Effect of increased hepatic platelet activating factor and its receptor portal hypertension in CCl$_4$-induced liver cirrhosis

Yong-Ping Yang, Xue-Mei Ma, Chun-Ping Wang, Jun Han, Yin-Ying Lu, Yi Xiang, Shu-Hui Su, Yong-Yi Feng

Abstract

AIM: To evaluate the changes in hepatic platelet activating factor (PAF) and its receptors and their effect on portal pressure of cirrhotic rats induced by CCl$_4$.

METHODS: A model of liver cirrhosis was replicated in rats by intra-peritoneal injection of CCl$_4$ for 8 wk. We determined the effect of hepatic PAF and its receptor level on portal and arterial pressure by EIA, saturation binding and RT-PCR technique.

RESULTS: Compared to control rats, cirrhotic rats had higher hepatic PAF levels and output as well as higher plasma PAF levels ($P < 0.01$, $P < 0.01$, $P < 0.05$, respectively). Both hepatic PAF receptor mRNA levels and PAF binding were nearly 3-fold greater in cirrhotic rats ($P < 0.01$). Portal injection of PAF (1 g/kg WT) increased the portal pressure by 22% and 33% in control and cirrhotic rats, respectively. In contrast, the arterial pressure was decreased in both groups (54% in control rats and 42% in cirrhotic rats). Injection of the PAF antagonist BN52021 (5 mg/kg WT) decreased the portal pressure by 16% in cirrhotic rats but had no effect in the control rats.

CONCLUSION: The upregulation of the PAF system contributes to hepatic hemodynamic and metabolic abnormalities in cirrhosis, and the increased release of PAF into the circulation has impacts on the systemic hemodynamics.

© 2006 The WJG Press. All rights reserved.

Key words: Platelet activating factor; PAF receptors; Endothelin; Portal hypertension; Cirrhosis

Yang YP, Ma XM, Wang CP, Han J, Lu YY, Xiang Y, Su SH, Feng YY. Effect of increased hepatic platelet activating factor and its receptors on portal hypertension in CCl$_4$-induced liver cirrhosis. World J Gastroenterol 2006;12(5):709-715

http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/12/709.asp

INTRODUCTION

Platelet activating factor (PAF: 1-O-alkyl-2-acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine) is a phospholipid exhibiting diverse biological actions. PAF acts both as a multifunctional, soluble, proinflammatory agent and as a specific membrane-bound adhesion molecule. PAF receptors have been identified in smooth muscle cells, cardiomyocytes, endothelial cells, neutrophils, monocyte-macrophages, Kupffer cells and eosinophils[1]. The physiological actions of PAF play a role in platelet secretion and aggregation, bronchoconstriction, vascular permeability and systemic arterial hypotension[11,14]. Exogenous PAF administration via the portal vein increases portal venous pressure and activates glycogenolysis both in perfused organs[9] and in vivo[10]. In contrast, systemic infusion of PAF reduces arterial blood pressure[7,9]. Portal hypertension and hyperdynamic systemic circulation are two prominent clinical features of human and animal experimental liver cirrhosis[9-11]. Circulatory responses to intravenous infusion of PAF resemble the hemodynamic change in advanced liver cirrhosis. Excessive deposition of extracellular matrix is a cause of the increased resistance to hepatic blood flow and consequent portal hypertension in cirrhosis, but studies in animals indicate that increased vascular tone is also a contributing factor[12].

The PAF content in intact liver is elevated by various types of injury, including ischemia-reperfusion[1,13], obstructive jaundice[13], and endotoxin exposure in vivo[10]. Based on these observations, we hypothesized that increased hepatic synthesis of PAF in cirrhosis could lead to increased plasma levels, and that PAF might play a role in portal hypertension. Our results have confirmed that hepatic PAF levels are elevated and PAF receptors are upregulated in cirrhosis. The reactivity of the hepatic vasculature to PAF is consequently increased, while that of the systemic vasculature is attenuated.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Induction of cirrhosis

Cirrhosis was induced in male Sprague-Dawley rats by a protocol involving the intraperitoneal injection of CCl$_4$ to induce liver cirrhosis. The effects of CCl$_4$ on the hepatic PAF system were then studied in both control and cirrhotic rats.
weighing 230-250 g as described previously[^15-16]. Briefly, intraperitoneal injection of CCl₄ (0.15 mL/kg WT, twice a week for 8 wk) was combined with drinking water containing phenobarbital (0.4 g/L). Control rats received injection of the vehicle (peanut oil) and phenobarbital water.

