STUDIES WITH CHLORINATED DIBENZO-p-DIOXINS, POLYBROMINATED BIPHENYLS AND POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS IN A TWO-STAGE SYSTEM OF MOUSE SKIN TUMORIGENESIS: POTENT ANTI-CARCINOGENIC EFFECTS*

David L. Berry, Ph.D., Thomas J. Slaga, Ph.D., John DiGiovanni, Ph.D.[1] and Mont R. Juchau, Ph.D.[1]

Cancer & Toxicology Program, Biology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

and

Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195

*Research sponsored by the Division of Biomedical and Environmental Research, U.S. Department of Energy under contract W-7405-eng-26 with the Union Carbide Corporation.

[1]Present address: Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

DISCLAIMER

STUDIES WITH CHLORINATED DIBENZO-p-DIOXINS, POLYBROMINATED BIPHENYLS AND POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS IN A TWO-STAGE SYSTEM OF MOUSE SKIN TUMORIGENESIS: POTENT ANTI-CARCINOGENIC EFFECTS

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Cancer and Toxicology Program, Biology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

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Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195

The chlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and chlorinated dibenzo-furans are among the most potent teratogens and toxins that are found as environmental contaminants[1,2]. The polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) are not nearly as toxic as the dioxins but they are environmentally more prevalent than the dioxins[3,4,5]. Both classes of compounds are inducers of the cytochrome P-450-mediated microsomal monooxygenases[5,6,7,8,9,10] and of δ-aminolevulinic acid synthetase[1,10]. The dioxins induce aryl hydrocarbon hydroxylase (AHH, E.C. 1.14.14.2), the enzyme system responsible for converting polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) to active and inactive metabolites, much the same as 3-methylcholanthrene (3-MC) but for periods up to 35 days after a single i.p. injection and at much lower doses[1,10]. PCBs and PBBs are mixtures of various isomers and induce the monooxygenase system with properties similar to both phenobarbital and 3-MC but the duration of induction is much shorter than 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD)[2,10,11]. The toxicological response is similar for both classes of compounds in that they are hepatotoxic[4,12,13,14], cause decreased growth rate[3,15] and produce chloracne in test animals and man[1,13,16].

The effects of PCBs on carcinogenicity of various chemicals have been

investigated by numerous groups. Kanechlor-500 in combination with several hepatocarcinogens (3'methyl-4-dimethylaminoazobenzene, N-2-fluorenylacetamide and diethylnitrosamine) in the diets of rats markedly decreased the formation of hepatocarcinomas[17]. Kimura et al.[18] demonstrated that pretreatment with Kanechlor-400 in diets of rats 4 months prior to and 2 months during treatment with 3'methyl-4-dimethylaminoazobenzene protected the rats against the formation of hepatocarcinomas induced by this carcinogen. Treatment of animals with the organochlorine insecticide 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis-(p-chlorophenyl)-ethane (DDT) has been shown to inhibit 7,12-dimethylbenz(a)anthracene (DMBA)-induced mammary tumors[19]. These findings as well as other reports[20,21,22,23] suggest that in terms of effects on carcinogenesis, timing is important in the application of PCB to the diets of laboratory animals. Treatment with the PCBs prior to the administration of carcinogen results in reduction of the tumor response while treatment subsequent to application of the carcinogen results in enhancement of the tumorigenic response. The inhibitory effects of the PCBs in these studies were attributed to the induction of hepatic microsomal enzymes while the enhancement was ascribed to the promoting properties of the PCBs.

The two-stage system of mouse skin tumorigenesis allows one to evaluate critically the initiation and promotion phases of carcinogenesis individually[24,25,26]. The initiation phase requires a single subthreshold dose of a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon and is irreversible, while the promotion stage requires multiple applications of a promoter and is reversible up to a given time point[27,28]. This system allows one to study the effects of modifiers on initiation and promotion separately in a skin carcinogenesis assay. The results presented here demonstrate that certain environmental chemicals (PCBs, PBBs and TCDD) possess the capacity to modify tumor

initiation in a mouse skin assay. At the doses utilized, these chemicals exhibited little or no initiating or promoting properties.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals

Female CD-1 mice were purchased from the Charles River Mouse Farms (North Wilmington, MA). Mice 6 to 8 weeks old were carefully shaved with surgical clippers 2 days prior to treatment, and only those mice in the resting phase of the hair cycle were used for the biochemical and tumor experiments. Animals were housed in plastic cages, received water and food *ad libitum* and were weighed weekly.

