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1 **Early Cardiac Mitochondrial Molecular and Functional Responses to Acute Anthracycline Treatment**
2 **in Wistar Rats**

3

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39 Keywords: doxorubicin; animal study; cardiotoxicity; mitochondrial permeability transition; principal
40 component analysis; feature correlation analysis

41

42 Abbreviations List: ADP – adenosine diphosphate; CsA – cyclosporin A; DOX – doxorubicin; EGTA –
43 ethylene glycol tetraacetic acid; mPTP - mitochondrial permeability transition pore; OXPHOS – oxidative
44 phosphorylation; ROS – reactive oxygen species.
45

46 **ABSTRACT**

47 Doxorubicin (DOX) is an anticancer drug widely used to treat human and non-human tumors but the late and
48 persistent cardio-toxicity reduces the therapeutic utility of the drug. The full mechanism(s) of DOX-induced
49 acute, sub-chronic and delayed toxicity, which has a preponderant mitochondrial component, remains unclear;
50 therefore, it is clinically relevant to identify early markers to identify patients who are predisposed to DOX-
51 related cardiovascular toxicity.

52 To address this, Wistar rats (16 weeks old) were treated with a single DOX dose (20 mg/Kg, i.p.); then,
53 mRNA, protein levels and functional analysis of mitochondrial end-points were assessed 24 h later in the
54 heart, liver and kidney. Using an exploratory data analysis, we observed cardiac-specific alterations after
55 DOX treatment for mitochondrial Complexes III, IV, and preferentially for Complex I. Conversely, the same
56 analysis revealed Complex II alterations are associated with DOX response in the liver and kidney.

57 Interestingly, H₂O₂ production by the mitochondrial respiratory chain as well as loss of calcium-loading
58 capacity, markers of sub-chronic toxicity, were not reliable indicators of acute DOX cardiotoxicity in this
59 animal model.

60 By using sequential Principal Component Analysis and Feature Correlation Analysis, we demonstrated for the
61 first time alterations in sets of transcripts and proteins, but not functional measurements, that might serve as
62 potential early acute markers of cardiac-specific mitochondrial toxicity, contributing to explain the trajectory
63 of DOX cardiac toxicity and to develop novel interventions to minimize DOX cardiac liabilities.

64

65 **INTRODUCTION**

66 Doxorubicin (DOX) is an anthracycline antibiotic that is widely used as a chemotherapeutic agent to treat
67 multiple types of cancers (Simunek *et al.*, 2009; Sterba *et al.*, 2013); however, its therapeutic utility is limited
68 due to the development of a cumulative and dose-dependent cardiotoxicity (Wallace, 2007). Congestive heart
69 failure after DOX treatment is a pressing concern. The mortality observed after a chronic treatment can be as
70 high as 50% (Chatterjee *et al.*, 2010), increasing significantly for cumulative doses higher than 500 mg/m² as
71 reported by Singal *et al.* (1998). This life-time cumulative dose is equivalent to 13.5 mg/Kg_{humans} or 83.8
72 mg/Kg_{rats}, using reference values and calculations suggested by Nair *et al.* (2016). The etiology of DOX-
73 induced cardiotoxicity is commonly ascribed to a redox-cycling of the drug on Complex I of the
74 mitochondrial respiratory chain (Davies *et al.*, 1986). Reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated during this
75 process are believed to be responsible for the toxic effects on cardiac mitochondria, resulting in impaired
76 oxidative phosphorylation (Santos *et al.*, 2002), loss of mitochondrial calcium homeostasis (Zhou *et al.*,
77 2001a) and increased apoptotic signaling (Childs *et al.*, 2002). DOX cardiotoxicity can present distinct
78 phenotypes depending on the time elapsed since the initial treatment. Among the wide range of treatment
79 protocols used in different laboratories (Ascensao *et al.*, 2012; Hayward *et al.*, 2007; Solem *et al.*, 1996; Zhou
80 *et al.*, 2001c) we have previously demonstrated that treating Wistar rats with DOX resulted in toxicity only in
81 the cardiac tissue and more easily detected in a sub-chronic treatment protocol (Pereira *et al.*, 2012).
82 A distinguishing feature is the fact that DOX toxicity presents a delayed component, manifesting itself years
83 or even decades after treatment (Steinherz *et al.*, 1991). Despite the abundant research in the last decades, the
84 mechanism(s) underlying delayed DOX cardiac toxicity evolution are still far from being understood.
85 Regardless the mechanism(s), it is clinically relevant to identify early signs of specific metabolic or
86 transcriptional alterations observed after acute DOX treatment that may be considered early stress
87 response(s). For this objective, we measured three distinct sets of data on cardiac, renal, and hepatic tissue in
88 a rat model subjected to an acute DOX treatment (Ascensao, et al., 2012; Pereira, et al., 2012):

89 (i) mRNA and protein levels of subunits of the mitochondrial respiratory complexes (I-IV), ATP synthase,
90 and other relevant mitochondrial components (Cyt c, ANT, VDAC), and applied a suite of exploratory
91 data analysis tools in clusters of transcripts related to the same complex. From this use we seek to obtain

92 evidence of DOX-induced acute alterations that are present even in the absence of significant differences
93 in the overall respiration flux (Pereira *et al.*, 2016).

94 (ii) hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) production by the mitochondrial respiratory chain.

95 (iii) the sensitivity to the mitochondrial permeability transition (mPTP) as a surrogate of DOX response.

96 Since the latter markers have both been detected in sub-chronic DOX toxicity animal models (Cappetta *et al.*,
97 2017; Zhou, et al., 2001c), our objective was to measure similar alterations in the acute model, with the
98 novelty of performing experiments with both Complex I and II substrates.

99 We used in this study a Wistar rat-based animal model and the acute treatment protocol previously described
100 (Pereira, et al., 2012). A single dose of 20 mg/Kg DOX caused an increase in circulating troponin I and a ~
101 7.6 % decrease in cardiac mass with no visible alterations on the mitochondrial functional parameters
102 evaluated. However, if a similar dosage was spanned over the period of 7 weeks (sub-chronic model), a clear
103 mitochondrial impairment was observed (Pereira, et al., 2012; Zhou, et al., 2001a; Zhou *et al.*, 2001b; Zhou,
104 et al., 2001c), suggesting that DOX acute effects may progress into mitochondrial bioenergetic dysfunction.

105 Moreover, it also suggests that the acute DOX toxicity model may be used to assess mitochondrial alterations
106 that precede functional changes. Therefore, we included mitochondrial molecular parameters in the present
107 study and anticipated that our novel approach will allow the assessment of early markers of acute DOX
108 cardiotoxicity, facilitating the development of biomarkers to be used in the clinic for timely identification of
109 patients with higher susceptibility to latent DOX toxicity and for the development of interventions aimed at
110 decreasing DOX off-target cardiac toxicity.

111

112 **RESULTS**

113 Exploratory Data Analysis

114 In the present research, we applied Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Feature Correlation Analysis
115 (FCA) to discover correlations and clustering patterns that help to identify relevant mitochondrial markers for
116 the early detection of acute DOX toxicity. The small number of available samples prevents a complete and
117 robust statistical analysis of the results. However, PCA provides initial insight regarding the separation of the
118 treatment groups (Saline vs. DOX) allowing the discovery of important relevant trends. The twelve panels
119 from Figure 1 illustrate the separation between Saline and DOX samples, for each of the 4 mitochondrial
120 respiratory complexes in heart, kidney and liver tissues, respectively. To allow an informative 2D
121 visualization we considered just the two principal components (explaining > 70% of the variance) and
122 projected the original data in the lower dimensional space.

123 Considering the cardiac tissue (Fig. 1a), the four panels representing each of the respiratory complexes tend to
124 exhibit a clear separation between areas comprising samples from saline (blue area) and DOX-treated rats (red
125 area). The separation is clearly visible for Complex I while some minor perturbations are observed in
126 Complexes II, III, and IV. These minor differences correspond to specific regions where the separation is not
127 evident, suggesting that it might be difficult for a computational analysis to accurately classify examples in
128 these locations. Class separation between treatment groups for some respiratory complexes is also less evident
129 when analyzing the remaining tissues in the study. For example, when analyzing the renal tissue (Fig. 1b) a
130 visible class separation in Complexes II and III was observed, but the other complexes displayed several
131 mixed sub-areas that might compromise the correct identification of the samples. Similarly, Complex II in the
132 hepatic tissue (Fig. 1c) tends to generate a clear boundary between the two treatment groups, while the other
133 complexes reveal several density sub-areas.

