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CONSEQUENCES OF ALTERED SHORT-CHAIN CARBON METABOLISM IN HEART FAILURE

by

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A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences in the College of Medicine at the University of Central Florida Orlando, Florida

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ABSTRACT

Cardiovascular disease is currently the foremost cause of death within the United States. Heart failure (HF) is a syndrome defined by the inability of the heart to adequately execute requisite pump function in order to deliver nutrients and oxygen to peripheral tissues, irrespective of etiology. One of the most common causes of HF is chronic pressure overload due to hypertension. Ischemic heart disease is also a common driver of HF, often in conjunction with hypertension. Pressure overload initially causes compensatory metabolic changes. Structural changes follow shortly thereafter typically resulting in left ventricular hypertrophy. Eventually, the heart loses the ability to compensate for the aberrant hemodynamic load and begins failing. The failing heart is unable to supply adequate adenosine triphosphate (ATP) for contractile function as evidenced by falling phosphocreatine (PCr) levels. This energy deficit occurs concurrently with a metabolic re-programming that results in a fuel utilization pattern resembling the fetal heart. Notably, enzymes involved in catabolism of fatty acids, the chief fuel substrate for ATP generation in the normal adult heart, are downregulated in the failing heart. However, the extent to which alternative fuels compensate for decreased fatty acid oxidation (FAO) is not well-known. Furthermore, consequences of the fuel substrate switches that occur in heart failure are not well established.

In this work, we discover a new paradigm for alternate fuel utilization in the failing heart and define consequences of altered fuel metabolism in HF. We discovered a posttranslational modification resultant from an accumulation of acetyl groups (C2) present in a mouse model of early-stage HF and human HF. Mitochondrial proteins were found to be hyperacetylated in the failing heart, and at least some of these alterations result in diminished electron-transport chain (ETC) capacity as shown by mutagenesis studies on succinate dehydrogenase A (SDHA). We also found an accumulation of C4-OH carnitine, a by-product of ketone oxidation in HF. This metabolite aggregation occurred alongside an increase in β -hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase 1 (BDH1) transcript and protein levels. This signature suggested that the failing heart shifted to ketone bodies as a fuel. Subsequent experiments confirmed increased capacity for myocardial ketone oxidation in compensated cardiac hypertrophy and in HF. The consequences of increased ketone oxidation were then assessed using a cardiac-specific BDH1 knockout (BDH1 KO) mouse. Despite not having any apparent defect at baseline, we found BDH1 KO mouse hearts are completely unable to oxidize 3-hydroxybutyrate. The deficit for ketone oxidation capacity became consequential upon subjugation to transverse aortic constriction with a small apical myocardial infarction (TAC/MI). The BDH1 KO mice exhibit altered pathological cardiac remodeling compared to wild-type controls. These latter data suggest the increased reliance on ketone oxidation in HF, mediated by BDH1, is an adaptive response.

Together the results of these studies provide important information regarding the consequences of altered fuel metabolism in HF. Recent reports of reduced HF mortality and elevated circulating ketone levels in patients prescribed Empagliflozin make cardiac ketone metabolism research in this dissertation particularly apropos.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Heart failure (HF) is a major worldwide health problem. The prevalence and mortality associated with this syndrome are significant (1). Etiology of heart failure varies widely, but the unifying characteristic is the inability of the heart to sufficiently pump enough blood throughout the body in order to meet the nutritive and oxygen demands of peripheral tissues. During the development of common forms of heart failure, contractile dysfunction occurs concurrently with energy metabolic alterations (2). The failing heart has diminished high-energy phosphate reserves suggesting inadequate capacity to supply adenosine triphosphate (ATP) relative to demand (3). Therefore, investigating the metabolic derangements of the failing heart and delineating the corresponding changes in fuel utilization and energy production could lead to new strategies for treatment of the syndrome. Whether metabolic derangements in heart failure are causative or consequential is a subject of intense investigation. Substantial evidence supports the conclusion that metabolic derangements serve as an aggravating element of heart failure, if not outright causative. In some genetic forms of heart failure, metabolic abnormalities clearly play a primary role as the causative factor (4).

