

# Potassium and Thallium Uptake in Dog Myocardium

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We sought to ascertain the rates and mechanisms of uptake of markers for regional myocardial blood flows. **Methods:** The rates of exchange of potassium and thallium across capillary walls and cell membranes in isolated blood-perfused dog hearts were estimated from multiple indicator dilution curves recorded for  $^{131}\text{I}$ -albumin,  $^{42}\text{K}$  and  $^{201}\text{Tl}$  from the coronary sinus outflow following injection into arterial inflow. Analysis involved fitting the observed dilution curves with a model composed of a capillary-interstitial fluid-cell exchange region and nonexchanging larger vessels. **Results:** Capillary permeability surface products ( $\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$ ) for potassium and thallium were similar,  $0.82 \pm 0.33$  (mean  $\pm$  s.d.,  $n = 19$ ) and  $0.87 \pm 0.32 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$  ( $n = 24$ ) with a ratio for simultaneous pairs of  $1.02 \pm 0.27$  ( $n = 19$ ). For the myocardial cells,  $\text{PS}_{\text{pc}}$  averaged  $3.7 \pm 3.1 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$  ( $n = 19$ ) for  $\text{K}^+$  and  $9.5 \pm 3.9$  ( $n = 24$ ) for  $\text{Tl}^+$ ; the ratio of potassium to thallium averaged  $0.40 \pm 0.19$  ( $n = 18$ ), thereby omitting a single high value for potassium. This high cellular influx for thallium is interpreted as due to its passage through ionic channels for both  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$ . **Conclusion:** The high permeabilities and large volumes of distribution make thallium and potassium among the best ionic deposition markers for regional flow. Their utility for this purpose is compromised by significant capillary barrier limitation retarding uptake; so regional flow is underestimated modestly in high-flow regions particularly.

**Key Words:** capillary permeability; cation transport; myocardial imaging agents; regional myocardial blood flow

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The imaging of regional myocardial deposition of certain alkali metal ions, potassium, rubidium and thallium has become an important clinical tool in the assessment of myocardial ischemia. Interpretation of the images is based ordinarily on two premises:

1. The tracer is deposited in proportion to flow, supposedly being flow-limited in its transcapillary passage and not barrier-limited.
2. It is handled like potassium in the cell.

Neither of these premises has been fully examined. The transport of thallium and potassium from the bloodstream into the cells involves the traversal of the capillary endothelial barrier, the interstitial space and the cell membrane. The initial uptake into the cell is influenced by all of these events. Tancredi et al. (1) and Yipintsoi et al. (2) demonstrated that the transcapillary extraction of potassium is 40%–70%, diminishing with higher flows. Thus, if thallium and rubidium are potassium analogs, they would not be 100% extracted, and the deposition would not be directly proportional to the local regional flow, but would be less extracted in high flow regions. Second, the main determinant of a tracer retention in an organ

being its intracellular retention, the kinetics of cellular permeation and intracellular volume of distribution play critical roles.

For the analyses to be undertaken, a capillary-ISF-cell model (3) similar to the RGB model of Rose, Goresky and Bach (4). RGB, was developed as an extension of the single capillary-ISF (interstitial fluid model) model of Bassingthwaighe (5). Like the RGB model, it includes cellular uptake (Fig. 1). Axial diffusion acts to dissipate concentration gradients existent in the spatially distributed system, and while it is not of much importance in influencing estimates of permeabilities, it does influence the initial part of the outflow response. The model is presented and used as a differential operator. This enables its use with any input function, including experimental data, without using a convolution integration.

The purposes of this study were to estimate the transport rates of potassium and thallium from the blood into the myocardial cells, to relate these to possible mechanisms of transport and to relate the observed transport rates to the interpretation of spatial profiles of relative deposition densities, such as might be obtained in three-dimensional reconstructed images.

Values for capillary permeability-surface area products,  $\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$ , in dog hearts had been obtained using incomplete models by Ziegler and Goresky (6) for rubidium and by Tancredi et al. (1) for potassium. The latter used the model of Renkin (7,8) and Crone (9) to calculate  $\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$  from the initial extractions of  $\text{K}^+$  compared to albumin, and the results undoubtedly underestimated  $\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$  for  $\text{K}^+$  to some extent. To estimate cell permeability-surface area products,  $\text{PS}_{\text{pc}}$ , it is necessary to obtain estimates not only of  $\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$  but also of interstitial and intracellular volumes of distribution. The interstitial volume of distribution,  $V'_{\text{isf}}$ , varies little in blood-perfused isolated hearts in the study by Yipintsoi et al. (2), although it does expand in isolated Krebs-Henseleit perfused rabbit heart preparations. Further, estimates of  $\text{K}^+$  and  $\text{Tl}^+$  exchange across the membranes are almost insensitive to the value of  $V'_{\text{isf}}$ . In contrast, the volume of distribution in the parenchymal cells, the myocytes,  $V'_{\text{pc}}$ , is of great importance in governing the rate of washout after the first couple of minutes; values of  $V'_{\text{pc}}$  are greater than those for cellular water space, about  $0.55 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$  in dog heart, because of either a concentrating process such as  $\text{Na/K ATPase}$  or intracellular binding, or both. (The residue function and washout technique of Zierler (10) and Tancredi et al. (1) is more sensitive to  $V'_{\text{pc}}$  than is the outflow dilution technique.)

## METHODS

The experiments were performed on isolated, Langendorff, nonworking, spontaneously beating canine hearts weighing 60–110 g and perfused with blood at  $37.5^\circ\text{C}$  taken from the femoral artery of anesthetized, heparinized, artificially ventilated, support dogs weighing about 30–35 kg. The hearts were perfused with oxygenated Ringer's solution during the 30–45 sec required for transfer and were at no time without perfusion. The preparation is similar to that used by Tancredi et al. (1), so the data should be

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shearing, Taylor diffusion, axial molecular diffusion and mixing within plasmatic gaps between erythrocytes. The concentration inside the capillary  $C_{cap}(x, t)$  is given by the equation:

$$\frac{\partial C_{cap}}{\partial t} = D_{cap} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 C_{cap}}{\partial x^2} - \frac{PS_{cap}}{V_{cap}} (C_{cap} - C_{isf}) - \frac{F_S L}{V_{cap}} \cdot \frac{\partial C_{cap}}{\partial x}, \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

where  $D_{cap}$  is the effective diffusion coefficient in the axial direction in the blood,  $F_S$  is the plasma or solute-containing fluid flow ( $F_S = F_{blood}(1 - Hct)$ )  $\text{ml min}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$ .  $V_{cap}$  is the effective volume of distribution for the solute in the capillary,  $\text{ml g}^{-1}$  of the tracer in the blood within the capillary, and is therefore usually the plasma space [in the heart about  $0.07 \text{ ml g}^{-1} \times (1 - Hct)$ ], or about  $0.042 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$  at  $Hct = 0.6$ .  $F_S L/V_{cap}$  is the velocity,  $\text{cm/s}$ , in the capillary, where the implicit assumption is of a uniform velocity or plug flow. The value of  $D_{cap}$  can be varied to account for axial dispersion in the capillary, which may differ for permeating and nonpermeating solutes, and allow one to account for differences in axial dispersion or for Taylor diffusion effects. For the reference tracer, albumin,  $PS_{cap}$  was set to zero.

The equations for the interstitial,  $C_{isf}$ , and intracellular concentrations in a myocardial parenchymal cell,  $C_{pc}$ , lack flow terms:

$$\frac{\partial C_{isf}}{\partial t} = D_{isf} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 C_{isf}}{\partial x^2} + \frac{PS_{cap}}{V'_{isf}} (C_{cap} - C_{isf}) - \frac{PS_{pc}}{V'_{isf}} (C_{isf} - C_{pc}) \quad \text{Eq. 5}$$

and

$$\frac{\partial C_{pc}}{\partial t} = D_{pc} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 C_{pc}}{\partial x^2} + \frac{PS_{pc}}{V'_{pc}} (C_{isf} - C_{pc}) - \frac{G_{pc}}{V'_{pc}} \cdot C_{pc}, \quad \text{Eq. 6}$$

where  $G_{pc}$  is a first-order consumption,  $\text{ml min}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$ . The ratio  $G_{pc}/V'_{pc}$  is the first order rate constant,  $\text{min}^{-1}$ , for intracellular sequestration or irreversible binding, and is equivalent to the  $k_{seq}$  or  $k_5$  of Rose et al. (4). For this study,  $G_{pc}$  was taken to be zero for potassium and thallium, since these are not consumed and may reflux. The ratios  $\gamma = V'_{isf}/V_{cap}$ , and  $\Theta = V'_{pc}/V_{cap}$ , are obtained from the model analysis of the data. We used  $V_{cap} = 0.042 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$  (19).  $V'_{pc}$  is ordinarily much larger than the water space of about  $0.55 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$  since intracellular concentrations of  $K^+$  and  $Tl^+$  in the steady state are higher than in plasma.

