Uptake of plasma lipids by tissue-isolated hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777 in vivo

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Summary The uptake of myristic (C14:0), palmitic (C16:0), palmitoleic (C16:1, N-7), stearic (C18:0), oleic (C18:1, N-9), linoleic (C18:2, N-6) and arachidonic (C20:4, N-6) acids from plasma free fatty acids (FFA), triglycerides (TGA), phospholipids (PL) and cholesterol esters (CE) was measured in tissue-isolated hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777 in vivo. Adult tumour-bearing Buffalo rats were fed a normal chow diet ad libitum and were subjected to darkness from 1800 to 0600 h. Arterial plasma levels of FFA, TGA, PL and CE were increased during the dark period without change in fatty acid compositions. Arteriovenous difference measurements of tumour lipid uptake were performed between 0600 and 0900 h and included both high (dark) and low (light) arterial blood lipid concentrations. The rate of lipid uptake from each lipid class was directly dependent on the rate of supply of the lipid to the tumour. The efficiency of uptake, however, depended on the type of plasma lipid and the tumour. During one pass of arterial blood, hepatoma 7288CTC (n = 5 to 13) removed 46, 33, 36 and 31%, and hepatoma 7777 (n = 7 to 9) removed 48, 50, 52 and 49% of the fatty acids supplied in FFA, TGA, PL, and CE, respectively. Perfusion of tissue-isolated tumours in situ with donor blood containing plasma free (1-14C)palmitic acid showed that 14C-palmitic acid was removed from the arterial blood and was incorporated into tumour lipids and that 14CO2 was released into the tumour venous blood. Uptake of the seven fatty acids over a 24 h period for the greatest fragments PL > TGA > CE and was estimated to total 18.1 ± 3.5 mg fatty acids g-1 for hepatoma 7288CTC and 25.9 ± 3.5 mg fatty acids g-1 for hepatoma 7777. Both hepatoma 7288CTC and 7777 grew at a rate of about 1 g day-1 and contained 13.4 ± 2.5 and 10.6 ± 3.9 mg of these 7 fatty acids g-1 tumour wet weight, respectively. We conclude that these two tumours obtain all of the fatty acids needed for daily growth from host arterial blood.

Experiments performed in vivo with tissue-isolated rat tumours (Gullino & Grantham, 1961; Sauer et al., 1982) and with human tumour xenografts growing in nude rats (Steinau et al., 1981) have demonstrated that solid tumours have a large capacity for uptake of host nutrients. Thirty to 40% of the glucose (Gullino et al., 1967; Sauer et al., 1982; Sauer & Dauchy, 1983; Kallinowski et al., 1988), ketone bodies (Sauer & Dauchy, 1983; Kallinowski et al., 1988) and amino acids (Sauer et al., 1982) contained in arterial blood was removed during one pass through the tumour. The rates of nutrient uptake were directly dependent on the rates of supply and were not saturable at normal physiological blood concentrations (Sauer et al., 1982; Kallinowski et al., 1988). Arterial blood also transports lipid nutrients, including free fatty acids (FFA) and lipoproteins that contain triglycerides (TGA), phospholipids (PL) and cholesterol esters (CE). Solid tumours, especially those that are fast-growing and undifferentiated, are thought to have a diminished ability to synthesise fatty acids (Weber et al., 1961) and, therefore, to obtain some or all of the lipids required for growth and metabolism from host sources. Tumours release lipolytic peptides that promote mobilisation of host lipid stores (Beck & Tisdale, 1987; 1991). Possibly, the function of this lipolytic agent is to increase the lipid supply to the tumour, including the essential fatty acids, which may have a stimulative effect on tumour growth (Sauer & Dauchy, 1988). Relationships between lipid supply in the arterial blood, tumour uptake and requirements for growth have not yet been investigated in solid tumours in vivo. In this study we measured uptake of seven fatty acids from plasma FFA, TGA, PL, and CE in tissue-isolated hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777. Total tumour fatty acid uptake was estimated for a 24 h period and was compared to the daily increment in tumour lipid content due to growth.

