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**THE EFFECT OF CISPLATIN ON THE ADRENAL GLAND AND
CORTICOSTERONE CONCENTRATION: AN *IN VIVO* AND *IN VITRO* STUDY**

By

Casey Margaret Miller

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ABSTRACT

THE EFFECT OF CISPLATIN ON THE ADRENAL GLAND AND CORTICOSTERONE CONTRACTION: AN *IN VIVO* AND *IN VITRO* STUDY

By

Casey Margaret Miller

This study investigated the effect of the anticancer agent cisplatin on the adrenal gland and corticosterone in an attempt to find out if alterations in adrenal structure stimulated alterations in the level of corticosterone. Cisplatin (CDDP) has been shown to alter appetite, weight, water intake, urine output and adrenal structure *in vivo*. These effects can alter stress levels in the body and affect the concentration of corticosterone. After treatment with cisplatin (7mg/kg and 9mg/kg) the animals showed immediate decrease in appetite and extreme weight loss. Water intake was initially decreased with an increase as post-treatment time increased. Cisplatin acted as a diuretic initially and then as an antidiuretic in urine output. Plasma corticosterone concentration showed a trend of increase that coincided with an increase in adrenal secretion into media for the 9mg/kg group on day 3 and the 7mg/kg group on day 8. Further studies showed that there was cellular damage to the mitochondria in disruption of the cristae or total cavitation of the cristae from the mitochondria. There was enlargement and degradation of the endothelial lining of the capillaries in both the medulla and the cortex and an initial decrease in lipid droplets and then increase by day 8

(7mg/kg) post-treatment in the adrenal cortex. Organ culture studies verified cellular damage but did not confirm the changes in corticosterone levels. The longer-term cultures exhibited an overall decrease in corticosterone concentration whereas the shorter-term cultures exhibited no real change from the control. We feel that cisplatin appears to affect the adrenal gland directly by endothelial damage, which then causes further damage to the cell and also indirectly by degranulation of medullary and cortical secretory cells. We can not verify if this is the primary cause of the alterations in corticosterone concentration at this time.

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Dedicated to the memories of my father, mother and brother who encouraged me, but could not see it to the end.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES	
LIST OF FIGURES	
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER ONE: Cisplatin Induced Physiological Responses and Alteration of Circulating and Adrenal Explant Corticosterone Concentrations in the Rat	9
Summary	10
List of References	12
Introduction	11
Materials and Methods	13
Results	15
Discussion	23
Conclusion	27
List of References	28
CHAPTER TWO: Cisplatin-Induced Structural Changes in the Rat <i>In Vivo</i>	34
Summary	35
Introduction	36
Materials and Methods	38
Results	40
Discussion	91
Conclusion	95

List of References	96
CHAPTER THREE: Cisplatin-Induced Alterations in Corticosterone Concentration and Structure of Adrenal Organ Cultures from the Rat	99
Summary	100
Introduction	101
Materials and Methods	104
Results	107
Discussion	138
Conclusion	140
List of References	141

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
CHAPTER THREE:	
Table 1. Group 1 Control and CDDP (7 μ m/ml) Adrenal Organ Culture Media Changes and Collection Times by Post-Treatment and Time from Last Medial Change.	105
Table 2. Group 2 Control and CDDP (7 μ m/ml) Adrenal Organ Culture Media Changes and Collection Times.	105

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
CHAPTER ONE:	
Figure 1. Food Intake and % Weight Change of Control and CDDP Treated Rats.	18
Figure 2. Water Intake and Urine Output of Control and Treated Rats.	20
Figure 3. Plasma Corticosterone Concentration from Control and CDDP Treated Rats by Radioimmunoassay.	21
Figure 4. Corticosterone Concentration from Control and CDDP Treated Rat Adrenal Glands.	22
CHAPTER TWO:	
Figure 1. Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Adrenal Gland of Control and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	45
Figure 2. Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Adrenal Medulla of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	47
Figure 3. Light Micrographs Showing the Magnified View of Various Cellular Changes Before (A) and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment.	49
Figure 4. Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Adrenal Medulla of Control (A) and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	51
Figure 5. Light Micrographs Showing the Magnified View of Various Cellular Changes Before (A) and After CDDP (9mg/kg) Treatment.	53
Figure 6. Electron Micrographs of Medullary Region of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	55

Figure 7.	Selected Areas from Figure 6 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment.	57
Figure 8.	Electron Micrographs of Medullary Region of the Adrenal Gland of Control and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	59
Figure 9.	Selected Areas from Figure 8 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before and After CDDP Treatment.	61
Figure 10.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2μm) of the Medulla, Zona Reticularis and Zona Fasciculata of the Adrenal Gland of Control and 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	63
Figure 11.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2μm) of the Medulla and the Zona Reticularis of the Adrenal Gland of Control and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	65
Figure 12.	Electron Micrographs of the Medulla and Zona Reticularis of the Cortex of the Adrenal Gland of Control and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	67
Figure 13.	Selected Areas from Figure 12 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment.	69
Figure 14.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2μm) of the Zona Reticularis and Zona Fasciculata of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	71
Figure 15.	Light Micrographs Showing the Magnified view of Various Cellular Changes Before and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment.	73
Figure 16.	Light Micrographs of Cryo-Sections (10μm) of the Zona Fasciculata and Zona Glomerulosa of the Adrenal Gland of Control and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	75
Figure 17.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2μm) of the Zona Reticularis and Zona Fascicularis of the Adrenal Cortex of Control and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	77

Figure 18.	Light Micrographs Showing the Magnified View of Various Cellular Changes Before and After CDDP (9mg/kg) Treatment.	79
Figure 19.	Electron Micrographs of the Zona Fasciculata of the Adrenal Cortex of Control and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	81
Figure 20.	Selected Areas from Figure 19 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment.	83
Figure 21.	Electron Micrographs of the Zona Fasciculata of the Adrenal Cortex of Control and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	85
Figure 22.	Selected Areas from Figure 21 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before and After CDDP Treatment.	87
Figure 23.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Fasciculata and Zona Glomerulosa of the Cortex of Control and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	89
Figure 24.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Fasciculata and Zona Glomerulosa of the Adrenal Cortex of Control and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment.	91

CHAPTER THREE:

Figure 1.	Corticosterone Concentration Present in the Media of Group 1 Adrenal Organ Cultures at Specific Times.	108
Figure 2.	Corticosterone Concentration Present in the Media of Group 2 Adrenal Organ Cultures at Specific Times.	109
Figure 3.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Medulla of Group 1 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.	115
Figure 4.	Light Micrographs of the Enclosed Areas Enlarged from Figure 3.	117
Figure 5.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Medulla and Zona Reticularis (Junction of the Medulla and Cortex of Group 1 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.	119

Figure 6.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2µm) of the Zona Reticularis and Zona Fasciculata of Group 1 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.	121
Figure 7.	Light Micrographs of the Enclosed Areas Enlarged from Figure 6.	123
Figure 8.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2µm) of the Zona Fasciculata, Zona Glomerulosa and Capsule Group 1 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.	125
Figure 9.	Light Micrographs of Sections(2µm) of the Medulla of Group 2 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.	127
Figure 10.	Light Micrographs of the Medulla Enclosed Areas Enlarged from Figure 9.	129
Figure 11.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2µm) of the Medulla and Zona Reticularis of Group 2 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.	131
Figure 12.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2µm) of the Zona Reticularis and the Zona Fasciculata of Group 2 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.	133
Figure 13.	Light Micrographs of the Enclosed Areas Enlarged from Figure 12.	135
Figure 14.	Light Micrographs of Sections (2µm) of the Zona Fasciculata, Zona Glomerulosa and Capsule Group 2 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.	137

INTRODUCTION

Cisplatin (*cis*-dichlorodiammineplatinum II) is a heavy metal coordination complex that is now used as a major broad-spectrum anticancer drug in the treatment of ovarian, testicular, prostate, head and neck, and lung cancers [1]. Its proposed mechanism of action is to inhibit DNA synthesis by inducing crosslinking of the inter or intrastrands [2-6]. The therapeutic use of cisplatin is hampered by its severe side effects, which include nausea and vomiting [7-9], along with kidney damage [10-13]. It is known to cause stomach distention and ulceration [10, 14, 15], with treatments such as chemical, hormonal and vagotomy being used to alleviate these effects [16-22]. Steroids and catecholamines that are synthesized by the adrenal gland have been considered in the induction of ulcers [23] with stomach mucosa and gastric emptying being restored in rats after bilateral adrenalectomy [17]. Disease, infection [24], chemotherapeutic drugs [13, 25, 26], toxic chemicals [27, 28], drugs [29-32], hormones [33, 34] and peptides [35] can induce stress on the system at the physical, metabolic and cellular levels. The classic response to stress is for the system to greatly increase the production of glucocorticoids from the adrenal gland, which is the key endocrine gland to respond to these conditions [24, 36]. Stress also stimulates the immune system, which then can increase synthesis of glucocorticoids and the adrenal glands response to stress [24, 37-43]. This stimulation often overrides the normal feedback inhibition that glucocorticoids have on pituitary ACTH to allow prolonged production of glucocorticoids from the adrenal gland [37, 40, 44].

Stress can be expressed by altered body temperature [45], food intake,

weight loss [10, 46-54], water intake, urine output [10, 46, 54-58], or by stimulating or inhibiting steroid synthesis [13, 26, 29, 34, 59-61].

Cisplatin has been shown to act as a diuretic in Sprague-Dawley [47, 55] and Long-Evans Rats [46], while Wistar Rats respond to it as an antidiuretic [46]. Cisplatin and other chemotherapeutic drugs have been shown to alter water intake and urine output [10, 12, 46, 47, 62, 63]. Studies have shown that cisplatin and other heavy metals can alter the circulating concentration of corticosterone [27, 64] and testosterone [13, 26, 34, 60]. This can result by a direct interaction with the steroid or an indirect interaction in the stimulation or inhibition of other hormones that stimulate glucocorticoid synthesis or by affecting the structural integrity of the adrenal gland.

The adrenal gland is the major endocrine gland to show noxious compound induced changes in morphology [65]. Cisplatin [16, 66, 67] and other noxious chemicals have been shown to disrupt the adrenals ultra-structure by damaging the mitochondria in the zona fasciculata and their cristae and by enhancing or depleting lipid droplet formation which can affect both cellular structure and steroid synthesis [30, 68-77].

To narrow the effects of a compound that may be having on the adrenal gland and steroid concentration the adrenal gland should be removed from the *in vivo* system to stop all influence by uncontrolled hormonal, neurogenic or hemodynamic factors [78, 79]. Cell and organ culture of adrenal glands have shown that by treating the culture with toxic agents and/or other hormones that secretion of glucocorticoids continues, can be monitored and maintained [19, 24, 25, 41, 42, 80-87].

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**CHAPTER ONE: CISPLATIN INDUCED PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES
AND ALTERATION OF CIRCULATING AND ADRENAL
EXPLANT CORTICOSTERONE CONCENTRATIONS IN
THE RAT**

SUMMARY

Cisplatin has been shown to alter food consumption, body weight, and water intake and urine output. This study was designed to analyze these effects of the drug and the effect on corticosterone concentration in plasma and secreted from the adrenal gland into media. Wistar CRL:(WI)BR male rats were kept in metabolic cages with food consumption, weight, water intake and urine output being measured daily. Blood was collected on specific days for corticosterone analysis. Animals were injected with normal saline, 7mg/kg cisplatin or 9mg/kg of cisplatin via intraperitoneum. Animals were sacrificed on day three, five and eight for the 7mg/kg dose and on days three and five for the 9mg/kg dose. At sacrifice adrenal glands were collected, incubated in media and the medium collected for steroid analyses. The animal's appetite was suppressed in both cisplatin groups immediately after treatment with their weight decreasing 35% from their initial body weight. Water intake decreased to 0 by day 3 with an increase in intake by day 5 in the 7mg/kg group, 60% above that of the controls. Urine output was increased significantly on day 1 and then declined through day 4, with a return to that of the control by day 5. There was a trend of an increase in corticosterone concentration in plasma though it was not significant from the control. This increase did coincide with an increase in adrenal secretion of corticosterone into media for the 9mg/kg group on day 3 and the 7mg/kg group on day 8.

INTRODUCTION

Cisplatin is an important chemotherapeutic agent which has dose limiting side effects of nausea and vomiting [1, 2] and kidney damage [3-11]. It also causes ulceration and distention of the stomach [12-16], with many measures being taken to modify this effect in patients undergoing cisplatin chemotherapy, protection of the mucosa by both chemical and hormonal means and control of acid secretion by means of vagotomy [13, 14, 17-24] are two such measures. Steroids and catecholamines produced by the adrenal gland have been considered to be a part of the induction of ulcers in rat's [25]. Ulceration and gastric emptying are restored when a rat has a bilateral adrenalectomy [17]. Chemotherapeutic drugs [10, 26-29], toxic chemicals [30-32]; drugs [33-38], hormones [39-46] and peptides [47] are known stressors. Stress can be expressed by altering food intake and/or weight loss [4, 5, 9, 48-54], water intake and/or urine output [4-6, 38, 50, 55-57] or by stimulating or inhibiting steroid production ([10, 26, 33, 36, 37, 43, 44, 47, 58-64]. This stress can arise from the animals response to the drug by either a direct or an indirect means. The adrenal gland is the key organ to respond to alarm, adaptation and exhilaration [65]. The initial response stimulates the release of corticotropic releasing hormone (CRH) from the hypothalamus, enhancing the release adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) from the pituitary, enhancing the adrenal to synthesize corticosterone in the rat and cortisol in the human [66, 67]. As the

noxious compound induces physical, metabolic and/or cellular alterations to the system it may also have an affect on the concentration of circulating corticosterone. The present study was designed to analyze stressors that the chemotherapeutic agent, cisplatin may initiate physiologically and on steroid production. This was examined: (i) food consumption and weight loss, (ii) water intake and urine output and (iii) corticosterone concentration in circulating plasma (it is the primary glucocorticoid in rats [68]) and adrenal explants production into media.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals and Treatment: Wistar Cri:(WI)BR male rats weighing 200 to 250 g each from Charles River were placed in metabolic cages, on a 12 hour light/dark cycle, with food and water adlib. Weight, food and water intake and urine output was measured daily at 6AM to follow the dinural rhythm of the rats. Animals were allowed to adapt to their new environment for three days prior to treatment, and were injected (Day 0) with a single dose via the intraperitoneum with normal saline (vehicle for cisplatin), 7mg/kg of cisplatin (CDDP) or 9mg/kg of CDDP. Animals were sacrificed by decapitation at three, five and eight days for the 7mg per kg treatment, and at days three and five for the 9mg per kg treatment.

Corticosterone Analysis Plasma: Blood was collected at 10AM from the tail artery on days -1, 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 for the 7mg per kg treatment group and on days -1, 1, and by cardiac puncture on days 3 and 5 for the 9mg per kg treatment group. Animals were anesthetized by inhalation of Metofane (Pitman/Moore), a tuberculin syringe coated with Heparin 1000 units/1ml (Elkins-Senn, Inc.) drew 3 to 4mls of blood. The plasma was collected and kept frozen at -70 °C until analysis could be conducted. The plasma was analyzed for corticosterone content using rat corticosterone-3H kit Radioimmunoassay (RIA) (ICN), read using a Beckman 7500 series scintillation counter.

Corticosterone Secretion from Adrenal Glands: Adrenal glands were removed from the animal, quartered and incubated for 30 minutes at 37 °C in 1

ml Krebs-Ringer bicarbonate (KRBG) solution with 0.3% glucose (Sigma) . The medium was discarded and new KRBG with 0.3% bovine serum albumin (fraction 5) (Sigma) was added. After a 30-minute incubation the medium was collected and stored at -70°C until corticosterone analysis was conducted according to Malendowicz, L., *et al* (1992). The serum was analyzed for corticosterone content by a rat RIA and read using a Beckman 7500 series scintillation counter.

Statistical Analysis: Statistical analyses were performed using SAS Institutes Stat View for Windows. Food intake, weight, water intake, urine output, plasma corticosterone levels and adrenal serum corticosterone levels were analyzed using Student's *t* test, , ANOVA, or Student's *t* test, Mann-Whitney U rank-sum test and Kruskal-Wallis H-test as appropriate dependent on the sample size. The tests were two-tailed and significance was accepted at the $P \leq 0.05$ level.

RESULTS

Suppression or loss of appetite occurred in both cisplatin groups immediately after treatment. With food intake decreasing significantly from that of the controls 20-30mg/day to 0-5mg/day post-treatment by day 4 (Figure 1A). There also was a significant difference in food consumption between the two treatment groups on day 2. Both treated groups increased their food intake by day 5, continuing until the date of sacrifice when intake matched that of the controls. The initial weight loss correlates with the drop in food consumption (Figure 1A & B). Both CDDP treated groups had a 35% decrease in weight from their initial body weight, with little or no increase in weight prior to the date of sacrifice (Figure 1B). When sacrificed both groups had enlarged and distended stomachs that were full of food even on days 3 and 5 before food intake increased. This observation has been made previously and is caused by the lack of stomach emptying [12-14].

Water intake decreased to zero by day 3 for both treatment groups, and was significantly different from that of the controls on day 2-3 (Figure 2A). Water intake in the two treatment groups was significantly different on days 2 and 4, with water intake increasing for both groups' days 4-8. The 7mg/kg groups water intake increased by 60% from that of day 3 and 20% above that of the control prior to sacrifice. Urine output increased for both treatment groups and was significantly different from that of the control as of day 1 (Figure 2B). Urine output continued to decline for both treatment groups through day 4, with the

9mg/kg group being significant from the control. On day 5 the urine output of the treated groups begins approaching the level of the controls, with a significant 2-fold increase by day 6.

Corticosterone concentration was elevated significantly by day one in the 7mg/kg group (Figure 3). While the 9mg/kg group decreased (not significantly) from prior to treatment and that of the control on day one. The corticosterone concentration remained elevated for the remainder of the study in both treatment groups, though this elevation in concentration was not statistically significant. Corticosterone standards were unaffected by the addition of CDDP when analyzed. Secreted corticosterone into media from the adrenal glands of the 9mg/kg group had a significant increase from that of the 7mg/kg group and the control on day 3 (Figure 4). This coincided with an elevated concentration of corticosterone in the plasma on this day (Figure 3). There is a decrease in corticosterone secreted from the adrenal glands from both treatment groups on day 5, with the controls corticosterone increased though not significantly. The 7mg/kg group increased secretion from the adrenal glands significantly from the control on day 8, this coincides with an elevation in the concentration of corticosterone in the plasma.

Figure 1: Food Intake and % Weight Change of Control and CDDP Treated Rats.

A) Food intake (mg) of control and CDDP treated rats. The CDDP treated groups ceased eating immediately after treatment, with day-1 showing a significant difference from that of the control ($P \leq 0.05$) in the amount of food consumed. At days 2-4 both treatment groups are significantly different from the control group ($P \leq 0.001$) with their food consumption dropping to 0mg, with a significant difference between the two treatment groups at day-2 ($P \leq 0.005$) as well. The 7mg/kg group increased food consumption on days 6-7, with a significant difference from that of the control at day-6 ($P \leq 0.05$) and matching the controls food consumption by day 8. [Average \pm S.D.]

B) The percent weight change of control and CDDP treated rats. The CDDP treated groups have a weight loss immediately after treatment with days 1-8 showing a significant difference from that of the control group ($P \leq 0.001$). [Average \pm S.D.]

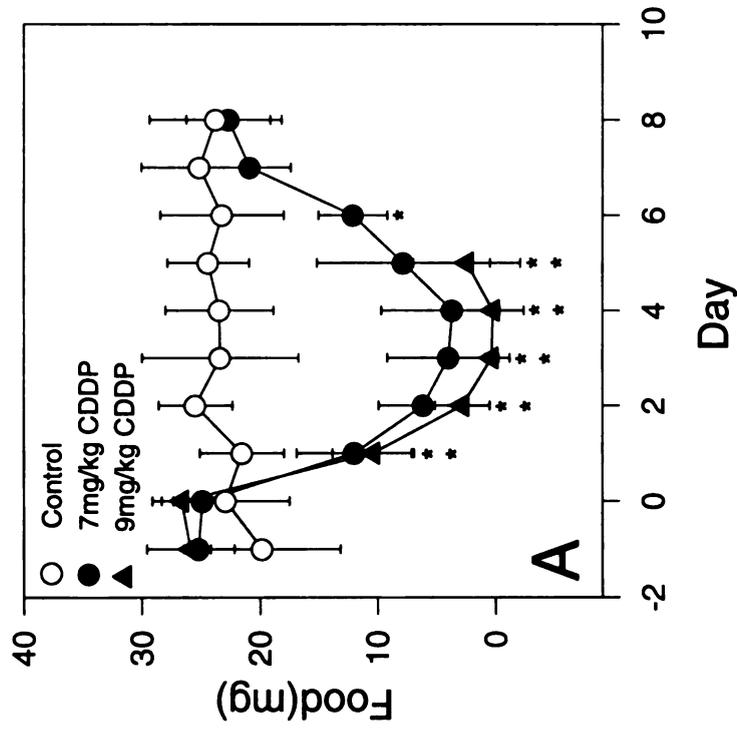
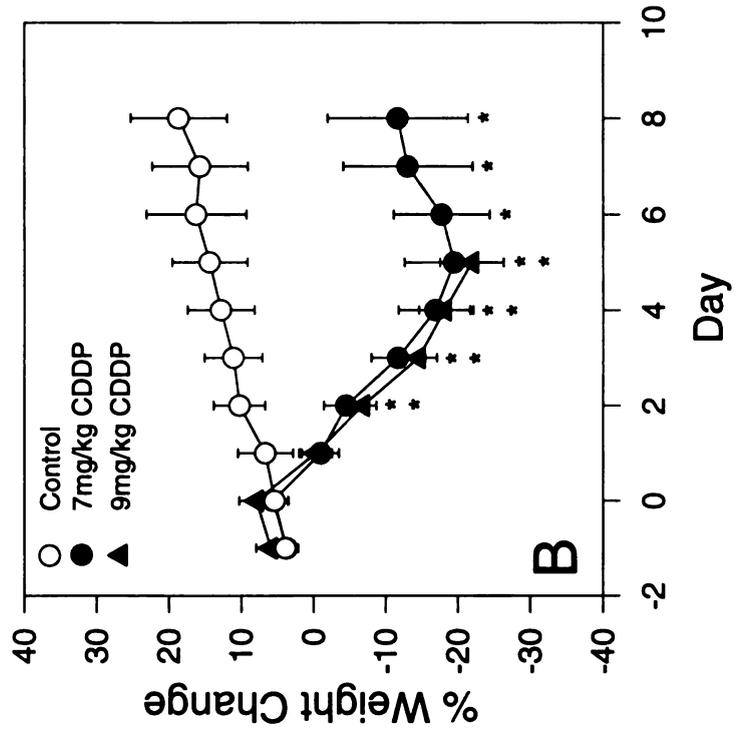
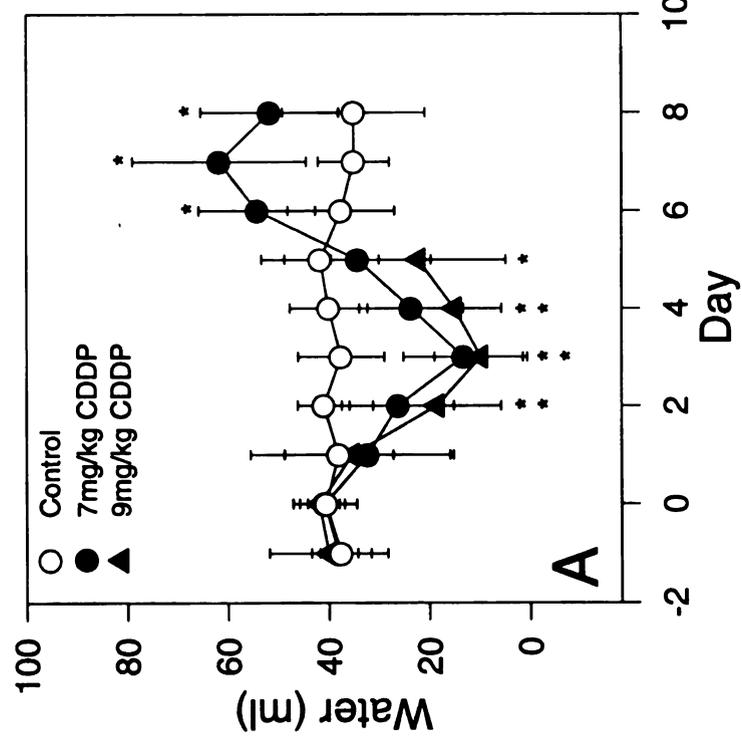
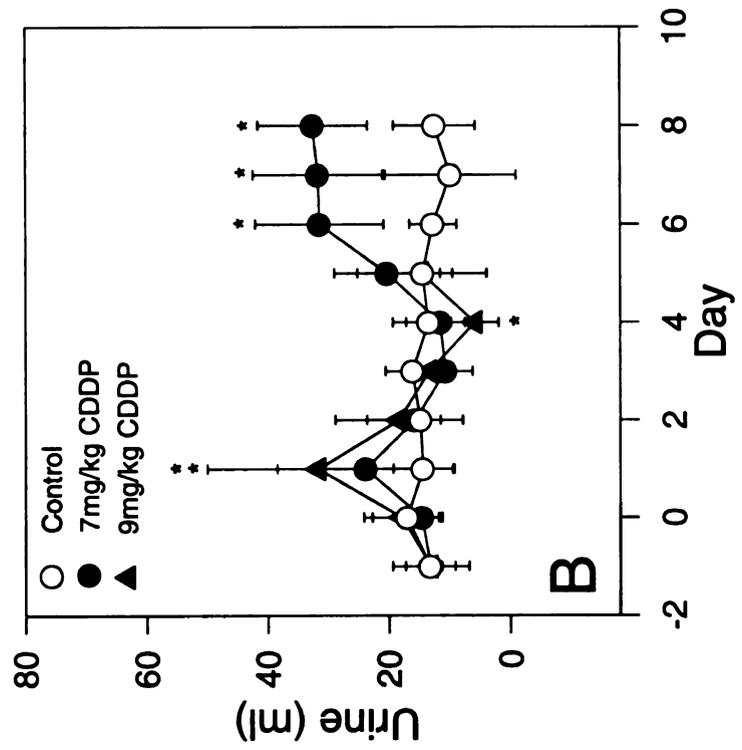


Figure 2: Water Intake and Urine Output of Control and CDDP Treated Rats.

