

# Calcium Gain During Postischemic Reperfusion

## The Effect of 2,4-Dinitrophenol

JENNIFER S. ELZ, BSc (HONS), and  
WINIFRED G. NAYLER, DSc

From the Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne,  
Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia

Reperfusion hearts after an ischemic episode can result in cellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  overload. This is accompanied by the formation of contraction bands, loss of sarcolemmal integrity, and mitochondrial disruption. The present study investigated the effect of uncoupling oxidative phosphorylation with 2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) during reperfusion after 30 or 60 minutes of ischemia on this reperfusion-induced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain. After 60 minutes' ischemia, reperfusion with 1 mM DNP delayed the accumulation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and increased the duration of reperfusion before sarcolemmal disruptions were evident. This suggested that once sarcolemmal integrity is lost,

$\text{Ca}^{2+}$  will freely enter the cells irrespective of whether the mitochondria are able to accumulate  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . After 30 minutes ischemia, reperfusion for up to 30 minutes with 0.1 or 1 mM DNP attenuated the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain and maintained sarcolemmal integrity. Because the authors previously found that maintaining sarcolemmal integrity alone does not totally abolish  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain, it is suggested that DNP must prevent the entry of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  that occurs via route(s) other than those created by the loss of sarcolemmal integrity. (Am J Pathol 1988, 131: 137-145)

REPERFUSION of an isolated rat heart after 30 or more minutes of ischemia results in a sudden and massive exacerbation of the damage caused by the ischemic episode.<sup>1</sup> The gross morphologic changes that occur under these conditions include contraction band formation, disruption of the orderly arrangement of the myofibrils, swelling of the sarcoplasmic reticulum, loss of sarcolemmal integrity, and vacuolization and disruption of the mitochondria.<sup>2,3</sup> At the same time, intracellular enzymes leak out of the cells, and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  accumulates within the myocytes.<sup>4-8</sup> Similar changes occur upon reoxygenation after a prolonged period of hypoxia.<sup>9</sup>

Precisely why postischemic reperfusion or posthypoxic reoxygenation causes an uncontrolled gain in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  is unknown, nor is there any certainty that the cause is the same in both instances. In the case of posthypoxic  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain, the fact that the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain is minimized by either uncoupling oxidative phosphorylation with 2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) or inhibiting respiration with cyanide has caused some investigators to argue that the active accumulation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  by the mitochondria plays a dominant role in precipitating  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  overload under these conditions.<sup>10</sup> An alterna-

tive argument is that the reoxygenation-induced repletion of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) reserves triggers a rapid and uncontrolled contracture, which in turn generates abnormal physical stresses and disruption of the sarcolemma.<sup>11</sup> This loss of sarcolemmal integrity would then allow  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to freely enter the cells and intracellular enzymes to escape.

The experiments presented here were undertaken to establish whether DNP, which has been shown to prevent contraction band formation, enzyme release, and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  overload during posthypoxic reoxygenation,<sup>10,11</sup> acts in a similar way when added during postischemic reperfusion. Cyanide was not used because in pilot studies we confirmed a previously reported observation that a considerable length of time is required for cyanide to completely block respiration in isolated, perfused hearts.<sup>12</sup> Our experimental protocol involved adding DNP upon reperfusion after 30 or 60

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Address reprint requests to Dr. W. G. Nayler, Department of Medicine, Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Victoria, 3084 Australia.

minutes' ischemia and monitoring the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain and ultrastructural changes during the course of reperfusion.

## Materials and Methods

### Model

Adult female Sprague-Dawley rats (180–250 g) were used for these experiments. They were anesthetized with a diethylether/ $\text{O}_2$  mixture. The heart was then rapidly excised and placed in ice-cold Krebs-Henseleit buffer until contractions ceased. The heart was then attached to a stainless steel cannula with a tie placed around the aorta and subjected to a nonrecirculating Langendorff perfusion at 37 C and at a constant flow of 10 ml/min.<sup>13,14</sup> The hearts were allowed to beat spontaneously.

### Perfusion Media

Krebs-Henseleit buffer (KH) contained NaCl, 119.0 mM;  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , 25.0 mM, KCl, 4.6 mM,  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 1.2 mM,  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , 1.2 mM,  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 1.3 mM; and glucose, 11.0 mM.

DNP-KH was prepared by adding DNP to KH for a final concentration of 0.1 or 1 mM. All perfusion buffers were gassed with 95%  $\text{O}_2$ /5%  $\text{CO}_2$  to provide a pH of 7.4.