134 Overall, PCA analysis of mRNA transcripts identified Complex I as preferable target for DOX acute toxicity
135 in the heart while Complex II preferentially relates to DOX effects in the liver and kidney. Complexes III and
136 IV are not robust markers to differentiate DOX toxicity in the analyzed tissues of this study.

137

138 Next, we complemented the PCA with individual FCA, to estimate the dependence that may exist between
139 every pair of features. Our analysis considered all pairwise feature correlations and aimed to identify variables

140 exhibiting high sensitivity to DOX. Figure 2a-c show the global trend in the correlation changes resulting
141 from DOX administration for features describing mRNA and protein levels in the heart, kidney and liver
142 tissues, respectively.

143 Observationally, there are some noticeable differences in the global patterns shown in Fig.2. In regard to liver
144 (Fig. 2c), DOX administration tends to have a minor impact in the correlation strength change (high number
145 of blank cells). Nonetheless, there is a high and consistent change involving the expression of subunit
146 NDUFB8 in the liver. Conversely, Figures 2a and 2b, representing heart and kidney, respectively, exhibit a
147 considerable number of filled cells identifying pairs with sizable correlation changes. The correlation change
148 of NDUFB8 that was signaled in the liver is also present in these tissues, although to a lesser extent.

149 Regarding features from Complex I, some additional correlation changes are observed, namely *ND1* and *ND2*
150 mRNA in the kidney and *ND6* and *NDUFS4* mRNA in the heart.

151 In respect to Complex II, no noticeable changes in correlation were observed, regardless of the tissue in study.

152 In Complex III related features, DOX treatment showed a stronger effect on the correlation change of CytB
153 mRNA and UQCRFS1 protein levels in kidney. Finally, a few correlation changes regarding Complex IV
154 features were also observed in heart and kidney, but not as obvious as reported above (Fig. S1).

155 Overall, the FCA analysis suggests that the impact of the DOX treatment is easier to perceive if considering
156 samples from heart and kidney when compared to liver, in agreement with findings obtained from PCA.

157

158 Mitochondrial hydrogen peroxide production

159 DOX-induced oxidative stress is considered a hallmark of its toxicity (Pereira, et al., 2012). In the present
160 work, we investigate the contribution of different sites of the mitochondrial respiratory chain to the overall
161 oxidative response by DOX. In respect to Complex I-sustained respiration, H₂O₂ production was similar to
162 control values in heart and kidney mitochondria regardless of the energization conditions tested (Fig. 3a, c).

163 However, in liver mitochondria, H₂O₂ production in the presence of rotenone was higher in mitochondria
164 from DOX-treated animals ($11 \pm 3\%$) even though no statistical differences were observed in the presence of
165 antimycin A alone ($18 \pm 10\%$) or with antimycin A plus rotenone ($1 \pm 2\%$).

166 When mitochondria were energized with Complex II-linked substrates, heart mitochondria from DOX-treated
167 animals showed increased production of H₂O₂ in the presence of substrate alone, yet it was not statistically

168 significant ($164 \pm 72\%$, $p = 0.06$; Fig. 3a). Interestingly, this alteration was only observed in the absence of
169 respiratory chain inhibitors as other conditions were similar to controls, reflecting ROS production through
170 reverse electron transfer.

171 In regard to liver and kidney, mitochondria from DOX-treated animals energized with Complex II-linked
172 substrates presented similar levels of H_2O_2 production under all tested conditions (Fig. 3b, c).

173 Overall, liver mitochondria from DOX-treated animals appear to generate more H_2O_2 compared to heart or
174 kidney mitochondria but only when the respiratory chain is challenged by oxidative phosphorylation
175 (OXPHOS) inhibitors, suggesting a higher flux of electrons through the respiratory chain at the Complex I
176 level.

177

178 Mitochondrial calcium loading capacity

179 To assess mitochondrial calcium handling, we measured the sensitivity of each mitochondrial preparation to
180 undergo the calcium-induced mPTP. Heart mitochondria from DOX-treated animals showed no alteration
181 neither in calcium retention time nor release rate regardless of the respiratory substrate used (Fig. 4a).

182 Similarly, no treatment-related effects on calcium flux were observed in kidney mitochondria (Fig. 4c).

183 However, liver mitochondria from DOX-treated animals showed an apparent decreased sensitivity to mPTP
184 opening (Fig. 4b). Hepatic mitochondrial preparations retained calcium for $43 \pm 30\%$ longer with Complex I-
185 linked respiration and $36 \pm 19\%$ for Complex II-linked respiration compared to control group although no
186 statistical significance was observed ($p = 0.194$ and 0.098 , respectively). In addition, calcium release rates
187 were decreased by $49 \pm 19\%$ with Complex I-linked respiration and $18 \pm 27\%$ with Complex II-linked
188 respiration. Significance was not always achieved due to the high variability in response to the treatment (Fig.
189 4b). Confirming that all previous mentioned alterations were related to the mPTP opening is the fact that pre-
190 incubation with CsA, the classic mPTP desensitizer (Broekemeier *et al.*, 1989) prevented calcium release
191 (Table 1).

192 Additionally, the same mitochondrial preparations were assessed for calcium-induced mitochondrial swelling
193 in similar conditions to those aforementioned. Corroborating the above results, heart mitochondria swelling
194 amplitude and swelling rate were not altered after acute treatment with DOX, regardless of the respiratory
195 substrate used (Fig. 5a). Likewise, in kidney mitochondria, amplitude and swelling rate were not different

196 from control (Fig. 5c). However, liver mitochondria from DOX-treated animals appear to have slower
197 swelling rate ($6 \pm 12\%$ and $21 \pm 37\%$ for glutamate/malate and succinate, respectively; Fig. 5b) despite no
198 apparent change in swelling amplitude ($20 \pm 30\%$ and $11 \pm 31\%$ for glutamate/malate and succinate,
199 respectively). As in calcium-loading capacity experiments, a high variability in response to the treatment was
200 observed for liver mitochondria preventing any statistical differences. CsA under the experimental swelling
201 conditions abolished all the effects, confirming the opening of the mPTP (Table 2).

202 Two major regulators of the mPTP are: cyclophilin D (Cyp-D) in the matrix and ANT in the inner membrane
203 (Silva *et al.*, 2018). Cyp-D protein levels remained constant after the acute treatment regardless of the tissue
204 analyzed (Table 3). We next measured mRNA and protein content of two ANT isoforms (Table 4). The $40 \pm$
205 6% cardiac-specific decrease of *ANT1* mRNA was significantly stronger than the effects observed in liver and
206 kidney. Similarly, the $26 \pm 6\%$ decrease of *ANT2* mRNA was significant when compared to kidney. Still, no
207 change in protein levels were observed after the 24 h treatment (Table 3). Moreover, no treatment- or tissue-
208 specific effects were detected regarding the protein and mRNA levels of VDAC, a porin of the outer
209 mitochondrial membrane which governs ion and metabolites flux into mitochondria (Table 4).

210 Overall, the sensitivity to mPTP opening remains constant in heart mitochondria after the acute treatment in
211 contrast with liver mitochondria which show strong resistance to mPTP opening. However, this mPTP
212 modulation cannot be attributed to changes in the protein levels of mPTP-related proteins. We suggest instead
213 that increased electron flux through the respiratory chain in liver mitochondria is modulating mPTP opening.
214

215 **DISCUSSION**

216 The mechanisms underlying DOX-selective cardiotoxicity remain undefined. Nevertheless, it is being
217 more widely accepted that the antitumor activity is independent of cardiac toxicity, which may involve
218 alterations of mitochondrial function (discussed in Pereira *et al.* (2011)). Acute DOX cardiac toxicity occurs
219 during the early treatment of patients (high dose) and usually include symptoms which are therapeutically
220 easy to manage and resolve once treatment is discontinued (Tokarska-Schlattner *et al.*, 2006). Alternatively, a
221 small, but significant number of patients develop chronic cardiotoxicity that can manifest itself at the end of
222 treatment or several years later (Steinherz, et al., 1991). However, unlike acute toxicity, the dose-dependence
223 together with its difficult early detection, renders DOX chronic toxicity life-threatening and largely
224 uncontrolled.

