Experimental and modeling evidence supporting the trans-inhibition mechanism for preincubation time-dependent, long-lasting inhibition of organic anion transporting polypeptide (OATP) 1B1 by cyclosporine A

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Abbreviations:
CsA, cyclosporine A; CYP, cytochrome P450; DDI, drug-drug interaction; E$_2$G, estradiol-17β-glucuronide; OATP, organic anion transporting polypeptide; PBPK, physiologically based pharmacokinetic(s); PK, pharmacokinetic(s); PS, permeability surface area product; TDI, time-dependent inhibition.
Abstract

Cyclosporine A (CsA) and rifampin are potent inhibitors of organic anion transporting polypeptide (OATP) 1B1 and are widely used to assess the risk for drug-drug interactions. CsA displays preincubation time-dependent, long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1 in vitro and in rats in vivo, and a proposed mechanism is the trans-inhibition by which CsA inhibits OATP1B1 from the inside of cells. The current study aimed to experimentally validate the proposed mechanism using HEK293 cells stably expressing OATP1B1. The uptake of CsA reached a plateau following around 60-min incubation, with the cell-to-buffer concentration ratio of 3930, reflective of the high-affinity, high-capacity intracellular binding of CsA. The time course of CsA uptake was analyzed to estimate the kinetic parameters for permeability clearance and intracellular binding. When the OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [3H]estradiol-17β-glucuronide was measured following preincubation with CsA for 5 to 120 min, apparent Ki values became lower with longer preincubation. Our kinetic modeling incorporated the two reversible inhibition constants [Ki,trans and Ki,cis for the inhibition from inside (trans-inhibition) and outside (cis-inhibition) of cells, respectively] and estimated Ki,trans value of CsA was smaller by 48-fold than the estimated Ki,cis value. Rifampin also displayed preincubation time-dependent inhibition of OATP1B1, albeit the extent of enhancement was only 2-fold. The current study provides experimental evidence for the preincubation time-dependent shift of apparent Ki values and a mechanistic basis for physiologically based pharmacokinetic modeling that incorporates permeability clearance, extensive intracellular binding, and asymmetry of Ki values between the inside and outside of cells.
Significance Statement

*In vitro* data and kinetic modeling support that preincubation time-dependent, long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA can be explained by the extensive intracellular binding and reversible OATP1B1 inhibition intracellularly (*trans*-inhibition) as well as extracellularly (*cis*-inhibition). For inhibitors to display time-dependency, the following factors were found important: time to reach a steady-state cellular concentration, *trans*-inhibition potency relative to *cis*-inhibition, and the degree of cellular inhibitor accumulation. This study would aid in the accurate prediction of drug-drug interactions mediated by OATP1B1 inhibition.
Introduction

Organic anion transporting polypeptide (OATP) 1B1 mediates the hepatic uptake of various anionic substrates, including many clinically important drugs (Niemi et al., 2011). When drug-drug interactions (DDIs) occur via mechanisms involving OATP1B1, the systemic exposure of OATP1B1 substrate drugs [e.g., HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins), angiotensin II receptor blockers, anti-diabetics, anti-hepatitis C virus drugs] increases by co-administration of the inhibitor drugs such as cyclosporine A (CsA) and rifampin (Maeda, 2015; Lowjaga et al., 2020). In patients receiving statin therapy, DDIs can increase the systemic statin exposure and the risk of statin-related myotoxicity, including rare but severe rhabdomyolysis (Omar and Wilson, 2002; Neuvonen et al., 2006; Iwaki et al., 2019). In order to assess the potential risk of DDIs mediated by OATP1B1 inhibition, new chemical entities (NCEs) are routinely evaluated for their inhibition potency against OATP1B1 in vitro at the nonclinical stages.

Cell-based assays for OATP1B1 inhibition typically determine the half inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀) or the inhibition constant (Kᵢ) for OATP1B1, key parameters in the prediction of DDI risk based on the static and dynamic models (Yoshida et al., 2012; Yoshikado et al., 2016; Taskar et al., 2020). In the conventional inhibition assays, a probe substrate of OATP1B1 is co-incubated with an NCE (as a potential inhibitor). Several inhibitors such as CsA exhibit preincubation time-dependent, long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1 in vitro (Amundsen et al., 2010; Shitara et al., 2012; Izumi et al., 2015). The inhibitory effect of CsA was sustained even after removing CsA from incubation buffer (Shitara et al., 2012; Furihata et al., 2014) and the inhibitory potency of CsA was enhanced with prolonged preincubation: apparent Kᵢ (Kᵢ,app) value was reduced by 3- to 22-fold compared to that determined without CsA preincubation (Amundsen et al., 2010; Gertz et al., 2013; Izumi et al., 2015). In addition, as shown in Supplemental Figure 1, in vitro IC₅₀ and/or Kᵢ values obtained after CsA preincubation were comparable to in vivo Kᵢ values estimated by physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK)
modeling of clinical DDI data (Yoshikado et al., 2016). Based on these findings, the latest regulatory DDI guidance/guideline recommends considering the preincubation effects in the inhibition assays for OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 (MHLW, 2019; U.S. FDA, 2020).

Some practical approaches have been proposed to manage the time-dependent inhibition (TDI) of OATP1B1 in the DDI risk assessments (Izumi et al., 2015; Taguchi et al., 2020). However, the underlying mechanism has not been fully understood. A better understanding of the mechanisms contributing to the TDI of OATP1B1 may facilitate the incorporation of the TDI into PBPK modeling and quantitative prediction of OATP1B1-mediated DDIs. Consideration of the underlying mechanisms may also aid in the optimization of in vitro assay conditions for potential inhibitors of OATP1B1. Shitara and Sugiyama proposed that CsA can inhibit OATP1B1 not only from the outside (cis-inhibition) but also from the inside (trans-inhibition) of cells (Shitara and Sugiyama, 2017). Yet, supporting experimental data have been lacking.

This study investigated the TDI of OATP1B1 by CsA in HEK293 cells stably expressing OATP1B1 (OATP1B1-HEK) and control cells (control-HEK), employing different assay conditions (Figure 1). Rifampin was used for comparison as it is an OATP1B1 inhibitor with a modest preincubation time-dependent inhibitory effect (Pahwa et al., 2017; Barnett et al., 2018). The time profiles of cellular uptake and release were measured for CsA and rifampin in OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK cells and analyzed by cellular kinetic modeling incorporating the trans-inhibition mechanism. The developed cellular kinetic models were also used to identify the factors contributing to the extent of TDI of OATP1B1.
Materials and Methods

Chemicals.

\[^{3}H\]Estradiol-17\(\beta\)-glucuronide (\[^{3}H\]E\(_2\)G, 52.9 Ci/mmol) was purchased from PerkinElmer Life Sciences (Boston, MA), and unlabeled E\(_2\)G and rifampin were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). CsA was obtained from Toronto Research Chemicals (Toronto, ON, Canada). All other chemicals were of analytical grade and commercially available.

Cell Culture.

OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK were established previously (Izumi et al., 2013). The cells were seeded in the poly-D-lysine-coated 48-well plate (BD Bioscience, San Jose, CA) at the density of 2 \times 10^5 cells/well and cultured for 48 h at 37°C under 5% CO\(_2\) gas in a humidified incubator.

Inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA and Rifampin in OATP1B1-HEK Cells.

