CYP2B6, CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 catalyse the primary oxidative metabolism of perhexiline enantiomers by human liver microsomes

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List of non-standard abbreviations
PHX, perhexiline; HLM, human liver microsomes; EM, extensive metaboliser; IM, intermediate metaboliser; PM, poor metaboliser; UM, ultra-rapid metaboliser; thio-TEPA, triethylenethiophosphoramide; MAB, monoclonal antibody; HPLC, high-
performance liquid chromatography; $f_{u(mic)}$, unbound fraction in the microsomal compartment; $C_b$, bound drug concentration; $C_F$, free drug concentration; $B_{max}$, maximal binding capacity; $K_D$, equilibrium dissociation constant; $C_T$, total drug concentration; $K_m$, Michaelis-Menten constant; $V_{max}$, maximal reaction rate; $V$, reaction rate; $S$, free substrate concentration; $K_s$, substrate inhibitor constant; $Cl_{int}$, intrinsic clearance.
The cytochrome P450 (CYP)-mediated 4-monohydroxylations of the individual enantiomers of the racemic anti-anginal agent perhexiline (PHX) were investigated in human liver microsomes (HLM) to identify stereoselective differences in metabolism and to determine the contribution of the polymorphic enzyme CYP2D6 and other CYPs to the intrinsic clearance of each enantiomer. The cis-, trans1- and trans2-4-monohydroxylation rates of (+)- and (-)-PHX by human liver microsomes from three extensive (EM), two intermediate (IM) and two poor (PM) CYP2D6 metabolisers were measured with a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) assay. CYP isoform-specific inhibitors, monoclonal antibodies directed against CYP isoforms and recombinant expressed human CYP enzymes were used to define the CYP isoform profile of PHX 4-monohydroxylations. The total in vitro intrinsic clearance (mean ± SD) of (+)- and (-)-PHX was 1376 ± 330 and 2475 ± 321, 230 ± 225 and 482 ± 437, and 63.4 ± 1.6 and 54.6 ± 1.2 μl/min/mg for the EM, IM and PM HLM, respectively. CYP2D6 catalyses the formation of cis-OH-(+)-PHX and trans1-OH-(+)-PHX from (+)-PHX and cis-OH-(−)-PHX from (-)-PHX with high affinity. CYP2B6 and CYP3A4 each catalyse the trans1- and trans2-4-monohydroxylation of both (+)- and (-)-PHX with low affinity. Both enantiomers of PHX are subject to significant polymorphic metabolism by CYP2D6, although this enzyme exhibits distinct stereoselectivity with respect to the conformation of metabolites and the rate at which they are formed. CYP2B6 and CYP3A4 are minor contributors to the intrinsic CYP-mediated hepatic clearance of both enantiomers of PHX, except in CYP2D6 PM.
Perhexiline (2-(2,2-dicyclohexylethyl)piperidine, PHX) produces significant incremental antianginal effects in patients with intractable angina who are unsuitable for surgical treatment and intolerant or refractory to maximal antianginal therapy (Cole et al., 1990). Its use is limited by the potential to cause severe hepatotoxicity and peripheral neuropathy associated with elevated plasma PHX concentrations (Morgan et al., 1984, Shah et al., 1982), although the risk of toxicity is significantly reduced by maintaining total plasma PHX concentrations between 0.15 and 0.60 mg/l (0.54 to 2.16 µM) (Cole et al., 1990). The confounding factor in treatment with PHX is its dependence on the polymorphic cytochrome P450 2D6 (CYP2D6) isoform for hepatic cis-4-monohydroxylation (Cooper et al., 1984) as the principal determinant of clearance (Sallustio et al., 2002), resulting in extreme interindividual pharmacokinetic variability. CYP2D6 poor metabolisers (PM) are typically maintained within the therapeutic range with a dose of approximately 100 mg of PHX maleate per week, whereas intermediate (IM), extensive (EM) and ultra-rapid metabolisers (UM) require doses of 100 to 500 mg per day to achieve similar concentrations in plasma (Sallustio et al., 2002).

An investigation of the in vitro enzyme kinetics of PHX 4-monohydroxylation in human liver microsomes (HLM) determined that it is almost exclusively catalysed with high affinity by CYP2D6 in EM, with $K_m$ values within the range of therapeutic PHX concentrations in plasma (Sørensen et al., 2003); this is consistent with the non-linear kinetics observed clinically in EM (Cooper et al., 1985). The intrinsic clearance of PHX was approximately 100-fold lower in PM, presumably mediated by CYP isoforms other than CYP2D6 with a much lower affinity for PHX (Sørensen et al.,
2003), although these isoforms and the 4-monohydroxy metabolites they produced were not identified.

PHX is formulated as a racemic mixture of (+) and (-) enantiomers (Pexsig®, Sigma Pharmaceuticals, Clayton, Victoria, Australia) and six 4-monohydroxy metabolites are possible, being composed of one pair each of cis-, trans1- and trans2-4-monohydroxy PHX enantiomers (Figure 1) that co-elute chromatographically (Davies et al., in press), although their absolute configurations are unknown. Gould et al. (1986) were the first to investigate the pharmacokinetics of the individual enantiomers of PHX. Single 300 mg oral doses of either (+)- or (-)-PHX were administered to eight EM. The oral clearance of the PHX enantiomer and the AUC of the corresponding CYP2D6-dependent cis-4-monohydroxy metabolite was 2.5- and 28-fold greater, respectively, following administration of (-)- than (+)-PHX. Whereas (+)-PHX was metabolised to cis-OH-(+)-PHX and trans1-OH-(+)-PHX at similar rates, (-)-PHX displayed distinct stereoselective metabolism to cis-OH-(−)-PHX. Thus, the authors suggested that (+)-PHX may display a smaller polymorphic effect in its metabolism. A recent investigation into the effect of CYP2D6 on the in vivo disposition of the enantiomers of PHX by this laboratory (Inglis et al., in press) concluded that both enantiomers display significant polymorphic and saturable metabolism by CYP2D6. Among EM patients, the median oral clearance of (-)-PHX was 1.4-fold greater than that of (+)-PHX, attributable to enantioselective metabolism by CYP2D6. Interestingly, PM patients demonstrated greater enantioselectivity in the oral clearance of (-)- versus (+)-PHX, with a median ratio of 2.3, although the mechanism responsible is unknown.
To date, chiral analytical methods capable of resolving the 4-monohydroxy metabolites of racemic PHX with sufficient sensitivity for pharmacokinetic studies have not been reported. However, this laboratory recently developed an achiral method (Davies et al., in press) which is suitable for characterising the 4-monohydroxy metabolites of the individual enantiomers of PHX. The current study was undertaken to determine the *in vitro* kinetics of the formation of the 4-monohydroxy metabolites of (+)- and (-)-PHX in human liver microsomes from CYP2D6 EM, IM and PM, to characterise the CYP isoform profile of these metabolic pathways and to describe any stereochemical differences in metabolism.
METHODS