Chemicals

DMBA was purchased from Sigma Chemical Company (St. Louis, MO). Benzo-(a)pyrene (BaP) was supplied by the NCI Carcinogenesis Research Program (Bethesda, MD). The phorbol diester promoter 12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol-13-acetate (TPA) was purchased from Dr. P. Borchert, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. PCB (Aroclor 1254) was purchased from Analabs, Inc. (North Haven, CT). PBB was supplied by A.C. Kolbye, Jr. of the FDA. TCDD (Lot #851-144-2) was generously supplied by the Dow Chemical Company (Midland, MI). A. Poland generously supplied samples of 2,7-dichlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (DCDD) and 3,4',3',4'-tetrachloroazobenzene (TCAB).

Tumor Induction Experiments

Each experimental group consisted of 30 pre-shaved mice. DMBA (200 nmol) was dissolved in acetone immediately before use, and 0.2 ml of the acetone solution was applied topically to the shaved area of the back. One week after DMBA initiation, a control group received applications twice weekly of TPA (10 μg) in 0.2 ml acetone. The following test compounds: PBB (100 μg); PCB (100 μg) and TCDD (0.1 μg) were applied twice weekly topically in acetone

to the shaved dorsal skin area of the DMBA initiated mice. Promotion was continued for 30 weeks, when the experiments were terminated. In another set of animal experiments, animals were pretreated with: PCB (100 μg and 625 μg) 18 hr prior to initiation; TCDD (1.0 μg) at 1, 3 and 5 days prior to initiation; DCDD (100 μg) 3 days prior to initiation; and TCAB (10 μg) 3 days prior to initiation. The animals were initiated with 10 nmol DMBA and promoted with TPA. Incidences of both papillomas and carcinomas were observed weekly and papillomas and carcinomas were removed at random for histopathological verification. Initial histological experiments were performed with PCB, PBB and TCDD to assess toxicity and changes in intrafollicular epidermis prior to dose selection for the experiments described.

Enzyme Induction by PCB and TCDD

In order to induce epidermal monooxygenase systems functional in the oxidative biotransformation of DMBA, mice were pretreated with single doses of the following inducing agents: 100 μg of PCB 18 hr prior to sacrifice, 200 nmol of DMBA, dibenz(a,c)anthracene or 3-methylcholanthrene 18 hr prior to sacrifice and 1 μg of TCDD 72 hr prior to sacrifice. High-pressure liquid chromatography was utilized to assess the profiles of metabolites of ^{14}C-DMBA. Details of the methodology have been published by DiGiovanni et al.[29]. To further assess the bioactivation process, binding to epidermal protein, RNA and DNA by ^{3}H-DMBA was measured using the method of Huberman and Sachs[30].

RESULTS

Visual and histopathological examination of mouse skin treated with TPA at 2 μg per mouse indicated marked inflammation and an increase in the number of layers in the intrafollicular epidermis from 1 to between 4 and 5 layers. PCBs and PBB at either 100 μg or 625 μg per mouse did not affect the intrafollicular epidermis. TCDD at 1 μg per mouse increased the numbers of cells in the intrafollicular epidermis but the effect was not pronounced. DCDD

or TCAB did not affect the thickening of the epidermis as compared to the strong hyperplastic response of TPA.

The chlorinated dioxins and biphenyls were tested for promoting activity in the mouse skin with a high (200 nmol) initiating dose of DMBA. In a 30 week treatment period, the normal DMBA-initiated, TPA-promoted controls yielded approximately 8 papillomas per mouse (Table 1). The two biphenyls (at doses of 100 µg/mouse given twice weekly) did not promote the development of skin tumors nor did TCDD at a dose of 0.1 µg twice weekly. When tested without DMBA initiation, neither the dioxin nor the biphenyls demonstrated any carcinogenic activity. By the end of 30 weeks of treatment, the dioxin-treated mice showed a reddening of the skin as well as ear lesions resembling acne. The biphenyls, however, did not produce any observable skin lesions.

