

Role of Reactive Oxygen Species in Reperfusion Injury of the Rabbit Lung

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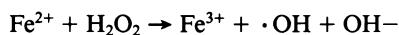
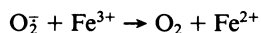
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Abstract

We have developed a model of reperfusion injury in Krebs buffer-perfused rabbit lungs, characterized by pulmonary vasoconstriction, microvascular injury, and marked lung edema formation. During reperfusion there was a threefold increase in lung superoxide anion (O_2^-) production, as measured by *in vivo* reduction of nitroblue tetrazolium, and a twofold increase in the release of O_2^- into lung perfusate, as measured by reduction of succinylated ferricytochrome *c*. Injury could be prevented by the xanthine oxidase inhibitor allopurinol, the O_2^- scavenger SOD, the hydrogen peroxide scavenger catalase, the iron chelator deferoxamine, or the thiols dimethylthiourea or *N*-acetylcysteine. The protective effect of SOD could be abolished by the anion channel blocker 4,4'-diisothiocyano-2,2'-stilbene disulfonic acid, indicating that SOD consumes O_2^- in the extracellular medium, thereby creating a concentration gradient favorable for rapid diffusion of O_2^- out of cells. Our results extend information about the mechanisms of reperfusion lung injury that have been assembled by studies in other organs, and offer potential strategies for improved organ preservation, for treatment of reperfusion injury after pulmonary thromboembolism, and for explanation and therapy of many complications of pulmonary embolism.

Introduction

Free radical-mediated injury is a major cause of damage occurring in ischemic tissue after reperfusion (1). Currently, reperfusion injury is thought to hinge on two critical events occurring during ischemia: degradation of cellular stores of ATP to the purines hypoxanthine and xanthine; and conversion of xanthine dehydrogenase to xanthine oxidase (1). During reperfusion, the sudden availability of oxygen to act as cofactor allows xanthine oxidase to convert purine substrate accumulated during ischemia to uric acid, with byproduct formation of superoxide anions (O_2^-) and hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) (1, 2). In the presence of iron, O_2^- and H_2O_2 can participate in an O_2^- -driven Fenton reaction to produce hydroxyl radicals ($\cdot OH$) (3):



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Hydroxyl radicals are potent oxidants that cause tissue injury by initiating lipid peroxidation of cell membranes and oxidative inactivation of critical cell proteins (3). During reperfusion, the above reactions can be stopped and injury prevented by inhibiting xanthine oxidase to prevent production of O_2^- and H_2O_2 (1), scavenging O_2^- to prevent its reduction of iron (1, 4), chelating iron so that it is unavailable to participate in the generation of $\cdot OH$ (5), or neutralizing $\cdot OH$ with scavenging reagents (6).

Reperfusion injury mediated by oxygen free radicals has been reported in heart (7), brain (5), intestine (8), liver (9), pancreas (10), kidney (6), and skin (11). Whereas reperfusion injury has also been reported after reexpansion of atelectatic lung (12) or reperfusion of a mechanically occluded pulmonary artery (13), investigators have generally felt that the lung is relatively immune from reperfusion injury because oxidative metabolism does not decrease and ATP levels do not fall until alveolar PO_2 drops below 1 mmHg (14). We undertook this investigation to characterize the biochemical events during reperfusion lung injury after warm ischemia. Our results indicate that the lung is susceptible to reperfusion injury. The source of this injury appears to be reactive oxygen species, such as O_2^- generated during reperfusion. Our experiments also show that extracellular SOD protects against intracellular damage from toxic oxygen species by consuming O_2^- in the extracellular medium, thereby promoting rapid concentration-driven diffusion of O_2^- out of the intracellular compartment.

Methods

Reagents and pharmaceuticals. *N*-Acetylcysteine, allopurinol, 3,000 U/mg catalase from bovine liver, diethyldithiocarbamate (DDC),¹ 4,4'-diisothiocyano-2,2'-stilbene disulfonic acid (DIDS), *N*-ethylmaleimide (NEM), $FeCl_3$, ferricytochrome *c* (type VI horse heart), indomethacin, nitroblue tetrazolium (NBT), 3,200 U/mg SOD from bovine erythrocytes, and succinic anhydride were obtained from Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, MO. Dimethylthiourea (DMTU) was obtained from Fike Chemicals, Nitro, WV. Deferoxamine mesylate (Desferal) was obtained from Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Summit, NJ. Reagent grade pyridine was from Fisher Chemical Company, Fair Lawn, NJ.

Lung perfusion technique. Male New Zealand white rabbits (Myrtle Farms, Nashville, TN) weighing 2.5-3 kg were maintained on rabbit formula (18; Carnation Co., Los Angeles, CA) and water ad lib. On the day of the experiment, the rabbits were given 3,000 U of heparin by ear vein and anesthetized with 25 mg/kg sodium pentobarbital. The chest was opened and the animal killed by rapid exsanguination from the left

1. Abbreviations used in this paper: CAT, catalase; DMTU, dimethylthiourea; DIDS, 4,4'-diisothiocyano-2,2'-stilbene disulfonic acid; NBT, nitroblue tetrazolium; NEM, *N*-ethylmaleimide; P_{pa} , pulmonary artery pressure; $P_{pa \max}$, maximal pulmonary artery pressure; P_T , maximal inspiratory tracheal pressure; ΔW , rate of lung weight gain from edema formation.

ventricle. Right and left parasternal incisions were made along the costal cartilages to remove the sternum and open the chest widely. Stainless steel cannulae were secured in the left atrium and pulmonary artery with umbilical tape. The ligature around the pulmonary artery was also passed around the aorta, preventing loss of perfusate into the systemic circulation. The pulmonary circulation was washed free of blood with ~ 500 ml of perfusate before recirculating flow was established at 50 ml/min. The perfusate medium was protein-free Krebs-Henseleit buffer (15) prepared with deionized water and maintained at a temperature of 37–38°C and pH of 7.35–7.40.

The perfusion circuit included a perfusate reservoir, roller perfusion pump (Sarns, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI), filter (Swank transfusion filter; Extracorporeal Medical Specialties, Inc., King of Prussia, PA), and heat exchanger, connected by Tygon tubing. The reservoir collecting perfusate from the left atrium was suspended from a force displacement transducer (model FT10D; Grass Instrument Company, Quincy, MA) so that loss of reservoir weight from lung edema formation could be continuously measured. The perfusate reservoir was placed below the lower most portion of the lung to keep left atrial pressure at zero. The volume of the perfusion system was 250 ml.

The lungs were ventilated with 5% CO₂ in air through a tracheostomy using an animal respirator (Harvard Apparatus Company, Inc., S. Natick, MA) delivering a tidal volume of 7 ml/kg at 18 breaths per minute with 2 cm H₂O positive end-expiratory pressure. Pulmonary arterial, left atrial, and tracheal pressures were monitored using pressure transducers (P23ID; Gould Statham Instruments, Inc., Hato Rey, PR) connected to the inflow circulation, outflow circulation, and tracheal cannula. Pressure and force transducer measurements were recorded on a four-channel recorder (model 2400S; Gould Statham Instruments, Inc.). Successful preparations with initial pulmonary artery pressures between 8 and 15 mmHg and weight gain at rates of < 0.2 g/min are achieved in > 90% of rabbit lungs (16). Lungs can be perfused in this manner for up to 60 min.