Most heart failure patients in the United States have antecedent hypertension and/or ischemic heart disease (5). Aberrant hemodynamics increase the amount of pressure and consequently the requisite work the heart must do to maintain circulation. Pressure overload of the heart results in early metabolic changes preceding structural alterations. Chronic high-blood pressure eventually leads to hypertrophy of cardiac myocytes (6). Cardiac hypertrophy occurs concomitantly with a fuel shift to a more "fetal" pattern including decreased reliance on fatty acids as a fuel substrate for ATP generation. This decrease in fatty acid oxidation (FAO) persists into heart failure. Downregulation in transcriptional factors and target FAO genes has been well-described by our lab and others as a driver in the altered fuel oxidation response in the hypertrophied and failing heart (4, 7). However, the degree to which alternative fuels compensate for the decreased FAO and consequences of the fuel substrate switch remain unknown. This is especially true for early-stage heart failure which is the subject of relatively few inquiries to date. Research into the compensated hypertrophic heart and early stages of heart failure is particularly important because earlier treatment in disease progression, prior to significant myocyte loss, would undoubtedly benefit patients.

In an effort towards understanding the metabolic events in the hypertrophied and early-stage failing heart, our lab conducted unbiased systems profiling of the transcriptome and metabolome in well-defined mouse models of compensated hypertrophy (CH) and early-stage heart failure (8). The transcriptional profiles of compensated hypertrophy and HF in this study showed strong positive correlation. The data corroborated previous findings of downregulated FAO genes in the hypertrophic and failing heart. However, the results also revealed the rather surprising finding that expression of genes involved in oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) is not altered in either hypertrophy or early-stage heart failure (8). This finding contrasted studies detailing global downregulation of OXPHOS gene programs in late-stage heart failure (9-12).

While the transcriptional profile was similar between CH and HF, the metabolome exposed profound differences. The CH samples did not show a differential metabolite profile compared to sham controls. Conversely, there were multiple alterations in the HF samples including an accumulation of medium and long-chain acylcarnitines and decreased tricarboxylic acid cycle (TCA cycle) intermediates (8). In heart failure, the discrepancy between the unaltered gene expression profile and the changes in the metabolite profile suggested regulation of metabolism occurring at a post-transcriptional level. This dissertation seeks to investigate the potential source of these metabolite alterations and consequences in the failing heart.

Chapter 3, a first author manuscript, "*Mitochondrial Protein Hyperacetylation in the Failing Heart*", investigates post-transcriptional changes in CH and HF. This work tests the hypothesis that lysine acetylation levels of mitochondrial proteins change in the failing heart. Indeed, we found dramatic lysine hyperacetylation of mitochondrial proteins not only in mouse models of HF but also in human HF. We then sought to determine if these hyperacetylation events had functional relevance. To this end, we focused on lysine 179 (K179) on succinate dehydrogenase, subunit A (SDHA), a hyperacetylated residue in the failing heart. We report loss-of-function in complex II of the ETC and SDHA specific catalytic deficiency resulting from K179 acetylation suggesting that at least some of the hyperacetylation observed in HF is consequential.

Chapter 4, a co-authored manuscript, "*The Failing Heart Relies on Ketone Bodies as a Fuel*", initially describes the proteome in hearts from CH and HF mouse models. One of the findings in this unbiased query was that β -hydroxybutyrate

dehydrogenase 1 (BDH1) protein, a ketone metabolism enzyme, is upregulated in the failing heart. This inspired the hypothesis that the failing heart increasingly depends on ketone oxidation. Subsequent experiments provided additional support for this hypothesis. Interestingly, a separate group arrived at the same conclusion in late-stage human HF.

In Chapter 5, a first-author manuscript in preparation titled "*Consequences of Increased Ketone Oxidation in Heart Failure*"; we examine the consequences of the aforementioned ketone oxidation in HF. This investigation uses a novel cardiac-specific BDH1 knockout (KO) mouse to directly interrogate ramifications of ketone oxidation in the failing heart. An experiment utilizing isolated hearts perfused with labeled ketones show BDH1 is necessary for 3-hydroxybutyrate oxidation in the heart. BDH1 KO mice subject to transverse aortic constriction combined with a small apical myocardial infarction (TAC/MI) exhibit a more severe degree of pathological cardiac remodeling compared to BDH1 wild-type (WT) leading us to hypothesize that increased ketone oxidation in HF is an adaptive response. Delineation of the mechanism governing the BDH1-mediated ketone oxidation benefit in HF remains an active area of investigation.