A series of biphenyl and dioxin-related inducers of aryl hydrocarbon hydroxylase were tested for their ability to act as tumor initiators or for their capacity to modify the initiating activity of DMBA. Aroclor 1254 and TCDD were very weak initiators as was shown previously by DiGiovanni et al.[31]. Aroclor 1254 exhibited no effect on tumorigenesis when given 5 minutes prior to an initiating dose of DMBA. Aroclor 1254 at 18 hr and 72 hr prior to admistration of DMBA inhibited initiation by as much as 45% in a time-dependent fashion. The much stronger monooxygenase inducer, TCDD (at 1 µg) decreased DMBA initiation by 93% when applied 3 days prior to initiation. The less active DCDD inhibited DMBA initiation only slightly. A close structural analogue of the dioxins, 3,4,3',4'-tetrachloroazobenzene[32], which is much less potent than TCDD in terms of AHH induction in the mouse, slightly enhanced DMBA initiation at a dose of 10 µg given 3 days prior to initiation.

To further study the inhibitory effects of the dioxins on PAH initiation,

a series of tumor experiments were conducted using DMBA or BaP as initiators. As shown in Table 3, pretreatment times of 1, 3 and 5 days (at a dose of 1 μg per mouse) resulted in a 94% inhibition of the tumor response to DMBA. To test the generality of the inhibition, the same experimental design was used with BaP as the initiator. A similar inhibitory action of TCDD on BaP tumor-initiation was also observed (unpublished observations). With BaP as the initiator, the dependence on the time of pretreatment with TCDD was similar to that observed with DMBA as the initiator. The maximum inhibition of tumor formation occurred with pretreatment at 5 days prior to initiation but the inhibitory response of TCDD pretreatment on BaP initiation was less than that observed with DMBA as the initiator. In all cases where the animals received 1 μg of TCDD, the weight gain, morphologic and histologic characteristics of the skin were normal. At topical doses of 2 μg, toxicity was observed and approximately one-third of the mice died at the end of the 20 week period.

To further show that the inhibition of PAH initiation by TCDD was related to the induction of the epidermal monooxygenase system, a dose-response study was designed. As illustrated above, maximum inhibition was observed at 3 to 5 days prior to DMBA initiation. As shown in Table 3, TCDD, in a dose-dependent fashion, inhibited skin-tumor initiation by DMBA. At doses of 0.01 μg, the inhibition of DMBA-initiation was approximately 80%, whereas 0.1 μg of TCDD was almost as effective as 1.0 μg. At this writing, these experiments are only in the 15th week and the animals have not yet reached plateau tumor levels. The trend is, however, readily apparent.

Figure 1 shows high-pressure liquid chromatographic profiles of metabolites formed upon incubation of ^{14}C-DMBA with epidermal homogenates from inducer-pretreated CD-1 mice. The doses of TCDD and Aroclor 1254 utilized and the

pretreatment times were identical to the conditions employed in the tumor experiments in which maximal inhibition of tumor initiation was observed. These high-pressure liquid chromatographic profiles demonstrate that chlorinated hydrocarbons such as Aroclor 1254 and TCDD are capable of inducing epidermal monooxygenases that are responsible for converting DMBA to a variety of hydroxylated products. Furthermore, a good correlation between the increased rates of oxidative metabolism induced by Aroclor 1254 and TCDD and the inhibition of DMBA tumor-initiation was observed.

To further test the possibility that the effects of TCDD on DMBA-mediated tumor initiation were due to changes in metabolism of the pro-carcinogen, a series of experiments were designed to monitor covalent binding of ^{3}H-DMBA to epidermal DNA, RNA and protein (Table 4). TCDD was applied topically to the shaved backs of CD-1 mice (1 µg per mouse) 3 days prior to application of 2.56 µg ^{3}H-DMBA (10 µCi). Control animals received acetone alone. At 3 and 24 hr after treatment, epidermal DNA, RNA and protein were extracted using the method of Huberman and Sachs[30]. TCDD pretreatment reduced the binding of ^{3}H-DMBA to DNA at 3 and 24 hr respectively by 63% and 72% (Table 4). Similar results were observed with respect to covalent binding of ^{3}H-DMBA to RNA although the magnitude was less. However, the binding of ^{3}H-DMBA to epidermal protein was not affected by TCDD pretreatment.

