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# **“Pharmacology of Salicin Derivatives in Sheep”**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment  
of the requirements for the degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy**  
in Animal Science



**MASSEY UNIVERSITY**

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*Dedicated to my husband*

***Chandrakant Mathurkar***

## Abstract

Sheep suffer from pain during various husbandry practices as well as during injury or diseases such as footrot. This pain could be potentially minimised with the use of analgesics such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID). Unfortunately, there are very few registered NSAIDs for sheep. Thus, registered analgesics for cattle, for instance ketoprofen and meloxicam are used in sheep. Again, the high cost of analgesics and associated potential side effects such as reduced fertility, gastric irritation, gastric ulcers etc. evident in other species usually limits their use in sheep. Fear of residues in meat may stop some farmers from using analgesics. Considering these problems, this study was designed as a groundwork to explore a possible and potential use of natural, inexpensive analgesic for sheep.

Salicylic acid, a derivative of salicin, is a NSAID used effectively in humans as an analgesic since ancient times in the form of willow bark and leaves. During this research study, the pharmacokinetics of salicylic acid in sheep was analysed after administration of the sodium salt of salicylic acid (sodium salicylate/NaS) intravenously and orally at different dose rates. The analgesic efficacy of salicylic acid in sheep was also studied after administration of sodium salicylate at different dose rates by measuring mechanical and thermal nociceptive thresholds. The minimum therapeutic plasma concentration of salicylic acid for analgesia in sheep ranged from 25 to 30  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , which was achieved for about 30 minutes by a 200 mg/kg intravenous dose of NaS. During this study it was discovered that thermal nociceptive threshold testing is unable to detect any analgesia from salicylic acid and ketoprofen in sheep. However, mechanical nociceptive threshold testing efficiently detected the analgesic effects of salicylic acid and the positive control, ketoprofen.

The seasonal variation of willow salicin content (principal precursor of salicylic acid in willow) was studied over a year. The salicin in willows in New Zealand is higher during the summer months as compared to the winter months of the year, and appears greater in areas subject to drought. The analgesic efficacy of willow leaves can be assessed by feeding the willow leaves to lame sheep as they readily eat willow leaves. However, to assess the analgesia produced by willow in sheep, further research is warranted.

**Keywords:** Salicin, sheep, salicylic acid, analgesia, HPLC, nociceptive testing, willow.

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## List of Tables

**Table 1.1** Different types of afferent sensory peripheral fibres involved in the conduction of impulses (innocuous/noxious) to the spinal cord

**Table 1.2** Inflammatory mediators at periphery/site of injury

**Table 1.3** Classification of NSAIDs on the basis of chemical properties

**Table 2.1** Modifications in LLE method

**Table 2.2** Modifications in SPE method

**Table 2.3** Further modifications in SPE method

**Table 2.4** Findings after incorporation of different modifications in LLE as described in table 2.1

**Table 2.5** Findings after incorporation of different modifications in SPE as described in table 2.2 and 2.3

**Table 2.6** Recovery of SA after spiking in the blank plasma

**Table 2.7** Intra-day variation (between batches) of SA standards spiked in blank plasma

**Table 2.8** Inter-day variation (between days) of SA standards spiked in blank plasma

**Table 2.9** Results of validation of linearity for SA detection method

**Table 3.1** Average non-compartment pharmacokinetic parameters of all dose treatments (single intravenous NaS bolus in sheep) (mean $\pm$ SD) with statistical significance

**Table 3.2** Average one/single compartment pharmacokinetic parameters of all dose treatments (single intravenous NaS bolus in sheep) (mean $\pm$ SD) with statistical significance

**Table 3.3** Average of all non-compartment pharmacokinetic parameters (single oral dose of NaS in sheep) (mean $\pm$ SD)

**Table 3.4** Comparison of pharmacokinetic parameters of NaS in the present study with that of the other study conducted by Sulaiman and Kumar (1995) in sheep after intravenous and oral administration

**Table 3.5** Pharmacokinetic parameters of NaS in different animal species after intravenous administration

**Table 4.1** Overall mean ( $\pm$ SD) pre- and post-treatment MNT values (in N) of six sheep during pilot study

**Table 4.2** Pre- and post-treatment TNT values (mean $\pm$ SD) in  $^{\circ}$ C

**Table 4.3** 4.3: Pre- and post-treatment MNT values (mean $\pm$ SD) in N

**Table 5.1** Recovery of salicin ( $\mu$ g/mL) after spiking in the leaves sample

**Table 5.2** Intra-day variation (between batches) of salicin standards

**Table 5.3** Inter day variation (between days) of salicin standards

**Table 5.4** Results of validation of linearity for salicin detection method

**Table 5.5** Salicin (g/kg) content in fresh willow leaves (mean±SD)

**Table 5.6** Difference in Salicin (g/kg) content of fresh willow leaves from trees located on two different locations (mean±SD)