In summary, this dissertation project was designed to explore the metabolic derangements in the failing heart. The overall objective was to identify new candidate therapeutic targets or biomarkers that could aid in treating patients with HF. The following specific aims were pursued to accomplish this goal:

1.) To define significant and functional consequences of elevated mitochondrial acetyl pools in the failing heart.

2.) To determine alternative fuel substrates utilized in the failing heart in context of reduced fatty acid oxidation.

3.) To determine consequences of elevated ketone oxidation, as an alternate fuel, in heart failure.

CHAPTER TWO: AN OVERVIEW OF LITERATURE REGARDING HEART METABOLISM IN PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PATHOPHYSIOLOGICAL STATES

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) kills more people in the United States than any other cited cause of death. One in nine death certificates implicate heart failure (HF) as a primary or corollary causation. Individuals diagnosed with HF face daunting odds for long-term survival. After a patient is initially hospitalized for heart failure, 10.4% die within a month, 22% die within a year, and 42.3% die within five years (1). It is noteworthy that current mortality rates signify improvement. Thirty-four years ago, 50% of HF patients died within *two years* of initial hospitalization (13). Similarly, in most of the world, ischemic heart disease mortality rates declined significantly over the last 30 years (14). The decrease in mortality is largely attributed to changes in treatment regimens and developments in implantable devices (15).

However, the incidence of heart failure has not similarly improved (1). The fact that CVD remains the leading cause of death reflects the substantial prevalence of HF; afflicting almost 6 million adults in the United States alone. Furthermore, the health burden is expected to grow with an almost 50% increase in prevalence by 2030 (1). Therefore, it is essential to expand current knowledge of HF pathology and continue developing strategies for prevention and treatment.

Cardiac Function

The Heart is an Essential Organ to Life

All living things must meet basic requirements of cellular processes in order to survive. At the most fundamental level, a cell must receive requisite nutrients and conversely dispose of generated waste products. A prokaryotic organism can accomplish this task by utilizing a variety of mechanisms including passive diffusion and active transport to move nutrients and waste across a cell membrane and/or cell wall. In single cell eukaryotes, these processes occur similarly across membranes of the various organelles, and compartmentalization allows for appreciable specificity in deliverance of proper nutrients and removal of appropriate waste. The transport of nutrients and waste becomes more complex in multicellular organisms as the surface area of the cell decreasingly interfaces with the environment. As the level of organismal complexity increases, the requirements to specifically transport nutrients and waste to proper physical locations must correspondingly evolve (17). In large multicellular organisms like humans, the process to transport nutrients and waste throughout the body is mediated by a closed circulatory system.

A closed circulatory system accommodates the blood that carries oxygen and nutrients to all the cells of the body and similarly carries waste away from origination cells to sites of disposal. Blood, like all physical substances on Earth, must adhere to the physical limitations imposed by gravity; and as such, circulation requires an input of mechanical energy. In closed circulatory systems, the energy to move blood throughout the body is provided by a biotic pump called a heart. The heart pumps blood throughout

the body by contracting and relaxing, emptying and filling the chambers with blood respectively. The rhythm and force of contraction must precisely provide temporal and spatial regulation of blood flow. Thus, preservation of vertebrate life relies on faithful operation of the heart (18).

The pump function of the heart results from deliberately coordinated contractions produced within cardiac myocytes. The contractions made within an individual myocyte result from force generation produced by proteins in the extracellular matrix. The proteins involved in myocyte contraction constitute the intracellular contractile apparatus. The mechanical energy of contraction is derived from transformation of chemical energy released during adenosine triphosphate (ATP) hydrolysis (6).

Oxidative Phosphorylation in the Cardiac Myocyte

Since contraction of cardiac myocytes depends on ATP, a sufficient supply of ATP is of paramount importance. The healthy, developed heart generates ATP largely through oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS), which occurs in the mitochondria (16). ATP production from OXPHOS takes advantage of an electrochemical gradient called the proton motive force (19). Complexes I, III, and IV of the electron-transport chain (ETC) pump protons obtained from oxidation of reducing equivalents into the space between the inner and outer mitochondrial membranes (20). The electrons obtained from oxidations that leave the electrons and corresponding complexes in a lower energetic state. This continues until the electrons reduce oxygen and form water. The energy released during

the transfer of electrons is used to pump protons into the intermembrane space against the concentration gradient (21). The requirement of oxygen as a terminal electron acceptor in the ETC is absolute. In absence of oxygen, electrons cannot proceed to lower energy states, and the proton-pumping complexes, in turn, will not have sufficient energy to send protons to the intermembrane space (6). For this reason, the importance of sufficient delivery of oxygenated blood to cardiac myocytes cannot be overstated.