The initial condition is that the tracer concentrations everywhere are zero at  $t = 0$ . The input function  $C_{cap}(t, x = 0)$  is the observed albumin dilution curve deconvoluted by the intravascular transport function. For a single capillary with zero axial dispersion ( $D_{cap} = 0$ ) it is simply  $h_R(t)$  shifted earlier by one capillary transit time,  $h_R(t + V_{cap}/F_S)$  (5,4,20). Since  $F_S$  is measured and  $V_{cap}/F_S$  is eliminated as a parameter of the solution by the integration along the length of the capillary, the only unknown parameters to be estimated are  $PS_{cap}$ ,  $PS_{pc}$ ,  $\gamma$ , and  $\Theta$ . The dispersion coefficients were fixed at fractions of the free diffusion coefficients, 0.9 in plasma and 0.25 in interstitial fluid and cells, following the observations of Safford and Bassingthwaighe (18) and Safford et al. (21). Although  $\gamma = V'_{isf}/V_{cap}$ , could have been fixed at about 6.0, the range from 4 to 8 having little influence on the estimates of the other parameters, our data using  $^{58}\text{CoEDTA}$  (22), sucrose and L-glucose as extracellular markers (23) show substantial regional variations in  $V'_{isf}$  and therefore variation in  $\gamma$  was allowed by leaving it as a free parameter.

The solutions to the equations were obtained numerically in the fashion described by Bassingthwaighe, Chan and Wang (3). The numerical method for the capillary-ISF-cell model gives accurate areas and mean transit times, fulfilling conservation conditions, even at high values of  $PS_{cap}/V'_{isf}$  and  $PS_{pc}/V'_{pc}$ . The overall strategies for using the model to fit the data are those described by

Kroll et al. (24). The parameter estimates for the best fit of the single capillary model to the data were obtained using manual parameter adjustment by analog-potentiometers to set the digital-valued parameters of the FORTRAN-based model under SIMCON (25). A particular virtue in using analog potentiometers for setting parameters rather than entering digital values at a keyboard is that the parameter value can remain unknown to the investigator until he looks it up in digital form after a final fit of model to data has been obtained. The coefficient of variation, CV, was used as a measure of the goodness of fit, extending over the full duration of the dilution curves (72–150 sec).

Multicapillary analysis was also used to account for the known heterogeneity of regional myocardial blood flows. The model consisted of 20 of the capillary-tissue units described above in a parallel arrangement assuming independence of the units from each other. The weighting and the flows used to represent the probability density function by 20 paths are as described by (26).

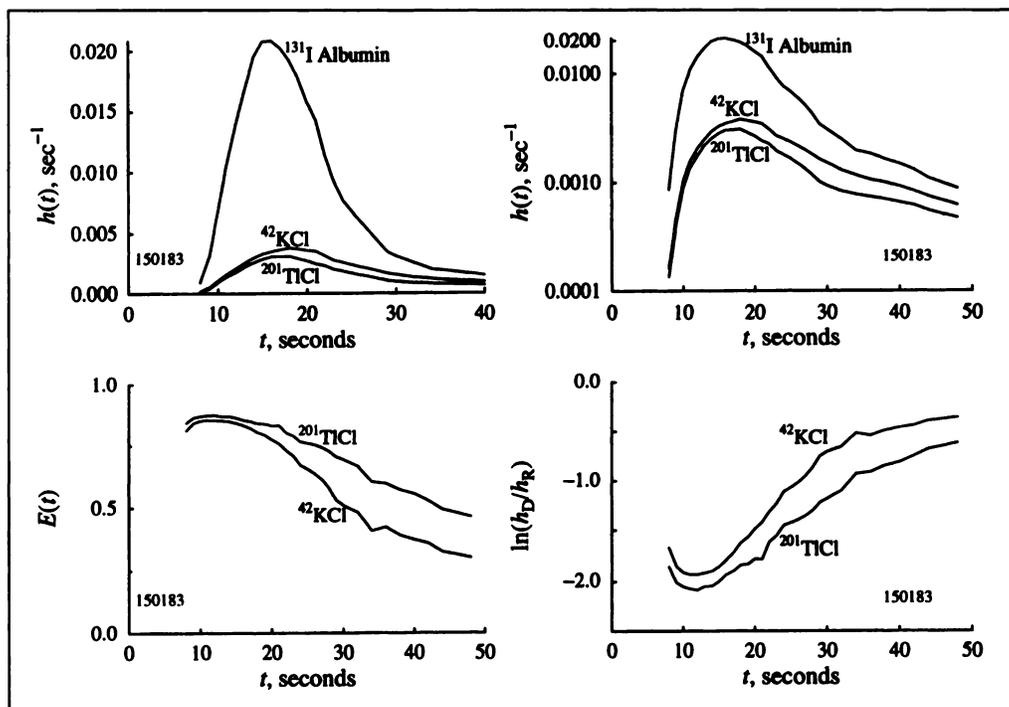
## RESULTS

Twenty-four sets of indicator dilution curves were obtained in the hearts from six dogs. Four to seven tracer injections were made in each dog heart study, but failures of injection or sampling occurred in those not reported. In five instances,  $^{42}\text{K}$  was not available in adequate amounts and curves were not obtained.

### Form of Indicator Dilution Curves

An example of recorded indicator dilution curves,  $h(t)$ , is shown in Figure 2 (upper panels, linear and logarithmic scales). The first part of the dilution curves for both potassium and thallium has a shape similar to that for albumin but lower. For both there are long low tails continuing over the sampled times up to 72–200 sec, as for potassium (1), and for  $Tl^+$  (27). The residual fraction retained in the heart is about one-third of the entering dose by the end of the first minute and is slow to wash out, in accord with long retention by the muscle cells. There is a striking difference in the downslope portion following the peaks of the curves: the thallium  $h(t)$ 's are lower than the potassium curves, which means that thallium is better retained by the tissue than is potassium.

Differences between potassium and thallium are accordingly found in the instantaneous net extraction  $E(t)$  after 15 sec (Fig. 2, left lower) and the ratios of the potassium and thallium concentration to the albumin concentration at each time point (Fig. 2, right lower).  $E(t)$  usually remains positive for about a minute at medium and low flows indicating that net extraction continues.  $E(t)$  for thallium remained positive longer than for potassium, always for the first minute. In general, not seen in Figure 2, during the first seconds the potassium  $E(t)$ 's tended to be almost flat during the upstroke and peak of  $h(t)$ , but the thallium  $E(t)$ 's started a little lower and increased to a later flat peak that was usually slightly higher than for potassium. Initially flat  $E(t)$ 's suggest that there is little heterogeneity in regional myocardial blood flows, even justifying single-capillary modeling (28,29), which is the basis of our analysis. To check this, since the flows in these blood-perfused hearts are always heterogeneous (30), we used multicapillary analysis (26) to fit the data as well and obtained slightly better fits but no significant differences in parameter estimates. There was a tendency for the multicapillary analyses to give slightly higher estimates of  $PS_{cap}$  and lower estimates of  $PS_{pc}$  than did single capillary analysis, but the overall conductance, which is  $1/(1/PS_{cap} + 1/PS_{pc})$ , remained unchanged. The difference between potassium and thallium might also be due in part to a red cell carriage effect (31), if thallium were to exchange much more



**FIGURE 2.** Observed coronary sinus out-flow dilution curves  $h(t)$ , for potassium and thallium plotted with linear and logarithmic ordinate scaling  $F_S = 0.67 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{Hct} = 40\%$ , perfusion pressure = 80 mmHg, heart rate = 64/min. Lower left panel: Instantaneous fractional extractions,  $E(t)$ . Lower right panel: The ratios  $h_D(t)/h_R(t)$  plotted on a logarithmic scale.

rapidly with red cells than does potassium, but we have no information on this.

