

# Thiol Methyltransferase

## Taurocholate

### Effects of Intravenous Administration of Taurocholate on Hepatic Thiol Methyltransferase Activity in Cholestatic Rat

Byung Wook Rhee, MD. and Chun Sik Kwak, Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>

**Purpose:** The possible mechanisms of increased thiol methyltransferase (TMT) activity in cholestatic rat livers and serum were studied.

**Methods:** Rats were divided into seven groups: rats receiving a sham operation, rats with a bile duct obstruction (BDO) alone (BDO group), rats with BDO plus taurocholic acid (TCA) injection (BDO plus TCA group), rats with BDO plus tauroursodeoxycholic acid (TUDCA) injection (BDO plus TUDCA group), rats receiving a choledoco-caval shunt (CCS) operation (CCS groups), rats receiving a CCS operation plus TCA Injection (CCS plus TCA group), and rats receiving a CCS operation plus TUDCA injection (CCS plus TUDCA group). The TMT activities in the serum and in the hepatic subcellular fractions isolated from these experimental rats were determined. The values of Km and Vmax in this hepatic enzyme were measured.

**Results:** The activities of liver mitochondrial and microsomal TMTs as well as the Vmax values of TMT were found to be increased significantly in both the CCS plus TCA and the BDO plus TCA groups, compared with the CCS and BDO groups. On the other hand, the Km values of hepatic subcellular TMT were the same in all experimental groups. The serum TMT activity increased significantly in both the CCS plus TCA and the BDO plus TCA groups, compared with the control, CCS and BDO groups. However, these serum and hepatic enzyme activities were the same in the CCS plus TUDCA and the BDO plus TUDCA groups.

**Conclusion:** The above results suggest that TCA stimulates

the biosynthesis of TMT in the liver. Also, the elevated TMT activity in the serum is thought to be caused by an increase in membrane permeability of hepatocytes from liver cell necrosis caused by TCA. (*J Korean Surg Soc* 2002;63: 1-10)

**Key Words:** Cholestasis, Methyltransferase, Taurocholic acid

Department of Surgery, Kosin University College of Medicine, <sup>1</sup>Department of Biochemistry, Keimyung University School of Medicine, Busan, Korea

Thiol methyltransferase (S-adenosyl-L-methionine: thiol S-methyltransferase, EC 2.1.1.9, TMT)(2) captopril, N-acetylcysteine, D- L-penicillamine, spironolactone,(3) hydrogen sulfide,(4) diethyldithiocarbamate, 6-propyl-2-thiouracil, 2, 3-dimercaptopropanol,(5) mercaptoethanol, mercaptoacetic acid, methylmercaptan,(5,6) dithiothreitol,(6) 2-thiouracil,(5,7) 6-mercaptopurine,(7) dimercaprol,(8) thiourea, methimazole, thiamin tetrahydrofuryldisulfide,(9) 7 -thiospirolactone,(10) sulfhydryl S-adenosyl-L-methionine methyl

34  
602-702,  
Tel: 051-990-6278, 051-990-6114, Fax: 051-990-3082  
E-mail: bwrhee@kosinmed.or.kr

(5,9) 가 , , .(9) TMT 가 가 (I) . 가 가 TMT 가 (choleodocho-caval shunt) (12, 13) taurocholic acid , taurocholic acid가



1)

S-Adenosyl-L-methionine iodide, 4-chlorothiophenol, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium: dihydrate, Triton X-100, potassium phosphate monobasic, potassium phosphate dibasic, taurocholic acid (from ox bile, sodium salt T0750, TCA), taurosoodeoxycholic acid (sodium salt, T0266, TUDCA) (10 g/100 ml bovine serum albumin) Sigma (St, Louis, MO) [methyl-<sup>3</sup>H] S-adenosyl-L-methionine New England Nuclear (Wilmington, DE) , PPO (2, 5-diphenyloxazole), Bis-MSB [ -bis-(O-methylstyryl benzene)], toluene (scintillation grade) Packard (Downers Grove, IL)

2)

4 280 320 g Sprague-Dawley 1 5 15 (1) ), 가 가 1 2 ( 2 ) (bile duct obstruction) 1 2 ( 2 ) TCA Ogawa (13) TCA ( 100 g 45 μmoles) 1 2 ( 2 ) TUDCA Ogawa (13)