### Perfusion Sequences

#### *Control Series*

Hearts were subjected to an aerobic perfusion of 120 minutes with KH at 37 C. To investigate the effect of DNP on these aerobically perfused hearts, we performed a second series of experiments in which 0.1 or 1 mM DNP was added for the final 30 minutes.

#### *Ischemia Series*

After an initial equilibration of 30 minutes' aerobic perfusion with KH at 37 C, hearts were made globally ischemic at 37 C by cessation of all coronary flow for 30 or 60 minutes. The temperature was maintained during ischemia by surrounding water-heated jackets.

#### *Reperfusion Series*

After 30 or 60 minutes' global ischemia, the hearts were reperfused for 5, 10, 15, or 30 minutes with KH or KH containing 0.1 or 1 mM DNP at 37 C. In one series, hearts were reperfused with 0.1 mM DNP for 60 or 120 minutes after 30 minutes of ischemia.

Four to six hearts were perfused according to each

sequence, and they were then analyzed for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  content and reflow area, or they were perfusion-fixed for microscopy as described below.

### $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ Analysis

After perfusion, the hearts were flushed with 10 ml of an ice-cold 0.35 M sucrose, 5 mM histidine solution, pH 7.4, which had been pretreated with Dow cation exchange resin (50W) for minimization of the contribution of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to the measured cell  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .<sup>15</sup> The  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  content was measured as previously described.<sup>14</sup> Briefly, the atria were discarded and the ventricles dried to constant weight at 100 C. The dried ventricles were then digested in concentrated nitric acid and diluted in a blank solution containing 27 mM KCl and 27  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{LaCl}_3$ . The  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  content was determined with a Varian atomic absorption spectrophotometer at 422.7 nm and compared with a standard curve produced by serial dilution of a 1 M  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  solution (BDH Chemicals, Port Fairy, Victoria, Australia) in the above blank solution. This method gives an estimation of the total cellular calcium content. It does not detect movements in intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , nor is it sensitive enough to measure micromolar changes in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  content.

### Reflow Area

At the conclusion of the perfusion sequence 2.4 ml of the histologic stain carbol fuchsin was passed through the coronary vasculature for determining the percentage of the ventricles being perfused. The hearts were removed from the perfusion apparatus, suspended in plastic containers, and frozen at  $-80$  C. When frozen, free-hand transverse sections were cut with a razor blade, and the areas of reflow and no-reflow were traced onto glass slides. The areas of reflow were stained dark red, whereas the areas of no-reflow remained pale. The percentage of the ventricles receiving flow—ie, the “reflow area”—was quantified by point counting using a 1-mm square lattice.<sup>16</sup> It was expressed as a percentage of the cross-sectional area of the ventricles.

Pilot experiments demonstrated that this method gives results similar to those of the method of Humphrey et al<sup>17</sup> using fluorescein.

### Microscopy

For each required perfusion sequence at least four hearts were perfusion-fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M phosphate buffer for 5 minutes. Transverse

slices of the left ventricle were cut by hand and small blocks of tissue immersed in the fixative for a further 2 hours. After thorough rinsing in buffer, six to eight tissue blocks were postfixed with osmium tetroxide, dehydrated through graded concentrations of acetone, and infiltrated with and embedded in araldite/Epon.

Sections were cut and stained with methylene blue for light microscopy. These sections were used for identification of representative areas, and the blocks were trimmed to encompass these areas. Thin sections were cut on an LKB III ultramicrotome, mounted on copper grids, and stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate. Six to eight sections were examined and photographed with a JEOL 1200 EX transmission electron microscope.

### Statistical Analysis

Results are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  standard error of the mean (SEM) of six separate experiments unless stated otherwise. Tests of significance were performed using a one-way analysis of variance followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test, and  $P = 0.05$  was taken as the limiting level of significance.

## Results

### Aerobic Perfusion

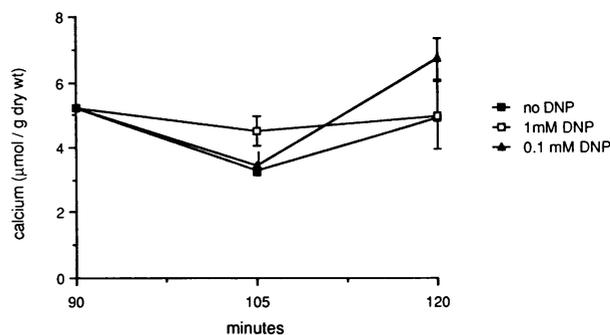
The introduction of 0.1 or 1 mM DNP to aerobically perfused hearts resulted in the rapid cessation of contractile activity. Removal of DNP from the perfusion buffer did not result in a return of active tension generation, which implied that DNP cannot be washed out of the heart.

