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## Inhibition of Succinate Dehydrogenase by Diazoxide is Independent of the $K_{ATP}$ Channel Subunit SUR 1

Melissa M Anastacio, MD<sup>1</sup>, Evelyn M Kanter, BS<sup>1</sup>, Angela D Keith, MS<sup>1</sup>, Richard B Schuessler, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Colin G Nichols, PhD<sup>2</sup>, and Jennifer S Lawton, MD, FACS<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, MO

<sup>2</sup> Department of Cell Biology and Physiology, Washington University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, MO

### Abstract

**Background**—Diazoxide maintains myocyte volume and contractility during stress via an unknown mechanism. The mechanism of action may involve an undefined (genotype unknown) mitochondrial adenosine triphosphate-sensitive potassium ( $mK_{ATP}$ ) channel and is dependent upon the  $K_{ATP}$  channel subunit SUR1.  $K_{ATP}$  channel openers have been shown to inhibit succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) and a gene for a portion of SDH has been found in the SUR intron. Thus, diazoxide may be cardioprotective via inhibition of SDH, which may form part of a  $K_{ATP}$  channel or share its genetic material. This study investigated the role of inhibition of SDH by diazoxide and its relationship to the SUR1 subunit.

**Study Design**—Mitochondria were isolated from wild type and SUR1 knockout mice. Succinate dehydrogenase activity was measured by spectrophotometric analysis of 2,6-Dichloroindophenol reduction for 20 minutes as the relative change in absorbance over time. Mitochondria were treated with succinate (20 mM), succinate + 1% dimethylsulfoxide, succinate + malonate (8 mM) (competitive inhibitor of SDH), or succinate + diazoxide (100  $\mu$ M).

**Results**—Both malonate and diazoxide inhibit SDH activity in mitochondria of wild type mice and in mice lacking the SUR1 subunit ( $p < 0.05$  vs control).

**Conclusions**—The ability of DZX to inhibit SDH persists even after the deletion of the SUR1 gene. Therefore, the enzyme complex SDH is not dependent on the SUR1 gene. The inhibition of SDH by DZX may play a role in the cardioprotection afforded by DZX, however, this role is independent of the  $K_{ATP}$  channel subunit SUR1.

### INTRODUCTION

The cardioprotective mechanism of action of mitochondrial adenosine triphosphate sensitive potassium ( $mK_{ATP}$ ) channel opener, diazoxide (DZX), remains elusive. We and others have

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Corresponding Author: Jennifer S. Lawton, M.D. Washington University School of Medicine 660 S. Euclid Avenue Campus Box 8234 St. Louis, MO 63110 TEL: (314) 362-2821, FAX: (314) 747-4216 lawtonj@wustl.edu.

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demonstrated the cardioprotective properties of DZX (1-5). In an isolated myocyte model of myocardial stunning, DZX maintained myocyte volume and contractility during exposure to stress in 3 different species (6-10).

Diazoxide is generally believed to be more selective for a purported  $mK_{ATP}$  channel (1).  $K_{ATP}$  channels are composed of a potassium inward rectifier channel forming subunit (Kir) and a sulfonyleurea regulatory (SUR) subunit (11). There are 2 proposed types of cardiac  $K_{ATP}$  channels: a sarcolemmal  $K_{ATP}$  ( $sK_{ATP}$ ) and a purported  $mK_{ATP}$  channel. The  $sK_{ATP}$  channel is composed of SUR2A and Kir 6.2 subunits in mouse ventricle and SUR1 and Kir 6.1 subunits in mouse atria (12). However, both SUR1 and SUR2A subunits have been identified in mouse heart (12) and in neonatal rat ventricular tissue (13).

Unlike the sarcolemmal  $K_{ATP}$  channel, the mitochondrial  $K_{ATP}$  channel has not been cloned and its genetic material is undefined. In addition, measuring ion flux across a mitochondrial membrane to confirm mitochondrial  $K_{ATP}$  channel activity is not feasible. Therefore, investigation of the mechanism of action of diazoxide requires indirect methods.

Previously, the cardioprotection afforded by DZX was localized to a non-sarcolemmal  $K_{ATP}$  channel location as DZX failed to generate a potassium current via the  $sK_{ATP}$  channel and by the evidence that DZX provides no cardioprotective benefit to mouse myocytes lacking the SUR1 subunit (14).