Lung perfusion protocols. After surgery, lungs were perfused for 5 min to ensure integrity of the preparation, as measured by normal pressures and negligible weight gain. Ventilation and perfusion were then stopped and the lungs were covered with moist gauze sponges to prevent desiccation. The preparation was thereafter allowed to equilibrate to room temperature (25°C), a process usually requiring 30 min. After a 3-h interval of ischemia (usually 4 h from the point of exsanguination of the animal), ventilation was reinstated, initially at a tidal volume of 14 ml/kg to open atelectatic lung, then at the original tidal volume of 7 ml/kg. Perfusion was then reinstated at 10 ml/min with increments of 5 ml/min every 15 s until the original flow of 50 ml/min was achieved. Perfusion was continued for 10 min to determine the effect of reventilation and reperfusion on pulmonary artery and tracheal pressures, and on lung weight gain from edema formation.

In selected experiments, the interval of ischemia was shortened from 3 to 2.5 h in an effort to decrease the severity of reperfusion injury and lengthen the time that reperfused lungs could be studied.

Pharmacologic interventions. Control lungs were perfused without treatment. Additional groups of lungs were perfused with one of the following interventional additions to the perfusate: the cyclooxygenase inhibitor of arachidonate metabolism indomethacin (16); the xanthine oxidase inhibitor allopurinol (1, 2); the antioxidant enzymes SOD and catalase (CAT) (1, 4); the iron chelator deferoxamine (17); and the thiols DMTU (18) or *N*-acetylcysteine (19). Allopurinol and DMTU were added to perfusate before surgical preparation so that blood was washed from the lung with buffer containing these agents. SOD and catalase were injected into the pulmonary artery just before reventilation and reperfusion. The remaining agents were added to the perfusate reservoir at the beginning of the baseline perfusion period.

Controls to enhance specificity of the pharmacologic probes included perfusing groups of lungs in which inactivated SOD, inactivated catalase, iron-saturated deferoxamine, or derivatized DMTU were added to the perfusate. SOD was inactivated by incubation with DDC to chelate the enzyme's copper, followed by dialysis against normal saline to remove the DDC-copper complex before use (20). Cata-

lase was inactivated by boiling. Deferoxamine was iron saturated by incubation in 10 ml 0.9% NaCl with FeCl₃ (8.5 parts by weight of Fe³⁺ to 100 parts of deferoxamine). DMTU was derivatized by incubation with slightly less than a half-molar equivalent of the alkylating agent NEM in 10 ml 0.9% NaCl for 30 min with gentle agitation. Unreacted NEM was removed by passing the mixture over a Sep-Pak column (C-18; Waters Associates Millipore Corp., Milford, MA) before adding inactivated DMTU to lung perfusate.

Measurement of in vivo superoxide production in ventilated and perfused lungs. In vivo O₂⁻ production by ventilated and perfused lung was measured by two techniques. The first technique assessed intracellular O₂⁻ by a modification of the method of Kontos for measuring cerebral O₂⁻ production (21). Detection of O₂⁻ by this method relies on reduction of NBT to form insoluble formazan. Lungs were perfused with 300 μM NBT added to the reservoir at the beginning of baseline perfusion for measurement of O₂⁻ production in reperfused lungs. As NBT was reduced, the lungs became tinted a deep purple. After 10 min of perfusion, lungs were quickly dissected free from the thorax. Wet and dry weight were obtained for one lung before and after drying for 72 h at 60°C for determination of wet/dry weight ratio. A 0.5-g sample of the remaining lung was homogenized in cold (4°C) normal saline, and centrifuged in the cold at 10,000 g for 10 min. The pellet was resuspended in 5 ml of reagent grade pyridine and placed in a heating block (Lab-Line Instruments, Melrose Park, IL) at 85°C for 4 h to extract formazan. The tube was then centrifuged at 10,000 g for 10 min and the supernatant containing pyridine was removed and evaporated under nitrogen. The residue containing the reduced NBT was redissolved in 2 ml pyridine. Absorbance of 1 ml of the solution was measured at 550 nm with a spectrophotometer (Gilford Instrument Laboratories, Inc., Oberlin, OH) and the amount of NBT reduced was determined based on an extinction coefficient of 1.5 × 10⁴ M⁻¹ · cm⁻¹ (22) and corrected for grams dry weight of lung/minute.

A second technique was used to measure O₂⁻ release into lung perfusate by SOD-inhibitable reduction of succinylated ferricytochrome *c*. Succinylated ferricytochrome *c* was used as an indicating scavenger instead of native ferricytochrome *c* to decrease interference from competing reductase reactions in biological systems (23). Type VI horse heart ferricytochrome *c* was partially succinylated by the method of Kuthan et al. (23). Finely grained succinic anhydride (15.9 mmol) was added to a vigorously stirred cold (4°C) solution of ferricytochrome *c* (300 μmol) in 1,500 ml of potassium phosphate buffer (0.03 M) over 30 min. The pH of the solution was kept at 7.6 by titration with 2 M potassium hydroxide. The solution was stirred for an additional 20 min, dialyzed against double-distilled deionized water for 24 h, and lyophilized. Succinylated cytochrome *c* was stored at -70°C before use. The preparation had 38% of the trinitrobenzenesulfonic acid (TNBS) reactive amine groups of the cytochrome *c* molecule (24).

O₂⁻ was measured in perfusate by adding 60 μM succinylated ferricytochrome *c* to the reservoir just before reventilation and reperfusion. After restoration of flow to 50 ml/min, 2-ml samples of perfusate were withdrawn from the outflow cannula at timed intervals of 1, 2.5, 5, 7.5, and 10 min of perfusion. Samples were centrifuged at 1,000 g for 10 min to remove debris, and perfusate absorbance was determined at 550 nm. The change in absorbance between each timed sample and that of 60 μM succinylated ferricytochrome *c* in unperfused buffer was used with an extinction coefficient of 2.1 × 10⁴ M⁻¹ · cm⁻¹ (23) to determine ferricytochrome *c* reduction.

Experiments with anion channel blockade. To gain further insight into the origin of O₂⁻ in reperfusion injury, lungs were perfused with the anion channel blocker DIDS (100 μM) added to the reservoir during baseline perfusion. The exchange of monovalent anions through cell membranes is mediated by the large transmembrane protein known as band 3 protein (25). Charged O₂⁻ radicals have been previously shown to pass freely through cell membranes via this anion channel (26). DIDS is a reversible specific blocker of the anion channel (27) and was given to prevent intracellular O₂⁻ formed during reventilation and reperfusion from exiting into the extracellular medium. The DIDS-

treated lungs were subsequently reperfused with active SOD, without SOD, or with 1.5 mM allopurinol added to perfusate as described above. All DIDS-perfused lungs were studied in a darkened room to prevent photolytic decomposition of DIDS.

Statistical analysis. Values for pulmonary artery pressure (P_{pa}), maximal inspiratory tracheal pressure (P_T , as measured from functional residual capacity), cumulative lung weight gain, and ferricytochrome *c* reduction among experimental groups were analyzed by two-way analysis of variance with randomized split-block design (28). Rates of lung weight gain (ΔW) and NBT reduction among experimental groups were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (29). Comparisons among groups were performed with Duncan's multiple range test (30). Significance was assumed when $P < 0.05$. Values are reported as mean \pm SEM.