After 90 minutes' KH perfusion the hearts contained  $5.22 \pm 0.44 \mu\text{mol Ca}^{2+}/\text{g dry wt}$ . This level was not altered by continuing aerobic KH perfusion for a further 30 minutes (Figure 1). Nor was it altered if 0.1 or 1 mM DNP was introduced for the final 30 minutes (Figure 1).

After 30 minutes' aerobic KH perfusion, the myofibrils were relaxed and displayed prominent I bands (Figure 2a). Mitochondria were distributed between the myofibrils and each cell was surrounded by an intact sarcolemmal complex (Figure 2a). If 1 mM DNP was introduced, the myofibrils contracted such that the I bands were no longer apparent (Figure 2b).

### Ischemia

Neither 30 nor 60 minutes of ischemia had any effect on the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  content of the hearts. The ultra-



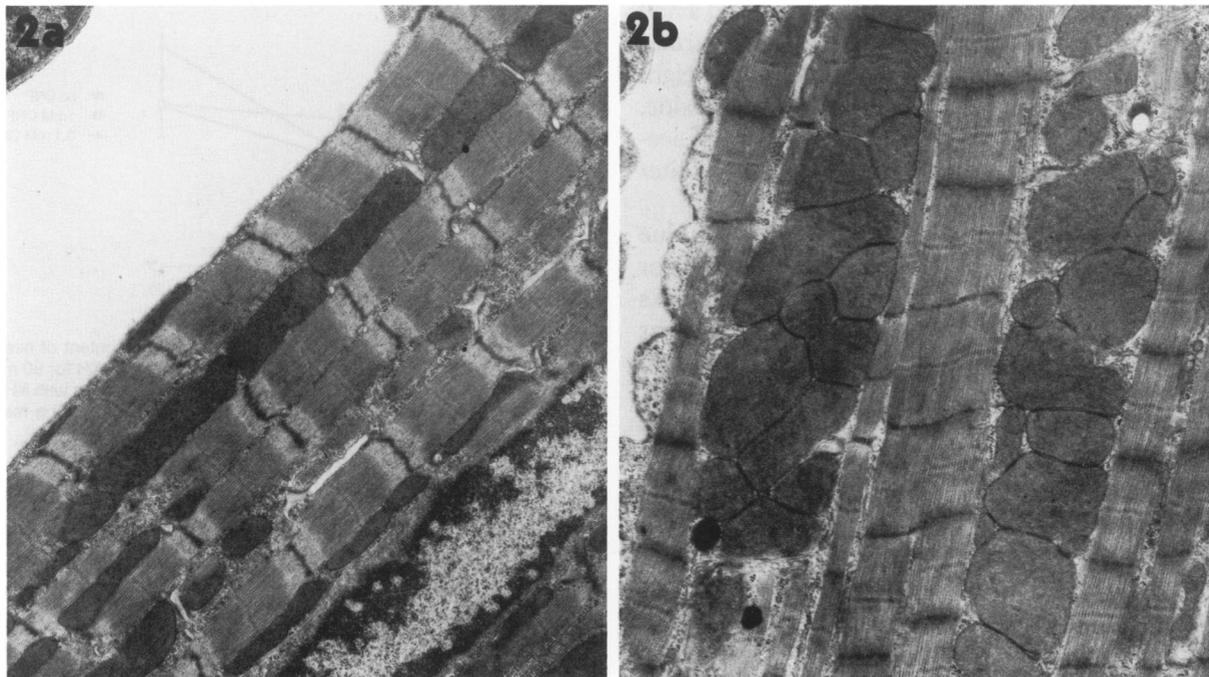
**Figure 1**—The effect of 0.1 or 1 mM DNP on the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  content of hearts aerobically perfused with KH. All hearts were perfused with KH for 90 minutes. The perfusion then was continued for a further 30 minutes with KH or with KH containing 0.1 or 1 mM DNP. Each point represents the mean  $\pm$  SEM of four to six separate experiments.