Materials

(+)- and (-)-PHX HCl were prepared according to the method described by Davies et al. (2006a). The cis-OH-(±)-PHX reference compound was supplied by Marion Merrell Dow (Kansas City, KS, USA). The trans1- and trans2-OH-(±)-PHX reference compounds were supplied by Sigma Pharmaceuticals (South Croydon, VIC, Australia). Furafylline and S-mephenytoin were purchased from Ultrafine Chemicals (Manchester, England). Diethylthiocarbamate, (±)-isocitric acid Na3, isocitrate dehydrogenase (NADP, type IV), sulphaphenazole, troleandomycin and coumarin were purchased from Sigma Chemical Company (St Louis, MO, USA). Quinidine sulphate and nicotinamide dinucleotide phosphate sodium salt were purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). Triethylenethiophosphoramide (thio-TEPA) was purchased from Sigma Pharmaceuticals (South Croydon, VIC, Australia). Monoclonal antibodies raised against human CYP1A2 (MAB-1A2), CYP2D6 (MAB-2D6), CYP2E1 (MAB-2E1) and CYP3A4 (MAB-3A4) and microsomes from human lymphoblastoid cells containing recombinant expressed CYP2C19, CYP2D6, CYP3A4 or the expression vector without CYP cDNA (control microsomes) were purchased from BD GENTEST™ (a BD Biosciences Company, Woburn, MA, USA). Recombinant expressed and purified CYP2B6 from DH5α strain Escherichia coli (Notley et al., 2002) was a gift of Dr Elizabeth Gillam (Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Australia). A monoclonal antibody raised against human CYP2B6 (MAB-2B6) was
purchased from Invitrogen Corporation (Carlsbad, CA, USA). All other reagents and chemicals were obtained from commercial sources and were of analytical grade.

**Human liver microsomes**

Ethics approval was obtained from the Human Ethics Committee of the Royal Adelaide Hospital to obtain human liver samples (n=7) during partial hepatectomy from patients who had given written informed consent for their tissue to be used, as previously reported (Hutchinson et al., 2004). Samples were stored at -80°C. The donors all had normal clinical chemistry and haematology measurements prior to surgery and all the tissue samples used were normal based on gross morphology.

HLM #18, 21, 24, 31, 36, 39 and 46 (internal code) were prepared by differential centrifugation of liver homogenates and were stored in buffer at -80°C until use (Zanger et al., 1988). The total protein concentration (Lowry et al., 1951) of the HLM preparations ranged from 17.0 to 32.7 mg/ml and the total CYP concentration (Omura and Sato, 1964) ranged from 202 to 437 pmol/mg microsomal protein.

Genomic DNA was isolated from liver tissue samples using a QIAamp® DNA mini kit, according to the manufacturer’s protocol (QIAGEN Pty Ltd, Clifton Hill, Australia). *CYP2D6* genotyping was performed as previously reported (James et al., 2004, Davies et al., 2006b). HLM# 21, 31 and 46 each carried two functional *CYP2D6* alleles (genotypes of *CYP2D6*/*1/*1, *1/*41 and *1/*2D, respectively) and were classified as EM. HLM# 18 and 36 each carried one functional *CYP2D6* allele (genotypes of *CYP2D6*/*1/*4 and *2J/*4, respectively) and were classified as IM.
HLM# 24 and 39 carried no functional CYP2D6 alleles (genotypes of CYP2D6*4/*4) and were classified as PM.

**Microsomal incubations**

Microsomal incubations were linear with time up to 60 min and with protein concentrations up to 1.0 mg/ml with respect to cis-, trans1- and trans2-4-monoxygenation of (+)- or (-)-PHX at total concentrations of 0.1-100 µM. Accordingly, microsomal incubations were performed in triplicate at 37°C in a shaking water bath for 30 min in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) containing HLM protein (0.25 mg/ml), (+)- or (-)-PHX HCl (0.1-100 µM, added as a stock dissolved in methanol to produce a final methanol concentration of 0.5% v/v) and an NADPH generating system composed of 1 mM NADP, 5 mM isocitrate, 1 U/ml isocitrate dehydrogenase type IV and 5 mM MgCl₂. The incubations were stopped by rapid cooling on ice.

**HPLC assay of the 4-monoxygoxide metabolites of (+)- and (-)-PHX**

The formation of cis-, trans1- and trans2-OH-(+)-PHX from (+)-PHX and cis-, trans1- and trans2-OH-(-)-PHX from (-)-PHX in microsomal incubations was determined using a recently developed method (Davies et al., in press). The inter-assay (n=31) CV and bias were <10% and <5%, respectively, for the 0.4 mg/l QC samples, <15% and <10%, respectively, for the 0.075 mg/l QC samples, and <15% for both CV and bias for the 0.015 mg/l QC samples. There was no chromatographic interference with any of the peaks of interest from endogenous compounds in HLM,
the NADPH generating system, putative chemical inhibitors, monoclonal antibodies or human lymphoblastoid cells containing recombinant expressed CYPs (data not shown).