**Determination of portal venous and systemic arterial pressure**

Rats were anesthetized with 50 mg/kg (i.p.) pentobarbital, and placed on a heated water blanket maintained at 38°C. A PE-50 catheter (Thomas Scientific, Swedesboro, NJ, USA) was inserted into the femoral artery to monitor arterial blood pressure via a strain gauge pressure transducer connected to a 4-channel Grass polygraph (Model no. 79E, Quincy, MA, USA). The hepatic trigone was exposed via laparotomy, and the portal vein was skeletonized. The intestines and the abdominal cavity were covered with warm saline-soaked sponges, and a catheter was inserted into the portal vein and connected to a pressure transducer coupled to a 4-channel Grass polygraph to monitor portal pressure. After stable recordings of both portal and arterial blood pressure were obtained, 1 mL of blood was withdrawn from the femoral artery, portal vein and suprahepatic vena cava, respectively. Then, the liver was rapidly excised and washed in ice-cold phosphate buffered saline containing 0.1 mmol/L EDTA and 0.1 mmol/L EGTA. A portion of the liver tissue was stored in 10% buffered formalin, a portion in OCT, and the rest was snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C.

**Morphometric analysis**

An established histological grading system was employed for the determination of pathological scores of liver injury[^17-19]. Paraffin-embedded liver sections of 4-μm thickness were stained with hematoxylin-eosin and Masson’s trichrome. Steatosis, inflammation, necrosis and fibrosis were scored in at least three random fields of view in each tissue section and a score for each specific parameter was estimated. Steatosis was assessed by estimating the percentage of cells with micro- and macroversicular fat as follows: 0 (absent), 1 (1-25%), 2 (26-50%), 3 (51-75%), and 4 (76-100%). Necrosis was scored as follows: 0 (absent), 1 (1-10 necrotic cells per view), 2 (11-20 necrotic cells per view), 3 (21-30 necrotic cells per view), 4 (31-40 necrotic cells per view), and 5 (41-50 necrotic cells per view). Inflammation was assessed as follows: 0 (absent), 1 (rare), 2 (scattered), 3 (scattered with localized foci), 4 (abundant with foci), and 5 (extensive). Architectural change, fibrosis and cirrhosis were estimated as follows: 0 (absent), 1 (rare), 2 (scattered deposition), 3 (scattered with localized deposition), 4 (abundant with minor bridging fibrosis), 5 (bridging fibrosis) and 6 (cirrhosis). A total pathology score was calculated by combining and summing the scores for the above pathological parameters, and the average score per animal/treatment group was calculated.

**Determination of PAF in liver and blood**

Lipids were extracted as previously described[^20]. Briefly, 100 mg of liver or 1 mL of blood was homogenized in 9.5 mL of a mixture of methanol, chloroform and water (2:1:0.8, v:v:v). The homogenates were kept at room temperature for 1 h, followed by the addition of chloroform (2.5 mL) and water (2.5 mL). After being thoroughly mixed, the mixture was kept at room temperature for 1 h and centrifuged at 1200 r/min for 15 min. The chloroform layer was aspirated and dried under nitrogen at 35 °C. The residue was dissolved in 200 μL chloroform, and applied to the Bond Elut SI column (Amprop silica mini-columns; Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, NJ, USA). The column was washed with 3 mL of chloroform, 2 mL of chloroform-methanol (6:4; v/v) and 3 mL of chloroform-methanol-28% aqueous ammonia (70:85:7; v:v:v). PAF was eluted with 2 mL of chloroform-methanol-28% aqueous ammonia (50:50:7; v/v). The elute was evaporated to dryness under nitrogen, and the residue was dissolved in 200 μL of saline containing 0.01% Triton X-100. PAF concentration was determined by [3H]-PAF scintillation proximity assay (Amersham-Pharmacia Biotech).