structural appearance of the hearts after 30 or 60 minutes of ischemia was similar. The myofibrils were contracted such that the I bands were no longer apparent, the glycogen stores were depleted, and the nuclear chromatin was clumped at the periphery of the nucleus (Figure 3). Sarcolemmal discontinuities were not apparent in cell profiles of sections examined with high-power electron microscopy after either 30 or 60 minutes of ischemia. This differs from the results reported by other investigators and may be indicative of the differences that may occur when different species and models of ischemia are used.<sup>18,19</sup>

### Reperfusion

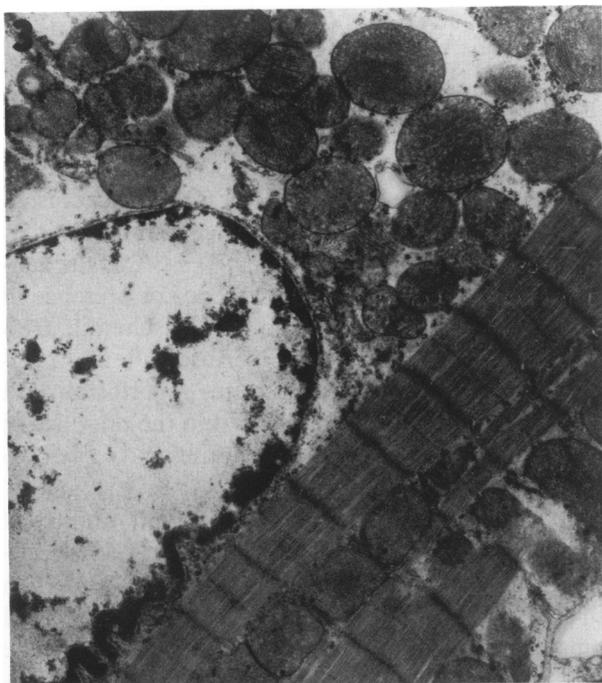
After 30 or 60 minutes ischemia, not all of the ventricles were reperfused—the “no-reflow” phenomenon.<sup>17</sup> DNP had no effect on the percentage of the ventricles receiving flow after 30 or 60 minutes of ischemia. Ten minutes' reperfusion after 30 minutes ischemia resulted in  $78\% \pm 3\%$  and  $70\% \pm 3\%$  of the ventricles being reperfused in the absence or presence of DNP, respectively. After 60 minutes ischemia,  $64\% \pm 3\%$  of the ventricles were reperfused after 10 minutes and  $61\% \pm 5\%$  after 30 minutes' reperfusion with KH. These values were not altered in the presence of DNP, being  $62\% \pm 2\%$  after 10 minutes and  $65\% \pm 4\%$  after 30 minutes' reperfusion.

Reperfusion of hearts with KH after 60 minutes of ischemia resulted in an accumulation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , peaking after 15 minutes reperfusion (Figure 4a). When DNP was added to the reperfusion medium to a final concentration of 0.1 mM, there was no effect on the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  accumulated after 60 minutes of ischemia (Figure 4a). However, if the hearts were reperfused with 1 mM DNP-KH,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake was delayed, such that



**Figure 2**—Electron micrographs from hearts aerobically perfused in the absence (a) or presence (b) of 1 mM DNP. **a**—Note the regular arrangement of the myofibrils, the mitochondria with condensed cristae, and the intact sarcolemma. ( $\times 9500$ ) **b**—In the presence of DNP, the myofibrils were contracted such that the I bands were no longer apparent. ( $\times 12,000$ )

there was little  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gained during the initial 10 minutes of reperfusion. Thereafter, the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  levels increased; and after 30 minutes' reperfusion with DNP,

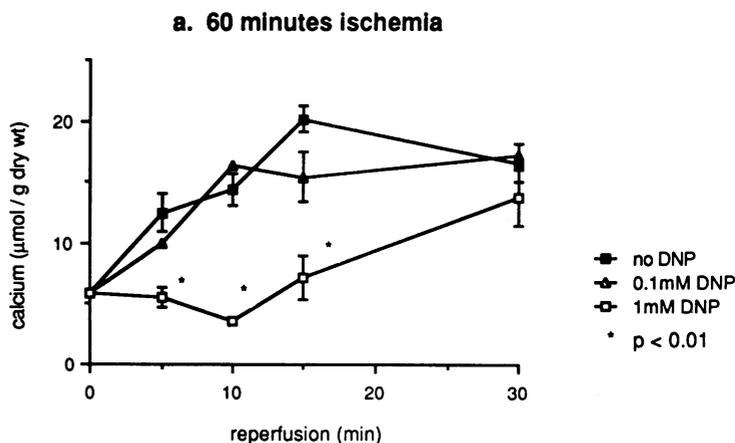


**Figure 3**—Electron micrograph from a heart after 60 minutes ischemia. Note the clumped nuclear chromatin, the loss of glycogen, and the contracted myofibrils. ( $\times 9500$ )

