fraction of endocytic (and probably transport) vesicles as well as in the lysosomal fraction (27). CLD must cross membranes in order to move into or out of vesicles. The unprotonated state of the cationic moiety permits this movement, whereas the protonated state hinders it. CLD must also

cross cell membranes in order to move into and out of cells; and, similarly, the protonated state of the cationic moiety would hinder cellular uptake, whereas the unprotonated state would permit it. This was shown by the pronounced effect of the pH of the culture medium: the more acidic (versus the more basic) medium decreased/delayed cellular uptake of disobutamide, and prevented/delayed appearances of vacuoles (25). In this study, there was parallelism between higher basicity of the culture medium, early appearance of vacuoles, and increased amounts of disobutamide in cells. Therefore, storage of disobutamide in cells is a combination of two factors: (i) the increased basicity of the culture medium provides more doubly unprotonated molecules, which can enter cells; and (ii) the acidic content of the cytoplasmic cellular acidic vesicles greatly diminishes the chances of doubly unprotonated molecules to occur, resulting in intracellular retention (storage) of this CLD. It has been proposed that the entrapped protonated amines cause an osmotic swelling of lysosomes, resulting morphologically in clear cytoplasmic vacuoles (28); this mechanism is a type of hydropic change.

The experimental model of varying the pH of the culture medium (14, 25) was also useful for demonstrating the importance of the highly basic bis-tertiary amine as a determinant in cellular uptake of CLD. Compared with the pronounced effect on uptake of disobutamide, there was only a slight effect on uptake of three cardiac antiarrhythmic CLD, structurally related to disobutamide except for having a cationic moiety of a monobasic amine (14).

By the use of cultured cells (as in whole animals), it was possible to demonstrate that not all CLD induce morphologic changes or store in cells (14, 24, 26). In fact, there are remarkable differences between very close structure analogs of CLD. The many advantages of cultured cells over whole animals for investigating the dynamics of the interactions of CLD with cells have been pointed out (3, 24, 29, 30). These include: (i) economy of time, test compound, and other research material; (ii) absence of effects due to poor absorption, first-pass metabolism, rapid elimination, or animal variability; and (iii) absence of artifactual effects due to tissue processing methods. The advantage of varying the pH of the culture medium (14, 23) is unique because the state of protonation of the cationic moiety is essential for passage of CLD through the cell membrane; achieving similar changes in extracellular pH would not be realistic in whole animals.

There was no difference in induction of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles by aliphatic diamines if the length of the aliphatic chain was two, four, or six carbons (24). In a recent study using 6-alkyl analogs of spectinomycin incubated with rat cultured hepatocytes, the length of the 6-alkyl side chain was found to be a factor in the

formation of concentric lamellar bodies and lysosomal storage, with the octyl derivative being more potent than the propyl compound (31). The reason for this difference may be attributed to increased lipophilicity of an eight-carbon chain.

The lipophilic moiety of CLD is important for induction of biochemical alterations associated with intracellular storage. This was shown in cultured cells (32) where a short aliphatic diamine of minimal lipophilicity induced clear cytoplasmic vacuoles not accompanied with significant alterations in saccharide and phospholipid contents, compared with the alterations in these substances induced by several CLD. These experiments also suggested that the lipophilic moiety plays a more important role in the induced biochemical alterations than just the anticipated elevation of intravesicular pH resulting from the entrapped protonated amines. The physicochemical properties of the lipophilic moiety which determine the biochemical alterations associated with CLD storage are not known.

When considering the role of the lipophilic moiety of CLD, it is important to note that there are compounds which possess a cationic moiety but are presumed to be amphiphilic. Aminoglycoside antibiotics such as gentamicin possess cationic groups; their ring structure, in contrast to CLD, is hydrophilic. These compounds may induce cellular alterations similar to those induced by CLD. Gentamicin produced a significant phospholipid accumulation in renal cortex particularly in the lysosomal fraction (33, 34). Based on these observations, it is our view that in addition to the cationic moiety, there is a specific structural requirement needed for the induction of biochemical alterations. In the case of gentamicin, the glycoside ring structure is hydrophilic, whereas in CLD the ring structure is lipophilic.

