Postischemic recovery of heart metabolism and function: role of mitochondrial fatty acid transfer

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Montessuit, Christophe, Irène Papageorgiou, Isabelle Tardy-Cantalupi, Nathalie Rosenblatt-Velin, and René Lerch. Postischemic recovery of heart metabolism and function: role of mitochondrial fatty acid transfer. J Appl Physiol 89: 111–119, 2000.—Postischemic recovery of contractile function is better in hearts from fasted rats than in hearts from fed rats. In this study, we examined whether feeding-induced inhibition of palmitate oxidation at the level of carnitine palmitoyl transferase I is involved in the mechanism underlying impaired recovery of contractile function. Hearts isolated from fasted or fed rats were submitted to no-flow ischemia followed by reperfusion with buffer containing 8 mM glucose and either 0.4 mM palmitate or 0.8 mM octanoate. During reperfusion, oxidation of palmitate was higher after fasting than after feeding, whereas oxidation of octanoate was not influenced by the nutritional state. In the presence of palmitate, recovery of left ventricular developed pressure was better in hearts from fasted rats. Substitution of octanoate for palmitate during reperfusion enhanced recovery of left ventricular developed pressure in hearts from fed rats. However, the chain length of the fatty acid did not influence diastolic contracture. The results suggest that nutritional variation of mitochondrial fatty acid transfer may influence postischemic recovery of contractile function.

Palmitate; reperfusion; carnitine palmitoyltransferase I; nutritional state

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Therefore, the present study was designed to test the hypothesis that, during posts ischemic reperfusion, feeding-induced inhibition of CPT I limits 1) the rate of myocardial fatty acid oxidation during reperfusion and 2) the recovery of left ventricular pressure development. For this purpose, we determined in isolated rat hearts subjected to transient ischemia the effect of octanoate, which has access to β-oxidation independently of CPT I activity, on recovery of myocardial fatty acid oxidation and myocardial function.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals

All procedures were conducted in accordance with institutional guidelines for animal experimentation. Experiments were performed in male OFA rats (IFFA CREDO, L’Arbresle, France) weighing 250–350 g. Rats had free access to tap water and were either fed a standard laboratory chow ad libitum or fasted for 48 h before experimentation.

Heart Perfusion

Rats were anesthetized with pentobarbital sodium (60 mg/kg ip; Nembutal, Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, IL). After thoracotomy, 1,000 IU heparin (Liquemin, Roche, Basel, Switzerland) were injected into the inferior vena cava, and retrograde thoracotomy, 1,000 IU heparin (Liquemin, Roche, Basel, Switzerland) were injected into the inferior vena cava, and the heart was quickly excised, placed in ice-cold saline, blotted, and weighed. The aorta was cannulated, and cardiac output was measured. A fluid-filled latex balloon was inserted into the inferior vena cava, and the heart was quickly excised, placed in ice-cold saline, blotted, and weighed. The aorta was cannulated, and retrograde perfusion was initiated at a constant flow (10 ml min⁻¹ g wet wt⁻¹) in a nonrecirculating system, including a roller pump (model IPS4, Ismatec, Glattbrugg, Switzerland). The initial perfusate was Krebs-Henseleit (KH) buffer containing (in mM) 118 NaCl, 4.0 KCl, 1.8 CaCl₂, 1.4 KH₂PO₄, 1.2 MgSO₄, 25 NaHCO₃, and 11 glucose. All perfusates were equilibrated with 95% O₂–5% CO₂, and warmed to 37°C. The pulmonary artery was cannulated for collection of the coronary effluent. A fluid-filled latex balloon was inserted into the left ventricle via a left atriotomy and connected to a Statham P21XL pressure transducer (Gould, Valley View, OH). At the beginning of perfusion with erythrocyte-containing medium, filling of the balloon was adjusted to give a left ventricular systolic pressure of 85 mmHg. The balloon volume was then kept constant throughout the experiment. Isovolumic left ventricular diastolic and systolic pressures were recorded continuously on a strip-chart recorder (model 2400S, Gould). Hearts were paced at 300 beats/min.