225 Regardless the mechanism(s) involved in DOX cardiotoxicity, the available data not only demonstrates
226 mitochondrial involvement (Zhou, et al., 2001c), but also differences related to each treatment protocol (acute
227 vs. sub-chronic in Pereira, et al. (2012)). Previously, by using Wistar rats treated with a single dose of DOX
228 (20 mg/Kg), Ascensão et al. (2006; 2011; 2005) observed that heart mitochondria respiration and
229 phosphorylation capacity were impaired after 24 h treatment. In contrast, we applied the same treatment
230 protocol in younger rats of the same strain and observed no DOX effects on cardiac mitochondrial respiration,
231 although minor, but statistical significant alterations were measured in ADP-stimulated respiration in liver
232 (increase) and kidney (decreased) mitochondria (Pereira, et al., 2012), suggesting a differential response to
233 DOX determined by age at time of treatment. Considering that a very large proportion of children with cancer
234 are treated with DOX (van Dalen *et al.*, 2009) despite its potential cardiotoxicity, it is relevant to identify
235 early alterations of mitochondrial parameters/markers, which can be considered as early cardiac-specific
236 stress responses to drug treatment.

237 It has been demonstrated in different rat models that DOX sub-chronic treatment causes inhibition of
238 mitochondrial respiration; oxidation of proteins, lipids, and nuclei acids; loss of cardiolipin and, alterations in
239 the antioxidant enzymatic network (Oliveira *et al.*, 2004; Oliveira *et al.*, 2006; Pereira, et al., 2016; Wallace,
240 1986; Zhou, et al., 2001b). Alterations of mitochondrial activity were also reported in different cardiac-like
241 cell models, associated to increased cell death (Asensio-Lopez *et al.*, 2016; Cunha-Oliveira *et al.*, 2018;
242 Sardao *et al.*, 2009). Taking these sub-chronic markers of DOX toxicity into account we selected and

243 measured relevant mitochondrial mRNA and protein content, respiratory chain-derived H₂O₂, and calcium-
244 loading capacity in 16-weeks old Wistar rats, suspecting that they would be reliable markers of DOX acute
245 toxicity.

246 Our data on calcium-loading capacity suggests that liver mitochondria are resistant to mPTP opening after
247 DOX treatment in agreement with the increased mitochondrial bioenergetics fitness previously described by
248 our lab (Ascensao, et al., 2011; Pereira, et al., 2012). Similarly, liver mitochondria displayed increased H₂O₂
249 production when mitochondria were stressed by using OXPHOS inhibitors. Together with the improved
250 mitochondrial fitness previously described, it suggests an increased electron flow through the respiratory
251 chain. Electron flow has also been reported to modulate mPTP sensitivity (Fontaine *et al.*, 1998),
252 corroborating our data from calcium-loading capacity experiments. However, because a single timepoint was
253 evaluated in our experimental setup (24 h), it was not possible to determine if DOX effect in liver
254 mitochondria is slow to develop or long-lasting.

255 Considering that increased mitochondrial oxidative stress and loss of calcium-loading capacity are
256 regarded as hallmarks of chronic DOX-induced cardiac mitochondrionopathy (Pereira, et al., 2011; Zhou, et
257 al., 2001a; Zhou, et al., 2001b; Zhou, et al., 2001c), our negative results in respect to cardiac tissue suggest
258 that H₂O₂ generation and early loss of calcium-loading capacity following an acute DOX treatment are not
259 reliable markers for early DOX cardiotoxicity. Therefore, it is relevant to identify alternative mitochondrial
260 markers in order to recognize early functional or molecular signs of DOX-related cardiovascular toxicity.
261 To this end, we also performed mRNA and protein analysis for components relevant for the maintenance of
262 mitochondrial integrity and for OXPHOS. In general, mitochondrial-encoded transcripts showed minimal and
263 heterogeneous increase in their levels compared to nuclear-encoded transcripts, demonstrating a preferential
264 initial targeting of nuclear DNA. This is reminiscent of our previous data showing that DOX accumulates
265 rapidly in the nucleus (Sardao, et al., 2009). Although the number of commercially available antibodies which
266 worked in our setup was much lower than the total number of transcripts, we performed a similar analysis at
267 the protein level, with at least one protein from each complex, semi-quantified by Western Blotting. No
268 protein differences were found between saline and DOX-treated groups regardless of the analyzed tissue. This
269 could be due to higher turnover rates for mitochondrial proteins in rodents (Brunner *et al.*, 1968; Miwa *et al.*,

270 2008). Therefore, neither a direct correlation can be performed, nor treatment-related differences can be
271 properly attributed through this analytic methodology.

272 We complemented the study with an alternative strategy to analyze mRNA and protein data. From the
273 PCA analysis, we obtained a consistent separation between treatment groups in the heart for all four
274 respiratory complexes, suggesting that the effect of the DOX administration is clearly detected in this tissue.
275 The boundary is particularly well defined when analyzing Complex I which was previously indicated as being
276 inhibited in DOX-induced cardiotoxicity (Santos, et al., 2002). As for the other tissues, clear separations
277 occur just in specific complexes: in liver there is a clear separation in Complex II, whereas in kidney clear
278 boundaries are visible in Complexes II and III. This differential response of DOX suggests that the impact of
279 treatment can be easily distinguished between the cardiac and other tissues such as the liver or kidney.
280 Contrary to the absence or minimal changes in cardiac mitochondrial function (mPTP sensitivity, H₂O₂
281 production and, respiration and oxidative stress markers (Pereira, et al., 2012)), the trends detected in the PCA
282 study confirmed Complex I as the most promising target to detect acute mitochondrial changes resulting from
283 DOX-treatment in the heart. Heart accumulates DOX slowly but to a higher extent than liver (Peters *et al.*,
284 1981) which could explain why DOX inhibitory effect on transcription was more easily detected in the heart,
285 suggesting a tissue-specific concentration-dependent effect. Alternatively, these findings could be explained
286 on the basis of tissue-specific stability of nuclear and mitochondrial-encoded mRNAs (Connor *et al.*, 1996),
287 being cardiac mRNAs less stable compared to the other tissues. Nonetheless, our data suggests that the
288 observed mitochondrial molecular alterations precede changes in mitochondrial function.

289 FCA allowed the identification of promising features that can be used for the detection of an acute
290 toxicity. UQCRFS1 transcript and protein levels were involved in higher correlation changes in both kidney
291 and heart. Complex III UQCRFS1 subunit has been shown to be decreased in Barth syndrome animal models
292 (Huang *et al.*, 2015), a pathology which is associated to the development of cardiomyopathy (Dudek *et al.*,
293 2017). In addition to *NDUFB8*, *NDUFS4* mRNA levels were also identified as features with high correlation
294 changes in heart. Recently, Piekutowska-Abramczuk *et al.* (2018) reported *NDUFB8* as the underlying gene
295 in childhood-onset of Leigh-like encephalomyopathy, observing decreased *NDUFS4* protein levels and lower
296 Complex I activity as well. Interestingly, *NDUFS4* is an accessory subunit important in Complex I assembly
297 while *NDUFB8* is an integral structural component of Complex I essential for its function (Sanchez-Caballero

298 *et al.*, 2016). NDUFB8 is not involved in the catalytic activity of Complex I but is an essential component of
299 the membrane-anchor required for the full assembly of Complex I and contribute to the oligomerization of
300 Complex I with Complex III and IV (Wu *et al.*, 2016). Interestingly, we have previously suggested loss of
301 mitochondrial supercomplexes as a possible underlying event in DOX-chronic toxicity (Pereira, et al., 2016).