Phospholipid Alterations

The correlation between CLD-induced morphologic alterations, in particular the formation of concentric lamellar bodies and phospholipidosis, is well documented and has been the subject of several reviews (6, 35, 36). As shown in Table I, treatment with various CLD produces an increase in total phospholipid and in individual class phospholipids, including sphingomyelin, phosphatidylserine, phosphatidylinositol (PI), phosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylethanolamine, and phosphatidylcholine as determined by chemical analysis. It is of interest that the CLD-induced elevation in individual-class phospholipid was not equivalent for all classes. In the case of chlorphentermine, the increase in lung phosphatidylcholine was highest (37), whereas PI was predominantly elevated in gentamicin-treated rat kidney (38, 39). Although desipramine did not appear to markedly affect total phospholipid, a significant rise was noted in rat lung and liver PI accompanied by a

fall in phosphatidylethanolamine and sphingomyelin (40). It is of interest that in cochlear cells, it was found that gentamicin binding to PI prevented the hydrolysis of this lipid and the formation of inositol triphosphate (41, 42). Inositol triphosphate is believed to act as a second messenger for a calcium-dependent mobile response of outer ear hair cells. Apparently, binding of gentamicin to PI plays a role in the mechanism of ototoxicity.

Evidence of CLD induction of phospholipidosis has also been demonstrated histochemically with the use of various stains (7, 14). Various factors were found to influence CLD-induced phospholipidosis. Although the CLD share similar physicochemical characteristics, the induction of phospholipid accumulation is dependent upon tissue, species, and age (7). Subcellular localization studies revealed that the primary site for phospholipid accumulation is the lysosomal fraction (34, 43). The observed phospholipidosis appeared to be due to reduced catabolism as a consequence of binding of drug to phospholipid, which rendered the substrate less susceptible to phospholipases (12). Indeed, *in vivo* administration of gentamicin or chlorphentermine was found to inhibit phospholipases A and C in kidney and lung, respectively (44, 45). Similarly, incubation of various CLD with lysosomal preparations resulted in a marked inhibition in the activities of phospholipases A and C (12, 36). These findings suggest that impaired degradation of phospholipids is a common feature associated with CLD administration.

Glycosaminoglycan Alterations

The glycosaminoglycans (GAG), also termed mucopolysaccharides, contain derivatives of either glucosamine or galactosamine. The GAG are polyanionic substances of high molecular weight and consist of polysaccharide group side chains covalently linked to a polypeptide backbone. The significance of GAG in the pharmacologic action and toxicity of CLD is based primarily on the work of Lüllmann-Rauch and co-workers (Table II). As in the case of other CLD, tilorone was reported to induce the formation of lysosomal lamellar bodies and phospholipidosis as evidenced by morphologic and histochemical techniques, respectively (46); unlike most CLD, however, tilorone induced the formation of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles with electron-dense periphery. By means of cytochemical staining and radioactive uptake studies with ³⁵S, Lüllmann-Rauch (47) and Lüllman-Rauch and Ziegenhagen (48) demonstrated that the vacuoles were the sites of GAG storage and that these vacuoles were lysosomal organelles. With the use of fluorescence microscopy, the CLD were detected within the GAG-storing lysosomes (49). Based on the findings that the GAG levels induced by acridine derivatives were increased by a factor of five and 23 in liver and spleen,

Table I. An Example of CLD that Induce Phospholipid Accumulation as Determined by Chemical Assays