After surgical preparation, perfusion was changed to an erythrocyte-enriched KH medium (EE-KH) containing 8 mM glucose, insulin (70 mU/l; Actrapid, Novo Nordisk Pharma), and either 0.4 mM palmitate or 0.8 mM octanoate, bound to 0.4 mM albumin. Washed human erythrocytes were added to the perfusate to yield a hematocrit of 30% (4), allowing sufficient oxygen supply to the myocardium at a physiological flow rate of 2 ml min⁻¹ g wet wt⁻¹. EE-KH was passed through a 10-μm transfusion filter (MF10, Biotest Pharma, Dreieich, Germany) included in the perfusion system. At the end of the perfusion protocol, the heart was quickly frozen with an aluminum clamp precooled in liquid N₂, powdered with a pestle in a mortar filled with liquid N₂, and stored in liquid N₂ for subsequent biochemical analysis.

Perfusion Protocols

Perfusion protocols are summarized in Fig. 1. The effect of substitution of 0.8 mM octanoate for 0.4 mM palmitate was assessed in hearts from either fed or fasted rats during both perfusion at a constant flow rate (nonischemic control perfusion) and during reperfusion after transient no-flow ischemia (posts ischemic reperfusion).

Nonischemic control perfusion. This group of hearts was perfused for 60 min at the control flow rate of 2 ml min⁻¹ g wet wt⁻¹ with EE-KH containing either 0.4 mM palmitate or 0.8 mM octanoate without intervention. Samples of the perfusate and the coronary effluent were withdrawn every 10 min. Radioactively labeled substrates for metabolic measurements (see Analytic Procedures) were present during the entire perfusion period.

Posts ischemic reperfusion. The hearts of this group were first equilibrated for 20 min with EE-KH containing unlabeled 0.4 mM palmitate. Thereafter, perfusion was stopped for 35 min. Immediately after perfusion was stopped, the coronary circulation was flushed with 3 ml of erythrocyte-free perfusate to prevent intracoronary aggregation of erythrocytes. During ischemia, the heated jacket surrounding the heart was filled with warmed KH to maintain myocardial temperature at 37°C. Hearts were then reperfused during 60 min at control flow rate (2 ml min⁻¹ g wet wt⁻¹) with perfusate containing either 0.4 mM palmitate or 0.8 mM octanoate. Samples of the perfusate and of the coronary effluent were collected after 10 and 20 min of equilibration and after 5, 15, 30, 45, and 60 min of posts ischemic reperfusion.
Table 1. Left ventricular contractile function during control perfusion of hearts from fasted or fed rats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LV Diastolic Pressure</th>
<th>LV Developed Pressure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 min</td>
<td>60 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasted (n = 8)</td>
<td>3 ± 1</td>
<td>2 ± 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fed (n = 7)</td>
<td>1 ± 1</td>
<td>1 ± 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasted (n = 12)</td>
<td>3 ± 1</td>
<td>8 ± 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fed (n = 12)</td>
<td>5 ± 1</td>
<td>7 ± 2</td>
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</table>

Values are means ± SE given in mmHg; n, no. of rats. NS, not significant.

Myocardial glycolytic flux was estimated on the basis of release of [3-3H]glucose from [5-3H]glucose added to the perfusate. Samples of the perfusate and the coronary effluent (0.5 ml) were deproteinized with 1 ml 0.6 M HClO4 immediately after withdrawal and neutralized with 5 M K2CO3 (75 μl). Trifluoracetic acid was separated from [5-3H]glucose by ion-exchange chromatography on Dowex-1-borate columns (5). Dowex 1 × 4 resin (chloride form, 200–400 mesh) was converted to Dowex-1-borate by washing with 0.05 M K2B4O7. Samples (0.2 ml) were loaded onto a 0.5-ml volume bed of resin and eluted with 0.8 ml H2O into scintillation vials. Samples (0.2 ml) were loaded onto a 0.5-ml volume bed of resin and eluted with 0.8 ml H2O into scintillation vials. Analysis of standard solutions containing known amounts of 3H2O and [U-14C]glucose revealed that >99% of the labeled glucose and <5% of labeled water were retained by the column.

Statistical Analysis

Results are presented as means ± SE. Data of myocardial metabolism and contractile function were analyzed by ANOVA for repeated measures. Cumulative release of creatine kinase and nonrepeated metabolic measurements were analyzed by factorial ANOVA, with nutritional state and chain length of fatty acid as factors. Statistical tests were conducted by using StatView II for Apple Macintosh software (Abacus Concepts, Berkeley, CA). Differences were considered significant at P < 0.05.