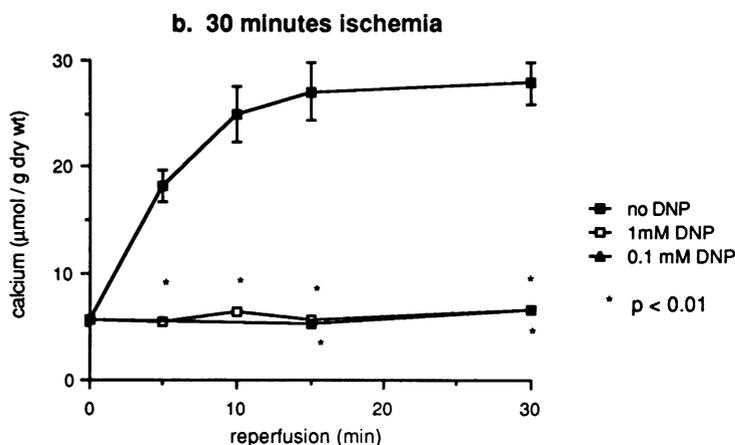
there was no difference from the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  level obtained in the absence of DNP (Figure 4a).

Reperfusion with KH after 30 minutes of ischemia also resulted in an accumulation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  by the hearts (Figure 4b). These hearts appeared to accumulate more  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  than those reperfused after 60 minutes of ischemia. One possible explanation for this is that more cells are exposed to the reperfusion medium after 30 than after 60 minutes of ischemia, as indicated by the percentage of the ventricles receiving flow (discussed earlier). Hence, if all cells accumulate a maximum amount of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , the amount measured after 30 minutes of ischemia will be greater by virtue of a greater number of cells being involved. When hearts were reperfused with 0.1 or 1 mM DNP-KH after 30 minutes of ischemia, the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain was attenuated throughout the entire 30 minutes' reperfusion (Figure 4b). Extending the period of reperfusion with 0.1 mM DNP after 30 minutes of ischemia resulted in a gain in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to  $11.33 \pm 0.60 \mu\text{mol/g dry wt}$  ( $n = 4$ ) after 60 minutes and  $19.27 \pm 0.94 \mu\text{mol/g dry wt}$  ( $n = 4$ ) after 120 minutes' reperfusion.

After 60 minutes' ischemia, reperfusion with KH for 5 minutes resulted in ultrastructural damage. The cells showed a discontinuous sarcolemma, some contraction bands, and swollen mitochondria. As the length of reperfusion was increased, the number of cells with contraction bands increased, and the dam-



**Figure 4**—The effect of DNP, added during reperfusion, after 60 (a) or 30 (b) minutes of ischemia on the reperfusion-induced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain. Each point represents the mean  $\pm$  SEM of six separate experiments. Statistics refer to the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  content in the presence of DNP, compared with that in its absence.



age to the sarcolemma became more evident (Figure 5a). When the hearts were reperfused with 1 mM DNP-KH, contraction bands were not observed at any time during reperfusion. Sarcolemmal integrity appeared to be maintained for the initial 10 minutes of reperfusion with 1 mM DNP. Thereafter, sarcolemmal discontinuities became apparent (Figure 5b).

