Investigating the enteroenteric recirculation of apixaban, a factor Xa inhibitor: Administration of activated charcoal to bile duct-cannulated rats and dogs receiving an intravenous dose and use of drug transporter knockout rats

Donglu Zhang, Charles E. Frost, Kan He, A. David Rodrigues, Xiaoli Wang, Lifei Wang, Theunis C. Goosen, W. Griffith Humphreys

Pharmaceutical Candidate Optimization (DZ, KH, ADR, LW, WGH), Discovery Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology (CEF, XW), Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ; Pharmacokinetics, Dynamics, and Metabolism, Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development (TCG), Groton, CT
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Correspondence To:

Donglu Zhang

Email: zhang4422@gmail.com

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1Abbreviations used: AC, activated charcoal; BCS, Biopharmaceutical Classification Systems; BCRP (abcg2), breast cancer resistance protein; BCRP-KO, BCRP knockout; BDC, bile duct cannulation; BID, twice daily dose; CL, clearance; CLR, renal clearance; CLIE, intestinal clearance; CLmet, metabolism clearance; CLb, biliary clearance; EER, enteroenteric recirculation; EHR, enterohepatic recirculation; ER, efflux ratio - permeability of basolateral to apical versus that of apical to basolateral; F, bioavailability; GFR, glomerular filtration rate; GI, gastrointestinal tract; HP-β-CD, hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin; IE, intestinal excretion; IC, intestinal clearance; LC/MS, liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry; MDR1 (abcb1), multiple drug resistance protein (P-gp); P-gp-KO, P-gp knockout; RTR, renal tubule recirculation
Abstract

The study described here investigated the impact of intestinal excretion (IE, excretion of drug directly from circulation to intestinal lumen), enteroenteric recirculation (EER), and renal tubule recirculation (RTR) on apixaban pharmacokinetics and disposition. The experimental approaches involve integrating apixaban elimination pathways with pharmacokinetic profiles obtained from bile duct-cannulated (BDC) rats and dogs receiving intravenous (IV) doses together with orally administration of activated charcoal (AC). Additionally, the role of P-gp (abcb1) and BCRP (abcg2) in apixaban disposition was evaluated in experiments using transporter inhibitors and transporter knockout (KO) rats. Approximately 20-50% of an apixaban IV dose was found in feces of BDC rats and dogs, suggesting IE leading to fecal elimination and intestinal clearance (IC). The fecal elimination, IC, and systemic clearance of apixaban were increased upon AC administration in both BDC rats and dogs, and were decreased in BDC rats dosed with GF-120918 (a dual BCRP and P-gp inhibitor). BCRP appeared to play a more important role for absorption, intestinal and renal elimination of apixaban than P-gp in transporter-KO rats after oral and IV dosing, which led to a higher level of active renal excretion in rat than other species. These data demonstrate that apixaban undergoes IE, EER, and RTR that are facilitated by efflux transporters. Intestinal re-absorption of apixaban could be interrupted by AC even at 3 h post drug dose in dogs (late charcoal effect). This study demonstrates that the intestine is an organ for direct clearance and redistribution of apixaban. The IE, EER, and RTR contribute to overall pharmacokinetic profiles of apixaban. IE as a clearance pathway, balanced with metabolism and renal excretion, helps decrease the impacts of intrinsic (renal or hepatic impairment) and extrinsic (drug-drug interactions) factors on apixaban disposition.
**Introduction**

Apixaban (Figure 1), 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-oxo-6-(4-(2-oxopiperidin-1-yl)phenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridine-3-carboxamide, a highly selective, oral, direct inhibitor of Factor Xa, a protease enzyme that plays a pivotal role in the coagulation cascade, is a newly approved anticoagulant (Lassen et al., 2007; Connolly et al., 2011; Granger et al., 2011). Following oral administration of $[^{14}C]$apixaban in humans, both metabolism (25%) and urinary excretion (27%) were important clearance pathways (Raghavan et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2009a). Greater than 50% of radioactive dose was recovered in feces as the parent from rats, dogs, and humans following oral administration of $[^{14}C]$apixaban. Plasma radioactivity profiling has shown that apixaban represents >90% of all circulating drug-related components in rats and dogs and 75% in humans (Raghavan et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2009a; Zhang et al., 2009a). Apixaban is metabolically stable in incubations with liver microsomes and hepatocytes and has a relatively low clearance with total plasma clearance of <5% hepatic blood flow in rats, dogs, and humans (He et al., 2011; Wong et al., 2011). Apixaban has a fair water solubility and a high intrinsic permeability. In humans, apixaban has a small volume of distribution (~0.3 L/kg), a half life of ~12 h and a low peak-to-trough plasma concentration ratio (<4) following oral BID administration (Wong et al., 2011; Frost et al., 2012).

The intestine is a highly perfused organ supplied by the superior mesenteric artery which carries approximately 10-20% of cardiac output in mice, rats, rabbits, dogs, monkeys, and humans with 60% of mucosal blood flow supplying the epithelial cells of the villi (Davies 4
and Morris, 1993; Matheson et al., 2000; Jamei et al., 2009). Drug transporters and drug-metabolizing enzymes are heterogeneously expressed in the intestine affecting drug absorption and bioavailability (Suzuki and Sugiyama, 2000; Kaminsky and Zhang, 2003; Paine et al., 2006). P-gp (abcb1) and BCRP (abcg2), two members of the ABC transporter superfamily, are highly expressed at the lumenal brush border membranes of intestinal enterocytes, proximal tubular membranes in the kidney, and canalicular membranes of hepatocytes in the liver, and play an important role in drug absorption, tissue distribution, and drug elimination (Maliepaard et al., 2001; Austin Doyle and Ross, 2003; Unadkat et al., 2004; Mao and Unadkat, 2005; Krishnamurthy and Schuetz, 2006; Huls et al., 2008; Koshiba et al., 2008; Zhou, 2008; Vlaming et al., 2009; Giacomini et al., 2010). In human the \textit{MDR1} (P-gp) gene encodes a single drug transporting P-glycoprotein, where in mice and rats the \textit{mdr1a} and \textit{mdr1b} genes encode two P-glycoprotein isoforms, but \textit{mdr1b} is not expressed in mouse intestine (Thiebaut et al., 1987; Schinkel et al., 1994). The expression of intestinal efflux transporters is region-dependent with the expression of P-gp generally reported to increase from proximal duodenum to distal ileum in rats and humans (Mouly and Paine, 2003; Englund et al., 2006; Berggren et al., 2007; Hilgendorf et al., 2007; MacLean et al., 2008; Haslam et al., 2011). Both BCRP expression and its efflux function reached to peak in the ileum in rat and mouse intestines (Enokizono et al., 2007; Haslam et al., 2011), however, BCRP appeared to have the greatest expression in the duodenum along the human GI tract (Gutmann et al., 2005). The expression of P-gp and BCRP is organ- and species-dependent with a lower expression of BCRP in the kidney of human than rat and a higher expression of BCRP than P-gp in human intestines (Taipalensuu et al., 2001). Similar
pharmacokinetic results in the P-gp-KO and BCRP-KO rat and mouse models have been recently reported for different P-gp and BCRP substrates (Bundgaard et al., 2012). In addition, the knockout of P-gp or BCRP did not affect expression of the other transporter in the mouse (Agarwal et al., 2012). Previous data with apixaban demonstrated that the drug was a substrate for efflux transporters P-gp and BCRP (Zhang et al., 2013). In this study, we investigated the impacts of IE and EER as well as RTR (Figure 2) on apixaban disposition through analysis of fecal excretion and pharmacokinetic profiles in BDC rats, P-gp-KO and BCRP-KO rats, and dogs following IV administration of radiolabeled apixaban. Furthermore, the effect of AC on orally administered apixaban pharmacokinetics in the dog and human was considered.
Materials And Methods