TUDCA ( 100 g 45 μmoles) 1 2 ( 2 ) 1 2 ( 2 ) TCA Ogawa (13) TCA ( 100 g 45 μmoles) 1 2 ( 2 ) TUDCA Ogawa (13) TUDCA ( 100 g 45 μmoles) 1 2 ( 2 ) taurocholic acid (choleodocho-caval shunt) (12, 13) ether 1 cm medical grade silicon tube 가 TCA TUDCA syringe pump (Sage instruments, model 34 1A) 15 3) ether 12 4°C 0.25 M sucrose sucrose 가 9 0.25 M sucrose Teflon pestle glass homogenizer (Thomas , chamber clearance 0.005 0.007 inches) 2 4°C 400 rpm 5 10% (w/v) sucrose density gradient (14)

<p>2 4°C Du Pont Sorvall RC-5B refrigerated superspeed centrifuge OTD-65B ultracentrifuge rotor Du Pont Sorvall SS-34 T865 rotor sucrose linear density gradient former (ISCO model 570)</p>	<p>8) Student's t-test 0.05</p>
<p>4) TMT sucrose 5 mg/ml가 0.25 M 1% Triton X-100 TMT 4°C 30 가 가 0.25 M sucrose 5 mg/ml TMT 22% (P &lt; 0.05) 가</p>	<p>1) TMT TMT 23% (P &lt; 0.05), 가 2 31% (P &lt; 0.05), 가 28% (P &lt; 0.05) 가</p>
<p>5) 4-chlorothiophenol [methyl-<sup>3</sup>H] S-adenosyl-L-methionine 37°C 10 methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide toluene TMT Weisiger Jakoby(15) 1 1 ml 1 mg methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide pmol Packard Tricarb 4530, liquid scintillation spectrometer</p>	<p>1 TMT 32% (P &lt; 0.05) 가 2 TMT 32% (P &lt; 0.05) 가 1 TMT 32% (P &lt; 0.05) 가 2 TMT 20% (P &lt; 0.05) 가 38% (P &lt; 0.01), 가 36% (P &lt; 0.01) 가 1 TMT 25% (P &lt; 0.05) 가</p>
<p>6) Km Vmax TMT 2 4-chlorothiophenol S-adenosyl-L-methionine [methyl-<sup>3</sup>H] S-adenosyl-L-methionine TMT (1/vi) (1/[S]) (double reciprocal plot) Km Vmax</p>	<p>2 TMT 59% (P &lt; 0.001) 가 가 TMT 62% (P &lt; 0.001), 가 28% (P &lt; 0.05), 가 2 가 (Table 1).</p>
<p>7) methanol-ether (3 : 1) Rothstein(16) biuret (17) 0.5 M perchloric acid Green-</p>	<p>2) TMT TCA TUDCA TCA 1 2 TMT</p>

**Table 1.** Effects of time and model of biliary retention on hepatic subcellular thiol methyltransferase activities in rats

Experimental groups	Thiol methyltransferase activities (pmol methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide min <sup>-1</sup> mg protein <sup>-1</sup> )		
	Cytosol	Mitochondria	Microsome
Normal	6.30±0.61	5.09±0.66	5.02±0.50
Sham 1 day	6.14±0.55	5.15±0.70	5.14±0.58
Sham 2 days	6.18±0.49	5.21±0.75	5.11±0.54
CCS 1 day	6.19±0.52	6.28±0.78* <sup>§</sup>	6.17±0.66* <sup>§</sup>
CCS 2 days	6.24±0.65	6.69±0.87*	6.94±0.73 <sup>† †</sup>
BDO 1 day	6.11±0.63	6.82±0.95* <sup>§</sup>	6.42±0.64 <sup>† †</sup>
BDO 2 days	6.15±0.57	7.24±0.81 <sup>† †</sup>	8.12±0.95 <sup>† †</sup> **

The data are expressed as mean±SD with 5 rats in each groups. Sham 1 day or Sham 2 days, sacrificed on the 1st day or 2nd day after sham operation; CCS 1 day or CCS 2 days, sacrificed on the 1st day or 2nd day after choledocho-caval shunt; BDO 1 day or BDO 2 days, sacrificed on the 1st day or 2nd day after common bile duct ligation. \*P<0.05 vs. Normal; <sup>†</sup> P<0.001 vs. Normal; <sup>‡</sup> P<0.001 vs. Normal; <sup>§</sup> P<0.05 vs. Sham 1 day; P<0.05 vs. Sham 2 days; <sup>†</sup> P<0.01 vs. Sham 2 days; \*\*P<0.01 vs. Sham 2 days.