**Determination of hepatic PAF binding**

Hepatic membranes were prepared as described previously[^10,16] and suspended in 50 mmol/L Tris-HCl (pH 8.0) containing 5 mmol/L MgCl₂, 125 mmol/L choline chloride, 0.1 mol/L PMSF, 0.1 μg/mL leupeptin and 1 μg/mL pepstatin. The membrane suspension was stored at -80°C in aliquots after the protein concentration was adjusted to 10 mg protein/mL. Membranes (100 μg protein) were incubated in 50 mmol/L Tris-HCl (pH 7.2) containing 5 mmol/L MgCl₂, 125 mmol/L choline chloride, 0.25% BSA and 0.125-32 nmol/mL 1-O-[3H]octadecyl-2-acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (151 Ci/mmol, 9.96 GBq/mg; Amersham) ± 10 μmol/L unlabeled PAF (Bachem Americas, King of Prussia, PA, USA) at 30°C for 1 h. The reaction was terminated with the addition of 5 mL ice-cold assay buffer and filtration through Whatman GF/C filters (Whatman, Hillsboro, OR, USA) presoaked in assay buffer for 1 h. Filters were washed thrice with 4 mL of assay buffer, and the radioactivity was determined in a β-scintillation counter.

**Determination of hepatic PAF receptor mRNA levels**

The mRNA expression of PAF receptors was determined by semi-quantitative reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). RNA was isolated from the livers using a RNA isolation kit (iTOTALLY RNA™, Ambion, Austin, TX, USA). Two micrograms of total RNA was used for the preparation of cDNA by reverse transcription as described. cDNA equivalent of 5 ng original RNA was used in PCR. The reaction mixture (50 μL) contained 10 mmol/L Tris-HCl (pH 8.5), 50 mmol/L KCl, 1.5 mmol/L MgCl₂, 0.2 mmol/L dNTPs, 20 pmol of PCR primers and 2U platinum Taq DNA polymerase (GIBCO-Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). Thirty-five cycles of reaction were carried out as follows: denaturation at 94°C for 1 min, annealing at 60°C for 30 s, and extension at 72°C for 30 s. The PCR primers used for PAF cDNA were: 5’-GCCACACACAGAGGCTTGAGA-3’ (forward) and 5’-TCATTTGCTCTGGCCAGAA-3’ (reverse) [product size, 121 bp]. For normalization, β-actin mRNA levels were measured as described previously[^15], using cDNA primers:

[^10]: Manuscript title
[^15]: Reference number
[^20]: Reference number

The PCR products were resolved in a 25 g/L agarose gel and stained with SYBR Green I (FMC Bioproduct, Rockland, ME, USA). The gels were scanned under blue fluorescent light using a phosphorimager and the band intensity was quantified using ImageQuaNT software (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA, USA).

Determination of PAF effect on portal venous and systemic arterial pressure

The experiment was essentially conducted for the measurement of baseline pressure. After a stable recording of portal and systemic mean arterial pressure (MAP) was obtained, 1 mL of a solution containing PAF (1 μg/kg) was infused over 1 min from a 975 Harvard apparatus compact infusion pump into the portal vein via a 23 gauge needle/PE50 catheter. Portal venous pressure and MAP were monitored continuously for 15 min.

Statistical analysis

The values were presented as mean ± SD. Student’s t-test was employed for statistical comparison between the groups. P < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Characteristics of cirrhosis

There were no notable changes in liver histology throughout the 8 wk in control rats (Figure 1A1). In contrast, CCl₄-treated rats demonstrated extensive changes in liver morphology, including steatosis, inflammation, hepatocyte ballooning, and necrosis. Extensively distorted architecture due to excessive deposition of extracellular matrix was observed, which caused bridging of fibrosis, and infiltration of inflammatory cells in sinusoids and their accumulation around the islands of hepatocytes (Figure 1A3). Hepatic fibrosis was further validated histologically with Masson’s trichrome staining (Figures 1A2 and A4).

The liver/body weight ratio was not significantly different between control and cirrhotic rats, whereas spleen weight of cirrhotic rats was nearly doubled (Table 1). MAP was significantly lower in cirrhotic rats (10.9 ± 1.3 kPa) than in control rats (15.2 ± 1.2 kPa). Portal venous pressure was higher in cirrhotic rats (1.63 ± 0.09 kPa) than in control rats (0.71 ± 0.08 kPa), indicating portal hypertension (Table 1).