Materials. Apixaban, 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-oxo-6-(4-(2-oxopiperidin-1-yl)phenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridine-3-carboxamide, [14C]apixaban (47.94 µCi/mg) (the structure is shown in Figure 1), were prepared at Bristol-Myers Squibb (Princeton, NJ). The chemical and radioactive purity of [14C]apixaban were > 98%. Activated charcoal (AC, EZChar®) was purchased from Paddock (Minneapolis, MN). Chemicals used for dose formulations, propylene glycol, PEG-400, ethanol, and hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin (HP-β-CD), N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (St Louis, MO). Ultima Gold, Ultima Flo M, Monophase S, Carbo-Sorb E, PermaFluor® E+ liquid scintillation cocktails, and Combusto-cones and pads were obtained from PerkinElmer Life Sciences (Waltham, MA). Ecolite™ liquid scintillation cocktail was purchased from MP Biomedicals, Inc. (Irvine, CA). Solvents used for chromatographic analysis were HPLC grade and purchased from EMD Chemicals (Gibbstown, NJ). All other reagents were of analytical grade.

Dose preparations. The formulation vehicles are listed in Table 1A. The oral dose formulation of apixaban for dogs was prepared at 1 mg/mL in 0.5% Tween 80 in Labrafil. The IV dose formulation of [14C]apixaban for dogs was prepared at 9.6 µCi/mg and 2 mg/mL in 30% HP-β-CD in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2). The IV dose formulation of [14C]apixaban for rats was prepared at 47.94 µCi/mg and 2 mg/mL in 30% HP-β-CD in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2). The oral dose formulation of apixaban for rats was prepared at 4 mg/mL in 30% HP-β-CD in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2). The GF-120918 (elacridar) dose solution was prepared by dissolving 21 mg of the
powder in 4.2 mL of dose vehicle consisting of N-methyl-2-pyrolidone in saline water (1:1, v/v). AC dose suspension was prepared in water at 250 or 208 mg/mL. The mixture was subsequently shaken or homogenized using a polytron homogenizer for 10 min.

**Animal preparation, dosing, and sample collection.** All animal housing and care conformed to the standards recommended by the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Sprague-Dawley (SD) rats were purchased from Harlan Laboratories (Indianapolis, Indiana). Wild-type (WT), P-gp (abcb1) - or BCRP (abcg2) - KO Sprague-Dawley rats were purchased from SAGE Lab (Sigma Aldrich, St Louis, MO). The rats were fed with Certified Rodent Diet #5002 (PMI Nutrition International) and water was provided *ad libitum*. Non-naive male beagle dogs (7-11 kg) were purchased from Marshall BioResources (North Rose, NY). The dogs were fed with Canine Diet #5006 (LabDiet®, PMI Nutrition International) and provided water *ad libitum*. Male SD WT rats, P-gp-KO rats, and BCRP-KO rats, weighing 249-349 g at the time of dosing, were surgically implanted with catheters in the jugular and/or femoral veins and bile duct-cannulated for IV dosing (JVC), blood sampling (FVC), and bile collection (BDC). The BDC surgery of rats was performed one week prior to dosing. The bile duct-cannulated male dogs (9-14 kg) were maintained at the Bristol-Myers Squibb facility (Princeton, NJ).

Prior to dosing each animal (rat or dog) was weighed, randomized, and assigned a permanent identification number. During the acclimation period (at least two days prior to study initiation), the animals were housed in individual, suspended, stainless steel wire mesh cages. The animals were fasted overnight (at least 12 h) prior to, and through 4 h following dose administration. The animal room was controlled to maintain a temperature...
of 75°F, and 70% relative humidity, with a 12 h light/12 h dark cycle. The body weight of each animal was determined on the day before dosing. The doses administered were calculated based on the body weight of each animal. The formulations were administered to fasted animals from each group by oral gavage using a syringe with a gavage needle to deliver a dose at a target dose level or by intravenous doses. The amount of dose administered to each animal was determined by the difference in weights of the loaded dose syringe and needle prior to dose administration and the emptied syringe and needle after dose administration.

Apixaban (5 mg/kg, 1 mg/mL in 0.5% Tween 80 in Labrafil) was administered via oral gavage to 4 male beagle dogs followed by a 10 mL flush of water. AC (250 mg/kg, 208 mg/mL water suspension) was administered via oral gavage in 3 separate treatments in a parallel crossover design followed by a 10 mL flush of water at 0.25, 1, or 3 h post dose. Male dogs (intact n = 3 or BDC n = 2) were dosed via IV infusion (5 min) of [14C]apixaban (1 mg/kg, 0.5 mL/kg). AC suspensions were administered to BDC dogs at 250 mg/kg via oral gavage at 10, 90, 180, and 420 min after the [14C]apixaban dosing. Apixaban (4 mg/kg) was administered to wild-type, GF-120918-pretreated wild-type, P-gp-KO, and BCRP-KO rats via oral gavage. [14C]Apixaban (2 mg/kg) was administered to BDC wild-type, GF-120918-pretreated wild-type, P-gp-KO, and BCRP-KO rats via IV bolus administration. GF-120918 was administered orally (10 mg/kg, 2 mL/kg, 5 mg/mL) at 1 h before apixaban dose in intact rats or at 1 h before and 8 h after [14C]apixaban dosing in BDC rats. AC suspensions were also administered to BDC rats at 250 mg/kg via implanted duodenal catheters at 30 min before and 5, 90, and 180 min after the [14C]apixaban dosing.
Blood was collected at various time points (K$_2$EDTA as an anticoagulant) via venipuncture of a peripheral blood vessel in dogs and femoral veins catheters from rats. These samples were placed on ice immediately after collection and centrifuged within 30 minutes of collection to harvest plasma. Urine, bile, and feces were collected as described in Table 1B.