The collection of protons in the intermembrane space of the mitochondria create a charge differential across the inner membrane. The F_o component of complex V, also called ATP synthase, functions as an ion channel and allows reflux of the protons into the mitochondrial matrix. The reflux of protons releases free energy previously stored as potential energy in the electrochemical gradient. The chemical energy released by proton flow into the mitochondrial matrix is transformed into mechanical energy rotating the stalk and F_o subunit of ATP synthase. The rotation causes conformational changes in the F_1 subunit of ATP synthase resulting in the shape required to catalyze phosphorylation of adenosine diphosphate (ADP) using an inorganic phosphate and produce ATP (22).

Reducing equivalents employed by the ETC are nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide plus hydrogen (NADH) and flavin adenine dinucleotide plus hydrogen (FADH₂). NADH and FADH₂ are formed from a variety of redox reactions occurring in the cytoplasm and mitochondria. Redox enzymes catalyze the removal of hydrogens from carbon based substrates, often referred to as fuels, and subsequent reduction of either nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD⁺) or flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD).

The NADH made in the cytoplasm must be transported to the mitochondria, and this process occurs via the malate-aspartate shuttle (23).

The collected pool of NADH in the mitochondria is oxidized by NADH dehydrogenase (complex I), a large membrane-bound flavoprotein. Mammalian respiratory complex I contains 45 subunits with 14 of those catalytically involved in the oxidation of NADH, transfer of electrons, and pumping of protons (24). The electrons from NADH are transferred through flavin mononucleotide co-factors to iron-sulfur clusters and eventually reach ubiquinone at the ubiquinone binding site.

FADH₂ oxidation occurs at the site of the dehydrogenase reaction. FADH₂ generated from fatty acid oxidation (FAO) involves the electron transfer flavoprotein (ETF). ETF conducts electrons from FADH₂ to ubiquinone in the respiratory chain. FAD is directly reduced to FADH₂ by succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) in a reaction coupled with succinate oxidation. The electrons are transferred through iron-sulfur clusters of SDH to ubiquinone. The reduced ubiquinone pool is oxidized by complex III (25).

Maintenance of ATP Levels in the Heart

In summary, proper function of the ETC requires sufficient: 1) oxygen, 2) catabolic substrates, and 3) mitochondrial oxidative capacity. The quantity of the aforementioned factors deemed sufficient depends completely on the demand for ATP. The cardiac demand for ATP is dictated primarily by the needs of the contractile apparatus, but anabolic processes also require ATP, albeit a much smaller amount. The heart must respond virtually instantaneously to the needs of cells, and consequently cardiac

workload is dynamic. An expeditious mechanism is in place to accommodate fluctuations in ATP demand (26).

The mitochondrial creatine kinase (MtCK) functions to generate a high-energy phosphate reservoir in the heart. The creatine kinase reaction works in tandem with adenylate kinase (AK) to regulate ATP levels and localization. When the heart produces more ATP than is required, it stores the high-energy phosphate in the form of phosphocreatine (PCr). PCr also serves to transfer ATP from mitochondria to the myofibrils, the main site of ATP utilization in the cardiac myocyte. Conversely, when the energetic demands exceed the rate of ATP production, the heart uses the phosphate stored in PCr to phosphorylate ADP and make requisite ATP (27). The PCr reserves, though, only provide momentary compensation. Typical concentrations of ATP and PCr in a healthy heart can only sufficiently supply no more than a few heart beats before depletion (6). This fact underscores the importance of flawless cardiac bioenergetics.

Physiological Metabolic Plasticity in the Heart

Cardiac Metabolism during Development

The heart is an energetic omnivore capable of utilizing a variety of substrates to produce ATP depending on its physiological or pathophysiological circumstances. One of the most well-described fuel substrate switches occurs in the developing heart. The heart is the first functional organ in the embryo. It continues to grow in order to meet the circulatory demands of a growing fetus. Cellular growth, proliferation, and limited

oxygen availability disproportionally favor anaerobic glycolysis and lactate oxidation as lipids are needed for biosynthesis of daughter cells.