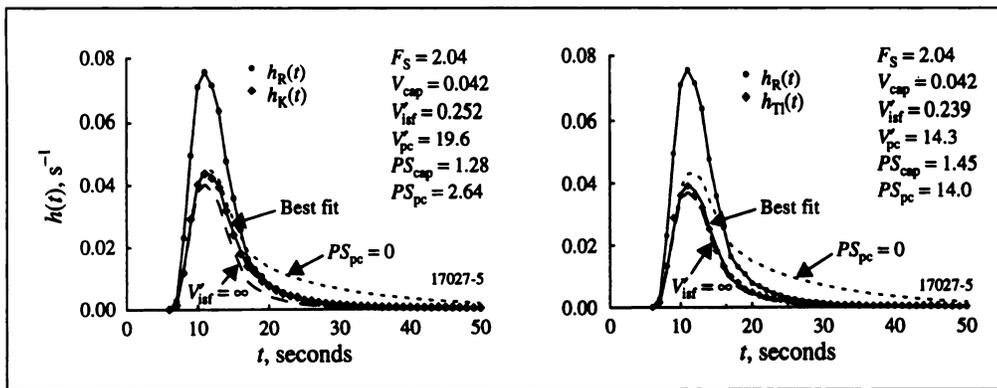
Values for the maximum extraction,  $E_{\max}$ , are given in Table 1. The average values for potassium and thallium were indis-

tinguishable, 63% and 62%, with standard deviations of 11% and 12% ( $n = 19$  and  $24$ ).  $E_{\max}$  was less at higher flows. These values are lower than estimates obtained by residue detection without a reference tracer by Bergmann et al. (32). Our

**TABLE 1**  
Parameter Values for  $\text{K}^+$  and  $\text{Tl}^+$  Exchange\*

Experiment no.	$F_S$	Hct	$E_{\max}$		$\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$		$\text{PS}_{\text{pc}}$		$\gamma$		$\theta$		CV	
			K	Tl	K	Tl	K	Tl	K	Tl	K	Tl	K	Tl
090461	0.34	0.25	0.70	0.65	0.45	0.30	0.98	12.40	6.50	5.37	131	387	0.073	0.059
090462	0.59	0.25	0.70	0.57	0.82	0.48	2.62	5.73	7.01	7.01	153	312	0.086	0.039
090463	0.89	0.25	0.59	0.55	0.86	0.68	0.98	3.38	8.00	6.55	86	312	0.040	0.036
090464	1.20	0.25	0.52	0.61	1.02	1.20	0.57	4.26	7.42	6.91	329	324	0.030	0.036
090466	0.45	0.25	0.66	0.56	0.59	0.46	0.56	1.04	7.45	4.88	87	329	0.080	0.122
150183	0.45	0.40	0.81	0.85	1.01	1.05	1.98	3.99	5.38	5.38	69	63	0.045	0.034
150184	0.48	0.37	0.76	0.83	0.81	0.96	2.09	9.71	6.02	6.02	85	167	0.068	0.043
170181	0.84	0.37	0.67	0.67	0.92	0.96	5.32	11.20	6.28	5.83	191	791	0.187	0.044
170182	0.60	0.39	0.82	0.78	1.15	0.93	3.56	6.25	5.98	9.21	958	1149	0.051	0.035
170183	0.61	0.39	0.72	0.67	0.75	0.64	3.97	10.10	5.91	5.97	314	484	0.196	0.136
170271	0.61	0.28	0.65	0.77	0.66	0.93	5.96	12.20	5.01	4.96	389	392	0.110	0.117
170272	0.61	0.28	0.65	0.75	0.63	0.85	6.08	10.10	5.02	5.00	299	564	0.082	0.125
170274	1.22	0.24	0.55	0.62	0.97	1.21	5.84	12.20	6.59	4.27	114	565	0.122	0.081
170275	2.04	0.21	0.42	0.49	1.28	1.45	2.64	14.00	5.99	5.69	467	341	0.097	0.080
170276	2.09	0.21	0.51	0.53	1.57	1.61	13.80	11.90	5.08	5.08	297	483	0.178	0.124
200174	0.50	0.25	0.51	0.60	0.37	0.47	5.43	11.90	5.74	5.24	354	524	0.053	0.156
200175	0.99	0.26		0.58		0.86		11.80		5.41		427		0.148
200176	1.04	0.28		0.48		0.61		12.90		6.81		690		0.090
281062	0.66	0.37		0.56		0.51		11.50		5.71		479		0.144
281063	0.66	0.37	0.61	0.71	0.76	1.02	1.98	2.86	7.88	4.14	717	794	0.140	0.134
281064	1.15	0.43		0.42		0.59		12.40		5.68		523		0.105
281065	1.18	0.38	0.54	0.58	1.27	1.06	1.57	12.80	4.69	5.59	735	485	0.047	0.101
281066	1.59	0.35		0.42		0.82		13.30		6.92		917		0.096
281067	1.43	0.35	0.46	0.60	1.06	1.30	1.86	11.70	6.92	4.31	34	193	0.055	0.146
Mean			0.63	0.62	0.89	0.87	3.57	9.57	6.26	5.75	306	487	0.092	0.093
s.d.			0.11	0.12	0.29	0.33	3.04	3.84	0.97	1.08	251	241	0.050	0.042
N			19	24	19	24	19	24	19	24	19	24	19	24

\*Units for  $F_S$ ,  $\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$ , and  $\text{PS}_{\text{pc}}$  are in  $\text{ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ ; others are dimensionless.  $\gamma = V_{\text{inf}}/V_{\text{cap}}$ .  $\theta = V_{\text{pc}}/V_{\text{cap}}$ . Based on  $V_{\text{cap}} = 0.042 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$ , a  $\gamma = 6.0$  is equivalent to  $V_{\text{inf}}$  of  $0.25 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$  and  $\theta = 400$  is equivalent to  $V_{\text{pc}} = 17 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$ . In five studies,  $^{42}\text{K-Cl}$  was not available.



**FIGURE 3.** Coronary sinus outflow dilution curves for albumin, potassium (left) and thallium (right), all obtained simultaneously in an isolated supported blood perfused dog heart. The potassium and thallium curves were fitted with a mass conservative single capillary-ISF-cell model. Parameters obtained for the best fits of the model to the data are given in the figure. Short dashes represent the curve for zero cellular uptake,  $PS_{pc} = 0$ . Long dashes, labeled  $V'_{isf} = \infty$ , represent the case where the cellular uptake is infinitely rapid with no return flux from ISF to capillary, which would be expected if the Crone-Renkin expression, Equation 1a, were applicable to the data.

technique offers considerably greater precision in this estimate. Our  $E(t)$ 's are also distinctly lower than the 88% obtained by Weich et al. (33) at lower flows than ours. Their myocardial extractions fell to less than 60% when flow was increased fivefold, which is compatible with our estimates of  $PS_{cap}$ .

Plots of the logarithms of the ratios of concentrations of permeating to reference tracer,  $C_D(t)/C_R(t)$ , or  $h_D(t)/h_R(t)$  have the advantage of displaying the data over long times. If  $E(t)$  were completely flat then the ratio  $C_K/C_{alb}$  would also be constant, as is evident from  $E(t) = 1 - h_D(t)/h_R(t)$ . In the special situation where there is little or no return from the extravascular region into the outflowing blood, implicit in Equation 3, the ratio  $h_K(t)/h_R(t)$  can be interpreted directly:

$$PS_{cap}(K^+) = -F_S \cdot \log_e[h_K(t)/h_R(t)]. \quad \text{Eq. 7}$$

(It is the initial value of this log ratio plot that Martin and Yudilevich (34) used for obtaining the estimates of  $PS_{cap}$ . This was an empirical attempt to account for return flux from the ISF to capillary in the presence of a barrier limitation.)