**Radioactivity determination.** Triplicate aliquots of the diluted dose solutions, plasma, urine, bile, and cage wash were analyzed for radioactivity concentrations. Radioactivity determinations were made with a Tri-Carb Model 3100 TR liquid scintillation counter (LSC) (PerkinElmer) using 5 mL of scintillation fluid (Ultima Gold) per sample, or 15 mL of Ecolite™.

Fecal samples were homogenized in 4 volumes of water. Triplicate aliquots (0.40-1.1 g) of fecal and GI tract homogenates were placed into pre-weighed Combusto-cones and pads, and allowed to air-dry overnight. The samples were then combusted and analyzed for radioactivity. A model 307 Tri-Carb Sample Oxidizer, equipped with an Oximate-80 Robotic Automatic Sampler (PerkinElmer), was used for combustion of fecal homogenates. The $^{14}$CO$_2$ generated samples from dosing of $[^{14}$C]apixaban was trapped in Carbo-Sorb E (~ 7 mL) and mixed with PermaFluor$^\circledR$ E$^+$ (~ 8 mL) as the scintillant to determine radioactivity concentrations using a Tri-Carb Model 3100 TR liquid scintillation counter (PerkinElmer). The oxidation efficiency of the oxidizer was greater than 97%.

**Metabolite profiling.** Metabolites in plasma, bile, and urine, and fecal samples were profiled as described previously (Raghavan et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2009b; Zhang et al.,
2009a). Pooled plasma, urine, bile, or fecal homogenate samples were prepared by aliquoting appropriate volumes or weights of samples from each time interval. The pooled urine and bile samples were directly analyzed to obtain metabolite profiles following centrifugation at 1500xg for 15 min at 4°C. The pooled fecal samples (about 1 mL) were mixed with 2 mL of methanol and shaken for 10 min. The mixtures were centrifuged at 1500xg for 10 min at 4°C. The supernatants were transferred to clean tubes. The pellets were extracted twice with 2 mL of methanol (2x2 mL). All supernatants were combined and evaporated to dryness under nitrogen and the residues were reconstituted in 400 µL of 25% methanol in water. Metabolite profiling for pooled urine, bile, and feces, and dose analysis were performed on a Surveyor HPLC system equipped with a β-RAM radioactivity flow detector (Model 4, IN/US Systems, Inc, Tampa, FL). The radioactivity detector, β-RAM, was equipped with a 100 µL flow cell, and was operated using scintillation cocktail (Ultima Flo M) delivered at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min. Chromatography was accomplished on a Phenomenex Luna C18, 4.6 x 250 mm, 3 µm (Torrance, CA) for the apixaban studies. The mobile phase for apixaban sample profiling consisted of two solvents: A) 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid and B) 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid in acetonitrile; the gradient was as follows: Solvent B started at 5% and was maintained at 5% for 2 min, then linearly increased to 20% at 20.1 min, to 40% at 30 min, to 95% at 35 min, and to 5% at 36 min with a HPLC effluent of 0.7 mL/min. An alternative HPLC system was a HEWLETT® PACKARD Agilent 1100 series system equipped with two pumps, an autoinjector, a UV detector, and an ACE® 3 C18 column (4.6 mm x 150 mm). The mobile phase consisted of two solvents: A) 0.4% formic acid in water, pH 3.2 and B) 100% acetonitrile. The gradient was as follows: Solvent B started
at 5%, then linearly increased to 20% at 5 min, to 30% at 50 min, to 35% at 55 min, to 90% at 65 min, held at 90% for 2 min, and then decreased to 5% at 69 min. The HPLC effluent (0.7 mL/min) was collected into Deepwell LumaPlate™-96 plates (PerkinElmer Life and Analytical Sciences, Shelton, CT) at 0.25 min intervals for 75 min with a Gilson Model 204 fraction collector (Gilson Medical Electronics, Middleton, WI). The plates were dried with a Savant Speed-Vac System (Global Medical Instrumentation, Inc., Ramsey, MN) and counted for 10 min per well with a TopCount analyzer (PerkinElmer Life and Analytical Sciences, Shelton, CT). Radioactivity profiles were prepared by plotting the resulting net CPM values vs HPLC time and radiochromatograms were reconstructed from the Topcount data using Microsoft® Excel software.

In dogs, unchanged [14C]apixaban accounted for >95, 83, 67, and 81% of total radioactivity in plasma, urine, bile, and feces. In rats, unchanged [14C]apixaban accounted for 96.4, 93.7, 91.2% in urine, 20.7, 34.8, and 18% in bile, 74, 79.6, and 87.2% in feces of wild-type, P-gp-KO, and BCRP-KO rats, respectively.

For metabolite ID, the HPLC flow was directed to LTQ ion trap mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA). Samples were analyzed in the positive ionization mode and the capillary temperature was set at 300°C. The flow rate of nitrogen gas, spray current, and voltages were adjusted to give maximum sensitivity for apixaban.
Quantitation of apixaban concentrations

The concentrations of apixaban in plasma were determined by a validated LC/MS/MS method using 0.05 mL of plasma and $^{13}$CD$_3$-labeled apixaban as the internal standard. The range of quantitation of apixaban in plasma under these conditions was 1-1000 ng/mL. After solid phase extraction on a 3M empore C8-SD 96-well solid extraction plate, HPLC on a Shimadzu LC-10AT system (Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Kyoto, Japan) was performed isocratically on a Phenomenex Luna C18(2) analytical column (2.1 x 50 mm, 5 μ). The mobile phase contained 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile and water (60:40, v/v) at 0.3 ml/min. The mass analysis was performed on a LC/MS/MS system consisting of binary Shimadzu 10ADvp pumps controlled by a SCL-10Avp controller, a Leap HTS autosampler, and a Sciex 4000-QTrap hybrid triple quadrupole – linear ion trap mass spectrometer operated under positive turbo-ionspray mode using the mass transition of M/Z 460 to 443.