Results

Characterization of the model. Fig. 1 shows a typical experiment in an untreated control lung. During 5 min of baseline perfusion, pulmonary artery and tracheal pressures remained normal, and there was negligible weight gain. After 3 h of ischemia, reventilation and reperfusion of untreated control lungs resulted in marked pulmonary edema, characterized by elevations in P_{pa} , P_T , and ΔW . P_{pa} rose to a maximum ($P_{pa \text{ max}} = 30 \pm 2$ mmHg, $P < 0.001$ compared with baseline) while flow was being increased back to 50 ml/min. Thereafter, P_{pa} slowly fell, but remained elevated above baseline level. P_T and ΔW also increased significantly during the 10 min of reperfusion ($P_T = 24 \pm 4$ mmHg, ΔW to 3.62 ± 0.76 g/min, $P < 0.001$ compared with baseline). By the end of reperfusion, this preparation and all other untreated control lungs were obviously edematous, with frothy fluid filling the tracheal cannula. The rise in P_{pa} during reperfusion was prevented by adding 5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of the cyclooxygenase inhibitor indomethacin to the perfusate (Fig. 2). However, indomethacin did not prevent the increase in P_T (17 ± 3.5 mmHg) and ΔW (3.20 ± 1.50 g/min), or the development of pulmonary edema during reperfusion. This suggests that edema formation during reventilation and reperfusion is due not only to a rise in perfusion pressure, but is also

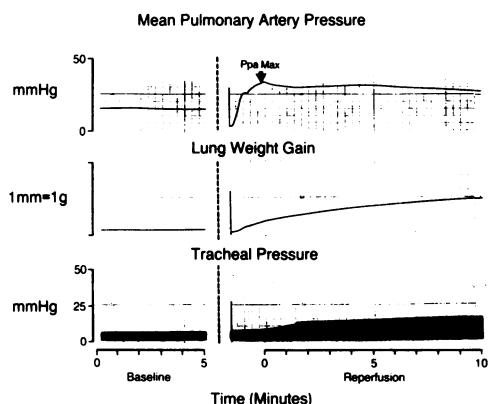


Figure 1. Typical reperfusion experiment after 3 h of ischemia. During baseline, pulmonary artery and tracheal pressures are normal and rate of lung weight gain is negligible. Resumption of ventilation and perfusion after 3 h of ischemia results in an elevation in pulmonary artery pressure to a maximum ($P_{pa \text{ max}}$) while flow is being gradually increased to the normal level of 50 ml/min. Pulmonary artery pressure then slowly decreases but remains substantially elevated above baseline. Tracheal pressure and rate of lung weight gain increase progressively, resulting in pulmonary edema after < 10 min of reperfusion.

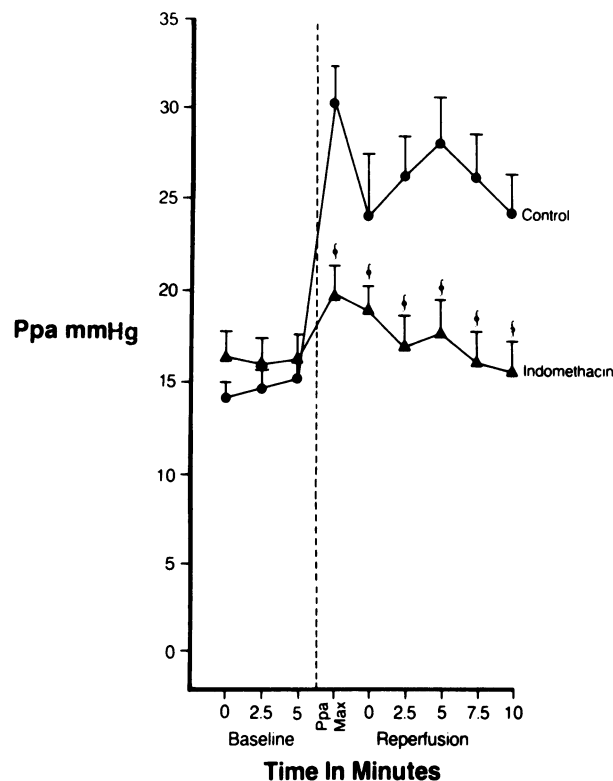


Figure 2. Indomethacin prevents vasoconstriction during reperfusion of ischemic lungs. Reperfusion and reventilation of untreated control lungs after 3 h of ischemia results in an elevation in pulmonary artery pressure (P_{pa}) from vasoconstriction in untreated control lungs ($n = 10$). Lungs treated with the cyclooxygenase inhibitor indomethacin (5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, $n = 5$) do not experience a rise in P_{pa} . This suggests that pulmonary vasoconstriction is due to a cyclooxygenase metabolite of AA. $^{\$}P < 0.001$ compared with untreated control lungs.

a result of injury to pulmonary microvasculature. Results with indomethacin treated lungs also indicate that the rise in P_{pa} during reperfusion is from pulmonary vasoconstriction caused by cyclooxygenase metabolites of AA (16, 31).

When the duration of ischemia was shortened to 2.5 h to lengthen the time lungs could be studied, untreated reperfused lungs (Table I) did not experience the profound rise in P_{pa} that had been observed in the 3-h ischemia group. Nonetheless, untreated reperfused lungs in these experiments gained more weight than normal nonreperfused lungs (1.52 ± 0.36 g/min compared with 0.11 ± 0.02 g/min in nonreperfused lungs, $P < 0.05$).

Effects of antioxidant interventions. In view of the central role of xanthine oxidase as the enzymatic origin of reactive oxygen species in reperfusion injury of other organs (1, 2), we critically evaluated the effects of an inhibitor of xanthine oxidase on lung injury in our model. Fig. 3 shows that pretreatment of lungs with the xanthine oxidase inhibitor allopurinol (1.5 mM), prevents lung injury after reventilation and reperfusion. P_{pa} , P_T , and ΔW from treated groups were all significantly lower than in untreated controls. Because allopurinol has been demonstrated to show scavenging activity for $\cdot\text{OH}$ (32), we also performed experiments with lower concentrations (100 μM) to enhance specificity of the probe for inhibiting xanthine oxidase. This lower concentration also prevented lung injury after reventilation and reperfusion (Fig. 3).

Table I. Effect of Catalase on Reperfusion Lung Injury

Time (min)	Baseline			Reperfusion						
	0	5	$P_{pa \text{ max}}$	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
P_{pa} (mmHg)										
Nonreperfused	10±.5	10±.5	10±.5	10±.5	10±.4	12±.6	13±1	14±2	14±2	14±2
Reperfused	11±.7	11±.5	18±.8*	17±.5	14±1	13±1	13±1	12±1	12±1	12±1
Reperfused + CAT	15±5*	15±.4*	17±.7*	17±.7	17±.7‡	16±.4‡	15±.5‡	14±.6	14±.7	13±.8
P_T (mmHg)										
Nonreperfused	7±.6	7±.6		8±.7	8±.8	8±.8	8±.9	9±1	9±1	9±1
Reperfused	7±.5	7±.6		12±2*	13±1*	15±1*	16±1*	16±1	16±1	15±2
Reperfused + CAT	8±.3	8±.3		10±.4‡	12±.4	13±.4‡	13±.6‡	13±.6	14±.6	14±.6

* $P < 0.05$, † $P < 0.01$ compared with control. Values are mean±SEM. P_{pa} , pulmonary artery pressure; P_T , tracheal pressure; nonreperfused, five lungs perfused for 35 min beginning at time 0 in the baseline period; reperfused, five reperfused lungs; reperfused + CAT, five lungs reperfused after catalase 50,000 U was injected into the pulmonary artery just before reventilation; Because only three of five untreated lungs could be perfused longer than 15 min, analysis was stopped after 15 min of reperfusion.