Interestingly, diazoxide is also a known inhibitor of the mitochondrial enzyme complex II, succinate dehydrogenase (SDH), which is a component of the electron transport chain (15-17). SDH inhibition by DZX has been shown to decrease reactive oxygen species generation, decrease ATP breakdown, and preserve ATP concentration during stress and has been proposed to be a non- $K_{ATP}$  channel mechanism of cardioprotection (16-17). Malonate and 3-nitropropionic acid (3-NPA), both inhibitors of SDH, are also cardioprotective, mimic ischemic preconditioning, and decrease oxygen radical production (18-20).

The two proposed cardioprotective mechanisms of diazoxide ( $K_{ATP}$  channel opening and SDH inhibition) may be associated or linked (20-22). Specifically, 4 specific mitochondrial proteins (mitochondria ATP-binding cassette 1, phosphate carrier, adenine nucleotide translocator, ATP synthase) have been identified that associate with SDH (22). This multi-protein complex was capable of generating a potassium current and potassium influx upon exposure to DZX. This potassium current was diminished in the presence of ATP and 5-hydroxydecanoate (5-HD), both  $mK_{ATP}$  channel inhibitors; but not with HMR-1098, a  $sK_{ATP}$  channel inhibitor. Malonate, a competitive inhibitor of SDH, has also been shown to generate a potassium current leading to mitochondrial matrix swelling (a proposed consequence of mitochondrial  $K_{ATP}$  channel activity) and is inhibited by ATP and 5-HD (20). In addition, a genetic link between a  $K_{ATP}$  channel and SDH has been proposed (21). A gene encoding an anchoring protein (CII-3) of the SDH enzyme has been identified in an intron of the SUR1 gene.

These proposed associations between the SDH enzyme complex and the SUR1 subunit taken together with the knowledge that the SUR1 subunit is required for DZX cardioprotection and the suggestion that the inhibition of SDH underlies the cardioprotection afforded by diazoxide (3,16-17) led to the hypothesis for the present study. We hypothesized that the genetic deletion of the SUR1 subunit would result in the the loss of SDH activity..

## METHODS

All animal procedures were approved by the Animal Studies Committee at Washington University School of Medicine and all animals received humane care in compliance with the National Institute of Health's Guide to Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (23).

### Mitochondrial Succinate Dehydrogenase Activity

Mitochondria were isolated from hearts of wild type C57BL/6 mice and SUR1(-/-) mice. SUR1 (-/-) mice were created by removal of the 1-kbp gene segment containing both promoter and exon 1 sequences of SUR1 gene by re-mediated recombination (24). SUR1(-/-) mice were originally generated on a 129Sv background and then backcrossed >6X onto C57BL/6. Genotype was confirmed by polymerase chain reaction (24).

Mice (either sex, 6-15 weeks old, average 25 grams) were anesthetized with 3% Avertin (0.3 grams 2,2,2 tribromoethanol, 1.86  $\mu$ L 2-methyl-2-butanol, 9.841mL sterile water) intraperitoneally and rapid cardiectomy was performed. Ventricular tissue was rapidly minced and homogenized with a 7mL Dounce homogenizer containing cold buffer (in mM/L: 10 HEPES (*N*-[2-hydroxyethyl]piperazine-*N*-[4-butanefulfonic acid]), 1 EDTA-K<sub>2</sub> (ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid potassium), 250 Sucrose, adjusted to a pH of 7.1 with 20% potassium hydroxide. The homogenate was transferred to microcentrifuge tubes and centrifuged at 900  $\times$  g for 10 minutes at 4°C. Supernatant was then centrifuged at 5000  $\times$  g for 15 minutes. Supernatant was discarded and 300  $\mu$ L homogenization buffer was added to each pellet. A Bradford protein assay (Thermo Scientific; Rockford, IL) was utilized to determine and normalize total protein per each pellet. Mitochondria were stored in -20°C freezer and thawed on ice just before use and kept on ice throughout each assay. All other solutions were kept at room temperature.