302 Our results indicate that an acute DOX treatment leads to alterations in proteins and transcripts related
303 with Complexes I, III and IV in the heart and kidney, with a special predominance for Complex I. The liver
304 tissue, on the other hand, showed minimal alterations in molecular features, while displaying positive
305 adjustments in terms of respiration and calcium loading capacity, two measures of functional changes.

306 By using sequential Principal Component Analysis and Feature Correlation Analysis, we demonstrated for
307 the first time alterations in sets of transcripts and proteins, but not in functional measurements, that might
308 serve as potential early acute markers of cardiac-specific mitochondrial toxicity, contributing to explain the
309 trajectory of DOX cardiac toxicity and to measure the efficacy of novel interventions aimed at minimizing
310 DOX cardiac liabilities in anti-cancer treatments (Pereira, et al., 2012; Pereira, et al., 2016). Nonetheless,
311 longer resting periods after DOX-acute treatment should be studied to determine when mitochondrial
312 functional impairments begin to be apparent in the different organs studied. Similarly, it remains to be
313 elucidated whether these molecular markers are detectable in the circulation of DOX-treated animals or
314 patients. Although mRNA has become a signature-based biomarker in cancer management, their use in
315 cardiovascular medicine is still in its earlier days; however, it would prove instrumental in the early detection
316 of DOX-induced cardiotoxicity in the clinic and could replace myocardial biopsies, an invasive procedure to
317 detect heart diseases.

318

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325

326 **ETHICAL APPROVAL**

327 All applicable international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for the care and use of animals were
328 followed. All procedures performed in animal studies were in accordance with the ethical standards of the
329 CNC – Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology and Medical School of the University of Coimbra.

330 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

331 Reagents

332 DOX hydrochloride, (7S,9S)-7-[(2R,4S,5S,6S)-4-amino-5-hydroxy-6-methyloxan-2-yl]oxy-6,9,11-
333 trihydroxy-9-(2-hydroxyacetyl)-4-methoxy-8,10-dihydro-7H-tetracene-5,12-dione hydrochloride, chemical
334 purity \geq 98%, was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (Barcelona, Spain) and prepared in a sterile saline solution,
335 NaCl 0.9% (pH 3.0, HCl) and stored at 4°C for no longer than five days upon re-hydration. All other
336 chemicals were of the highest commercially available grade of purity. Aqueous solutions were prepared in
337 ultrapure (type I) water (Milli-Q Biocel A10 with pre-treatment via Elix 5, Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA).
338 For non-aqueous solutions, ethanol (99.5%) or dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), both from Sigma-Aldrich, were
339 used as solvent.

340

341 Animal care

342 Animal handling was performed in accordance with the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate
343 Animals used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes (CETS no.123) and Portuguese rules (DL
344 129/92). The procedures were approved by the CNC Committee for Animal Welfare and Protection. Animal
345 handlers and the authors GCP, SPP, JM, AA and PJO are credited by the European Federation for Laboratory
346 Animal Research (FELASA) category C for animal experimentation (accreditation no. 020/08).
347 Male Wistar rats, Crl:WI(Han), were purchased from Charles River (France) with 14 weeks of age,
348 acclimated for 10-14 days prior to the initiation of experiments and maintained in the local animal house
349 facility (CNC – School of Medicine, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal). Animals were group-housed
350 in type III-H cages (Tecniplast, Italy) with irradiated corn cob grit bedding (Scobis Due, Mucedola, Italy) and
351 environmental enrichment and under controlled environmental requirements (22°C, 45-65% humidity, 15-20
352 air changes/hour, 12 h artificial light/dark cycle, noise level < 55 dB) and free access to standard rodent food
353 (4RF21 GLP certificate, Mucedola, Italy) and acidified water (at pH 2.6 with HCl) *ad libitum*.
354 The experimental model was performed as previously described (Pereira, et al., 2012). Briefly, male Wistar-
355 Han rats (N = 34) were randomly divided into two groups (n = 17 each group) and received a single
356 intraperitoneal injection (i.p.) of DOX (20 mg/Kg of body weight) or an equivalent volume of vehicle solution
357 (NaCl 0.9% pH 7, controls), 24 h before sacrifice.

358 All animals were injected during the light phase of the cycle and weighed at the beginning and end of the
359 experimental treatment period (data available in Pereira, et al. (2012)). Non-fasted animals were euthanized in
360 pairs by cervical dislocation followed by decapitation, to confirm death and exsanguination. Organs were
361 immediately extracted from the body and quickly washed in appropriate ice-cold buffer before being weighed
362 (data available in Pereira, et al. (2012)). Tissues intended for mRNA and protein analyses were stored
363 separately in RNAlater (Applied Biosystems/Ambion, Austin, TX) at -80°C , accordingly to manufacturer
364 guidelines.

365

366 Isolation of mitochondrial fraction

367 Mitochondria were isolated by a standard procedure currently used in our laboratory (Pereira, et al., 2012).
368 Briefly, organs were excised and finely minced in ice-cold isolation medium containing 250 mM sucrose, 10
369 mM HEPES, 1 mM EGTA and 0.1% defatted BSA (pH 7.4, KOH). After washing the blood, organs were
370 homogenized with a motor-driven Teflon Potter homogenizer. For the isolation of cardiac mitochondrial
371 fractions, isolation medium was supplemented with 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of protease (Subtilisin A, Type VIII from
372 *Bacillus licheniformis*, Sigma-Aldrich, Madrid, Spain). Protease was removed from the cardiac homogenate
373 by centrifugation at 14,400 g for 10 min at 4°C and the pellet, essentially devoid of protease, was gently
374 homogenized and resuspended to its original volume with a loose-fitting homogenizer. Subsequently, all
375 homogenates were centrifuged at 750 g for 10 min at 4°C and the resulting supernatants at 10,000 g for 10
376 min. Mitochondrial pellet was resuspended using a paintbrush and centrifuged twice at 10,000 g for 10 min
377 before obtaining a pure mitochondrial suspension. EGTA and defatted BSA were omitted from the final
378 washing medium (pH 7.2, KOH). Mitochondrial protein was quantified by the biuret method using bovine
379 serum albumin (BSA) as standard. Mitochondrial preparations were kept on ice during experiments, which
380 were carried out after 20 min recovery period and within 5 h. The respiratory control ratio (RCR) values of
381 the mitochondrial preparations were within the standard range, demonstrating a good coupling between
382 respiration and ATP phosphorylation (Heart saline glutamate plus malate 4.6 ± 0.4 , succinate 2.7 ± 0.2 ; Liver
383 saline glutamate plus malate 9.5 ± 1.0 , succinate 8.2 ± 1.5 ; Kidney saline glutamate plus malate 4.1 ± 0.3 ,
384 succinate 3.5 ± 0.2 ; there was no statistical difference between saline vs. DOX group), previously reported in
385 Pereira, et al. (2012).

386

387 Measurement of hydrogen peroxide

388 H₂O₂ generation was measured fluorimetrically using a modified method previously described by Barja
389 (2002). Briefly, the method consists in the use of homovanillic acid which reacts with H₂O₂ in the presence of
390 horseradish peroxidase to form the fluorescent dimer 2,2'-dihydroxy-3,3'-dimethoxydiphenyl-5,5'-diacetic
391 acid ($\lambda_{Ex}/\lambda_{Em} = 312/420$ nm). Reactions (500 μ L) were conducted in standard glass test tubes under constant
392 magnetic stirring and incubated in a water bath at 30°C. Small volumes of reactants were combined in the
393 following order to pre-added incubation medium (145 mM KCl, 30 mM Hepes [pH 7.4, KOH], 5 mM
394 KH₂PO₄, 3 mM MgCl₂, 100 μ M EGTA, 0.1% fatty acid-free albumin) to reach the following concentrations:
395 0.125 μ g mitochondrial protein, 6 U/mL horseradish peroxidase and 100 μ M homovanillic acid. H₂O₂
396 production was determined in mitochondria energized with 5 mM glutamate/malate or 5 mM succinate. At
397 these concentrations, H₂O₂ production is not substrate-dependent. In some experiments, specific inhibitors for
398 Complex I (rotenone, 1 μ M) or for Complex III (antimycin A, 0.5 μ M) were used in combination with
399 respiratory substrates to block electron transport and maximize H₂O₂ production. Arbitrary fluorescence units
400 were converted to nmol H₂O₂ by extrapolation through a standard curve established by addition of known
401 amounts of H₂O₂ in the presence of horseradish peroxidase and homovanillic acid. Values were then
402 normalized to protein amount and expressed as nmol H₂O₂/15 min/mg protein.