- A) Water intake of control and CDDP treated rats. Water intake in both treatment groups decreased significantly (7mg/kg $P \leq 0.005$, 9mg/kg $P \leq 0.001$) by day 2 post-treatment and continues to decrease through day 3, with the two treatment groups also being significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$). Water intake starts to increase in both groups with the 9mg/kg group being significantly different from the control until sacrifice ($P \leq 0.0001$) and the 7mg/kg group ($P \leq 0.05$). The 7mg/kg group is significant only on day 4 ($P \leq 0.005$). By day 7 the 7mg/kg group has had a 4-fold increase in water intake from day 3. They are in taking a significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) greater volume than the controls. [Average \pm S.D.]**
- B) Urine output of control and CDDP treated rats. The treated groups had an increase in urine output by day-1 being significantly different from that of the control group (7mg/kg $P \leq 0.005$, 9mg/kg $P \leq 0.0001$). On day-2 the 9mg/kg group is significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) from the control group in urine output but not the 7mg/kg group. The urine output on day-3 showed no difference between groups, with a difference appearing again on day-4 between the 9mg/kg treatment group and both the control ($P \leq 0.05$) and 7mg/kg group ($P \leq 0.05$). The 7mg/kg groups urine output increased greatly days 6-8 giving a significant difference from the control ($P \leq 0.05$). [Average \pm S.D.]**



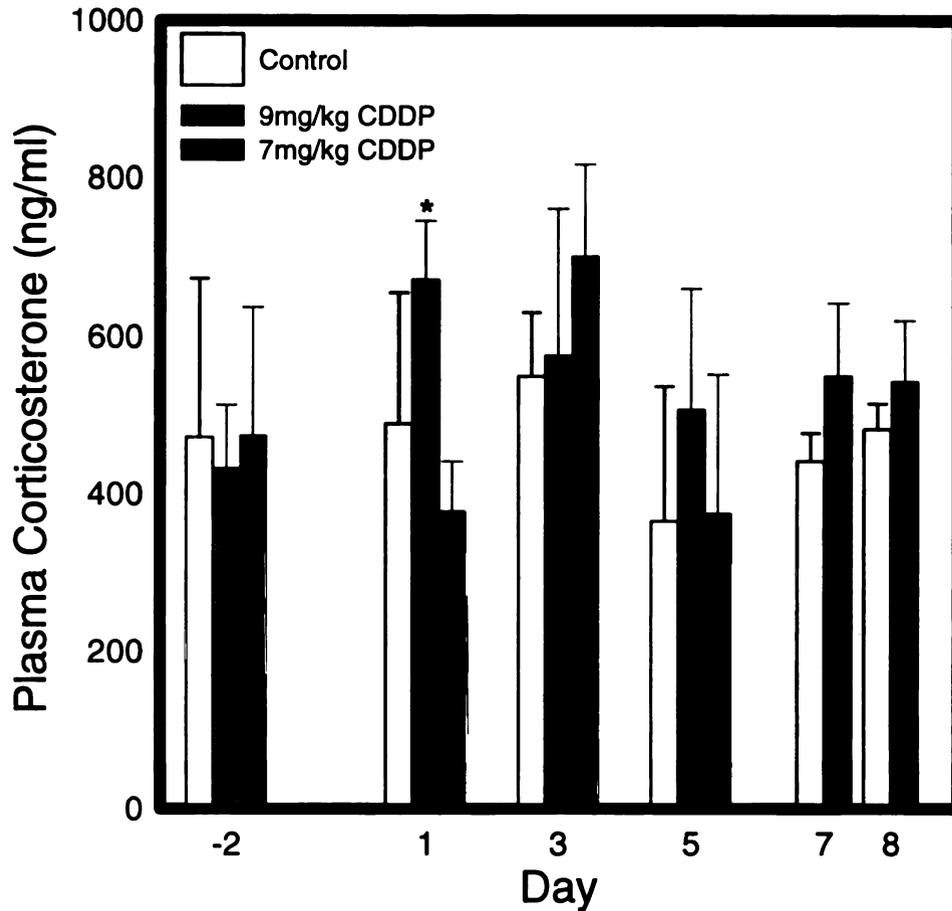


Figure 3: Plasma Corticosterone Concentration from Control and CDDP Treated Rats by Radioimmunoassay.

Plasma was collected on specified days and analyzed for the corticosterone concentration. On day 1 the 7mg/kg group showed a significant difference in the concentration of corticosterone from that of the control and the 9mg/kg group ($P \leq 0.005$). All other days showed no significant difference in the corticosterone concentration between groups. [Average \pm S.D.]

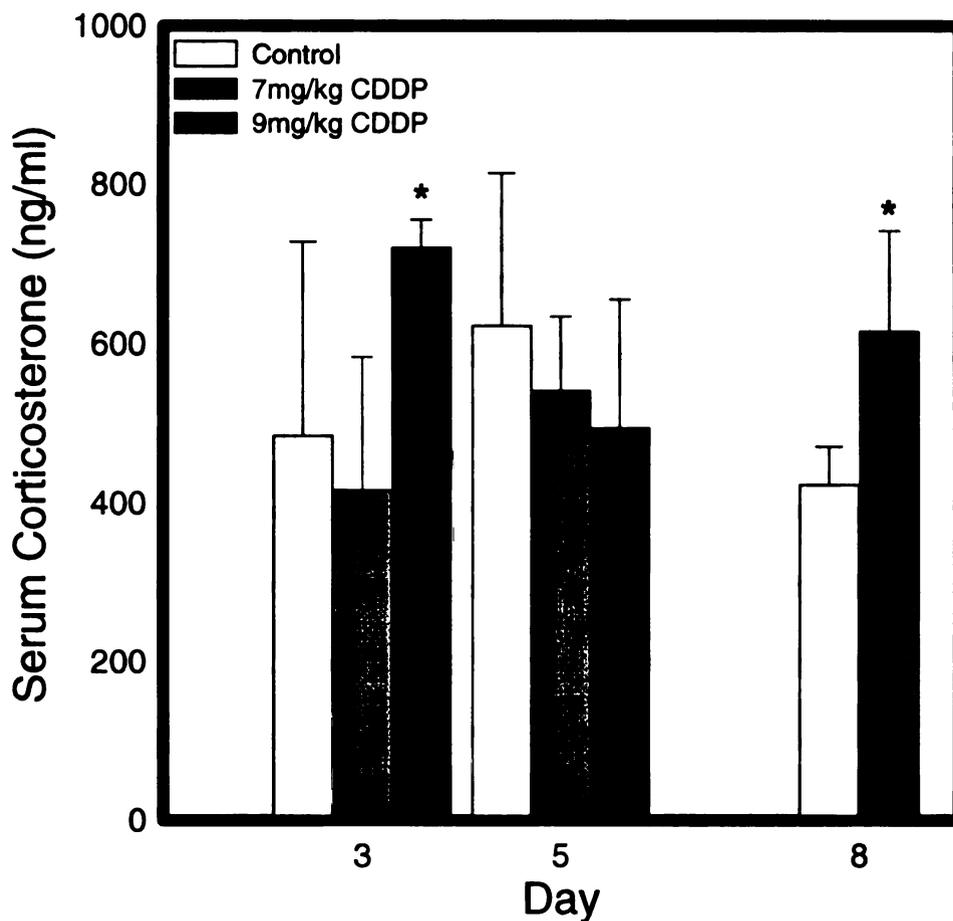


Figure 4: Corticosterone Concentration from Control and CDDP Treated Rats Adrenal Glands.

The serum was collected from processed from adrenal glands and analyzed for the level of corticosterone concentration. On day 3 the 9mg/kg group showed a significant difference in the amount of corticosterone present from the control and 7mg/kg group ($P \leq 0.05$). On day-8 the 7mg/kg group showed a significant difference in corticosterone concentration from that of the control group ($P \leq 0.05$). Day 5 shows no significant difference in the level of corticosterone between the groups. [Average \pm S.D.]

DISCUSSION

Various chemotherapeutic agents [4, 6, 9, 13, 29, 69-72], toxic chemicals [30, 32, 51, 73] drugs [33, 36-38, 73] and hormones [43, 50, 74-76] or hormone-like substances [31, 47, 56, 64] are known to effect food consumption, weight loss or gain, water intake and urine output of experimental animals. In this present study, treatment with cisplatin resulted in a decrease in food consumption and subsequent weight loss in both treatments [4, 9]. It has been suggested that when noxious compounds are administered, weight loss may be due to a shift in the regulation level for body [9, 51, 52, 54] and that the weight reduction is a result of regulation by decreased food intake until such a level of regulation is reached that is induced by the dose of the drug [51, 54]. Although the animals have reduced their food consumption to 0mg a day on days 4-5, they show signs of stomach distention and ulceration at the time of sacrifice [13]. This is indicative of ulceration of the stomach, possibly related to the levels of circulating steroids [25].

Water intake and urine outputs were altered suggesting that there is an effect on hormones that cause dipsia and polyuria. Other groups have found that cisplatin or other chemotherapeutic drugs [4-7, 10, 11, 71, 72, 77-79], estrogen [50], pertussis toxin [55] and bradyinin [56] have effects on both water intake and urine output and cause nephrotoxicity. This pattern in water intake (decrease through day 3 and then increasing) has been seen previously after cisplatin administration [4, 6, 9].

Cisplatin has been shown to be diuretic in Sprage-Dawley [9, 78] and Long-Evans Rats [5], while it acts as an antidiuretic in Wistar Rats [5]. This study shows a diuretic effect on Wistar Rats as they have an increased urine output on day one, in spite of decreases in water intake. Urine output decreases through day 4, which parallels decreases in water intake. This suggests that it may not be the effect of cisplatin acting as a antidiuretic but due to the lower fluid intake. This is confirmed on days 5-8 when there is an increase in urine output that parallels an increase in water intake. This pattern has been seen in previous studies which showed an increase in serum creatinine which is indicative of a water concentration defect with later tubular changes in the kidney with two different doses of cisplatin [6, 9].

Concentrations of corticosterone in rats and cortisol in humans are changed by stress [66, 67, 80, 81] from internal and external sources. Cancer causes internal stress or a direct form, where treatment with chemotherapeutic drugs and the drugs to reduce the side-affects cause stress from external sources or an indirect form. Substances such as heavy metals [29, 30, 82], toxic compounds [31], drugs [33-38, 73, 83], hormones [10, 26, 29, 43, 44, 50, 59, 60, 76, 83] have an affect on the corticosterone levels in rats. Cisplatin is a heavy metal and chemotherapeutic agent known to effect the structure of the adrenal gland [13, 84], therefore there is good reason to believe that it could alter corticosterone concentration.

There was an increase in plasma corticosterone concentration with the 7mg/kg dose of CDDP on all days post-treatment compared with pre-treatment

levels. The secretion of corticosterone into media from the adrenal glands on day 8 confirmed these increases. On day 5 the secretion of corticosterone into media from the adrenal gland did not show an increase in corticosterone concentration compared to the control. The concentration in the culture medium does coincide with the plasma corticosterone levels. This pattern is repeated with the 9mg/kg group as well on day 5. The differences seen between the two concentrations could be explained by the stress to the animal when drawing blood, or stress they experience prior to sacrifice. The animals that received the 9mg/kg dose of cisplatin appeared to be irritable and perhaps more stressed than the group treated with the 7mg/kg dose. These animals were dehydrated making the blood draw difficult. Sergejew *et al* (1996), found that corticosterone concentration in plasma and that secreted into media from adrenal glands were increased, although they were not significant from the control. Basal levels in their studies differed in that they were of a lower concentration from those found in the present study but this could be attributed to strain and gender differences [85, 86]. Other studies using male Wistar Rats reported basal levels from 400 to 600 mg/ml that are similar to our findings [33, 35, 47].

The adrenal cortex has a large reserve of precursors for steroid production, which may cause problems with detecting changes in circulating corticosterone. This is seen by a study done by Xarli, *et al* (1978), in human autopsy material. They found that 1.1% percent of all cases examined had some type of adrenal hemorrhage with cellular degeneration (not the cause of death). None of these cases had clinical finding to suggest any adrenocortical

dysfunction. Based on this study an increase in corticosterone indicates either extreme stress, stimulation to steroid synthesis or damage to the adrenal gland on a cellular level.

Other microscopic studies are required to examine the changes in structure, at light and EM levels, and explantation of the adrenal gland to organ culture to allow examination without uncontrolled factors such as changes in appetite, weight , water intake and urine output.

CONCLUSIONS

The physiological affects of alterations in weight and food, water and urine intake and/or output induce stress on the system and activate the corticosterone pathway. This gives rise to an increase in the concentration of corticosterone. To find if the corticosterone concentration increase is due to cisplatin directly or indirectly further studies will have to be conducted.

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**CHAPTER TWO: CISPLATIN-INDUCED STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE
RAT *IN VIVO***

SUMMARY

Wistar CRL:(WI)BR male rats were treated with either normal saline (vehicle for cisplatin), 7mg/kg or 9mg/kg of cisplatin. Animals were sacrificed at 3, 7 and 8 days for the 7mg/kg group and at 3 and 5 days for the 9mg/kg group. Adrenals were processed for light and electron microscopy. Both doses showed disruption of the mitochondria and secretory cells, enlargement and endothelial lining degradation of the venous channels in both the medulla and cortex of the adrenal gland and by a decrease in lipid droplets and then increase by day 8 post-treatment. Cisplatin appears to affect the adrenal gland directly by endothelial damage, which then causes further damage to the cell, and indirectly by degranulation of medullary and cortical secretory cells.

INTRODUCTION

The structure of the adrenal gland plays a major role in steroidogenesis. The gland is divided into the medulla and the cortex. The medulla develops from ectodermal neurocrest cells, and synthesizes nitrogen containing hormones, nor-epinephrine and epinephrine [1]. The adrenal cortex develops from mesodermal coelomic epithelium and different hormones are synthesized in specific zonae [2]. Therefore the gland is divided into 3 zonae, the innermost being the zona reticularis which comprises about 7% of the cortex and synthesizes the sex hormones [3-6]. The middle zone, zona fasciculata comprises 70% of the cortex and synthesizes the glucocorticoids including cortisol and corticosterone [3-6]. The outermost zone the zona glomerulosa comprises 15% of the cortex and synthesizes the mineralocorticoid aldosterone [3-6]. The adrenal gland is very important maintaining the homeostasis of the body because its function is to respond to alarm, adaptation and exhilaration [7]. The different zonae and the medulla of the adrenal gland vary in their susceptibility to different noxious agents' [8]. The zona glomerulosa receives part of its circulatory supply from the capsule thus allowing it to be protected from infarctive effects that may damage the adrenal arterioles in the rest of the cortex or in the medulla [8]. The mitochondria of the medulla are less prominent and their function is related to the cellular energy [9]. The mitochondria of the different zonae vary in their design dependent on the hormone that they are producing [4]. In the zona fasciculata the mitochondrial membranes play a major role in steroid synthesis. Cytochrome

P450 resides on the inner mitochondrial membrane and is the major player in the first step of steroidogenesis, converting cholesterol to pregnenolone [4, 6, 9-11]. Steroidogenesis then moves to the mitochondrial outer membrane to start the second phase where it can receive a rapid supply of cholesterol.

Damage to the medulla can alter steroid production by releasing catecholamines into the medullary venous channel [8, 12]. Damage to the mitochondria within a specific zona of the cortex influences not only the hormone synthesis in that zona [11, 13-19], but can also have an effect on the medulla's synthesis of catecholamines [20]. Agents that increase lipid concentration, such as benznidazole, aminoglutethimide, ACTH, prolactin and testosterone in the adrenal cortex may be activating a degenerative process by destroying cellular structure and impair function as seen in the liver [17, 21-24]. On the other hand agents that reduce lipids, such as hypocholesterolemic drugs, nifurtimox, monensin, 4-APP, tamoxifen can cause a shutdown in steroid synthesis [13, 25-28].

Present is an attempt to study any structural changes after cisplatin treatment and correlate these changes to alterations in corticosterone levels.

MATERIALS AND MEHTODS

Animals: Wistar CrI:(WI)BR male rats weighing 200 to 250 grams each from Charles River were placed 3 to a cage. Animals were maintained on a 12-hour day/night cycle, with food and water *ad lib*. Animals were allowed to adjust for three days to the new environment, after which time they were injected (Day 0) with a single dose via the intraperitoneal with normal saline (vehicle for cisplatin), 7mg per kg or 9mg per kg of cisplatin. Animals were then sacrificed by decapitation on days 3, 5 and 8 for the 7mg/kg treatment and days 3 and 5 for the 9mg/kg treatment, the adrenal glands were processed for light and electron microscopy.

Light Microscopy: One adrenal was cut in half, and both halves fixed in 2% glutaraldehyde in 0.1M sodium phosphate buffer (PBS), pH 7.4, dehydrated in graded ethanol series and embedded in JB4 (glycol methacrylate, Polyscience, Inc.). Sections (2 μ m) were stained with hematoxylin and eosin for general histology. The other adrenal was cooled down and frozen in isopentane (Sigma), further frozen in liquid nitrogen and then stored in liquid nitrogen until cryosectioned. Sections (10 μ m) were fixed in 10% normal buffered formalin and stained with sudan black for lipid localization.

Electron Microscopy: A thin, sagittal slice was cut from each adrenal, fixed in 2% glutaraldehyde in 0.1M phophate buffered saline (PBS), and then cut into smaller sections. Samples were postfixated in 1% OSO₄, in PBS, dehydrated in graded acetone series and embedded in Araldite resin. Thick sections were

taken and stained with toluidine blue to localize the area for thin sectioning. Ultra-thin sections were made using an ultratome (LKB- Sweden) and stained with aqueous 2% uranyl acetate and lead citrate, and examined with a Philips CM 210 transmission microscope. Fifteen to twenty blocks were embedded for each of twelve animals in each group. Minimums of five blocks to a maximum of ten blocks were thick sectioned for each animal to pick areas for thin sectioning for each animal.

RESULTS

The adrenal gland consists of two major areas, the medulla and the cortex. The medulla synthesizes the hormone norepinephrine and epinephrine. The cortex is composed of three zones each having specific functions. The zona glomerulosa is the outer most area it comprises about 15% of the adrenal gland and synthesizes mineralocorticoids [3-6]. The zona fasciculata is the middle area and comprises about 70% of the adrenal gland and synthesizes the glucocorticoids one of which is corticosterone [3-6]. The zona reticularis the innermost layer and borders the medulla, it comprises about 7% of the adrenal gland and synthesizes the sex hormones [3-6]. Mitochondria are prevalent in both the medulla and the cortex, although their function is somewhat different in each. The mitochondria of the medulla are less prominent and their function is related to the energy process of the cell [9]. The mitochondria of the cortex are very prevalent and play a major role in steroidogenesis because the hydroxylases required for steroid synthesis are located at the inner mitochondrial membranes [10].

The normal structure of the adrenal gland has been well defined and will not be repeated in this text [3-6, 29].

Medulla

The medullary secretory cell membranes in both of the CDDP treated groups were ill-defined compared to the controls with an apparent decrease in the number of nuclei on days 3 and 8 in the 7mg/kg dose (Figure 2-3) and days 3

and 5 in the 9mg/kg dose (Figure 4-5). There was an apparent increase in the number of nuclei on day 5 in the 7mg/kg dose (Figure 1-2). The medullary capillaries in the 7mg/kg dose were enlarged, have accumulated cellular debris within the lumens and the endothelial lining is degenerating (Figure 1-2). The venous channels of the 9mg/kg dose (Figure 4-5) did not have the aforementioned structural damage. At the EM level the mitochondria of both groups demonstrated an increase in damage as the days progressed post-treatment (Figure 6-9). This damage was apparent by the rarefaction and cavitation of the mitochondria. The granules within the norepinephrine and epinephrine cells were swollen and reduced in numbers on day 3 with the 7mg/kg dose (Figure 6 -9). By days 5 and 8 there was little distinction between the norepinephrine and epinephrine cells. Usually they vary in darkness with the norepinephrine cells appearing more white (the light cells) and the epinephrine cells appearing darker (the dark cells). Granules were swollen on all days and appeared to start to increase in number by day 8 with the 7mg/kg dose (Figure 7). The granules in the norepinephrine and epinephrine cells in the 9mg/kg dose were almost completely depleted.