#### Estimation of Parameters Governing the Exchange

Best fits for a typical pair of potassium and thallium curves are shown in Figure 3. The capillary permeability surface area products,  $PS_{cap}$ , for potassium and thallium were similar. The dramatic difference is that the thallium  $PS_{pc}$ 's are higher than those for potassium.

Estimates of  $PS_{cap}$  from model fitting can be compared to estimates obtained with Equation 3, the Crone-Renkin equation based on the absence of a return flux, "backdiffusion" from ISF to plasma. The hypothetical case is shown in Figure 3 by the dashed lines,  $V'_{isf} = \infty$ . Making the  $V'_{isf}$  infinitely large means that there is no return flux from the ISF to the capillary, so that the dashed line has exactly the same shape as  $h_R(t)$  but is scaled by  $1 - e^{-PS_{cap}/F}$ , one minus the fraction escaping. The difference between the curve for  $V'_{isf} = \infty$  for thallium and the best fitting curve for thallium is very small, but is much larger for potassium. The rapid cellular uptake of thallium reduces its return flux. The Crone-Renkin expression, Equation 3, therefore gives an estimate of  $PS_{cap}$  for thallium quite close to that from the model, whereas it underestimates  $PS_{cap}$  for potassium. The observed values of maximal extraction,  $E_{max}$ , are given in the Table 1. The ratios of the estimates of the  $PS_{cap}$  for thallium by Equation 3 to that for the single-capillary model were  $0.99 \pm 0.10$  (s.d.,  $n = 24$ ) and for potassium  $0.90 \pm 0.09$  (s.d.,  $n = 19$ ); that is, the Crone-Renkin expression underestimated  $PS_{cap}$  compared to the single capillary model by 1% for thallium and 10% for potassium. Thus, the underestimation of  $PS_{cap}$  by Equation 3 is not great for indicators with large  $PS_{pc}$  and cellular retention. This is in contrast to the use of  $PS_{cap}$  for sodium, where the rate of entry into cells is low and for which

the equation was modified to  $PS_{cap} = -F_S \log_e(1 - 1.14E_{max})$  to correct for backdiffusion (12).

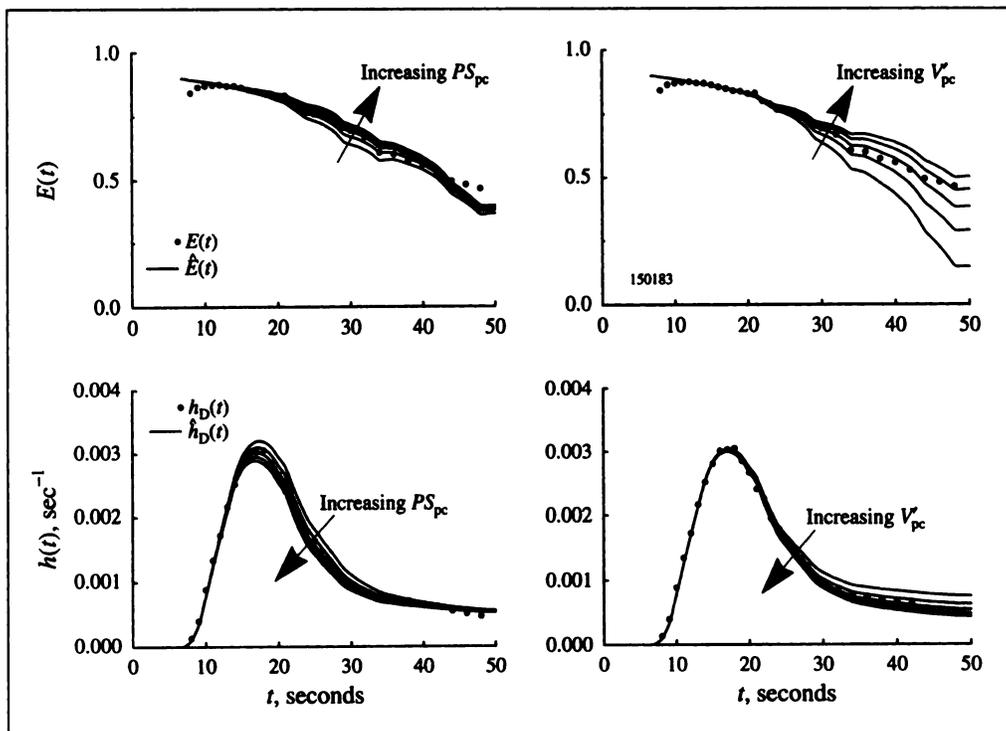
The other hypothetical case shown in Figure 3 is for no cellular uptake,  $PS_{pc} = 0$ : the return flux from the ISF to the capillary is greater, and the area of the curve is 1.0. This is a reduction of the capillary-ISF-cell model to the capillary-ISF model with axial diffusion (5) or without (16,17). If data prior to 15 or 20 sec were fitted with these reduced models, the estimates of  $PS_{cap}$  would be higher, particularly for thallium. However, to account for some backdiffusion yet provide long retention, one must use a model with cellular uptake.

#### Distinguishability of the Parameters

The fitting of the model to the data gives parameter estimates that are well constrained. (Fits are "best", not "unique." The word unique is inappropriate since the definition of the "best" fit is dependent upon the method of calculating the difference between model solution and experimental data: linear least squares, logarithmic, etc. However, there is only one region of parameter space that gives "good" fits, and we do not experience getting trapped in local minima.) To estimate parameters by fitting the model to the data, the influences of the parameters on the shapes of the model solutions must differ from one another. Increases in  $PS_{cap}$  influence the upslope and peak of  $h_T(t)$ , causing a reduction in the height of the throughput (nonextracted) fraction of the tracer. The corollary is that the same reduction of  $PS_{cap}$  leads to a heightening of the tail of the curve since the total area must still be unity. The left panel of Figure 4 shows that the influence of  $PS_{pc}$  begins later and influences the peak height but mainly the early downslope. The right panel of Figure 4 shows that the influence of  $V'_{pc}$  begins still later, has less influence than  $PS_{pc}$  on the early part of the downslope and has its most marked influence late on the curve. Thus, the influences of  $PS_{cap}$ ,  $PS_{pc}$ , and  $V'_{pc}$  are readily distinguishable. The influence of  $V'_{isf}$  (not diagramed) is small because of the high rate of cellular uptake.  $V'_{isf}$  was determined more accurately from the potassium curves where the cell uptake rate was lower.

The distinguishability of parameters can be defined quantitatively by the use of sensitivity functions, such as those illustrated in Figure 5, which give at each time point a measure of the relative influences of each parameter on the shape of the model solution,  $h_D(t)$ . They are defined  $S_j(t) = \partial h_D(t)/\partial p_j$ , where  $h_D(t)$  is the model solution and  $p_j$  is the value of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  parameter of the model:  $S_j(t)$  describes, as a function of time, the magnitude and direction, up or down, of the influence on  $h_D(t)$  of a small change in the value of the parameter. The sensitivity functions all have differing shapes. Opposite signs of two sensitivity functions, e.g., those of  $PS_{cap}$  and  $V'_{isf}$  at  $t = 22$  sec in the figure, mean that these two have

**FIGURE 4.** Influences of  $PS_{pc}$  and  $V'_{pc}$  on the shapes of  $h_D(t)$  and  $E(t)$  for a thallium dilution curve obtained from a blood-perfused dog heart. For all panels,  $F_S = 0.45$ ,  $V_{cap} = 0.042$ ,  $V'_{isf} = 0.226$ , and  $PS_{cap} = 1.05$ . Left panels:  $V'_{pc} = 2.63$  and  $PS_{pc}$  varies from 2.99 to 4.99 in steps of 0.5. Influence of  $PS_{pc}$  is negligible in the first seconds of the upslope; it is maximal between the 20th and 30th sec and then diminishes. The best fit is with  $PS_{pc} = 3.99$   $ml\ min^{-1}\ g^{-1}$ . Higher values of  $PS_{pc}$ , at 4.45 and 4.99  $ml\ min^{-1}\ g^{-1}$  lower  $h_D(t)$  and raise  $E(t)$ ; lowering  $PS_{pc}$  to 3.49 and 2.99  $ml\ min^{-1}\ g^{-1}$  produces the opposite effect, but more strongly, indicating the nonlinearity of the fitting problem. Right panels:  $PS_{pc} = 3.99$  and  $V'_{pc}$  varies from 1.63 to 3.63 in steps of 0.5. Increasing  $V'_{pc}$  reduces the return flux from cell to ISF to venous outflow, lowering  $h_D(t)$  and raising  $E(t)$  at these later times.



opposing influences on  $h_D(t)$ . Sharp peaks in sensitivity functions indicate that higher data sampling rates are required at early times. The sensitivity functions are used in parameter adjustment, optimizing the fit of the model solution to the data (36). Figure 5 demonstrates that the free parameters have distinctly different sensitivity curves and that they can be estimated from data having sufficient accuracy and frequency of sampling.