**Non-specific binding of (±)- and (±)-perhexiline in microsomal incubations**

The non-specific binding of (+)- and (-)-PHX to HLM was determined by equilibrium dialysis using dialysis cells of 4.5 ml capacity per side and Spectra/Por® #4 dialysis membrane with a molecular weight cut off of 12 to 14 kDa, purchased from Spectrum Medical Industries Inc. (Los Angeles, CA, USA). The sample volume on each side of the cell was 4 ml. The dialysis membrane was prepared according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Equilibrium dialysis was performed for 16 h at 37 °C according to the method of McLure et al. (2000), except the microsomal protein concentration was the same as for the microsomal incubations (0.25 mg/ml), final total (+)- or (-)-PHX concentrations were in the range of 1 to 100 µM (added as a stock dissolved in methanol to produce a final methanol concentration of 0.5% v/v), and high and low concentration controls used to establish the 16 h dialysis time necessary to attain equilibrium contained 100 and 5 µM, respectively, of (+)- or (-)-PHX. Following dialysis, total and free (+)- and (-)-PHX concentrations were determined by HPLC (Davies et al., 2006a). Standard curves for microsomes and buffer were linear with $r^2$ values of 0.995 to 0.999. Triplicate determinations of three concentration points in the standard curves and of all samples produced coefficients of variation <10%.
For each dialysis cell the unbound fraction of (+)- or (-)-PHX in the microsomal compartment \( f_{unmic} \) was calculated as the free drug concentration (concentration in the buffer compartment) divided by the total drug concentration (concentration in the microsomal compartment). These values were entered into iterative unweighted non-linear least-squares regression analyses using GraphPad Prism v4.02 (GraphPad Software Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) for

\[
C_B = \frac{(B_{max} \cdot C_F)}{(K_D + C_F)} \quad \text{equation (1)}
\]

where \( C_B \) is the concentration of drug bound, \( C_F \) is the free drug concentration, \( B_{max} \) is the maximal binding capacity and \( K_D \) is the equilibrium dissociation constant, equivalent to the free drug concentration at which binding is half of its maximum.

**Kinetic analyses of (+)- and (-)-PHX metabolism in microsomal incubations**

To simulate the effects of non-specific binding on *in vitro* kinetics, the free (+)- and (-)-PHX concentrations in the microsomal incubations were calculated using the \( B_{max} \) and \( K_D \) values derived from the non-specific binding study to solve equation (1) for the free substrate concentration \( C_F \) corresponding to each total substrate concentration \( C_T \), where \( C_B = C_T - C_F \) (McLure et al., 2000).

The rates of *cis-*-, *trans*1- and *trans*2-4-monoxygenation of (+)- and (-)-PHX were expressed as pmol/min/mg microsomal protein. Initial estimates of \( K_m \) and \( V_{max} \) were obtained from Eadie-Hofstee (\( V/[S] \) vs \( V \)) plots. These values were entered into iterative unweighted non-linear least-squares regression analyses using GraphPad Prism v4.02 for one and two enzyme Michaelis-Menten models, both with and
without simple uncompetitive substrate inhibition (Tracy and Hummel, 2004), as follows:

one enzyme model

\[ V = \frac{(V_{\text{max}} \cdot S)}{(K_m + S)} \]  
\text{equation (2)}

one enzyme model with uncompetitive substrate inhibition

\[ V = \frac{(V_{\text{max}} \cdot S)}{[(K_m + S) + (S^2 / K_s)]} \]  
\text{equation (3)}

two enzyme model

\[ V = \frac{(V_{\text{max}1} \cdot S)}{(K_{m1} + S)} + \frac{(V_{\text{max}2} \cdot S)}{(K_{m2} + S)} \]  
\text{equation (4)}

two enzyme model with uncompetitive substrate inhibition

\[ V = \frac{(V_{\text{max}1} \cdot S)}{[(K_{m1} + S) + (S^2 / K_{s1})]} + \frac{(V_{\text{max}2} \cdot S)}{[(K_{m2} + S) + (S^2 / K_{s2})]} \]  
\text{equation (5)}

where \( V \) is reaction rate, \( V_{\text{max}} \) is the maximal reaction rate, \( S \) is the free substrate concentration (calculated as \( C_F \) from equation 1), \( K_m \) is the Michaelis-Menten constant, equivalent to the free substrate concentration at which the reaction rate is half of its maximum and \( K_s \) is the substrate inhibitor constant, equivalent to the free substrate concentration at which half the \( V_{\text{max}} \) is inhibited. Models were compared by examination of residuals and extra sum-of-squares F test, with \( P<0.05 \) considered statistically significant. The intrinsic clearance (\( \text{Cl}_{\text{int}} \)) for each metabolic pathway was calculated as \( V_{\text{max}} / K_m \). The mean \( \text{Cl}_{\text{int}} \) for each metabolic pathway was calculated for
EM, IM and PM HLM and the total $\text{Cl}_{\text{int}}$ from the sum of the $\text{Cl}_{\text{int}}$ for each metabolic pathway.