Materials and methods

Reagents

Hepatane (HPLC) grade, chloroform, methanol and ethanol were obtained from Fisher Chemical Co., Pittsburgh, PA. Hepatane and chloroform were redistilled before use. Methyl esters of rapeseed oil fatty acids, standard FFA's and boron trifluoride-methanol reagent were purchased from Supelco, Bellefonte, PA and from Sigma Chemical Co. St. Louis, MO. 1-14C-Palmitic acid (1-14C, 56mCi mmol-1) was purchased from NEN Research Products, Boston, MA. Butylated hydroxytoluene was obtained from Sigma Chemical Co.

Animals and diets

The male and female Buffalo rats used in these experiments were obtained from colonies established here. Animals were maintained at 23°C in a 12 h light/dark cycle. Breeding pairs, pregnant females and experimental rats were fed a standard laboratory diet (Prolab mouse, rat and hamster 1000 formula; Agway, Inc., Syracuse, NY) and water ad libitum. Lipid analyses performed on different batches of this diet showed a mean fatty acid content of 39.2 mg g-1, which was composed of 2.3% myristic (C14:0), 2.3% palmitic (C16:0), 2.8% palmitoleic (C16:1, N-7), 11.9% stearic (C18:0), 35.8% oleic (C18:1, N-9), 21.2% linoleic (C18:2, N-6) and 1% arachidonic (C20:4, N-6) acids. Two additional unidentified fatty acids comprised about 3%. Ninety-one percent of the fatty acids was present as TGA and PL.

Tumour implantation and growth

All experiments were performed with Morris hepatomas 7288CTC or 7777 grown subcutaneously as tissue-isolated tumours (Sauer et al., 1982). Briefly, a 3-mm cube of tumour was attached to the end of a vascular stalk composed of the truncated left superficial inferior epigastric artery and vein; the femoral artery and vein distal to the sup. inf. epigastric vessels were not ligated (Dauchy & Sauer, 1986). The tumour
implant and vascular stalk were enclosed in a Paraffin envelope (Gullino et al., 1961), placed in the inguinal fossa with a drop of sterile penicillin G procaine suspension (Wyeth Laboratories, Inc., Philadelphia, PA), and the skin incision was closed. Arterial blood supply to and venous drainage from the implant were established through the epigastric vessels. Vascular connections to other host tissues were blocked by the Paraffin envelope. Tumour weights in vivo were estimated from measurements made through the skin (Sauer et al., 1986).

Two male and three female tumour-bearing rats weighing 250 to 300 g were anticoagulated with warfarin for 4 to 9 days before tumour harvest. Pellets of normal diet and Coumadin tablets (Du Pont Pharmaceuticals, Wilmington, DE) were ground together to give a mixture that contained 1.25 μg crystalline sodium warfarin g⁻¹ diet. Each rat ate 18 to 22 g of this diet for a dose of about 0.1 mg kg⁻¹ body weight daily.

Collection of arterial blood

Adult Buffalo rats bearing tissue-isolated hepatoma 7288CTC or 7777 were anaesthetised by CO₂ inhalation and blood was collected by heart puncture. Samples were obtained from groups of three to six rats at 2 h (FFA analysis) or 4 to 6 h (Tg, VLDL, and CE analysis) intervals from the total of 24 h. Blood collection times were adjusted so that no animal was sampled more frequently than once per day.

Arteriovenous difference measurements

Tissue-isolated hepatomas weighing 3.2 to 8 g (mean = 5.41 ± 0.96 g, n = 22) were prepared for arteriovenous difference measurements (Sauer et al., 1982) using the modifications described by Dawson & Sauer (1986). Host carcass weights were 306 ± 42 g (n = 11) for male rats and 252 ± 14 g (n = 11) for female rats. All animals were anaesthetised with pentobarbital (25 mg kg⁻¹ body weight, IP) and breathed air during the procedure. After exposure of the tumour and tumour vasculature, the femoral artery and vein distal to the tumour were ligated. The tumour was inspected to determine that there were no vascular connections other than the sup. inf. epigastric vessels and the host was anticoagulated by injecting 200 units of sodium heparin into the jugular vein. (Heparin injection was not necessary in measurements made in warfarin-treated host rats.) A catheter was placed in the left carotid artery and a butterfly catheter (no. 4573, Abbott Hospitals, North Chicago, IL) was inserted into the vein draining the tumour. Blood was withdrawn passively from the venous catheter; flow rates were calculated from timed collections (Sauer et al., 1982). Arterial and tumour venous blood samples (about 0.5 ml) were collected simultaneously. The samples were immediately chilled in ice, then centrifuged and the plasma removed and stored in ice in capped tubes. Hematocrits were measured on blood obtained directly from the arterial and tumour venous catheters. Plasma protein contents were assayed using a biuret method.