Effect of cirrhosis on hepatic and circulating PAF and hepatic PAF receptor levels

Hepatic PAF concentrations were increased by 44% in cirrhotic rats (Table 1). Concentrations of PAF in the femoral arterial, portal and hepatic blood were significantly greater in cirrhotic rats than in control rats (Figure 2). Moreover, the concentration of PAF was significantly greater in hepatic venous blood than in

Table 1 Characteristics of cirrhosis (mean ± SD)

|                        | Control       | Cirrhotic rats | P   |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----|
| Liver/body weight ratio (%) | 4.80 ± 0.25  | 4.90 ± 0.44    | NS  |
| Weight of spleen (g)    | 0.73 ± 0.06   | 1.36 ± 0.15    | 0.001 |
| Portal pressure (kPa)   | 0.71 ± 0.08   | 1.63 ± 0.09    | 0.001 |
| MAP (kPa)               | 15.2 ± 1.2    | 10.9 ± 1.3     | 0.01 |
| PAF (ng/g)              | 2.74 ± 0.49   | 3.95 ± 0.43    | 0.01 |

NS: not significant.

5’-TTCTACAATGAGCTGGTG-3’ (forward) and 5’-TTCTATGGATGCACAGGATT-3’ (reverse) [product size, 561 bp22]. The PCR products were resolved in a 25 g/L agarose gel and stained with SYBR Green I (FMC Bioproduct, Rockland, ME, USA). The gels were scanned under blue fluorescent light using a phosphorimager and the band intensity was quantified using ImageQuaNT software (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA, USA).

Figure 1 Morphometric analysis of cirrhotic liver 8 wk after CCl₂ or vehicle treatment (A) and scores for necroinflammatory NFS, architectural change, fibrosis and cirrhosis (AFCS) (B). *P<0.01 vs control.

Figure 2 Effect of cirrhosis on circulating PAF levels. Concentrations of PAF in blood from femoral artery, portal and hepatic vein (suprahepatic vena cava) were determined. Values are mean±SD. *P<0.05 vs control; †P<0.01 vs control.

www.wjgnet.com
portal venous blood in cirrhotic rats (Fig. 2). No such difference in hepatic venous and portal venous blood of control rats was observed.

Scatchard analysis of the saturation binding data revealed a 3-fold increase in PAF binding capacity in cirrhotic liver as compared to the control (Bmax of 2.8 ± 0.21 fmol/μg membrane protein, control: R=0.99, Kd = 5.79 ± 0.213 fmol/μg membrane protein; control: R=0.98, Kd = 8.013 ± 0.06 fmol/μg membrane protein). Consistent with the increased receptor density, a similar increase in the PAF receptor mRNA transcript was observed in the cirrhotic liver as determined by RT-PCR (PAFR/β-actin mRNA ratio of 0.51 ± 0.03 vs 0.16 ± 0.015, P<0.01). This investigation showed that increased production of PAF.

The effect of PAF administered into the portal vein on arterial pressure was opposite to that observed on portal pressure (Figures 5 and 6). In contrast to the delay onset of the rise in portal venous pressure, MAP fell immediately after the administration of PAF. The decrease in MAP (P<0.01) was greater in control rats (54%) than in cirrhotic rats (42%). With the fall in MAP, pulse pressure fell markedly and did not recover, suggesting a reduction in cardiac contractility.

**Effect of PAF antagonist BN52021 on portal and arterial pressure in cirrhotic rats**

Administration of BN52021 (5 mg/kg WT) via the portal vein caused a 16% decrease in the portal pressure of cirrhotic rats (from 1.95 ± 0.21 to 1.64 ± 0.15 kPa, P<0.01). This effect occurred 2 to 3 min after the administration of BN52021. On the other hand, arterial pressure did not change upon treatment with BN52021 (from 11.0 ± 0.8 to 11.3 ± 0.67 kPa). In control rats, BN52021 had no effect on either portal or arterial pressure (Figure 7).

**DISCUSSION**

This investigation showed that increased production of PAF in the cirrhotic liver could lead to an increased circulating level of PAF, which is likely responsible for the arterial hypotension associated with the disease. In addition, hepatic PAF receptor mRNA expression was upregulated with a concomitant increase in PAF binding. Since PAF potently increases portal pressure and hepatic vascular resistance, it can be concluded that the up-regulated PAF system in the liver plays an important role in portal hypertension.