Mitochondria, at a concentration of 1.8  $\mu$ g, were exposed to one of the following solutions (in a 1mL reaction): 20mM succinate (control) (Sigma, St. Louis) (N=11 WT, N=8 SUR1(-/-)), succinate + 1% Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (Sigma; St. Louis, MO)(N= 10 WT, N=8 SUR1(-/-)), Succinate + 8mM malonate (competitive inhibitor of SDH) (Sigma; St. Louis, MO)(N=11 WT, N=8 SUR1(-/-)), and succinate + 100  $\mu$ M DZX (K<sub>ATP</sub> channel opener, DZX) (Sigma; St. Louis, MO)(N=10 WT, N=8 SUR1(-/-)). DZX was dissolved in DMSO.

Each reaction additionally contained 2 mM potassium cyanide (KCN), 50  $\mu$ M 2,6 Dichloroindophenol (DCIP), 1.625 mM phenazine methosulfate (PMS) and was brought to 1mL volume with 0.1M potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.4. Reactions were prepared in disposable cuvettes covered with parafilm and allowed to activate for 20 minutes at room temperature before the final addition of KCN, DCIP and PMS.

SDH activity was measured by spectrophotometric (UV-1700 Spectrophotometer, Shimadzu Scientific Instruments; Columbia, MD) analysis of 2,6-DCIP (Sigma; St. Louis, MO) reduction at 600 nm for 20 minutes. Measurements were collected at 5 minute intervals and normalized to protein content.

### Statistical Analysis

Data were analyzed using SYSTAT 13 (SYSTAT Software Inc., Chicago, IL). All data are presented as mean value  $\pm$  standard error of the mean, with n equal to the number of experiments in each group. A repeated-measures analysis of variance was used for sequential time-based measurements for each test solution against its own baseline value. Group comparisons were made based on percent change in absorbance and average slopes. Probability values less than 0.05 were considered significant.

## RESULTS

### Succinate Dehydrogenase Activity

Succinate dehydrogenase activity is represented as both percent change in absorbance over time (Figure 1A, 2A) and as the absolute value of the average slope (Figure 1B, 2B). SDH activity is inversely proportional to absorbance.

Succinate, the substrate for succinate dehydrogenase, served as the control for wild type and SUR1(-/-) mitochondrial experiments (Figures 1-2). Succinate demonstrated the greatest SDH activity (Figures 1,2). Mitochondria exposed to succinate + DMSO (vehicle) resulted in SDH activity similar to succinate alone in both wild type ( $p=0.611$ ) and SUR1(-/-) mice ( $p=0.994$ ) (Figures 1,2).

In wild type mice mitochondria, the addition of malonate to succinate resulted in significant inhibition of SDH activity ( $p<0.0001$  vs Succinate) (Figure 1). The addition of 100  $\mu\text{M}$  DZX to succinate also resulted in significant inhibition of SDH activity ( $p=0.002$  vs Succinate), to a smaller degree than malonate ( $p<0.0001$  vs malonate).

In SUR1 (-/-) mice mitochondria, the addition of malonate to succinate also significantly inhibited SDH activity ( $p<0.0001$  vs Succinate) (Figure 2). The addition of 100  $\mu\text{M}$  DZX to succinate inhibited SDH activity ( $p<0.0001$  vs Succinate) to a smaller degree than malonate ( $p<0.0001$  vs malonate).

When the average slopes of absorbance were compared, the presence of both malonate and DZX inhibited SDH activity in wild type and SUR1 (-/-) mice ( $p<0.05$  vs succinate) (Figures 1B, 2B). DZX inhibited SDH activity to a smaller degree than malonate in both groups ( $p<0.05$  vs malonate).

## DISCUSSION

Current knowledge supports that the  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channel is nature's own defense against myocardial ischemia. Pharmacological openers of  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channels have been found to be cardioprotective in multiple animal models (1-5). Diazoxide, a  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channel opener, has been found to limit myocyte volume and contractility derangements in a model of myocardial stunning (6-10). The exact mechanism of this protection is unknown.

Proposed hypotheses of DZX's mechanism of action implicate a sarcolemmal  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channel, a mitochondrial  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channel, or  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channel-independent effects of channel openers themselves (25). We have eliminated the possibility of a  $sK_{\text{ATP}}$  location by demonstrating that DZX does not induce  $K^+$  current via  $sK_{\text{ATP}}$  channels, and that DZX cardioprotection requires  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channel subunit SUR1 (not present in ventricular  $sK_{\text{ATP}}$  channels composed of Kir6.2 and SUR2A subunits) (14). We have also documented that the  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channel subunit SUR1 is required for DZX cardioprotection implicating  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channel involvement (14). The present study was conducted to investigate the inhibition of SDH as a mechanism of action of DZX independent of  $K_{\text{ATP}}$  channel subunit SUR1.