Tumours were removed from the host rats, chilled in ice-cold 0.15 M NaCl, cut in two and weighed. Three tumours were hemorrhagic and were discarded. Tissue-isolated tumours grown on the sup. inf. epigastric vessels generally show only microscopic necrosis (Sauer et al., 1982). However, a portion of the original tumour implant (3 mm cube) often becomes necrotic. Since these tumours were small and could not be easily removed without disaggregating the tumour, they were included in the total tumour weight. A portion of the tumour was minced, visibly necrotic fragments were removed and a 20% homogenate (w/v) was prepared in 0.15 M NaCl containing 0.05% butylated hydroxytoluene. All procedures were performed at 0 and 4°C.

Tumour substrate supply rates were calculated by multiplying the arterial whole blood concentration by the arterial blood flow rate and dividing by the tumour wet weight. Outflow rates were calculated by multiplying the substrate concentration in tumour venous whole blood by the tumour venous blood flow rate and dividing by the tumour wet weight. Since the total tumour wet weight included small necrotic volumes, which presumably had no blood flow, these supply and outflow rates may be slightly lower than the actual rates. Tumour was the difference between supply and outflow. Both supply and uptake rates have units of μg (or mg) fatty acid min⁻¹g⁻¹ wet weight tumour. These units were selected because the mass of fatty acid uptake is related directly to the tumour mass. Molar quantities may be obtained after division by the molecular weight of the fatty acid.

Tumour perfusion in situ

Tissue-isolated hepatomas used for perfusion were implanted and prepared for perfusion as described above. The femoral artery and vein distal to the tumour were not ligated until after insertion of the butterfly catheter into the tumour vein and insertion of the arterial catheter. (The donor blood perfusate) into the femoral-epigastric arterial trunk leading to the tumour. When flow of donor blood was established, the host was exsanguinated through the carotid catheter. Temperature of the host body was monitored using a rectal probe and maintained at 37°C with a heating pad beneath and a heat lamp above the animal. Arterial blood used for perfusion was collected from the carotid arteries of adult, heparinised male or female rats fed normal diet ad libitum. Donor rats were anaesthetised with pentobarbital (25 mg kg⁻¹) before exsanguination. Pooled donor blood was filtered through two layers of cheesecloth and separated into plasma and cells by centrifugation. Carrier-free ¹⁴C-palmitic acid (sufficient to give about 20,000 dpm ml⁻¹ reconstituted whole blood) was added to a plastic tube and the solvent (ethanol) air dried. The donor plasma was added and mixed by gentle stirring at 0°C for about 20 min. Small portions of the plasma were counted to determine entry of the labelled palmitic acid into the plasma. Cells from the donor blood were added back, mixed, and the suspension transferred to a plastic container immersed in ice and stirred with a magnetic stirrer. The labelled whole blood perfusate was pumped through the tumour with a peristaltic pump (Harvard Apparatus, Natick, MA) at a setting adjusted to give a flow rate from the tumour venous catheter of about 0.12 ml min⁻¹. The perfusate was warmed in a 37°C water bath immediately before entering the tumour. pH, PCO₂ and PO₂ in the arterial blood perfusate were maintained at about 7.4 and 40 and 100 mm Hg, respectively, by gently blowing a water-saturated air-CO₂ mixture over the surface of the stirred perfusate. Measurements were made using a blood gas analyser (Model 945, AVL, Graz, Austria). Arterial blood samples were collected from a Y-tube connector located in the arterial catheter immediately before the tumour.

The specific activity of ¹⁴C-palmitic acid in arterial and tumour venous blood was determined by analysing and counting plasma FFA extracts. No radioactivity was found in any other plasma lipid fraction. ¹⁴CO₂ contained in arterial and tumour venous blood was measured in closed flasks using phenethyamine as trapping agent (Sauer et al., 1980). Incorporation of ¹⁴C-palmitic acid into tumour lipids was measured in a total lipid extract and in a portion of tumour solubilised in Protocol (NEN Research Products, Boston, MA). Radioactivity was counted in a scintillation counter. Addition of ¹³C-palmitic acid and directly to the diet avoided addition of exogenous albumin (or other proteins) that might either interfere with or modify tumour fatty acid uptake. The exogenous ¹³C-palmitic acid in donor plasma migrated with the albumin band during electrophoresis.