Figure 1 depicts the four different inhibition assay conditions used to respectively capture \(\text{cis}\), \(\text{trans}\), both \(\text{cis}\) and \(\text{trans}\)-inhibition (\(\text{cis+trans}\)-inhibition), and long-lasting inhibition by CsA or rifampin using OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK. Using \[^{3}H\]E\(_2\)G (0.1 μM) as a probe substrate for OATP1B1 (Izumi et al., 2013), the initial uptake was assessed for 1 min. Unless noted otherwise, Krebs Henseleit (KH) buffer (118 mM NaCl, 23.1 mM NaHCO\(_3\), 4.83 mM KCl, 0.96 mM KH\(_2\)PO\(_4\), 1.20 mM MgSO\(_4\), 12.5 mM HEPES, 5.0 mM glucose, and 1.53 mM CaCl\(_2\), pH 7.4) was used for cell incubation (500 μL/well) and washing (1 mL/well), and incubations were performed at 37°C. For the long-lasting inhibition conditions, 50 μL of KH buffer was collected after the washout period to measure the inhibitor concentrations released from the cells at the designated times (10, 30, 60, and 120 min for CsA; 10 and 60 min for rifampin). For all the assay conditions, cells were washed with ice-cold KH buffer twice at the end of the substrate uptake and stored at −20°C until sample processing for measurement of the
cellular concentrations of the probe substrate.

**Uptake and Release Assays for CsA and Rifampin Using OATP1B1-HEK Cells**

For the uptake (for CsA and rifampin) and release assays (for CsA), OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK cells were preincubated with pre-warmed KH buffer for 5 min at 37°C. For the uptake assay, the preincubation buffer was removed and subsequently the uptake reaction was initiated by adding 500 µL of a pre-warmed KH buffer containing CsA or rifampin. At the designated time, 50 µL of assay buffer was collected to measure the drug concentrations in buffer. After removing the residual buffer, cells were immediately washed with 1 mL of ice-cold KH buffer twice. For the release assay for CsA, cells were incubated with CsA for 120 min. After removing the incubation buffer and washing cells, 500 µL of pre-warmed KH buffer was added and cells were incubated for 30 min at 37°C. At the designated times (up to 30 min), 50 µL of incubation buffer was collected and cells were washed with 1 mL of ice-cold KH buffer twice. Cells were plated in triplicate wells for sample collection at each timepoint. Both buffer and cellular samples were stored at −20°C until sample processing to measure CsA and rifampin.

**Quantification of [3H]E2G, CsA, and Rifampin**

To measure cellular radioactivity of [3H]E2G, cells were lysed with 200 µL of 0.1 N NaOH, and the resulting cell lysate was neutralized with 20 µL of 1 N HCl. An aliquot (150 µL) of the neutralized cell lysate was mixed with 2 mL of scintillation fluid (Hionic-Fluor; Perkin Elmer Life Sciences) and the radioactivity was measured by a liquid scintillation counter (LSC, Tri-Carb A5110TR, PerkinElmer Life Sciences). The remaining neutralized cell lysate samples were used to quantify the protein concentrations using BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA). For buffer samples, 20 µL of the aliquot was mixed with 2 mL of scintillation fluid to measure the radioactivity by the LSC.
To measure unlabeled CsA and rifampin taken up by OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK, the cells were vigorously mixed and deproteinized using 300 μL of methanol containing an appropriate internal standard, followed by filtration and analysis via liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). To quantify CsA and rifampin in KH buffer, 50 μL of the aliquot was mixed with 200 μL of methanol containing an appropriate internal standard and injected to LC-MS/MS. Protein assay was performed as described above for cells seeded in extra wells.

The LC-MS/MS system consisted of AQUITY UPLC I-Class System (Waters Corp.), Xevo TQ-XS (Waters Corp.), and MassLynx™ Mass Spectrometry Software (version 4.2; Waters Corp.). For the analysis of CsA, chromatographic separation was performed using a Waters Acquity UPLC BEH C18 column (1.7 μm, 2.1 mm i.d., 30 mm; Waters, Milford, MA) at 65°C. The mobile phases were composed of distilled water containing 0.1% formic acid (solvent A) and acetonitrile containing 0.1% formic acid (solvent B), and the initial condition was 98% solvent A at a flow rate of 0.4 mL/min. After maintaining the initial condition for 0.5 min, solvent B was linearly increased to 80% over 1.5 min with a 1-min hold at 80% B. For rifampin, the same UPLC column and mobile phases were used. The column temperature and flow rate were set to 40°C and 0.3 mL/min, respectively. The initial condition was 98% solvent A, and B was linearly increased to 80% over 3 min, then to 100% over the next 0.01 min with a 0.5-min hold at 100% B. The column was equilibrated with the initial mobile phase before each injection (injection volume, 1 μL). The analytes were detected by electrospray ionization in positive ion mode, and the selected ion monitoring transitions were: 1202.8 > 224.1 for CsA and 823.46 > 791.09 for rifampin.

**Kinetic Modeling**

Data fitting was performed by a nonlinear least-squares regression method using Napp version 2.31 (Hisaka and Sugiyama, 1998).
Kinetic analysis of cellular uptake and inhibition in OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK cells. The OATP1B1-mediated uptake clearance of a substrate was calculated by subtracting the uptake clearance in control-HEK from that in OATP1B1-HEK. The apparent inhibition constant ($K_{i,app}$) value was estimated for CsA and rifampin by examining their inhibitory effects on the OATP1B1-mediated uptake of a probe substrate (% of control), using the following equation:

$$\% \text{ of control} = 100 / (1 + I_{buffer} / K_{i,app})$$

(1)

where $I_{buffer}$ represents the nominal concentrations of inhibitors in buffer (μM) and $K_{i,app}$ is an inhibition constant based on the $I_{buffer}$ values. Concentration-dependent uptake of a substrate via OATP1B1 was examined with or without an inhibitor and was analyzed by the Michaelis-Menten equation:

$$v = \frac{V_{max} \times S}{K_m + S}$$

(2)

where $v$, $S$, $V_{max}$, and $K_m$ represent the uptake velocity (pmol/min/mg protein), substrate concentration (μM), the maximum uptake velocity (pmol/min/mg protein), and Michaelis constant (μM), respectively.

Saturation of intracellular binding of CsA in HEK293 cells. Concentration-dependent uptake of CsA by OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK was determined at 120 min after incubation and analyzed by the following equation to estimate parameters for the intracellular binding:

$$I_{cell} - I_{buffer} = (B_{max} \times I_{buffer}) / (K_d + I_{buffer}) + A \times I_{buffer}$$

(3)

where $I_{cell}$ and $I_{buffer}$ represent the measured values for the total cellular and buffer concentration of CsA (μM), respectively. As no active transport process was implicated for CsA in OATP1B1-HEK or control-HEK, the cellular unbound concentration of CsA (a neutral compound) was assumed to be equal to its concentration in buffer ($I_{buffer}$) at the steady-state. The cellular bound concentration of CsA can be obtained by ($I_{cell} - I_{buffer}$) at steady-state. $K_d$, $B_{max}$ and $A$ represent the dissociation constant (μM), the maximum number of binding sites per cellular volume (μM), and non-saturable component for intracellular CsA binding, respectively. To calculate $I_{cell}$ from the uptake data, the cellular volume of HEK293 cell was set to 2 μL/mg
protein according to a previous report (Shitara and Sugiyama, 2017).