403

404 Mitochondrial Calcium Accumulation

405 Extramitochondrial free Ca²⁺ was assayed by monitoring the variations in fluorescence of the hexapotassium
406 salt of the probe Calcium Green 5-N (Ca5GN; Invitrogen, Spain, C-3737), which increases its yield upon
407 binding to calcium, and as previously described (Rajdev *et al.*, 1993). Briefly, isolated mitochondrial fraction
408 (0.25 mg/mL cardiac, 0.75 mg/mL liver and kidney) were suspended in 2 mL of buffer containing 200 mM
409 sucrose, 10 mM Tris, 10 μ M EGTA (to complex basal calcium), 5 mM KH₂PO₄ for cardiac mitochondria, or
410 1 mM KH₂PO₄ for liver and kidney mitochondria, combined with 812 nM of Ca5GN. After mitochondrial
411 energization with 2.5 mM glutamate plus malate (enabling mitochondrial energization through complex I) or
412 2.5 mM succinate in the presence of 1 μ M rotenone (enabling mitochondrial energization through complex II)
413 a baseline of 60 seconds was obtained before the addition of a single pulse of calcium of 65-100 nmol, 50-100

414 nmol and 40-65 nmol for heart, liver and kidney mitochondria. Fluorescence was continuously recorded in a
415 water-jacketed cuvette holder at 30°C using a PerkinElmer LS-55 fluorescence spectrometer (PerkinElmer
416 Life and Analytical Sciences, Boston, MA) at $\lambda_{Ex}/\lambda_{Em} = 506/531$ nm. Five nm slits were used for excitation
417 and emission wavelengths. Adequate controls were performed to assess possible interferences in probe
418 fluorescence, under either low or high calcium concentrations (no interferences were observed for the
419 experimental conditions described). Possible interferences with DOX were discarded since its emission peaks
420 at 550 nm, a higher wavelength than our emission filter; and, excitation peaks at 475 nm, meaning that only a
421 small fraction of the drug could lower Ca5GN excitation at 506 nm. Cyclosporin A (CsA), a desensitizer of
422 the mPTP (Broekemeier, et al., 1989), was used to confirm that the recorded event was related to the mPTP.

423

424 Calcium-induced mitochondrial swelling

425 Mitochondrial osmotic volume changes associated with the calcium-induced mPTP were assessed by
426 turbidimetry (Halestrap *et al.*, 1990). The optical density was monitored at 540 nm with a Jasco V-560
427 spectrophotometer (Jasco Inc., Easton, MD, USA) equipped with a magnetic stirrer and a water-jacketed
428 cuvette holder connected to a water bath set to 30°C. The assay was carried out in the same buffer as
429 described above for calcium loading experiments, but at a protein concentration of 0.5 mg/mL (heart) or 1.0
430 mg/mL (liver and kidney) was used. After a 60 sec baseline, a single pulse of calcium of 20-50 nmol/mg
431 protein or 10-50 nmol/mg protein was added to heart or liver and kidney mitochondria, respectively.
432 Absorbance variations were recorded and analyzed with the manufacturer's software. The swelling amplitude
433 presented in the graphs is defined as the difference in absorbance between the time-point that corresponds to
434 half of the maximum swelling amplitude of the control record and the baseline before calcium addition (larger
435 values mean greater sensitivity to mPTP). CsA was used to confirm that the recorded events were related to
436 the mPTP.

437

438 Total RNA isolation

439 RNA was isolated using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen Inc., Valencia, CA). Briefly, 20 mg of each RNA later-
440 conserved frozen tissue was thawed and ground in a glass pestle homogenizer followed by further
441 homogenization with a 27-gauge needle connected to a syringe. The purification was performed as described

442 in the manufacturer's RNA clean-up protocol, following its suggestions. RNA was quantified using a
443 NanoDrop spectrophotometer (ThermoFisher Scientific Inc., Rockford, IL). RNA quality and purity were
444 assessed by observing a spectral scan with a single prominent A260 peak and A260/A280 ratio greater than 2.

445 Protein extraction and Western blot

446 RNAlater-conserved frozen tissue (70-150 mg) was thawed and ground in a glass pestle homogenizer in a
447 10% (m/v) RIPA buffer (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, pH 8.8, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, and 1%
448 Igepal), supplemented with 5 µL/mg of tissue of protease inhibitors cocktail (P8340, Sigma-Aldrich Inc, St.
449 Louis, MO, USA). The homogenate was then centrifuged at 14,000 g for 5 min to remove cellular debris.
450 Protein concentration was determined by BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) using BSA
451 as standard. Extracted proteins were diluted in Laemmli buffer (BioRad Laboratories, Hercules, CA, USA)
452 supplemented with 2% β-mercaptoethanol then boiled at 95°C for 5 min. Equal amounts of protein (25 µg)
453 were loaded into 12% polyacrylamide gels separated by SDS-PAGE. Then, proteins were transferred to
454 PVDF membranes (Millipore, Billerica, Massachusetts, USA) at 100 V for 90 min, at 4°C. Membranes were
455 blocked with 0.25% of non-fat dry milk in Tris-buffered saline (154 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, pH 8.0)
456 containing 0.1% Tween-20 (TBS-T) using the SNAP-id system (Millipore) with 10 min incubation. After
457 washing twice with TBS-T in the same system, membranes were incubated with primary antibody directed
458 against the respective protein (listed in Table S1) through traditional procedures, overnight at 4°C. After
459 washing twice in the SNAP-id system, membranes were incubated in this system with the respective alkaline
460 phosphatase-linked secondary antibody (1:6000), prepared in TBS-T. The membranes were processed for
461 protein detection using the Enhanced Chemi-Fluorescence system (ECF; GE Healthcare, Buckinghamshire,
462 UK) and imaged with the Versa Doc imaging system (BioRad). The densities of each band were calculated
463 with Quantity One Software (BioRad) and expressed as a percentage of control. The assay was standardized
464 by re-probing the membranes for actin (#MAB1501, Milipore) immunoreactivity (1:10,000) to verify whether
465 similar amounts of protein present in all lanes.

466

467 Real time qRT-PCR

468 cDNA was synthesized from extracted RNA (0.5–1.5 µg) using random primers along with the Omniscript
469 Reverse Transcription Kit (Qiagen). All primers (Table S2) used for real time qRT-PCR were designed using

470 the web-based PrimerQuest software (Integrated DNA Technologies, Inc., Coralville, IA). Real time qRT-
471 PCR was carried out using FastStart SYBR Green I Kit (Roche Diagnostics, Indianapolis, IN) with 10 μ L
472 reaction volume and performed in a LightCycler (Roche Diagnostics). Quantitation of gene expression was
473 achieved by measuring target messenger RNA (mRNA) copy number against a 10-fold serial dilution of
474 target-specific DNA standard ranging between 10^7 and 10^3 DNA copies. A target-specific DNA standard was
475 prepared for each transcript by performing a 150 μ l PCR reaction using HotstarTaq PCR Master Mix Kit
476 (Qiagen) and cleaning the product using the Qiaquick PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen) The purified DNA
477 standard was visualized by running a 100 ng aliquot on a 1.5% agarose gel and verifying that a single product
478 of the proper size was present. The DNA standard was quantified spectrophotometrically using the NanoDrop
479 ND1000 and diluted to a standard stock concentration of 5×10^9 DNA copies per microliter. 18S ribosomal
480 RNA was used to normalize gene expression. Real-time qRT-PCR of control and treated samples for each
481 gene was performed on the same run to minimize potential run to run variability.