Support for oxidant-mediated injury in this model was provided by pretreatment with the antioxidant enzymes SOD (25,000 U) or CAT (50,000 U). Results of pretreatment of lungs with SOD just before reventilation and reperfusion are shown in Fig. 4. Active SOD prevented lung injury, as measured by P_{pa} and ΔW . The values for P_T were lower in SOD-treated lungs at a level of significance of $P = 0.06$. Inactivated SOD failed to prevent lung edema, as measured ΔW and P_T . P_{pa} was lower, however, in lungs treated with inactivated SOD than in untreated control lungs. The reason for differences in P_{pa} between the inactive SOD-treated group and control reperfused lungs is not apparent at this time and will require further investigation. The effect of catalase on reperfusion lung injury was studied using a 2.5-h period of ischemia. Catalase provided significant protection from reperfusion injury, with a cumulative lung weight gain that was one-third that of untreated reperfused lungs (Fig. 5). P_T was also significantly lower in CAT-treated lungs (Table I). All catalase treated lungs were successfully reperfused for a full 30 min, whereas some of the untreated ischemic lungs could not be reperfused that long because of extensive edema formation, with cumulative weight gains of almost 50 g. Inactivated catalase failed to protect two lungs from reperfusion injury (cumulative lung weight gains of 18 and 25 g, respectively, over 30 min). To our surprise, P_{pa} was significantly higher in catalase treated reperfused lungs (Table I) than in either nonreperfused or untreated reperfused lungs. The reason for this observation is presently not clear.

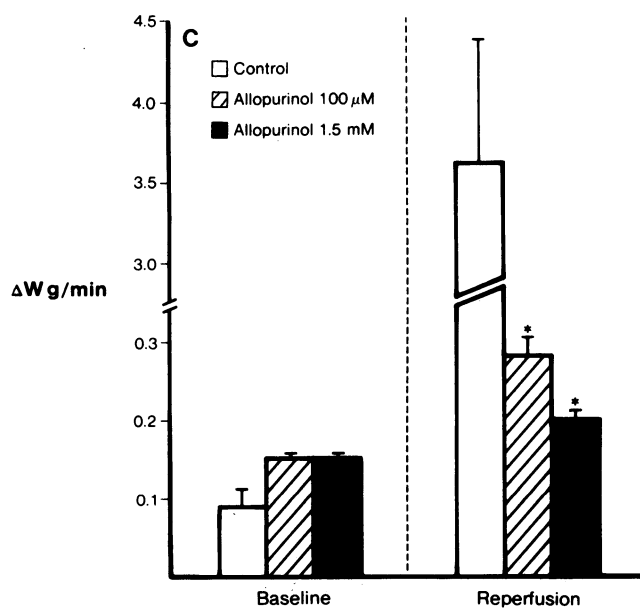
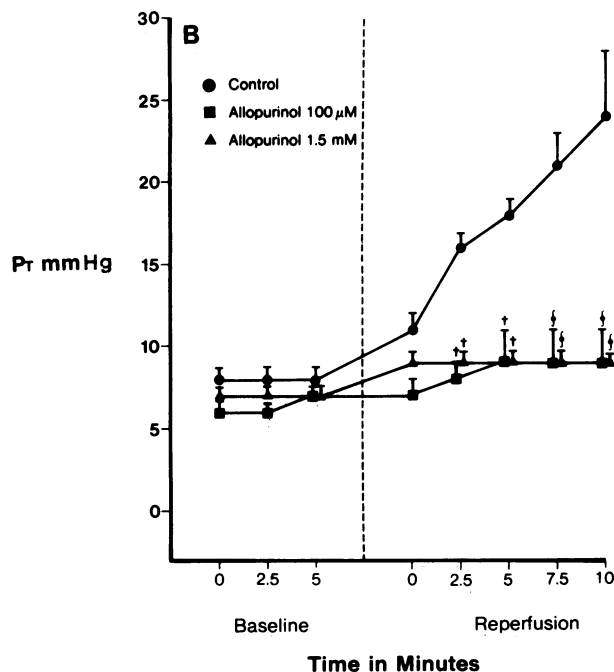
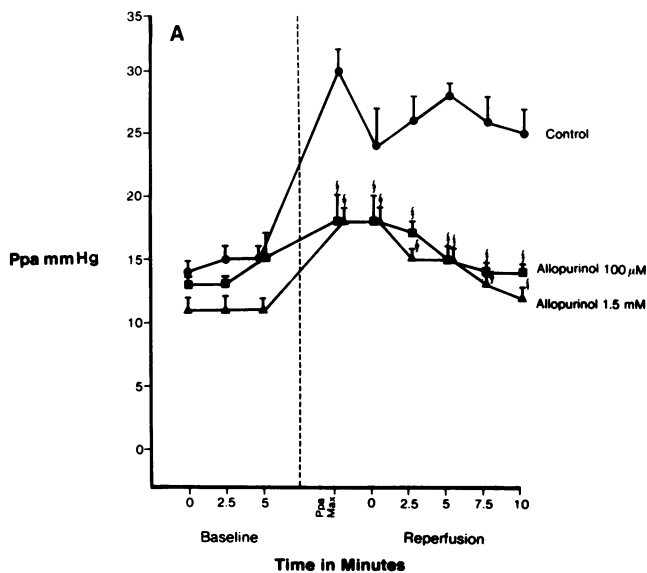
The protective effects of either SOD or catalase suggested that an O_2^- -driven Fenton reaction may be responsible for lung injury in this model. Fig. 6 shows that pretreatment of lungs with the iron chelator deferoxamine (10 mM), or the thiols DMTU (45 mM) or *N*-acetylcysteine (5 mM), prevents lung injury after reventilation and reperfusion. P_{pa} , P_T , and ΔW from treated groups were all significantly lower than in untreated controls. Because deferoxamine (33) has been demonstrated to show scavenging activity for $\cdot OH$, we also performed experiments with lower concentrations of this agent (100 μM) to enhance its specificity as a probe for chelating iron. This lower concentration of deferoxamine also prevented lung injury after reperfusion and reventilation ($\Delta W = 0.24 \pm 0.10$ g/min for five lungs, $P < 0.001$ compared with untreated reperfused lungs). Iron-saturated deferoxamine (10 mM) did not protect from reperfusion injury ($\Delta W = 0$ g/min during baseline; 3.83 ± 1.31 g/min during reperfusion). Lungs

reperfused with derivatized DMTU (45 mM) gained no weight during baseline ($\Delta W = 0$ g/min) but developed edema ($\Delta W = 30.5 \pm 0.50$ g/min) during reperfusion that was significantly worse than in untreated reperfused lungs ($P < 0.05$).