**Data analysis.** The plasma concentration versus time data for apixaban were analyzed with a noncompartmental method (Perrier and Gibaldi, 1982). The peak plasma concentration ($C_{\text{max}}$) and the time to reach peak concentration ($T_{\text{max}}$) were recorded directly from experimental observations. The area under the plasma concentration versus time curve from 0 to T ($AUC_{0-T}$), where T equals the time of the last measured plasma concentration, was calculated by a combination of conventional trapezoidal and log-trapezoidal methods by Kinetica v4.4 (InnaPhase Corp., Philadelphia, PA) or by using WinNonlin Professional Edition, version 4.1 (Pharsight, Mountain View, CA). AUC to infinity ($AUC_{0-\infty}$) was determined by the sum of $AUC_{0-T}$ and the extrapolated area. The extrapolated area was determined by dividing the last measured concentration by the slope of the terminal log-linear phase, which was <8% for all animal groups used in this study.
study upon sample collection of sufficient data points. The terminal slope ($\lambda$) of the plasma concentration-time profile was determined by the method of least squares (log-linear regression of at least three data points). The terminal half-life was estimated as $\ln 2/\lambda$. The clearance via intestinal excretion was estimated as: $\text{CL}_{\text{IE}} = \text{Amount of apixaban in feces of BDC animals} / \text{AUC}$. Urinary clearance ($\text{CL}_R$) was calculated in a similar manner based on data obtained from the urine collections. The total clearance via biliary excretion and metabolism ($\text{CL}_{\text{biliary+metabolism}}$) was estimated by using:

$$\text{CL}_{\text{biliary+metabolism}} = \text{CL}_{\text{total}} - \text{CL}_{\text{IE}} - \text{CL}_R.$$ 

**Results**

**AC studies.** Apixaban plasma concentration-time profiles in dogs following a 5 mg/kg oral dose with and without subsequent single administration of AC are shown in Figures 3A and B, and single-dose pharmacokinetic parameters are shown in Table 2A. The apixaban pharmacokinetic data were compared in the same dog for the control and AC treatment separated by two weeks. When AC was administered 0.25 (15 min), 1 and 3 h after apixaban, apixaban $\text{AUC}_{0-24}$ was 24, 19, and 37%, respectively, lower compared with apixaban alone. Apixaban $\text{C}_{\text{max}}$ were not markedly affected by administration of AC at any of the time points. Apixaban $T_{1/2}$ was 5.6 h when administered alone, but decreased to <4 h when AC was administered 1 and 3 h after apixaban, respectively, with a corresponding increase of the systemic clearance (29-66%) and decrease in the mean residence time (MRT) and the $C_{24}$ values ($C_{\text{min}}$).

**BDC dog studies.** Table 2B lists the radioactive dose recovery from BDC dogs following IV administration of $[^{14}\text{C}]$apixaban (1 mg/kg) with and without administration of AC. Approximately 40-50% of the dose was recovered in feces of BDC dogs, indicating the
drug was directly excreted into the gut and eliminated in the feces. Upon treatment with AC, the fecal recovery was increased in BDC dogs with no marked effect on the urinary elimination, and apixaban AUC was reduced by approximately 19-39% and apparent systemic clearance of apixaban was increased by 20-60% (Figure 4A and Table 2A). The increased fecal elimination with AC in BDC dogs corresponded to a >50% increase in IC, suggesting that AC prevents re-absorption of apixaban and resulted in the increases of IE through interruption of enteroenteric recirculation. In dogs, the peak-to-trough concentration ratio (Cmax/C24) after oral administration increased from 15 to >30 with AC treatments. The half life (T1/2) and MRT were lower in dogs after IV versus oral administration. Approximately 10-20% of dose was recovered in the 0-72 h urine collection from BDC dogs. For comparison, urinary recovery was also similar in intact dogs following IV (Table 2B) and oral administration of [14C]apixaban (Zhang et al., 2009a).

**BDC rat studies.** IE of apixaban was further investigated in BDC rats following IV administration of [14C]apixaban (2 mg/kg). Figure 4B describes the apixaban plasma concentration-time profiles in BDC rats with and without administration of AC or in the presence of GF-120918, a BCRP and P-gp inhibitor (Jonker et al., 2000; Matsson et al., 2009). The radioactive dose recovery values in bile, urine, and feces and pharmacokinetic parameters of apixaban in the BDC rats are listed in Tables 3A and 3B, respectively. Approximately 21% of dose was found in the feces of BDC rats following IV administration of [14C]apixaban, suggesting direct IE of apixaban in rats, which led to IC representing 21% of the total systemic clearance. Administration of GF-120918 reduced the fecal dose recovery of apixaban by 34% and the administration of AC increased the
fecal recovery by approximately 36%. The AUC$_{0-\infty}$ of apixaban was increased (100%) with GF-120918 and decreased (28%) with AC (Table 3B). The IC and systemic clearance were decreased 66% and 50% by GF-120918 treatment and increased 80% and 42% by AC treatment, respectively. These data clearly demonstrated that inhibition of intestinal efflux transporters decreases the systemic clearance and IC of apixaban leading to the reduced IE, while AC increased both clearance values because of disrupted apixaban re-absorption. Importantly, GF-120918 did not affect the urinary or biliary excretion of apixaban in rats. The increase in intestinal recovery of the apixaban radioactive dose after AC corresponds to the decrease of the urinary excretion in rats, suggesting diversion of apixaban elimination from urinary to the IE route by AC. In rats, the volume of distribution, half life, and MRT of apixaban were decreased after IV versus oral administration; the peak to last time point concentration ratio (C$_{\text{max}}$/C$_{10}$) increased from 15 after oral to 500 after IV administration.

**Studies with drug transporter KO rats.** To further assess the effects of intestinal efflux transporters on apixaban IE, [14C]apixaban was also dosed IV to P-gp-KO and BCRP-KO rats (Tables 1B and 3A, Figure 5). The urinary excretion was decreased from 50% to 35% in the BCRP-KO rats and from 50% to 44% in the P-gp-KO rats. The biliary excretion of apixaban, ranging 10-15% of dose, was similar in all rats. IE of apixaban increased compensatorily from 21% to 34% of dose especially in the BCRP-KO rats compared to the wild-type rats. The increase in the P-gp-KO rats was less (from 21% to 25%) (Table 3B). The apixaban AUC$_{0-\infty}$ increased by 45 and 66%, respectively, in both P-gp-KO and BCRP-KO rats compared to the wild-type rats (Table 3B). The
contributions of P-gp and BCRP in governing apixaban disposition were also examined after oral doses to P-gp-KO and BCRP-KO rats or with a transporter inhibitor. As shown in Table 3B and Figure 5, apixaban exposure (AUC) increased by 100% in the P-gp-KO rats but by 300% in the BCRP-KO rats compared with the wild-type rats after oral administration through predominately an increase in C_{max}. GF-120918 increased apixaban exposures (AUC) by nearly 400%. Compared to the plasma concentration-time profiles of apixaban in dogs (Figure 3) and BCRP-KO rats (Figure 5) after oral administration, apixaban showed a broad peak and even multiple peaks after oral administration in rats. The broad peak complexity of apixaban was more obvious in P-gp-KO rats than BCRP-KO rats. The apparent flip-flop pharmacokinetic profile of apixaban in rats (Table 3B) as well as in dogs (Table 2A) was characterized by a short T1/2 value after IV than oral administration and the increase of C_{max}/C_{min} ratios after oral versus IV administration, which was reduced in the P-gp-KO and BCRP-KO rats compared to the wild-type rats (Figure 5 and Table 3B). The urinary excretion was approximately 40-45% of dose in both intact and BDC rats following IV administration of [^{14}C]apixaban, indicating that bile duct cannulation did not affect the urinary excretion of apixaban. However, the urinary excretion after IV administration (40-45% of dose) was much higher compared to approximately 10% of dose after oral administration (Zhang et al., 2009a). Following oral administration in rats, P-gp-KO and BCRP-KO as well as GF-120918 pre-treatments generally increased absorption, decreased volume of distribution and MRT, and decreased the apparent systemic clearance values of apixaban (Table 3B).
Discussion