**Modeling of cellular pharmacokinetics of CsA and rifampin.** For the observed time profiles of the uptake and release of CsA and rifampin determined in OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK, the clearances via OATP1B1-mediated active uptake (PS\textsubscript{act}, µL/min/mg protein) and via passive diffusion (PS\textsubscript{dif}, µL/min/mg protein) were estimated by simultaneously fitting to the following equations:

\[
V_{\text{cell}} \cdot PA \cdot \frac{dI_{\text{cell}}}{dt} = (PS_{\text{act}} + PS_{\text{dif}}) \cdot PA \cdot I_{\text{buffer}} \cdot PA \cdot f_{T} \cdot I_{\text{cell}} \quad (4)
\]

\[
V_{\text{buffer}} \cdot \frac{dI_{\text{buffer}}}{dt} = -(PS_{\text{act}} + PS_{\text{dif}}) \cdot PA \cdot I_{\text{buffer}} + PS_{\text{dif}} \cdot PA \cdot f_{T} \cdot I_{\text{cell}} \quad (5)
\]

where \(V_{\text{cell}}\), \(V_{\text{buffer}}\), PA, and \(f_{T}\) represent the cellular volume of HEK293 cells (2 µL/mg protein), the volume of incubation buffer (500 µL/well), the protein amount per well (mg protein/well), and intracellular unbound fraction, respectively. PS\textsubscript{act} was set to zero based on the lack of evidence supporting CsA as a substrate of OATP1B1. Rifampin is known to be an OATP1B1 substrate, and PS\textsubscript{act} was defined by the following equation:

\[
PS_{\text{act}} = \frac{V_{\text{max}}}{K_{m} + S} \quad (6)
\]

The intracellular binding of rifampin appeared constant in HEK293 cells in the tested concentration range (data not shown), but nonlinearity was observed for CsA. Therefore, \(f_{T}\) (\(I_{\text{buffer}}/I_{\text{cell}}\)) of CsA was described by the following equation, derived from Eq. 3.

\[
f_{T} = \left[\sqrt{(B_{\text{max}} + (1 + A) \cdot K_{d} - I_{\text{cell}})^{2} + 4 \cdot (1 + A) \cdot K_{d} \cdot I_{\text{cell}}} - B_{\text{max}} + (1 + A) \cdot K_{d} - I_{\text{cell}}\right]/\left\{2 \cdot (1 + A) \cdot I_{\text{cell}}\right\} \quad (7)
\]

**Mechanism for time-dependent inhibition of OATP1B1.** Figure 2 depicts our proposed mechanism for TDI of OATP1B1, which is inhibited reversibly not only from the outside (cis-inhibition), but also from the inside (trans-inhibition) of cells (Shitara and Sugiyama, 2017). Based on our in vitro results using CsA, the competitive inhibition was applied to cis-inhibition while the non-competitive inhibition to trans-inhibition (detailed description in the “Results”
section) also for rifampin. The following equation describes OATP1B1-mediated uptake clearance of a probe substrate in the presence of an inhibitor (CL\textsubscript{OATP1B1+I}):

\[
CL_{OATP1B1+I} = \frac{V_{\text{max}}}{{K_m} \left(1 + \frac{I_{\text{buffer}}}{K_{i,\text{cis}}}\right) + S} \left(1 + \frac{f_T}{K_{i,\text{trans}}} + \frac{I_{\text{cell}}}{K_{i,\text{trans}}}\right)
\]  

where \(K_{i,\text{cis}}\) is the inhibition constant (\(\mu\text{M}\)) for cis-inhibition defined by the extracellular unbound concentration and \(K_{i,\text{trans}}\) is the inhibition constant (\(\mu\text{M}\)) for trans-inhibition defined by intracellular unbound concentration. As the substrate concentration used in our inhibition assays ([\(^3\text{H}\)E\textsubscript{2}G, 0.1 \(\mu\text{M}\)]) was much lower than the reported \(K_m\) value (7.0 \(\mu\text{M}\)) (Izumi et al., 2013), the changes in OATP1B1-mediated uptake clearance (expressed as % of control) was approximated as follows (Shitara and Sugiyama, 2017):

\[
\% \text{ of control} = 100 \left(1 + \frac{I_{\text{buffer}}}{K_{i,\text{cis}}}\right) \left(1 + \frac{f_T \cdot I_{\text{cell}}}{K_{i,\text{trans}}}\right)
\]  

For the cis-inhibition assay conditions, the \(K_{\text{app}}\) value (Eq. 1) corresponds to the \(K_{i,\text{cis}}\) value as the \(I_{\text{cell}}\) value is zero. For the trans-inhibition and long-lasting inhibition assay conditions, the \(I_{\text{buffer}}\) was set to zero as the buffer containing an inhibitor was removed before initiating [\(^3\text{H}\)E\textsubscript{2}G uptake.

**Statistical Analysis**

The data were presented as mean ± SEM or SD. The Student’s two-tailed unpaired t-test was used for group comparison (GraphPad Prism 9, GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA). The differences were considered statistically significant when \(P < 0.05\).
Results

Preincubation time-dependent inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA in OATP1B1-HEK cells.

The inhibitory effect of CsA on OATP1B1-mediated uptake of \([^3H]E_2G\) was examined in the cis-, trans-, and cis+trans-inhibition conditions using OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK (Figure 3 and Table 1). In the cis-inhibition condition, CsA inhibited OATP1B1-mediated uptake of \([^3H]E_2G\) in a concentration-dependent manner with \(K_{i,app} (=K_{i,cis})\) of 0.297 µM (Figure 2). In the trans- and cis+trans-inhibition conditions, CsA inhibited the OATP1B1 activity more potently than in the cis-inhibition condition. When the preincubation time was varied (10 versus 120 min), the inhibitory potency of CsA increased with a longer preincubation time (Figure 3 and Table 1): \(K_{i,app}\) values for the trans-inhibition conditions, 0.0523 and 0.0169 µM after 10- and 120-min preincubation with CsA; \(K_{i,app}\) values for the cis+trans-inhibition conditions, 0.0378 and 0.0109 µM after 10- and 120-min preincubation with CsA.

Inhibition types for cis- and trans-inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA.

The inhibition types for cis- and trans-inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA were examined by preparing the Eadie-Hofstee plots, as shown in Figure 4. In the cis-inhibition condition [cells were co-incubated with \([^3H]E_2G\) (0.02 – 100 µM) and CsA (0.3 µM); no preincubation with CsA], the \(K_m\) value increased from 8.52 to 16.9 µM, but no change in \(V_{max}\) (Table 2). In the trans-inhibition condition [the uptake of \([^3H]E_2G\) (0.02 – 100 µM) was measured after 60-min preincubation with CsA (0.01 µM)], the \(V_{max}\) decreased from 241 to 167 pmol/min/mg protein, but no change in \(K_m\) (Table 2). These results indicated that CsA inhibited OATP1B1 competitively from the outside and non-competitively from the inside of cells.

Concentration-dependent uptake of CsA into HEK293 cells.

The time-dependent uptake of CsA was similar between OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK, in line with CsA being a non-substrate of OATP1B1 (Figure 5A). The uptake of
CsA reached an apparent plateau around 60-120 min. The CsA uptake normalized by the medium concentration (µL/mg protein) at 0.1 µM approximately 3.5-fold greater than that at 10 µM at 120 min after incubation.