**Chemical inhibition studies**

HLM from three $CYP2D6$ EM (# 21, 31 and 46) and one $CYP2D6$ IM (# 18) were incubated in triplicate with the NADPH regenerating system and a selection of CYP isoform-specific chemical inhibitors. Free substrate concentrations approximated the apparent $K_m$ values estimated for each pathway in each HLM. The CYP isoform-specific chemical inhibitors (Baldwin et al., 1995, Newton et al., 1995, Rae et al., 2002, Tucker et al., 2001) used (CYP isoform and final microsomal incubation concentration) were quinidine ($CYP2D6$, 1 µM), coumarin ($CYP2A6$, 100 µM), diethyldithiocarbamate ($CYP2E1$, 10 µM) and thio-TEPA ($CYP2B6$, 50 µM), each dissolved in water, $S$-mephenytoin ($CYP2C19$, 100 µM) and troleandomycin ($CYP3A4$, 10 µM), each dissolved in 0.5% methanol, furafylline ($CYP1A2$, 100 µM) dissolved in 0.1% acetonitrile, and sulphaphenazole ($CYP2C9$, 100 µM) dissolved in 0.83% dimethylsulphoxide. Where inhibitor stocks were made using organic solvents, incubations containing equivalent solvent concentrations were used as controls. The incubation conditions were not altered from the kinetic analyses, except that the mechanism-based inhibitors diethyldithiocarbamate, thio-TEPA, furafylline and troleandomycin were preincubated for 20 min at 37°C with all incubation constituents prior to initiating the reaction by adding the substrate. Control incubations were similarly preincubated, but in the absence of the inhibitor.
The results of the IM and the three EM HLM were grouped to assess the significance of inhibition using one-way paired t-tests. Statistical significance was set at $P<0.05$ and all the data was expressed as the mean ± standard deviation (SD). Changes in activity of 15% or less from the controls were not considered to be significant. Based upon the interpretation of these results, one PM HLM (# 24) was similarly incubated with the inhibitors quinidine, coumarin, troleandomycin and thio-TEPA.

**Inhibition by monoclonal antibodies**

HLM from a CYP2D6 EM (# 31) were incubated in duplicate with the NADPH regenerating system and a selection of monoclonal antibodies directed towards CYP1A2 (MAB-1A2), CYP2B6 (MAB-2B6), CYP2D6 (MAB-2D6), CYP2E1 (MAB-2E1) and CYP3A4 (MAB-3A4). The concentration of antibodies was in accordance with the manufacturers’ instructions. Free substrate concentrations approximated the apparent $K_m$ values estimated for each pathway. The incubation conditions were not altered from the kinetic analyses, except that the HLM and antibodies were pre-incubated for 15 min on ice, prior to addition of the remaining incubation constituents. Control incubations were similarly preincubated, but without antibodies. Changes in activity of 15% or less from the controls were not considered to be significant.

**Metabolism by recombinant expressed human CYP isoforms**

Microsomes containing recombinant expressed human CYP2B6, CYP2C19, CYP2D6, CYP3A4 or the expression vector without CYP cDNA were incubated in
duplicate with the NADPH regenerating system and 10 μM free (+)- or (-)-PHX to qualitatively determine metabolite formation. Incubation conditions were the same as in the kinetic study, except that the microsomes were kept on ice until added to the reaction mixture. The protein concentration used was the same as in the kinetic studies (0.25 mg/ml).

**Metabolism by recombinant expressed human CYP3A4 with 100 μM coumarin**

Microsomes containing recombinant expressed human CYP3A4 were incubated in duplicate with the NADPH regenerating system and 1 μM free (+)- or (-)-PHX, with or without coumarin (final coumarin concentration of 100 μM), to detect a change in metabolite formation caused by the presence of coumarin. Incubation conditions were the same as in the kinetic study, except that the microsomes were kept on ice until added to the reaction mixture. The protein concentration used was the same as in the kinetic studies (0.25 mg/ml).
RESULTS

Non-specific binding of (+)- and (-)-perhexiline in microsomal incubations

(+)- and (-)-PHX were extensively bound to the microsomal membrane. Binding was saturable, with $B_{\text{max}}$ and $K_D$ values ($\pm \text{SE}$) of 54.6 $\pm$ 3.5 and 3.6 $\pm$ 0.7 µM, respectively, for (+)-PHX, and 56.3 $\pm$ 5.0 and 4.8 $\pm$ 1.1 µM, respectively, for (-)-PHX (Figure 2). Over the range of total (+)- and (-)-PHX concentrations used in the HLM studies (0.1 to 100 µM), the $f_{\text{u(mic)}}$ ranged from approximately 0.07 to 0.5.

Kinetic analyses

The Eadie-Hofstee plots generally displayed an inflection in the upper quadrant (data not shown), indicative of substrate inhibition, and most of the kinetic data best fitted a model incorporating substrate inhibition (Table 1). All the data best fitted single enzyme models, except for the formation of $\text{trans}1$-OH-(+)-PHX by the three EM HLM and one of the IM HLM (# 18). In these instances the Eadie-Hofstee plots were biphasic (data not shown), indicating the involvement of a high affinity and a low affinity process (Table 1B). Representative cis-, $\text{trans}1$- and $\text{trans}2$-4-monohydroxylation formation rates from (+)- or (-)-PHX versus free substrate concentration curves are shown for an EM, IM and PM HLM (Figure 3).

Cis-4-monohydroxylation

$\text{cis}$-OH-(+)-PHX and $\text{cis}$-OH(-)-PHX concentrations were below the limit of quantification in incubations with PM HLM. For the EM and IM HLM, $\text{cis}$-4-
monohydroxylation of both PHX enantiomers was mediated by a high affinity enzyme \((+)-\text{PHX}: K_m \text{ (mean \(\pm\) SD) 0.060 \(\pm\) 0.067 \(\mu\)M, range 0.024-0.160 \(\mu\)M, (-)-\text{PHX}: K_m 0.057 \pm 0.028 \(\mu\)M, range 0.032-0.104 \(\mu\)M), except for the formation of \textit{cis}-OH-(+)-PHX by IM HLM\# 36, which was formed with low affinity \((K_m 2.5 \mu\)M) (Table 1A).

\textit{Trans1}4-monohydroxylation

Formation of \textit{trans1}-OH-(+)-PHX was mediated by a high affinity reaction for the EM HLM and the IM HLM\# 18 \((K_m 0.020 \pm 0.004 \mu\)M, range 0.015-0.023 \(\mu\)M). A low affinity reaction also catalysed this process in all the HLM \((K_m 2.0 \pm 0.4 \mu\)M, range 1.6-2.7 \(\mu\)M). A single low affinity reaction was indicated in the formation of \textit{trans1}-OH-(+)PHX, \((K_m 2.3 \pm 0.6 \mu\)M, range 1.8-3.3 \(\mu\)M) (Table 1B).