RESULTS

Left Ventricular Function During Control Perfusion

Left ventricular diastolic pressure and developed pressure during continuous perfusion without intervention were not influenced by the nutritional state and substitution of octanoate (0.8 mM) for palmitate (0.4 mM) (Table 1).

Effect of Substitution of 0.8 mM Octanoate for 0.4 mM Palmitate on Myocardial Metabolism During Control Perfusion

As observed previously (17), oxidation of [1-14C]-palmitate (Fig. 2) was markedly reduced in hearts from fed rats compared with hearts from fasted rats (50 ± 9 vs. 99 ± 5 nmol · min⁻¹ · g wet wt⁻¹, respectively, after 45 min; n = 3 for both groups; P < 0.01). Oxidation of [1-14C]octanoate was considerably higher than oxidation of [1-14C]-palmitate and did not differ between hearts from fasted and fed rats (274 ± 37 and 274 ± 23 nmol · min⁻¹ · g wet wt⁻¹; n = 6–7).

Myocardial oxidation of [1-14C]glucose (Fig. 3) was significantly higher in palmitate-perfused hearts from fast fed rats (32 ± 4 · nmol⁻¹ · g wet wt⁻¹ after 30 min; n = 3) than in the corresponding group of hearts from fasted rats (21 ± 2 nmol · min⁻¹ · g wet wt⁻¹; n = 4; P < 0.05). Substitution of octanoate (0.8 mM) in the perfusate for palmitate (0.4 mM) resulted in a marked increase in myocardial oxidation of [1-14C]glucose (Fig. 3) as compared with the palmitate-perfused hearts from fasted rats (32 ± 4 · nmol⁻¹ · g wet wt⁻¹ after 30 min; n = 3) and did not significantly differ from the corresponding group of hearts from fed rats (32 ± 4 · nmol⁻¹ · g wet wt⁻¹ after 30 min; n = 3).

Fig. 2. Myocardial oxidation of palmitate and octanoate after 45 min of equilibration with the labeled fatty acid in hearts isolated from fed rats or fasted rats. Hearts were perfused at constant flow with medium containing 8 mM glucose, 70 μU/ml insulin, and either 0.4 mM [1-14C]-palmitate or 0.8 mM [1-14C]-octanoate. Values are means ± SE; n, no. of rats. NS, not significant.

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Results are presented as means ± SE. Data of myocardial metabolism and contractile function were analyzed by ANOVA for repeated measures. Cumulative release of creatine kinase and nonrepeated metabolic measurements were analyzed by factorial ANOVA, with nutritional state and chain length of fatty acid as factors. Statistical tests were conducted by using StatView II for Apple Macintosh software (Abacus Concepts, Berkeley, CA). Differences were considered significant at P < 0.05.

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Fig. 2. Myocardial oxidation of palmitate and octanoate after 45 min of equilibration with the labeled fatty acid in hearts isolated from fed rats or fasted rats. Hearts were perfused at constant flow with medium containing 8 mM glucose, 70 μU/ml insulin, and either 0.4 mM [1-14C]-palmitate or 0.8 mM [1-14C]-octanoate. Values are means ± SE; n, no. of rats. NS, not significant.
Myocardial glycogen content after 60 min of control perfusion (Table 3).

Substitution of octanoate (0.8 mM) for palmitate (0.4 mM) in the perfusion medium during reperfusion significantly improved postischemic recovery of left ventricular developed pressure in hearts from fasted rats to reach 48 ± 7% of the preischemic value. However, substitution of octanoate for palmitate did not further improve recovery of left ventricular developed pressure in hearts from fasted rats (left ventricular developed pressure 71 ± 11% of the preischemic value).