DISCUSSION

TCDD and Aroclor 1254 previously were shown to possess little or no tumor-initiating properties[31] or tumor-promoting properties[33] in mouse skin using the two-stage, initiation-promotion system of carcinogenesis. Previous studies by Kociba[3] and Van Miller[34] indicated that TCDD was carcinogenic in the rat; however, this carcinogenic effect appeared to be related mainly to the promotion of spontaneously occurring tumors. Furthermore, with a

hepatic system utilizing an initiation-promotion regimen[20,21,22,23], PCBs appeared to act as promoters.

This report demonstrates that TCDD possesses remarkable inhibitory actions on skin tumor-initiation by polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). Almost complete inhibition of DMBA tumor initiation is achieved with a single non-toxic topical dose of 0.1 µg and with a dose of 0.01 µg approximately 80% inhibition was achieved. This potent anticarcinogenic effect may be related to the ability of TCDD to induce epidermal enzyme pathways responsible for detoxifying PAH carcinogens in the skin. Induction of microsomal enzymes in several tissues has been postulated as a mechanism for the anticarcinogenic effects of a wide variety of compounds such as PAH, flavones, coumarins, phenothiazines, and phenobarbital as reviewed by Wattenberg[35]. Induction of microsomal enzyme systems also has been implicated in the anticarcinogenic activity of DDT[19] and various polychlorinated biphenyl mixtures[17]. However, investigations such as these have not demonstrated conclusively that the inhibitory actions are a result of induction within the target tissue for a particular carcinogen or that the effect is on tumor-initiation *per se*.

The unusually potent inhibitory action of TCDD on skin tumor-initiation by PAH described in this report stands in contrast to a report by Kouri[36] who showed an enhancing effect of TCDD on the formation of 3-MC-induced sarcomas at the site of subcutaneous injection. Both compounds were administered simultaneously and the increased tumor formation was attributed to the ability of TCDD to enhance the metabolism of 3-MC *in vivo*. In view of the time of administration, this explanation seems somewhat unlikely. Furthermore, as shown in Table 3, when TCDD was applied 5 min prior to initiation with DMBA, little or no effect on the tumor response was observed.

The anticarcinogenic effects of TCDD and Aroclor 1254 appear to correlate

well with their ability to induce monooxygenase enzymes of the skin. Furthermore, the quantity of ^{3}H-DMBA bound to DNA and RNA (but not protein) in the presence and absence of TCDD-pretreatment correlated well with the tumor response under similar conditions. When taken together, these experiments suggest that pretreatment with TCDD gives rise to an increased rate of inactivation of the DMBA molecule relative to the rate of activation in mouse skin. Although these data point to induction of oxidative biotransformation as a possible mechanism for the inhibitory effects exhibited by TCDD, other mechanisms could be operating. Possibilities include induction in epidermal tissues of non-oxidative metabolic pathways such as epoxide hydratase, glutathione-S-transferase, UDP-glucuronosyltransferase and others. Other possibilities include effects on DNA-repair systems and on the distribution of the carcinogen to the critical target site(s).

It is deemed possible that future research will enable the development of compounds that evoke minimal toxicity but retain the capacity to inhibit tumor initiation by virtue of their enzyme-inducing properties. Of particular advantage would be the production of chemicals capable of selectively inducing various inactivating enzymes in particular target tissues. Such chemicals feasibly could serve as important chemopreventive agents in cases in which contact with tumor initiators is necessary or unavoidable.

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TABLE 1[a]

LACK OF PROMOTING ABILITY OF PCB, PBB AND TCDD ON SKIN TUMOR INITIATION WITH DMBA[b]

Initiator[c]	Promoter	Dose[d]	Papillomas per Mouse	Percent with Papillomas
DMBA	None	-	0	0
None	TPA	10 µg[e]	0.03	3
DMBA	TPA	2 µg	8.1	92
DMBA	PCB	100 µg	0	0
None	PCB	100 µg	0	0
DMBA	PBB	100 µg	0	0
None	PBB	100 µg	0	0
DMBA	TCDD	0.1 µg	0	0
None	TCDD	0.1 µg	0	0

[a]Data taken from Res. Commun. Chem. Pathol. Pharmacol. 20: 101-107 (1978).

[b]30 female mice per group; promoted for 30 weeks.

[c]DMBA was applied at a dose of 200 nmol per mouse.

[d]Promoter applied twice weekly in acetone.

[e]TPA applied weekly in acetone.