In the present study, the source of the increased hepatic PAF and the site of increased PAF receptors were not
Yang et al. [10] reported that Kupffer cells are a major source of increased PAF in CCl₄-induced cirrhotic rat liver. Synthesis of PAF by Kupffer cells is stimulated by a number of inflammatory mediators and bacterial endotoxin (ET) [2,24,25]. Increased circulating ET is a strong candidate contributor to the elevation of hepatic portal pressure in cirrhosis [15,26]. We have previously reported that hepatic ET-1 and its receptors increase in rats 24 h after the administration of CCl₄ [15] and progressively thereafter during the development of cirrhosis. In the present study, hepatic PAF did not increase during the first week of CCl₄ treatment (2.70 ± 0.75 ng/g in control rats and 2.74 ± 0.46 ng/g in CCl₄-treated rats, P > 0.05) but increased after 2 wk of treatment. Since PAF synthesis by Kupffer cells is increased by ET-1 [24], the early elevation of ET-1 may contribute to the long-term increase in hepatic PAF. To further investigate the interaction between these two potent mediators during cirrhosis, we infused the powerful vasoconstrictor ET-1 into some experimental animals. After stabilization of the portal and arterial pressures following the administration of PAF, ET-1 (0.75 nmol) was infused as a bolus into the portal vein. The magnitude of ET-1 effect was much greater in control rats (200% increase) than in cirrhotic rats (80% increase, P < 0.01). We have previously reported that portal infusion of ET-1 alone causes a 150% increase in portal pressure in control rats and a 23% increase in cirrhotic rats, suggesting that with or without prior infusion of PAF, the qualitative responses to ET-1 are similar between control and cirrhotic rats. Quantitatively, prior infusion of PAF appears to sensitize the hepatic vasculature to ET-1 moderately in control rats (200% vs 150%) and greatly in cirrhotic rats (80% vs 23%). The interaction between these two potent mediators during cirrhosis warrants further investigation.

Potentially, PAF could be increased by a decrease in the activity of plasma PAF-acetylhydrolase, which is predominantly responsible for the hydrolysis of PAF to lyso-PAF [27,28]. Plasma PAF-acetylhydrolase activity is similar...
in normal individuals and patients with alcohol-induced liver cirrhosis\(^\text{[29]}\). Patients with primary and secondary biliary cirrhosis have elevated levels of circulating PAF and serum PAF-acetylhydrolase activity\(^\text{[30]}\), suggesting that synthesis of PAF increased by plasma PAF-acetylhydrolase is the mechanism underlying the elevated circulating levels of PAF.

The augmented effect of PAF on the vasculature of chronically injured liver appears to be independent of the hemodynamic state of the liver (i.e. normotensive orportal hypertensive). The vasoconstrictor effect of PAF in the perfused livers is greater in rats with thioacetamide-induced hepatic fibrosis than in control rats, even though the fibrosis rats have no portal hypertension\(^\text{[31]}\). In the present study, PAF-induced portal hypertension was of greater magnitude in the cirrhotic rats than in the control rats. These results suggest that the increased reactivity to PAF is associated with the pathology of hepatic cirrhosis or injury rather than the pre-existing presence or absence of portal hypertension. That is to say, the response to PAF is not dependent upon the already increased hepatic vascular tone.

The reduction of portal pressure in cirrhotic rats induced by the PAF antagonist BN52021 provides convincing evidence that endogenous PAF is involved in the development of portal hypertension. The mechanisms of PAF-induced hepatic vasoconstriction are very complex and remain to be defined. PAF receptors have been found in smooth muscle cells\(^\text{[33]}\). PAF elevates cytosolic free calcium in smooth cells\(^\text{[33,34]}\), which is necessary for muscle contraction. Exogenous PAF causes contraction of smooth muscle from ileal and peripheral lung strips\(^\text{[35,36]}\) and contributes to endothelin-induced vascular constriction in rat mesentry\(^\text{[37]}\). Therefore, the contractile effect of PAF on the hepatic vasculature may be elicited by its direct action on smooth muscle cells. PAF may also act by stimulating the synthesis of eicosanoids such as thromboxane, PG\(_E_2\), and PG\(_D_2\), which are known to cause portal vasoconstriction\(^\text{[38,41]}\).