Lipid extraction and chromatography

FFAs were extracted from the arterial and tumour venous plasma samples as previously described (Sauer & Dauchy, 1988). Heptadecanoic acid was used as an internal standard and was added to the plasma prior to extraction. Methyl
esters of the FFAs were formed using boron trifluoride-methanol reagent. Arterial and tumour venous plasma TGA, PL and CE were extracted from 0.2 ml of plasma by the Folch method (Folch et al., 1957), using the procedure of McDonald-Gibson (McDonald-Gibson, 1987). Internal standard, dissolved in chloroform, was added following the initial mixing of the plasma sample with methanol and prior to the addition of chloroform. In some experiments the lipid extract was separated by thin layer chromatography on silica gel G plates (Redi-plates, Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, PA) that were sprayed with Rhodamine B in ethanol and air-dried at 100°C. The mixture of heptane:diethyl ether:glacial acetic acid (80:20:2 by volume). Heptadecanoic acid, tripentadecanoic, diheptadecanoyl phosphatidyl choline, and cholesterol heptadecanoate were used as internal standards. The total plasma lipid extract or the separated lipid classes were saponified in methanolic-NaOH (0.5 m) for 5 min at 100°C and the fatty acids methylated using boron trifluoride-methanol reagent for 2 min at 100°C. Fatty acid contents are given as μg (or mg) g⁻¹ whole blood or as percent of total fatty acids. Molar concentrations are obtained after division by the fatty acid molecular weight.

Tumour lipids were extracted from 0.25 ml of homogenate and were analysed directly or were separated by thin layer chromatography as described above. Homogenates were kept at 0°C to slow hydrolysis of TGA s by tumour lipases. Fatty acid contents are given as μg (or mg) g⁻¹ tumour wet weight. All gas chromatographic analyses of blood and tumour samples were performed in duplicate.

Fatty acid analysis

The fatty acid methyl esters were measured using a Hewlett-Packard Model 5890A gas chromatograph equipped with a flame-ionisation detector, an electronic integrator (Model 3396A) and autoinjector (Model 7673A). Separations were performed with a 0.25 mm × 30 m capillary column (Model 2330, Supelco Inc., Bellefonte, PA) at 190°C with helium as the carrier gas (linear gas rate: 19 cm sec⁻¹; split, 100:1). Injection port and detector were at 220°C. Fatty acid methyl esters were identified by their retention times compared to known standards.

Statistical analysis

Means were presented ± 1s.d. and were compared by Student’s t-test or by one-way analysis of variance and the Duncan multiple range test. P < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Characteristics of arterial and tumour venous blood

The plasma protein concentrations (53.3 ± 6.9 g l⁻¹, n = 13) and hematocrits (41.3 ± 4.9%, n = 21) of arterial blood were increased during passage through hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777 in vivo and during perfusion in situ. Mean values for plasma protein concentration and hematocrit in tumour venous blood were 61.6 ± 7.3 g l⁻¹ (P < 0.01) and 46.9 ± 4.7% (P < 0.01), respectively, indicating that about 15% of arterial blood volume was lost in one pass through the tumour. The excess fluid was apparently drained away by lymphatic vessels in the subcutaneous space. Arterial blood flow rates were corrected for this fluid loss by multiplying the measured tumour venous blood flow rates by the quotient of either the tumour venous blood hematocrit/arterial blood hematocrit or the tumour venous plasma protein concentration/arterial blood plasma protein concentration. Calculated arterial blood flow rates were 0.141 ± 0.01 ml min⁻¹; mean tumour venous blood flow rates were 0.124 ± 0.01 (n = 22) and ranged from 0.11 to 0.133 ml min⁻¹ indicating the passive flow from the venous catheter was reproducible from tumour to tumour. Total blood flow in these tissue-isolated hepatomas appears to depend on the normal, nearly constant flow in the sup. inf. epigastric artery. Consequently, larger tumours have a lower blood flow rate per unit mass (ml min⁻¹ g⁻¹ tumour) than smaller tumours. Similar passive tumour venous blood flow rates were observed by Kallinowski et al. (1989) during arteriovenous difference measurements across tissue-isolated human tumour xenografts growing on the sup. inf. epigastric artery of nude rats. These authors also observed, however, that the rate of passive venous flow was a function of the tumour type. pH, pO₂ and pCO₂ (n = 12) were 7.41 ± 0.06, and 88.8 ± 11.4 mmHg and 27.4 ± 7.2 mmHg in hyp. arterial blood, respectively, and 7.35 ± 0.05, and 23.8 ± 8.9 and 49.6 ± 6.2 mmHg in tumour venous blood, respectively. Similar differences in hematocrit, pH and blood gases were observed across tissue-isolated human tumour xenografts in vivo in nude rats (Kallinowski et al., 1989).