Approximately 20-50% of the IV-administered \[^{14}\text{C}]\text{apixaban}\ dose recovered in the feces of BDC rats and dogs confirmed that there was direct excretion of the drug from blood into the GI tract. The findings prompted further investigation of the mechanism of IE and the interplay of IE with EER, and EHR (Figure 2). A key to the finding of IE was an examination of efflux transporter involvement in the intestinal disposition of apixaban, which led to additional understanding of the involvement of RTR in apixaban disposition.

Direct IE led to significant fecal elimination in rats and dogs. Following IV administration of \[^{14}\text{C}]\text{apixaban}\ to BDC rats and dogs, approximately 20-50% of dose was recovered in feces, resulting in IC that represented 20-50% of the total systemic clearance. The reduction of IV-dosed apixaban AUC by AC in BDC rats and dogs with the increased fecal recovery and IC of apixaban clearly demonstrated that AC prevented re-absorption of apixaban that was excreted into intestinal lumen and so lead to interruption of EER. Orally administered GF-120918, a dual P-gp and BCRP inhibitor, reduced IE of apixaban in rats without affecting other elimination pathways, suggesting that these two transporters facilitated apixaban IE. AC administration was effective at 3 h in dogs after an apixaban oral dose, when the majority of the apixaban absorption has passed, which was consistent with an interruption of apixaban re-absorption proceeded by IE. Similar to the charcoal effects in dogs, apixaban \(T_{\text{max}}\) and \(C_{\text{max}}\) were not affected by AC administration in humans. A decrease in apixaban AUC\(_{0-\infty}\) of approximately 50 and 27% and a decrease of \(T_{1/2}\) from 13.4 h to 5.3 and 4.9 h were observed when AC was administered at 2 and 6 h post dose. The late charcoal effect is consistent with IE in
humans. The 34% of dose recovered as apixaban in feces of humans following oral administration of $[^{14}\text{C}]$apixaban (the human ADME study) is also consistent with the apixaban IE (Raghavan et al., 2009). The quantitative difference in IE between species is difficult to predict as it will be impacted by the physiological and biochemical differences in expression of transporters and drug metabolizing enzymes in the different species although the gastrointestinal tracts of rats and humans seem to be similar in the absorption properties of many drugs (Zhao et al., 2003; Cao et al., 2006) and intestinal BCRP expression profiles are similar between dog and human (Haller et al., 2012). The extent of IE will also depend on other elimination pathways such as metabolism, glomerular filtration, and biliary excretion. Metabolism appeared to be more important for apixaban elimination in humans (25% of dose) than in rats and dogs (<15%) (Zhang et al., 2009a). Urinary excretion of apixaban in rats (~50%) was higher than that in dogs and humans. IE apparently account for approximately >20, >42, and >27% of dose clearance in rats, dogs, and humans, respectively, based on the BDC rat and dog study and the human mass balance (Raghavan et al., 2009) as well as the AC study in humans. IE as an important elimination pathway of apixaban, in addition to metabolism (25%) and urinary excretion (27%) in humans, would reduce the impacts of intrinsic (renal or hepatic impairment with <40% increase of exposures in severely impaired subjects) and extrinsic (drug-drug interactions with <2-fold changes in exposure upon modulation of the metabolic clearance of apixaban) factors on apixaban disposition (Wang et al., 2010)(Summary of Product Characteristics at http://www.ema.europa.eu).
A compound with high solubility and high intrinsic permeability such as apixaban can be absorbed rapidly after oral administration at the proximal intestine, partially escaping the barrier function of P-gp and BCRP that are highly expressed in the small intestines (Mori et al., 2008). Apixaban appears to fit that profile as it does have a relatively short $T_{\text{max}}$. AC administration at various times (0.25-6 h) post apixaban oral dose in dogs (solution formulation) and humans (tablet formulation) did not significantly affect the $C_{\text{max}}$ or $T_{\text{max}}$ of apixaban as apixaban was rapidly absorbed. The lack of an effect on $C_{\text{max}}$ led to the conclusion that the impact of AC is not on the initial absorption phase but on the IE/EER phase (Figure 2). Timely administration of AC could sequester the drug that has been excreted into the lumen and prevention of re-absorption. Administration of AC 0.25 h after drug dose in dogs was less effective at reducing the apixaban AUC versus 3 h because AC did not have sufficient opportunity to mix with apixaban pre-absorption and transited the GI tract prior to extensive IE, therefore, there was actually decreased effective contact with the drug when charcoal was dosed at 0.25 h. Considering the small intestinal transit time of 2-4 h for substances such as charcoal in dogs (Orisakwe and Ogbonna, 1993; Parrott and Lave, 2008; Abuasal et al., 2012), administration of AC at 2-4 h after the drug dose, when apixaban initial absorption in the upper GI tract is complete and the IE phase is beginning, may be the most effective timing to remove the drug from the intestine. In the presence of AC, the shorter half life and greater clearance in dogs and humans after oral dose of apixaban and in rats and dogs after IV administration of apixaban supports that AC increases the apparent systemic clearance of apixaban by 20-40% and IC by 20-60%. Therefore, AC removes apixaban from body by preventing its re-absorption. AC has been shown to block EHR of some drugs in human and animal
studies (Gadgil et al., 1982; Heimer and Englund, 1986; Roberts et al., 2002; Stass et al., 2005). Additionally, the shorter half life and lower exposures of molexacin and phenobarbital upon administration of AC in humans and rabbits following IV drug administration has been ascribed to AC blocking enteroenteric recycling of the drugs (Wakabayashi et al., 1994; Stass et al., 2005).