CLD	Tissue/cells assayed	Total phospholipid	Individual class phospholipid	Phosphatidylinositol	Ref.
Chlorphentermine	Lung	↑	↑↑	↑↑	37, 76
	Kidney		↑↑	↑↑	65
Diethylaminoethoxyhexestrol	Liver	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	77, 78
Iprindole	Lung alveolar macrophages	↑↑	ND ^a	ND	79
Chlorcyclizine	Lung	↑↑	↑↑	↓	80, 81
	Lung	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	82
Chlorimipramine	Lung	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	83
Imipramine	Lung	↑↑	↑↑	ND	84, 85
Chloroquine	Lung	↑↑	↑↑	ND	84, 85
	Skeletal muscle	↑↑	ND	ND	86
	Cultured RAM ^b cells	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	32
Amiodarone	Lung	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	60, 87
	Cultured RAM cells	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	32
Desipramine	Cultured fibroblasts	↑↑	↑↑	No change	61, 88
	Lung, liver	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	40
Disobutamide	Cultured RAM cells	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	32
Ambroxol	Lung	↑↑	↑↑	ND	89
Chloramitriptyline	Lung	↑↑	↑↑	↑	90

^a ND, not done.^b RAM, rabbit aorta muscle.**Table II.** Compounds that Induce Accumulation of Glycosaminoglycans in Lysosomes

Compound	Tissue/cells	Ref.
Tilorone	Liver	19, 91
	Tracheal chondrocytes/tibial cartilage	92, 93
	Cultured rat corneal, bovine, or human fibroblasts	20, 48
Tilorone analogs	Liver, kidney, spleen, cornea	46
Acridine orange and derivatives	Cultured corneal fibroblasts	21, 94
	Liver, spleen	49

respectively, Grave *et al.* (49) proposed that one drug molecule was bound to one disaccharide unit of GAG in the lysosome.

The precise role of GAG in CLD-induce storage, particularly in the accumulation of phospholipid, remains unclear. In a recent study, Ruben *et al.* (30) also found that tilorone induced the formation of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles in cultured rabbit aorta muscle cells. However, the observed morphologic change was not accompanied by phospholipid or mucopolysaccharide accumulation. It should be noted that in this study (30), the morphologic changes induced by disobutamide, chloroquine, and amiodarone were accompanied by increases in phospholipid and monosaccharide, but not mucopolysaccharide content. It has been demonstrated that GAG would prevent lipid deposition (50); it is, therefore, plausible that absence of GAG would be associated with elevated lipid levels.

It is known that there are differences in GAG content in different tissues and that lysosomal storage may be associated with a specific GAG. Tilorone pro-

duced a significant rise of dermatan sulphate but not of chondroitin sulfate or heparan sulphate in liver, kidney, and spleen (51). The cationic-lipophilic compound acridine, a more potent GAG-inducer, increased liver heparan sulfate and dermatan sulfate without a marked change in chondroitin sulfate (49). The differential effect on individual GAG has been also shown by lead, where in the presence of this metal, heparan sulfate was the major GAG affected (51). Thus, it is important to measure each individual GAG in order to establish a role of proteoglycans in intracellular storage of CLD.

It is of interest that gentamicin did not increase GAG in the cochlea but was found to bind to GAG (42). This binding was proposed to result in calcium mobilization and then inhibition of Na⁺,K⁺-ATPase (52). It is well established that gentamicin inhibits renal Na⁺,K⁺-ATPase and, perhaps, this aminoglycoside does bind to GAG (38). Evidence thus suggests that this aminoglycoside can induce an effect by binding to GAG without necessarily increasing the content of GAG or disturbing the function of lysosomal enzymes (1).

Saccharide Alterations, Glycosylphosphatidylinositol Anchors and Membrane Turnover

From morphologic observations on disobutamide-induced changes it was hypothesized that this CLD is associated with the processes of intracellular membrane turnover and transport (14, 53). Clear cytoplasmic vacuoles and concentric lamellar bodies were first seen in the Golgi vesicles of coronary artery muscle cells of dogs (14) and in the juxtanuclear area of cultured cells (25). By cell fractionation, the drug was found in fractions of endocytic and probably transport vesicles in addition to lysosomes (27). Furthermore, disappearance of vacuoles from cultured cells after withdrawal of disobutamide was associated with secretion of this CLD into the culture medium (54).