482

483 Exploratory analysis and data statistical analysis

484 Results are shown as means \pm SEM of the indicated number of experiments. Statistical significance between
485 mean differences was determined using two-tailed Student's t test after normality and homogeneity of
486 variances was access using a Shapiro-Wilk and Levene's test. Control group was matched against the treated
487 group for each day to exclude the variability associated with mitochondrial isolation. In the specific case
488 when seeking to ascertain whether changes between saline and DOX group in the heart are actually different
489 from changes in other tissues, regardless of the inter-tissue baseline (i.e. for mRNA) data were analyzed by a
490 two-way ANOVA with planned contrasts against the interaction between treatment and tissue so that
491 significant relative changes (fold-change) are dependent on tissue. p-Values were thereafter adjusted for
492 multiplicity using Šídák post-hoc test. Differences were considered significant if $p < 0.05$ and categorized
493 accordingly to their interval of confidence. Statistical analyses were performed using Graph Pad Prism
494 version 5.0 (GraphPad Software, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA), except of the two-way ANOVA, which was
495 performed using JMP-SAS version 9.03 (SAS Campus Drive, Cary, NC, USA).

496

497 The exploratory analysis comprises the application of Feature Correlation Analysis (FCA) and Principal
498 Component Analysis (PCA) methods. For both studies, samples with missing values were discarded.
499 Standardization was applied to all the remaining features and the corresponding standard scores were used.
500 FCA was performed using the Pearson correlation coefficients, whose values belong to the interval [-1, +1]:
501 +1 signals a total positive linear correlation, 0 identifies no linear correlation and -1 refers to a total negative
502 linear correlation. To simplify the analysis of the results, we consider just the absolute magnitude of change
503 and created several graphical displays of the correlation matrices.
504 PCA was applied to find the two principal components that collectively explain most of the variability of the
505 original set. The obtained eigenvectors were used to project the original samples in a set of 2D plots. Both
506 FCA and PCA studies were performed using Python2, version 7. We relied on the Pandas package to load,
507 store and transform the data (McKinney, 2010). The statistical analysis was performed using SciPy (Jones,
508 2001) and scikit-learn (Fabian Pedregosa, 2011). FCA correlation plots were created using Matplotlib and
509 Biokit modules (Hunter, 2007). PCA scatter plots and density region charts were obtained with Orange Biolab
510 (Demsar J, 2013).
511
512

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653

654

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TABLES

656

Table 1 - Effect of cyclosporin A (CsA) on calcium-induced mPTP evaluated with Ca5GN.

Substrate	Treat.	Heart		Liver		Kidney	
		Diff. Means	Pooled SE	Diff. Means	Pooled SE	Diff. Means	Pooled SE
		<i>% of inhibition</i>					
		n _{CsA} = 4		n _{CsA} = 6		n _{CsA} = 5	
Glutamate/Malate	Saline	85.9**	25.0	107.0***	21.0	98.8***	17.0
	DOX	96.4**	24.6	101.0***	22.0	96.0**	24.4
Succinate	Saline	92.2*	37.2	72.6***	11.7	101.4**	23.7
	DOX	97.0*	39.6	100.0*	32.0	98.5**	21.9

657

658

Tabulated values represent the difference between means of groups in the absence of CsA and groups with

659

CsA, e.g. saline-glutamate/malate vs. saline-glutamate/malate + CsA, and are expressed as relative percentage

660

to the group without CsA. *, $p \leq 0.05$; **, $p \leq 0.01$ and ***, $p \leq 0.001$ vs. group with CsA, as evaluated by an

661

unpaired Student's t test. Abbreviations: Exp. – experimental setup; Treat. - treatment; Diff. Means -

662

difference between group means; Pooled SE - pooled standard error; n_{CsA} - replicates number in CsA group.

663

664

665 Table 2 - Effect of CsA on calcium-induced mitochondrial swelling.

Substrate	Treat.	Heart		Liver		Kidney	
		Diff. Means	Pooled SE	Diff. Means	Pooled SE	Diff. Means	Pooled SE
		<i>% of inhibition</i>					
		n _{CsA} = 4		n _{CsA} = 6		n _{CsA} = 5	
Glutamate/Malate	Saline	80.6*	34.8	108.6***	24.8	87.0**	23.6
	DOX	76.6**	33.7	80.9**	22.2	90.7**	25.3
Succinate	Saline	91.6***	14.4	99.0***	38.3	88.0**	18.9
	DOX	93.8**	28.7	98.1*	29.3	87.3**	20.5

666

667 Tabulated values represent the difference between means of groups in the absence of CsA and groups with
 668 CsA, e.g. saline-glutamate/malate vs. saline-glutamate/malate + CsA, and are expressed as relative percentage
 669 to the group without CsA. *, $p \leq 0.05$; **, $p \leq 0.01$ and ***, $p \leq 0.001$ vs. group with CsA, as evaluated by an
 670 unpaired Student's t test. Abbreviations: Exp. – experimental setup; Treat. - treatment; Diff. Means -
 671 difference between group means; Pooled SE - pooled standard error; n_{CsA} - replicates number in CsA group.

672

673 Table 3 - Effects of DOX treatment on protein content of mPPT-related proteins.

		ANT		VDAC		Cyp-D	
		Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE
Heart	Saline	1.02	0.05	0.96	0.02	1.00	0.03
	DOX	0.97	0.08	1.04	0.05	1.01	0.02
Liver	Saline	0.97	0.08	1.00	0.10	1.00	0.07
	DOX	1.04	0.04	0.99	0.08	1.01	0.04
Kidney	Saline	1.02	0.05	0.95	0.11	1.06	0.04
	DOX	0.99	0.05	1.04	0.08	0.95	0.05

674

675 Protein levels data are presented as arbitrary units and represent densitometry analysis of western blot

676 membranes after image acquisition. Differences between treatment group means were evaluated by matched

677 pairs Student's t test. Abbreviations: A.U. - arbitrary units; SE - standard error.

678

679 Table 4 – Effects of DOX treatment on transcript level of mPTP-related proteins.

		ANT1		ANT2		VDAC1		VDAC2		VDAC3	
		Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE
Heart	Salin	8.04×10 ⁻³	5.35×10 ⁻⁴	2.55×10 ⁻³	1.51×10 ⁻⁴	1.51×10 ⁻³	2.33×10 ⁻⁴	4.05×10 ⁻³	3.14×10 ⁻⁴	5.36×10 ⁻³	3.72×10 ⁻⁴
	e	³	⁴	⁴	⁵	³	⁴	⁴	⁵	⁴	⁵
	DOX	4.82×10 ⁻³	1.94×10 ⁻⁴	1.87×10 ⁻³	1.29×10 ⁻⁴	9.85×10 ⁻⁴	7.57×10 ⁻⁵	2.96×10 ⁻³	1.32×10 ⁻⁴	4.57×10 ⁻³	2.42×10 ⁻⁴
		^{3 a}	⁴	^{4 b}	⁵	⁴	⁵	⁴	⁵	⁴	⁵
Liver	Salin	1.96×10 ⁻³	1.54×10 ⁻⁴	1.08×10 ⁻³	6.41×10 ⁻⁵	2.33×10 ⁻³	2.54×10 ⁻⁴	3.05×10 ⁻³	4.19×10 ⁻⁴	8.57×10 ⁻³	8.97×10 ⁻⁴
	e	⁴	⁵	³	⁵	³	³	⁴	⁵	⁴	⁴
	DOX	2.00×10 ⁻³	1.03×10 ⁻⁴	1.12×10 ⁻³	8.38×10 ⁻⁵	3.23×10 ⁻³	2.32×10 ⁻⁴	3.01×10 ⁻³	2.10×10 ⁻⁴	1.28×10 ⁻³	5.98×10 ⁻⁴
		⁴	⁵	³	⁵	⁴	⁴	⁴	⁵	⁴	⁵
Kidney	Salin	2.36×10 ⁻³	2.01×10 ⁻⁴	5.18×10 ⁻³	4.70×10 ⁻⁴	5.77×10 ⁻³	7.36×10 ⁻⁴	1.32×10 ⁻³	1.26×10 ⁻⁴	1.85×10 ⁻³	2.29×10 ⁻⁴
	e	³	⁴	³	⁴	⁴	⁵	⁴	⁴	⁴	⁵
	DOX	2.63×10 ⁻³	2.45×10 ⁻⁴	5.90×10 ⁻³	4.53×10 ⁻⁴	4.32×10 ⁻³	8.80×10 ⁻⁴	1.38×10 ⁻³	1.12×10 ⁻⁴	1.97×10 ⁻³	2.25×10 ⁻⁴
		³	⁴	³	⁴	⁴	⁵	⁵	⁵	⁴	⁵