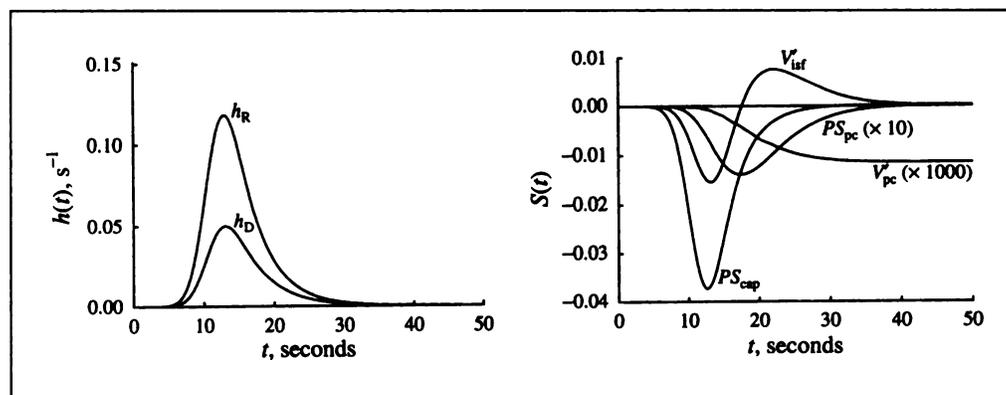
#### Capillary Permeability-Surface Area Products

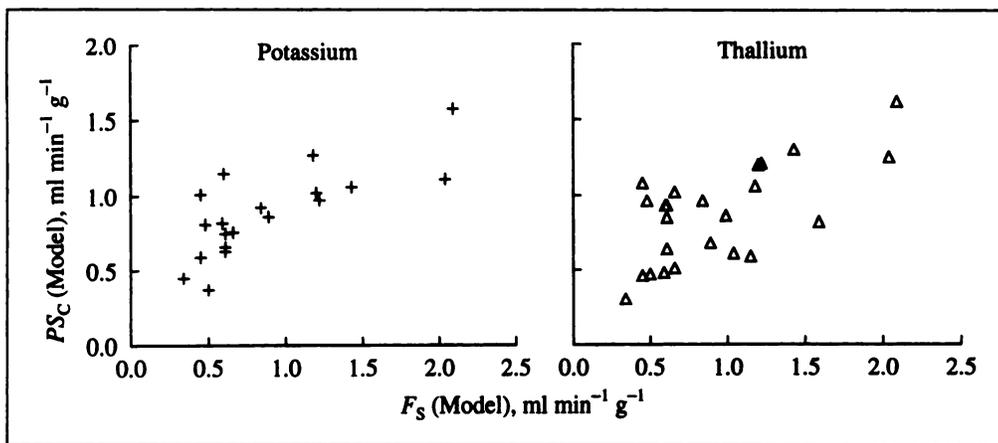
Estimates of  $PS_{cap}$  obtained by fitting with the single capillary model are listed in Table 1 and plotted in the lower panels of Figure 6 against the plasma flow, the flow of solute-containing mother fluid,  $F_S$ . For both  $K^+$  and  $Tl^+$ , there is a modest increase in  $PS_{cap}$  with higher flows, presumably due to some recruitment of surface area at higher flows.

The ratios of potassium to thallium  $PS_{cap}$ 's averaged  $1.02 \pm 0.27$  (s.d.,  $n = 19$ ) and were unaffected by the flow, but there

is much scatter. (This s.d. of 27%, although large, is less than twice the minimal error in using the Fick technique for measuring cardiac output, about 15%. These experiments were not designed to test repeatability, so one would expect to improve on this variation if one did repeated observations.) The ratio of the free diffusion coefficients is 1.015. The similarity of the ratios of  $PS_{cap}$ 's to the free diffusion coefficients does suggest, despite the scatter, that the primary route of transport is through the interendothelial clefts, basically aqueous channels. It also makes it unlikely that uptake into red cells or endothelial cells is consequential, since the uptake rates would have to be exactly the same for both  $K^+$  and  $Tl^+$  to give this result, which seems improbable. There is no inference here that these molecules are small compared to the channels, although they surely are, whether these be through a fibre matrix within intercellular clefts (37) or through simpler pores, but only that steric factors would be the same for both.

**FIGURE 5.** Solutions (left) and sensitivity functions (right) for the blood-tissue exchange model. Left panel: Impulse responses for a system consisting of arteries, veins and a capillary-tissue unit series. Input is a lagged normal density function with mean transit time 12 sec, relative dispersion 0.37 and skewness 1.4 (35). For the intravascular reference  $h_R(t)$ , the capillary mean transit time was 2.52 sec. The curve  $h_D(t)$  is for the permeating tracer. The flow  $F_S$  was  $1.0\ ml\ min^{-1}\ g^{-1}$ :  $PS_{cap}$  and  $PS_{pc}$  are 1 and 4  $ml\ min^{-1}\ g^{-1}$ ,  $V'_{isf}$  and  $V'_{pc}$  are 0.2 and 20  $ml\ min^{-1}\ g^{-1}$ . Right panel: Sensitivity functions for each of the governing transport parameters. The times of maximal influence are seen to be ordered in accordance with the sequence of solute transport from blood into the cells. For display, the  $S(t)$  for  $PS_{pc}$  is scaled up ten times compared to the ordinate scaling and  $V'_{pc}$  by a thousand times. While sensitivity to  $V'_{pc}$  is less than that for the other parameters, it is almost the sole influence on the height of the tail.





**FIGURE 6.** The  $PS_{cap}$ 's for potassium (crosses) and thallium (triangles) both increase with higher flows in these blood-perfused dog hearts.

### Estimates of Cellular Uptake Rates

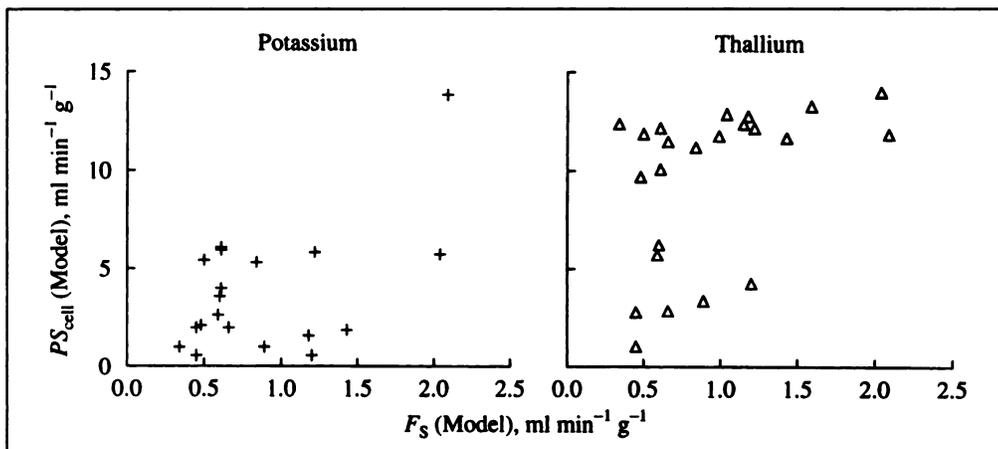
Figure 7 shows the estimates of  $PS_{pc}$  for potassium and thallium. While  $PS_{pc}$ 's cannot be so accurately estimated as  $PS_{cap}$ 's, it is clear that sarcolemmal  $PS_{pc}$  for both tracers is significantly higher than for  $PS_{cap}$ . For neither potassium nor thallium does there appear to be an effect of the flow on  $PS_{pc}$ , which suggests that an increase in flow does not increase the accessibility of the cells to intravascular tracer. The same cellular membrane surface area was presumably available over the whole range of flows, independent of whether or not all of the capillaries were perfused at lower flows. This is reasonable since, in hexagonal arrays of capillaries and cells with a capillary/cell rate of unity, absence of flow in two capillaries leaves four others to supply the cell. The large degree of scatter could easily mask a subtle influence. The ratios of potassium to thallium  $PS_{pc}$ 's averaged  $0.44 \pm 0.25$  ( $n = 19$ ); with the extreme value in experiment 170276 omitted, this ratio was  $0.40 \pm 0.19$  ( $n = 18$ ).