Cortex

The medullary capillaries extend into and through the zona reticularis on days 3 and 5 of both treatments (Figure 10 and 11). The zona reticularis of the 9mg/kg dose (Figure 11) and the zona fasciculata (Figure 10) of the 7mg/kg dose on days 5 and 8 demonstrated clear areas that are indicative of an increase in the number of lipid compartments and/or an increase in the number of

mitochondrial lipid like inclusions. At the EM level (7mg/kg dose only) the medullary capillaries on days 5 and 8 were enlarged with accumulated cellular debris and endothelial lining degeneration (Figure 12 and 13). There was observed a disruption of both the medullary and zona reticularis mitochondria, increasing with time. The number of lipids in the zona reticularis increased by 2 fold by day 8 in the 7mg/kg dose compared to that of the control. This increase in lipids verifies what was seen at the light microscopic level.

The zona reticularis cells (Figure 14 and 15) in both treatment groups showed an apparent decrease in the number of nuclei, with day 5 and 8 (7mg/kg) showing some increase compared to the earlier treatments. The zona reticularis (9mg/kg) and the zona fasciculata with both treatment groups and after various days of post-treatment (Figure 14-18) showed disruption of the secretory cells with large clear areas which as mentioned previous indicate an increase in the number of lipid compartments and/or in the number of mitochondrial lipid like inclusions. Lipids (7mg/kg dose only) have decreased by day 3 with an increase (Figure 14 and 15) by day 8. The 9mg/kg dose has decreased lipids on both days 3 and 5, shown previously [19]. At the EM level (Figure 19-22) there was observed damage to the mitochondrial cristae with some recovery after day 5 and 8 in the 7mg/kg dose with no recovery with the 9mg/kg dose. The capillaries were enlarged with cellular debris in the lumen. There was also an increase in the number lipids with time in the 7mg/kg dose only (Figure 19 and 20), where both doses of cisplatin showed some lipids cases with increased compartment size.

The zona glomerulosa on day 5 in the 9mg/kg dose appeared to have decreased cytoplasm and nuclei compared to that of the control. The adrenal capsules were intact and appear to be unaffected by the treatment of CDDP at either dose (Figure 23 and 24).

Figure 1: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days, (D) 8 Days.

The capillaries (V) in the medulla (M) are enlarged and extending into the zona reticularis (zr). The zona reticularis has enlarged capillaries on day3, the zona fasciculata (ZF) by day 5 and the zona glomerulosa (ZG) by day 8. Methylene blue stain. Bar = 2mm

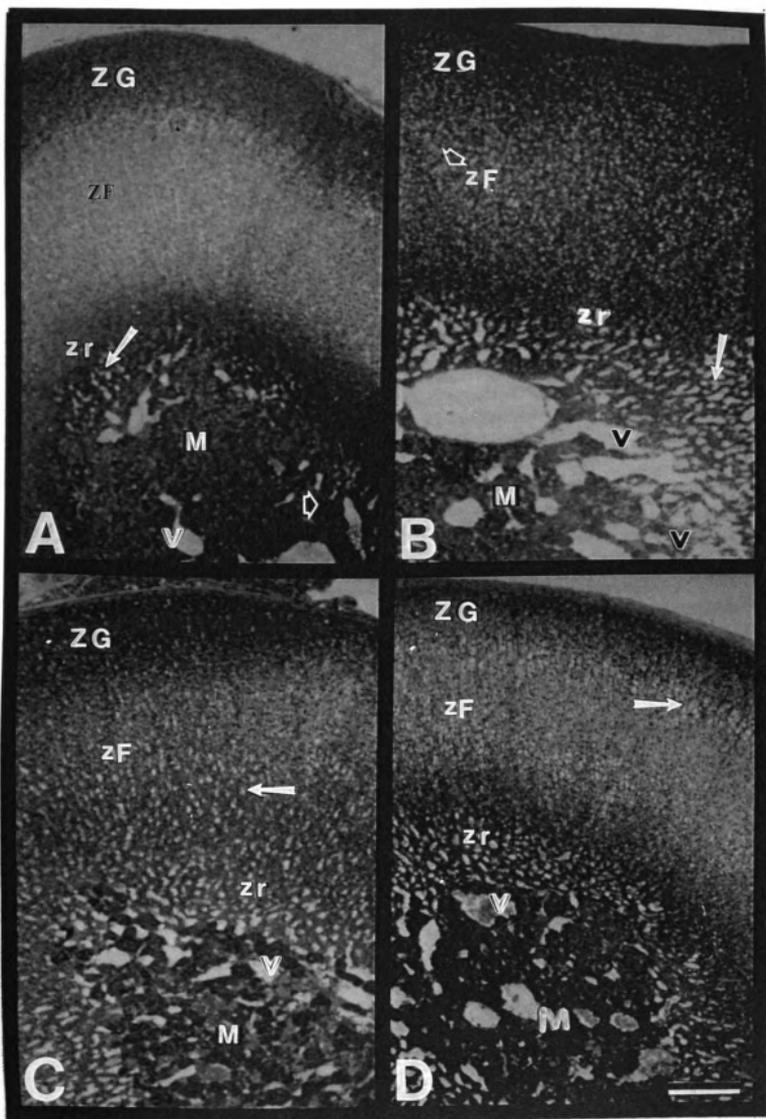


Figure 2: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Adrenal Medulla of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days, (D) 8 Days.

The secretory cell (arrows) membranes are not as defined, there appears to be fewer nuclei on days 3 and 8 with an increase on day 5. Note the enlarged capillaries (V) with red blood cells (R) and cellular debris within the lumen. The areas enclosed by square enclosures are enlarged in Figure 2. Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.02mm

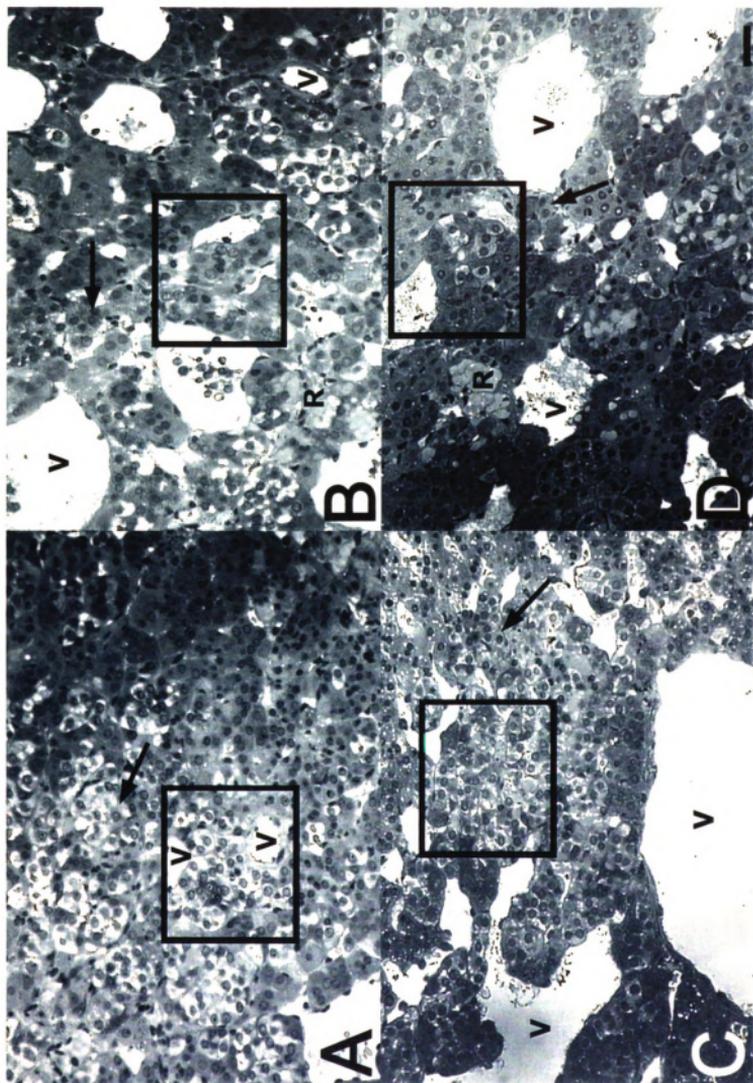


Figure 3: Light Micrographs Showing the Magnified View of Various Cellular Changes Before (A) and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

The cell membranes are not as defined and the appearance of fewer nuclei (arrow) on day 3 and 8. The capillaries (V) are enlarged with red blood cells (R) and cellular debris with in the lumen. Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.0.006mm

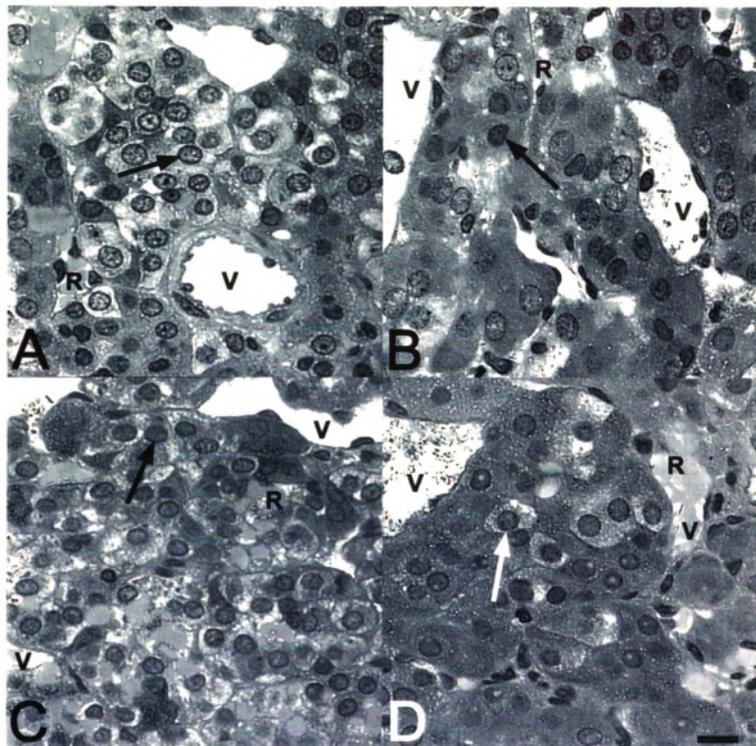


Figure 4: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Adrenal Medulla of Control (A) and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days and (C) 5 Days.

The medullary cell membranes are losing definition and there is a decrease in the number of nuclei (arrows) in the post-treatment. At this magnification there is no apparent damage to the capillaries (V). The areas enclosed by square enclosures are enlarged in Figure 5. Hematoxylin and eosin stain.

Bar = 0.02mm

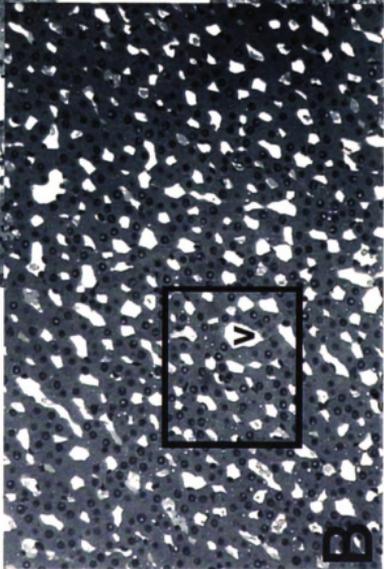
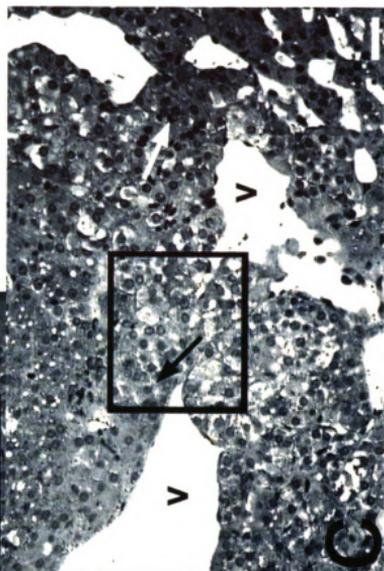
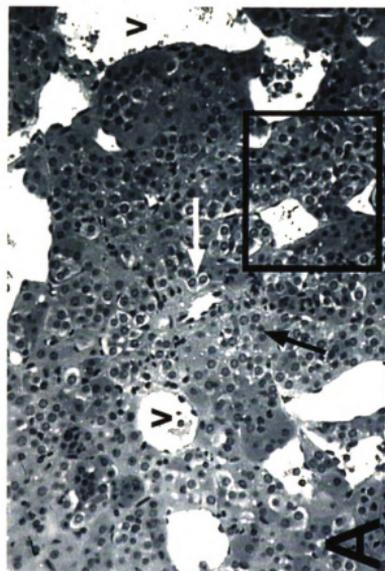


Figure 5: Light Micrographs Showing the Magnified View of Various Cellular Changes Before (A) and After CDDP (9mg/kg) Treatment at (B) 3 Days and (C) 5 Days.

Day 3 has no membrane distinction between the medullary cells compared to that of day 5. Both day 3 and 5 appear to have a decrease in the number of nuclei (arrows). The capillaries (V) show no structural damage. Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.006mm

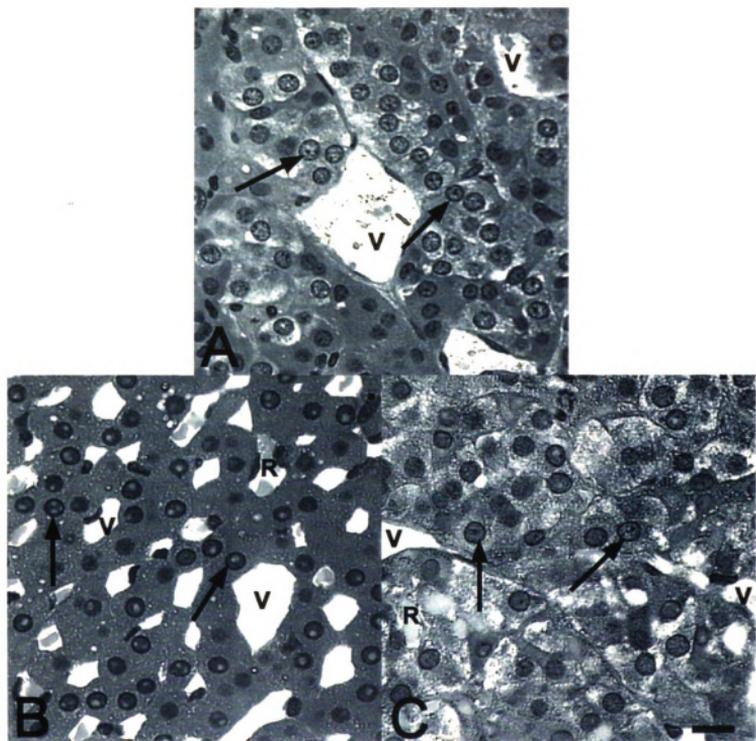


Figure 6: Electron Micrographs of Medullary Region of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

The nuclei (N) and myelinated nerves (n) that are present show no change. The mitochondria (M) show increasing damage with time. This is evident in the cristae (arrowhead) or cavitation of the mitochondrial cells (no cristae). Chromaffin cells both norepinephrine (black arrow) and epinephrine (white arrow) have granules that appear swollen by day 3. By day 5 there is less differentiation between the norepinephrine (black arrow) and epinephrine (white arrow) cells, with fewer granules within the epinephrine cells. The medullary capillaries (V) are enlarged with red blood cells (R) in the lumen and the endothelial lining appears degenerated. By day 8 there are fewer granules in the norepinephrine cells (white arrow) while the epinephrine granules (black arrow) are swollen. Bars = 400 μ m

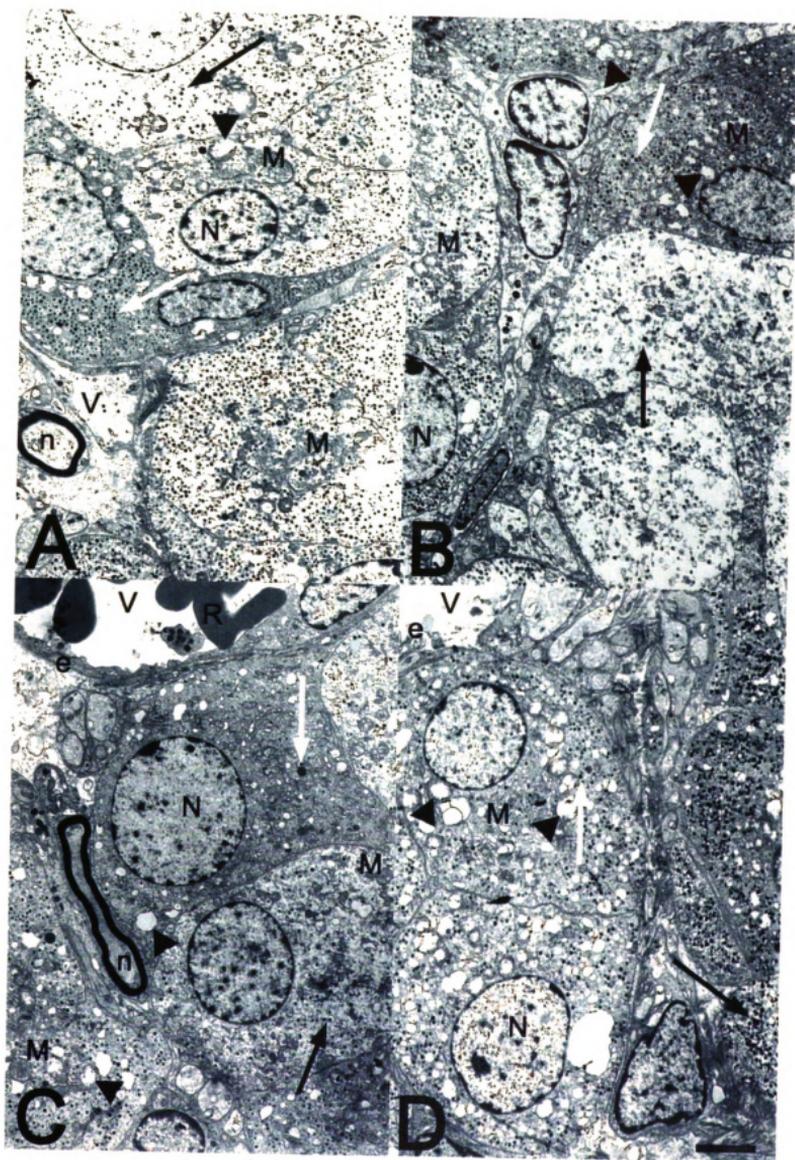




Figure 7: Selected Areas from Figure 6 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before (A) and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment at 3 Days (B), 5 Days (C) and 8 Days (D) in the Medulla.

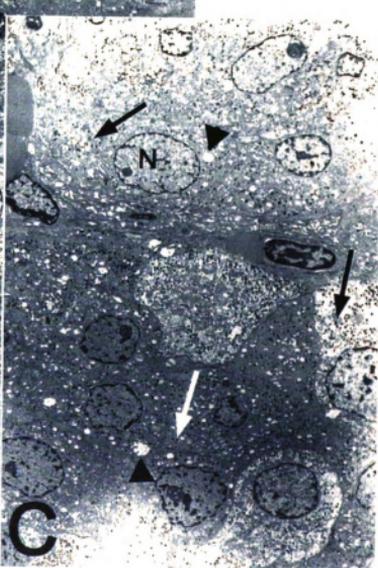
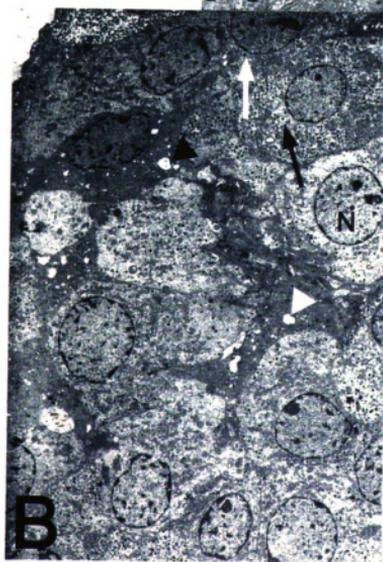
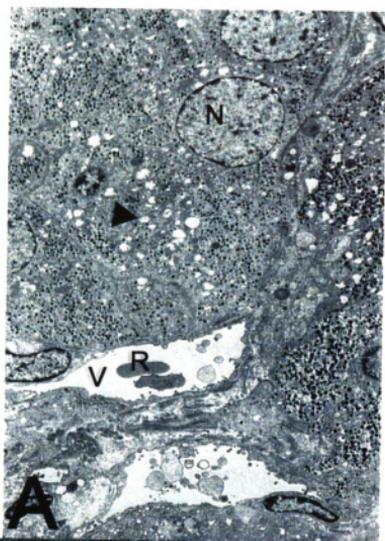
Arrows (black) norepinephrine cell, (white) epinephrine cell, N = nucleus, n = myelinated nerve, V = capillary, M = mitochondria and arrowhead (black) cavitated mitochondria. Bars = 150 μ m





Figure 8: Electron Micrographs of Medullary Region of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

The nuclei (N) show no change. There is progressing disruption of the mitochondria as shown by the cavitation (arrowhead) of the cell. This disruption appears to be more prevalent in the norepinephrine cells than in the epinephrine cells. The norepinephrine (black arrow) and epinephrine (white arrow) granules appear to be decreased in number as time progresses. Bar = 400 μ m



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Figure 9: Selected Areas from Figure 8 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before (A) and After CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days and (C) 5 Days, in the Medulla.