It is well known that proteins (e.g., enzymes) are attached to the membrane by covalent linkage with a glucosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) moiety; the latter attaches to a nascent endoplasmic reticulum protein with the concomitant removal of a COOH-terminal (55, 56). Processing of the COOH terminal occurs on the luminal side of the endoplasmic reticulum and the mature GPI-anchored protein is subsequently transported to the plasma membrane. It is also well established that the GPI-anchored proteins are highly susceptible to cleavage by PI-specific phospholipases C and D (57, 58). However, a structural modification to the GPI-anchored proteins may render them resistant to the action of PI-specific phospholipases (57, 58).

Indeed, in a study (32), the CLD disobutamide, chloroquine, desipramine, and amiodarone produced in cultured rabbit aorta muscle cells a significant increase in PI and glucosyl residues, components of GPI anchors. This shows that storage of disobutamide may alter intracellular content of saccharide in addition to phospholipid. There is support for the association of CLD with membrane anchor molecules via findings on phospholipid, particularly PI (Table I). Martin *et al.* (59) found that incubation of cultured bovine pulmonary artery endothelial cells with amiodarone resulted in a significant rise in levels of PI and total phospholipid. In a recent study, Reasor *et al.* (60) reported that in alveolar macrophages of amiodarone-treated rats, there was a marked increase in content of total phospholipid and all individual classes of phospholipid. A rise in total phospholipid was produced by incubation of cultured human fibroblasts with desipramine (61), Madin-Darby canine kidney cells with chloroquine (62), and cultured rat peritoneal macrophages with chlorpromazine or amantadine (63, 64). It is of interest that the gentamicin-induced renal PI was also associated with a quantitatively higher percentage of increase in PI compared with other individual class phospholipids (33, 65). Furthermore, it should be noted that the gentamicin-induced nephrotoxicity is associated with inhibition of renal PI-specific phospholipase C (35, 66).

It is thus conceivable that gentamicin increases the formation of GPI-anchored proteins, which cannot be degraded by phospholipases, and this is manifested as a resultant decrease in alkaline phosphatase (34, 65). The intracellular presence of gentamicin may also initiate a structural change in the GPI-anchored alkaline phosphatase or interfere with PI metabolism, which would be reflected as enzymic inhibition.

An increase in glucosyl residues and phosphatidylinositol content as described by Ruben *et al.* (32) is consistent with the suggestion that CLD may enhance membrane anchor synthesis. The mechanisms involved in the observed alterations in content of monosaccharides and phospholipid are not known; inhibition of lysosomal enzyme activities responsible for the degradation of phospholipid and membrane anchors could not be ruled out. Questions regarding the biologic effects of the potential for CLD to induce alterations in membrane anchors and contents of monosaccharides are open for research. Products of GPI anchor degradation may possess biologic activity and be involved in cell communications (67). Thus, alterations in the homeostasis of anchors may play a role in the mechanism of toxicity (42).

Several possibilities have been proposed for the mechanism by which CLD induces the alterations of storage of endogenous cellular substances and are reviewed by Kodavanti and Mehendale (8). Briefly, (i) drug binds to substrates (e.g., phospholipid), resulting in undegradable substrate-drug complex; and (ii) drug binds to enzymes (e.g., phospholipases), resulting in reduced degradation of substrates (3, 68, 69). A third possibility was proposed (32), that CLD bind to plasma membranes or intracellular membranes (e.g., of acidic vesicles, mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum, and nucleus) with subsequent aberrations in membrane synthesis, recycling, turnover, and trafficking. Based on the wide variety of alterations in endogenous cellular substances induced by CLD (increases/decreases of phospholipid, GAG, monosaccharides, and possibly membrane anchors), the mechanism is not exclusive to one possibility; the wide variety of alterations suggests that multiplicity of specific physicochemical interactions may occur between CLD and cellular molecules. The wide variety of alterations further suggests that CLD interactions with enzymes and hydrophobic domains of other cellular molecules may be more important than the binding of CLD to substrate.