The combination of portal hypertension and peripheral vasodilatation with systemic arterial hypotension is characteristic of liver cirrhosis and implicates PAF. The observation that PAF induces smooth muscle contraction of ileal\(^\text{[35]}\) and pulmonary strips\(^\text{[36]}\), and micro-vessels\(^\text{[37]}\) is apparently in contradiction with the observation that it induces hypotension when administered intravenously to rats\(^\text{[42]}\). In fact, PAF produces hypotension in all animal species studied\(^\text{[8]}\). Increased plasma levels of PAF in cirrhosis are associated with low peripheral vascular resistance that is reversed by PAF antagonist BN52021\(^\text{[39,40]}\). Sakaguchi et al\(^\text{[44]}\) and Hines et al\(^\text{[40]}\) reported that intravenous administration of PAF (1.5 \(\mu\)g/kg WT) causes arterial hypotension. The mechanisms of PAF-induced systemic arterial hypotension are not clearly understood. PAF-induced hypotension is not mediated by the central nervous system, renin-angiotensin system, \(\beta\)-adrenergic and dopaminergic eicosanoids, as well as Ca\(^{2+}\) influx and thyrotropin releasing hormone. However, PAF-induced delay and persistent hypotension is inhibited by the nitric oxide synthase inhibitor, N\(^{-}\)nitro-L-arginine\(^\text{[47]}\), while nitric oxide plays a role in PAF-induced relaxation of rat thoracic aorta\(^\text{[48]}\). This can be partially explained by the observation that PAF released by the liver may regulate systemic hemodynamics or stimulate the release of very powerful hypotensive agents such as nitric oxide\(^\text{[47,48]}\). The involvement of nitric oxide requires clarification.

In conclusion, PAF is an important mediator of hepatic pathology during chronic liver injury. Cirrhotic liver is a source of circulating PAF and a major contributor to the systemic hypotension associated with liver cirrhosis.

REFERENCES

1. Chao W, Olson MS. Platelet-activating factor: receptors and signal transduction. *Biochem J* 1993; 292 (Pt 3): 617-629.
2. Montrucchio G, Alloatti G, Camussi G. Role of platelet-activating factor in cardiovascular pathophysiology. *Physiol Rev* 2000; 80: 1669-1699.
3. Prescott SM, Zimmerman GA, Stafforini DM, McIntyre TM. Platelet-activating factor and related lipid mediators. *Annu Rev Biochem* 2000; 69: 419-445.
4. Snyder F. Platelet-activating factor and related acylated lipids as potent biologically active cellular mediators. *Annu Rev Physiol* 1990; 52: C697-C708.
5. Buxton DB, Shukla SD, Hanahan DJ, Olson MS. Stimulation of hepatic glycogenolysis by acetylglyceryl ether phospholycholine. *J Biol Chem* 1984; 259: 1468-1471.
6. Hines KL, Braillon A, Fisher RA. PAF increases hepatic vascular resistance and glycogenolysis in vivo. *Am J Physiol* 1991; 260: G471-G480.
7. Kleber G, Braillon A, Gaudin C, Champigneulle B, Callaim S, Lebrec D. Hemodynamic effects of endotoxin and platelet activating factor in cirrhotic rats. *Gastroenterology* 1992; 103: 282-288.
8. Tanaka S, Kasuya Y, Masuda Y, Shigenobu K. Studies on the hypotensive effects of platelet activating factor, (1-O-alkyl-2-acetyl-sn-glyceryl-3-phosphorylcholine) in rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, and dogs. *J Pharmacobiodyn* 1983; 6: 866-873.
9. Thirunavukkarasu C, Yang Y, Subbotin VM, Harvey SA, Fung J, Gandhi CR. Endothelin receptor antagonist TAK-044 arrests and reverses the development of carbon tetrachloride induced cirrhosis in rats. *Gut* 2004; 53: 1010-1019.
10. Yang Y, Harvey SA, Gandhi CR. Kupffer cells are a major source of increased platelet activating factor in the CCl\(_4\)-induced cirrhotic rat liver. *Hepatol* 2003; 39: 200-207.
11. Yang Y, Nemoto EM, Harvey SA, Subbotin VM, Gandhi CR. Increased hepatic platelet activating factor (PAF) and PAF receptors in carbon tetrachloride induced liver cirrhosis. *Gut* 2004; 53: 877-883.
12. Friedman SL. Molecular regulation of hepatic fibrosis, an integrated cellular response to tissue injury. *J Biol Chem* 2000; 275: 2247-2250.
13. Zhou W, McColum MO, Levine BA, Olson MS. Inflammation and platelet-activating factor production during hepatic ischemia/reperfusion. *Hepatology* 1992; 16: 1226-1240.
14. Zhou W, Chao W, Levine BA, Olson MS. Role of platelet-activating factor in hepatic responses after bile duct ligation in rats. *Am J Physiol* 1992; 263: GS87-GS92.
15. Gandhi CR, Nemoto EM, Watkins SC, Subbotin VM. An endothelin receptor antagonist TAK-044 ameliorates carbon tetrachloride-induced acute liver injury and portal hypertension in rats. *Liver* 1998; 18: 39-48.
16. Gandhi CR, Spraul LA, Subbotin VM. Increased hepatic endothelin-1 levels and endothelin receptor density in cirrhotic rats. *Life Sci* 1996; 58: 55-62.
17. Banner BF, Barton AL, Cable EE, Smith L, Bonkovsky HL. A detailed analysis of the Knodell score and other histologic parameters as predictors of response to interferon therapy in chronic hepatitis C. *Mod Pathol* 1995; 8: 232-238.
18. Chevallier M, Guerret S, Chossegros P, Gerard F, Grimaud JA. A histological semiquantitative scoring system for evaluation of liver cirrhosis.
of hepatic fibrosis in needle liver biopsy specimens: comparison with morphometric studies. **Hepatology** 1994; **20**: 349-355