Arrows (black) norepinephrine cell, (white) epinephrine cell, N = nucleus, M = mitochondria and arrowhead cavitated mitochondria. Bar = 150 μ m

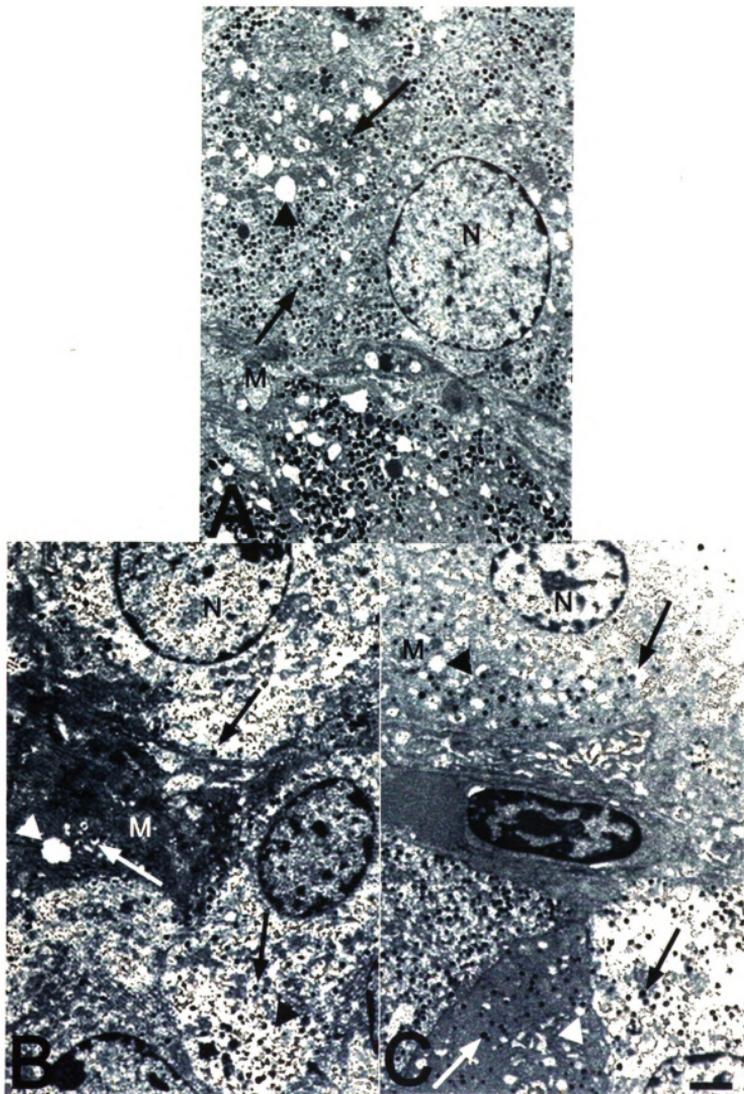


Figure 10: Light Micrographs of Sections ($2\mu\text{m}$) of the Medulla, Zona Reticularis and Zona Fasciculata of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

The medullary (M) cell membranes are less defined as in previous with an apparent decrease in the number of nuclei. Note the capillaries (V) that are extending through the zona reticularis (ZR). The zona fasciculata (ZF) has many clear areas (smaller areas) that are indicative of a higher number of lipid compartments and/or an increased number of mitochondrial lipid like inclusions on days 5 and 8 compared to that of day 3 and the control. Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.02mm

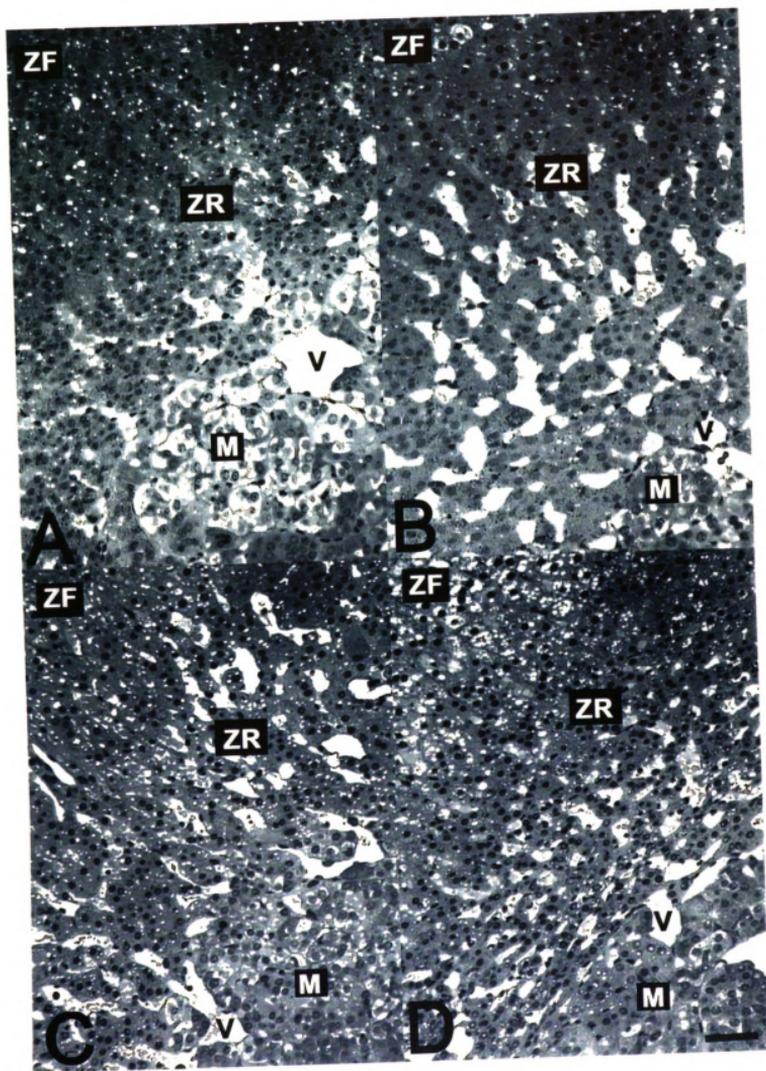


Figure 11: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Medulla and the Zona Reticularis of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

The medullary (M) cell membranes have very little to no distinction on day 3, with day 5 showing an improvement, there appears to be a decrease in the number of nuclei from the control. The medullary capillaries (V) have extended into the zona reticularis (ZR) by day 5. The zona reticularis has increased damage as post-treatment time progresses, with the appearance of small circular clear areas that are indicative of and increase in the number of lipid compartments and an increase in the number of mitochondrial lipid like inclusions. Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.02mm

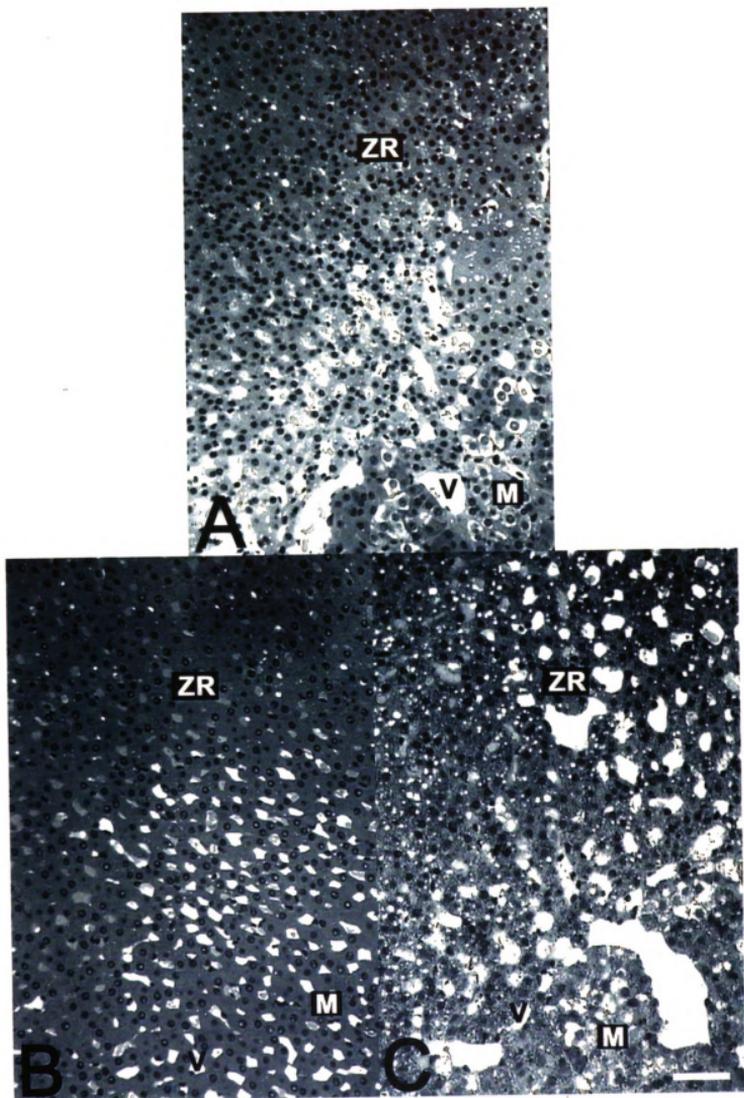
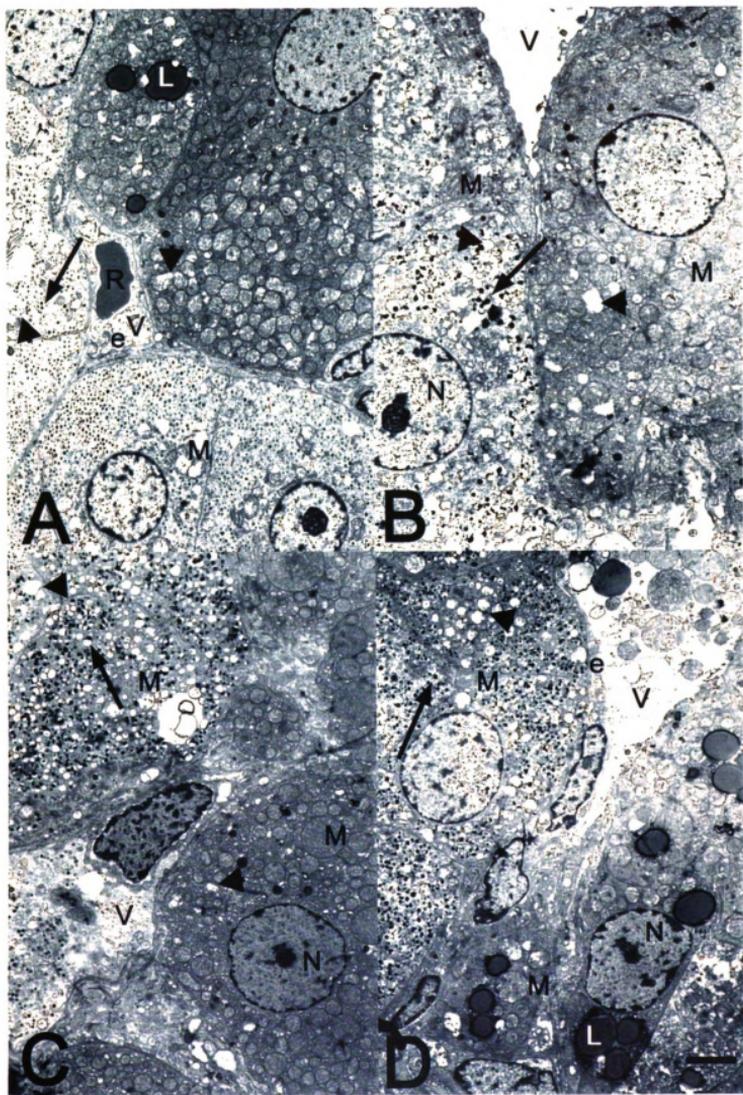


Figure 12: Electron Micrographs of the Medulla and Zona Reticularis of the Cortex of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

The nuclei (N) in the medulla show no change in structure. The capillaries (V) are enlarged, with a red blood cell (R) present in the lumen of the control and an accumulation of cellular debris at days 5 and 8. The endothelial lining (e) has increased degeneration as time post-treatment progresses. The mitochondria (arrowheads) of the medulla have increased damage to their cristae time post-treatment progresses. The norepinephrine cells appear to have fewer granules (black arrow) at day 3 with an increase in the number of granules at day 5 and 8. All the granules within the norepinephrine cells from days 3-8 are swollen. The zona reticularis of the cortex, which consists of many mitochondria (arrowheads) shows increasing, damage as the time progresses. The number of lipids (L) has increased 2 fold by day 8 from the control. Bar = 400 μ m



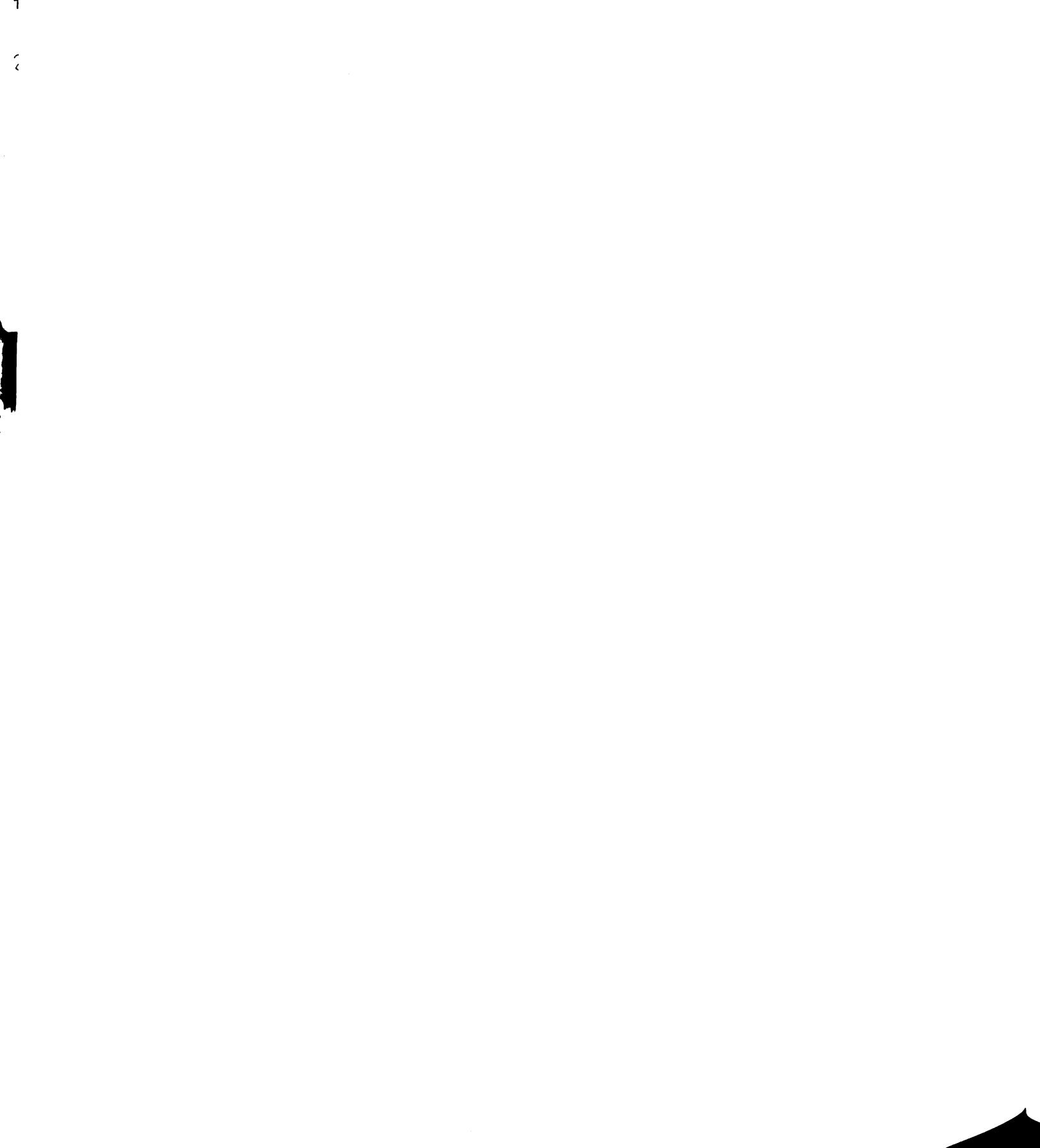


Figure 13: Selected Areas from Figure 12 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before (A) and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment at 3 Days (B), 5 Days (C) and 8 Days (D) in the Medulla and Zona Reticularis.

Arrowheads = cavitated mitochondria, arrows = norepinephrine granules, **M** = mitochondria, L = lipids, G = golgi complex, N = nucleus, V = capillaries, R = red blood cell and e = endothelial lining. Bar = 150 μ m

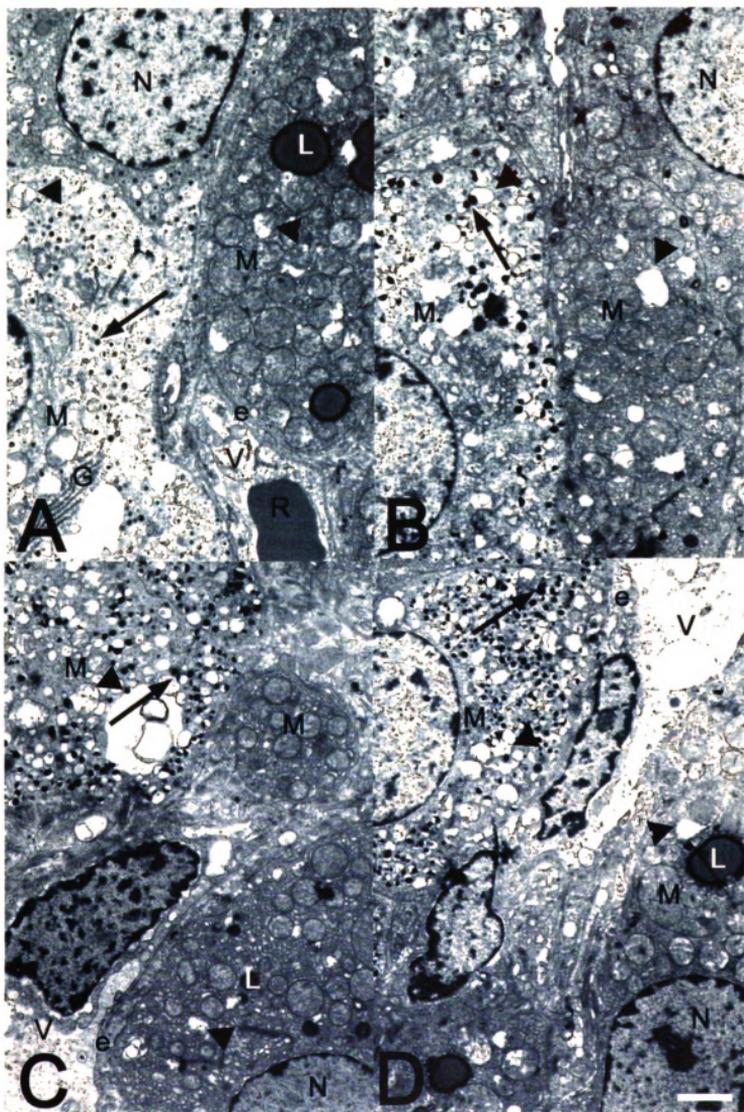
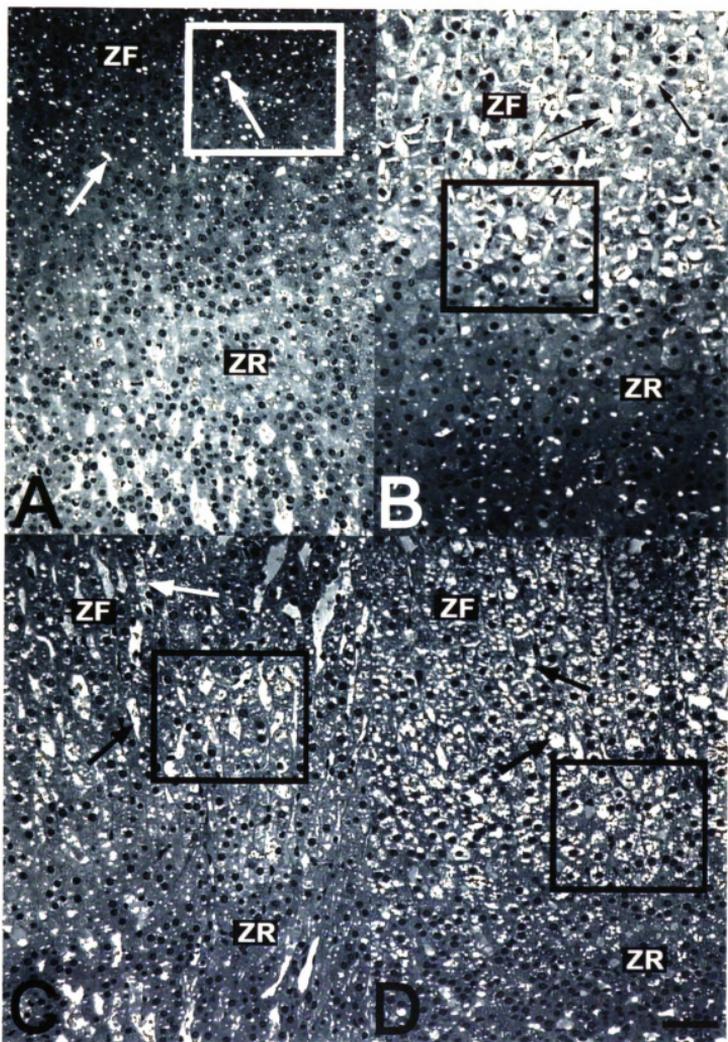


Figure 14: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Reticularis and Zona Fasciculata of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

The network like clumps of secretory cells of the zona reticularis (ZR) are less defined and appear to have fewer nuclei on day 3 compared to days 5, 8 and the control. Days 5 and 8 appear to have an increase in the number of nuclei but no apparent improvement in the cellular organization. The narrow chords of secretory cells of the zona fasciculata (ZF) in all treatment groups show disruption with clear areas (small areas) (arrows) that indicate an increase in lipid compartments and an increase in the number of mitochondrial lipid like inclusions compared to that of the control. The areas enclosed by square enclosures are enlarged in Figure 15. Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.02mm



2

Figure 15: Light Micrographs Showing the Magnified view of Various Cellular Changes Before (A) and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment at (B) 3 days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days..