Arterial plasma lipids

Diurnal rhythms in amounts of arterial blood plasma lipids were observed in tumour-bearing Buffalo rats (Figure 1). The sums of myristic, palmitic, palmitoleic, stearic, oleic, linoleic and arachidonic acids contained in FFA, TGA, PL and CE were low during the light period and increased between 1600 to 2000 h with onset of darkness. Plasma lipid fatty acid contents measured at 1600 h were significantly less (P < 0.05) than those measured at 2200 h. The content of plasma FFA showed a second, small increase during mid-day. Diurnal variations in blood lipid concentrations resulted from increased feeding during the dark period (Fuller & Diller, 1970). Areas under the curves shown in Figure 1 were calculated using the trapezoidal rule (Courant, 1937), which estimated mean values over the 24 h period of 163, 590, 482 and 97 mg fatty acid ml⁻¹ whole arterial blood for FFA, PL, TGA and CE, respectively.

Despite the large diurnal variation in plasma lipid content, the fatty acid compositions of individual arterial blood plasma lipids were remarkably constant (Table I). Plasma FFA and TGA were good sources of oleic, palmitic and linoleic acids. FFA (but not TGA) also contained substantial amounts of arachidonic acid. Stearic, arachidonic, palmitic and linoleic acids comprised over 90% of the fatty acid content of plasma PL, the most abundant arterial plasma lipid. Stearic acid was higher in PL than in any other plasma lipid. Although CE was the least abundant plasma lipid, it was a good source of arachidonic and linoleic acids.

Uptake of arterial plasma lipids

The relationships between supply of myristic, palmitic, palmitoleic, stearic, oleic, linoleic and arachidonic acids in FFA, TGA, PL and CE and uptake by hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777 in vivo are shown in Figure 2. Fatty acid uptake was directly dependent on the rate of supply of the lipid. As judged from the regression lines, hepatoma 7288CTC removed 46.2, 36.0, 32.6 and 31.4% and hepatoma 7777 removed 47.7, 52.4, 50.0 and 48.6% of the seven fatty acids contained in FFA, PL, TGA and CE, respectively, during one pass of arterial blood. Uptake of individual fatty acids depended on the lipid supply to the tumour and on the fatty acid composition of the lipid. For example, stearic acid is a major constituent of PL and uptake of stearate from PL occurred at a substantial rate, especially during the dark period. It cannot be decided from these data if the intact TGA, PL or CE molecule was taken up by the tumour or if the fatty acids were first released and then accumulated. Arteriovenous difference measurements performed in coinduced-treated rats were not different from measurements made in rats anticoagulated with heparin. If both treatments were combined; heparin-treatment did not modify tumour lipid uptake.

Perfusion in situ

Perfusion of hepatoma 7288CTC in situ with donor blood containing ¹⁴C-palmitic acid showed that the uptake of
labelled palmitate occurred to the same extent as did uptake of total palmitate (Table II). About 30% of the palmitic acid in the arterial blood was removed by the tumour when measured at both 30 and 60 min after start of the perfusion. The specific activity of \( ^{14} \text{C} \)-palmitic acid in arterial and tumour venous blood was identical, indicating that both labelled and unlabelled palmitate were utilised simultaneously. Total estimated tumour uptake of (1-\( ^{14} \text{C} \))-palmitic acid (based on arteriovenous difference measurements) was 15240 d.p.m. g\(^{-1}\) tumour. This value compared favourably with the \( ^{14} \text{C} \)-content of the tumour measured at the end of the perfusion (16500 d.p.m. g\(^{-1}\), about equally distributed among TGA, PL and FFA). A small amount of \( ^{14} \text{CO}_2 \) was released into the tumour venous blood. However, the rate of \( ^{14} \text{CO}_2 \) production increased during the perfusion suggesting that a steady state of \( ^{14} \text{C} \)-oxidation may not have been reached. The \( ^{14} \text{CO}_2 \) production rate at the end of the perfusion was 8 d.p.m. min\(^{-1}\) g\(^{-1}\) or about 3% of the rate of tumour (1-\( ^{14} \text{C} \))-palmitic acid uptake (254 d.p.m. min\(^{-1}\) g\(^{-1}\)).