### DISCUSSION

Particular features of interest in these data are the similarity in rates of transport for thallium and potassium across the capillary barrier and the much higher rate of cellular uptake for thallium than for potassium at the parenchymal cell. Both capillary and sarcolemmal barriers impede the delivery of the tracers into the intracellular sink, a point which bears directly on the use of thallium and of the potassium analog rubidium as markers for regional myocardial blood flow by tracer imaging. The general observation that initial uptake of thallium exceeds that of potassium was made by L'Abbate et al. (38); here we offer high resolution observations that allow deeper explanation.

The similarity of  $PS_{cap}$ 's for the two tracers suggests that the rate of escape from the capillary is primarily through passive diffusive transport via aqueous channels between endothelial cells, and not across the endothelial cell membranes. The main argument is that the ratios of  $PS_{cap}$ 's are similar to the ratios of the free diffusion coefficients. Since the surface area of endothelial cells is about  $10^4$  times that of the aqueous channels, it seems safe to conclude that there is insignificant entry of  $K^+$  and  $Tl^+$  into the endothelial cells during the time of a single capillary traversal since, if there were endothelial uptake, it would likely be, as for the parenchymal cell, much greater for thallium. Support for this conclusion can also be taken from observations in other studies of the  $PS_{cap}$ 's for other small molecules in the blood-perfused dog heart. The estimates obtained by Alvarez and Yudilevich (39) on a set of small hydrophilic molecules including  $Na^+$  and  $Rb^+$ , and by Durán and Yudilevich (40) on sucrose and sodium, in preparations similar to ours, are compatible with our estimates on  $PS_{cap}(K^+)$  and  $PS_{cap}(Tl^+)$ . Comparison with previous data from our own laboratory on  $Na^+$  permeability in the same experimental preparation is also supportive; the estimates of Guller et al. (12) for  $PS_{cap}(Na^+)$  averaged  $1.0 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$  compared to the averages for  $K^+$  and  $Tl^+$  of  $0.82$  and  $0.87 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$  obtained in this study.

The data do not exclude another possibility, however unlikely: the combination of a higher  $PS_{cap}$  for thallium than for potassium combined with a red cell carriage effect, also higher for thallium. The entry of the tracer into red cells renders it less available to traverse the capillary membrane (31,41). This idea is compatible with the forms of those curves which had a higher earlier peak for  $^{201}Tl$  than for  $^{42}K$  and a delayed rise in  $E(t)$  so



**FIGURE 7.** Sarcolemmal permeability-surface area products for potassium (crosses) and thallium (triangles) in the blood-perfused dog heart. Estimates were obtained via the single-capillary distributed convection-permeation model. The values of  $PS_{pc}$  for  $Tl^+$  are considerably higher than for  $K^+$ , but neither appear to be influenced by mean coronary blood flow.

that  $E_{\max}$  for  $^{201}\text{Tl}$  occurred later than for  $^{42}\text{K}$ . This would make less thallium free to leave the capillary so that its capillary permeability  $\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$  might be underestimated. Our analysis did not include consideration of entry into red cells, and since the effect could not have been large in any case, this minor question has been left open.

The higher values of myocyte sarcolemmal permeability  $\text{PS}_{\text{pc}}$  for  $^{201}\text{Tl}$  than for  $^{42}\text{K}$  might deserve comment. Could  $^{201}\text{Tl}$  have a higher affinity for transport by the Na-K ATPase or through the ionic channels than does potassium? These data appear to be the first direct evidence in the heart that thallium is taken up more readily than potassium, but the relative rates are in accordance with the findings of Hille (42) who showed that permeability to thallium was 3.8 times that of potassium through the tetrodotoxin-sensitive  $\text{Na}^+$  channels and was in fact 0.33 times that for  $\text{Na}^+$  itself in myelinated nerve. In Hille's experiments, the  $\text{K}^+$  channel was blocked by tetraethylammonium bromide so that these channels were not available for the carriage of ionic currents; in the presence also of TTX, the currents diminished to zero. In our beating heart preparation, the Na channels were certainly activated and clearly can account for much thallium transport if the analogy to the nerve applies, but it also seems probable that thallium might be transported via the potassium channels. We do not know of studies of thallium currents in TTX-blocked nerves or muscles, but the experiments can certainly be done.

Transport by the Na-K ATPase ordinarily occurs with slower unidirectional rates of flux than does transport via ionic channels. However, Hougen and Smith (43) and Hougen et al. (44) showed that ouabain inhibited the uptake of rubidium by *in vivo* dog heart during controlled infusions giving a ouabain concentration in the plasma in steady state of about  $10^{-8}$  M, and showed about a 90% inhibition of  $\text{Rb}^+$  uptake by  $10^{-3}$  M ouabain. On the other hand, Winkler and Schaper (45) found that intracoronary infusion of ouabain for 20 min had at most only a minor effect on the transcappillary extraction of thallium, and a somewhat larger effect on both  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$ ; sodium uptake was enhanced and potassium uptake diminished. Judging by these observations, we would think it likely that thallium is transported mainly by the ionic channels for  $\text{Na}^+$  and perhaps for  $\text{K}^+$  as well. The latter possibility is analogous to a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{Sr}^{2+}$  situation: strontium conductance through the channel for the "slow inward current" in ventricular muscle is greater than for the natural ion calcium. Further experiments need to be performed to distinguish between these various possible mechanisms for thallium conductance across the sarcolemma. The effort may well be merited, since information on mechanisms of transport may be elucidated, and since more information on the effects of various pathophysiological states on thallium uptake in the heart is needed to support its clinical use as an index of myocardial blood flow. An alternate transport route would be any channel, such as a gramicidin channel through which water and a cation can move. Dani and Levitt, however, found that thallium bound more tightly to the gramicidin channel than did potassium, slowing water permeability much more than did the same concentration of potassium (46). Accordingly, they calculated that the minimum diffusion coefficient for Tl in the pore was only  $1.4 \times 10^{-7}$   $\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$  compared to  $8.4 \times 10^{-7}$   $\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$  for potassium (46). From our experiments, however, thallium permeability is higher than potassium, indicating that the permeability is *not* through this type of channel. Rather, our results are closer to those of Reuter and Stevens (47): neurons of land snails showed  $\text{Tl}^+$  permeability to be about 1.3 times that for  $\text{K}^+$ , again leading us to

conclude that the transport occurs through the normal potassium channel.

A further complicating possibility is raised by more recent studies by Winkler and Schaper (48). The myocardial content of rubidium and thallium were observed during perfusion with constant inflow levels of both tracers; adding ouabain to the perfusate caused a sudden loss of a large fraction of the  $^{201}\text{Tl}$  but only a small and slow loss of  $^{86}\text{Rb}$ . The implication is that a substantial fraction of the thallium is displaced from an extracellular binding site, perhaps even the NaKATPase. Krivokapich et al. (49) observed that anoxia caused cessation of  $^{201}\text{Tl}$  uptake (or even some loss) during constant  $^{201}\text{Tl}$  perfusion in isolated rabbit septa and also during tracer washout resulted in a surge in the effluent  $^{201}\text{Tl}$  concentration. This suggests that thallium retention is energy-dependent, and one might speculate that the thallium binding to the NaKATPase is energy-dependent.