\textit{Trans2}4-monohydroxylation

A single low affinity reaction was indicated in the formation of \textit{trans2}-OH-(+)PHX \((K_m 1.9 \pm 0.5 \mu\)M, range 1.4-2.6 \(\mu\)M) and \textit{trans2}-OH-(+)PHX \((K_m 2.6 \pm 0.7 \mu\)M, range 1.8-3.7 \(\mu\)M) (Table 1C) for all HLM.

Intrinsic clearance

The total \(Cl_{int}\) (mean \(\pm\) SD) of (+)-PHX was 1376 \(\pm\) 330, 230 \(\pm\) 225 and 63.4 \(\pm\) 1.6 \(\mu\)l/min/mg for the EM, IM and PM HLM, respectively. Likewise for (-)-PHX, the total \(Cl_{int}\) was 2475 \(\pm\) 321, 482 \(\pm\) 437 and 54.6 \(\pm\) 1.2 \(\mu\)l/min/mg, respectively. The mean involvement of each oxidative metabolic pathway for EM, IM and PM HLM is presented in Figure 4. The primary metabolite of (+)-PHX for EM and IM HLM was \textit{trans1}-OH-(+)PHX, whereas for (-)-PHX it was \textit{cis}-OH-(+)PHX. With respect to
PM HLM, the Cl\textsubscript{int} of (+)- and (-)-PHX by \textit{trans1}- or \textit{trans2}-4-monohydroxylation was similar.

**CYP isoform-specific chemical inhibition studies**

**EM and IM HLM**

\textit{Cis}-OH-(+) and \textit{cis}-OH-(−)-PHX formation was significantly inhibited by quinidine (91 ± 6%, \textit{p}=0.002 and 94 ± 6%, \textit{p}=0.006, respectively) (Figure 5A). The high affinity formation of \textit{trans1}-OH-(+)PHX was significantly inhibited by troleandomycin (43 ± 2%, \textit{p}=0.018) and quinidine (30 ± 22%, \textit{p}=0.034). The low affinity formation of this metabolite was significantly inhibited by thio-TEPA (27 ± 9%, \textit{p}=0.047), troleandomycin (57 ± 2%, \textit{p}=0.013) and quinidine (16 ± 5%, \textit{p}=0.005) and was significantly increased by coumarin (83 ± 35%, \textit{p}=0.019). \textit{Trans1}-OH-(−)-PHX formation was significantly inhibited by \textit{S}-mephenytoin (16 ± 3%, \textit{p}=0.039), thio-TEPA (41 ± 5%, \textit{p}=0.021) and troleandomycin (74 ± 2%, \textit{p}=0.020) and was significantly increased by coumarin (231 ± 50%, \textit{p}=0.003) (Figure 5B). \textit{Trans2}-OH-(+)PHX formation was significantly inhibited by thio-TEPA (43 ± 6%, \textit{p}=0.047) and troleandomycin (79 ± 8%, \textit{p}=0.018) and was significantly increased by coumarin (190 ± 45%, \textit{p}=0.011). \textit{Trans2}-OH-(−)-PHX formation was significantly inhibited by thio-TEPA (29 ± 3%, \textit{p}=0.025) and troleandomycin (68 ± 15%, \textit{p}=0.019) and was significantly increased by coumarin (197 ± 54%, \textit{p}=0.006) (Figure 5C).

**PM HLM**
Trans1-OH-(+)-PHX formation was inhibited 36% by thio-TEPA and 77% by troleandomycin and was increased 171% by coumarin. Trans1-OH-(−)-PHX formation was inhibited 33% by thio-TEPA and 84% by troleandomycin and was increased 262% by coumarin (Figure 6A). Trans2-OH-(+)-PHX formation was inhibited 36% by thio-TEPA and 81% by troleandomycin and was increased 161% by coumarin. Trans2-OH-(−)-PHX formation was inhibited 29% by thio-TEPA and 77% by troleandomycin and was increased 224% by coumarin (Figure 6B).

**Inhibition by CYP isoform-specific monoclonal antibodies**

Cis-OH-(+)-PHX and cis-OH-(−)-PHX formation was inhibited 65% and 74%, respectively, by MAB-2D6 (Figure 7A). The high affinity formation of trans1-OH-(+)-PHX was inhibited 34% by MAB-3A4 and 34% by MAB-2D6. The low affinity formation of this metabolite was inhibited 21% by MAB-3A4, 19% by MAB-2D6 and 21% by MAB-2B6. Trans1-OH-(−)-PHX formation was inhibited 45% by MAB-3A4 and 27% by MAB-2B6 (Figure 7B). Trans2-OH-(+)-PHX formation was inhibited 41% by MAB-3A4 and 27% by MAB-2B6. Trans2-OH-(−)-PHX formation was inhibited 35% by MAB-3A4 and 32% by MAB-2B6 (Figure 7C).

**Metabolism by recombinant expressed human CYP isoforms**

Recombinant expressed CYP2B6 and CYP3A4 similarly catalysed the formation of trans1-OH-(+)-PHX, trans1-OH-(−)-PHX, trans2-OH-(+)-PHX and trans2-OH-(−)-PHX. Recombinant expressed CYP2D6 catalysed the formation of cis-OH-(+)-PHX, cis-OH-(−)-PHX and trans1-OH-(+)-PHX. Recombinant expressed CYP2C19 or the
expression vectors without CYP cDNA did not metabolise (+)- or (-)-PHX to any of the 4-monohydroxy metabolites (data not shown).