**Tumour fatty acid content**

The myristic, palmitic, palmitoleic, stearic, oleic, linoleic and arachidonic acid contents in TGA, PL and CE of the tumours used in the arteriovenous difference measurements shown in Figure 2 are listed in Table III. TGAs, PLs and CEs in hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777 were essentially identical in fatty acid composition and similar in content. Total contents of the seven fatty acids in hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777 were 13.4 ± 2.5 and 10.5 ± 4.0 mg g\(^{-1}\) tumour wet weight, respectively, and were not significantly different.

Fatty acid compositions of TGAs in tumours (Table III) and plasma (Table I) were similar; oleic, the most abundant fatty acid, was followed in amount by palmitic and linoleic acids. The arachidonic acid content of tumour and plasma TGAs was low even though arachidonic acid is one of the most abundant fatty acids of plasma FFAs. Fatty acid contents of tumour and plasma PLs were similar, except that oleic acid formed nearly 28% of tumour PLs but only about 8% of plasma PLs. Palmitic and stearic acids and the essential fatty acids were major constituents of both plasma and tumour PLs.

**Discussion**

These experiments were a continuation of our studies of nutrient supply and uptake in solid tumours in vivo (Sauer & Dauchy, 1982; 1983). Lipids are essential cellular constituents and a steady supply is needed for growth of tumour mass. The central role of lipids in tumour metabolism was emphasised by nutritional experiments (Ip et al., 1985) showing that dietary lipids, notably those that contain linoleic acid, have stimulatory effects on tumour growth. These growth effects are probably separate from the need for lipids in formation of cell structures. Recently, we showed that the rates of growth of three Morris hepatomas and two other rat tumours were increased during acute starvation (Sauer et al., 1986) and streptozotocin-induced diabetes (Sauer & Dauchy, 1987). Subsequent experiments demonstrated that the growth stimulus was caused by lipid substances contained in hyperlipemic blood and released from host fat stores (Sauer & Dauchy, 1987; 1987a). The lipids were identified as free linoleic and arachidonic acids (Sauer & Dauchy, 1988). Tumour FFA uptake and rate of \( ^{3} \text{H} \)-thymidine incorporation appeared to be very sensitive to the ambient concentration of essential fatty acids in arterial blood. However, there were no data on lipid supply and uptake and on the properties of lipid uptake in solid tumours in vivo. Results reported here show that about 50% of the blood FFAs and 30 to 50% (depending on the tumour) of the other plasma lipids were removed during one pass of arterial blood. As was shown in Figure 2, lipid uptake by tumours in vivo is very dependent on the rate of supply in arterial blood. Since the effects of linoleate and arachidonate on tumour \( ^{3} \text{H} \)-thymidine incorporation have a short half-life (Sauer & Dauchy, 1988), these observations provide a reasonable basis for understanding...
Figure 2  Relationships between supply in the arterial blood and tumour uptake of free fatty acids, phospholipids, triglycerides and cholesterol esters by hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777. Values for rates of supply and uptake are for individual fatty acids from the different lipid classes, as follows: O, myristic; Δ, palmitic; □, palmitoleic; △, stearic; ●, oleic; △, linoleic; and, ■ arachidonic acids. Correlation coefficients from regression analysis for hepatoma 7288CTC were: free fatty acids, 0.901; phospholipids, 0.932; triglycerides, 0.784; cholesterol esters, 0.969; and for hepatoma 7777 were: free fatty acids, 0.905; phospholipids, 0.978; triglycerides, 0.904; cholesterol esters, 0.985. Each point represents a measurement made on a single tumour.