Similar to previous studies, the present study demonstrated that DZX inhibited SDH activity in wild type mice mitochondria. DZX also inhibited SDH activity in SUR1 (-/-) mice suggesting SDH and SUR1 have independent roles. Given that SUR1 has been identified in ventricular tissue but not a part of a  $sK_{\text{ATP}}$  channel, the present study could support DZX action at a mitochondrial location involving SDH with downstream involvement of a channel with SUR1 subunits (12-13). In addition, the present study could support that SDH forms a portion of the  $mK_{\text{ATP}}$  channel complex separate from SUR1.

Malonate, a competitive inhibitor of SDH, was associated with the greatest inhibition of SDH (79%) in wild type mice. Diazoxide reduced SDH activity by 47%. Similar results were found by other investigators using lower doses of succinate and DZX (16-17).

SDH inhibition was somewhat less in SUR1 (-/-) mice (38%) compared to wild type mice (47%). No other experiments have explored SDH inhibition in genetically altered mice.

Until the genotype of the mitochondrial  $K_{ATP}$  channel is established, the precise mechanism of action of diazoxide remains elusive and its investigation requires indirect methods. The present study suggests that diazoxide inhibits SDH even in animals lacking the SUR1  $K_{ATP}$  channel subunit. This is consistent with independent involvement of SDH and a mitochondrial  $K_{ATP}$  channel in diazoxide's mechanism of action and that SUR1 may be an upstream modulator of a mitochondrial  $K_{ATP}$  channel.

Diazoxide provides cardioprotection in multiple animal models and in the setting of cardiac surgery (26). Further translational studies will involve intact heart and large animal models of various forms of myocardial ischemia with potential future human studies. Prior to these experiments it is vital to define the precise mechanism of action of diazoxide.

### Limitations

Mitochondrial SDH activity was represented as change in absorbance over time and as the average slope of absorbance. The interpretation of the average slope is limited by deviation of the data from true linear changes.

Succinate dehydrogenase enzyme expression level was assumed to be equivalent in each mitochondrial pellet analyzed as protein concentration was normalized and pellets were randomly assigned to treatment groups.

Both male and female mice were included in this study and the effect of sex on SDH activity and implications for the findings described in this study are unknown.