Metabolism by recombinant expressed human CYP3A4 and 100µM coumarin

Trans1-OH-(+)-PHX, trans1-OH-(−)-PHX, trans2-OH-(+)-PHX and trans2-OH-(−)-PHX formation by recombinant expressed CYP3A4 was increased 108%, 120%, 119% and 124%, respectively, by coincubation with coumarin (data not shown).
DISCUSSION

The microsomal data from this study unequivocally demonstrate that both enantiomers of PHX are subject to significant polymorphic metabolism by CYP2D6, although this enzyme exhibits distinct stereoselectivity with respect to the conformation of metabolites and the rate at which they are formed, consistent with the enantioselective pharmacokinetics observed \textit{in vivo} for CYP2D6 EM (Gould et al., 1986, Inglis et al., in press). This study is the first to identify the involvement of CYP2B6 and CYP3A4 in the metabolism of PHX. They are minor contributors to the intrinsic CYP-mediated hepatic clearance of both enantiomers, except in CYP2D6 PM. Metabolism by these two enzymes does not display any distinct stereoselectivity and is therefore unable to explain the significant enantioselectivity observed \textit{in vivo} for PM (Inglis et al., in press).

PHX is a weak lipophilic base and non-specific binding in microsomal incubations can markedly influence the choice of kinetic model describing metabolite formation and interpretation (McLure et al., 2000). Binding of each PHX enantiomer was saturable across the range of substrate concentrations employed and was described by a standard binding model, but did not exhibit any distinct enantioselectivity. Free substrate concentrations in microsomal incubations were calculated to prevent erroneous sigmoidal transformations of reaction curves (McLure et al., 2000). For most of the kinetic data, better fits were obtained by incorporating substrate inhibition (Tracy and Hummel, 2004) in the Michaelis-Menten model. Uncompetitive substrate inhibition may be explained by a two-site binding model where one site is favoured for oxidation but binding of substrate to the second site (at higher concentrations)
produces a substrate-enzyme-substrate complex less capable of forming product than the enzyme-substrate complex (Hutzler and Tracy, 2002). The calculated $K_s$ values were greater than their corresponding $K_m$ values as the substrate preferentially bound to the productive site and were generally above the range of substrate concentrations used in the microsomal incubations, yet this model was employed where it provided a statistically better solution in order to prevent the erroneous kinetic parameter estimations that can occur if a standard Michaelis-Menten hyperbolic curve is forced through the data (Houston and Kenworthy, 2000).

Formation of cis-OH-(+)- and cis-OH-(-)-PHX was below the limit of quantification in PM incubations, consistent with CYP2D6-mediated catalysis. For EM and IM, high affinity single enzyme Michaelis-Menten models best described the kinetics of cis-4-monohydroxylation for each enantiomer of PHX, except for the formation of cis-OH-(+)-PHX by one IM (# 36). These $K_m$ values are within the range of unbound (+)- and (-)-PHX concentrations observed in clinical plasma specimens (Inglis et al., in press), and are consistent with the saturability of cis-4-monohydroxy metabolite formation at therapeutic concentrations in vivo (Sallustio et al., 2002). Sørensen et al. (2003) also reported a high affinity 4-monohydroxylation reaction by EM in vitro, although the $K_m$ values were larger because they reflected total rather than unbound microsomal PHX concentrations. The mean contribution of cis-4-monohydroxylation to mean total Clint for (+)-PHX was 43% in EM and 12% in IM, and for (-)-PHX it was 99% and 89%, respectively. The lower contribution of cis-4-monohydroxylation to total Clint in IM can be explained by the lower expression of CYP2D6 in livers with only one functional CYP2D6 allele when compared with EM subjects with two functional CYP2D6 alleles (Zanger et al., 2001), producing correspondingly smaller $V_{max}$ values.
IM# 36 was genotyped as having only one functional allele, CYP2D6*2J, that has been characterised as having impaired in vivo function by sparteine phenotyping in two individuals (Raimundo et al., 2004). The significantly larger $K_m$ observed in the current study suggests that the enzyme is defective, possibly as a result of an as yet undetermined post-transcriptional modification attributable to the 2939G>A single nucleotide polymorphism unique to the allele (Marez et al., 1997) producing a different protein to CYP2D6.2.

The cis-4-monohydroxylation of both enantiomers of PHX was effectively abolished by the CYP2D6 specific chemical inhibitor quinidine in EM and IM incubations, in agreement with Sørensen et al. (2003), and was inhibited by monoclonal antibodies directed against CYP2D6. Recombinant expressed CYP2D6 cis-4-monohydroxylated (+)- and (-)-PHX. When these findings are considered with the observation that this metabolite is effectively absent in PM, it can be concluded that the cis-4-monohydroxylation of both PHX enantiomers is catalysed exclusively by CYP2D6 (Figure 8). The mean $Cl_{int}$ of (-)-PHX by cis-4-monohydroxylation was approximately 4- and 16-fold higher in EM and IM, respectively, than for (+)-PHX and is consistent with the enantioselective metabolism of (-)-PHX to cis-OH-(−)-PHX reported in vivo (Gould et al., 1986).

The formation of trans1-OH-(+)-PHX by the EM and by one IM (# 18) was catalysed by a high and a low affinity reaction. For the other IM (# 36) and both PM, only a single low affinity reaction was indicated. This suggested that CYP2D6 was the high affinity enzyme and was confirmed by the inhibition produced by quinidine and
MAB-2D6 (Figure 8). With a similar affinity to cis-4-monohydroxylation, formation of trans1-OH-(+)-PHX by CYP2D6 is also likely to be a saturable process \textit{in vivo}.

The high affinity formation of trans1-OH-(+)-PHX was also inhibited by troleandomycin, indicating the involvement of CYP3A4, although the inhibition was greater with respect to the low affinity process. Involvement of CYP2B6 in the low affinity process was indicated by the inhibition produced by thio-TEPA. The roles of CYP3A4 and CYP2B6 in the low affinity formation of trans1-OH-(+)-PHX (Figure 8) were confirmed by the results of the chemical inhibitors in the PM and by the incubation of monoclonal antibodies with an EM (# 31). Incubations of recombinant expressed CYP2B6, CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 all produced trans1-OH-(+)-PHX.

Trans1-OH-(+)-PHX formation was an important contributor to the mean total Cl\textsubscript{int} of (+)-PHX, accounting for 56\% in EM, 77\% in IM and 48\% in PM. For EM and IM, the mean Cl\textsubscript{int} of (+)-PHX by trans1-4-monohydroxylation was approximately 33- and 5-fold higher, respectively, than for (-)-PHX and is consistent with observations \textit{in vivo} (Gould et al., 1986).