From our estimates of  $\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$ ,  $V'_{\text{isf}}$ ,  $\text{PS}_{\text{pc}}$ , and  $V'_{\text{pc}}$  for thallium, one may predict the results of other experiments. The low values of  $\text{PS}_{\text{cap}}$  and  $\text{PS}_{\text{pc}}$  provide an explanation for the observations of incomplete extraction in the heart (32,33,50). Similarly Budinger et al. (51) have shown a strong decrease in rubidium extraction with higher flows.

When extraction is impeded by barriers, one would expect a curvilinear relationship between regional deposition of  $\text{Tl}^+$  and regional blood flows such as was shown by Renkin (7,8); extraction and retention diminished at higher flows. This is clearly observable with rubidium and potassium, and it is therefore interesting that thallium, the one entering parenchymal cells the most readily, has been reported by Nielsen et al. (52) and Pohost et al. [(53), their Fig. 2] to give a deposition-flow relationship which curves only mildly above flows of 2  $\text{ml min}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$ . The slope of their data is not known since  $\text{Tl}^+$  deposition is presented as absolute activity per gram of tissue rather than as fraction of dose injected.

Four factors appear to be contributing to this near-linearity.

1. Moderate scatter (regression coefficients of 0.98) necessarily masks curvature, and the scatter is higher at higher flows.
2. The data were acquired about 4 min after  $\text{Tl}^+$  injection into left atrium and after 5 min of exercise in dogs with circumflex coronary artery occlusion. This means that the physiological conditions differ in the high-flow and low-flow regions and opens the possibility that these differing regional conditions, such as potassium loss in the ischemic regions reducing the size of the sink for  $\text{Tl}^+$ , give rise to a near linear relationship by a combination of opposing factors.
3. All their curves show evidence of the effects of washout combined with recirculation; positive intercepts on the thallium axis by 6%–10% of the mean show  $\text{Tl}^+$  deposition in low-flow regions in excess of microsphere deposition. The excess, as a ratio, appears to be a factor of 2–5 times but for some data points is higher, there being substantial  $\text{Tl}^+$  in a sample with almost no microspheres. This could occur with vasodilation and collateral flow occurring during the later minutes when recirculation is occurring. Another possibility is that capillary collaterals allow  $\text{Tl}^+$  but not microspheres to penetrate an ischemic region. Recirculation, washing  $\text{Tl}^+$  out of high-flow regions and depositing it in low-flow regions, tends to lower the slope and raise the intercept; because of the absence of calibration of  $\text{Tl}^+$  deposition, the fractional washout is not evident from their data. Definitive exper-

iments should be designed to test these various possibilities individually. Whether this nonzero intercept is caused by capillary collateral flow or by recirculation, the observation poses a conundrum: if these were the only factors causing deviation from linearity, the  $TI^+$  versus microsphere curve would be concave *upward* not downward. The obvious factor for bringing down the high-flow end of the curve is washout, which is greater with higher flow (1,50,53).

4. The near-linearity may result from an increase in the capillary  $PS_{cap}$  in the higher flow regions. As in our Figure 6,  $PS_{cap}$  for  $K^+$  and  $TI^+$  at high flow is somewhat higher than it is at low flows but does not go up in proportion to flow. Observations of the  $PS_{cap}$ 's for other hydrophilic solutes in the heart (12,29,40) also suggest recruitment, as also explored by Cousineau et al. (54).

Larger microspheres tend to be deposited preferentially in high flow regions compared to smaller spheres (30); this means that in low flow regions there may be deposition of a larger fraction plasma label or a smaller microsphere than of larger microspheres. This may be part of the explanation for the positive intercepts on graphs of  $TI^+$  deposition versus microsphere deposition (53) or ratios of  $TI^+$  to microspheres exceeding unity in low flow regions.

The retention of  $TI^+$  in the tissue is governed by the intratissue volume of distribution and the conductance for blood-tissue exchange. When flow is infinitely high, the relevant overall conductance,  $PS_T$ , is for the capillary and cell membranes in series 1, and  $1/PS_T = 1/PS_{cap} + 1/PS_{pc}$ . By using the average values from Table 1,  $PS_T \approx 0.8 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ . When the flow,  $F_S$ , is not infinitely high relative to  $PS_T$ , then its slowness also retards the washout so that the overall clearance is  $1/(1/PS_T + 1/F_S)$ . The relevant volume of distribution is approximately  $V'_{pc}$ , which is about  $12.5 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$ . The time constant for washout,  $\tau_{wash}$ , is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{wash} &\approx \frac{V'_{pc}}{\text{clearance}} \approx V'_{pc} \left( \frac{1}{F_S} + \frac{1}{PS_T} \right) \\ &\approx 12.5 \left( \frac{1}{1.0} + \frac{1}{0.8} \right) \approx 30 \text{ min.} \end{aligned} \quad \text{Eq. 8}$$

From average values,  $\tau_{wash} \approx 30 \text{ min}$ ; the half-time for washout would be  $0.69 \tau_{wash}$  or about 20 min. This estimate is what would be expected in comparison with the rates of potassium washout observed at early times by Tancredi et al. (1) in similarly perfused dog hearts and by Bergmann et al. (32) for  $TI^+$ . However, these estimates are faster than are observed over longer times (1,55,56). Marshall et al. (27) found thallium washout from isolated rabbit hearts to fall to half the initial rates; the rate depended more on flow than did the rate of washout of  $^{99m}\text{Tc-MIBI}$ . (Selective intracoronary injection is the only valid means of tracer introduction for consideration of washout. When there is recirculation of tracer, its re-uptake slows the net rate of washout. With intravenous injection, whole-body recirculation dominates so that myocardial washout simply follows plasma washout and gives no information about the heart per se.) Likewise, Leppo and Meerdink (57,58) had shown that  $TI^+$  uptake was higher than that for MIBI and that  $PS_{pc}$  for  $TI^+$  was higher than  $PS_{cap}$ ; they did not have a comparison with potassium or rubidium. These data are therefore compatible with findings by Maublant et al. (59) in cultured myocardial cells that  $TI^+$  uptake and loss were both faster than those for  $^{99m}\text{Tc-MIBI}$ .

A further factor retarding washout is partial flow limitation; this becomes significant when  $PS_{cap}$  is high enough to allow the effluent capillary concentration to approach the interstitial concentration as it will be when  $PS_{cap}/F_S$  is greater than unity. This is likely to explain the data of Marshall et al. (27): the initial washout is from ISF, the later washout is from the cells.

However, because  $PS_{cap}$  and, to a lesser degree,  $PS_{pc}$ , are well determined from the outflow dilution curves in the first half minute or so, inaccuracy in the estimation of  $V'_{pc}$  is the major remaining source of error. It is this estimate which is most improved by the use of the residue function analysis, such as obtained by external detection or long washout without recirculation. Our experiments provide data for only the first couple of minutes; the residue function  $R(t)$  can be calculated quite accurately from the outflow dilution curves using the formula,  $1.0 - \int_0^t h(\lambda)d\lambda$ , but data collected by external detection over a few hour period would be much more definitive, given that recirculation is negligible or accounted for. As an example, three of the 3–4-hr long washout curves of Tancredi et al. (1), whose preparation was the same as used here, were analyzed using this model; the three were experiments 27089, 13039 and 25044 shown in Figure 4 and Table 2 of their paper. The curves were fitted by the model quite precisely, and gave estimates of the fractional washout rate within 10% of those reported earlier. The cellular volumes of distribution were apparently higher than in the present series, estimates of  $\Theta$  being 436, 1091 and 354, compared to our current average of 306 (Table 1). This comparison suggests that our present analysis of the outflow dilution curves tends to underestimate the intracellular volumes of distribution; heterogeneities in flows (30,60–62) and in  $V'_{pc}$  would both give a tendency in this direction. Although there is good reason for accounting for flow heterogeneities in the model analysis (26), especially with either very low or very high extractions, at the intermediate levels found here for  $K^+$  and  $TI^+$ , the parameters are estimated in an almost unbiased fashion with the single capillary model.