There appears to be a decrease in the number of nuclei (arrows) from day 3-8, although day 5 and 8 have an increased number of nuclei compared to day 3. There is an increase in the number of small round clear areas as time post-treatment progresses. These areas are indicative of an increase in the number of lipid like compartments and an increase in the number of mitochondrial lipid like inclusions. Note the larger elongated clear areas (Va) which are capillaries some with red blood cells (R) in the lumens. Hematoxylin and eosin stain.
Bar = 0.007mm

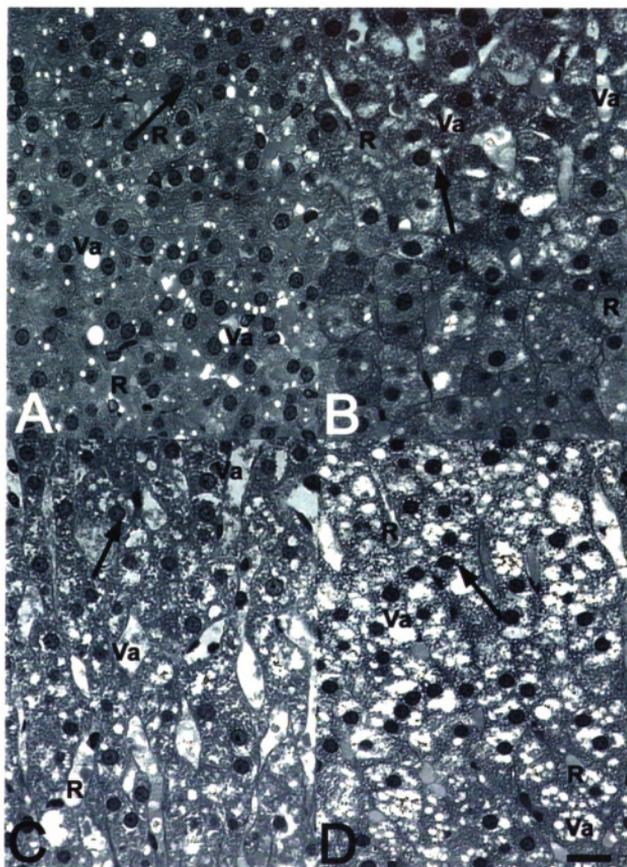


Figure 16: Light Micrographs of Cryo-Sections (10 μ m) of the Zona Fasciculata and Zona Glomerulosa of the Adrenal Gland of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

Clear areas within the zona fasciculata denote lipid deposition. There is a depletion of lipids on day 3, with an increasing number on day 5 and 8. Note the enlarged capillaries (arrow) on day 5 and 8. Sudan black stain. Bar = 0.2mm

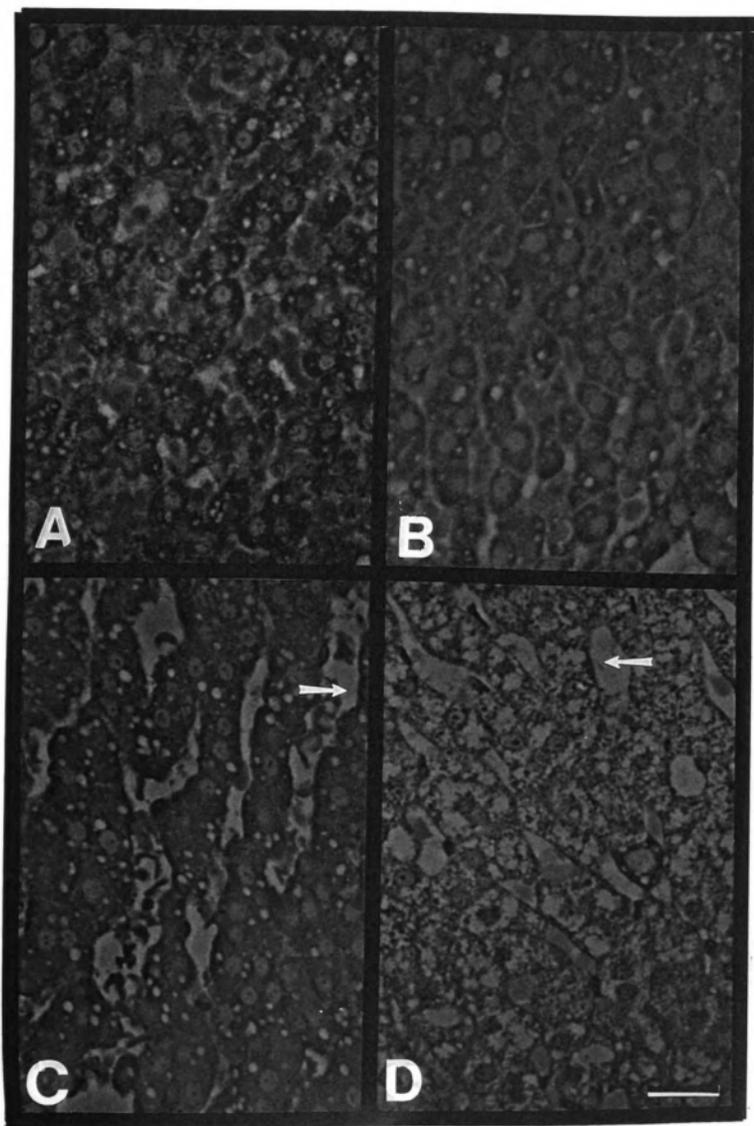


Figure 17: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Reticularis and Zona Fascicularis of the Adrenal Cortex of Control (A) and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days and (C) 5 Days.

The zona reticularis (ZR) of the treated groups appear to have fewer nuclei. There is an increase in the number of small round clear areas (arrows) in both the zona reticularis and the zona fasciculata (ZF) of the treated groups with day 5 having a very high percentage of these areas. These areas indicate an increase in the number of lipid compartments and an increase in the number of mitochondrial lipid like inclusions. The areas enclosed by square enclosures are enlarged in Figure 18. Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.02mm

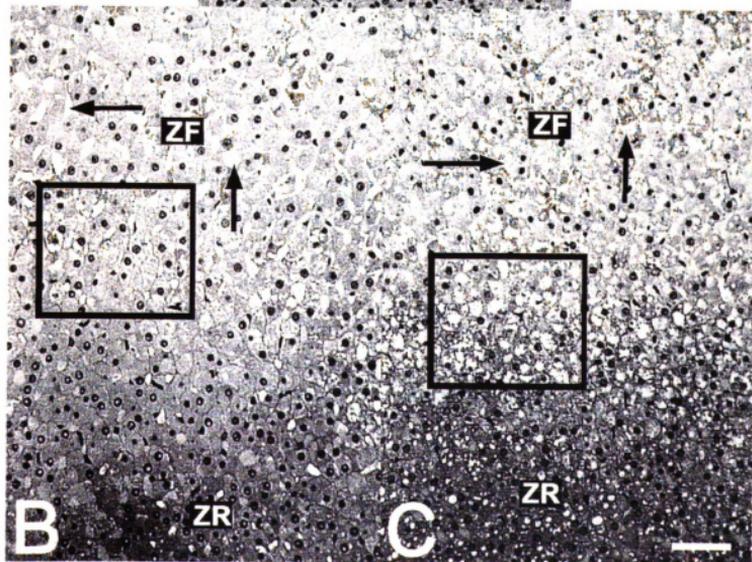
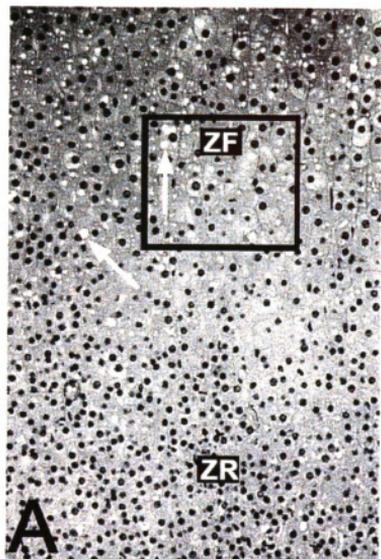


Figure 18: Light Micrographs Showing the Magnified View of Various Cellular Changes Before (A) and After CDDP (9mg/kg) Treatment at (B) 3 Days and (C) 5 Days.

The chords of secretory cells that make up the zona fasciculata are not as defined as the controls, and appear to have a decrease in the number of nuclei. There is a decrease in the number of small clear areas (arrow) as time progresses. These areas are indicative of lipid compartments. Note the larger elongated clear areas (Va) capillaries that are increasing in size, some with red blood cells within the lumen (R). Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.01mm

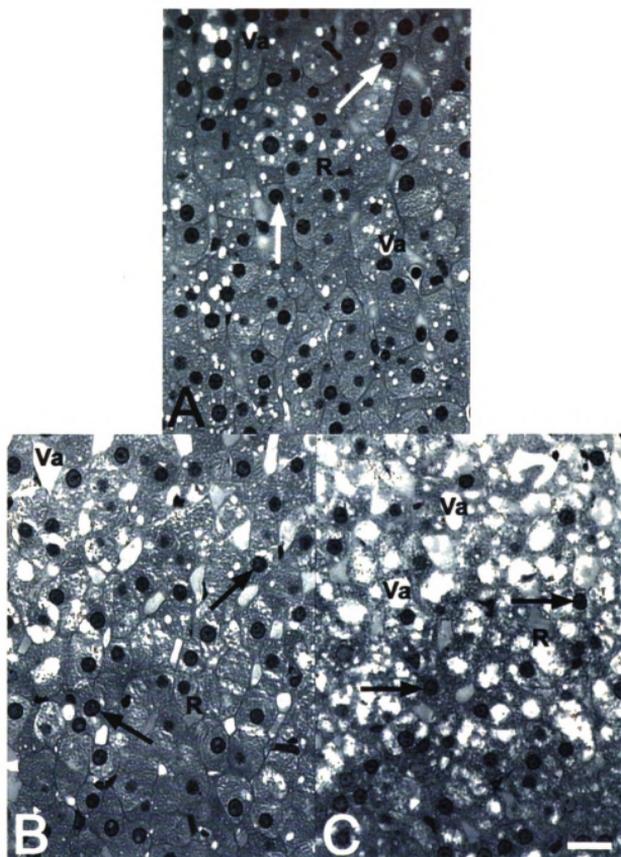




Figure 19: Electron Micrographs of the Zona Fasciculata of the Adrenal Cortex of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

The nuclei (N) show no alteration in structure. The mitochondria (M) have increased disruption to their cristae through day 5 with less apparent disruption on day 8. There is an increase in the number of lipids (L) as the post-treatment time progresses, with some showing an increase in the lipid compartment. The controls capillaries (S) has a red blood cell (R) within its lumen, but does not have the enlarged size or accumulation of cellular debris within the lumen, including platelets (p) that is seen in the treated. The endothelial lining (e) of the sinusoids are degenerate (arrow) in all treated groups. Bar = 400 μ m

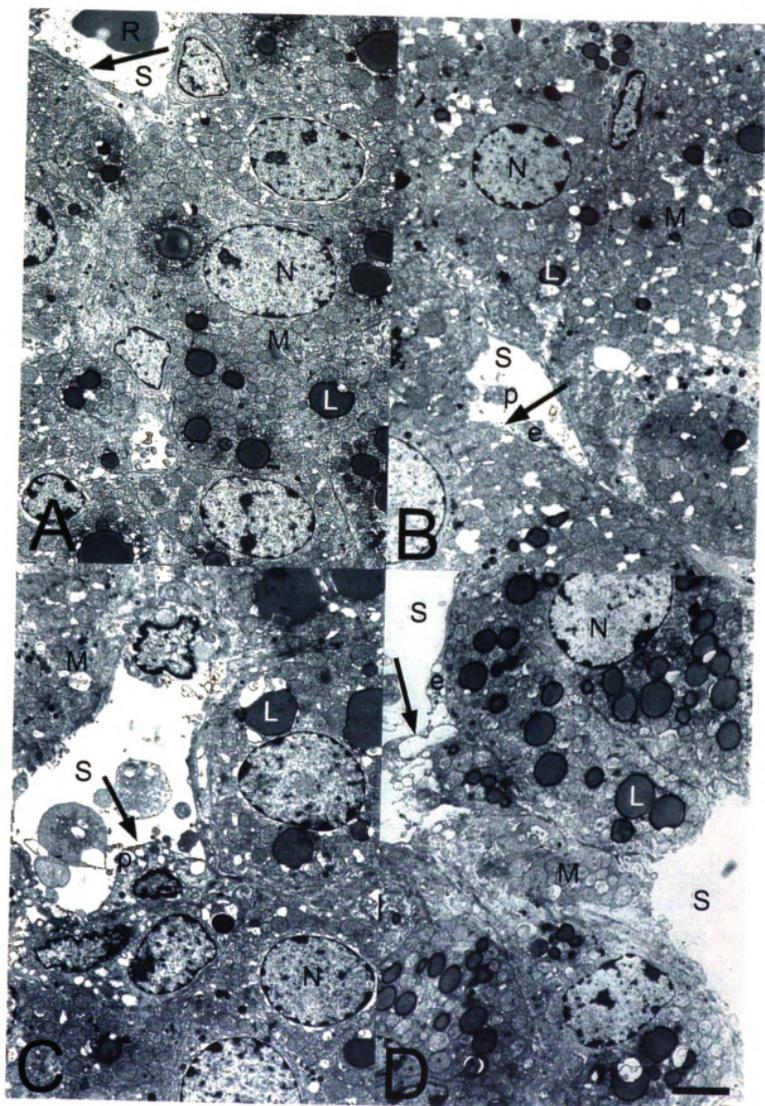


Figure 20: Selected Areas from Figure 19 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before (A) and After CDDP (7mg/kg) Treatment at 3 Days (B), 5 Days (C) and 8 Days (D).

N = nucleus, M = mitochondria, arrowhead = cavitated mitochondria, arrow = mitochondria with damaged cristae, L = lipids, S = capillaries, e = endothelial lining and p = platelets. Bar = 150 μ m

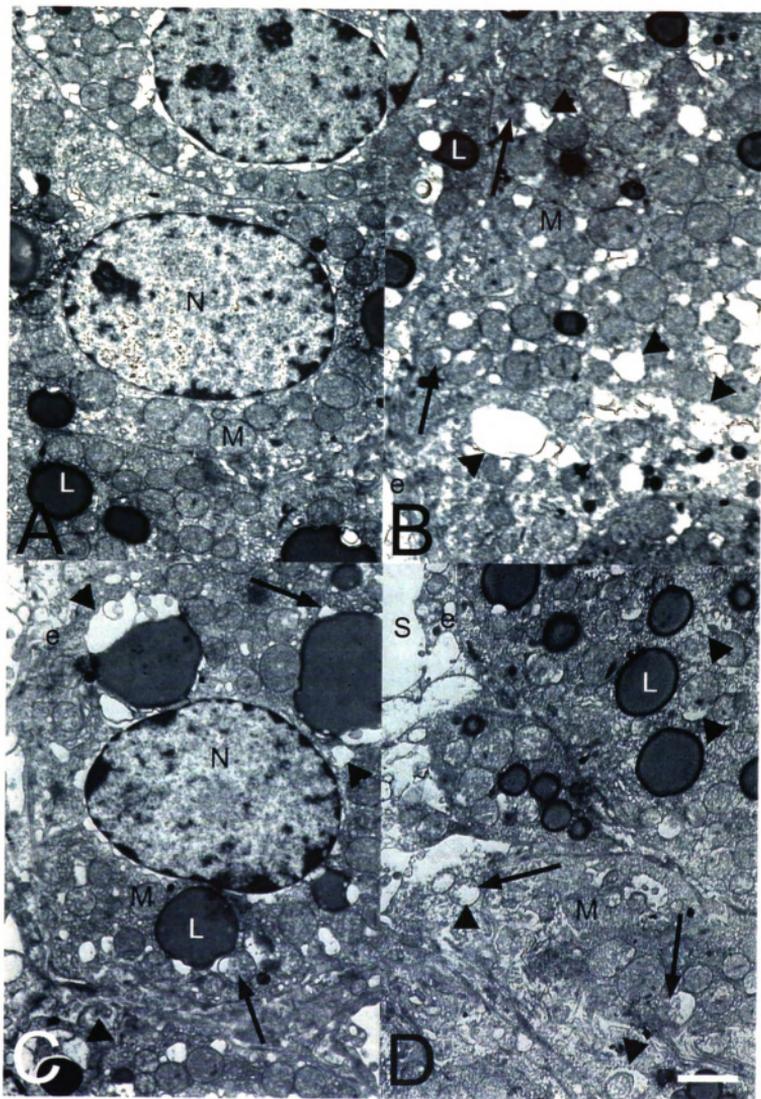


Figure 21: Electron Micrographs of the Zona Fasciculata of the Adrenal Cortex of Control (A) and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days and (C) 5 Days.

The nuclei (N) show no apparent difference. The mitochondria (M) have irregular cristae or no cristae (arrowhead). The disruption of the mitochondria increases as time post-treatment progresses. There are less lipids (L) with the lipid size increasing by day 5. Bar = 400 μ m

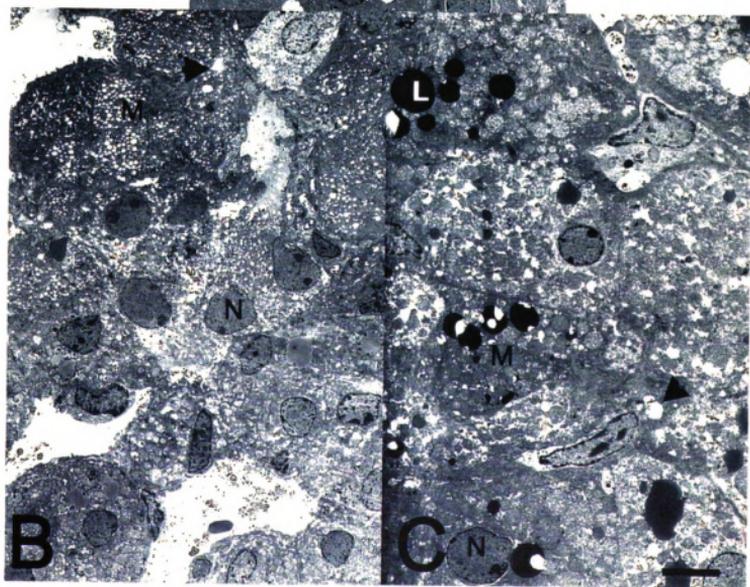
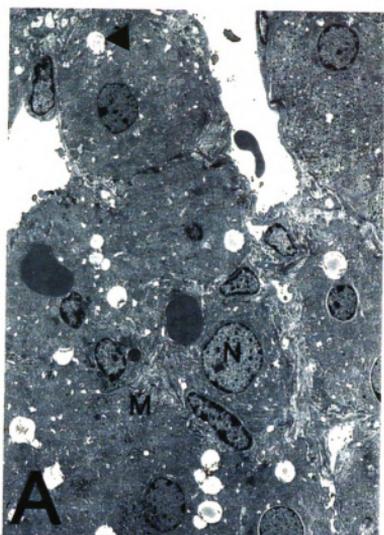


Figure 22: Selected Areas from Figure 21 Have Been Enlarged to Show Changes Before (A) and After CDDP Treatment at 3 Days (B) and 5 Days (C).

N = nucleus, M = mitochondria, arrowhead = cavitated mitochondri, L = lipids.
Bar = 150 μ m

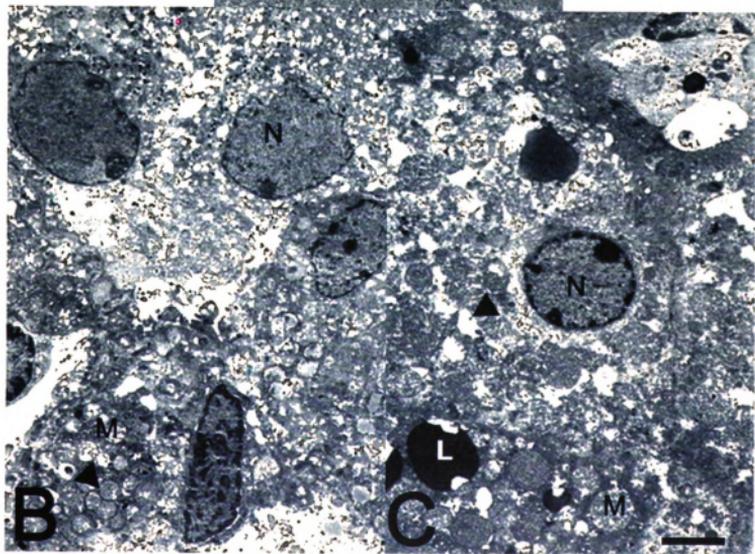
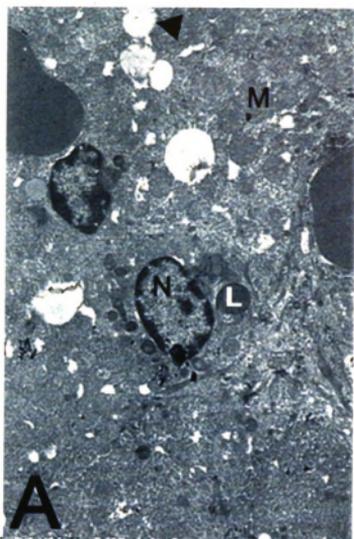


Figure 23: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Fasciculata and Zona Glomerulosa of the Cortex of Control (A) and After 7mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days, (C) 5 Days and (D) 8 Days.

As described previously the zona fasciculata (ZF) appears to have a decreased number of nuclei (arrows) on days 3-8, although days 5 and 8 appear to have increased nuclei compared to day 3. There is an increased number of elongated clear areas (arrowheads) enlarged capillaries from the control. There is also an increased number of small round clear areas on days 5-8 which indicate an increase in the number of lipid compartments and an increase in the number of mitochondrial lipid like inclusions. There no apparent difference between groups in the zona glomerulosa (ZG) or the capsule (Cap). Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.02mm

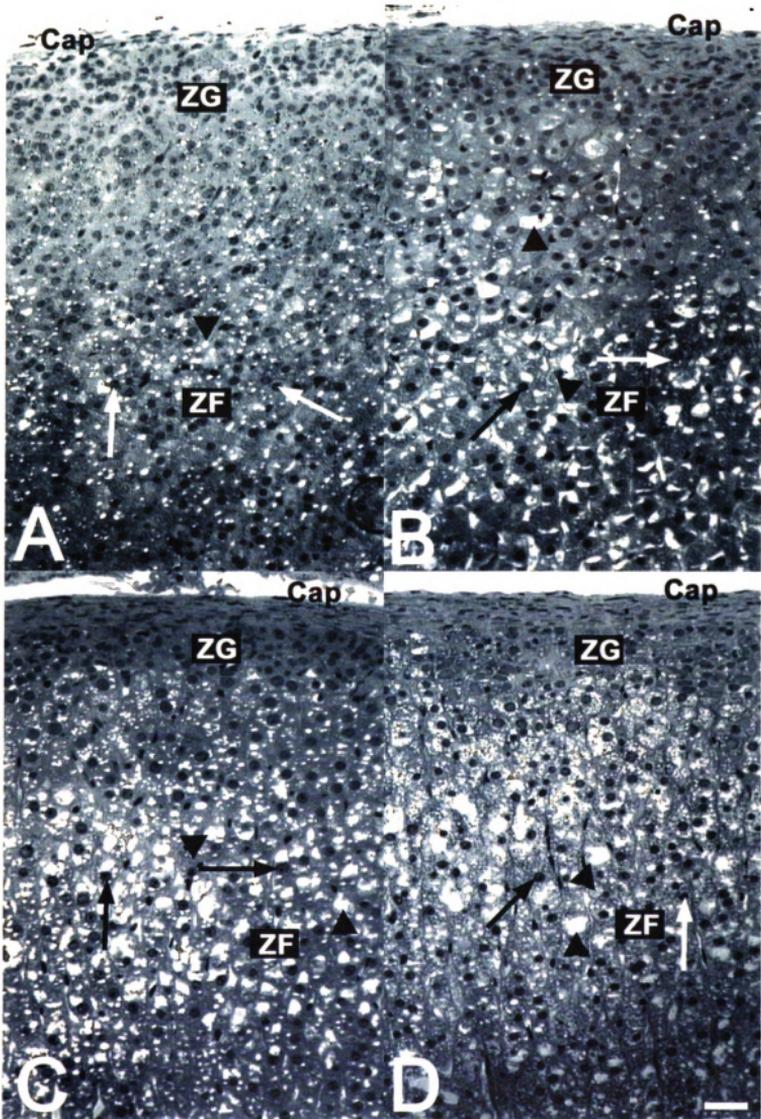
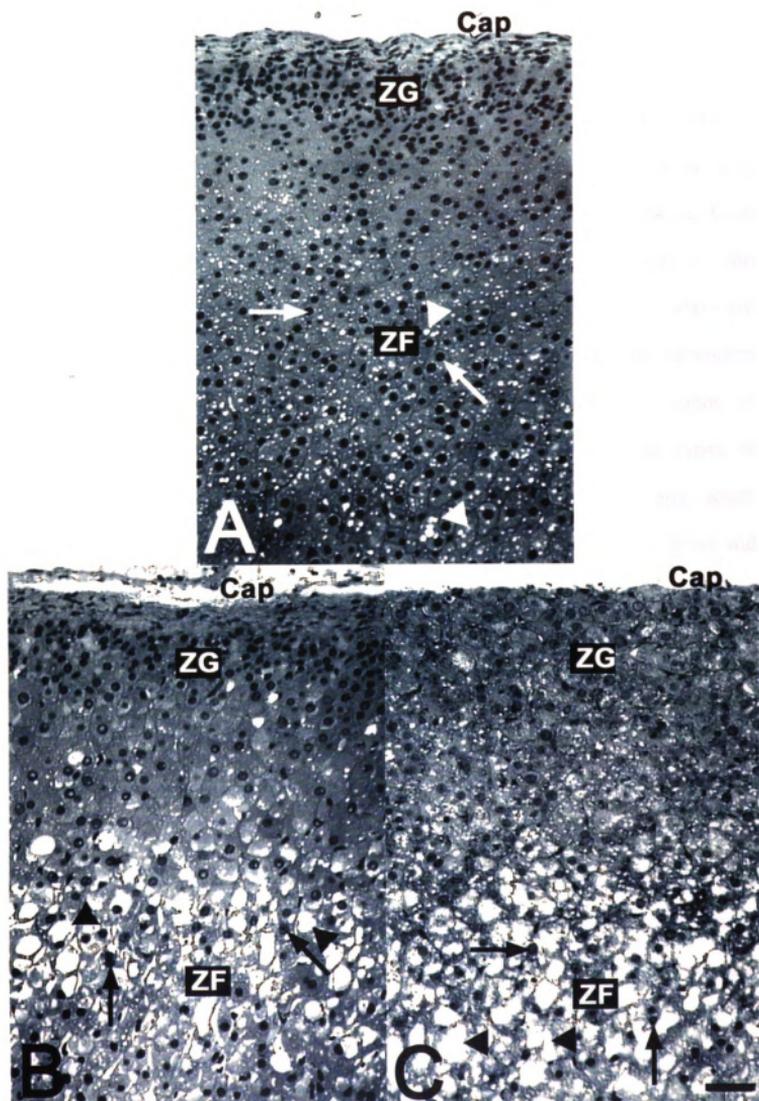


Figure 24: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Fasciculata and Zona Glomerulosa of the Adrenal Cortex of Control (A) and After 9mg/kg CDDP Treatment at (B) 3 Days and (C) 5 Days.