Table II  Supply and uptake of arterial blood free [1-14C]-palmitic acid in hepatoma 7288CTC perfused in situ

| Perfusion time | Tissue | Content of [1-14C]-Palmitic acid | Specific activity | Supply of [1-14C]-Palmitic acid | Uptake of [1-14C]-Palmitic acid | Content of 14CO2 | Release of 14CO2 |
|---------------|--------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 30 min        | A      | 88.7                             | 17114            | 193                             | 2.65                          | 1.32            | 190             |
|               | V      | 49.1                             | 9780             | 199                             | 1.27                          | 1.0             | 190             |
|               | T      | 1.38b                            | 16500b           | 12b                             | 1.33                          | 31              | 4               |
| 60 min        | A      | 90.8                             | 17114            | 189                             | 2.69                          | 1.32            | 190             |
|               | V      | 50.8                             | 9492             | 187                             | 1.22                          | 1.0             | 190             |
|               | T      | 1.38b                            | 16500b           | 12b                             | 1.33                          | 319             | 8               |

A = arterial blood; V = tumour venous blood; T = tumour; mg palmitic acid g⁻¹; d.p.m. g⁻¹; assumes all radioactivity is in palmitic acid. Total tumour 14C-palmitic acid uptake from the arterial blood was 15300 d.p.m. g⁻¹ (rate of uptake times specific activity times 60 min) and total tumour 14C-content was 16500 d.p.m. g⁻¹. Recovery was: content/uptake (100) = 108%. The tumour weight was 4.62 g and arterial and tumour venous blood flow was 0.138 and 0.125 ml min⁻¹, respectively. The 14C-palmitic acid concentration in the arterial blood perfusate was 0.35 mm.

how changes in host blood lipid levels could have immediate effects on tumour metabolism. In a companion paper (Sauer & Dauchy, 1992), we show that increased ambient levels of linoleic and arachidonic acids in arterial blood increase the rate of tumour 3H-thymidine incorporation, thus providing further evidence linking supply and uptake to biochemical growth processes. It is not yet known if essential fatty acids supplied in TGA, PL and CE also have a stimulative effect on tumour 3H-thymidine incorporation and growth rate. Presumably, they do not, because perfusion of hepatoma 7288CTC in situ with fractions from hyperlipemic blood that contained these lipids did not affect tumour 3H-thymidine incorporation (Sauer & Dauchy, 1988).

It has been known for several years that tumour cells utilise FFAs in vitro (Fillerup et al., 1958). Mouse ascites tumour cells have been a convenient model for study in vitro and in vivo. Recent experiments have demonstrated uptake of FFAs from ascites plasma by mouse ascites tumour cells in vivo (Spector, 1967; Mermier & Baker, 1974). Uptake of 14C-palmitate by these cells in vitro was increased as the FFA-albumin ratio was increased. The radiolabelled palmitate was incorporated into tumour cell TGA, PL and CO₂
(Spector & Brenneman, 1973). As shown in Table II, a similar result was observed in hepatoma 7288CTC perfused in situ with 14C-palmitate. Mouse ascites tumour cells in vitro also utilised radiolabelled TGAs contained in ascites plasma lipoproteins (Brenneman & Spector, 1974). Fatty acid uptake from lipoprotein TGAs appeared to depend on the availability of the TGAs in ascites plasma and may have occurred as the intact TGA molecule. While our experiments were not designed to directly examine the latter point, we found that host arterial blood TGAs, as well as PL and CEs, were good lipid sources for solid tumours in vivo. Similar fatty acid compositions in plasma (Table I) and hepatoma (Table III) TGAs suggest that these molecules might have traversed the cell membrane as intact TGA molecules. Although solid tumours in vivo are perfused with blood and mouse ascites tumour cells in vitro are bathed in ascites plasma, indicating much different rates of lipid supply, the overall properties of lipid uptake appear to be similar.