EER is a complex and dynamic process of concentration gradient-dependent transcellular passive diffusion, transporters-mediated transport, and segment-dependent re-absorption operating in the same or opposite direction to intestinal mobility and intestinal transit. Apixaban molecules that undergo IE can be re-absorbed although re-absorption might occur at a more distal segment of the intestine where there is a lower level of transporter expression. The drug secreted into the lumen serves as a secondary source of drug for absorption. Therefore, the intestine is also an organ for drug distribution and redistribution as well as absorption and clearance. Apixaban EER, along with EHR and RTR, are represented in Figure 2. Due to the re-absorption, IE may or may not lead to a measurable level of fecal elimination. The interplay between drug metabolizing enzymes and transporters involved in EER as well as EHR and RTR could serve to enhance metabolism (Wu and Benet, 2005; Zhang et al., 2009b) because the drug eliminated into intestines is subject to further metabolism in the intestine and liver upon re-absorption. Despite extensive IE of apixaban, >50% of dose was recovered as parent drug from the human and animal species because of its metabolic stability. EER is a continuous excretion and re-absorption process and may or may not lead to a broad peak around $T_{\text{max}}$ in the plasma concentration time profile through multi-phases of distribution and
elimination. This is different from enterohepatic recirculation (EHR) which depends on the gallbladder-emptying time and often leads to a secondary drug peak in the plasma concentration versus time profile at 4-8 h post drug dose (Roberts et al., 2002).

Similar to intestinal excretion and re-absorption (EER), apixaban undergoes renal filtration/excretion and tubular re-absorption (RTR) (Figure 2). Renal excretion is the result of glomerular filtration of unbound apixaban, tubular secretion, and tubular re-absorption (Figure 2). Urinary elimination accounted for approximately 50% of the apixaban dose and renal clearance represented approximately 50% of the systemic clearance in rats. Based on GFR and apixaban plasma protein binding (He et al., 2011), apixaban clearly shows active urinary excretion in rats. Conversely, urinary elimination only accounted for approximately 10% of the apixaban dose in dogs and the renal clearance (~20 mL/h/kg) represents 13-19% of the systemic clearance, which would argue for a low level of net tubular re-absorption (GFRxFu = 29 mL/h/kg). Urinary elimination in humans was moderate (27% of dose) (Raghavan et al., 2009) and the renal clearance of apixaban is similar to the GFR likely due to the cancellation of active secretion versus re-absorption.

The renal elimination of apixaban was significantly reduced in the P-gp-KO and especially BCRP-KO rats following an IV dose, demonstrating that active transport is involved in apixaban renal elimination in rats. Knockout of a transporter would decrease active transport excretion and also would reduce the prevention of tubule re-absorption, leading to the reduced urinary elimination. The reduced renal elimination led to the increased compensatory intestinal elimination of apixaban because knockout of P-gp or BCRP still leaves an alternative transporter in the intestine for apixaban efflux in addition
to passive diffusion through loosely packed intestinal epithelium layer (Meier et al., 2006). Due to interference of renal excretion changes in the P-gp-KO or BCRP-KO rats, it was not possible to evaluate the contribution of P-gp or BCRP to apixaban IE directly, however, when apixaban was dosed orally, BCRP-KO rats showed approximately a 2-fold higher effect to increase the apixaban exposure versus the P-gp-KO rats. Therefore, BCRP plays a more important role than P-gp in apixaban absorption. IE of apixaban was markedly reduced by application of the P-gp and BCRP inhibitor GF-120918 in rats. The low level of BCRP expression in the human tubular epithelium cells (Huls et al., 2008) would suggest a less impact of the transporter on apixaban urinary elimination in humans than rats.

In contrast to EER and RTR, EHR would not be as high for apixaban because biliary excretion is a minor elimination pathway for apixaban in rat and dog and likely in human. The biliary elimination of apixaban was not markedly affected by the transporter knockout or the transporter inhibitor mainly due to the fact that liver uptake is the driving force for the biliary elimination (Watanabe et al., 2009; Fenner et al., 2012; Varma et al., 2012) and apixaban was not a substrate for hepatic uptake transporters OATP1B1/3 or OAT1/3 (data not shown).

The efflux of apixaban by P-gp and BCRP in the upper GI tract would delay apparent absorption of a fraction of apixaban dose, which could be a mechanism limiting overall rate of absorption, so $C_{\text{max}}$ is low after oral administration of apixaban. The increased $C_{\text{max}}$ values in the P-gp-KO and BCRP-KO rats have demonstrated the importance of intestinal efflux transporters in limiting apixaban absorption. The fraction for the re-
absorption of apixaban in the duodenum, jejunum, and upper ileum would be also limited by the high levels of P-gp and BCRP expression, which could contribute to the broad peaks of apixaban. Both the recycling mechanisms, IE - intestinal re-absorption (EER) and glomerular filtration- tubular re-absorption (RTR), prolong apparent elimination half life through decreasing apparent clearance of apixaban. The recycling mechanisms together with the metabolic stability of apixaban slowed down the decline of $C_{\text{min}}$. Therefore, the low peak-to-trough plasma concentration ratio of apixaban is consistent with intestinal efflux-limited absorption that controls the $C_{\text{max}}$ and the recycling mechanisms coupled with metabolic stability that controls the $C_{\text{min}}$. Furthermore, the recycling mechanisms (EER and RTR) of apixaban contributed to a half life of 12 hours for apixaban despite its small volume of distribution and being subject to glomerular filtration. Different from the absorption-limited flip-flop kinetics examples (Yanez et al., 2011), the apparent flip-flop kinetics of apixaban in rats is the result of the combined effects of intestinal BCRP/P-gp-limited absorption and RTR/EER recycling.

Taken together, AC application in BDC animals was a useful method to study IE and EER, which demonstrates that interruption of EER supports reduction of apixaban exposures by AC. IE has not been widely applied to understand dispositional profiles of drugs although studies have been reported to assess IE of drugs that are substrates of P-gp or BCRP using in vitro permeability assays, ex vivo segmental intestine excretion, and activated charcoal techniques (Mayer et al., 1996; Sparreboom et al., 1997; Gramatte and Oertel, 1999). With increasing use of physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modeling to predict clinical profiles and drug-drug interaction potential that require accurate inputs of drug-related as well as physiological parameters (Bolger et al., 2009;
Abuasal et al., 2012; Jones et al., 2012), full characterization of elimination pathways including IE, RTR and EER is becoming increasingly important. The study clearly demonstrated that 1) that IC represents 20-50% of the systemic clearance of apixaban; 2) the overall disposition of apixaban in rats and dogs was governed by a complex and dynamic interplay between absorption, intestinal/renal excretion, and re-absorption in EER and RTR processes; and 3) species-dependent urinary excretion is likely due to different expression of renal efflux transporters. The impact of AC in humans is consistent with IE as an important elimination pathway in addition to metabolism and urinary excretion each accounting for 1/3 of total clearance in humans. Moreover, apixaban IE and recycling mechanisms of EER and RTR coupled with efflux transporters-limited absorption and its metabolic stability contribute to the overall pharmacokinetic profile of apixaban including the low peak-to-trough plasma concentration ratio, and helps decrease the impacts of intrinsic (e.g. renal and hepatic impairment) and extrinsic (e.g. drug-drug interactions) factors on apixaban disposition.
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Authorship Contributions:

Participated in Research design: Zhang, Humphreys, He, Rodrigues

Conducted experiments: Wang L., Zhang

Contributed new reagents or analytic tools: Zhang

Performed data analysis: Zhang, Wang L., Wang X., Goosen, He, Humphreys, Frost

Wrote or contributed to the writing of the manuscript: Zhang, Humphreys, Rodrigues, Wang X., Frost, Goosen
References


Legends of Figures

Figure 1. Structure of apixaban

Figure 2. Enteroenteric recirculation (EER), enterohepatic recirculation (EHR), and renal tubule recirculation (RTR) (Panel A) and the impact of activated charcoal (Panel B). Arrows indicate drug flow and narrow arrows indicate less and gray arrows indicate reduced drug flow by activated charcoal.