19 **Luckey SW**, Petersen DR. Activation of Kupffer cells during the course of carbon tetrachloride-induced liver injury and fibrosis in rats. **Exp Mol Pathol** 2001; **71**: 226-240

20 **Shinozaki K**, Kawasaki T, Kambayashi J, Sakon M, Shiba E, Uemura Y, Ou M, Iwamoto N, Mori T. A new method of purification and sensitive bioassay of platelet-activating factor (PAF) in human whole blood. **Life Sci** 1994; **54**: 429-437

21 **Bito H**, Honda Z, Nakamura M, Shimizu T. Cloning, expression and tissue distribution of rat platelet-activating-factor-receptor cDNA. **Eur J Biochem** 1994; **221**: 211-218

22 **Nudel U**, Zakut R, Shani M, Neuman S, Levy Z, Yaffe D. The nucleotide sequence of the rat cytoplasmic beta-actin gene. **Nucl Acids Res** 1983; **11**: 1759-1771

23 **Buxton DB**, Fisher RA, Hanahan DJ, Olson MS. Platelet-activating factor-mediated vasoconstriction and glycosgenolysis in the perfused rat liver. **J Biol Chem** 1986; **261**: 644-649

24 **Mustafa SB**, Gandhi CR, Harvey SA, Olson MS. Endothelin stimulates platelet-activating factor synthesis by cultured rat Kupffer cells. **Hepatology** 1995; **21**: 545-553

25 **von Dahl S**, Wettstein M, Gerok W, Haussinger D. Stimulation of release of prostaglandin D2 and thromboxane B2 from perfused rat liver by extracellular adenosine. **Biochem J** 1990; **270**: 39-44

26 **Rockey DC**, Weisger RA. Endothelin induced contractility of stellate cells from normal and cirrhotic rat liver: implications for regulation of portal pressure and resistance. **Hepatology** 1996; **24**: 253-240

27 **Blank ML**, Hall MN, Cress EA, Snyder F. Inactivation of 1-alkyl-2-acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine by a plasma acetylatedlyraser: higher activities in hypertensive rats. **Biochem Biophys Res Commun** 1983; **113**: 666-671

28 **Farr RS**, Wardlow ML, Cox CP, Meng KE, Greene DE. Human serum acid-labile factor is an acetylcholinesterase that inactivates platelet-activating factor. **Fed Proc** 1983; **42**: 3120-3122

29 **Caramelo C**, Fernández-Gallardo S, Santos JC, Inarrea P, Sánchez-Crespo M, López-Novoa JM, Hernando L. Increased levels of platelet-activating factor in blood from patients with cirrhosis of the liver. **Eur J Clin Invest** 1987; **17**: 7-11

30 **Meade CJ**, Birke F, Metcalfe S, Watson C, Jamieson N, Neil G. Enzyme PAF-acetylhydrolase in severe renal or hepatic disease in man: relationship to circulating levels of PAF and effects of nephrectomy or transplantation. **J Lipid Mediat Cell Signal** 1994; **9**: 205-215

31 **Noda S**, Masumi S, Moriyama M, Kannan Y, Ohta M, Sugano K, Kamitani T, Inarrea P, Sánchez-Crespo M, López-Novoa JM, Hernando L. Increased levels of platelet-activating factor in blood from patients with cirrhosis of the liver. **J Clin Invest** 1987; **17**: 7-11