In vivo measurements of O_2^- release. To better characterize the role of reactive oxygen species in reperfusion lung injury, we measured in vivo lung O_2^- generation by reduction of NBT or succinylated ferricytochrome *c*. As shown in Fig. 7, nonreperfused lungs reduced 61 ± 12 μmol NBT/g dry lung per min. The NBT reduction that occurred during baseline was not inhibited by SOD and is probably best explained by the ability of metabolizing cells to also reduce NBT by NADH and NADPH reductases, so that only a portion of NBT is reduced by O_2^- -dependent mechanisms (22). During reperfusion, reduction rose more than threefold to 208 ± 35 μmol NBT/g dry lung per min ($P < 0.001$ compared with nonreperfused lungs). When SOD was injected into the pulmonary artery prior to reventilation and reperfusion, the rise in NBT reduction that occurred during reperfusion was blocked (64 ± 3 μmol NBT/g dry lung per min, $P < 0.05$ compared with untreated reperfused lungs, but not significantly different from nonreperfused lungs). Allopurinol (1.5 mM) also decreased NBT reduction compared with that in untreated reperfused lungs (124 ± 16 μmol NBT reduced/g dry lung per min, $P < 0.05$), but reduction was still twice that of nonreperfused controls.

Fig. 8 shows results of in vivo O_2^- generation measured by reduction of succinylated ferricytochrome *c* in perfusate over 10 min. Reduction occurred in uninjured nonreperfused lungs, but did not increase substantially over time and was inhibited only slightly by SOD. In contrast, reduction of succinylated ferricytochrome *c* was significantly higher in reperfused lungs ($P < 0.001$ compared with uninjured nonreperfused lungs), increased over the course of 10 min (0.41 ± 0.05 $\mu M/min$), and was significantly inhibited by SOD back to levels of reduction observed in uninjured control lungs ($P < 0.001$ for SOD reperfused lungs compared with lungs reperfused without SOD).² This constitutes evidence for increased

2. Perfusate from reperfused ischemic lungs had an increase in A_{550} of 0.265 ± 0.019 over 10 min, compared with increases of 0.130 ± 0.006 in nonreperfused normal lungs, 0.113 ± 0.008 in nonreperfused lungs treated with SOD, and 0.139 ± 0.029 in reperfused lungs treated with SOD.



O_2^- release into lung perfusate during reperfusion. Succinylated ferricytochrome *c* alone did not protect from reperfusion injury ($\Delta W = 0.05 \pm 0.02$ g/min during baseline; 2.08 ± 0.32 g/min during reperfusion), whereas lungs perfused with ferricytochrome *c* + SOD were protected ($\Delta W = 0.08 \pm 0.03$ g/min during baseline; 0.38 ± 0.13 g/min during reperfusion, $P < 0.05$ compared with lungs perfused with cytochrome *c* alone).

Fig. 8 also shows the effect of DIDS (100 μ M) allopurinol (1.5 mM), deferoxamine (10 mM), and DMTU (45 mM) on succinylated ferricytochrome *c* reduction during reperfusion. DIDS decreased reduction of cytochrome *c* to levels lower than in nonreperfused lungs. This suggests that O_2^- is generated within the cell and enters the perfusate by transport across anion channels of cell membranes. Allopurinol decreased cytochrome *c* reduction during reperfusion, but the level of reduction was still higher than in nonreperfused lungs or lungs reperfused with SOD. Cytochrome *c* reduction was higher in lungs treated with deferoxamine than in untreated reperfused lungs. Cytochrome *c* reduction in DMTU-treated lungs was lower than in untreated reperfused lungs, but still higher than in uninjured lungs not reperfused or lungs reperfused with SOD.

Effects of anion channel blockade. The effect of anion channel blockade with DIDS on reperfusion lung injury is shown in Table II. The protective effect of SOD on reperfusion lung injury is eliminated by anion channel blockade of lung cells with DIDS. In contrast, DIDS does not prevent allopurinol, an intracellular inhibitor of the generation of O_2^- by xanthine oxidase, from protecting against reperfusion injury.

Discussion

In our study, we have found that restoration of ventilation and perfusion to ischemic lungs results in pulmonary vasoconstriction and microvascular injury. The pulmonary vasoconstriction is likely due to generation of cyclooxygenase products from AA, because increases in P_{pa} are prevented by the cyclooxygenase inhibitor indomethacin. Cyclooxygenase metabolites, specifically thromboxane, have been shown to mediate vasoconstriction in other models of oxidant lung injury in the rabbit (16, 31). However, additional studies, including measurement of arachidonate products released during reperfusion, will be needed to clarify the role of arachidonate mediators in promoting reperfusion lung injury.

We have established that oxidant injury is the cause of pulmonary edema after reventilation and reperfusion by directly measuring enhanced O_2^- generation in reperfused lung and by blocking reperfusion injury with accepted inhibitors of free radical-mediated reperfusion injury in other organs. Prevention of injury by pretreatment of lungs with SOD or catalase indicates that O_2^- and H_2O_2 are important in initiating injury. Blockade of injury with the iron chelator deferoxamine suggests that an iron-mediated Fenton reaction is necessary for toxicity to occur. While it is possible that deferoxamine was

Figure 3. Allopurinol prevents reperfusion lung injury. The xanthine oxidase inhibitor allopurinol (1.5 mM; $n = 5$) or (100 μ M; $n = 5$) prevents the increase in pulmonary artery pressure (P_{pa} , A), tracheal pressure (P_T , B), and rate of lung weight gain (ΔW , C) during reperfusion and reventilation after 3 h of ischemia, compared with control lungs ($n = 10$). * $P < 0.05$, † $P < 0.01$, § $P < 0.001$ compared with untreated control lungs.

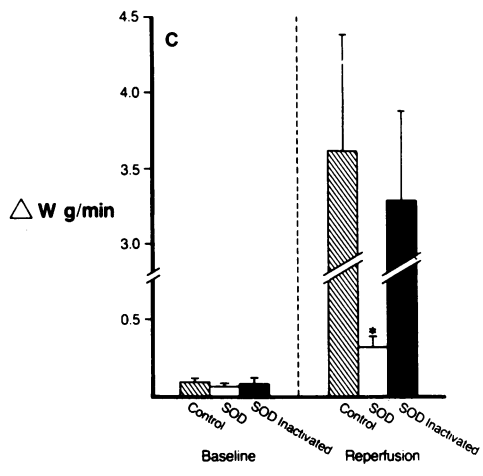
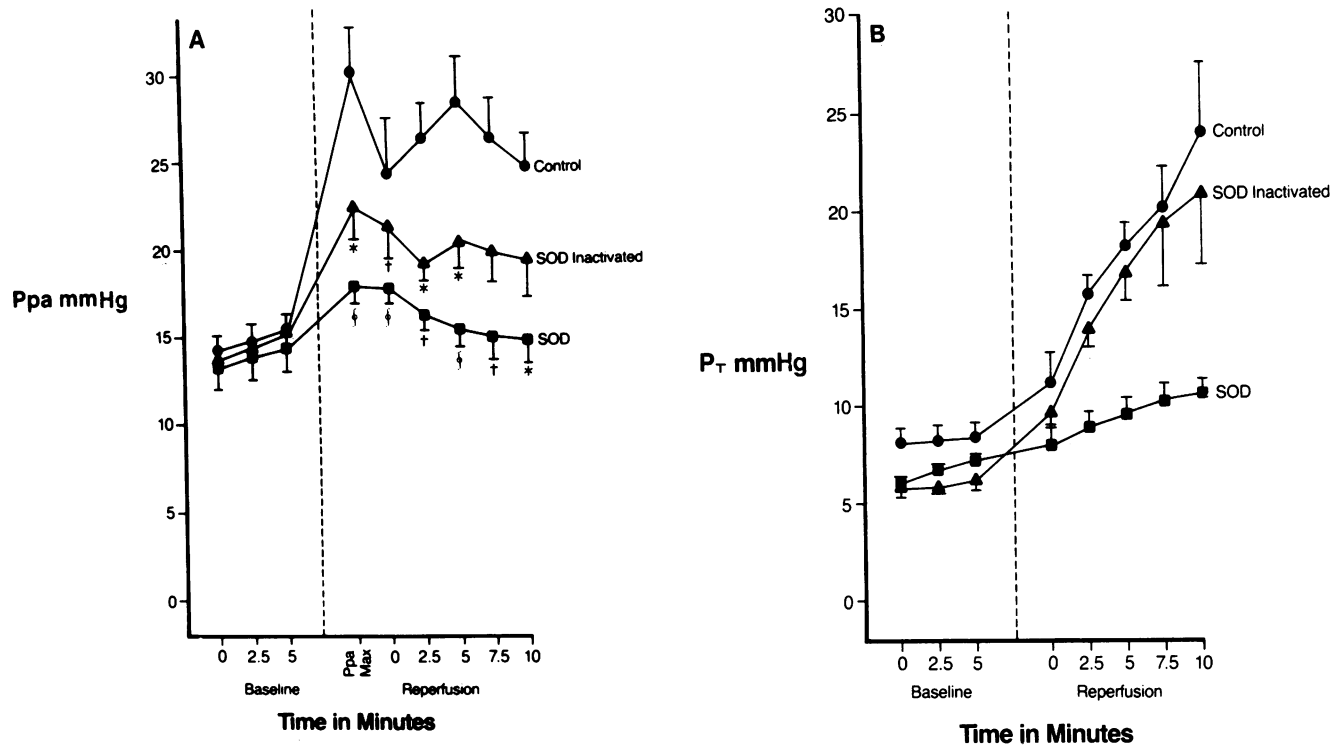