Myocardial oxygen consumption and metabolic efficiency. Despite incomplete recovery of contractile function, myocardial oxygen consumption recovered to preischemic values during reperfusion. Baseline (perfusion with palmitate) oxygen consumption was not different between hearts from fasted and fed rats (3.2 ± 0.1 vs. 3.0 ± 0.1 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹, respectively). Fifteen minutes after reperfusion, oxygen consumption had returned to baseline values in all groups. Sixty minutes after reperfusion, oxygen consumption tended to be lower in hearts from fed rats (2.4 ± 0.2 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹; P < 0.05 by paired t-test vs. baseline), probably reflecting increased myocyte death in this group. To obtain an index for the efficiency of oxidative metabolism in terms of contractile performance, the ratio of the rate-pressure product to oxygen consumption was calculated (Fig. 5, bottom). Efficiency was markedly reduced during posts ischemic reperfusion in each group. However, in palmitate-reperfused hearts, efficiency was significantly lower in hearts from fed rats compared with that in hearts from fasted rats. Substitution of octanoate for palmitate during reperfusion completely abolished the unfavorable effect of feeding on postischemic efficiency of oxidative metabolism.

Myocardial release of creatine kinase. During reperfusion with palmitate-containing medium, cumulative

### Table 2. Effect of nutritional state and substitution of octanoate for palmitate on myocardial glycolytic flux

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perfusion With 0.4 mM Palmitate</th>
<th>Perfusion With 0.8 mM Octanoate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fasted</td>
<td>Fed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>345 ± 76</td>
<td>190 ± 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n = 18)</td>
<td>(n = 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>396 ± 45</td>
<td>285 ± 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n = 19)</td>
<td>(n = 11)</td>
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</table>

Values are means ± SE given in nmol · min⁻¹ · g wet wt⁻¹; n, no. of rats. Hearts were perfused with medium containing 8 mM [U-14C]glucose, 70 mU/l insulin, and either 0.4 mM palmitate or 0.8 mM octanoate.
myocardial release of creatine kinase into the coronary effluent was higher in hearts from fed rats than in hearts from fasted rats (Table 4). Substitution of octanoate for palmitate in the reperfusion medium did not influence myocardial release of creatine kinase.

**Effect of Substitution of 0.8 mM Octanoate for 0.4 mM Palmitate on Myocardial Substrate Metabolism During Postischemic Reperfusion**

**Oxidation of fatty acids.** Myocardial oxidation of palmitate was significantly lower in hearts from fed rats than in hearts from fasted rats (Fig. 6, top). When compared with the corresponding values during control perfusion, palmitate oxidation was not significantly different during postischemic reperfusion in hearts from both fasted (103 ± 14 and 83 ± 11 nmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹, respectively, during control perfusion and after 30 min of reperfusion) and fed rats (55 ± 7 and 55 ± 6 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹). Myocardial oxidation of octanoate (Fig. 6, bottom) was lower during postischemic reperfusion compared with control perfusion (Fig. 2) in hearts from both fasted (297 ± 28 and 131 ± 13 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹, respectively, during control perfusion and after 30 min of reperfusion) and fed rats (268 ± 26 and 116 ± 11 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹). However, in contrast to oxidation of palmitate, oxidation of octanoate was similar early during reperfusion in hearts from fasted and fed rats. Oxidation of octanoate tended to decrease in hearts from fed rats later than 30 min after the onset of reperfusion.

**Oxidation of glucose and glycolytic flux.** Because glucose oxidation and glycolytic rate may influence postischemic recovery of contractile function, glucose metabolism was investigated in the groups that exhibited improvement of functional recovery with octanoate, i.e., hearts from fed rats. Glucose oxidation and glycolytic flux rate were determined in postischemic hearts from fed rats reperfused with either palmitate (04 mM) or octanoate (0.8 mM) (Fig. 7). Consistent with previous observations (17) in rat hearts perfused with buffer containing 0.4 mM palmitate, myocardial oxidation of glucose was considerably higher during postischemic reperfusion (125 ± 10 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹ after 15 min of reperfusion) than during control perfusion (32 ± 4 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹).

Glucose oxidation was also stimulated during reperfusion with buffer containing octanoate to reach a similar value as during reperfusion with palmitate (113 ± 12 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹ after 15 min of reperfusion vs. 5.0 ± 1.6 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹ during control perfusion).

In hearts reperfused with 0.4 mM palmitate, myocardial glycolytic flux was higher 15 min after the onset of reperfusion (671 ± 109 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹) compared with control perfusion (396 ± 45 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹). Substitution of octanoate for palmitate did not significantly alter glycolytic flux during postischemic reperfusion (569 ± 70 μmol·min⁻¹·g wet wt⁻¹).

Determination of myocardial glycogen content at the end of the reperfusion period (Table 3) indicated that...
global glycogen utilization during reperfusion was not different between groups, assuming that the glycogen levels at the beginning of reperfusion were not different between hearts from fasted and fed rats (17).