The formation of trans1-OH-(−)-PHX was catalysed by a low affinity process in all HLM and as indicated by the inhibition studies was most likely mediated by CYP2B6 and CYP3A4 (Figure 8). This was confirmed by incubations of the recombinant expressed enzymes with (-)-PHX. Although the selective CYP2C19 inhibitor S-mephenytoin produced a small but statistically significant inhibition of trans1-OH-(−)-PHX formation, the role of CYP2C19 was subsequently excluded from involvement in this metabolic pathway because incubations of (-)-PHX with the recombinant expressed human CYP2C19 enzyme did not produce any detectable metabolite.

Trans1-OH-(−)-PHX formation was a minor contributor to the mean total Cl\textsubscript{int} of (−)-
PHX in EM and IM, accounting for only 1 and 7%, respectively, due to the very high clearance of (-)-PHX by CYP2D6-mediated cis-4-monohydroxylation. In contrast, formation of trans1-OH-(−)-PHX was responsible for 64% of the mean total Clint of (−)-PHX in PM.

The kinetics and CYP isoform profile of the formation of trans2-OH-(+) and trans2-OH-(−)-PHX was similar to that of trans1-OH-(−)-PHX. A single low affinity reaction was indicated for all HLM and inhibition studies determined that their formation was mediated by CYP2B6 and CYP3A4. This was confirmed by incubations of recombinant expressed CYP2B6 and CYP3A4 with each PHX enantiomer. The formation of the trans2-4-monohydroxy metabolites from both enantiomers was similar in all HLM, and was only a significant contributor to mean total Clint in PM due to the larger contributions of CYP2D6-mediated 4-monohydroxylation in EM and IM. With respect to the mean total Clint of (+)-PHX, trans2-OH-(+) PHX formation accounted for 2% in EM, 11% in IM and 52% in PM. For (−)-PHX, trans2-OH-(−)-PHX formation accounted for <1% in EM, 4% in IM and 36% in PM.

The data clearly demonstrate that CYP2D6 is the major enzyme catalysing the metabolism of both (+)- and (−)-PHX by EM and IM, in agreement with the in vivo findings of Inglis et al. (in press). Formation of cis-OH-(−)-PHX by CYP2D6 accounts for 99% and 89% of the mean total Clint of (−)-PHX by EM and IM, respectively, and formation of trans1-OH-(+) PHX and cis-OH-(+) PHX by CYP2D6 accounts for 97% and 76% of the mean total Clint of (+)-PHX by EM and IM, respectively. Interestingly, whilst CYP2D6-catalysed cis-4-monohydroxylation was enantioselective for (−)-PHX, CYP2D6-catalysed trans1-4-monohydroxylation was
enantiospecific for (+)-PHX. The importance of CYP3A4 and CYP2B6 in PHX metabolism increases as the contribution of CYP2D6 decreases, such that these two enzymes account for the majority of hepatic P450 mediated clearance in PM (Figure 8), with the inhibitor studies suggesting a proportionately larger role for CYP3A4 than CYP2B6. Neither of these P450 isoforms exhibits any clear enantioselectivity for PHX metabolism, as indicated by the kinetics in PM. The distinct enantioselectivity of PHX metabolism displayed by PM in vivo (Inglis et al., in press) may be due to extra-hepatic metabolism, non-CYP metabolism or transporters involved in absorption, renal, biliary or intestinal excretion, and merits further investigation.

CYP3A is the most abundant P450 in the liver (Shimada et al., 1994) and is composed primarily of CYP3A4, except in approximately one quarter of Caucasians, carrying at least one CYP3A5*1 allele, where CYP3A5 constitutes at least half of total hepatic CYP3A (Lin et al., 2002). CYP3A5 may be involved in PHX metabolism because CYP3A4 and CYP3A5 have similar substrate specificity (Gillam et al., 1995) and the 3-fold range in the oral clearance of five PM observed by Sallustio et al. (2002) may be due to interindividual differences in CYP3A expression (Lin et al., 2002). CYP2B6 shares regulatory features with CYP3A4 (Rodriguez-Antona et al., 2000) and its expression is also highly variable (Stresser and Kupfer, 1999). It constitutes approximately 6% of total hepatic P450 (Stresser and Kupfer, 1999) and its importance in drug metabolism is increasing as more substrates are recognised (Bertz and Granneman, 1997, Ekins and Wrighton, 1999, Lewis et al., 2002, Rendic, 2002), although the functional consequences of polymorphisms of CYP2B6 have not yet been fully elucidated (Daly, 2004).
The CYP2A6 specific inhibitor coumarin enhanced the trans1- and trans2-
hydroxylation of both enantiomers of PHX in all HLM. This effect was not observed
for the CYP2D6-dependent formation of cis-OH-(+)- or cis-OH-(−)-PHX.

Heterotropic cooperativity by CYP3A4 has been reported in the literature for several
substrates in various in vitro systems (Hutzler and Tracy, 2002), but not for CYP2B6.
Because coumarin is a substrate of CYP3A4 (Born et al., 2002), the possibility that it
is a positive effector of (+)- and (-)-PHX metabolism by CYP3A4 was investigated by
coincubating coumarin, (+)- or (-)-PHX and recombinant expressed human CYP3A4.

Trans1- and trans2-4-monohydroxylation of both enantiomers was increased over
100%. The heterotropic cooperativity of CYP3A4 has been observed mainly in vitro.
Corresponding in vivo data are rare (Tang and Stearns, 2001). Further studies need to
be undertaken to determine whether enhanced metabolism of PHX occurs in vivo in
order to assess its potential to cause drug-drug interactions, particularly in PM, for
whom CYP3A4-mediated metabolism is a primary determinant of PHX clearance.