When the concentration-dependent uptake of CsA was further analyzed at 120 min after incubation in OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK (Figure 5B), the cellular uptake of CsA appeared to contain both saturable and non-saturable components, with nearly overlapping profiles between OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK. The observed data (from OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK cells) was fitted to a cellular kinetic model incorporating the saturable intracellular binding (Eq. 3). The obtained parameters were K_d of 0.0914 µM, B_max of 326 µM, and non-saturable component (A) of 362 (Table 3). Under the linear condition, the f_T value and cell-to-medium CsA concentration ratio were calculated to be 0.000254 and 3930, respectively. CsA was reported to strongly bind with a 1:1 stoichiometry to cyclophilin A (Ke et al., 1994), a pharmacological target of CsA, ubiquitously expressing in the body (Ryffel et al., 1991). Cyclophilin A accounted for as much as 0.1 – 0.4% of the total protein (28.6 – 114 µM) (Marks et al., 1991; Ryffel et al., 1991; Sarris et al., 1992) and the reported K_d values of CsA for cyclophilin A ranged from 0.013 to 0.03 µM (Dalgarno et al., 1986; Quesniaux et al., 1988; Kuglstatter et al., 2011), which were within a few folds difference compared with the currently observed B_max (326 µM) and K_d (0.0914 µM) values in HEK293 cells, respectively (Table 3).

**Kinetic modeling of time-dependent inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA in OATP1B1-HEK cells.**

Similar profiles were observed for the uptake and release of CsA between OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK. As such, the data were combined and analyzed by the cellular kinetic model incorporating the saturable intracellular binding of CsA (Figure 6). The time profiles for the uptake and release of CsA were well captured by the cellular kinetic model using the observed intracellular binding parameters, yielding the estimated PS_{dif} value of 87.8 ±
9.0 µL/min/mg protein.

To estimate $K_{i,\text{trans}}$ of CsA for OATP1B1, the effect of CsA preincubation time on the potentiation of OATP1B1 inhibition was further analyzed in the trans-inhibition condition (Figure 7). With prolonged preincubation with CsA (for 5 to 120 min), the inhibitory effect of CsA on OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [³H]E2G was enhanced, reaching the maximal inhibition with 60-min or longer preincubation (Figure 7A and 7B). The observed data were well captured by the cellular kinetic model with the estimated $PS_{\text{dif}}$ and $K_{i,\text{trans}}$ values of 51.3 µL/min/mg protein and 0.00619 µM, respectively (Table 3); the simulated profiles are shown in solid lines and in good agreement with the observed data in Figure 7A and 7B. The current model for CsA with the optimized parameters (Table 3) well captured the preincubation time-dependent shift of $K_{i,\text{app}}$ (defined with regard to the initial medium concentration) observed under the trans-inhibition conditions ($K_{i,\text{app,trans}}$) as shown in Figure 7C.

For long-lasting inhibition assay conditions, the recovery of OATP1B1 activity was monitored after preincubation with CsA (120 min), followed by the incubation with CsA-free KH buffer (up to 120 min), using OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK (Figure 8A). The release of CsA and recovery of OATP1B1 activity were well captured by the cellular kinetic model (simulated profiles in solid and dotted lines in Figure 8B and C, respectively) using the estimated parameters in Table 3.

**Kinetic modeling of time-dependent inhibition of OATP1B1 by Rifampin in OATP1B1-HEK cells.**

When the time profiles for the uptake of rifampin was examined at 0.1, 0.3, 1, 2, 5, and 10 µM using OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK, the uptake of rifampin reached the steady-state promptly, within 10 min, and the OATP1B1-mediated uptake was fully saturated at 10 µM (Supplemental Figure 2). Since control-HEK cells were used in this study, $f_T$ value could be estimated as well as $PS_{\text{dif}}$, $V_{\text{max}}$, and $K_m$ values. The obtained data were simultaneously fitted to
the cellular kinetic model, yielding the PS_{diff}, V_{max}, K_m, and f_r values of 52.5 μL/min/mg protein, 25.1 pmol/min/mg protein, 0.382 μM, and 0.0311, respectively (Table 3).

The inhibitory effect of rifampin on OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [3H]E2G was examined in the cis-, trans-, and cis+trans-inhibition conditions (Figure 9A). In the cis-inhibition conditions, the K_{i,app} value (corresponding to K_{i,cis} in Figure 2) of rifampin was 1.16 μM. Trans-inhibition assay conditions after 10- and 60-min preincubation with rifampin yielded K_{i,app} values of 1.39 and 1.01 μM, respectively, comparable to those in the cis-inhibition condition. The cis+trans-inhibition assay conditions gave slightly more potent inhibition of OATP1B1 with the K_{i,app} values of 0.492 and 0.524 μM after 10- and 60-min preincubation with rifampin, respectively (Table 1). From the relationship between simulated cellular level of rifampin and observed trans-inhibition of OATP1B1 (Figure 9B), the K_{i,trans} of rifampin was estimated to be 1.56 μM (Table 3). The K_{i,trans} and K_{i,app} values were estimated based on the intracellular unbound concentration and buffer concentration of rifampin, respectively. Intracellular concentration of unbound rifampin is higher than medium concentration due to its active transport mediated by OATP1B1, and K_{i,trans} (1.56 μM) was slightly larger than K_{i,app,trans} (1.01 to 1.39 μM).

Long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1 after 60-min preincubation with rifampin at 10 and 100 μM was also investigated (Figure 9C). OATP1B1 activity immediately recovered within 10 minutes after removing rifampin from buffer, but partially at 100 μM. Using the optimized parameters (Table 3), the recovery of OATP1B1 activity in the long-lasting inhibition assay conditions was also well reproduced by the cellular kinetic model (Figure 9C). At 100 μM rifampin, the OATP1B1 activity was recovered only partially, which was due to the amount of rifampin that remains in the cells (exhibit trans-inhibition of OATP1B1) even after 60-min washout period.
Discussion

In the present study, preincubation time-dependent, long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA and rifampin was characterized in OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK cells, and the in vitro data were analyzed by kinetic modeling to gain the mechanistic insights and to identify the factors impacting the extent of the preincubation time-dependent inhibition of OATP1B1.

Similar to the previous reports (Pahwa et al., 2017; Barnett et al., 2018), our current results confirmed the differences between CsA and rifampin in terms of preincubation-time dependent shift of $K_{i,app}$ values. Following 120-min preincubation in trans- and cis+trans-inhibition assay conditions, the inhibitory potency of CsA on OATP1B1 was markedly enhanced: the $K_{i,app}$ values of CsA were decreased by 16.5- and 27.2-fold compared to that in cis-inhibition assay conditions, respectively (Figure 3 and Table 1). Prolonged preincubation (60-min or longer) was required for reaching the maximum OATP1B1 inhibition in trans-inhibition assay conditions (Figure 7). On the other hand, the $K_{i,app}$ shift of rifampin was modest (only by 2-fold) in the cis+trans-inhibition assay conditions (Figure 9A and Table 1) and 10-min preincubation was sufficient to reach the maximum trans-inhibition (Figure 9B). Cellular kinetic modeling predicted that CsA uptake into HEK293 cells reached a steady-state after 60-min or longer incubation (Figure 5A) and concentration-dependent cellular distribution (Figure 5B) via high-affinity, high-capacity intracellular binding (possibly with cyclophilin A). The uptake of rifampin in OATP1B1-HEK was approximately twice that in control-HEK, likely from OATP1B1-mediated uptake with a $K_m$ value of 0.382 μM (Supplemental Figure 2 and Table 3). In contrast to CsA, the uptake of rifampin reached a steady-state quickly (within 10 min) in both OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK (Supplemental Figure 2). These results support the association of intracellular inhibitor concentrations with the enhancement of OATP1B1 inhibition in the trans- and cis+trans-inhibition conditions.