## CONCLUSION

This study has focused on the assessment of the degree of barrier limitation at the capillary wall and cell membranes in dog myocardium to cellular uptake and deposition of cationic solutes that have large intracellular volumes of distribution. The concepts apply to the deposition of other markers such as sestamibi. Markers that permeate the barriers more slowly than potassium and thallium will be of limited use as flow markers since their single-pass extraction is lower and recirculation greater.

## APPENDIX: NEGLECT OF RADIAL CONCENTRATION GRADIENTS

The modeling is based on the stated assumption that radial concentration gradients are negligible in capillary, interstitium and cell. This is basically a statement that the times required for equilibration between compartments are long compared to times for diffusional flattening of radial concentration profiles within regions.

The time for exchange to bring the concentration in a radially mixed region to 90% of the way toward the final equilibrium concentration with an adjoining region held at constant concentration is

$$t(90\%) = 2.3V'/PS, \quad \text{Eq. A1}$$

where the time constant of the process is  $V'/PS$  and  $V'$  and  $PS$  are the volume and the barrier permeability-surface area product. [ $1 - \exp(-2.303) = 90\%$ .]

The time for diffusional equilibration to bring the center of a cylinder to within 10% of the concentration at the external surface is

$$t(90\%) = R^2/2D, \quad \text{Eq. A2}$$

taken for example from Figure 5.3 of Crank (63), where D is a diffusion coefficient, t is time and R is cylinder radius. A modification for a region bounded by concentric cylinders with inner and outer radii  $R_o$  and  $R_i$  is

$$t(90\%) = (R_o - R_i)^2/2D. \quad \text{Eq. A3}$$

Within the capillary itself the ratio of the time for the transmural exchange process to bring about capillary-ISF equilibration to that required for intraluminal diffusional relaxation of gradients is  $(2.3 V_{cap}/PS_{cap}/(R_{cap}^2/2D) = 2.3 D/PR_{cap} = (2.3 \times 2.35 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1})/(0.33 \times 10^{-4} \times 2.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}) = 6500$ , where the effective D in plasma is  $0.94 (310/298) \times (\eta_{310}/\eta_{298}) \times 1.84 \times 10^{-5} = 2.35 \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$ , considering 0.94 to be the nonprotein fraction of plasma available for solute diffusion, (310/298) to be the temperature correction factor and  $(\eta_{310}/\eta_{298})$  to be the viscosity correction factor, 0.89/0.68, the ratio of water viscosities at 25°C and 37°C.  $R_{cap}$  is capillary radius,  $2.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}$ ;  $S_{cap}$  is surface area,  $500 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  (19); and P is permeability calculated from  $PS_{cap} = 1 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ , which is about the mean value found for  $K^+$  and  $TI^+$  in this study (from Table 1). Since  $2.3D/PR_{cap} \gg 1000$ , the diffusional process is more than 1000 times faster than the permeation process, and it is apparent that radial intracapillary gradients must be negligible locally.

Another way of framing the question of the importance of radial gradients within the capillary is to calculate the ratio of capillary transit time,  $V_{cap}/F_S$ , to the same radial diffusional relaxation time, i.e.,  $(V_{cap}/F_S)/(R_{cap}^2/2D) = (0.035 \text{ ml g}^{-1}/0.0166 \text{ ml g}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})/[(2.5 \times 10^{-4})^2/(2 \times 2.35 \times 10^{-5})] = 1600$ . This is a radial Peclet number; the value of over 1000 means that local radial equilibration is 1000 times more rapid than axial transit and that radial intracapillary gradients can again be considered negligible. These ideas and conclusions are confirmed by the mathematical solutions to the convection-diffusion equations provided by Pollock and Blum (64) and Aroesty and Gross (65).

In the interstitial space, the diffusional equilibration still proceeds relatively rapidly compared to exchange. Taking a maximally large half-intercapillary distance of  $10 \mu$  and  $D = 25\%$  of the free diffusion coefficient (18,21),  $t(90\%) = (10 \mu)^2/(2 \times 0.25 \times 2.35 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}) = 0.1 \text{ sec}$ . Considering a more normal value of  $17 \mu$ , rather than  $20 \mu$ , between capillary centers, and that most of the myocyte sarcolemma lies within  $3 \mu$  of the capillary basement membrane,  $t(90\%)$  for diffusion in ISF must really be closer to  $(3/10)^2 \times 0.1 \text{ s} = 0.01 \text{ sec}$ . The  $t(90\%)$  for exchange of capillary with ISF (using  $V'_{isf} = 0.15 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$  and an overly high value of  $PS_{cap}$  of  $2 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) is  $2.3 \times 60 \times 0.15/2 = 10 \text{ sec}$ ; this means that in the worst case the exchange process is 100–1000 times slower than is diffusional dissipation of the intraregional concentration gradients.

Within the cells the same result occurs and allows the neglect of radial gradients in Equation 4, 5 and 6. By using  $D = 25\%$  of  $2.35 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $R = 6 \mu$ ,  $PS_{pc} = 5 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$  and the anatomic volume  $V'_{pc} = 0.7 \text{ ml g}^{-1}$ , the  $t(90\%)$  for diffusion is about 20 msec and the ratio of exchange time-to-diffusion time is

$$\frac{(2.3V'_{pc}/PS_{pc})}{(R^2/2D)} = (2.3 \times 0.7 \times 60/5)/((36 \times 10^{-8})/(2 \times 0.25 \times 2.35 \times 10^{-5})) = 19.3/0.03 = 600. \quad \text{Eq. A4}$$

With diffusion 600 times as rapid as exchange, one can extrapolate to say that even in cells several times as large as these, one can safely neglect any gradients due to slow intracellular diffusion. Gonzalez-Fernandez and Atta (66) considered  $O_2$  diffusion with intracellular consumption. The combination results in radial gradients in the steady-state, a different case from the present circumstance; even there, however, they estimated that azimuthal gradients due to inequality of distances from capillaries could be safely neglected.

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## Kinetics of Technetium-99m-Teboroxime in Reperfused Nonviable Myocardium

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This study evaluates  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -teboroxime uptake and clearance kinetics in reperfused infarcted myocardium. **Methods:** In 47 isolated buffer perfused rat hearts, 17 had normal flow (Control), 13 had 30 min of no flow followed by reflow (Noflow30) and 11 had 60 min of no flow followed by reflow (Noflow60). A 1-hr uptake phase was begun by normally perfusing all 41 hearts with  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -teboroxime-doped buffer. After uptake, a 1-hr clearance phase was begun by switching to a  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -teboroxime-free buffer. Technetium-99m activity was monitored with a NaI probe. Triton X-100, a membrane detergent, was given after tracer loading to six additional hearts. **Results:** Control and Noflow30 hearts showed near linear and rapid uptake, while Noflow60 hearts showed curvilinear and significantly less uptake than predicted. All three of these groups showed biexponential clearance. Early  $t_{1/2}$  was not significantly different for the three groups (Control =  $6.3 \pm 1.9$  sem min, Noflow30 =  $5.4 \pm$

$1.3$  min, Noflow60 =  $8.9 \pm 2.8$  min). Late  $t_{1/2}$  was significantly shorter for Noflow30 ( $52.3 \pm 5.3$  min) and the Noflow60 ( $50.9 \pm 4.3$  min), compared to the Control hearts ( $74.1 \pm 6.6$  min,  $p < 0.05$ ). One-hour fractional clearances were significantly greater for the Noflow30 and Noflow60 hearts ( $0.65 \pm 0.01$  and  $0.65 \pm 0.01$ , respectively) compared to the Controls ( $0.55 \pm 0.01$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). In hearts given Triton X-100, there was a markedly increased fractional clearance of  $0.96 \pm 0.01$  ( $p < 0.01$  compared to Controls). Electron microscopy showed evidence of mild injury in the Noflow30 hearts, more extensive damage in the Noflow60 hearts and severe irreversible injury in Triton X-100 hearts. **Conclusion:** Myocardial  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -teboroxime uptake and clearance kinetics are significantly altered in mildly and moderately injured reperfused myocardium. Technetium-99m-teboroxime clearance is markedly accelerated in the setting of overt damage to cell and organelle membranes induced by Triton X-100.

**Key Words:** technetium-99m-teboroxime; kinetics; reperfused; nonviable; myocardium

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