32 **Hwang SB**, Lee CS, Cheah MJ, Shen TY. Specific receptor sites for 1-O-alkyl-2-O-acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (platelet activating factor) on rabbit platelet and guinea pig smooth muscle membranes. **Biochemistry** 1983; **22**: 4766-4763

33 **Panettieri RA**, Murray RK, DePalo LR, Yadavish PA, Kotlikoff MI. A human airway smooth muscle cell line that retains physiological responsiveness. **Am J Physiol** 1989; **256**: C329-C335

34 **Schwertshag US**, Whorton AR. Platelet-activating factor-induced homologous and heterologous desensitization in cultured vascular smooth muscle cells. **J Biol Chem** 1988; **263**: 13791-13796

35 **Findlay SR**, Lichtenstein LM, Hanahan DJ, Pinckard RN. Contraction of guinea pig ileal smooth muscle by acetyl glyceryl ether phosphorylcholine. **Am J Physiol** 1981; **241**: C130-C133

36 **Halonen M**, Dunn AM, Palmer JD, McManus LM. Anatomic basis for species differences in peripheral lung strip contraction to PAF. **Am J Physiol** 1990; **259**: L81-L86

37 **Kurose I**, Miura S, Suematsu M, Fukumura D, Nagata H, Sekizuka E, Tsachiya M. Involvement of platelet-activating factor in endothelin-induced vascular smooth muscle cell contraction. **J Cardiovas Pharmacol** 1991; **17 Suppl 7**: S279-S283

38 **Buxton DB**, Fisher RA, Briseno DL, Hanahan DJ, Olson MS. Glycosylenogen and haemodynamic responses to heat-aggregated immunoglobulins B and prostaglandin E2 in the perfused rat liver. **Biochem J** 1987; **243**: 493-498

39 **Hausssinger D**, Stehle T, Gerok W. Effects of leukotrienes and the thromboxane A2 analogue U-46619 in isolated perfused rat liver. Metabolic, hemodynamic and ion-flux responses. **Bioclm Hoppe Seyler 1988; 369**: 97-107

40 **Tran-Thi TA**, Gyulko K, Reinke M, Decker K. Output and effects of thromboxane produced by the liver perfused with phorbol myristate acetate. **Biol Chem Hoppe Seyler 1988; 369**: 1179-1184

41 **Villaamedina LM**, Sanz E, Fernandez-Gallardo S, Caramelo C, Sanchez Crespo M, Braquet P, Lopez-Novoa JM. Effects of the platelet-activating factor antagonist BN 52021 on the hemodynamics of rats with experimental cirrhosis of the liver. **Life Sci** 1986; **39**: 201-205

42 **Sánchez-Crespo M**, Alonso F, Ibarreja P, Alvarez V, Egido J. Vascular actions of synthetic PAF-acether (a synthetic platelet-activating factor) in the rat: evidence for a platelet independent mechanism. **Immunopharmacology 1982; 4**: 173-185

43 **Smith KA**, Previtt RL, Byers LW, Muirhead EE. Analogs of phosphatidylycholine: alpha-adrenergic antagonists from the renal medulla. **Hypertension 1981; 3**: 460-470

44 **Sakaguchi T**, Nakamura S, Suzuki S, Oda T, Ichiyama A, Baba S. Acute portal hypertension increases ileal vulnerability to platelet-activating factor in rats. **J Surg Res 1999; 86**: 116-122

45 **Kamitani T**, Katamoto M, Tatsumi M, Katsuta K, Ono T, Kikuchi H, Kumada S. Mechanism(s) of the hypotensive effect of synthetic 1-O-octadecyl-2-O-acetyl-glycero-3-phosphorylcholine. **Eur J Pharmacol 1984; 98**: 357-366

46 **Lai FM**, Shepherd CA, Cervoni P, Wissner A. Hypotensive and vasodilatory activity of (+/-) 1-o-octadecyl-2-O-acetyl-glycero-3-phosphorylcholine in the normotensive rat. **Life Sci 1983; 32**: 1159-1166

47 **Szabó C**, Wu CC, Mitchell JA, Gross SS, Thiemermann C, Vane JR. Platelet-activating factor contributes to the induction of nitric oxide synthase by bacterial lipo polysaccharide. **Circ Res 1993; 73**: 991-999

48 **Moritoki H**, Hisayama T, Takeuchi S, Miyano H, Kondoh W. Involvement of nitric oxide pathway in the PAF-induced relaxation of rat thoracic aorta. **Br J Pharmacol 1992; 107**: 196-201