## List of Figures

- Figure 1.1** Mechanism of pain (Courtesy: Associate Professor Paul Chambers)
- Figure 1.2** Laminar distribution of spinal dorsal horn, edited from:(Todd, 2010)
- Figure 1.3** Synthesis of prostaglandins, edited from (Rao and Knaus, 2008)
- Figure 1.4** Mechanism of action of NSAIDs, edited from (Rao and Knaus, 2008)
- Figure 1.5** Structure of salicin molecule
- Figure 1.6** Structure of sodium salicylate molecule
- Figure 1.7** Structure of salicylic acid molecule
- Figure 1.8** Structure of aspirin molecule
- Figure 1.9** Pharmacokinetics- Disposition of the drug in the body after administration, edited from: (Katzung *et al.*, 2004)
- Figure 1.10** Area under curve showing the measured concentration of the drug during given time
- Figure 1.11** One-compartment open pharmacokinetic model (Riviere, 2011a)
- Figure 1.12** Semilogarithmic concentration-time profile for a one-compartment drug with slope  $-K_{el}$  and intercept  $C_p0$  (Riviere, 2011a)
- Figure 1.13** One-compartment-open pharmacokinetic model with first order absorption (Riviere, 2011a)
- Figure 1.14** Semilogarithmic plot of concentration versus time for one compartment open model with first order absorption with two slopes  $-K_a$  and  $-K_{el}$  (Riviere, 2011a)
- Figure 1.15** Two-compartment-open pharmacokinetic model (Riviere, 2011a)
- Figure 1.16** Semilogarithmic graph of concentration versus time for two compartment open mode, describing distribution phase ( $\alpha$ ) and elimination phase ( $\beta$ ) with their respective intercepts A and B (Riviere, 2011a)
- Figure 1.17** Generalised two compartment model for extravascular dose of drug with absorption constant ( $K_{01}$ )(Riviere, 2011a)
- Figure 1.18** Semilogarithmic plot of concentration versus time for two compartment model after extravascular administration of drug (Riviere, 2011a)
- Figure 1.19** PK-PD modelling concept from: (Mehrotra *et al.*, 2006)
- Figure 1.20** (a) *S. babylonica*, (b) *S. matsudana* × *alba*, (c) *S. alba*, (d) *S. purpurea*, (e) *S. viminalis*
- Figure 2.1** Chromatographs of 50 $\mu$ g SA standard in the mobile phase. Peak 1 represents SA extraction with Phenomenex Kinetex C18 column; although, the retention time is lesser (5.0 $\pm$ 0.6 minutes), peak resolution is not ideal. Peak 2 represents SA extraction with Synergi Hydro C18 column; the peak resolution is superior to other two columns and retention time (9.4 $\pm$ 0.5 minute) is increased as opposed to Kinetex column. Peak 3 represents SA extraction



with Luna C18 column with poor peak resolution and higher retention time ( $12.8\pm 0.9$ ) minutes

**Figure 2.2** Chromatographs of 10 $\mu$ g SA standard in blank plasma at different flow rates of mobile phase. The peak efficiency with lowest flow rate 0.6mL/minute is lower (3596.74 N). Peak efficiency with flow rate 0.8ml/minute and 1mL/minute is 17874.67N and 17882.24N respectively which are not significantly variable

**Figure 2.3** Chromatographs showing absence of SA (SA) peak in the blank plasma and presence of SA peaks in mobile phase and SA spiked blank plasma sample

**Figure 2.4** Chromatographs showing lower concentrations of SA in mobile phase

**Figure 2.5** Chromatographs showing lower concentrations of SA spiked in blank plasma and a blank plasma sample

**Figure 2.6** Calibration/standard curve for SA

**Figure 2.7** Concentration-time curve of the SA in sheep plasma determined by the validated HPLC method

**Figure 3.1** Chromatographs showing SA peaks 30 minutes, 1hour ( $T_{max}$ ) and 6 hours after oral administration of 200mg/kg NaS in sheep; while a drug-free/blank plasma of a sheep has no peak at the retention time of SA