Importantly, the data demonstrate that the use of coumarin as a specific inhibitor of
CYP2A6 may be confounded by possible heterotropic cooperative interactions with
other compounds that are also CYP3A4 substrates.

In conclusion, CYP2D6 is the major enzyme catalysing the 4-monohydroxylation of
both (+) and (-)-PHX in EM and IM. It displays $K_m$ values within the range of
unbound concentrations in plasma attained clinically for both enantiomers of PHX.
Thus, saturable and polymorphic CYP2D6 metabolism underlies the extreme
variability in the pharmacokinetics of both PHX enantiomers in vivo. CYP3A4 and
CYP2B6 are the major enzymes responsible for the 4-monohydroxylation of (+)- and
(-)-PHX in PM, and did not show appreciable enantioselectivity. This is in contrast to
the significant enantioselectivity in the pharmacokinetics of (+)- and (-)-PHX observed clinically in PM.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REFERENCES


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LEGENDS FOR FIGURES

Figure 1. The chemical structures of the 4-monohydroxy metabolites of perhexilene. Chiral centres are indicated with an asterisk.

Figure 2. Binding of (+)-PHX (squares, solid line) and (-)-PHX (triangles, dashed line) to human liver microsomes (protein concentration 0.25 mg/ml).

Figure 3. Kinetic profile of cis-OH-(+)-PHX and cis-OH-(−)-PHX formation (A and B, respectively), trans1-OH-(+)-PHX and trans1-OH-(−)-PHX formation (C and D, respectively) and trans2-OH-(+)-PHX and trans2-OH-(−)-PHX formation (E and F, respectively) in human liver microsomes from a CYP2D6 EM (# 46), a CYP2D6 IM (# 36) and a CYP2D6 PM (# 39).

Figure 4. Intrinsic clearance of (+)- and (-)-PHX by the three 4-monohydroxylation metabolic pathways (cis-hydroxylation black columns, trans1- hydroxylation white columns, trans2- hydroxylation hatched columns) by CYP2D6 EM (n=3), IM (n=2) and PM (n=2) human liver microsomes.

Figure 5. Chemical inhibition of cis-4-monohydroxylation (A), trans1-4-monohydroxylation (B) and trans2-4-monohydroxylation (C) of (-)-PHX (white columns) and (+)-PHX (high affinity site - black columns, low affinity site – grey columns) by human liver microsomes from three CYP2D6 EM and one CYP2D6 IM. Data are the mean of triplicate determinations. Error bars indicate SD.
Figure 6. Chemical inhibition of trans1-4-monohydroxylation (A) and trans2-4-monohydroxylation (B) of (-)-PHX (white columns) and (+)-PHX (black columns) by human liver microsomes from one CYP2D6 PM. Data are the mean of triplicate determinations.

Figure 7. Inhibition of cis-4-monohydroxylation (A), trans1-4-monohydroxylation (B) and trans2-4-monohydroxylation (C) of (-)-PHX (white columns) and (+)-PHX (high affinity site - black columns, low affinity site – grey columns) by monoclonal antibodies directed towards human CYPs in human liver microsomes from a CYP2D6 EM. Data are the mean of duplicate determinations.

Figure 8. Formation of the 4-monohydroxy metabolites of (+)-PHX (A) and (-)-PHX (B) and the CYP isoforms responsible.
Table 1. Kinetic parameters for the cis- (A), trans1- (B) and trans2-4-monohydroxylation (C) of (+)- and (-)-perhexiline by human liver microsomes from three CYP2D6 extensive metabolisers (EM), two CYP2D6 intermediate metabolisers (IM) and two CYP2D6 poor metabolisers (PM). $V_{\text{max}}$ is the maximum rate of formation, $K_m$ is the Michaelis-Menten constant, $C_{\text{int}}$ is the intrinsic clearance calculated as $V_{\text{max}} / K_m$ and $K_s$ is the substrate inhibitor constant.
Table 1A.

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<tr>
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<th>CYP2D6 EM HLM</th>
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<td>#21 #31 #46 Mean ± SD</td>
<td>#18 #36 Mean ± SD</td>
<td>#24 #39 Mean ± SD</td>
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<td>$V_{max}$ (pmol/min/mg)</td>
<td>15.9 12.2 18.8 15.6 ± 3.3</td>
<td>8.0 9.8 8.9 ± 1.2</td>
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<td>$K_m$ (μM)</td>
<td>0.024 0.031 0.026 0.027 ± 0.003</td>
<td>0.16 2.5 1.4 ± 1.7</td>
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<td>$K_s$ (μM)</td>
<td>- - 257 257</td>
<td>- 258 258</td>
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<td>$Cl_{int}$ (μl/min/mg)</td>
<td>650 397 712 586 ± 167</td>
<td>50.2 3.8 27.0 ± 32.8</td>
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<td>Cis-OH-(−)-PHX</td>
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<td>$V_{max}$ (pmol/min/mg)</td>
<td>98.3 81.4 141.9 107.2 ± 31.2</td>
<td>35.9 11.7 23.8 ± 17.1</td>
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<td>$K_m$ (μM)</td>
<td>0.047 0.032 0.052 0.044 ± 0.011</td>
<td>0.048 0.104 0.076 ± 0.040</td>
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<td>$K_s$ (μM)</td>
<td>104.9 180.5 117.4 134.3 ± 40.5</td>
<td>346.6 - 346.6</td>
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<td>$Cl_{int}$ (μl/min/mg)</td>
<td>2078 2534 2708 2439 ± 326</td>
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<td>$V_{max}$ (pmol/min/mg)</td>
<td>16.7 10.1 21.1 16.0 ± 5.5</td>
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<td>$K_m$ (µM)</td>
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<td>$K_s$ (µM)</td>
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<td>$Cl_{int}$ (µl/min/mg)</td>
<td>729 584 922 745 ± 169</td>
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<td>$V_{max}$ (pmol/min/mg)</td>
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<td>22.5 34.6 28.5 ± 8.5</td>
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Trans1-OH-(−)-PHX
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