680

681 Total mRNA was extracted from each tissue and transcript levels were analyzed through RT-qPCR with the
 682 transcript copy number being thereafter normalized to 18S copy number. Values are shown as transcript copy
 683 number / 18S copy number. For statistical analysis, tabulated values were log transformed and differences in
 684 fold-change of each tissue were detected by a two-way ANOVA with planned contrasts and adjusted for
 685 multiple comparisons through the Sidak test. *a* , $p \leq 0.05$ Saline-DOX fold-change in heart vs liver and
 686 Saline-DOX fold-change in heart vs. kidney; *b* , $p \leq 0.05$ Saline-DOX fold-change in heart vs. kidney. $n = 6$
 687 for all tissues and both experimental setups. Abbreviations: SE - standard error.

688

689

690 **FIGURE SUBTITLES**

691 Fig. 1: PCA projection along the two principal components of the separation between DOX (red) and Saline
692 (blue) samples for Heart (a), Kidney (b) and Liver (c). The two class density colors identify the area of
693 influence of each group. The four panels in each figure display results obtained with each mitochondrial
694 respiratory complex. PCA was performed on transcripts (mRNA) of genes encoding proteins from
695 mitochondrial Complexes I-IV. The study was based on 12 samples (6 Saline and 6 DOX) and 13, 4, 6, and 7
696 transcripts for each one of the 4 respiratory complexes (I-IV), respectively. PCA was performed separately for
697 each combination of tissue and specific respiratory chain complex, to simplify the identification of situations
698 in which a clear boundary between the two treatment groups emerges.

699

700 Fig.2: Matrices with all correlation changes in the features that result from the administration of DOX: a -
701 Heart; b - Kidney; c - Liver. Blank cells indicate that there is no significant change in correlation levels
702 calculated before and after DOX treatment. Cells with circles identify sizable changes in the correlation value.
703 The area and shading of a circle are directly proportional to the absolute magnitude of change.

704

705 Fig. 3: Effects of DOX treatment on mitochondrial H₂O₂ production. After 15 min, end-point H₂O₂ levels
706 were measured fluorimetrically through reaction with homovalinic acid. a - heart; b - liver; c - kidney. Circles
707 represent means of treatment groups (saline in white circles; DOX in black circles) with SEM (error bars are
708 smaller than symbols when not visible). Differences between means of treatment were evaluated by matched
709 pairs Student's t test to exclude the variability related to mitochondrial. *p ≤ 0.05 and **p ≤ 0.01 vs saline
710 group of the same model. n = 8, 7 and 6 (heart, liver and kidney, respectively).

711

712 Fig. 4: Effects of DOX treatment on mitochondrial calcium-loading capacity. Ca²⁺ movements were evaluated
713 using the extramitochondrial fluorescent probe Ca5GN after addition of a single pulse of Ca²⁺. The retention
714 time is defined by the time interval between the influx and efflux of Ca²⁺ whose fluorescence value equals the
715 peak half-height fluorescence upon addition of calcium (larger values mean less sensitivity to mPTP). a -
716 heart; b - liver; c - kidney. Bars represent means of treatment groups (saline in white bars; DOX in black bars)
717 with SEM. Differences between means of treatment groups were evaluated by matched pairs Student's t test

718 to exclude the variability related to mitochondrial isolation. * $p \leq 0.05$ and ** $p \leq 0.01$ vs saline group. $n = 10$,
719 9 and 10 (heart, liver and kidney, respectively). GM, glutamate/malate; SUC, succinate.

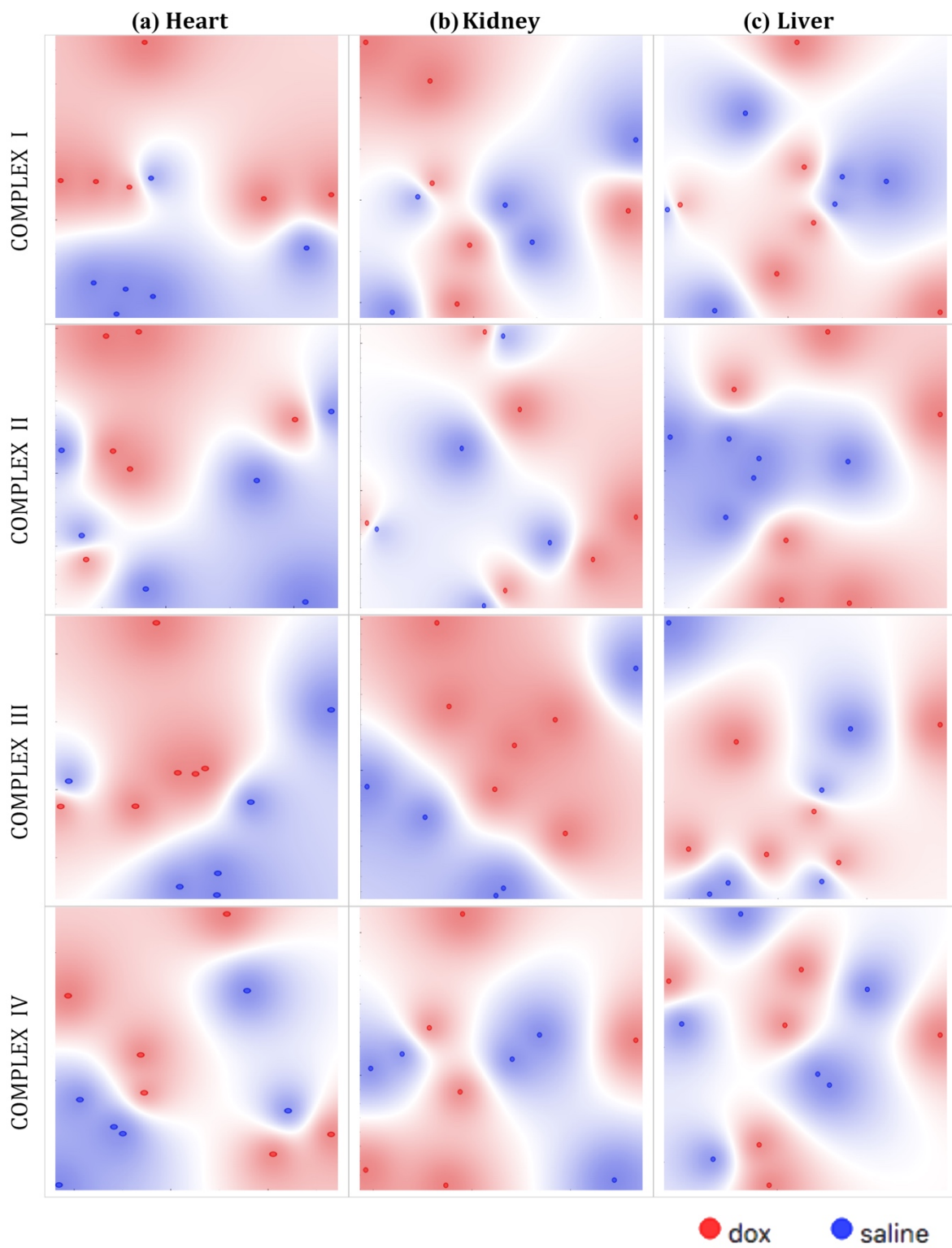
720

721 Fig. 5: Effects of DOX treatment on calcium-induced mitochondrial swelling. Mitochondrial swelling was
722 evaluated by following the decrease in apparent absorbance of the mitochondrial suspension at 540 nm after
723 addition of a single pulse of Ca^{2+} . The swelling amplitude presented in the graphs is defined as the difference
724 in absorbance between the point which corresponds to half of the maximum swelling amplitude of the control
725 record and the maximum absorbance before calcium addition (larger values mean greater sensitivity to
726 mPTP). a - heart; b - liver; c - kidney. Bars represent means of treatment groups (saline in white bars; DOX in
727 black bars) with SEM. Differences between means of treatment groups were evaluated by matched pairs
728 Student's t test to exclude the variability related to mitochondrial isolation. * $p \leq 0.05$ vs saline group of the
729 same model. $n = 10$, 9 and 10 (heart, liver and kidney, respectively). GM, glutamate/malate; SUC, succinate.