DISCUSSION

We have previously observed in isolated rat hearts perfused with medium containing 8 mM glucose and 0.4 mM palmitate that recovery of the myocardium after transient ischemia is lower in hearts from rats with free access to food than in hearts from fasted rats (17). This study was undertaken to determine whether feeding-induced inhibition of long-chain fatty acid oxidation is involved in the mechanisms underlying enhanced postischemic injury in hearts from fed animals. For this purpose, the effect of substitution of octanoate for palmitate on recovery of metabolism and contractile function was studied. Octanoate is a medium-chain fatty acid that crosses the mitochondrial membrane independently of CPT I and, therefore, bypasses the regulatory step most likely responsible for nutritional variations of long-chain fatty acid oxidation in the myocardium (17).

The results of this study indicate that substitution of octanoate for palmitate elicits 1) abolition of nutritional variations of fatty acid oxidation during both control conditions and postischemic reperfusion, 2) inhibition of glucose oxidation in normal myocardium but not in postischemic myocardium, and 3) improvement of recovery of left ventricular pressure development after ischemia in hearts from fed rats. The findings provide circumstantial evidence for a role of CPT I in the nutritional state-related differences in postischemic recovery of contractile function.

Glucose and Fatty Acid Metabolism in Hearts From Fasted and Fed Rats During Control Perfusion

Consistent with previous observations (17), myocardial oxidation of palmitate during control perfusion was lower by 49% in hearts from fed rats than in hearts from fasted rats. Conversely, oxidation of glucose and glycolytic flux were increased by 52 and 17%, respectively. Because a previous study's myocardial malonyl-CoA content (17) was markedly higher in hearts from fed rats, we have proposed that malonyl-CoA-mediated inhibition of CPT I may be involved in feeding-induced reduction of palmitate oxidation. Consistent with this interpretation, we have recently observed that activity

Table 4. Cumulative myocardial release of creatine kinase during postischemic reperfusion of hearts from fasted or fed rats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Reperfusion With 0.4 mM Palmitate</th>
<th>Reperfusion With 0.8 mM Octanoate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LV developed pressure (mm Hg)</td>
<td>LV developed pressure (mm Hg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(top)</td>
<td>(bottom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fed</td>
<td>73 ± 13                  (n = 9)</td>
<td>64 ± 18                      (n = 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasted</td>
<td>35 ± 5*                   (n = 11)</td>
<td>40 ± 5                       (n = 10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are means ± SE given in U/g wet wt. Hearts were reperfused with medium containing 8 mM glucose, 70 mU/l insulin, and either 0.4 mM palmitate or 0.8 mM octanoate. *P < 0.01 vs. fed.
of acetyl-CoA carboxylase is increased in hearts from fed rats (unpublished observations). The observation in the present study indicating that oxidation of octanoate is not influenced by the nutritional state of the rats before the heart was harvested further supports the concept that feeding inhibits oxidation of long-chain fatty acids at the level of CPT I.

Substitution of 0.8 mM octanoate for 0.4 mM palmitate resulted in, during nonischemic control perfusion, strong inhibition of myocardial glucose oxidation that was irrespective of the nutritional state of the rats. The most likely mechanism of inhibition of glucose oxidation is an increase of the ratio of acetyl-CoA to free CoA in the mitochondrial matrix, leading to inhibition of PDH activity. In fact, production of acetyl-CoA is greatly increased by substitution of 0.8 mM octanoate for 0.4 mM palmitate. If complete degradation of the fatty acid by β-oxidation is assumed, production of acetyl-CoA in hearts from fed rats is 150% higher in the presence of octanoate than in the presence of palmitate. Octanoate also tended to reduce glycolytic flux rate in hearts from both fasted and fed rats. Inhibition of glycolysis by substitution of octanoate for long-chain fatty acid has previously been observed in smooth muscle cells (2) and in hepatocytes (18). In hepatocytes, octanoate inhibited glycolysis at the level of the 6-phosphofructokinase reaction, possibly mediated by increased production of citrate and reduced cellular fructose 2,6-bisphosphate content (18).