The time profiles for the uptake and release of CsA in HEK293 cells were well captured by the cellular kinetic model incorporating saturable intracellular binding (Figure 6). Based on
the experimental data of OATP1B1 inhibition by CsA (Figure 4), our kinetic model incorporated the components of competitive cis-inhibition and non-competitive trans-inhibition (Figure 2). The model captured the preincubation time-dependency in trans-inhibition (Figure 7) as well as long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA (Figure 8). The trans-inhibition potency of CsA (K_{i,trans}, 0.00619 μM) was much stronger than that of cis-inhibition (K_{i,cis}, 0.297 μM), and the trans-inhibition was potentiated as preincubation time-dependent intracellular accumulation of CsA. Our current study offers the experimental validation of the proposed trans-inhibition mechanism for OATP1B1 TDI caused by CsA (Shitara and Sugiyama, 2017), differing from the mechanism-based inhibition of drug metabolizing enzymes (Murray, 1997; Lin and Lu, 1998).

Cellular kinetic parameters of CsA and rifampin may provide important insights into the factors impacting the TDI of OATP1B1. For comparison, we calculated the time to reach half maximum intracellular concentration (T_{1/2,max}) as follows:

\[
T_{1/2,max} = \frac{0.693 \times V_{cell}}{P_{S,diff} \times f_T} \quad (10)
\]

The calculated T_{1/2,max} values of CsA and rifampin were 106 and 0.849 min, respectively. Given the similar PS_{diff} values between CsA and rifampin (Table 3), the large difference in T_{1/2,max} is related to approximately 120-fold lower f_T values of CsA under linear condition than that of rifampin (Table 3). Other factors to consider are the K_{i,cis}-to-K_{i,trans} ratio (α), and intracellular-to-buffer unbound drug concentration ratio (K_{p,uu}). According to Eq. 9, intracellular unbound inhibitor concentration f_T \cdot I_{cells} can be replaced by K_{p,uu} \cdot I_{buffer} at a steady-state. Then, OATP1B1-mediated uptake clearance is decreased by a factor of (1+I_{buffer}/K_{i,cis}) or (1+ α \cdot K_{p,uu} \cdot I_{buffer}/K_{i,cis}) in cis- or trans-inhibition, respectively. Therefore, α \cdot K_{p,uu} is a determinant of the extent of enhancement of OATP1B1 inhibition after preincubation. The K_{p,uu} of rifampin was 2.25 due to active uptake via OATP1B1, but symmetrical cis- and trans-inhibition of OATP1B1 offered the α value of 0.744, resulting in α \cdot K_{p,uu} of 1.7. Although K_{p,uu} was unity for CsA, the contribution of trans-inhibition to the overall OATP1B1 inhibition was much greater than that of cis-inhibition, producing the α (and α \cdot K_{p,uu}) value of 48. Furthermore, when the
OATP1B1-mediated uptake is reduced by 50% in cis+trans-inhibition study, $I_{\text{buffer}}$ is equal to $K_{i,\text{app},\text{cis+trans}}$ at a steady-state in Eq. 9, and $K_{i,\text{app},\text{cis+trans}}$ can be described as follows:

$$K_{i,\text{app},\text{cis+trans}} =$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1 + K_{p,uu} \cdot \alpha}{K_{i,cis}}\right)^2 + 4 \cdot K_{p,uu} \cdot \alpha / K_{i,cis}}^2 - \left(\frac{1 + K_{p,uu} \cdot \alpha}{K_{i,cis}}\right)}{(2 \cdot \alpha \cdot K_{p,uu} / K_{i,cis})}$$

(11)

The derivation of Eq. 11 is given in the Supplemental Text. Based on this equation, simulations were performed to assess the impact of $\alpha$ and $K_{p,uu}$ on the steady-state $K_{i,\text{app},\text{cis+trans}}$ for CsA (Supplemental Figures 3A and 3B) and rifampin (Supplemental Figures 3C and 3D): for both drugs, the larger $\alpha$ and $K_{p,uu}$ values, the smaller $K_{i,\text{app},\text{cis+trans}}$ values. Together, it is likely that the long $T_{1/2,\text{max}}$ and large $\alpha \cdot K_{p,uu}$ of CsA account for notable preincubation time-dependent potentiation of OATP1B1 inhibition compared to rifampin.

The cellular kinetic model of CsA (Figure 2 and Table 3) was also used for the sensitivity analysis examining the impact of $PS_{\text{dif}}$, $f_T$, $K_{p,uu}$, and $K_{i,\text{trans}}$ on the cellular PK and preincubation time-dependent change in $K_{i,\text{app},\text{cis+trans}}$ and $K_{i,\text{app},\text{trans}}$ (Figure 10 and Supplemental Figure 4). Simulation results indicated that the smaller $PS_{\text{dif}}$ (Figure 10A and 10B) or $f_T$ (Supplemental Figure 4), the longer preincubation time to reach a steady-state in $I_{\text{cell,u}}$ and maximum trans- and cis+trans-inhibition. With a sufficiently long time, $I_{\text{cell,u}}$ would correspond to $I_{\text{buffer}}$ (regardless of $PS_{\text{dif}}$ or $f_T$ values) and $K_{i,\text{app},\text{cis+trans}}$ to $K_{i,\text{app},\text{trans}}$ at a steady-state. The greater $K_{p,uu}$ values, the higher $I_{\text{cell,u}}$ values (Figure 10C), and the more potent trans- and cis+trans-inhibition (Figure 10D). In Figures 10E and F, the contribution of trans-inhibition relative to cis-inhibition was reduced by increasing $K_{i,\text{trans}}$ to 10 and 48 times to the original values (i.e., $K_{i,cis} = 48 \times K_{i,\text{trans}}$). Overall OATP1B1 inhibition was accounted for by cis- and trans-inhibition, but preincubation time-dependent shift of $K_{i,\text{app},\text{cis+trans}}$ values was less pronounced. The simulation results suggest that $T_{1/2,\text{max}}$ and $\alpha \cdot K_{p,uu}$ are key parameters determining the degree of preincubation time-dependency of OATP1B1 inhibitors, and may collectively influence optimal preincubation.
time in evaluating OATP1B1 inhibition at steady-state. Further investigation is warranted to conclude whether the current findings are applicable to preincubation effect-positive OATP1B1 inhibitors other than CsA.

The preincubation effects have also been observed in other solute carrier (SLC) transporters such as OATP1B3, OAT1, OAT3, OCT1, OCT2, MATE1, MATE-2K, and NTCP (Gertz et al., 2013; Furihata et al., 2014; Ma et al., 2015; Arakawa et al., 2017; Oh et al., 2018; Omote et al., 2018; Tátrai et al., 2019; Lowjaga et al., 2020). Tátrai and coworkers comprehensively examined preincubation-dependency for the inhibition of clinically relevant SLC transporters (Tátrai et al., 2019). In their report, in the case of the inhibitors displaying the enhancement by preincubation, it took a long time to reach equilibrium between intracellular concentration and buffer concentrations. In contrast, rapid equilibrium was achieved for preincubation effect-negative inhibitors (Tátrai et al., 2019). Recently, Lowjaga et al. reported that taurolithocholic acid exhibited long-lasting trans-inhibition of NTCP and discussed the physiological significance of the NTCP trans-inhibition mechanism as a potential defense system to protect hepatocytes from cholestatic bile acids and the hepatitis B and D virus infection (Lowjaga et al., 2020). The inhibition profiles reported with various SLC transporters appear consistent with the TDI mechanism of OATP1B1, and trans-inhibition may be a common phenomenon for SLC transporters with different intracellular retention mechanisms of inhibitors, such as on-target (e.g., cyclophilin A) or off-target intracellular binding, lysosomal trapping, and/or active uptake of inhibitors. The in vitro experimental protocols and kinetic modeling approach employed in the current study may aid in elucidating the TDI mechanism of additional SLC transporters.