### Acknowledgments

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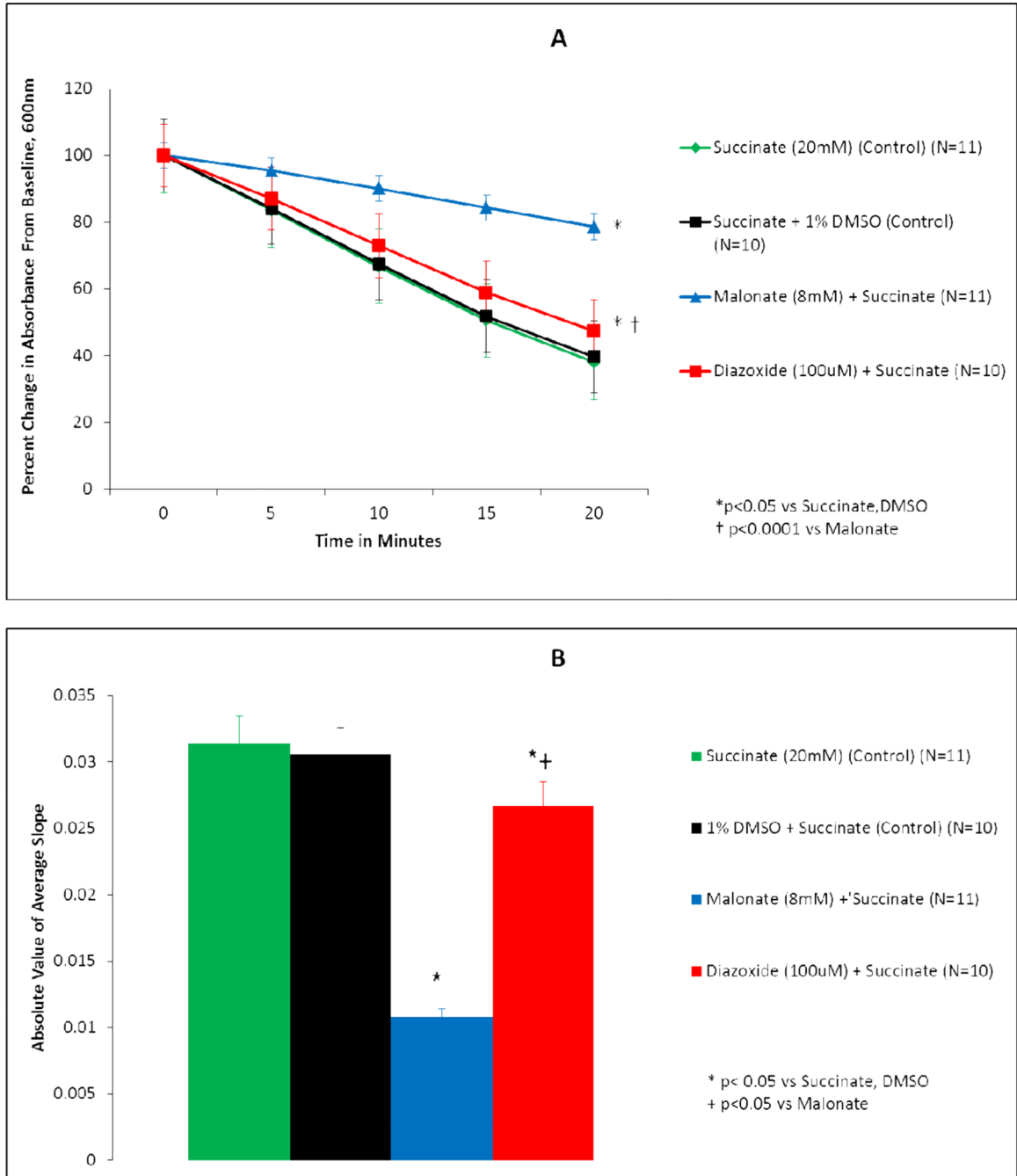
### TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>DZX</b>	diazoxide
<b><math>K_{ATP}</math></b>	adenosine triphosphate sensitive potassium channel
<b>Kir</b>	potassium inward rectifying subunit
<b>SUR</b>	sulfonylurea receptor subunit
<b>s<math>K_{ATP}</math></b>	sarcolemmal $K_{ATP}$
<b>m<math>K_{ATP}</math></b>	mitochondrial $K_{ATP}$
<b>SDH</b>	succinate dehydrogenase
<b>3-NPA</b>	3-nitropropionic acid
<b>5-HD</b>	5-hydroxydecanoate