Figure 4. SOD prevents reperfusion lung injury. Injection of the O₂⁻ scavenger SOD (25,000 U, n = 5) into the pulmonary artery just before reventilation prevents the rise in pulmonary artery pressure (P_{pa}, A), tracheal pressure (P_T, B), and rate of lung weight gain (ΔW, C) during reperfusion after 3 h of ischemia. Values for P_T in SOD-treated lungs were different from untreated control lungs (n = 10) at P = 0.06. SOD inactivated by incubation with diethyldithiocarbamate to chelate the enzyme's copper (n = 5) did not block lung edema formation during reperfusion (C). *P < 0.05, †P < 0.01, §P < 0.001 compared with untreated control lungs.

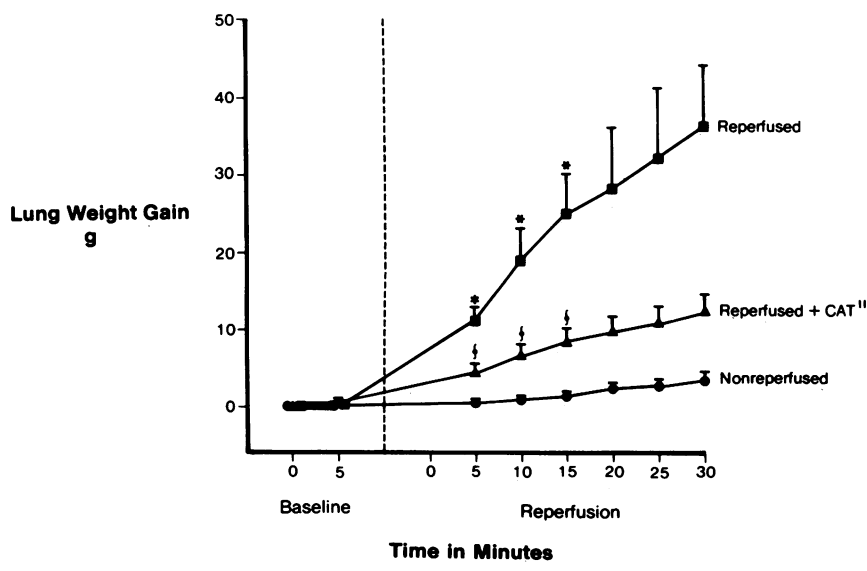


Figure 5. Catalase prevents reperfusion lung injury. Untreated lungs reperfused (n = 5) after 2.5 h of ischemia still developed profound injury compared with nonreperfused normal lungs (n = 5), with marked increase in cumulative lung weight gain over 30 min of perfusion. Reperfusion injury was significantly attenuated by injection of 50,000 U of the H₂O₂ scavenger catalase (Reperfused + CAT, n = 5) in the pulmonary artery just before reventilation.¹¹ Because only three of five untreated lungs could be reperfused for > 15 minutes, analysis was performed only up to this time. *P < 0.001 compared with nonreperfused lungs. §P < 0.001 compared with reperfused lungs.

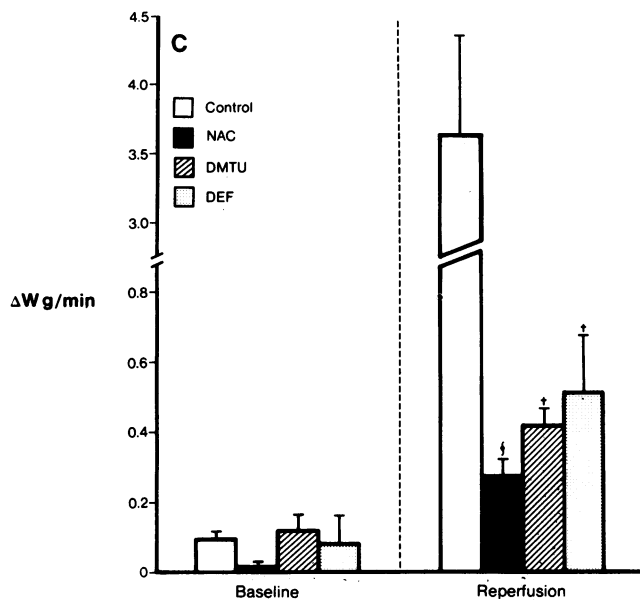
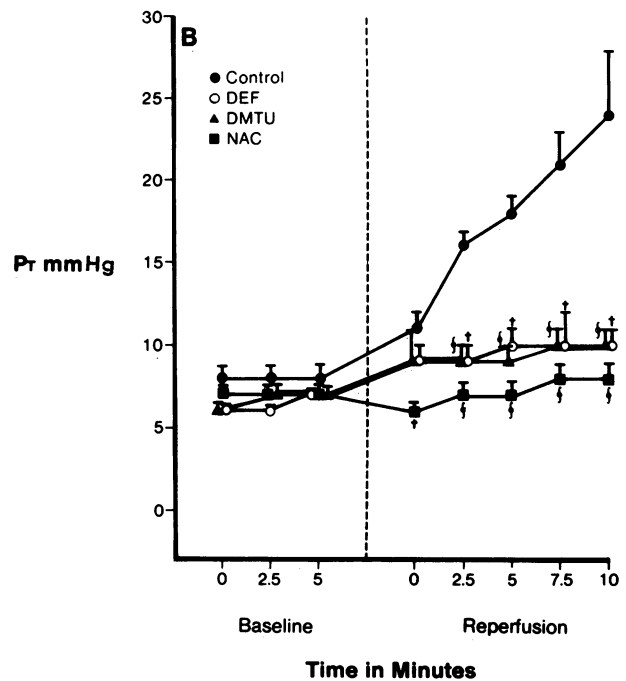
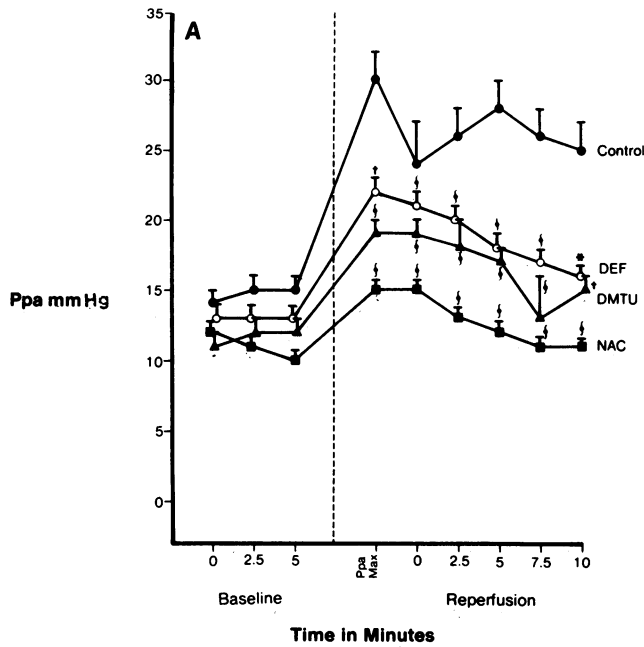