Another implication of the current findings may be for the risk assessment of OATP1B1-mediated DDIs. Regulatory DDI guidelines recommend that $K_i$ values for OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 be determined after preincubation with NCEs (MHLW, 2019; U.S. FDA, 2020). Since the $T_{1/2,max}$ values depend on the $PS_{diff}$ and $f_{T}$ values of a given compound (Figure 10 and
Supplemental Figure 4), preincubation time needs to be optimized for each compound. In the clinical DDIs, the inhibitor drugs are distributed to the liver and expected to access OATP1B1 from extracellular (plasma) and intracellular (liver) sides. In that regard, the use of steady-state \( K_{i,app,cis+trans} \) values may be more relevant to in vivo situations and desirable to avoid false-negative DDI predictions by the static model. However, it should be noted that the unbound concentrations of the inhibitor in the plasma and liver should change with time in vivo, and the use of steady-state \( K_{i,app,cis+trans} \) based on the unbound inhibitor concentration in buffer may overestimate the extent of in vivo DDI. To overcome this difficulty, the mechanistic PBPK models involving cis- and trans-inhibition taking into the account the time-dependent change in the unbound inhibitor concentrations in the blood and liver should be established in the near future.

In conclusion, we experimentally validated the underlying mechanism for preincubation-dependent, long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA, in which the extensive intracellular binding, and cis- and trans-inhibition of OATP1B1 were found key drivers. OATP1B1 inhibitors with long \( T_{1/2,max} \), and large \( K_{i,cis}/K_{i,trans} \) ratio and \( K_{p,uu} \) could show a significant preincubation effect in the in vitro inhibition assays. This study provided a mechanistic understanding of the TDI of OATP1B1 in vitro, contributing to more accurate, quantitative prediction of transporter-mediated DDIs and developing safer medicines for patients.
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Authorship Contributions

Participated in research design: Izumi and Sugiyama.

Conducted experiments: Izumi.

Contributed new reagents or analytic tools: Not applicable.

Performed data analysis: Izumi and Nozaki.

Wrote or contributed to the writing of the manuscript: Izumi, Nozaki, Lee, and Sugiyama.
References


Footnote

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Legends for Figures

Figure 1. Different inhibition assay conditions employed in the current study.

In the *cis*-inhibition assay, a substrate and an inhibitor were simultaneously added to cells and co-incubated without preincubation of the inhibitor. Since the distribution of inhibitors into cells was minimal, inhibitors can inhibit OATP1B1 from the outside of cells (*cis*-inhibition). In the *trans*-inhibition assay, cells were preincubated with an inhibitor before examining the uptake of a probe substrate. After washing cells, the uptake of the probe substrate was examined in the absence of the inhibitor in buffer. In this condition, inhibitors remaining in the cells can inhibit OATP1B1 from the inside of cells (*trans*-inhibition). In the *cis*+*trans*-inhibition assay, the assay flow was consistent with that of *trans*-inhibition, except for co-incubation of the probe substrate and inhibitor after the inhibitor preincubation step. Under this assay condition, the inhibitor can inhibit OATP1B1 from both outside (*cis*-inhibition) and inside (*trans*-inhibition) of cells. In long-lasting inhibition assay, cells were preincubated with inhibitors for designated time period, followed by washout and incubation with fresh KH buffer at 37°C. At the designated times, cells were washed again and the uptake of a probe substrate was examined in the absence of the inhibitor to monitor the recovery of OATP1B1 activity.

Figure 2. Diagram depicting *cis*- and *trans*-inhibition of OATP1B1 *in vitro*.

In this model, an inhibitor (I) in buffer (I_{buffer}) enters cells by passive diffusion (PS_{dif}) with or without transporter-mediated active uptake (PS_{act}), and inhibits OATP1B1 from both outside (*cis*-inhibition) and inside (*trans*-inhibition) of cells. $K_{i,cis}$ represents the inhibition constant for the *cis*-inhibition of OATP1B1 based on the I_{buffer}. $K_{i,trans}$ represents the inhibition constants for the *trans*-inhibition of OATP1B1 based on the intracellular unbound concentration (I_{cell,u}). Intracellular unbound fraction ($f_T$) is set constant (rifampin) or nonlinear (CsA). For the inhibitor that shows nonlinear $f_T$, the intracellular bound concentration (I_{cell,b}) is saturable with $K_d$ (dissociation constant), $B_{max}$ (maximum number of binding site for intracellular binding), and
A (non-saturable component).

**Figure 3. Inhibitory effect of CsA on OATP1B1-mediated uptake of $[^3\text{H}]{\text{E}_2\text{G}}$ under *cis-* , *trans-* , and *cis+trans-* inhibition conditions in OATP1B1-HEK cells.**

In the *cis-* inhibition condition, CsA (0.001 – 10 μM) and $[^3\text{H}]{\text{E}_2\text{G}}$ (0.1 μM) were co-incubated without preincubation with CsA (●). In the *trans-* inhibition condition, $[^3\text{H}]{\text{E}_2\text{G}}$ uptake was examined after 10- (△) or 120-min (▲) preincubation with CsA. In the *cis+trans-* inhibition condition, CsA and $[^3\text{H}]{\text{E}_2\text{G}}$ were co-incubated after 10- (□) or 120-min (■) preincubation with CsA. Each symbol represents mean ± SEM (n=3), and solid (*cis-* inhibition), dash (*trans-* inhibition), and dash-dotted lines (*cis+trans-* inhibition) represent fitted lines according to Eq. 1. See also Figure 1 for details of assay conditions.

**Figure 4. Eadie-Hofstee plots to assess the inhibition types for *cis-* and *trans-* inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA in OATP1B1-HEK cells.**

The concentration dependent uptake of $[^3\text{H}]{\text{E}_2\text{G}}$ (0.002 – 100 μM) for 1 min at 37°C was investigated in *cis-* (A) and *trans-* inhibition (B) conditions. (A) OATP1B1-mediated uptake of $[^3\text{H}]{\text{E}_2\text{G}}$ was investigated in the absence (●) or presence (○) of CsA (0.3 μM) without preincubation step with CsA. (B) Cells were preincubated for 60 min in the absence (●) or presence (○) of CsA (0.01 μM). After washing, OATP1B1-mediated uptake of $[^3\text{H}]{\text{E}_2\text{G}}$ was investigated in the absence of CsA. The concentration-dependent uptake of E$_2$G was analyzed by Eq. 2 and the data are shown as an Eadie-Hofstee plot. Representative data from three independent experiments are presented, and each point represents mean ± SEM (n=3).
Figure 5. Time profiles and concentration dependence of the uptake of CsA into HEK293 cells.

(A) Uptake of CsA into OATP1B1-HEK (closed symbols) and control-HEK (open symbols) at 0.1 (circles) and 10 μM (triangles) were determined over 180 min at 37°C. Each point represents the mean ± SEM (n=3). (B) CsA (0.001 – 10 μM) was incubated with OATP1B1-HEK (■) and control-HEK (□) for 120 min at 37°C. The cellular uptake was analyzed by Eq. 3 and the data are shown as a Scatchard plot. Representative data from three independent experiments are presented. Each point represents the mean ± SEM (n=3).

Figure 6. Time profiles for the uptake and release of CsA in HEK293 cells.