Experiments performed in culture with hepatoma 7288C cells indicated that more than 80% of the fatty acids required for growth were obtained from the medium (Watson, 1973). The fatty acid composition of PLs in hepatoma 7288CTC in vivo were modified by changes in dietary fat (Wood, 1973), further evidence of tumour access to circulating host lipids. Hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777 grow at a rate of about 1 g day⁻¹ (Sauer et al., 1980; 1986) in Buffalo rats fed a normal diet ad libitum. Therefore, the amount of the fatty acids required for the 1 g day⁻¹ growth increment was 13.4 ± 2.5 mg day⁻¹ in hepatoma 7288CTC and 10.6 ± 3.9 mg day⁻¹ in hepatoma 7777 (Table III). To determine if fatty acid uptake from plasma lipids was sufficient to satisfy these growth requirements in vivo, we compared the values to the calculated daily total fatty acid uptake (mg fatty acid·day⁻¹·g⁻¹). Daily fatty acid uptake for the 15 tumours examined was calculated as follows: [arterial blood flow rate (ml min⁻¹)] times [mean arterial blood fatty acid content for each lipid class (data from legend to Figure 1) over the 24 h period (mg ml⁻¹·arterial blood)] times [1440 min day⁻¹] divided by [weight of the hepatoma (g)] times [the mean efficiency of tumour uptake of the lipid supplied (from legend to Figure 2)]. We assume in these calculations that tumour blood flow and efficiencies of lipid uptake are constant through the 24 h. The calculated rate of uptake (hepatoma 7288CTC, 18.1 mg day⁻¹·g⁻¹; hepatoma 7777, 25.9 mg day⁻¹·g⁻¹) was divided by the tumour fatty acid growth increment (mg day⁻¹·g⁻¹). The result suggested that uptake of fatty acids from blood lipids was 138 ± 22% (n = 6) in hepatoma 7288CTC and 280 ± 121% (n = 9) in hepatoma 7777 of the amount needed for daily growth. Since rates of fatty acid oxidation are low in hepatoma 7288CTC (Table II) and 7777 (Halperin et al., 1976), these data indicate that both hepatomas obtain most or all of the fatty acids needed for growth from host arterial blood lipids.

The relationship between daily oleic acid uptake and the oleic acid growth increment in hepatoma 7288CTC is of interest because this tumour contains large amounts of oleic acid (Table III) but shows decreased levels of stearoyl-CoA desataturase, compared to normal liver (Zoeller & Wood, 1984). It was suggested that most of the oleic acid contained in hepatoma 7288CTC may be derived from the host sources (Zoeller & Wood, 1984). Mean uptake of oleic acid from blood lipids by hepatoma 7288CTC was 3.8 ± 0.8 mg g⁻¹·day⁻¹ or 75 ± 12% of the increment needed for daily growth. Mean uptake of stearic acid was 2.7 ± 0.5 mg day⁻¹ or 139 ± 24% of the daily stearate requirement. The short fall in oleate uptake was 1.3 ± 0.7 mg day⁻¹ and the stearate uptake excess was 0.7 ± 0.4 mg day⁻¹. Thus, a portion of the oleate deficiency may have been recovered from the excess stearate uptake via stearoyl-CoA desaturation. Presumably, the remainder was generated from other fatty acids that were also taken up in excess. It should be remembered, however, that solid tumours contain populations of host cells: accurate assessment of an excess or deficiency would require detailed knowledge of the biosynthetic capabilities of each cell type and their abilities to communicate.

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Table III Fatty acid composition and lipid content of hepatomas 7288CTC and 7777

| Fatty acid | TGA (mean ± s.d., n = 6) | PL (mean ± s.d., n = 6) | CE (mean ± s.d., n = 6) | Total (mean ± s.d., n = 6) |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|           | 7288CTC                 | 7777                    |                         |                          |
| C14:0     | 72 ± 60                 | 70 ± 60                 | 70 ± 60                 | 102 ± 60                 |
| C16:0     | 1024 ± 648              | 1024 ± 648              | 1024 ± 648              | 2048 ± 648               |
| C18:1     | 304 ± 179               | 304 ± 179               | 304 ± 179               | 608 ± 179                |
| C18:0     | 406 ± 147               | 406 ± 147               | 406 ± 147               | 812 ± 147                |
| C18:1     | 2381 ± 1183             | 2381 ± 1183             | 2381 ± 1183             | 4762 ± 1183              |
| C18:2     | 898 ± 527               | 898 ± 527               | 898 ± 527               | 1796 ± 527               |
| C20:4     | 196 ± 156               | 196 ± 156               | 196 ± 156               | 392 ± 156                |

*P > 0.05.

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