Figure 6. Deferoxamine and thiols prevent reperfusion lung injury. Perfusion of lungs with the iron chelator deferoxamine (10 mM) (DEF, $n = 5$), or the thiols DMTU (45 mM) ($n = 5$) or *N*-acetylcysteine (5 mM) (NAC, $n = 5$) prevents elevation of pulmonary artery pressure (P_{pa} , A), tracheal pressure (P_T , B) and rate of lung weight gain (ΔW , C) during reperfusion after 3 h of ischemia, compared with untreated control lungs ($n = 10$). * $P < 0.05$, † $P < 0.01$, ‡ $P < 0.001$ compared with untreated control lungs.

effective in part as a $\cdot\text{OH}$ scavenger (33), the failure of iron-saturated deferoxamine to protect against injury points to a pivotal role of iron in reperfusion injury. Intracellular iron is normally bound as cofactor to enzymes or stored within the protein ferritin. However, there is a rapid release of iron from ferritin under ischemic conditions (34). It has also been shown recently that O_2^- can directly mediate reductive release of iron from ferritin (35). Free iron could, in turn, promote generation of $\cdot\text{OH}$ from H_2O_2 by the Fenton reaction. Whereas the Fenton mechanism is supported in our studies by the effectiveness of DMTU (18) or *N*-acetylcysteine (19) in preventing reperfusion injury, these thiol compounds might have provided protection by means other than scavenging $\cdot\text{OH}$.

Using two different detector molecules, we have demonstrated evidence for enhanced O_2^- generation during reperfu-

sion of ischemic lung. These detector molecules are complementary but have notable differences. Ferricytochrome *c* is a large (12,384 mol wt) molecule that detects only O_2^- released into the extracellular space, whereas NBT can be reduced intracellularly by metabolically active cells (21, 22). Also, whereas both NBT (22) and ferricytochrome *c* (23) can be acted on by a number of competing reductase reactions, ferricytochrome *c* is much more specific for O_2^- (23) than is NBT (22). Thus, we favor succinylated ferricytochrome *c* as a detector molecule for O_2^- in our model, even though it is less sensitive than NBT.

Despite the fact that they probably reflect events in different compartments, measurement of NBT (Fig. 7) and succinylated ferricytochrome *c* (Fig. 8) reduction provide insight into the sources of O_2^- generation during reperfusion. First,

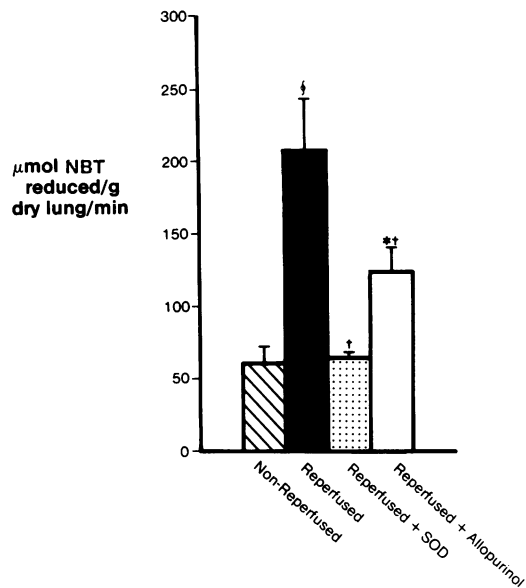


Figure 7. Reperfusion O_2^- generation measured by NBT reduction. Reduction of the intracellular and extracellular O_2^- detector NBT over 10 min of perfusion ($\mu\text{mol NBT reduced/g dry lung/min}$) is significantly increased in lungs reperfused after 3 h of ischemia, compared with normal nonreperfused lungs. Injection of 25,000 U SOD into the pulmonary artery just before reventilation and reperfusion completely blocks the reperfusion-related increase in NBT reduction. Allopurinol (1.5 mM) also significantly decreases NBT reduction during reperfusion, but does not reduce reduction to background levels seen in nonreperfused lungs. $n = 4$ in each group. * $P < 0.05$, † $P < 0.001$ compared with nonreperfused lungs. ‡ $P < 0.05$ compared with reperfused lungs.

both NBT and cytochrome *c* reduction during reperfusion were decreased by SOD to levels seen in nonreperfused lung, indicating that reduction of detectors was from O_2^- generation (22, 36). Second, deferoxamine and DMTU protected from reperfusion lung injury (Fig. 6) but did not prevent ferricytochrome *c* reduction during reperfusion. Thus, decreased detector molecule reduction in lungs treated with SOD did not occur simply because SOD attenuated reperfusion injury, since reduction of cytochrome *c* was even higher in deferoxamine-treated reperfused lungs than in untreated reperfused lungs (Fig. 8). Finally, results in Figs. 7 and 8 indicate that O_2^- generated during reperfusion comes from intracellular sources, because anion channel blockade prevented reduction of the extracellular detector succinylated ferricytochrome *c*. The decrease in both NBT and cytochrome *c* reduction by allopurinol is consistent with the hypothesis that xanthine oxidase is an important intracellular source of O_2^- produced during reperfusion injury (1, 2, 8, 10, 11).