**Effect of Substitution of 0.8 mM Octanoate for 0.4 mM Palmitate During Reperfusion on Myocardial Glucose and Fatty Acid Metabolism**

Feeding-induced inhibition of palmitate oxidation was also present during reperfusion after 35 min of no-flow ischemia, although the difference between hearts from fasted and fed rats was slightly less pronounced. Kudo et al. (9) have observed that postischemic reperfusion results in rapid inhibition of the acetyl-CoA carboxylase by phosphorylation, mediated by a AMP-dependent protein kinase, leading to a drop of myocardial malonyl-CoA content. Consistent with this observation, we have previously observed that myocardial content of malonyl-CoA was lower during postischemic reperfusion than during control perfusion (17). However, values were still twice as high in hearts from fed rats during reperfusion compared with hearts from fasted rats (17). Therefore, persistent malonyl-CoA-mediated inhibition of CPT I may be responsible for the lower palmitate oxidation rate observed during reperfusion in hearts from fed rats.

![Fig. 6. Myocardial oxidation of palmitate (top) and octanoate (bottom) during postischemic reperfusion of hearts from fed () or fasted (○○) rats. Hearts were reperfused for 60 min after 35 min of no-flow ischemia with medium containing 8 mM glucose, 70 mU/l insulin, and either 0.4 mM [1-14C]palmitate or 0.8 mM [1-14C]octanoate. Each point represents means ± SE of 5–6 experiments. *P < 0.05 by ANOVA.](http://jap.physiology.org/)

![Fig. 7. Myocardial oxidation of glucose (top) and glycolytic flux (bottom) during postischemic reperfusion of hearts isolated from fed rats. Hearts were reperfused after 35 min of no-flow ischemia for 60 min with medium containing 8 mM glucose, 70 mU/l insulin, and either 0.4 mM palmitate (●) or 0.8 mM octanoate (○). Glucose oxidation was calculated on the basis of myocardial release of 14CO2 from [U-14C]glucose, and glycolytic flux was calculated on the basis of release of 3H2O from [5-3H]glucose. Each point represents means ± SE of 5 experiments. Differences between groups were not significant.](http://jap.physiology.org/)
The concept of persistent feeding-induced inhibition of CPT I during reperfusion is further supported by the present study, demonstrating that oxidation of octanoate, which bypasses the CPT I reaction, was not different between hearts from fasted or fed rats during the first 30 min of reperfusion. Thereafter, oxidation of octanoate slowly decreased in hearts from fed rats, presumably reflecting more extensive myocyte death by irreversible injury than in hearts from fasted rats, as evidenced by higher release of creatine kinase. In contrast to almost complete recovery of palmitate oxidation, oxidation of octanoate remained considerably lower during postischemic reperfusion compared with nonischemic control perfusion in hearts from both fasted and fed rats. This suggests that β-oxidation rate is limited in postischemic myocardium independently of CPT I. Reduction of β-oxidation capacity during reperfusion may remain unnoticed during oxidation of long-chain fatty acid, which is controlled proximally at the level of CPT I. At least two explanations may be considered. First, enzymes of intramitochondrial fatty acid oxidation may be damaged by ischemia and/or reperfusion. Second, increased glucose oxidation during reperfusion could directly inhibit fatty acid oxidation within the mitochondrial matrix. Recently, evidence has been provided suggesting that acetyl-CoA generated from glucose utilization may reduce β-oxidation of both long-chain (1, 19) and medium-chain fatty acids (1) in cardiac myocytes, possibly by inhibition of 3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase.

The inhibition of glucose oxidation by substitution of 0.8 mM octanoate for 0.4 mM palmitate, observed during control perfusion, was completely abolished during postischemic reperfusion. This finding corroborates previous observations from our laboratory indicating that the inhibitory effect of fatty acid oxidation on glucose oxidation is attenuated during reperfusion of severely injured myocardium (23).

Because increased glucose oxidation was reduced by ruthenium red in a previous study (3), we have hypothesized that postischemic activation of glucose oxidation in severely injured myocardium is related to increased mitochondrial calcium content during reperfusion, leading to activation of the PDH complex (15). This may explain why inhibition of myocardial glucose oxidation by fatty acids oxidation is maintained during reperfusion after shorter periods of ischemia, presumably leading to either no or less increase of mitochondrial calcium content (12).