TABLE 2

EFFECTS OF VARIOUS ORGANOHALIDES ON SKIN TUMOR-INITIATION BY DMBA

Pretreated mice were initiated with 2.56 μg of DMBA and promoted with twice weekly applications of 10 μg TPA[a].

Experiment	Pretreatment (μg/mouse)	Pretreatment Time	Papillomas per Mouse[b]	Percent of Control[c]
1	Acetone	5 min	3.80	100
2	Aroclor 1254 (100)	5 min	3.60	95
3	Aroclor 1254 (100)	18 hr	2.10	55
4	Aroclor 1254 (100)	3 days	3.30	80
5	Aroclor 1254 (625)	18 hr	2.70	71
6	DCDD (100)	3 days	3.44	91
7	TCAB (10)	3 days	4.73	125
8	TCDD (1)	3 days	0.34	7

[a]30 mice were used per experimental group. Promotion was continued for 20 weeks.

[b]Average number of papillomas per mouse after 20 weeks of promotion.

[c]The average number of papillomas per mouse expressed as a percentage of the DMBA-initiated, TPA-promoted group (experiment 1).

TABLE 3

EFFECTS OF 2,3,7,8-TETRACHLORODIBENZO-p-DIOXIN (TCDD)

ON SKIN TUMOR-INITIATION BY DMBA

Pretreated mice were initiated with 2.56 µg of DMBA and promoted with twice weekly applications of 10 µg of TPA[a].

Experiment	Pretreatment (µg/mouse)	Pretreatment Time	Papillomas per Mouse[b]	Percent of Control[c]
1	Acetone	5 min	3.80	100
2	TCDD (2)	5 min	3.70	97
3	TCDD (1)	1 day	0.53	14
4	TCDD (1)	3 days	0.34	9
5	TCDD (1)	5 days	0.23	6
6	Acetone	5 min	2.43	100
7	TCDD (0.01)	3 days	0.27	11
8	TCDD (0.10)	3 days	0.10	4
9	TCDD (2.0)	3 days	0.07	3

[a]30 mice were used per experimental group. Promotion was continued for 20 weeks for experiments 1-5 and 15 weeks for experiments 6-9. Promotion is still in progress for both groups of experiments.

[b]Average number of papillomas per mouse after 15 or 20 weeks of promotion.

[c]The average number of papillomas per mouse expressed as a percentage of the DMBA-initiated, TPA-promoted groups for each period of promotion (i.e., experiments 1 and 6).