Investigations on Clear Cytoplasmic Vacuoles and Resultant Discovery of the Cardiac Antiarrhythmic Drug Bidisomide (SC-40230)

Design and discovery of new drugs may occur as a result of a deliberate process, based on scientific rationale stemming from investigating and elucidating of mechanisms of a biologic phenomenon. This was the

case in the investigations on clear cytoplasmic vacuoles induced by disobutamide and the discovery of its monobasic analog bidisomide.

At present, there is a need for new and more effective cardiac antiarrhythmic drugs to treat cardiac arrhythmias. Although various agents are currently available for the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias, the use of these drugs is limited by serious adverse effects or toxicities. Quinidine, the dextrostereoisomer of quinine, was serendipitously found to correct some cardiac arrhythmias; however, the compound possesses a low therapeutic index, with approximately one third of patients developing untoward effects including cardiotoxicity (70). Procainamide, an orally active derivative of procaine, was discovered to possess antiarrhythmic properties (71). Unfortunately, it has a short half-life of approximately 3 hr and is plagued by a high incidence of cardiotoxicity. Disopyramide, on the other hand, has a longer duration of action compared with the two previous drugs (70). Although it effectively suppresses atrial and ventricular arrhythmias, disopyramide causes marked anticholinergic side effects and reduces ventricular function. Disobutamide, the successor compound to disopyramide, was found to be an effective antiarrhythmic agent without producing significant adverse actions on the cholinergic system or ventricular muscle (72, 73). In the course of its preclinical safety evaluation, however, disobutamide was found to induce clear cytoplasmic vacuoles in various tissues of dogs and rats (14), which was a critical reason for withdrawing this CLD from further drug development. It should be noted that the presence of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles was not associated with other morphologic alterations indicative of cellular/tissue damage, nor with any overt functional impairment; presence of vacuoles merely reflected intracellular drug storage (14, 53).

A collaborative interdisciplinary research project was subsequently initiated to determine the biologic nature and the toxicologic significance of CLD-induced clear cytoplasmic vacuoles and the structural determinants of CLD that induce them. Within 24–72 hr after incubation with disobutamide, the induction of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles occurred in cultured cells of dog coronary artery muscle, rabbit aorta muscle, rat urinary bladder carcinoma, bovine aorta endothelium, Chinese hamster ovary tumor, and human skin and mouse fibroblasts (29, 30). The findings that the disobutamide-induced clear cytoplasmic vacuoles occurred in a wide range of cultured mammalian cells and that this phenomenon was equivalent to the *in vivo* condition (14, 15) clearly suggested that the use of cultured cells is an appropriate model for mechanistic research and extrapolation to the *in vivo* situation. Many observations were made by using cultured cells; the most pertinent to this topic are: (i) confirming the observations in whole animals that disobutamide-induced clear cytoplasmic

vacuoles are a sign of storage of this CLD in cells; (ii) defining the role of the cationic moiety of CLD in induction of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles and delineating the physicochemical properties of this moiety for highly potent inducers; and (iii) confirming the observations made in whole animals that presence of disobutamide-induced clear cytoplasmic vacuoles is not associated with overt toxicity.

Based on the findings of the structure-activity relationships, bidisomide (SC-40230, compound 9[24]), a monobasic *N*-acetylated analog of disobutamide, was synthesized. Bidisomide is an effective cardiac antiarrhythmic and does not induce clear cytoplasmic vacuoles in cultured cells or in whole animals (14, 24). Currently, bidisomide is in phase II clinical trials, where it shows efficacy for ventricular and atrial arrhythmias.