Allopurinol provided significant protection against reperfusion lung injury in our model (Fig. 3). However, it did not completely suppress enhanced NBT or cytochrome *c* reduction during reperfusion. Thus, allopurinol may protect in ways additive to inhibition of xanthine oxidase, such as functioning as a $\cdot\text{OH}$ scavenger (32). The failure of allopurinol to completely suppress NBT and cytochrome *c* reduction may also indicate that sources other than xanthine oxidase exist for O_2^- generation during reperfusion. Cytochrome P-450 mixed function oxidases and NADPH cytochrome *c*(P-450) reduc-

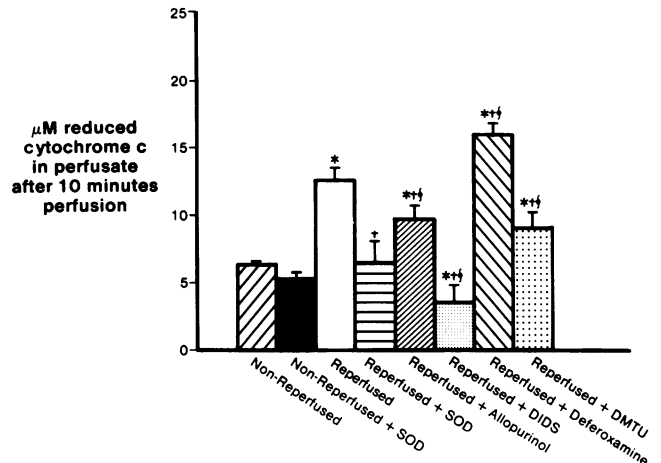


Figure 8. Reperfusion O_2^- generation measured by cytochrome *c* reduction. Reduction of the extracellular O_2^- detector succinylated ferricytochrome *c* over 10 min of perfusion (micromoles cytochrome *c* in perfusate) is significantly increased in lungs reperfused after 3 h of ischemia, compared with nonreperfused normal lungs. Injection of 25,000 U SOD into the pulmonary artery just before reperfusion or addition of the anion channel blocker DIDS (100 μM) to perfusate decreases cytochrome *c* reduction to levels similar or even lower than in nonreperfused lungs. The xanthine oxidase inhibitor allopurinol (1.5 mM) or the thiol DMTU (45 mM) significantly decreases cytochrome *c* reduction compared with reperfused lungs, but reduction remains elevated above that in normal lungs. Reduction in lungs treated with the iron chelator deferoxamine (10 mM) is significantly higher than in untreated reperfused lungs. $n = 4$ lungs in each group. * $P < 0.01$ compared with nonreperfused lungs. † $P < 0.001$ compared with reperfused lungs. ‡ $P < 0.01$ compared with reperfused lungs + SOD.

tase are responsible for much of the O_2^- normally produced by microsomes, and thus might be sources of O_2^- production during reperfusion injury (37). In this regard, it is interesting to note that allopurinol is a known inhibitor of P-450 metabolism (38, 39). Other potential microsomal sources of O_2^- are peroxidases associated with AA metabolism (40), which have been hypothesized as sources of O_2^- generated during reperfusion of ischemic brain (21). Finally, O_2^- is a small but normal physiologic byproduct of aerobic mitochondrial metabolism at the NADH dehydrogenase step and from autooxidation of ubiquinone (41). The rate of mitochondrial O_2^- production is directly proportional to O_2 tension and inversely proportional to the respiratory rate of the cell, increasing under conditions of low ADP but high substrate and O_2 availability when the respiratory rate is slow and components of the respiratory chain are mostly reduced (41). These are the conditions that exist shortly after reperfusion of ischemic tissue, when substrate supply and O_2 tension are restored, but ADP levels are low from catabolism during ischemia.

The mechanism whereby a large extracellular enzyme such as SOD (42) protects against reperfusion injury from intracellular generation of O_2^- is shown in Table II. Whereas active SOD protects from reperfusion injury, perfusion of lungs with 100 μM DIDS prevents anion channel exit of O_2^- from intracellular sites of generation and blocks the protective effect of SOD in the extracellular medium. The lack of effective protection against reperfusion injury by SOD in DIDS-perfused lungs suggests that extracellular SOD reduces injury by con-

Table II. Prevention of the Protective Effect of SOD by Anion Channel Blockade with DIDS

Time (minutes)	Baseline			$P_{pa\ max}$	Reperfusion				
	0	2.5	5		0	2.5	5	7.5	10
P_{pa} (mmHg)									
Control	14±0.9	15±1	15±1	30±2	24±3	26±2	28±2	26±2	25±2
SOD	10±3	14±1	14±1	18±0.8*	18±0.8*	16±0.9*	15±1*	15±1*	15±1*
SOD + DIDS	13±0.6	13±0.6	13±0.5	20±0.8*	20±0.9*	15±0.7*	16±1*	16±1*	16±1*
DIDS	12±0.8	12±0.7	12±0.8	18±0.2*	16±1*	15±2*	14±2*	13±2*	14±3*
Allopurinol + DIDS	15±0.6	15±0.5	15±0.5	14±1*	23±1‡	20±1*	18±1*	18±1*	17±1*
P_T (mmHg)									
Control	8±0.7	8±0.7	8±0.7		11±1	16±0.9	18±1	21±2	24±4
SOD	6±0.3	7±0.3	7±0.3		7±1	9±0.8*	10±0.8§	10±0.9*	11±0.8*
SOD + DIDS	6±0.6	6±0.7	7±0.5		13±1	17±2	20±3	23±4	28±6
DIDS	8±0.8	8±0.8	8±0.8		12±1	13±2‡	14±2	14±3	19±8
Allopurinol + DIDS	6±0.3	6±0.2	6±0.2		6±0.4‡	8±1*	9±2*	9±2*	10±2*
ΔW (g/min)									
Control			0.09±0.02						3.62±0.76
SOD			0.06±0.02						0.32±0.07‡
SOD + DIDS			0.09±0.04						4.52±1.15
DIDS			0.04±0.02						3.44±1.49
Allopurinol + DIDS			0.05±0.02						0.75±0.17‡

* $P < 0.001$, † $P < 0.05$, § $P < 0.01$ compared with control. Values are mean±SEM; P_{pa} , pulmonary artery pressure; P_T , tracheal pressure; ΔW , rate of lung weight gain from edema formation; $P_{pa\ max}$, maximal pulmonary pressure during reperfusion; SOD, 25,000 U SOD; SOD + DIDS, SOD + 100 μ M DIDS; allopurinol + DIDS, allopurinol (1.5 mM) + DIDS (100 μ M); untreated control, 10 lungs; SOD, five lungs; SOD + DIDS, five lungs; DIDS, five lungs; allopurinol + DIDS, four lungs.

suming any extracellular O_2^- , thereby establishing a concentration gradient favorable for rapid diffusion of O_2^- out of cells. When this diffusion is blocked, oxidant-mediated cell injury occurs, despite the presence of extracellular SOD. In contrast, allopurinol decreases O_2^- production intracellularly at the site of generation and protects from reperfusion injury, even when DIDS blocks O_2^- exit from cells.

Our studies have several potential clinical implications. Reperfusion pulmonary edema has recently been reported in man after pulmonary artery thromboendarterectomy in patients with unresolved pulmonary emboli (43). Reperfusion injury might play a role, as well, in acute pulmonary embolism, which could produce ischemia and subsequent reperfusion injury in the region of lung embolized. Also, reperfusion injury might be important as a magnification process for inflammation in the adult respiratory distress syndrome, in which perfusion of the pulmonary vasculature is occluded by vasoconstriction, microemboli, or in situ thromboses (44). Finally, our findings might prove helpful in preventing postoperative pulmonary edema after lung and heart-lung transplantation (45). If our success in preventing reperfusion injury in rabbit lungs can be applied to the design of an effective preservative solution, lung transplantation might become a more readily achievable therapeutic modality for patients with severe lung disease.

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