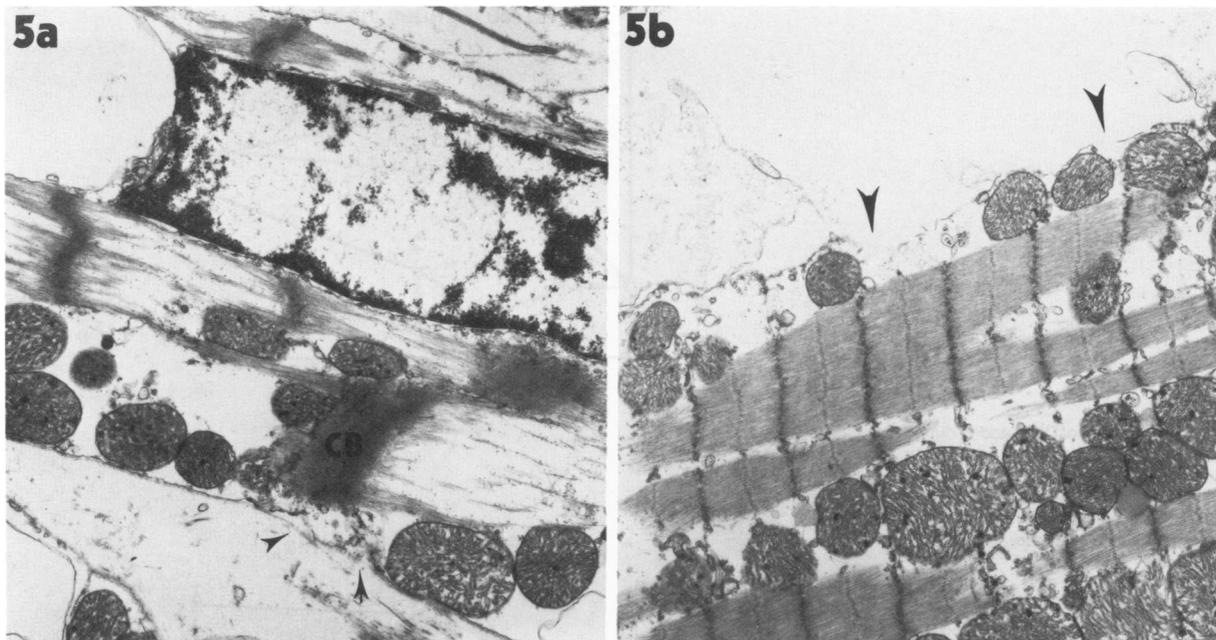
Reperfusion with KH after 30 minutes ischemia resulted in a ultrastructural appearance similar to that found with reperfusion after 60 minutes of ischemia. Contraction bands were prominent, the mitochondria were swollen, and the integrity of the sarcolemma was lost (Figure 6a). When hearts were reperfused with 1 mM DNP-KH after 30 minutes ischemia, the sarcolemmal complex remained intact surrounding contracted myofibrils throughout 30 minutes' reperfusion (Figure 6b).

### Discussion

This study investigated whether the uncoupling of oxidative phosphorylation with DNP affects the re-

perfusion-induced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain following 30 or 60 minutes of ischemia in the isolated perfused rat heart. DNP uncouples oxidative phosphorylation, causes a release of the mitochondrial  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores, and prevents any further mitochondrial accumulation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .<sup>20,21</sup> The mitochondrial  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release and the abrupt decline in ATP levels are associated with the development of contracture.<sup>22,23</sup> The mitochondrial release of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  would be expected to be associated with a rise in cytoplasmic  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . In addition, because ATP is neither available to facilitate uptake of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  by the sarcoplasmic reticulum nor to facilitate removal of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from the cytoplasm across the sarcolemma via ATP-dependent mechanisms, this would also promote an increase in cytoplasmic  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . Our technique of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  analysis does not allow us to detect such changes.

The attenuation of the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain in the presence of DNP does not appear to be the result of a reduced area of the ventricles receiving flow. However, it is possible that a reduction in the area of reflow during reperfusion in the absence of DNP is responsible for the decreased  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain following 60 minutes of ischemia,