Toxicologic Significance of Intracellular Storage of CLD

Toxicity implies functional impairment beyond physiologic limits. There is a need at times to define the borderlines of physiology in order to determine whether an induced change by a xenobiotic is a sign of toxicity. In the case of disobutamide, the induced clear cytoplasmic vacuoles in whole animals were a remarkable morphologic change that was not accompanied by necrosis, inflammation, atrophy, dysplasia, hyperplasia, metaplasia, or neoplasia (14); furthermore, presence of vacuoles was not accompanied by overt functional impairment of cells, tissues, or organs. Vacuolated cultured cells did not show a significant release of lactic dehydrogenase (20) or alterations in uptake of [³H] thymidine (S. N. Anderson and Z. Ruben, unpublished observations). Other than vacuoles there were no ultrastructural alterations in cells whether cultured or in whole animals (14, 29). After drug withdrawal from whole animals or cultured cells, there was reversibility from a state of severe vacuolation (14, 54). It was concluded that presence of the induced vacuoles is a sign of intracellular storage, not of cellular degeneration (14, 53). Apparently, storage of this CLD in cells and the alterations it induces are within the physiologic limits of cells. On a similar situation for storage of chloroquine in the retina, Potts (74) stated: "It is clear that storage in pigment in itself is not a sufficient cause of toxicity."

Functional impairments including cell death, however, may be induced by CLD. The toxicologic significance of the induced observations of each drug should be determined separately. It is important, though, to determine the pathogenetic relationships of the toxic effects (functional impairment) to the induced morphologic changes (75); the latter may be nothing more than epiphenomena. Disobutamide induced cell death in cultured rat basophilic leukemia cells without the pres-

ence of cytoplasmic vacuoles (30); the mechanism of this cell death is not known.

Conclusions and Future Perspectives

The intracellular storage of CLD may manifest morphologically by various types of alterations. Combinations of these types may occur. Chemical alterations associated with storage are changes (primarily increases) in content of phospholipid, glycosaminoglycans and monosaccharides, and various combinations of these alterations may occur. There is no apparent correlation between the induced types of morphologic and chemical alterations. Storage of CLD is linked to the cytoplasmic acidic vesicular compartment, which includes endocytic, transport, Golgi, and secretory vesicles in addition to lysosomes. CLD-induced alterations in phospholipid and saccharide may play a role in intracellular storage and transport, especially with respect to cytoplasmic acidic vesicular trafficking and GPI anchors. The role of the cationic moiety in storage of CLD and the physicochemical features of this moiety for highly potent inducers of clear cytoplasmic vacuoles have been delineated. The lipophilic moiety is important for induction of biochemical alterations that accompany storage of CLD. The physicochemical properties of the lipophilic moiety, including the importance of the degree of lipophilicity, as determinant in induction of these biochemical alterations, remain to be elucidated. Not all CLD are stored in cells. Storage of CLD with its associated morphologic and biochemical alterations may or may not be a sign of toxicity. If CLD induce toxicity, this may be caused by other mechanisms not related directly to intracellular storage. Delineation of structure-activity relationships associated with storage enabled synthesis of new cardiac antiarrhythmic drugs. The association of CLD storage and absence of toxicity with intracellular transport and secretion is an extension beyond the concept of lysosomotropic agents (28). An interdisciplinary approach using a variety of investigative methods would be advantageous to further research on intracellular storage and transport of CLD; in this context, cultured cells are a highly advantageous research system. Further understanding of the biologic nature of the interactions of CLD with cellular processes could lead to a more lucid view on the toxicologic significance of cellular alterations induced by CLD, better understanding of the mechanisms of storage diseases, improved intracellular delivery of drugs, and the discovery of new drugs.

Note added in proof. Photomicrographs of CLD-induced morphologic changes are not included in this minireview. The photographic features of the morphologic changes are available in the cited original publications.

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