**Table 2.** Effects of taurocholic acid (TCA), and tauroursodeoxycholic acid (TUDCA) infusions after choledocho-caval shunt (CCS) on hepatic subcellular thiol methyltransferase activities in rats

Experimental groups	Thiol methyltransferase activities (pmol methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide min <sup>-1</sup> mg protein <sup>-1</sup> )		
	Cytosol	Mitochondria	Microsome
CCS 1 day	6.19±0.50	6.28±0.78	6.17±0.66
CCS 1 day+TCA	5.87±0.44	7.61±0.89*	8.42±0.98 <sup>†</sup>
CCS 1 day+TUDCA	6.12±0.56	6.22±0.72	6.12±0.62
CCS 2 days	6.24±0.65	6.69±0.87	6.94±0.73
CCS 2 days+TCA	5.74±0.48	8.15±0.93 <sup>†</sup>	8.79±0.88 <sup>§</sup>
CCS 2 days+TUDCA	6.28±0.62	6.53±0.76	6.82±0.69

The data are expressed as mean±SD with 5 rats in each group; CCS 1 day+TCA or CCS 1 day+TUDCA, and CCS 2 days+TCA or CCS 2 days+TUDCA. One of the following bile acids were administered intravenously through the superior vena cava, TCA or TUDCA (45 μmoles/100 g body weight) at the time of CCS operation in rats. Then the rats were sacrificed 1 or 2 days after CCS operation. \*P<0.05 vs. CCS 1 day; <sup>†</sup> P<0.01 vs. CCS 1 day; <sup>‡</sup> P<0.05 vs. CCS 2 days; <sup>§</sup> P<0.01 vs. CCS 2 days.

Experimental groups	Thiol methyltransferase activities (pmol methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide min <sup>-1</sup> mg protein <sup>-1</sup> )		
	Cytosol	Mitochondria	Microsome
CCS 1 day	6.19±0.50	6.28±0.78	6.17±0.66
CCS 1 day+TCA	5.87±0.44	7.61±0.89*	8.42±0.98 <sup>†</sup>
CCS 1 day+TUDCA	6.12±0.56	6.22±0.72	6.12±0.62
CCS 2 days	6.24±0.65	6.69±0.87	6.94±0.73
CCS 2 days+TCA	5.74±0.48	8.15±0.93 <sup>†</sup>	8.79±0.88 <sup>§</sup>
CCS 2 days+TUDCA	6.28±0.62	6.53±0.76	6.82±0.69

(Table 2).

Experimental groups	Thiol methyltransferase activities (pmol methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide min <sup>-1</sup> mg protein <sup>-1</sup> )		
	Cytosol	Mitochondria	Microsome
CCS 1 day	6.19±0.50	6.28±0.78	6.17±0.66
CCS 1 day+TCA	5.87±0.44	7.61±0.89*	8.42±0.98 <sup>†</sup>
CCS 1 day+TUDCA	6.12±0.56	6.22±0.72	6.12±0.62
CCS 2 days	6.24±0.65	6.69±0.87	6.94±0.73
CCS 2 days+TCA	5.74±0.48	8.15±0.93 <sup>†</sup>	8.79±0.88 <sup>§</sup>
CCS 2 days+TUDCA	6.28±0.62	6.53±0.76	6.82±0.69

21% (P<0.05)

22% (P<0.05)

36% (P<0.01)

27% (P<0.01)

24% (P<0.05)

30% (P<0.01)

38% (P<0.001)

**Table 3.** Effects of taurocholic acid (TCA), and tauroursodeoxycholic acid (TUDCA) infusions after bile duct obstruction (BDO) on hepatic subcellular thiol methyltransferase activities in rats