The zona fasciculata (ZF) has increasing disruption to its secretory cells and appears to have fewer nuclei (arrows) as the time post-treatment progresses. There are a large number of elongated clear areas (arrowheads) enlarged capillaries compared to the control, which are increasing as time progresses. There is a decrease in the number of small round clear areas that are indicative of a decrease in the number of lipid compartments. The capillaries are starting to enlarge and also extend into the zona glomerulosa (ZG) by day 5 with an apparent decrease in the number of nuclei compared to day 3 and the control. The capsules (Cap) are intact with no apparent change in structure. Hematoxylin and eosin stain. Bar = 0.0



DISCUSSION

A number of drugs and noxious chemicals are known to alter the structural integrity of the adrenal gland by destruction (necrosis and hemorrhage), degeneration (senile nodular hypertrophy, telangiectasia, focal fatty changes), adaptive reactions (phospholipid lysosomal inclusion) and neoplastic alterations [8, 12, 30]. The medullary mitochondria cristae are disrupted with the secretory cells having fewer granules, with the remaining granules being swollen. The capillaries are enlarged and have signs of endothelial lining degeneration. It has been suggested that some types of cortical endothelial injury may be secondary to the medullary damage, which subsequently releases catecholamine granules into the medullary capillaries and the cortical capillaries [8, 20, 31]. Cisplatin is known to cause severe telangiectasia and loss of the lipid vesicles from the zonae fasciculata and reticularis shortly after treatment and at the 9mg/kg dose for the duration of the experiment, then increasing as time progresses post-treatment [18, 19]. This occurrence is also seen with other chemotherapeutic drugs [13], and toxic chemicals [21, 22, 25, 26, 32]. The loss of lipid vesicles could stimulate the system to retrieve new cholesterol for steroid production, which in rats is mainly from an exogenous source [33]. Lipids are necessary for the synthesis of steroid hormones because they carry the cholesterol that will be converted into pregnenolone [8, 11, 29, 34]. The mitochondria are the most susceptible and are altered to the point of being abnormal. The mitochondrial compartment is

enlarged with the matrix and inner membranes being completely disrupted. Other studies have reported these same results with chemotherapeutic agents [13, 21] other toxic chemicals ([16, 22] and hormones such corticotropin releasing hormone and adrenocorticotrophic hormone [11, 15, 24, 35]. Cisplatin when hydroxylated is known to uncouple oxidative phosphorylation in isolated mitochondria, a necessary part of the mitochondrial function [36]. The mitochondria of the zona fasciculata are the site of corticosterone synthesis thus any disruption can effect the concentration of corticosterone [6, 9-11, 20]. The disruption of the zona fasciculata at first may allow for release of corticosterone into the system, but then can interfere with steroid production by disrupting the contact between the smooth endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria and the lipids. This contact is very important for the synthesis of steroids by allowing exchange of enzymes, cholesterol and intermediate products between these areas. We have previously shown that circulating corticosterone concentration is increased on day 1 and again at day 5 post-treatment in the lower dose of cisplatin (chapter 1) with corticosterone (ng/ml) output from adrenal explants being relatively the same. This is most likely due to the release of corticosterone due to an increase in stress and structural damage caused by CDDP at first and then to the increase in steroid synthesis seen by the increase of lipids in the cortex. Whereas corticosterone concentration decreased in the higher dose of CDDP on day 1 with an increase at day 3, this could be do to the difference in dose itself. The animals treated with the higher dose emulate a much worse overall condition.

Cisplatin appears to affect the adrenal gland directly by endothelial damage, which then causes further damage to the cell, and indirectly by degranulation of medullary and cortical secretory cells. With the release of epinephrine and corticosterone into the circulatory system and decrease in the lipid droplets that store cholesterol esters for steroidsynthesis [37] post-treatment with lipid recovery as days progress post-treatment. To determine the mechanism that alters adrenal gland function and corticosterone release, further studies are needed using adrenal organ culture or adrenal cell culture.

CONCLUSIONS

Cisplatin affects the adrenal gland structure by disruption of mitochondria and secretory cells, enlargement and endothelial lining degradation of the venous channels in both the medulla and cortex and by decreasing and then increasing lipid droplets in the cortex. These structural alterations then affect the hormonal release and synthesis in both the medulla and cortex changing the circulating concentration and secretion into media by adrenal glands of corticosterone. Further studies are required using adrenal organ culture and/or adrenal cell culture to verify these findings.

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**CHAPTER THREE: CISPLATIN – INDUCED ALTERATIONS IN
CORTOCOSTERONE CONCENTRATION AND
STRUCTURE OF ADRENAL GLAND CULTURES FROM
THE RAT**

SUMMARY

Adrenal glands and a pituitary were removed from Wistar CRL:(WI)BR rats for two groups, put into organ culture and treated with normal saline (vehicle for cisplatin) or 7• m/ml for specific times. Medium was collected for group 1 at 24, 0, 8, 20, 32, 56 and 80 hours to analyze for corticosterone concentration and adrenals were collected and processed for light microscopy at 32, 56 and 80 after treatment with cisplatin. Medium for group 2 was collected at 24, 0, 2, 4, 6 and 8 hours for corticosterone concentration and the adrenals collected and processed for light microscopy at 2, 4, 6 and 8 hours after treatment. The corticosterone concentration for group 1 showed a decrease from that of the control at all times except 32 hours. At this time the control and treated were at the same concentration. Both the control and treated showed a decrease in corticosterone concentration over the timeframe of the experiment, possibly due to a decrease in ACTH. Group 2 showed no real difference in corticosterone levels throughout the experiment. Microscopically the treated groups showed increased disruption of the secretory cells compared to that of the controls.

INTRODUCTION

Noxious compounds can create trauma and induce stress at the physical, metabolic and cellular levels in the *in vivo* system. The initial stress will cause the system to respond hormonally by the release of corticotrophic releasing hormone (CRH) from the hypothalamus, stimulating the pituitary to release adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) which stimulates the adrenal to synthesize corticosterone in rats and cortisol in humans [1-4]. Stress caused by disease, physical, metabolic and or cellular changes can also stimulate the immune system, which in turn increases the synthesis of glucocorticoids and the adrenal glands response to this stress [5-12]. This stimulation often overrides the normal feedback inhibition that glucocorticoids have on pituitary ACTH to allow prolonged production of glucocorticoids from the adrenal gland [5, 8, 13].

As a noxious compound induces physical, metabolic and/or cellular alterations to the system it may also have an affect on the concentration of circulating corticosterone. Is a change in the concentration of corticosterone due to the stress-related alterations in the body or due to the added noxious compound itself? To evaluate this problem the adrenal gland can be and examined at the cellular level or at the organ level. This allows for examination without the influence of uncontrolled hormonal, neurogenic or hemodynamic factors [14, 15].

Studies of adrenal organ, slice or cell culture have been used to look at chemotherapeutic agents [14, 16-20], noxious compounds [21, 22], hormones [20, 23-33], certain peptides [34-38] and interleukins [6-12, 39, 40] influence on catecholamine and steroid synthesis by secretion into the media and the structure of the adrenal gland. Other studies have examined specific points in steroid synthesis to find where stimulation and/or inhibitions take place [25, 26, 31, 32, 41-43]. In some studies (1) ACTH was supplemented to maintain a basal stimuli and secretion of corticosterone allowing any change in secretion to be the difference from the basal output [9, 11, 16, 26-28, 31, 35, 44, 45], (2) the intact pituitary was put into organ culture with the adrenal to achieve stimulus by a different means, this does not give a basal level that may be constant but allows more of the natural stimuli, though it can allow for more variability in the secretion of corticosterone [22, 29, 32], (3) or use no hormonal supplement so there is only the corticosterone and the effect of what compound you are supplementing the media with [9, 11, 16, 17, 25, 26, 30, 34, 35, 37, 40, 42, 45]. In cell or organ culture the concentration of the hormone secreted into the media varies. Sibley *et al.* [46], found that the variables in the relative amounts of steroids secreted into the incubation media may be a product not only of a change in synthesis of the steroid but a change in how it is secreted from the tissue.

It has been shown that treatment with cisplatin induces physical stress to the body by lowering body weight and food intake with alterations in water intake and urine output [47-51], metabolic alterations by the changes in corticosterone

concentrations and at the cellular level in the adrenal gland [52-54]. To determine if these alterations are due to cisplatin induced stress on the system or on the adrenal gland itself, the organ was explanted and put into culture. Its activity was monitored both structurally and functionally at time intervals.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Organ Culture: Wistar Crl:(WI)BR male rats weighing 200 to 250g each from Charles River were housed 3 to a cage with a light/dark cycle of 12 hours with food and water *ad lib*. Animals were allowed to adapt to their new environment for 3 days prior to adrenal culture. Animals were then decapitated; the pituitary and two adrenal glands were collected under sterile conditions and placed in HEPES buffer. Each adrenal gland was cut into 2, and these four pieces along with a pituitary were placed on a stainless steel mesh support within a culture dish, such that the medium under the support moistened the adrenal and pituitary explants for two separate Groups and timeframes were used (see Table 1 and Table 2). The timeframes for Group 2 were determined after the analyses of the corticosterone concentration in the culture medium from Group 1. The adrenal organ cultures were maintained at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂ and 95% air. The culture medium was prepared following the protocol of Szkudlinski, M., *et.al.* (1989). Media was changed and collected after a specific time (see Table 1 and Table 2). The cultures were allowed to adapt to the environment for three days prior to treatment with CDDP, then treated with physiological saline or 7µm/ml media of CDDP for a specific time (see Table 1 and Table 2). The adrenals were collected and processed for light and microscopy.

Table 1: Group 1 Control and CDDP (7µm/ml) Adrenal Organ Culture Media Changes and Collection Times by Post-Treatment and Time from Last Media Change. Treatment time is 8 hours. (* = media contains saline or CDDP, **bold** = adrenal glands collected and processed for light microscopy)

Media	Time (Hours) ⇒								
	-72	-48	-24	0	8*	12	12	24	24
Changed	-72	-48	-24	0	8*	12	12	24	24
Post-Treatment Hours					8*	20	32	56	80
Collected (-80°C)			-24	0	8*	12	12	24	24

Table 2: Group 2 Control and CDDP (7µm/ml) Adrenal Organ Culture Media Changes and Collection Times. Treatment time is 2, 4, 6 and 8 hours. (* = media contains saline or CDDP, **bold** = adrenal glands collected and processed for light microscopy)

Media	Time (Hours) ⇒							
	-72	-48	-24	0				
Changed	-72	-48	-24	0				
Collected (-80°C)			-24	0	2*	4*	6*	8*

Corticosterone Analysis: Corticosterone content in the serum was analyzed by a Rat Corticosterone-3H Kit (ICN) and read in a Beckman 7500 series scintillation counter as described earlier.

Light Microscopy: The adrenal halves were fixed in 2% glutaraldehyde in 0.1M sodium phosphate buffer (PBS), pH 7.4, dehydrated in graded ethanol series and embedded in JB4 (glycol methacrylate, Polyscience, Inc.). Sections (2 μ m) were stained with hematoxylin and eosin for general histology.

RESULTS

Corticosterone Concentration

The corticosterone concentrations in the media from Group 1 (Figure 1) decreased at 8, 20, 56 and 80 hours post-treatment. There was no significant difference between the control and CDDP treated cultures prior to treatment. At 32 hours post-treatment the control had a decrease in corticosterone concentration whereas the treated has an increase in concentration with no difference between the two. The CDDP treated cultures decrease in corticosterone revealed a trend towards significance, although the sample size was insufficient to determine this statistically. The control cultures also had a decrease in corticosterone concentration at day 0, 32 and 56 this could be due to a decrease in secreted ACTH from the pituitary gland.

The corticosterone concentration in the media from Group 2 (Figure 2) decreased 2, 6 and 8 hours into treatment with CDDP. The treated 4-hour culture exhibited a slight increase in corticosterone concentration, with no significant difference between the control and CDDP treated cultures prior to treatment. The sample number was insufficient to determine if the decreases or increase in corticosterone secretion at the given times is statistically significant.

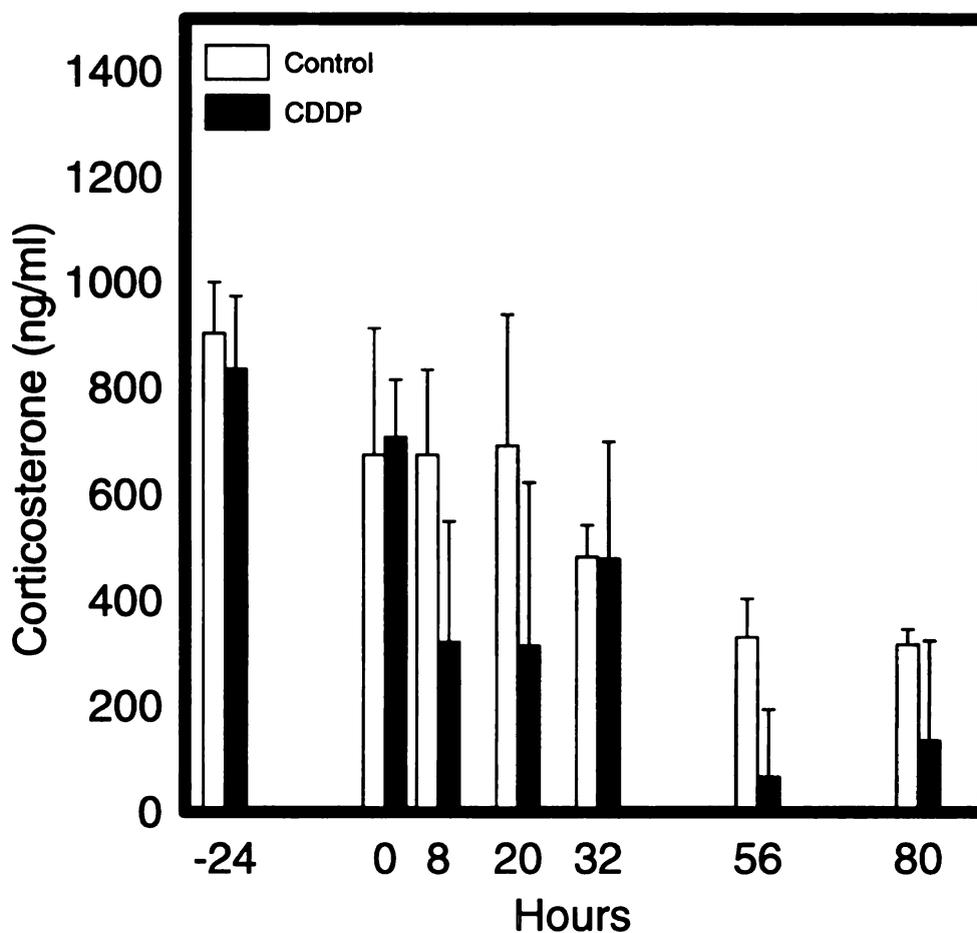


Figure 1: Corticosterone Concentration Present in the Media of Group 1 Adrenal Organ Cultures at Specific Times.

There is no significant difference in the concentration of corticosterone in the media between the treated and control groups prior to treatment or at 32 hours post-treatment. There does appear to be a difference in the corticosterone concentration present in the media at 8, 20, 56 and 80 hours post-treatment. The sample number was insufficient to determine whether this is statistically significant between the two groups. [Average \pm S.D.]

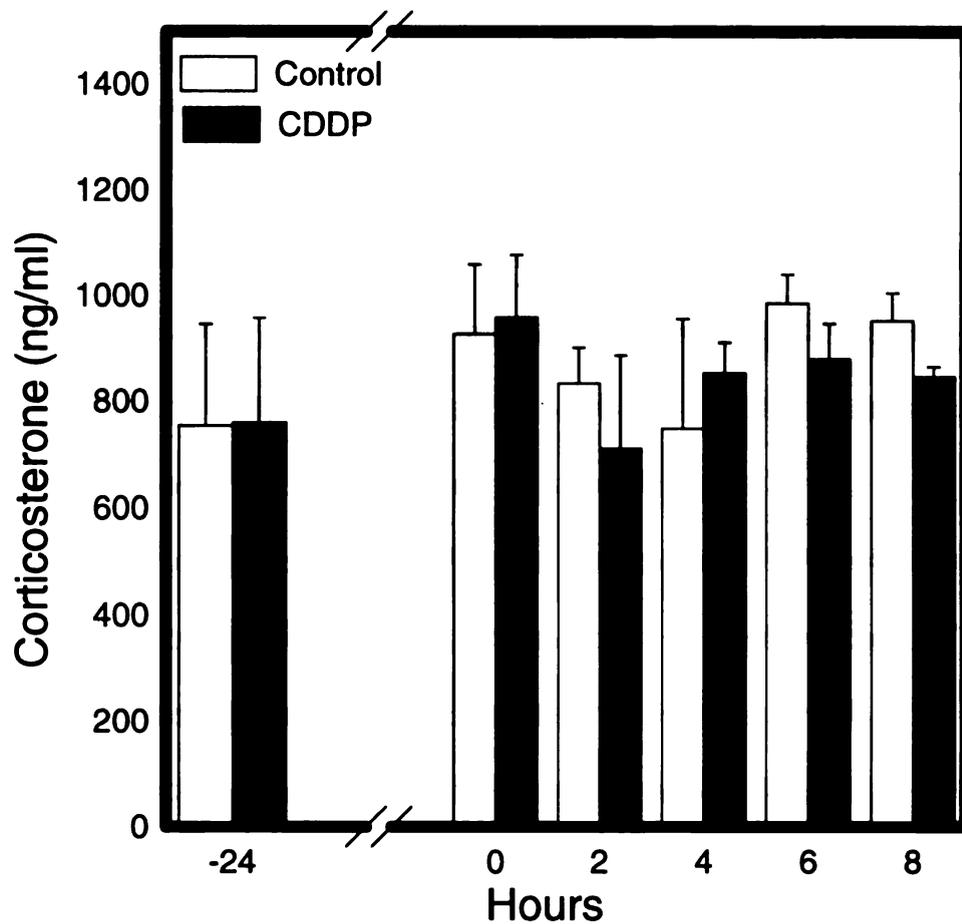


Figure 2: Corticosterone Concentration Present in the Media of Group 2 Adrenal Organ Cultures at Specific Times.

There appears to be no significant difference in corticosterone concentrations in the media at any treatment hour between CDDP treated and the control groups. The sample number was insufficient to determine whether there is a significant difference between the groups. [Average \pm S.D.]

Group 1 Organ Culture

Medulla

The medullary secretory cells lacked cellular definition (Figure 3-6) in both the control and cisplatin (CDDP) cultures with membranes becoming more defined as the time of post-treatment progressed to 80 hours. There was an apparent decrease in cytoplasm in the CDDP culture at 32 hours post-treatment and the control and CDDP cultures at 56 hours post-treatment, whereas the 80-hour post-treatment culture appeared to have increased cytoplasm. There is apparent nuclear degeneration at 32 hours post-treatment in the CDDP cultures and the number of nuclei appeared increased as time progresses. The CDDP cultures capillaries had accumulated cellular debris within the lumens and were increased in number to that of the control at 56 hours at 80 hours post-treatment.

Cortex

Zona Reticularis

Both the control and CDDP cultures secretory cells (Figure 5-6) at 32 hours post-treatment demonstrated undefined cell membranes. At 56 hours post-treatment the control has better membrane definition with both the control and CDDP cultures having increased cytoplasm compared to the control and CDDP 32 hour cultures. The 32-hour CDDP culture had a number of intensely stained condensed nuclei that were not present in the other cultures. All cultures had enlarged cortical capillaries with the enlargement being more pronounced in the CDDP cultures as post-treatment time progresses.

Zona Fasciculata

The zona fasciculata (Figure 6-8) at 32 hours post-treatment lacked organization of the cells into the chord-like structure that is seen with intact adrenal glands in both the control and CDDP cultures. The CDDP culture at 32 hours has no cellular definition and has a number of intensely staining condensed nuclei. There was an increase in cellularity at 56 hours post-treatment in both the control and CDDP cultures from that of the 32-hour cultures, although there was still significant cellular disruption. The 56-hour post-treatment culture lacked membrane definition compared to its control culture. The zona fasciculata was more organized at 80 hours as shown by the chord-like seen in the intact adrenal gland. The control culture had better organization and cellular membrane definition than the 80 CDDP culture, although there was still significant cellular separation and disruption in both of the 80-hour post-treatment cultures.