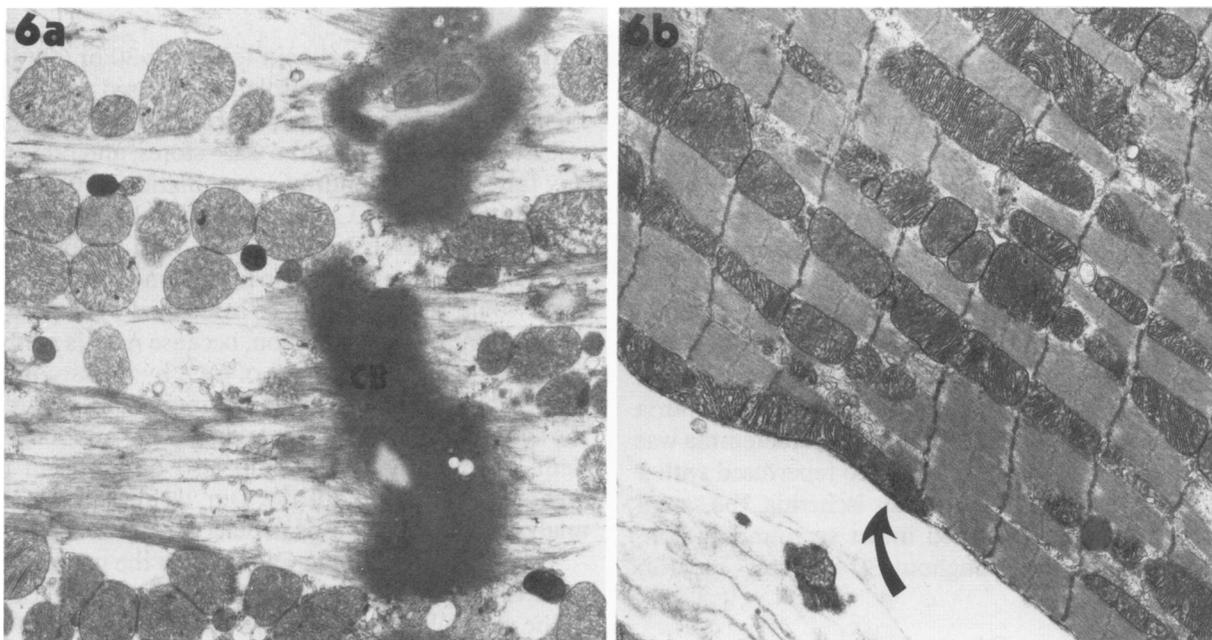


**Figure 5**—Electron micrographs from hearts after 30 minutes' reperfusion in the absence (a) or presence (b) of 1 mM DNP after 60 minutes' ischemia. **a**—Note the contraction bands (CB) and sarcolemmal disruptions (arrowheads). (×9500) **b**—Contraction bands were not found in the presence of DNP, but the sarcolemmal integrity was still lost (arrowheads). (×9500)

compared with that found after 30 minutes of ischemia (Figure 4).

Following 30 minutes of ischemia, the addition of 0.1 or 1 mM DNP to the reperfusion buffer abolished

the gain in  $Ca^{2+}$  found in the absence of DNP during 30 minutes' reperfusion. It is possible that cytoplasmic  $Ca^{2+}$  may have risen during this time, but this would not be detected by the method of  $Ca^{2+}$  mea-



**Figure 6**—Electron micrographs from hearts after 30 minutes' reperfusion in the absence (a) or presence (b) of 1 mM DNP after 30 minutes' ischemia. **a**—Note the contraction bands (CB). (×9500) **b**—In the presence of DNP, contraction bands were not observed, and the sarcolemma remained intact (arrow). (×8000)

surement used here. One millimolar DNP prevented the loss of sarcolemmal integrity that was seen in its absence during reperfusion following 30 minutes of ischemia. A simple explanation for the lack of a massive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain during reperfusion would therefore be the maintenance of an intact sarcolemma. However, in a recent series of experiments using 2,3-butanedione monoxime to inhibit contractile activity during reperfusion following 30 minutes of ischemia, the sarcolemma was maintained in an intact state, but the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain was only reduced and not abolished (unpublished observations). These results suggested that the reperfusion-induced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain involved entry of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  via route(s) other than those associated with a disrupted sarcolemma. In the present series of experiments DNP has inhibited the entry of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  via routes associated and not associated with sarcolemmal "holes." Those routes not associated with a ruptured sarcolemma could include entry of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  via passive diffusion, through the slow channels or in exchange for  $\text{Na}^+$ . The entry of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  via passive diffusion seems unlikely, because experiments on isolated sarcolemmal membranes do not show an increase in passive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability.<sup>24</sup> The entry of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  via the slow channels is also unlikely, because the addition of slow channel blockers during reperfusion has little or no effect on the gain in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .<sup>25</sup> Entry of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in exchange for  $\text{Na}^+$  has previously been suggested as a route of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry following ischemia or hypoxia, and it is possible that the accumulation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  by the mitochondria may maintain an inward gradient for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , which makes this a continuing process.<sup>26,27</sup> DNP may directly inhibit the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange mechanism, or, alternatively, by preventing mitochondrial  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  accumulation, may decrease the inward gradient to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .<sup>10</sup>