Experimental groups	Thiol methyltransferase activities (pmol methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide min <sup>-1</sup> mg protein <sup>-1</sup> )		
	Cytosol	Mitochondria	Microsome
BDO 1 day	6.11±0.63	6.82±0.95	6.42±0.64
BDO 1 day+TCA	5.70±0.52	8.43±0.98*	8.78±0.74 <sup>†</sup>
BDO 1 day+TUDCA	6.05±0.60	6.73±0.86	6.36±0.71
BDO 2 days	6.15±0.57	7.24±0.81	8.12±0.95
BDO 2 days+TCA	5.67±0.55	9.39±1.02 <sup>§</sup>	9.96±1.06 <sup>†</sup>
BDO 2 days+TUDCA	6.12±0.63	7.08±0.91	8.02±0.82

The data are expressed as mean±SD with 5 rats in each group; BDO 1 day+TCA or BDO 1 day+TUDCA, and BDO 2 days +TCA or BDO 2 days+TUDCA. One of the following bile acids were administered intravenously through the superior vena cava, TCA or TUDCA (45 µmoles/100 g body weight) at the time of common bile duct ligation in rats. Then the rats were sacrificed 1 or 2 days after common bile duct ligation. \*P<0.05 vs. BDO 1 day; <sup>†</sup>P<0.001 vs. BDO 1 day; <sup>‡</sup>P<0.05 vs. BDO 2 days; <sup>§</sup>P<0.01 vs. BDO 2 days.

**Table 4.** Effects of time and model of biliary retention on serum thiol methyltransferase activity in rats

Experimental groups	Thiol methyltransferase activities (pmol methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide min <sup>-1</sup> ml <sup>-1</sup> )
Normal	15.74±0.91
Sham 1 day	16.23±0.95
Sham 2 days	16.19±0.90
CCS 1 day	20.12±0.98* <sup>†</sup>
CCS 2 days	22.46±1.12* <sup>‡</sup>
BDO 1 day	23.94±1.24* <sup>†</sup>
BDO 2 days	25.61±1.29* <sup>‡</sup>

The data are expressed as mean±SD with 5 rats in each group. Experimental groups are described in Table 1 and text. \*P<0.001 vs. Normal; <sup>†</sup>P<0.001 vs. Sham 1 day; <sup>‡</sup>P<0.001 vs. Sham 2 days.

**Table 5.** Effects of taurocholic acid (TCA), and tauroursodeoxycholic acid (TUDCA) infusions after choledochocaval shunt (CCS) on serum thiol methyltransferase activity in rats

Experimental groups	Thiol methyltransferase (pmol methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide min <sup>-1</sup> ml <sup>-1</sup> )
CCS 1 day	20.12±0.98
CCS 1 day+TCA	24.57±1.18*
CCS 1 day+TUDCA	19.76±0.09
CCS 2 days	22.46±1.12
CCS 2 days+TCA	27.63±1.25 <sup>†</sup>
CCS 2 days+TUDCA	22.14±1.04

The data are expressed as mean±SD with 5 rats in each group. Experimental groups are described in Table 2 and text. \*P<0.001 vs. CCS 1 day; <sup>†</sup>P<0.001 vs. CCS 2 days.

2  
23% (P<0.05) 가  
TUDCA 1 2  
3 TMT  
가 (Table 3).  
3) TMT  
TMT 가  
TMT 1 가  
TMT 28% (P<0.001), 가  
24% (P<0.001) 가

2  
43% (P<0.001), 가  
39% (P<0.001) 가  
1 52% (P<0.001), 가 48% (P<0.001)  
가 2  
63% (P<0.001),  
가 58% (P<0.001) 가  
(Table 4).  
TMT

가		가		TUDCA	
		(Table 4).		TMT	
4)		TMT		(Table 5).	
		TCA		TCA	
		TUDCA		TMT	
		TCA		가	
1 2		TMT		1 2	
				TCA	
가				TMT	
1 2				TCA	
				TMT	
				23%	
		(P < 0.001)		28% (P < 0.001)	
				가	
				TUDCA	
				1 2	
				가	
22% (P < 0.001)		23% (P < 0.001)		가	

**Table 6.** Effects of taurocholic acid (TCA), and tauroursodeoxycholec acid (TUDCA) infusions after bile duct obstruction (BDO) on serum thiol methyltransferase activity in rats