**Figure 3.2a** Concentration time curve for all treatments (10, 50, 100,200mg/kg body weight) of intravenous NaS in sheep

**Figure 3.2b** Semi-log concentration time curve for all treatments (10, 50, 100, 200mg) of intravenous NaS in six sheep (mean $\pm$  SD)

**Figure 3.3a** Concentration time curve for 100 and 200mg/kg treatments of oral NaS in six sheep (mean $\pm$  SD)

**Figure 3.3b** Semi-log concentration time curve for 100 and 200mg/kg treatments of oral NaS in six sheep (mean $\pm$  SD)

**Figure 4.1a** MNT device used to stimulate nociceptive stimulus in sheep during the study

**Figure 4.1b** The leg unit of MNT device with its various components and blunt pin of the device which is pressed against the sheep's leg to produce a nociceptive stimulus

**Figure 4.1c** MNT device as a whole assembly including (a) J-rack, (b) PowerLab, (c) Computer and (d) Compressor

**Figure 4.2** Calibration curve for MNT device displaying the values in Newtons against the Volts measured in the Lab-Chart. X-axis represents volts (V) recorded in the Lab-Cart software and Y-axis represents the corresponding Force in Newtons (N)

**Figure 4.3a** Pre- and post- treatment threshold responses of sheep recorded at different time points during pilot study. The time for drug injection is represented as time zero on X-axis

**Figure 4.3b** AUC for 120 minutes after each treatment. X-axis represents experimental treatments. Y-axis represents AUC in Newton-minute for each experimental treatment

**Figure 4.4a** Thermode of TNT testing device which is heated to produce thermal noxious stimulus and is constantly in contact with the sheep's skin to stimulate the thermal nociceptors

**Figure 4.4b** The assembly of thermal device *(a)* A polycarbonate box comprising of circuitry and blue tooth *(b)* The set of 6V batteries connected from one side to the heating box supplies power to control the heating *(c)* Thermode (which has to be applied on the sheep's leg) is attached through extended set of wires from another side

**Figure 4.5** *(a)* Sheep with both MNT and TNT testing devices on right and left foreleg respectively *(b)* Right leg of sheep zoomed in to display the leg unit (box with blunt pin) of the MNT testing device *(c)* Left leg of sheep zoomed in to display leg unit (thermode) of TNT testing device

**Figure 4.6a** Pre- and post- treatment TNT responses of sheep recorded at different time points during main study. The black arrow indicates drug administration time

**Figure 4.6b** AUC calculated for TNTs of sheep, over the experimental period of 120 minutes post each treatment. X-axis represents each experimental treatment. Y-axis represents values of area under curve for each treatment

**Figure 4.7a** Pre- and post-treatment MNT responses of sheep recorded at different time points during main study. The black arrow indicates drug administration time

**Figure 4.7b** AUCs calculated for MNTs during main study over the experimental period of 120 minutes post each treatment. X-axis represents different treatments. Y-axis represents actual area under curve values for each treatment

**Figure 4.8** Baseline thermal nociceptive thresholds and corresponding ambient temperatures. X-axis represents different ambient temperatures during experimental period. Y-axis represents corresponding baseline thermal threshold values of the experimental sheep

**Figure 5.1 (a, b, c)** Leaves from different willow trees showing differences in morphology (different species)

**Figure 5.2** Chromatographs showing presence and absence of salicin peak in salicin containing and blank samples respectively

**Figure 5.3** Chromatographs of lower concentrations of salicin and blank sample for determination of lower limit of quantification

**Figure 5.4** Calibration curve for salicin detection with HPLC

**Figure 5.5** Chromatographs of salicin standard 100 $\mu$ g and willow leaves sample showing respective peaks at given retention time ( $10\pm 0.69$  minutes)

**Figure 5.6** Graphical representation of willow leaves salicin content (g/kg of fresh willow leaves) in individual tree

**Figure 5.7** Graphical representation of average monthly temperature vs. respective monthly willow leaves salicin content (g/kg of fresh willow leaves) during leaves collection period