Time profiles for the uptake (A – D) and release (E) of CsA were examined in HEK293 cells. Since results were similar between OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK cells, the data were combined and shown as mean ± SEM (n=6). (A – D) KH buffer containing CsA at 0.01 (A), 0.1 (B), 1 (C), and 10 (D) μM was incubated with HEK293 cells over 180 min to investigate the uptake of CsA. (E) After the incubation of CsA (0.1 μM) with HEK293 cells for 120 min at 37°C, cells were washed and incubated with KH buffer for 30 min at 37°C to see the release of CsA into the buffer. The cellular (●) and buffer (○) concentrations of CsA were determined by LC-MS/MS. To estimate the PS_{diff} value of CsA, observed intracellular and buffer concentration of CsA were simultaneously fitted to Eqs. 4, 5, and 7 with fixed B_{max} (326 μM), K_{d} (0.0914 μM), and A (362) as shown in Table 3. Solid and dashed lines represent the fitted lines for cellular and buffer concentrations of CsA.

Figure 7. Observed and simulated profiles for preincubation time dependency in trans-inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA in OATP1B1-HEK cells.

(A, B) The preincubation time-dependent inhibition curve shift (A) and potentiation of
OATP1B1 inhibition by CsA (B) were examined in vitro. After preincubation with CsA (0.001 – 100 μM) for 5, 10, 30, 60, and 120 min, OATP1B1-mediated uptake of \([\text{^3}H]E_2G\) (0.1 μM) was determined in the absence of CsA, and observed % of control values (relative to OATP1B1-mediated uptake of \([\text{^3}H]E_2G\) without CsA preincubation) were presented as closed circles (mean ± SEM, n=3). The observed % of control values were fitted to Eq. 9, where \(I_{\text{buffer}}\) of CsA was set to zero, and \(f_{\text{r}}\cdot I_{\text{cell}}\) of CsA simulated by Eqs. 4, 5, and 7 with fixed \(B_{\text{max}}\) (326 μM), \(K_d\) (0.0914 μM) and \(A\) (362) as shown in Table 3 was used, setting \(PS_{\text{diff}}\) as a free parameter. Solid lines in (A) and (B) are fitted lines for % of control values, yielding \(PS_{\text{diff}}\) and \(K_{i,\text{trans}}\) values (parameter estimate ± parameter SD) of 51.3 ± 13.8 μL/min/mg protein and 0.00619 ± 0.00138 μM, respectively. (C) The preincubation-time dependent shift of \(K_{s,\text{app}}\) values observed in the trans-inhibition study (\(K_{s,\text{app},\text{trans}}\)) were shown with closed circles (mean ± SD, n=3), and compared with simulated values. For \(K_{s,\text{app}}\) simulation (dashed line), the % of control values were estimated by Eq. 9, where \(I_{\text{buffer}}\) and \(K_{s,\text{trans}}\) were set to zero and 0.00619 μM, respectively, and \(f_{\text{r}}\cdot I_{\text{cell}}\) values were simulated by Eqs. 4, 5, and 7 using optimized parameters given in Table 3. Then, the estimated % of control values after CsA preincubation were input into Eq. 1, where nominal CsA concentration in buffer was used as \(I_{\text{buffer}}\).

**Figure 8. Observed and simulated long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA in OATP1B1-HEK cells.**

(A) Assay procedure for long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1 by CsA. After 120 min-preincubation of CsA (0.001 – 10 μM) at 37°C with OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK, cells were washed and incubated with 500 μL of fresh KH buffer at 37°C. At the designated times (up to 120 min), buffer samples were collected to measure concentrations of CsA released from the cells into buffer (B), followed by washout. Then, OATP1B1-mediated uptake of \([\text{^3}H]E_2G\) (0.1 μM) was examined in buffer lacking CsA (C). Closed circles represent the observed data (mean ± SEM, n=6 (B) or 3 (C)). To simulate CsA concentration in buffer and the
recovery of OATP1B1 activity, the intracellular concentration of CsA (I_{cell}) after 120-min preincubation with CsA (0.01 – 10 µM), which was estimated according to Eqs. 4, 5 and 7 using optimized parameters (Table 3), was used as initial value (t=0). And then, time profiles for concentrations of CsA released from the cells into buffer (I_{buffer}; I_{buffer} = 0 at t=0) were simulated (solid lines) (B). Since CsA was not measurable in buffer after preincubation of CsA at 0.001 µM, only a simulation line was shown in gray (B). The I_{cell} and f_T of CsA during washout period were also simulated according to Eqs. 4, 5 and 7 using optimized parameters (Table 3) and input into Eq. 9 with fixed K_{i,trans} (0.00619 µM) and I_{buffer} (0 µM) to simulate the recovery of OATP1B1 activity (% of control values; dashed lines) (C).

Figure 9. Preincubation time-dependent inhibition of OATP1B1 by rifampin.

(A) Inhibitory effect of rifampin (0.01 – 100 µM) on OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [3H]E2G (0.1 µM) was examined in cis-, trans-, and cis+trans-inhibition conditions using OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK. In the cis-inhibition condition, rifampin and [3H]E2G were co-incubated without preincubation with rifampin (●). In the trans-inhibition condition, [3H]E2G uptake was examined after 10- (△) or 60-min (▲) preincubation with rifampin. In the cis+trans-inhibition condition, rifampin and [3H]E2G were co-incubated after 10- (□) or 60-min (■) preincubation with rifampin. Each symbol represents mean ± SEM (n=3), and solid (cis-inhibition), dashed (trans-inhibition), and dash-dotted lines (cis+trans-inhibition) represent fitted lines obtained according to Eq. 1. (B) Trans-inhibition of OATP1B1 by rifampin. After preincubation with rifampin (0.01 – 100 µM) for 10 and 60 min, OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [3H]E2G (0.1 µM) was determined in buffer lacking rifampin, and observed % of control values (relative to OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [3H]E2G without rifampin preincubation) were presented as closed circles (mean ± SEM, n=3). The observed % of control values were fitted to
Eq. 9, where $I_{\text{buffer}}$ of rifampin was set to zero, and $f_T - I_{\text{cell}}$ of rifampin that was simulated by Eqs. 4, 5 and 6 with fixed $PS_{\text{diff}}$ (52.5 μL/min/mg protein), $V_{\text{max}}$ (25.1 pmol/min/mg protein), $K_m$ (0.382 μM), and $f_T$ (0.0311 μM) as shown in Table 3 was used. Solid lines represent fitted lines for % of control values, yielding estimated $K_{i,\text{trans}}$ value (parameter estimate ± parameter SD) of $1.56 \pm 0.10 \, \mu M$. (C) Long-lasting inhibition of OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [3H]E2G (0.1 μM) by rifampin (10 and 100 μM) was examined using OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK. After 60-min preincubation of rifampin at 0 (●), 10 (△), and 100 μM (□) with OATP1B1-HEK and control-HEK, cells were washed and incubated with 500 μL of fresh KH buffer at 37°C. At 10- and 60-min washout period, buffer was removed, followed by washing cells. Then, OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [3H]E2G was examined in buffer lacking rifampin. Each symbol represents observed value (mean ± SEM, n=3). To simulate the recovery of OATP1B1 activity, the intracellular concentration of rifampin ($I_{\text{cell}}$) after 60-min preincubation with rifampin (10 and 100 μM), which was estimated according to Eqs. 4, 5, and 6 using optimized parameters (Table 3), was used as initial value ($t=0$). And then, the $I_{\text{cell}}$ of rifampin during washout period were simulated according to Eqs. 4, 5, and 6 using optimized parameters (Table 3) and input into Eq. 9 with fixed $K_{i,\text{trans}}$ (1.56 μM), $f_T$ (0.0311), and $I_{\text{buffer}}$ (0 μM) to simulate the recovery of OATP1B1 activity (% of control values). Solid, dashed, and dash-dotted lines represent simulated % control values after 60-min preincubation with rifampin at 0, 10, and 100 μM, respectively.