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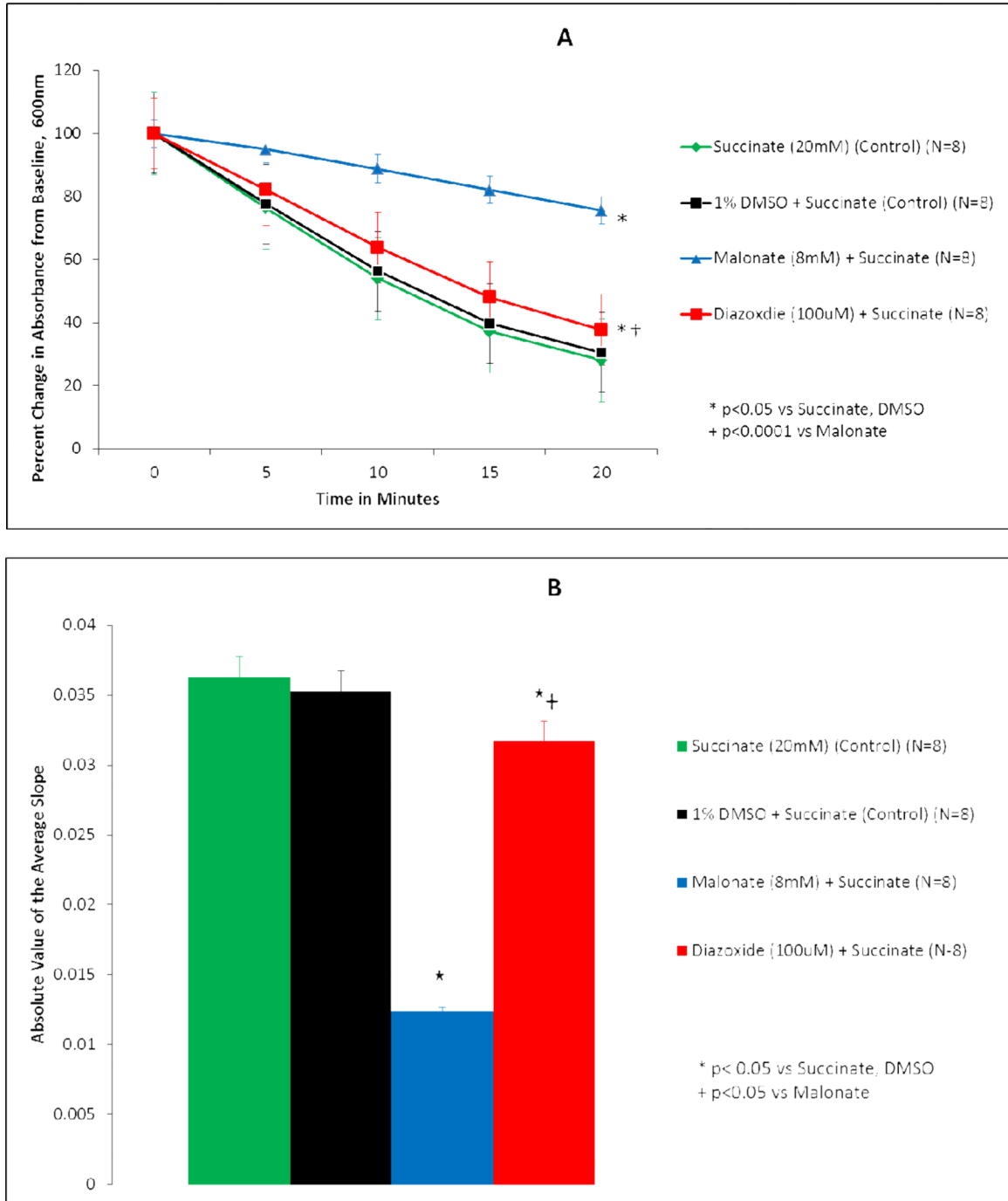
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**Figure 1.** Diazoxide inhibits succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) activity in wild type mice mitochondria. (A) Isolated mitochondria were exposed to test solutions for 20 minutes. SDH activity is represented as percent change in absorbance over time. Green line, succinate (20 mM) (control) (n=11); black line, succinate + DMSO (control) (n=10); blue line, malonate (8 mM) + succinate (n=11); red line, diazoxide (100 uM) + succinate (n=10). \*p<0.05 vs succinate, DMSO; †p<0.0001 vs malonate. (B) SDH activity represented as the average slope. Green bar, succinate (20 mM) (control) (n=11); black bar, 1% DMSO + succinate (control) (n=10); blue bar, malonate (8 mM) + succinate (n=11); red bar, diazoxide (100 uM) + succinate (n=10). \*p<0.05 vs succinate, DMSO; †p<0.05 vs malonate.





**Figure 2.** Diazoxide inhibits succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) activity in sulfonylurea receptor subunit 1 knockout mice mitochondria. (A) Isolated mitochondria were exposed to test solutions for 20 minutes. SDH activity is represented as percent change in absorbance over time. Green line, succinate (20 mM) (control) (n=8); black line, 1% DMSO + succinate (control) (n=8); blue line, malonate (8 mM) + succinate (n=8); red line, diazoxide (100 uM) + succinate (n=8). \*p<0.05 vs succinate, DMSO; †p<0.0001 vs malonate. (B) SDH activity is represented as average slope. Green bar, succinate (20 mM) (control) (n=8); black bar, 1%

DMSO + succinate (control) (n=8); blue bar, malonate (8 mM) + succinate (n=8); red bar, diazoxide (100  $\mu$ M) + succinate (n=8). \*p<0.05 vs succinate, DMSO; †p<0.05 vs malonate.