TABLE 4

COVALENT BINDING OF ^{3}H-DMBA TO MOUSE EPIDERMAL MACROMOLECULES AS MODIFIED BY PRETREATMENT WITH TCDD

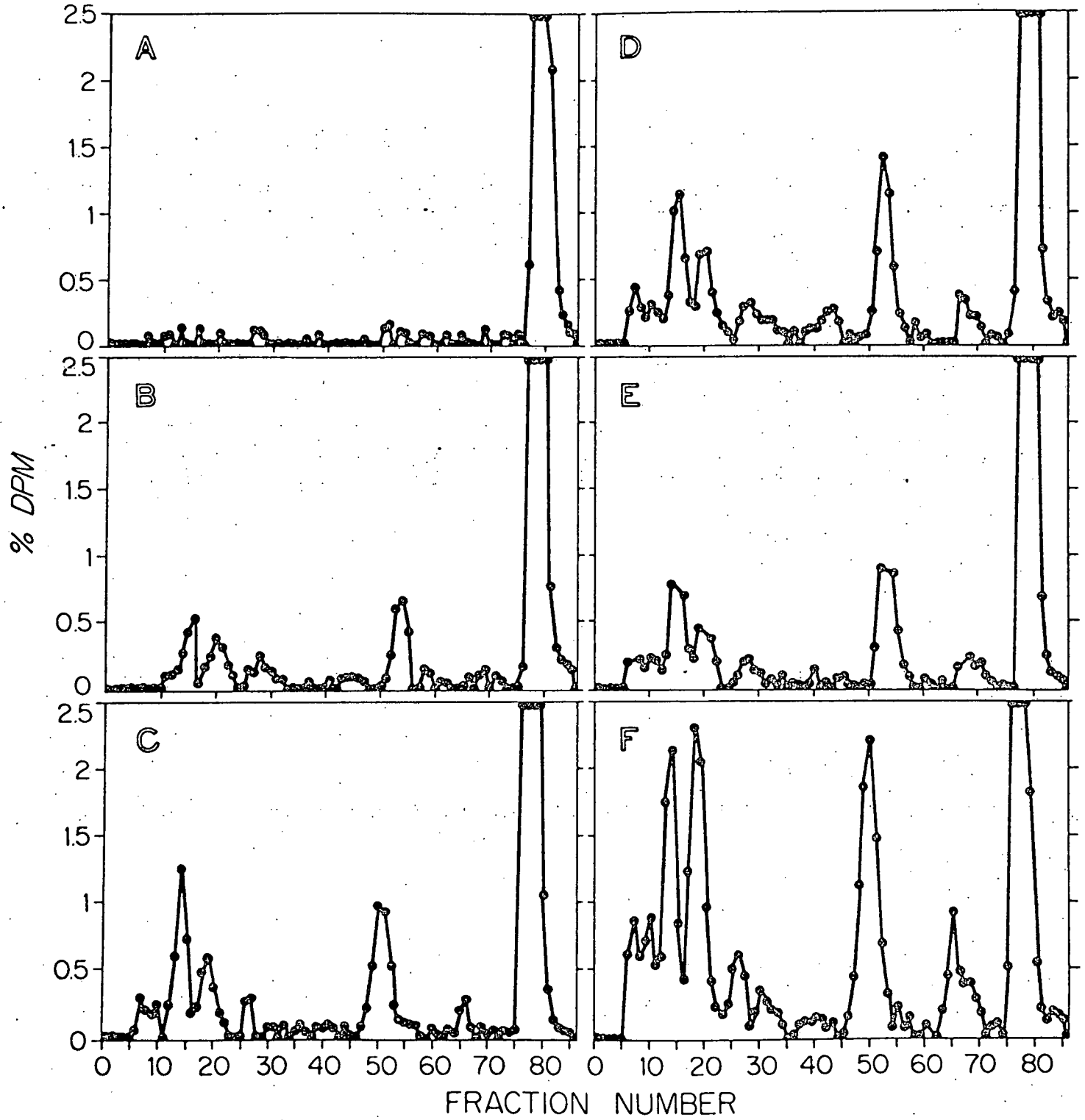
Treatment	Time (Hr)[a]	Hydrocarbon bound to macromolecule (fmoles/mg)[b]		
		DNA	RNA	Protein
DMBA	3	48	29	695
DMBA + TCDD[b]	3	18	16	638
DMBA	24	126	72	388
DMBA + TCDD[b]	24	35	32	394

[a]Time of sacrifice after application of ^{3}H-DMBA; 40 mice were used for each experimental group.

[b]Mice in this group received 1 µg of TCDD, applied topically, 72 hours prior to application of ^{3}H-DMBA.

LEGEND FOR FIGURE

Figure 1. High-pressure liquid chromatographic profiles of [^{14}C]DMBA metabolites generated *in vitro* using epidermal homogenates from variously pretreated, female CD-1 mice. Panel A, heat inactivated control; panel B, DMBA-pretretment (200 nmol 18 hr prior to sacrifice); panel C, 3-methylcholanthrene-pretreatment (200 nmol 18 hr prior to sacrifice); panel D, dibenz(a,c)anthracene-pretreatment (200 nmol 18 hr prior to sacrifice); panel E, Aroclor 1254-pretreatment (100 μg 18 hr prior to sacrifice); and panel F, TCDD-pretreatment (1 μg, 72 hr prior to sacrifice). All profiles have been normalized with respect to protein concentration. The peak fractions in which various synthetic standard compounds elute in this system are as follows: DMBA, 78; 5-hydroxy-DMBA, 72; 4-hydroxy-DMBA, 70; 2-hydroxy- and 3-hydroxy-DMBA, 61; 12-hydroxymethyl-7-methylbenz(a)anthracene, 57; 7-hydroxymethyl-12-methylbenz(a)anthracene, 52; 5,6-dihyrdo-5,6-dihydroxy-DMBA, 22; 7,12-dihydroxymethylbenz(a)anthracene, 19; 8,9-dihydro-8,9-dihydroxy-DMBA, 13. Further details of the methodology can be found in reference 27.


A
B
C
D
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F
2.5
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0.5
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% DPM
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80
FRACTION NUMBER