## List of Abbreviations

$\mu\text{g}$	Microgram/ micrograms
ADME	Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Excretion
AIC	Akaike information criterion
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
A/P	Associate professor
AUC	Area under curve/ Area under concentration-time curve
AUMC	Area under the moment curve
BC	Before Christ
BIC	Bayesian information criterion
C	Concentration of the drug in the plasma
$C_0$	Concentration of drug at time zero
$\text{Ca}^{++}$	Calcium ions
CGRP	Calcitonin gene related peptide
CINODs	COX inhibition nitric oxide donors
Cl	Clearance
$C_{\text{max}}$	Maximum concentration in the plasma
CMPS-SF	Glasgow composite measure pain scale short form
CNS	Central nervous system
COX	Cyclooxygenase
COX-1	Cyclooxygenase 1
COX-2	Cyclooxygenase 2
COX-3	Cyclooxygenase 3
COXIBs	COX-2 selective inhibitors
CYP450	Cytochrome P450
D	Dose
Da	Dalton
DF	Descending facilitation
DI	Descending inhibition
DLF	Dorsolateral funiculus
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DP1	PGD receptor

DRG	Dorsal root ganglia
EEG	Electroencephalography
EP	E prostanoid receptor
F	Bioavailability
FDA	The Food and Drug Administration
FP	PGF receptor
Fig	Figure
G/g	gram/grams
GABA	Gamma amino butyric acid
GCMPS	Glasgow composite measure pain scale
GI	Gastro-intestinal
G-proteins	Guanosine nucleotide-binding proteins
HPLC	High performance liquid chromatography
Hr/hr	Hour
Hrs/hrs	Hours
HVA	High voltage activated
IASP	International Association for the Study of Pain
IP	PGI receptor
I/V	Intravenous/intravenously
IVABS	Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences
$K_{12}/K_{21}/K_{10}$	Inter-compartmental constants
$K_a$	Absorption constant
KA	Kainate
$K_{el}/K_{10}$	Elimination rate constant
Kg/kg	Kilogram/kilograms
L	Litre/Litres
LATU	Large Animal Teaching Unit
LLE	Liquid-liquid extraction
LOD	(Lower) limit of detection
LOX	Lipoxygenase
LTMR	Low-threshold mechanoreceptor
LTP	Low term potentiation

LVA	Low voltage activated
M <sup>++</sup>	Magnesium ions
mg	Milligram/milligrams
Min	Minute/minutes
mL	Millilitre/millilitre
MNT	Mechanical nociceptive threshold testing
MRP2	Multi-drug-resistance-associated-protein type 2
MRT	Mean residence time
MS	Mass spectrometry
N	Newton/Newtons
Na <sup>+</sup>	Sodium ions
NaS	Sodium salicylate
NCA	Non-compartmental analysis
NFκB	Nuclear transcription factor
NMDA	N-methyl-D-Aspartate
NO	Nitric oxide
NRS	Numerical rating scale
NS	Nociceptive specific
NSAID	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
NTS	Nucleus tractus solitarius
PAG	Peri-aqueductal grey matter
PD	Pharmacodynamics
PG	Prostaglandin
PGD	Prostaglandin D <sub>2</sub>
PGF	Prostaglandin F <sub>2</sub>
PGG	Prostaglandin G <sub>2</sub>
PGI	Prostaglandin I <sub>2</sub>
PK	Pharmacokinetics
PKC	Protein kinase
PN	Parabrachial nucleus
PPAR-γ	Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-gamma
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene

$R^2/r^2$	Correlation coefficient
R-COH	Enolic acids
R-COOH	Carboxylic acids
RPM/rpm	Revolutions per minute
RSD	Relative standard deviation
RVM	Rostral ventromedial medulla
SA	Salicylic acid
SD	Standard deviation
SDS	Simple descriptive scale
SEP	Somatosensory evoked potentials
SMT	Spinomesecephalic
SP	Substance P
SPE	Solid phase extraction
SRT	Spinoreticular
STT	Spinothalamic
$T_{1/2}$	Half-life
$T_{max}$	Time at which plasma drug concentration is maximum
TNF	Tumour necrosis factor
TNT	Thermal nociceptive threshold testing
TP	Thromboxane receptor
TT	Theotepa
TTX-r	Tetrodotoxin-resistant
TXA <sub>2</sub>	Thromboxanes
VAS	Visual analogue scale
$V_d$	Volume of distribution
VOCC	Voltage operated calcium channels
WDR	Wide dynamic range
A	Alpha
B	Beta
$\Delta$	Delta