**Influence of Substitution of 0.8 mM Octanoate for 0.4 mM Palmitate on Postischemic Recovery of Contractile Function**

Results from our laboratory (17) and from other authors (20, 21) have shown that hearts from fed rats exhibit less recovery of contractile function during postischemic reperfusion than hearts from fasted rats. A major finding of the present study is that substitution of 0.8 mM octanoate for 0.4 mM palmitate during postischemic reperfusion markedly improves recovery of left ventricular pressure development in hearts from fed rats. This finding is consistent with the hypothesis that feeding-induced inhibition of CPT I may compromise postischemic recovery of function in hearts perfused with long-chain fatty acid alone. These observations are seemingly in contrast with observations by others indicating that fatty acid oxidation during postischemic reperfusion unfavorably influences contractile recovery by inhibition of glucose oxidation (13). However, as discussed above, in the present study, glucose oxidation was not inhibited during reperfusion by substitution of octanoate for palmitate, which is in contrast to control hearts without ischemic injury.

A number of previous reports support the view that myocardial fatty acid oxidation, concomitant with glucose oxidation, may be essential for recovery of myocardial contractile function after transient ischemia. Madden et al. (14) observed in isolated perfused rat hearts that addition of 2.4 mM hexanoate to the perfusate markedly improved postischemic recovery of contractile function compared with reperfusion with 1.8 mM palmitate alone. Furthermore, in a model of myocardial stunning in conscious dogs, intravenous administration of fatty acids during reperfusion improved functional recovery, but the beneficial effect was lost when oxfenicine, an inhibitor of CPT I, was concomitantly administered (24).

The mechanism underlying the improvement of left ventricular pressure development during reperfusion by octanoate in severely injured hearts from fed rats is not known. At least two hypotheses, which are not mutually exclusive, may be considered: 1) supply of the tricarboxylic acids cycle with acetyl-CoA may be improved or 2) accumulation of potentially toxic fatty acid esters of carnitine and CoA may be reduced. Unfortunately, our results do not allow us to discriminate between these two hypothesis.

In contrast to recovery of left ventricular pressure development, aggravation of left ventricular diastolic contracture and release of creatine kinase in hearts from fed rats were not influenced by the substitution of octanoate for palmitate. This suggests that the subcellular mechanism responsible for increase of diastolic contracture and sarcolemmal disruption in hearts from fed rats is not directly related to inhibition of long-chain fatty acid oxidation. On the basis of studies using metabolic inhibition during reperfusion, it appears that the degree of postischemic contracture is more related to glycolytic flux (7) and glucose oxidation (23) early during reperfusion than to metabolism of fatty acids. In the present study, glucose oxidation, glycolytic rate, and myocardial glycogen content during reperfusion were not influenced by substitution of 0.8 mM octanoate for 0.4 mM palmitate.

**Limitations**

A number of limitations of this study need to be emphasized. First, 35 min of no-flow ischemia result in a mixture of reversibly and irreversibly injured myocar-
dium (4). The duration of ischemia has been purposely selected to study whether nutritional changes of substrate metabolism influence myocardial injury during evolving myocardial infarction. However, the coexistence of regions with different degrees of injury complicates interpretation of calculated metabolic rates and of myocardial metabolite contents. Nevertheless, as observed previously (3,4) and in this study, 35–60 min of ischemia result in almost complete recovery of oxidative metabolism, suggesting that major parts of the myocardium remain viable early during reperfusion. Second, the present study does not provide information on whether fasting influenced the degree of myocardial injury during ischemia or early during reperfusion. It is possible that myocardial injury was more advanced at the moment of reperfusion in hearts from fed rats. However, the observation that myocardial contracture during ischemia was virtually identical in hearts from fasted and fed rats, but markedly differed during reperfusion, indirectly suggests that myocardial injury was aggravated in hearts from fed rats early during reperfusion. Third, fatty acid concentration in the perfusate was lower during perfusion with palmitate (0.4 mM) than during perfusion with octanoate (0.8 mM). However, because a main purpose of the study was to examine whether limited supply of acetyl-CoA compromised recovery of contractile function, doubling of the concentration of octanoate was purposely selected to maintain constant delivery of two-carbon units to the myocardium. Fourth, extrapolation of results to the in vivo situation has to take into account that alternate circulating substrates, such as ketone bodies or lactate (6), may influence recovery of contractile function independently of fatty acid oxidation.

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REFERENCES