Zona Glomerulosa and Capsule

The 32 hour controls zona glomerulosa (Figure 8) had better cellular definition with an apparent increased number of nuclei from the for the CDDP culture with both having a number of intensely stained condensed nuclei. The capsule was intact with an apparent increase in the number of nuclei in the CDDP culture. As post-treatment time progressed the zona glomerulosa in both the control and CDDP cultures had an apparent decrease in cytoplasm with increased cellular disruption at both 56 and 80 hours post-treatment with damage more pronounced in the CDDP cultures. The capsules were intact with an

apparent decrease in the number of nuclei as post-treatment time progressed with only a few visible by 80 hours in both the control and CDDP cultures.

Group 2 Organ Culture

Medulla

The cisplatin (CDDP) culture at 2 hours treatment (Figure 9-11) had apparent decreased cell membrane definition, cytoplasm and an accumulation of cellular debris within the lumens of the capillaries. Both the control and CDDP cultures had condensed nuclei that were intensely stained and the control appeared to have an increased number of nuclei compared to the CDDP culture. Both the control and CDDP cultures at 4 hours treatment had very little membrane definition with intensely stained condensed nuclei and some nuclei that were degenerating. The 4-hour control had accumulated cellular debris within the lumen of the capillaries. As treatment time progressed the 6 and 8 hour treated cultures had increased membrane degradation. The 6-hour CDDP had an apparent increase in cytoplasm from the previous 2 and 4-hour cultures and to that of its control, although the control had increased cellular disruption and intensely stained condensed nuclei.

Zona Reticularis

The zona reticularis (Figure 11-12) in both the control and CDDP at 2-8 hours treatment had enlarged cortical capillaries going into the zona fascicularis, with areas of intensely stained nuclei at 2 hours treatment in the CDDP culture. The 4-hour CDDP treated culture had less membrane definition. At 6 hours

treatment the control culture had an apparent decrease in cytoplasm compared to the CDDP culture. The CDDP cultures at 6 or 8 hours treatment had areas of condensed nuclei that were intensely stained with the cells having no membrane definition.

Zona Fasciculata

After 2hrs of treatment (Figure 12-13) the CDDP culture had some condensed nuclei that were intensely stained. All cultures had an apparent decrease in cytoplasm, cellular separation and disruption, enlarged capillaries, a decrease in membrane definition and an increase in the number of nuclei as the treatment time progressed.

Zona Glomerulosa and Capsule

The zona glomerulosa in both the control and CDDP cultures at 2 and 4 hour treatment had apparent cytoplasmic loss with increased cytoplasm in the CDDP culture at 2 hours compared to the other cultures. Both the control and CDDP cultures at the above mentioned times had condensed nuclei that are intensely stained. There appeared to be an increase in cytoplasm at 6 hours in both the control and CDDP cultures with condensed intensely stained nuclei in both the zona glomerulosa and the capsule. At 8-hour treatment both the control and CDDP cultures appeared to have decreased cytoplasm with condensed intensely stained nuclei in both the zona glomerulosa and the capsule.

Figure 3: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Medulla of Group 1 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.

A. Control, B. CDDP 32-Hours Post-Treatment:

The CDDP cultures medullary cell membranes are not well defined, with an apparent decrease in cytoplasm and fewer obvious nuclei (arrow) that are degenerating compared to the control. The treated cultures capillaries (V) have an accumulation of cellular debris within the lumens. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 4.

C. Control, D. CDDP 56-Hours Post-Treatment:

Medullary cell number and nuclei (arrow) are relatively equal between the two cultures, although the CDDP culture appears to have a decrease in cytoplasm and an increase in the number of capillaries (V). The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 4.

E. Control, F. CDDP 80-Hours Post-Treatment:

Both the control and CDDP cultures show an increase in cellular membrane definition, and appear to have an increase in nuclei (arrow). The CDDP culture appears to have a decrease in cytoplasm, with an increase in and number and size of the capillaries (V) with an accumulation of cellular debris within their lumens. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 4.

All are stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Bar = 0.01

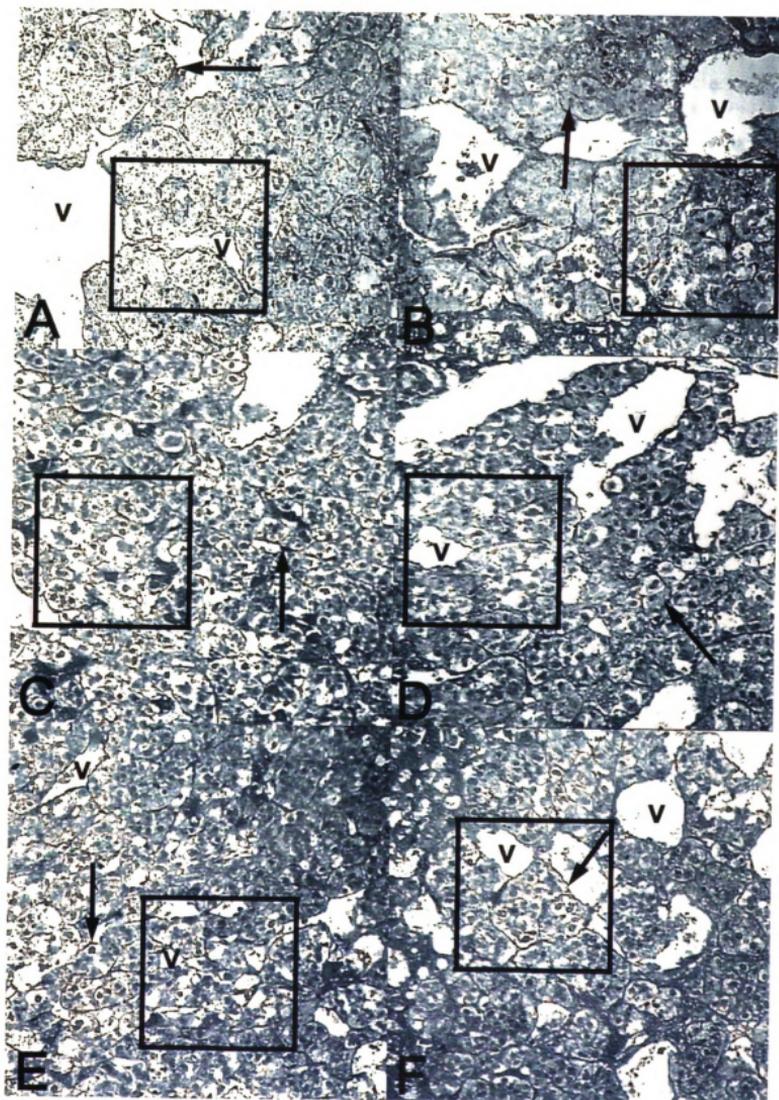


Figure 4: Light Micrographs of the Enclosed Areas Enlarged from Figure 3.

A. Control, B. CDDP 32-Hours Post-Treatment:

The cellular membranes have no definition with the cells merging together in the control and CDDP cultures. A number of nuclei (arrow) are condensing, with the CDDP culture appearing to have a decrease in the number of nuclei (arrow) and degeneration of those remaining. The CDDP culture also appears to have a decrease in cytoplasm. The controls capillaries are free of cellular debris unlike that of the CDDP culture (refer to Figure 3).

C. Control, D. CDDP 56-Hours Post-Treatment:

Both control and CDDP cultures secretory membranes are ill defined with degenerating nuclei (arrow) and loss of cytoplasm, although the CDDP culture is in worse condition. The two cultures capillary (V) and endothelial lining is intact with no apparent difference between the two.

E. Control, F. CDDP 80-Hours Post-Treatment:

The CDDP cultures medullary secretory cell membranes have better definition and appear to have an increase in the number of nuclei (arrow) compared to the control culture and previous cultures. The CDDP cultures capillaries (V) are have increased size with an accumulation of cellular debris within the lumens.

Bar = 0.005mm

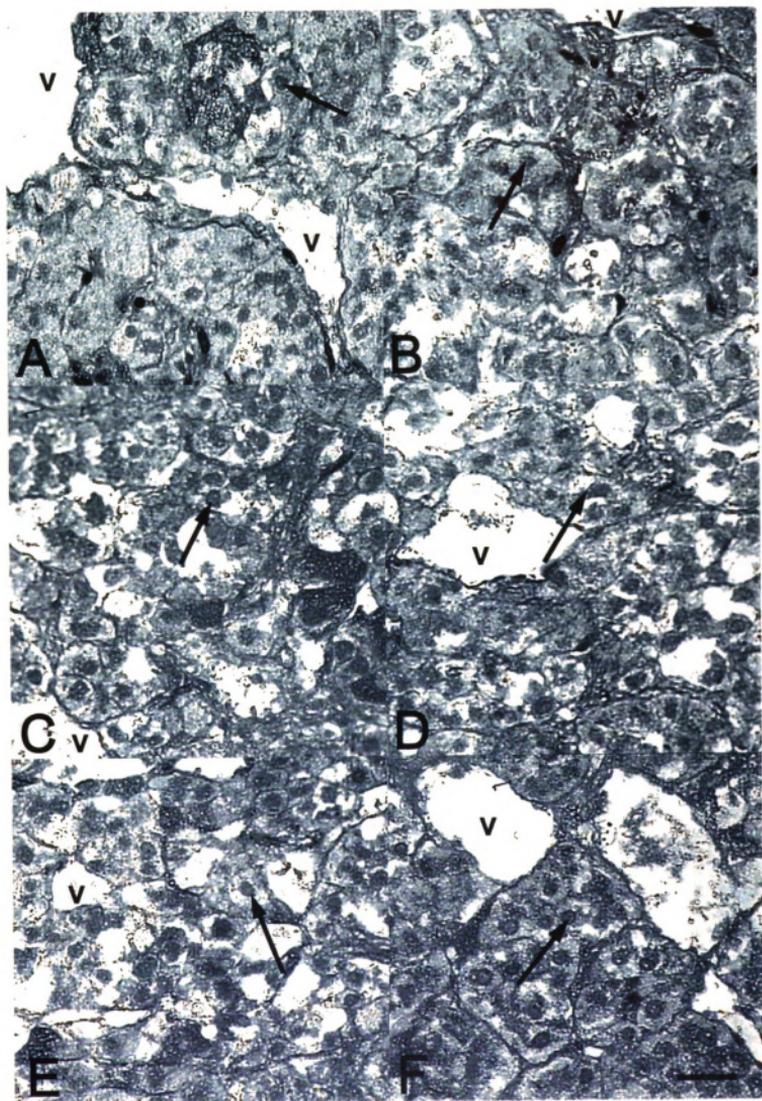


Figure 5: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Medulla and Zona Reticularis (Junction of the Medulla and Cortex) of Group 1 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.

A. Control B. CDDP 32-Hours Post-Treatment:

The CDDP cultures medullary (M) cells are less defined; there appear to be fewer nuclei and a decrease in cytoplasm. The secretory cells of the zona reticularis (ZR) are undefined in both the control and CDDP cultures, although the CDDP culture has more enlarged capillaries (clear areas throughout the tissue).

C. Control D. CDDP 56-Hours Post-Treatment:

Medullary (M) cell number and nuclei are relatively equal between the control and CDDP cultures, although the CDDP culture appears to have a decrease in cytoplasm. The ZR secretory cell membranes have better definition in the control with the CDDP cultures capillaries being of increased size compared to the control (large clear areas throughout the tissue) and the previous cultures.

E. Control F. CDDP 80=Hours Post-Treatment:

There is improved medullary (M) membrane definition in both the control and CDDP cultures with the CDDP culture appearing to have a decrease in cytoplasm and an increase in the number and size of the capillaries (V). The ZR secretory cells are more defined with better membrane definition in the control with the CDDP culture having an increase in the size of the capillaries.

All are stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Bar = 0.015mm

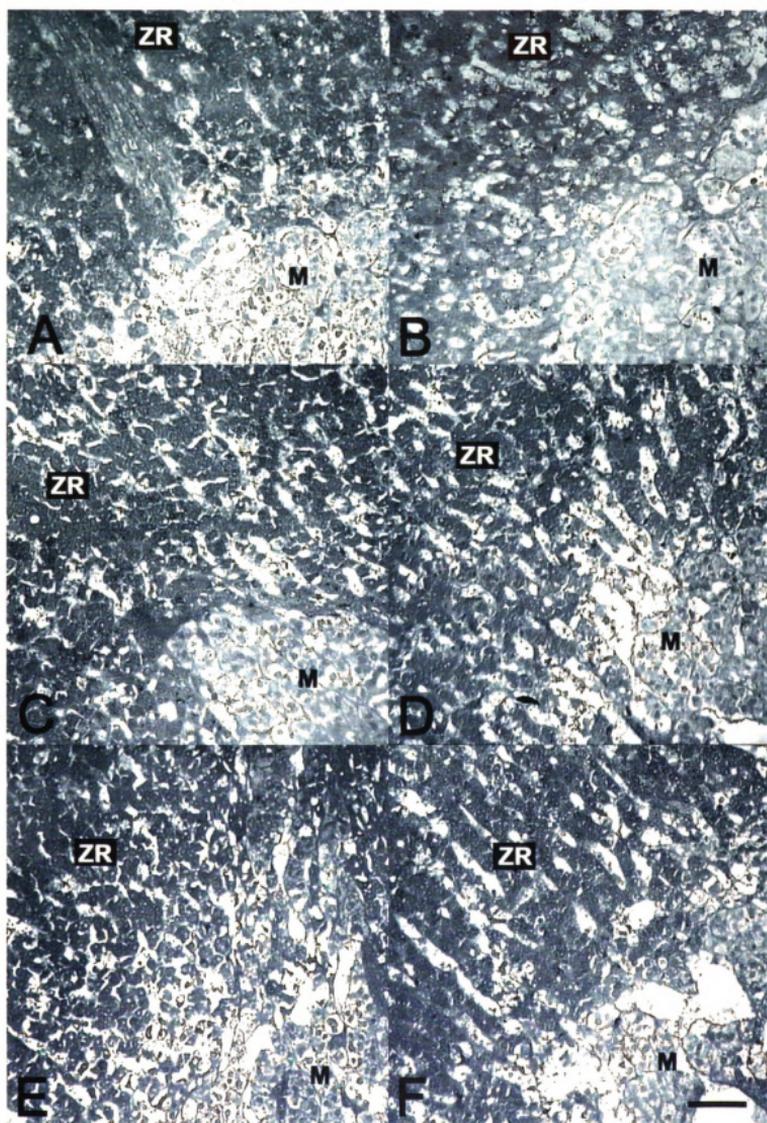


Figure 6: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Reticularis and Zona Fasciculata of Group 1 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.

A. Control B. CDDP 32-Hours Post-Treatment:

The controls zona reticularis (ZR) cells have better membrane definition with areas that have condensed nuclei in the CDDP culture. The CDDP culture has no cell membrane definition in either the ZR or the zona fasciculata (ZF), even though it appears to have more cytoplasm, although both cultures have large areas of cellular disruption (arrow). The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 7.

C. Control D. CDDP 56-Hours Post-Treatment:

There appears to be increased cellularity in both the ZR and the ZF from that of the 32-hour cultures, although the CDDP culture has very little cellular definition. Again the CDDP culture appears to have more cells with both control and CDDP cultures still having a significant amount of cellular disruption (arrow). The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 7.

E. Control F. CDDP 80-Hours Post-Treatment:

The secretory cells of the ZR and the ZF in the control culture have better organization and membrane definition than those of the CDDP culture and the previous cultures at 32 and 56 hours, although cellular disruption (arrow) is still seen in both cultures. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 7.

All are stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Bar = 0.014mm

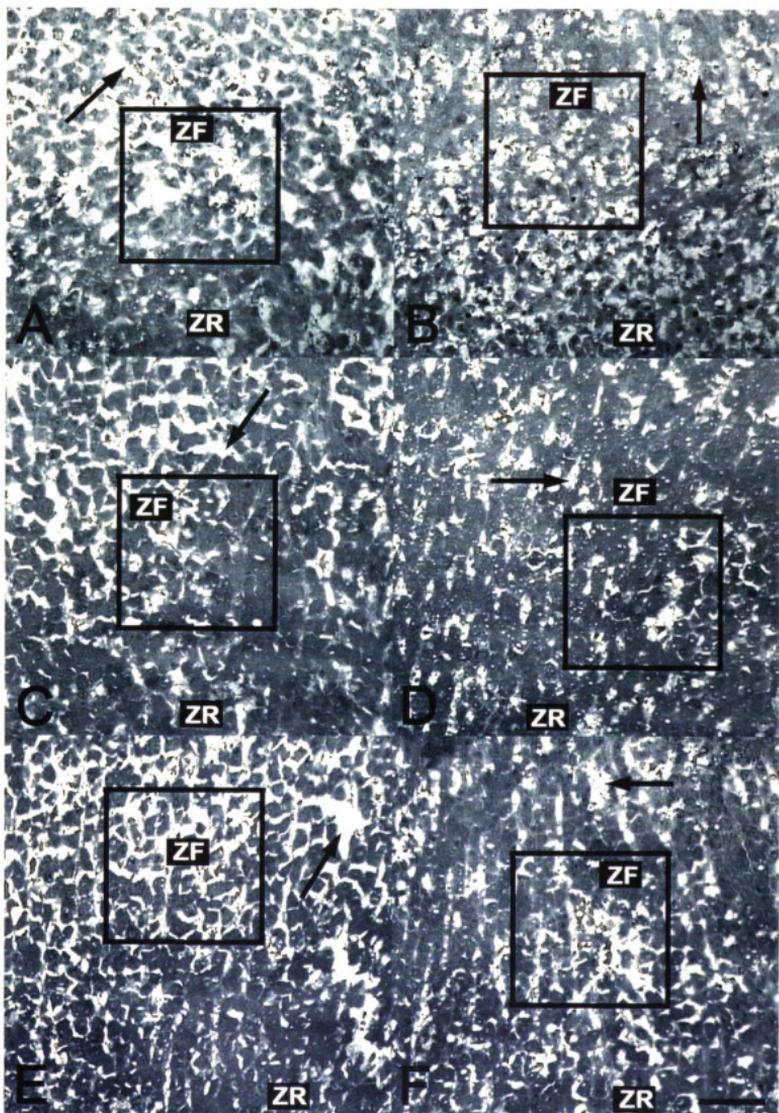


Figure 7: Light Micrographs of the Enclosed Areas Enlarged from Figure 6.

A. Control B. CDDP 32-Hours Post-Treatment:

There zona fasciculata has no cellular membrane definition and the nuclei are condensing in the CDDP culture, although the control appear to have less cytoplasmic area (arrow).

B. Control D. CDDP 56-Hours Post-Treatment:

There is an increase in cellularity of the ZF in both the control and CDDP cultures with the control having better cellular definition, although cellular damage (arrow) is still apparent in both.

E. Control F. CDDP 80-Hours Post-Treatment:

The secretory cells of the ZF are more organized in both the control and CDDP cultures compared to the previous cultures at 32 and 56 hours, this is apparent by the chord-like structure of the cells as is seen in the intact adrenal gland. The CDDP culture has little cellular membrane definition with both the control and CDDP cultures having separation of the cells and disruption (arrow).

Bar = 0.008mm



Figure 8: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Fasciculata, Zona Glomerulosa and Capsule Group 1 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.

A. Control B. CDDP 32-Hours Post-Treatment:

The secretory cells (arrow) of the upper regions of the zona fasciculata (ZF) closer to the zona glomerulosa (ZG) in both the control and CDDP cultures appear to have less cellular damage compared to lower regions of the ZF in previous figures. The cells are lacking the organization needed to form the chord-like structure that the ZF displays in the intact adrenal gland. There appears to be an increase in the number of nuclei in the ZG in the CDDP culture compared to the control with the nuclear condensation apparent in both the control and CDDP cultures. The adrenal capsule (Cap) appears to be intact with a number of intensely stained condensed nuclei in the CDDP culture.

C. Control D. CDDP 56-Hours Post-Treatment:

The control and CDDP culture appear to have a decrease in cytoplasm (arrow) with the CDDP culture having little cellular definition (arrow) in the ZF. There is increased disruption of the secretory cells of the ZG in both the control and CDDP cultures from that of the 32 hour cultures with some intensely stained condensed. The adrenal capsules (Cap) appear intact with a decrease in the number of nuclei from the 32-hour cultures.

E. Control F. CDDP 80-Hours Post-Treatment:

The secretory cells (arrow) of the ZF in both the control and CDDP cultures appear to be trying to organize into the chord-like structure apparent in an intact adrenal gland, although they are lacking cellular membrane definition. There appears to be a decrease in the number of secretory cells, organization and in the number of nuclei in ZG of both the control and CDDP cultures. The adrenal capsules (Cap) are intact but devoid of nuclei in both the control and CDDP cultures.

All are stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Bar = 0.01mm

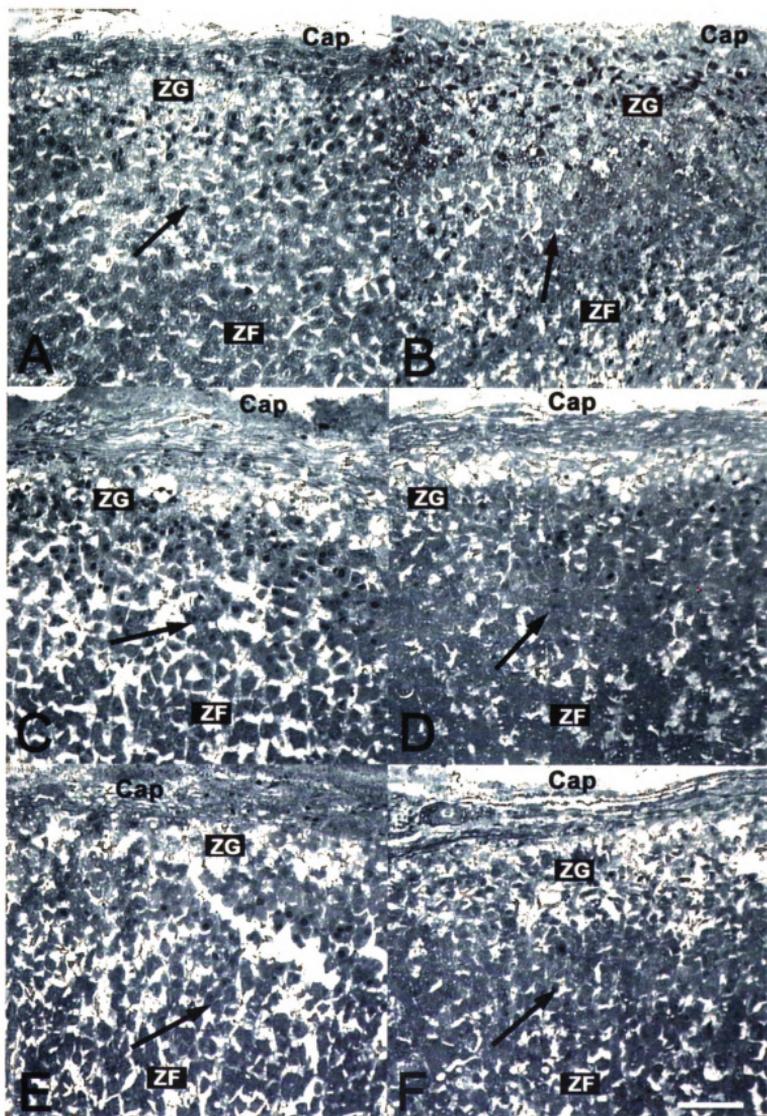


Figure 9: Light Micrographs of Sections(2 μ m) of the Medulla of Group 2 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.