Experimental groups	Thiol methyltransferase activities (pmol methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide min <sup>-1</sup> ml <sup>-1</sup> )	TMT Km		Vmax	
		가	2	가	2
BDO 1 day	23.94 ± 1.24	가	2	가	27% (P < 0.05)
BDO 1 day+TCA	29.52 ± 1.36*	가	2	가	38%
BDO 1 day+TUDCA	23.62 ± 1.27	가	2	가	38%
BDO 2 days	25.61 ± 1.29	가	2	가	38%
BDO 2 days+TCA	32.75 ± 1.43 <sup>†</sup>	가	2	가	38%
BDO 2 days+TUDCA	25.12 ± 1.22	가	2	가	38%

The data are expressed as mean ± SD with 5 rats in each group. Experimental groups are described in Table 3 and text. \*P < 0.001 vs. BDO 1 day; <sup>†</sup>P < 0.001 vs. BDO 2 days.

**Table 7.** Rat hepatic thiol methyltransferase kinetic parameters from 2 days after choledochocaval shunt (CCS 2 days) determined with 4-chlorothiophenol

Experimental groups	Mitochondria		Microsome	
	Km (mM)	Vmax (pmol methyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfide min <sup>-1</sup> mg protein <sup>-1</sup> )	Km (mM)	Vmax
Sham 2 days	76.2 ± 4.8	14.3 ± 1.8	70.3 ± 5.9	13.7 ± 1.7
CCS 2 days	78.4 ± 5.3	18.2 ± 2.3*	72.6 ± 7.2	18.9 ± 2.1 <sup>†</sup>
CCS 2 days+TCA	77.6 ± 5.9	22.1 ± 2.6 <sup>‡</sup> §	71.8 ± 6.9	24.7 ± 2.4 <sup>†</sup>
CCS 2 days+TUDCA	76.9 ± 5.2	17.7 ± 2.1*	71.2 ± 6.4	18.8 ± 1.9 <sup>†</sup>

Michaelis-Menten constants for thiol methyltransferase were determined using 4-chlorothiophenol and [methyl-<sup>3</sup>H] S-adenosyl-L-methionine at 37°C for mitochondrial and microsomal fractions of experimental rat livers at two days after CCS. The data are expressed as mean ± SD with 5 rats in each group. Experimental groups are described in Table 1, 2 and text. \*P < 0.05 vs. Sham 2 days; <sup>†</sup>P < 0.01 vs. Sham 2 days; <sup>‡</sup>P < 0.001 vs. Sham 2 days; § P < 0.05 vs. CCS 2 days; P < 0.01 vs. CCS 2 days.