## CONTENTS

1	GENERAL INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW .....	1
1.1	INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.2	LITERATURE REVIEW .....	1
1.2.1	Pain .....	1
1.2.2	Pain in animals.....	13
1.2.3	Assessment of pain in animals.....	16
1.2.4	Analgesics.....	26
1.2.5	NSAIDs.....	27
1.2.6	Salicylates .....	39
1.2.7	Pharmacokinetics .....	45
1.2.8	PK-PD modelling.....	63
1.2.9	Willow .....	65
1.3	PURPOSE OF THIS WORK.....	73
2	DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF HIGH PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY METHOD FOR DETECTION OF SALICYLIC ACID IN SHEEP PLASMA .....	74
	ABSTRACT.....	74
2.1	INTRODUCTION .....	74
2.2	[A] PRELIMINARY WORK AND DEVELOPMENT OF HPLC TECHNIQUE FOR DETERMINATION OF SALICYLIC ACID IN SHEEP PLASMA .....	76
2.2.1	HPLC system .....	76
2.2.2	Reagents and solutions .....	76
2.2.3	Column selection .....	76
2.2.4	Column temperature .....	76
2.2.5	Mobile phase composition.....	77
2.2.6	Mobile phase flow rate .....	77
2.2.7	Sample preparation methods.....	77
2.2.8	Results.....	78
2.2.9	Discussion.....	87

2.3	[B] VALIDATION OF HPLC TECHNIQUE FOR DETECTION OF SALICYLIC ACID IN SHEEP PLASMA.....	90
2.3.1	Material and methods .....	90
2.3.2	Chromatographic analysis of sheep plasma samples (pilot study) .....	92
2.3.3	Results .....	92
2.3.4	Discussion.....	100
2.4	CONCLUSION.....	101
3	PHARMACOKINETICS OF SODIUM SALICYLATE IN SHEEP .....	102
	ABSTRACT.....	102
3.1	INTRODUCTION .....	103
3.2	MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	105
3.2.1	[A] Blood collection.....	105
3.2.2	[B] HPLC analysis of plasma samples .....	107
3.2.3	Pharmacokinetic analyses.....	107
3.2.4	Statistical analyses.....	107
3.3	RESULTS .....	108
3.3.1	Pharmacokinetic parameters for SA in sheep after intravenous administration 108	
3.3.2	Pharmacokinetic parameters for SA in sheep after oral administration .....	109
3.4	DISCUSSION .....	116
3.5	CONCLUSION.....	119
4	PHARMACODYNAMICS OF SODIUM SALICYLATE IN SHEEP .....	121
	ABSTRACT.....	121
4.1	INTRODUCTION .....	122
	MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	123
4.2	PILOT STUDY .....	123
4.2.1	Experimental design and preparation of animals .....	123
4.2.2	Description of the mechanical nociceptive device .....	123
4.2.3	Calibration of the device .....	126
4.2.4	Drug administration.....	127



4.2.5	Mechanical nociceptive threshold testing.....	127
4.2.6	Statistical analyses .....	128
4.2.7	Results.....	128
4.2.8	Discussion.....	130
4.3	MAIN STUDY.....	131
4.3.1	Experimental design and preparation of animals.....	132
4.3.2	Description of devices .....	132
4.3.3	Experimental set-up .....	135
4.3.4	Response of sheep to noxious stimuli.....	135
4.3.5	Drug administration .....	135
4.3.6	Data recording .....	137
4.3.7	Statistical analyses .....	137
4.3.8	Results.....	138
4.3.9	Discussion.....	144
4.4	CONCLUSION.....	151
5	ASSESSMENT OF SALICIN CONTENT IN WILLOW ( <i>SALIX SPP</i> ) LEAVES AND SEASONAL VARIATION .....	152
	ABSTRACT.....	152
5.1	INTRODUCTION .....	152
	MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	153
5.1.1	Leaf collection, drying and grinding .....	153
5.1.2	HPLC analysis of salicin content in willow leaves .....	154
5.1.3	HPLC Analysis of samples.....	158
5.1.4	Weather data collection .....	160
5.1.5	Statistical analysis.....	161
5.1.6	Results.....	161
5.1.7	Discussion.....	166
5.2	CONCLUSION.....	167
6	GENERAL DISCUSSION.....	168
6.1	PHARMACOKINETIC STUDIES.....	168

6.2	PHARMACODYNAMICS STUDIES .....	171
6.3	ASSOCIATION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ALL THE STUDIES CONDUCTED DURING THIS RESEARCH PROJECT .....	173
6.4	FUTURE WORK.....	173
6.5	CONCLUSION.....	174
	REFERENCES .....	175
	Appendix: 1.....	211
	Appendix: 2a.....	212
	Appendix: 2b.....	216