A. Control B. CDDP 2-Hours Treatment:

The CDDP culture appears to have a loss of cytoplasm and membrane definition with both the control and CDDP cultures having condensed nuclei. The CDDP cultures capillaries (V) have accumulated cellular debris within the lumens. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 10.

C. Control D. CDDP 4-Hours Treatment:

The CDDP culture has little membrane definition with the capillaries (V) having no apparent damage in either control or CDDP cultures. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 10.

E. Control F. CDDP 6-Hours Treatment

The control appears to have an increased number of nuclei and cellular disruption with a decrease in the cytoplasm compared to the 2-hour cultures and its CDDP partner. The CDDP culture has an increase in cytoplasm. The capillaries (V) are intact with no apparent damage to either the control or CDDP cultures. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 10.

G. Control H. CDDP 8-Hours Treatment:

Both the control and CDDP cultures have a loss of membrane definition, decreased nuclei with the CDDP culture having a decrease in cytoplasm. The venous channels (V) appear to be intact with no apparent damage in either control or CDDP cultures. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 10.

All are stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Bar = 0.02mm



Figure 10: Light Micrographs of the Medulla Enclosed Areas Enlarged from Figure 9.

A. Control B. CDDP 2-Hours Treatment:

There is no membrane (arrow) definition, with condensed and degenerating nuclei, an apparent loss of cytoplasm and accumulated debris in the lumen of the capillaries (V) of the CDDP culture with the control having better membrane definition and increased pronounced nuclei.

C. Control D. CDDP 4-Hours Treatment:

There is no membrane (arrow) definition with condensed and degenerating nuclei in the CDDP culture, with both the control and CDDP cultures having an apparent loss of cytoplasm. The capillaries (V) of the control have accumulated some cellular debris.

E. Control F. CDDP 6-Hour Treatment:

Neither the control nor CDDP cultures have membrane (arrow) definition. The nuclei in the control are condensed, with an apparent loss of cytoplasm from the cells and the CDDP culture has nuclear degeneration.

G. Control H. CDDP 8-Hours Treatment:

Both the control and CDDP cultures lack membrane definition (arrow), have an apparent loss of cytoplasm and a decrease in the number of nuclei.

Bar = 0.007mm

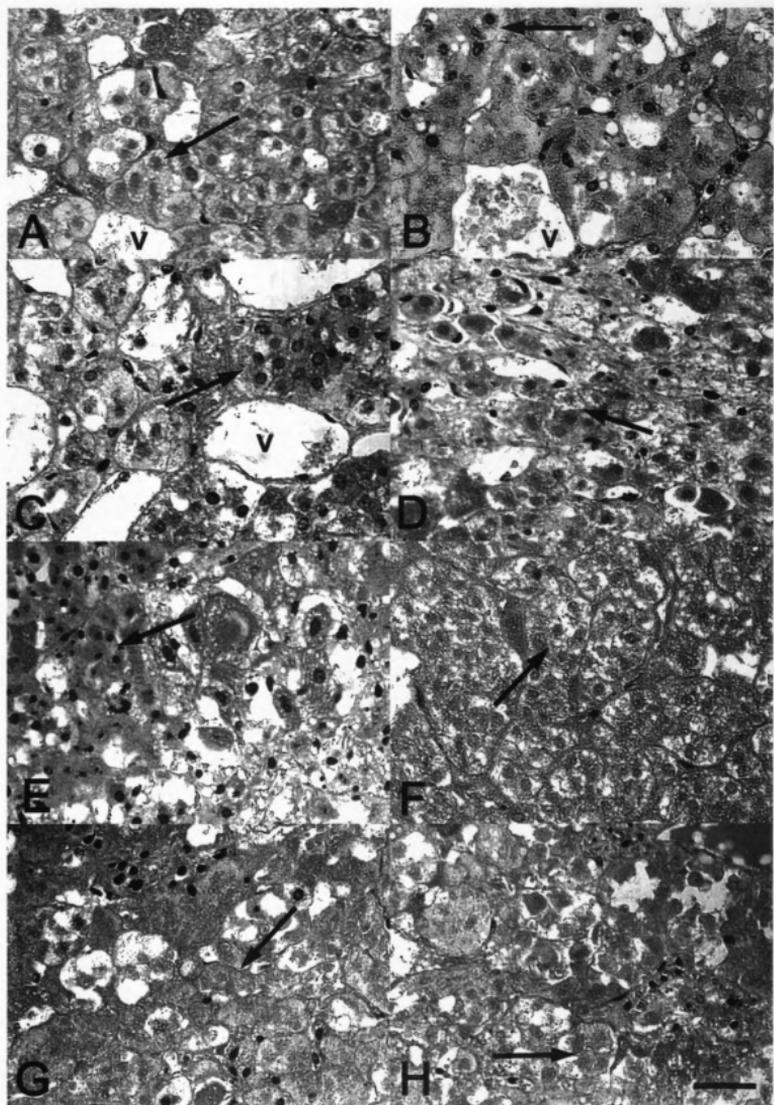


Figure 11: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Medulla and Zona Reticularis of Group 2 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.

A. Control B. CDDP 2- Hours Treatment:

The CDDP cultures medullary (M) cells appear to have decreased cytoplasm and membrane definition. The zona reticularis (ZR) in both the control and CDDP cultures have enlarged capillaries (clear areas) with the treated cultures being more pronounced and having a number of nuclei that are condensed.

C. Control D. CDDP 4-Hours Treatment:

Both the control and CDDP cultures have an apparent loss of cytoplasm in the medulla (M) with the ZR having enlarged capillaries (clear areas) with the CDDP culture having no cellular membrane definition. The medullary capillaries (V) are intact with no apparent damage in either the control or CDDP cultures.

E. Control F. CDDP 6-Hours Treatment:

The controls medulla (M) and areas of the ZR appear to have decreased cytoplasm and a number of condensed nuclei with both the control and CDDP cultures having enlarged capillaries (clear areas). The medullary capillaries (V) in the treated culture have no apparent damage to the endothelial lining.

G. Control H. CDDP 8-Hours Treatment:

The control has an apparent decrease in cytoplasm in the medulla (M) and the ZR has areas of intensely stained nuclei that are condensed. The CDDP culture appear to have an increase in cytoplasm with no cellular membrane definition and the medullary capillaries (V) have no apparent damage to the endothelial lining.

All are stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Bar = 0.02mm

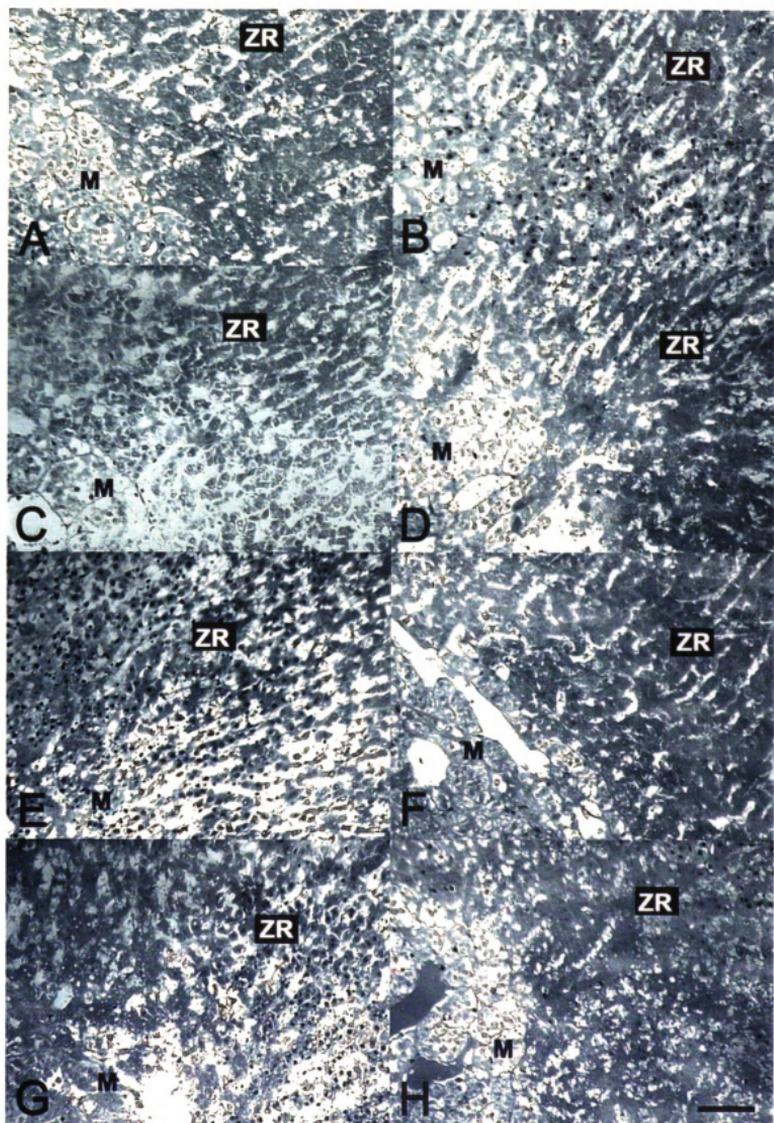


Figure 12: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Reticularis and the Zona Fasciculata of Group 2 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.

A. Control B. CDDP 2-Hours Treatment:

The zona reticularis (ZR) in both the control and CDDP cultures have enlarged capillaries and cellular separation (clear areas) that go into the zona fasciculata (ZF). The CDDP culture has no cellular definition and areas with condensed nuclei. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 13.

C. Control D. CDDP 4-Hours Treatment:

The ZR in both the control and CDDP cultures has enlarged capillaries (clear areas) that go into the ZF, being more pronounced in the control. The CDDP culture to have an increase in cytoplasm but the cells have no membrane definition. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 13.

E. Control F. CDDP 6-Hours Treatment:

Both the control and CDDP cultures have enlarged capillaries and cellular separation (clear areas), that are more pronounced in the ZR of the control and the ZF of the treated. The cell membranes have no apparent definition in either the control or CDDP cultures. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 13.

G. Control H. CDDP 8-Hours Treatment:

The cells of the ZR and the ZF in both the control and CDDP cultures have no membrane definition, with the enlarged capillaries being more pronounced in the control culture. The areas enclosed are magnified in figure 13.

All are stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Bar = 0.02mm

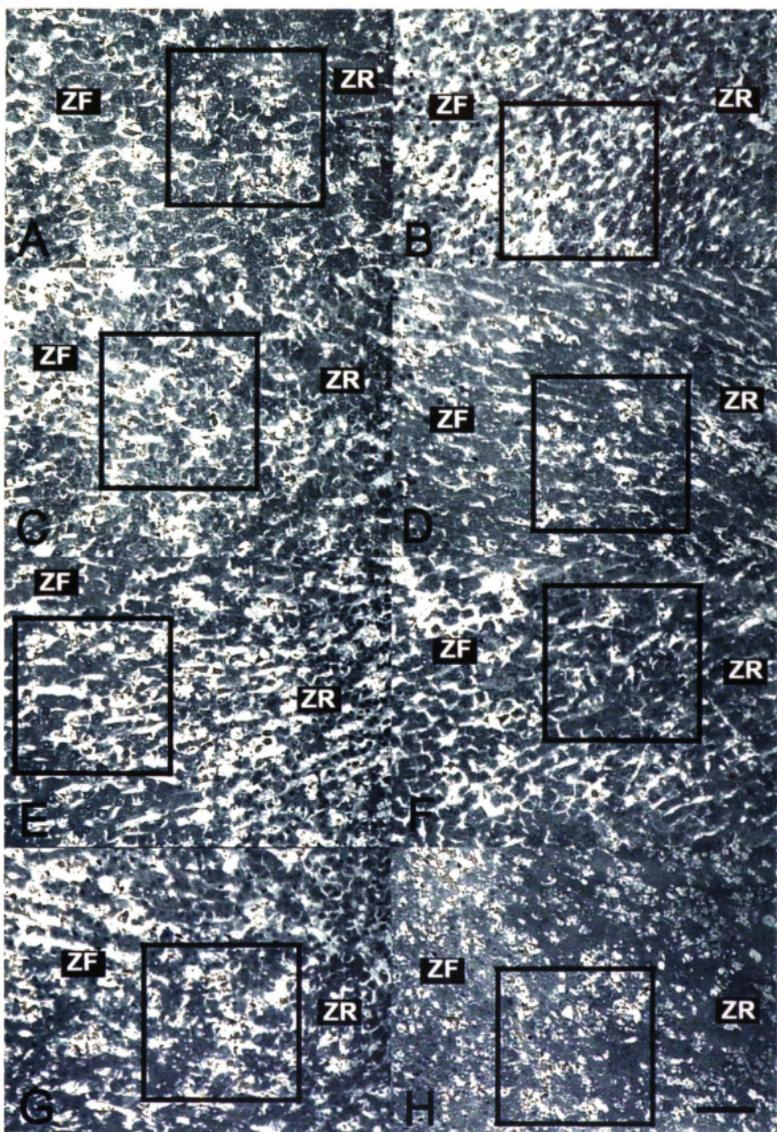


Figure 13: Light Micrographs of the Enclosed Areas Enlarged from Figure 12.

A. Control B. CDDP 2-Hours Treatment:

C. Control D. CDDP 4-Hours Treatment:

E. Control F. CDDP 6-Hours Treatment:

G. Control H. CDDP 8-Hours Treatment:

The ZF appears to have a decrease in cytoplasm, enlarged capillaries (arrow) with separation of cells and a decrease in membrane definition and nuclei as time in culture progresses in both the control and CDDP cultures.

Bar = 0.007mm

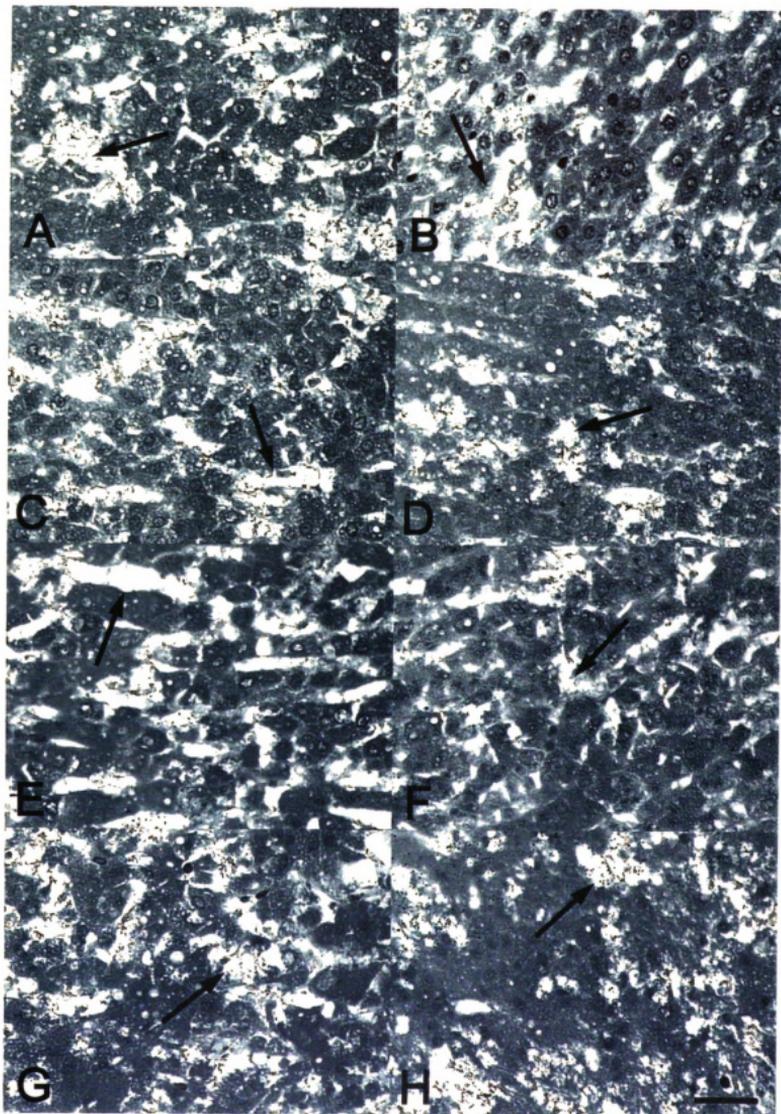


Figure 14: Light Micrographs of Sections (2 μ m) of the Zona Fasciculata, Zona Glomerulosa and Capsule Group 2 Adrenal Gland Organ Cultures.

A. Control, B. CDDP 2-Hours Treatment:

Both the control and CDDP cultures have enlarged capillaries and an apparent decrease in cytoplasm through the zona fasciculata (ZF). The control and CDDP cultures have areas of condensed nuclei in the ZF, zona glomerulosa (ZG) and the capsule (Cap) with the control appearing to have a greater loss of cytoplasm in the ZG, but overall better membrane definition than the CDDP culture.

C. Control, D. CDDP 4-Hours Treatment:

There are enlarged capillaries that go from the ZF into the ZG, with cytoplasmic loss and condensed nuclei in the upper ZF, ZG and the Capsule (Cap), in both the control and CDDP cultures with the CDDP culture having no membrane definition.

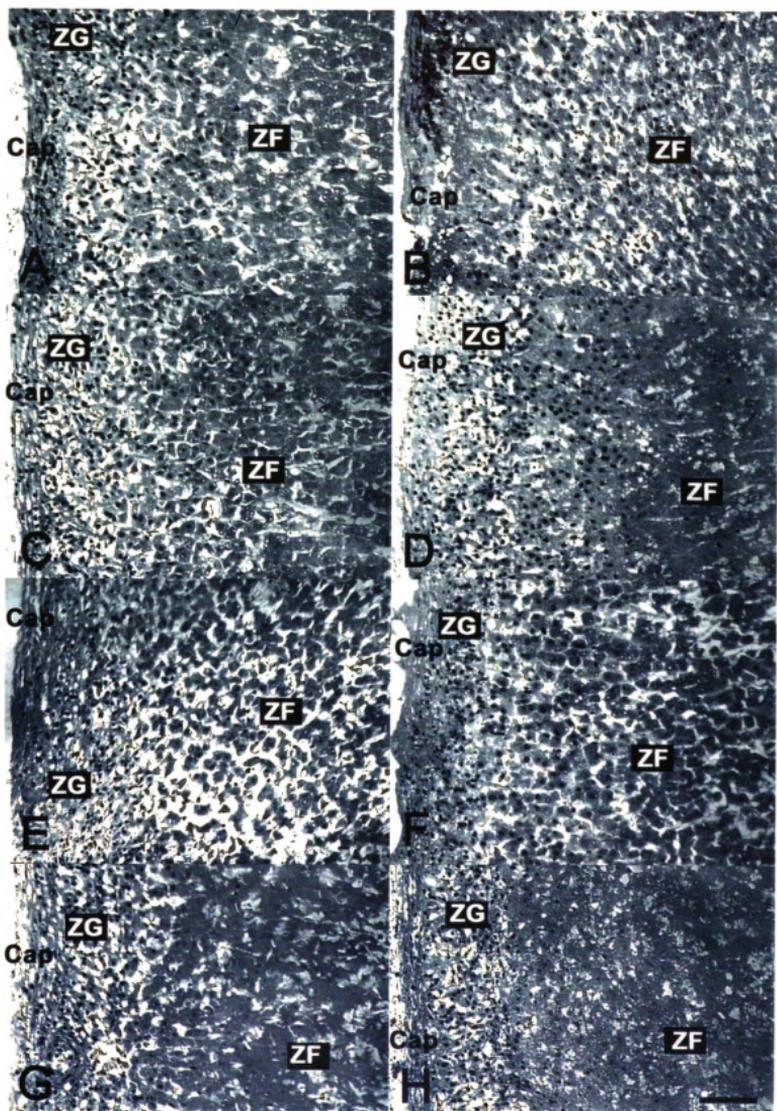
E. Control, F. CDDP 6-Hours Treatment:

There appears to be a decrease in cytoplasm, enlarged capillaries, cellular separation and condensed nuclei in the ZF, with increased cytoplasm and a number of condensed nuclei in the ZG in both the control and CDDP cultures. The Capsule (Cap) is intact with a number of intensely stained condensed nuclei in both the control and CDDP cultures.

G. Control, H. CDDP 8-Hours Treatment:

There is an apparent increase in cytoplasm with no cellular membrane definition; the cells are merged together in the ZF in both the control and CDDP cultures. The ZG and capsule (Cap) have a loss of cytoplasm with an increase in the number of intensely stained condensed nuclei in both the control and CDDP culture.

All are stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Bar = 0.02



DISCUSSION

Corticosterone concentration for the Group 1 cisplatin treated decreased throughout the experiment except for at 32 hours where it was equal to the control. In the controls, corticosterone concentrations also declined throughout the experiment. This may be indicative of the drop in ACTH synthesis from the pituitary in culture with the adrenal gland and/or the length of time in culture. Some studies have shown that a constant concentration of ACTH is necessary to maintain the adrenal glands cellular structure and that without it apoptosis will become activated [25, 26]. Group 2, which was in culture for a shorter time did not show this decline in corticosterone concentration in either the control or the cisplatin treated. There were differences in corticosterone concentration between the treated and the control, but they do not appear to be significant.

Cellular damage was apparent in all the organ cultures, with a trend of increasing damage as time in culture progressed. The zona glomerulosa is usually spared the infarctive effects of damage that the arterioles have in the other zonae [55]. This difference is due to the zona glomerulosa receiving part of its vascular supply from the capsule [55] thus sparing it from catecholamines and cellular debris being dumped into the arterioles. There is apparent cytoplasmic loss and an increased number of condensed nuclei in the zona glomerulosa of the organ cultures. Thus it has lost its protection in culture and has induced apoptosis. The morphology of the organ cultures does not show the fine structure that is in the intact gland.

Our *in vivo* studies showed an overall increase in corticosterone concentration which conflict with the results from the *in vitro* studies. Conflicting results in corticosterone concentrations between *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies have been seen before [36, 37]. The main thought for this occurrence is the alteration in the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, which is non-existent in organ culture. Interleukin 1 β and interleukin 6 have been found to stimulate corticosterone concentration *in vivo* [6, 7, 10-12, 39], with variable results *in vitro* [9].

Further studies are needed to verify the results found in this study. Organ cultures should be repeated with addition of ACTH to stimulate corticosterone synthesis and the cellular integrity of the culture. Additional *in vivo* studies should be done with rats that are on a constant level of dexamethasone, a synthetic glucocorticoid agonist to analyze if cisplatin effects it. Studies of the immune system's interaction with the Hypothalamus-Pituitary-Adrenal axis and corticosterone concentration would be beneficial to how the system relates to stress and the toxic effects of the cisplatin.

CONCLUSIONS

This study has left more unanswered questions than answers. The immune systems interaction with the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA) and corticosterone concentrations in the induction of prolonged stress would be of great importance in contributing to the knowledge of how the system deals with disease and the toxic effects of treating that disease.

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