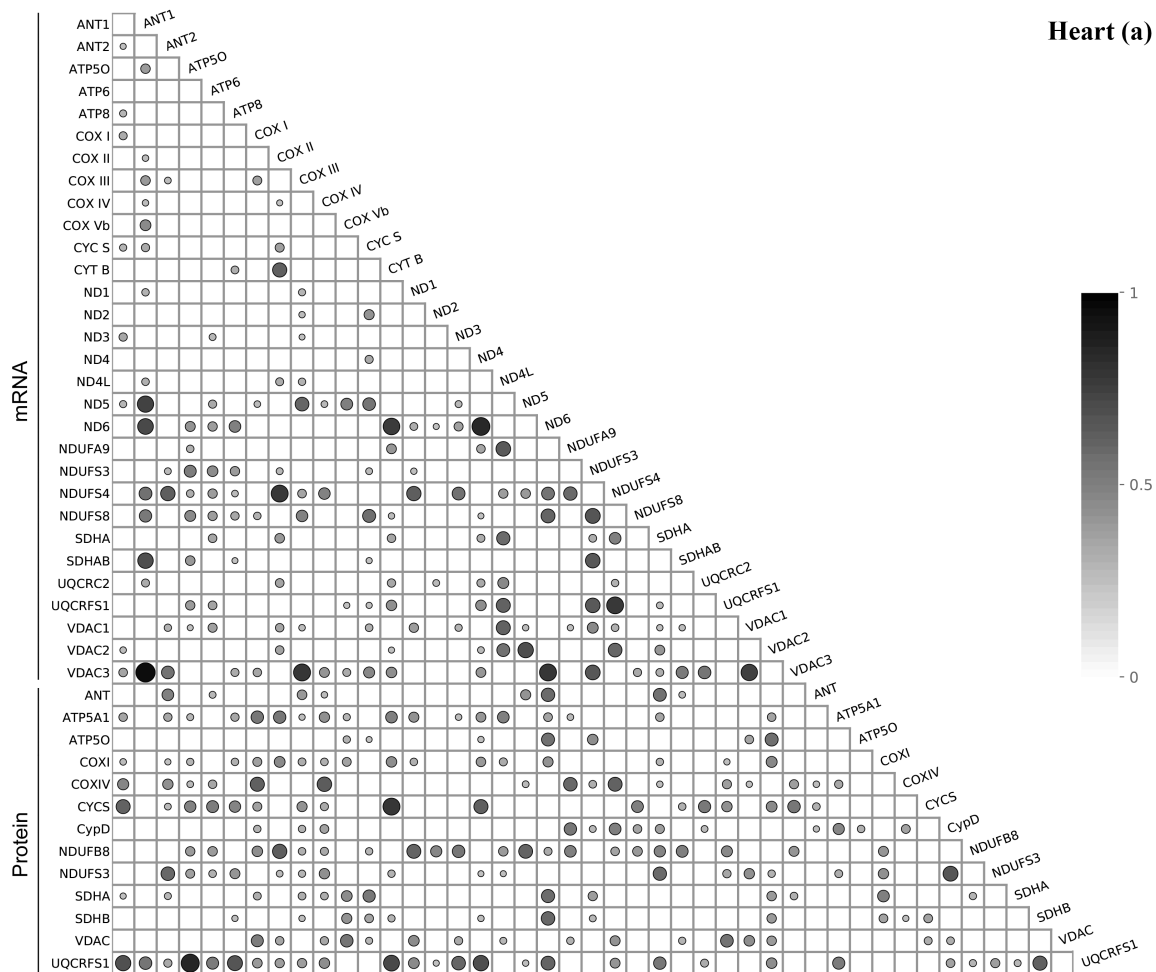
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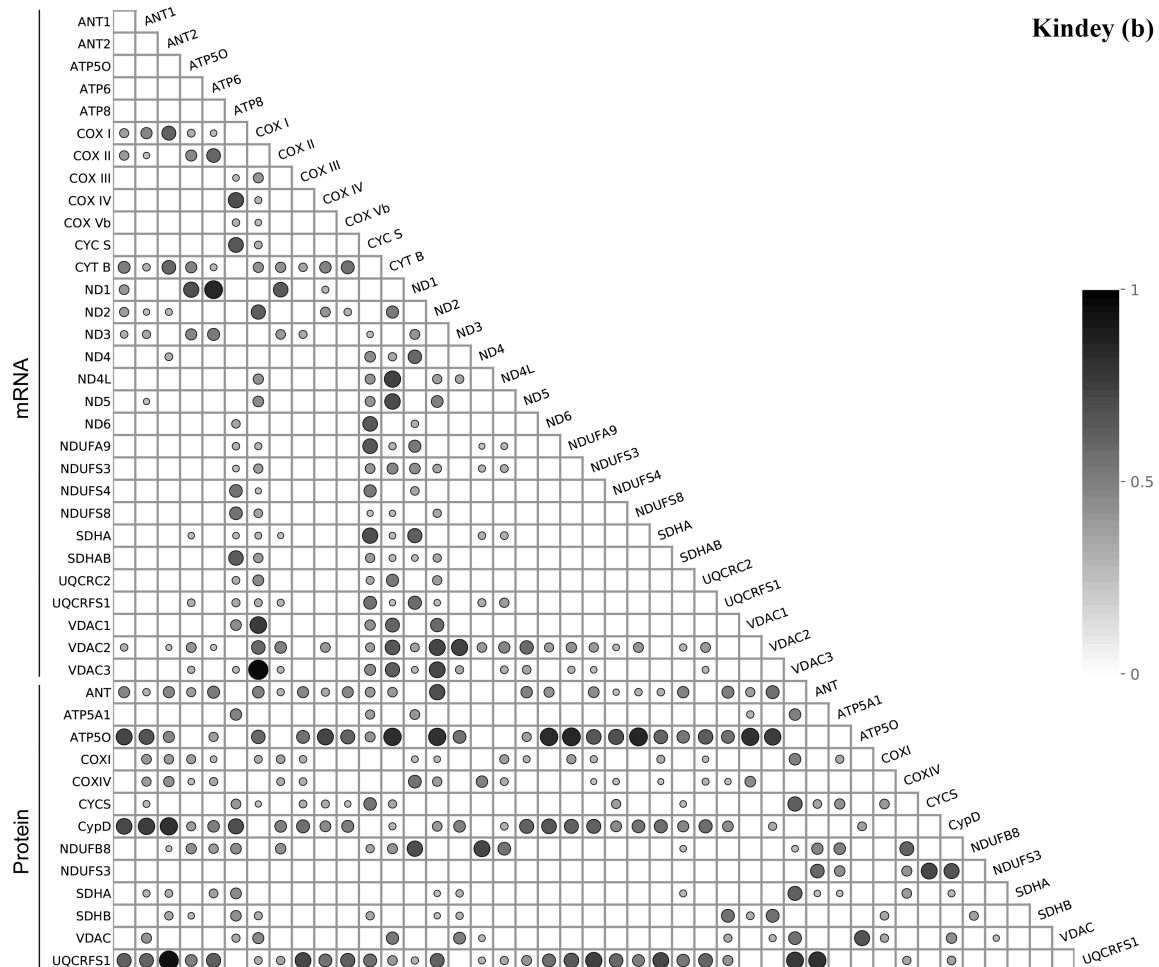
731 Figure 1

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