Figure 3. Apixaban plasma concentration-time profiles in dogs (n=4) following a 5 mg/kg oral dose of apixaban with and without subsequent single administration of activated charcoal. Panel A is in the log scale and Panel B is in the linear scale.

Figure 4. Apixaban plasma concentration-time profiles in BDC dogs (Panel A, n=2) following a 1 mg/kg intravenous dose and in BDC rats (Panel B, n=3) following a 1 mg/kg IV dose of [14C]apixaban with and without oral administration of activated charcoal and GF-120918.

Figure 5. Apixaban plasma concentration-time profiles in wild-type, P-gp-KO, and BCRP-KO rats (n=3) following an intravenous dose at (2 mg/kg) and oral administration at 4 mg/kg of apixaban. Panel A is in the linear scale and Panel B is in the log scale.
Table 1A. Formulation preparations of apixaban and [14C]apixaban for oral and intravenous administration in rats and dogs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (Route)</th>
<th>Test Article</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Dose Conc (mg/mL)</th>
<th>S.A (µCi/mg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dog (Oral)</td>
<td>Apixaban</td>
<td>0.5% Tween 80 in Labrafil</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog (IV)</td>
<td>[14C]Apixaban</td>
<td>30% HP-β-CD in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat (oral)</td>
<td>Apixaban</td>
<td>30% HP-β-CD in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat (IV)</td>
<td>[14C]Apixaban</td>
<td>30% HP-β-CD in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>47.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat (oral)</td>
<td>GF-120918</td>
<td>30% HP-β-CD in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat (IV)</td>
<td>GF-120918</td>
<td>N-Methyl-2-pyrolidone/Saline (1:1)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat, dog</td>
<td>Activated charcoal</td>
<td>Purified water</td>
<td>250/208</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1B. Study designs in dogs and rats following oral and intravenous administration of apixaban and [\textsuperscript{14}C]apixaban with and without oral administration of activated charcoal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Article</th>
<th>Species (n), Type</th>
<th>Dosing Routes</th>
<th>Other Treatments</th>
<th>Dose (mg/kg)</th>
<th>Sample Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apixaban Dog(4), intact</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>None, Charcoal at 0.25, 1, and 3 h</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Plasma (0.5, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 20, 24 h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[\textsuperscript{14}C]Apixaban Dog(3), Intact</td>
<td>IV\textsuperscript{3}</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Urine, bile, feces, (0-72 h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[\textsuperscript{14}C]Apixaban Dog(2), BDC</td>
<td>IV\textsuperscript{5}</td>
<td>None, Charcoal\textsuperscript{4}</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plasma\textsuperscript{2}, urine, bile, feces, (0-72 h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apixaban Rat(3), WT, intact</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plasma (0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 24)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apixaban Rat(3), WT, intact</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>GF-120918, -1 h</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plasma (0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 24)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apixaban Rat(3), Pgp-KO, intact</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plasma (0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 24)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apixaban Rat(3), BCRP-KO, intact</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plasma (0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 24)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[\textsuperscript{14}C]Apixaban Rat(3), WT, intact</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Urine, bile, feces, (0-24 h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[\textsuperscript{14}C]Apixaban Rat(3), WT, BDC</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plasma\textsuperscript{2}, urine, bile, feces, (0-48 h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[\textsuperscript{14}C]Apixaban Rat(3), WT, BDC</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>GF-120918, -1 h</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plasma\textsuperscript{2}, urine, bile, feces, (0-48 h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[\textsuperscript{14}C]Apixaban Rat(3), WT, BDC</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Charcoal\textsuperscript{4}</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plasma\textsuperscript{2}, urine, bile, feces, (0-48 h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[\textsuperscript{14}C]Apixaban Rat(3), P-gp-KO, BDC</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plasma\textsuperscript{2}, urine, bile, feces, (0-48 h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[\textsuperscript{14}C]Apixaban Rat(3), BCRP-KO, BDC</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plasma\textsuperscript{2}, urine, bile, feces, (0-48 h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1Time points: 0.083, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 24 h; 2Time points: 0.083, 0.25, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24 h; 3Charcoal (via gavage) dosing time: 10, 90, 180, 420 min; 4Charcoal (via intraduodenal route) dosing time: -30, 5, 90, 180 min; 5IV infusion time: 5 min.
Table 2A. Pharmacokinetic parameters of male intact and bile duct-cannulated Beagle dogs following a single oral dose of apixaban or IV dose of \([^{14}C]\)apixaban with and without oral administration of activated charcoal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dosing Route</th>
<th>Oral Dose in intact dogs (n =4) (5 mg/kg)</th>
<th>IV Dose in BDC dogs (n=2) (1 mg/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AC Treatment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Control</strong></td>
<td><strong>AC (0.25 h)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUC(<em>{0-24}) (AUC(</em>{0-\infty}) IV) (reduction) ((\mu)g•h/mL)</strong></td>
<td>78.6 ± 7.0 (NA)</td>
<td>59.5 ± 4.6 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C(_{max}) ((\mu)g/mL)</strong></td>
<td>9.35 ± 1.33</td>
<td>8.42 ± 0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C(<em>{8}) (C(</em>{24}))(^{1,2}) ((\mu)g/mL)</strong></td>
<td>5.23 ± 1.02 (0.60 ± 0.28)</td>
<td>2.82 ± 0.65 (0.28 ± 0.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T(_{1/2}) (h)</strong></td>
<td>5.7 ± 2.2</td>
<td>4.2 ± 1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CL/F, CL (mL/h/kg)</strong></td>
<td>60 ± 16</td>
<td>82 ± 6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vs/F, Vs (L/kg)</strong></td>
<td>0.5 ± 0.1</td>
<td>0.5 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MRT (h)</strong></td>
<td>8.5 ± 2.3</td>
<td>6.4 ± 1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F</strong></td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C(<em>{max})/C(</em>{24}) (C(_{8}) IV)</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>42</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Clast was last detectable time point for IV dosing or last determined time point for oral dosing.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both C8 and C24 were listed for oral administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bioavailability might be overestimated because the AUC values of bile-duct cannulated animals were used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Clearance was estimated from urinary dose recovery from 0-72 h collections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>The protein binding of apixaban in dog plasma was 92%, therefore, GFRxFu = 368x0.08 = 29.4 mL/h/kg.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>5.44, 20.5</th>
<th>7.31, 18.8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CL&lt;sub&gt;R&lt;/sub&gt; (mL/h/kg), % total&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>5.44, 20.5</td>
<td>7.31, 18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL&lt;sub&gt;IE&lt;/sub&gt; (mL/h/kg), % total&lt;sup&gt;4,5&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>17.2, 52.2</td>
<td>31.2, 133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL&lt;sub&gt;biliary+met&lt;/sub&gt; (mL/h/kg), % total</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>17.3, 37.3</td>
<td>11.5, 28.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> CL<sub>last</sub> was last detectable time point for IV dosing or last determined time point for oral dosing.