**Figure 10. Simulation of the impact of $PS_{\text{diff}}$, $K_{p,uu}$, and $\alpha$ on the cellular PK and preincubation-time dependent shift of $K_{i,\text{app,cis+trans}}$ and $K_{i,\text{app,trans}}$ of CsA.**

The impacts of $PS_{\text{diff}}$ (A and B), $K_{p,uu}$ (C and D), and $\alpha$ ($K_{i,\text{cis}}$-to-$K_{i,\text{trans}}$ ratio; E and F) on the time profiles for $I_{\text{buffer}}$ and $I_{\text{cell,u}}$ of CsA (Initial value for $I_{\text{buffer}}$, 0.1 μM; A, C, and E) during preincubation period and preincubation time-dependent shift of $K_{i,\text{app,cis+trans}}$ and $K_{i,\text{app,trans}}$ values.
(B, D, and F) were simulated up to 120 min. The cellular pharmacokinetic parameters of CsA shown in Table 3 were used as default values, and cellular protein amount was set to 0.01 mg protein/well in these simulations to minimize the impact on $I_{\text{buffer}}$. (A and B) To see the impact of $T_{1/2,\text{max}}$, PS$_{\text{dif}}$ value was set to 5.13 (P$_{\text{dif}} \times 0.1$), 51.3 (P$_{\text{dif}} \times 1$, default value), and 513 (P$_{\text{dif}} \times 10$) μL/min/mg protein, keeping $f_T$ constant (0.000254). (C and D) To simulate the situations with $K_{p,\text{uu}}$ values of 1, 3, and 10, PS$_{\text{act}}$ value was set to 0 (default value), 103, and 462 μL/min/mg protein, respectively, keeping PS$_{\text{dif}}$ constant (51.3 μL/min/mg protein). (E and F) To see the effect of α (K$_{i,\text{cis}}$-to-K$_{i,\text{trans}}$ ratio) values at 48, 4.8, and 1, K$_{i,\text{trans}}$ value was set to 0.00619 (K$_{i,\text{trans}} \times 1$, default value), 0.0619 (K$_{i,\text{trans}} \times 10$), and 0.297 (K$_{i,\text{trans}} \times 48$, equal to K$_{i,\text{cis}}$) μM, respectively, keeping K$_{i,\text{cis}}$ constant (0.297 μM).
Table 1. $K_{i,app}$ values of CsA and rifampin for OATP1B1 in cis-, trans-, or cis+trans-inhibition conditions in OATP1B1-HEK cells.

The inhibitory effect of CsA and rifampin on OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [3H]E2G (0.1 μM) was examined in cis-, trans-, or cis+trans-inhibition assays (Figures 3, 7, and 9) according to Figure 1. Each experiment was performed in triplicates and repeated at least twice. The observed $K_{i,app}$ values were estimated by a nonlinear least-squares regression analysis by using Eq. 1 and presented as parameter estimate ± parameter SD.

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<td>0</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1.39 ± 0.09</td>
<td>0.492 ± 0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1.01 ± 0.13</td>
<td>0.524 ± 0.065</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA = not applicable, NT = not tested.
Table 2. Concentration dependence of OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [³H]E₂G in the presence and absence of CsA under cis- and trans-inhibition assay conditions.

OATP1B1-mediated uptake of [³H]E₂G (0.002 – 100 µM) was examined in the presence and absence of CsA (0.3 and 0.01 µM for cis- and trans-inhibition, respectively). Kinetic parameters were estimated by a nonlinear least-squares regression analysis based on the Michaelis-Menten equation (Eq. 2) and are shown as mean ± SD from three independent experiments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assay condition</th>
<th>Preincubation time (min)</th>
<th>Concentration of CsA (µM)</th>
<th>Kₘ (µM)</th>
<th>Vₘₐₓ (pmol/min/mg protein)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preincubation step</td>
<td>[³H]E₂G co-incubation step</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cis-inhibition</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8.52 ± 1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>16.9 ± 1.02*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-inhibition</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7.47 ± 1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7.77 ± 2.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p < 0.05 compared to the corresponding control condition.
NA = not applicable.
Table 3. Cellular kinetic parameters of CsA and rifampin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Inhibitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CsA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K_d</td>
<td>μM</td>
<td>0.0914 ± 0.0245a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B_max</td>
<td>μM</td>
<td>326 ± 111a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>362 ± 26a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f_T</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.000254b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS_dif</td>
<td>μL/min/mg protein</td>
<td>51.3 ± 13.8c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V_max</td>
<td>pmol/min/mg protein</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K_m</td>
<td>μM</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K_p,uu</td>
<td></td>
<td>1d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K_i, cis</td>
<td>μM</td>
<td>0.297 ± 0.027f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K_i, trans</td>
<td>μM</td>
<td>0.00619 ± 0.00138c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K_i, cis to K_i, trans ratio (α)</td>
<td></td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a: Determined by in vitro studies using Eq. 3 (mean ± SD, n=6).
b: f_T value under linear condition, calculated from K_d, B_max, and A.
c: Estimated by cellular kinetic model fitting (parameter estimate ± parameter SD).
d: Assumed to be unity.
e: K_p,uu of rifampin was estimated by (1 + PS_act/PS_dif).
f: Estimated according to Eq. 1 (parameter estimate ± parameter SD).
NA = not available.
Assay conditions

**cis-inhibition**
- Inhibitor
- **Substrate**
- Washout, lysis & substrate measurement
- ([³H]E₂G for 1 min)
- (up to 120 min)

**trans-inhibition**
- Inhibitor
- Wash
- **Substrate**
- (37°C)
- (up to 120 min)

**cis+trans-inhibition**
- Inhibitor
- **Substrate**
- (up to 120 min)

**Long-lasting inhibition**
- Inhibitor
- Wash
- Inhibitor-free KH Buffer
- Wash
- **Substrate**
- (CsA for 120 min, rifampin for 60 min)
- (4°C)
- (37°C)
- (up to 120 min)

Collecting buffer & inhibitor measurement

Figure 1
Figure 4

(A) v/s (µL/min/mg protein) vs. v (pmol/min/mg protein) for control and + CsA (0.3 µM).

(B) v/s (µL/min/mg protein) vs. v (pmol/min/mg protein) for control and + CsA (0.01 µM).
Figure 5

(A) Uptake (μL/mg protein) vs. Time (min)
- Control-HEK (0.1 μM)
- OATP1B1-HEK (0.1 μM)
- Control-HEK (10 μM)
- OATP1B1-HEK (10 μM)

(B) \( \frac{I_{\text{cell}} - I_{\text{buffer}}}{I_{\text{buffer}}} \) vs. \( I_{\text{cell}} - I_{\text{buffer}} \) (μM)
- Control-HEK
- OATP1B1-HEK
Figure 6
Figure 7

(A) % of control vs. Concentration (μM) for different time points: 5 min, 10 min, 30 min, 60 min, 120 min.

(B) % of control vs. Preincubation time (min) for various concentrations: 0 μM, 0.001 μM, 0.01 μM, 0.03 μM, 0.1 μM, 0.3 μM, 1 μM, 10 μM.

(C) K_{app} vs. Preincubation time (min) with concentrations indicated for each point.
Figure 9
Figure 10