After 60 minutes of ischemia 0.1 mM DNP had no effect on the reperfusion-induced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain, and 1 mM DNP delayed, but did not abolish, the gain.  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry in the presence of 1 mM DNP appeared to coincide with the appearance of sarcolemmal discontinuities, which suggested that  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  may be freely entering the cells through these "holes." The attainment of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  levels in the presence of 1 mM DNP that are equivalent to those in its absence suggests that mitochondrial  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  accumulation is not essential for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  overloading of the cells when sarcolemmal integrity has been lost. Thus, DNP may attenuate the reoxygenation-induced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  gain following hypoxia by preventing mitochondrial accumulation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , only if the sarcolemma is intact.<sup>10</sup>

The question that remains is, why is it that the sarcolemmal integrity is lost during reperfusion follow-

ing 60, but not 30, minutes of ischemia? One possible explanation is based on the work of Jennings et al.<sup>28</sup> These workers proposed that the accumulation of breakdown products from ischemic metabolism may increase cellular osmolarity. This, in turn, may contribute to cell swelling, which will place added stress on the sarcolemma and may result in its disruption. In our model of global ischemia with no collateral flow, it is unlikely that sufficient cell swelling will occur during the ischemic episode to rupture the cell membrane. This is supported by the ultrastructural results in the present experiments, in which sarcolemmal discontinuities were not evident at the end of the ischemic episode. However, it is likely that during reperfusion cell swelling may place extra stress on the sarcolemma. Then, with the added stress caused by the resumption of contractile activity, complete rupture of the membrane could occur, allowing a rapid and uncontrolled entry of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . In the presence of 1 mM DNP, ATP is not available, and hence contractile activity does not resume.

After 30 minutes of ischemia the integrity of the sarcolemma is maintained throughout 30 minutes' reperfusion in the presence of 1 mM DNP, which suggests that the sarcolemma can withstand the stress imposed on it by cell swelling due to the increase in intracellular osmolarity as a result of the accumulation of breakdown products during ischemia. However, disruption of the sarcolemma was evident after 15 minutes' reperfusion with DNP-KH after 60 minutes' ischemia. It is possible to envisage that the increased duration of the ischemic episode will result in a greater increase of intracellular osmolarity, and this in turn will cause greater cell swelling, which may ultimately result in the development of sarcolemmal "holes." Once present, these holes will almost certainly represent lethal cellular injury with the accumulation of an uncontrolled amount of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . However, if the development of sarcolemmal discontinuities is a result of swelling induced by the accumulation of metabolites during the ischemic episode, we would expect the membrane damage to occur early during reperfusion and not after 15 minutes, when all osmotically active metabolites should have been washed from the cells.

An alternative and possibly more likely explanation is that reperfusion in the presence of DNP may merely be extending the length of time hearts are effectively without usable  $\text{O}_2$ —ie, the hearts are exposed to 30 or 60 minutes of ischemia, followed by 30 minutes of a biochemically induced hypoxia. Reperfusion with DNP after ischemia will result in a return of flow with the detrimental effects associated with cell swelling

and a return of O<sub>2</sub>, which although not able to be used to produce energy via oxidative phosphorylation, may provide a source of free radicals.<sup>29</sup> These factors, together with alterations to the membrane phospholipids, which become more severe with increasing durations of ischemia,<sup>30,31</sup> may contribute to the development of membrane damage. Our results support this hypothesis. As we would expect, a longer period of DNP reperfusion was required to produce damage after 30 minutes of ischemia than after 60 minutes. Whereas 15 minutes' reperfusion following 60 minutes of ischemia was sufficient to result in a gain in Ca<sup>2+</sup>, more than 30 minutes' reperfusion with DNP was required after 30 minutes of ischemia.

In summary, these results have illustrated that sarcolemmal integrity must be maintained if the reperfusion-induced gain in Ca<sup>2+</sup> is to be attenuated. The loss of sarcolemmal integrity during reperfusion following an ischemic episode may be the result of multiple causes, one of which is probably the stress placed on a susceptible membrane by the return of contractile activity. Maintaining sarcolemmal integrity, however, is not sufficient to totally abolish the reperfusion-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> gain (unpublished observations). In the presence of DNP, reperfusion for up to 30 minutes following 30 minutes of ischemia resulted in a maintenance of the sarcolemma in an intact state and an abolition of the Ca<sup>2+</sup> gain, which indicates that DNP was able to inhibit the Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry via route(s) other than those associated with entry through sarcolemmal "holes." This inhibition may relate to DNP preventing mitochondrial Ca<sup>2+</sup> accumulation and hence removing the possibility of a continuous inward gradient for Ca<sup>2+</sup> being established.

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