<sup>2</sup> Both C<sub>8</sub> and C<sub>24</sub> were listed for oral administration.

<sup>3</sup> Bioavailability might be overestimated because the AUC values of bile-duct cannulated animals were used.

<sup>4</sup> Clearance was estimated from urinary dose recovery from 0-72 h collections.

<sup>5</sup> The protein binding of apixaban in dog plasma was 92%, therefore, GFRxFu = 368x0.08 = 29.4 mL/h/kg.
Table 2B. Percent recovery of radioactivity (± SD) following a single 1 mg/kg IV dose of [14C]apixaban to male intact and bile duct-cannulated Beagle dogs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound and Dose Route</th>
<th>Dog Type</th>
<th>Dose Recovery (% of dose in 0-72 h Collections)</th>
<th>Urine</th>
<th>Bile</th>
<th>Feces</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (IV)</td>
<td>BDC, n=2</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>85.6, 80.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (IV) and Charcoal</td>
<td>BDC, n=2</td>
<td></td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>99.5, 95.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (IV)</td>
<td>Intact, n=3</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.9 ± 7.9</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>50.8 ± 8.3</td>
<td>60.7 ± 10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (oral)</td>
<td>Intact, n=3</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>82.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 A crossover study with dosing separated by one week. 2 Oral dose was 5 mg/kg and collections were 0-168 h for 3 intact dogs (Zhang et al., 2009a) and listed here for comparison.
Table 3A. Percent recoveries of radioactive dose (± SD) following a single IV dose of [14C]apixaban to male bile duct-cannulated SD rats (WT = wild-type; P-gp-KO = P-gp-KO; BCRP-KO = BCRP-KO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound and Dose Route</th>
<th>Rat Type</th>
<th>Dose Recovery (% of dose in 0-24 h Collections)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Urine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (IV)</td>
<td>WT, BDC, n=3</td>
<td>49.5 ± 4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (IV) and GF-120918</td>
<td>WT, BDC, n=3</td>
<td>50.6 ± 3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (IV) and Charcoal</td>
<td>WT, BDC, n=3</td>
<td>40.7 ± 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (IV)</td>
<td>Pgp-KO, BDC, n=3</td>
<td>44.3 ± 4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (IV)</td>
<td>BCRP-KO, BDC, n=3</td>
<td>35.5 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (IV)(^\d)</td>
<td>WT, intact, n=3</td>
<td>51.3 ± 5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (oral)(^\d)</td>
<td>WT, intact, n=3</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[14C]Apixaban (oral)(^\d)</td>
<td>WT, BDC, n=3</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oral dose was 30 mg/kg and collections were 0-168 h for 3 intact and 0-48 h for 3 BDC rats (Zhang et al., 2009a) and listed here for comparison.
Table 3B. Pharmacokinetic parameters of apixaban following a single oral dose of apixaban or IV dose of $[^{14}C]$apixaban to male bile duct-cannulated SD rats (WT = wild-type; P-gp-KO = P-gp-KO; BCRP-KO = BCRP-KO) with or without oral administration of activated charcoal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oral Dose in intact rats (4 mg/kg) (n = 3)</th>
<th>Intravenous Dose in BDC rats (2 mg/kg) (n = 3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WT Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUC$_{0-\infty}$ ($\mu$g·h/mL)</td>
<td>1.39±0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_{\text{max}}$ ($\mu$g/mL)</td>
<td>0.42±0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_{10}$ ($C_8$, IV) (ng/mL)$^1$</td>
<td>27.8±6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_{1/2}$ (h)</td>
<td>3.3±1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{CL/F, CL (L/h/kg)}$</td>
<td>1.5±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{Vs/F, Vs (L/kg)}$</td>
<td>5.8±1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRT (h)</td>
<td>3.8±0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F^2$</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_{\text{max}}/C_{10}$ ($C_8$, IV)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{CLR (L/h/kg),% total}$</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{CL}_{\text{eff}}$ (L/h/kg),% total</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{CL}_{\text{biliary+met}}$ (L/h/kg),% total</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^1$Samples were taken at different time points. $^2$Bioavailability was overestimated because the AUC values of bile duct-cannulated animals were used where enterohepatic recirculation could not be considered. The >100% bioavailability in the BCRP-KO rats and after the treatments with GF-120918 reflected the increased absorption in transporter knockout rats and the increased urinary clearance of apixaban after IV administration of apixaban.
BDC rats compared to oral administration of intact rats in addition to elimination of potential low level of enterohepatic recirculation in intact rats, both of which reduced the apparent apixaban AUC after IV administration. The protein binding of apixaban in rat plasma was 96%, therefore, GFRxFu = 0.31 x 0.04 = 0.012 L/h/k.
Fig 1
Fig 2

A

Octroepic Recirculation (EHR)

B

Enteroenteric Recirculation (EER)

C

Renal Tubule Recirculation (RTR)

↓ Intestinal Excretion (IE)

→ Active Renal Excretion
Fig 3

A

B

Plasma Concentrations (ng/mL)

Time (hour)

Dog _ Oral

Dog _ Oral _ Charcoal 15 min

Dog _ Oral _ Charcoal 1 h

Dog _ Oral _ Charcoal 3 h
Fig 4

A

- Dog1_IV_Charcoal
- Dog2_IV_Charcoal
- Dog1_IV
- Dog2_IV

B

- Rat_IV_Control
- Rat_IV_GF-120918
- Rat_IV_Charcoal

Plasma Concentrations (ng/mL) vs Time (hour)
Fig 5

A

B

Plasma Concentration (ng/mL)

Time (hours)

Oral Control

IV Control

Oral BCRP-KO

IV BCRP-KO

Oral P-gp-KO

IV P-gp-KO