가 TCA

가

가 가 TMT

가

TCA TUDCA  
TMT

TCA 1 2

TMT

가

TCA  
TMT

1 2

TUDCA 1 2

TMT 가

TCA 2  
TMT Vmax

가

2 TMT Vmax TUDCA

가 TMT Km 4-chlorothiophenol

TMT 가

TCA

가 TCA 가

## REFERENCES

- Joo I. Arylamine N-methyltransferase and thiol methyltransferase activities from regenerating liver after partial hepatectomy and cholestatic liver after common bile duct ligation in rats. A Dissertation of the Graduate School of Keimyung University 1998. p.1-42.
- Kim BK. Enzyme Nomenclature, IUB. New York: Academic Press; 1984.
- Keith RA, Van Loon JV, Wussow LF, Weinshilboum RM. Thiol methylation pharmacogenetics: heritability of human erythrocyte thiol methyltransferase activity. *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 1983;34:521-8.
- Tegtmeier F, Brunner G. Solubilization characteristics of pig liver S-methyltransferase. *Enzyme* 1983;30:185-95.
- Weisiger RA, Jakoby WB. Thiol S-methyltransferase from rat liver. *Arch Biochem Biophys* 1979;196:631-7.
- Hiemke C, Ghraf R. Distribution and properties of thiol S-methyltransferase in rat brain. *J Neurochem* 1983;40:592-4.
- Drummer OH, Miach P, Jarrott B. S-methylation of captopril. Demonstration of captopril thiol methyltransferase activity in human erythrocytes and enzyme distribution in rat tissues. *Biochem Pharmacol* 1983;32:1557-62.
- Weinshilboum RM, Sladek S, Klumpp S. Human erythrocyte thiol methyltransferase: radiochemical microassay and biochemical properties. *Clin Chim Acta* 1979;97:59-71.
- Borchardt RT, Cheng CF. Purification and characterization of rat liver microsomal thiol methyltransferase. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 1978;522:340-53.
- Keith RA, Jardine I, Kerremans A, Weinshilboum RM. Human erythrocyte membrane thiol methyltransferase S-methylation of captopril, N-acetyl-cysteine, and 7-thiospirolactone. *Drug Metab Dispos* 1984;12:717-24.
- deBethizy JD, Hayes JR. Metabolism. A determinant of toxicity. In: Hayes AW, editor. *Principles and Methods of Toxicology*. 3rd ed. New York: Raven Press; 1994. p.59-100.
- Kim SK, Kim YH. Induction of rat liver  $\gamma$ -glutamyl transpeptidase by bile acid load. *Korean J Hepatol* 1997;3:210-26.
- Ogawa H, Mink J, Hardison WGM, Miyai K. Alkaline phosphatase activity in hepatic tissue and serum correlates with amount and type of bile acid load. *Lab Invest* 1990;62:87-95.
- Kwak CS, Kwak JS. Cell fractionation method of the rat liver. 1. Isolations of mitochondria and microsomes. *Keimyung Univ Med J* 1986;5:45-53.
- Weisiger RA, Jakoby WB. Thiol S-methyltransferase. In: Jakoby WB, editor. *Method in Enzymology*. Vol 77, New York: Academic Press; 1981. p.257-62.
- Greenberg DM, Rothstein M. Method for isolation and degradation of labelled compounds. In: Colowick SP, Kaplan NO, editors. *Method in Enzymology*. Vol 4, New York: Academic Press; 1957. p.708-31.
- Gornall AG, Bardawill CJ, David MM. Determination of serum protein by means of biuret reaction. *J Biol Chem* 1949;177:751-66.
- Kwak CS. Xanthine oxidase activity in the cholestatic rat liver. *Keimyung Univ Med J* 1985;4:125-30.
- Kwak CS, Kim YH, Mun KC. Activities of alcohol metabolizing enzymes in the cholestatic rat liver. *Keimyung Univ Med J* 1988;7:64-75.

- 20) Byun YJ, Kim YH, Kwak CS. Effect of common bile duct ligation on liver and serum glyoxalase-I activities in ethanol intoxicated rats. *Keimyung Univ Med J* 1995;14:330-9.
  - 21) Ihm JS, Kim YH, Kwak CS. Aryl sulfotransferase activity in cholestatic rat liver induced by common bile duct ligation. *Korean J Biochem* 1995;27:141-7.
  - 22) Kim YJ, Kim YH. Benzoyltransferase and phenylacetyltransferase activities in cholestatic rat liver induced by common bile duct ligation. *J Biochem Mol Biol* 1999;32:67-71.
  - 23) Shin MJ. Effect of high taurocholate load on activities of hepatic alcohol metabolizing enzymes in rats. A Dissertation of the Graduate School of Keimyung University 1998. p.1-50.
  - 24) Kim IK, Kim YH, Kwak CS. Induction of hepatic benzoyltransferase by bile acid in rats. *Keimyung Med J* 2001;20:20-30.
  - 25) Rhee BW, Kwak CS. Induction of hepatic arylamine N-methyltransferase by a taurocholate load in rats. *J Korean Surg Soc* 2000;59:141-53.
  - 26) Han BH, Kim YH. Effect of high taurocholate load on activity of rat liver arylesterase. *Korean J Hepatol* 1997;3:154-69.
  - 27) Toyota N, Miyai K, Hardison WG. Effect of biliary pressure versus high bile acid flux on the permeability of hepatocellular tight junction. *Lab Invest* 1984;50:536-42.
  - 28) Drew R, Priestly BG. Choleric and cholestatic effects of infused bile salts in the rat. *Experimentia* 1979;35:809-11.
  - 29) Kitani K, Kanai S, Obata M, Sato Y. Differing transport maxima values for taurine-conjugated bile salts in rats and hamsters. *Am J Physiol* 1986;251:G852-8.
-