An embryonic heart primarily uses glycolysis to generate ATP independently of the mitochondria. The catalytic machinery necessary for OXPHOS is not yet welldeveloped, and lactate oxidation accounts for the majority of fetal oxygen consumption. Only 15% of the ATP generated in the fetal heart is acquired from FAO (28). Another major determinant of fetal heart metabolism is substrate availability. Circulating fatty acids are scarce in the fetus whereas lactate is abundant. The fetal heart readily consumes lactate and predominately expresses the A isomer of lactate dehydrogenase (LDHA), which converts pyruvate to lactate (29). The metabolic phenotype of the fetal heart can be summarized as primarily deriving ATP from glycolysis and lactate oxidation with fatty acids playing a relatively minor role.

Immediately preceding birth, the fetal heart undergoes a surge of mitochondrial biogenesis, exponentially increasing the number of mitochondria in the heart (30, 31, 32). Recent work also implicated mitophagy of fetal mitochondria as an essential element in cardiac maturation (33). In the early neonatal period, approximately half of cardiac ATP is derived from glycolysis. The levels of circulating lactate decrease dramatically, and consequently lactate oxidation contributes far less to ATP production. Ketone bodies are believed to be transiently oxidized in the postnatal period. The remaining ATP is derived from a dramatic increase in capacity for FAO (34). During the neonatal period, mitochondrial content expands and matures through a process that involves both biogenesis and fusion/fission dynamics (35).

Within days of birth, the heart reaches maturation with respect to its bioenergetic profile. Rates of cardiac FAO are approximately 10-times levels present at birth concomitant with the ingestion of milk. The increased reliance on fatty acids for ATP production accompanies a parallel decrease in glycolysis (35, 36).

A network of transcription factors facilitates metabolic gene expression changes in the postnatal developing heart. Work in the Kelly lab demonstrated that peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma coactivator 1-alpha (PGC-1 α) is necessary and sufficient for perinatal mitochondrial biogenesis (35, 36). PGC-1 α works as a master regulator by co-activating several critical transcription factors: the peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPAR α , β/δ , and γ), the estrogen related receptors (ERR α , β , γ), and the nuclear respiratory factors (NRF1/2) (37, 38, 39). PPAR α and ERR, in coordination with PGC-1 α , induce FAO gene expression allowing for the shift to increased reliance on fatty acids for ATP generation (40). The ERR transcription factors are also essential for inducing expression of multiple tricarboxylic acid cycle (TCA cycle) and OXPHOS genes. They are also at least partially responsible for regulating expression of developmentally appropriate excitation-contraction coupling proteins (41, 42, 43). NRF-1 and NRF-2 control expression of critical subunits that form ETC complexes. They also regulate gene expression necessary for mitochondrial deoxyribonucleic acid (mtDNA) replication and transcription (44, 45).

Contrary to the mitochondrial dynamism seen in the developing heart, rates of mitochondrial turnover in the adult heart are relatively slow, occurring once every two weeks. Existing mitochondria must instead adjust their oxidative capacity and fuel

substrate preference to alterations in physiology (46). Under normal physiological conditions, OXPHOS supplies approximately 90% of the heart's ATP and fatty acids are the preferential fuel substrate. However, the developed myocardium maintains substantial metabolic plasticity and can use amino acids, glucose, lactate, and ketones to generate energy (47). This flexibility allows the heart to maintain adequate cardiac power provided enough substrate is available (48, 49).

Fuel Substrate Preference in the Healthy Adult Heart In a physiological setting, the heart encounters a variety of potentially competing substrates. Under these conditions, the healthy heart preferentially oxidizes fatty acids to form acetyl-CoA and reducing equivalents for the ETC (50). FAO accounts for 60-90% of the ATP generated in the adult heart (30). Demonstrating the indelible preference for FAO, providing the heart with excessive glucose does not stimulate increased pyruvate-derived acetyl-CoA. Similarly, contribution to the acetyl-CoA pool from the oxidation of fatty acids is not curtailed when uptake of glucose is elevated with insulin. One can surmise that in the healthy heart, levels of glucose entering the myocardium do not precipitate decreased FAO (51).

Despite preferentially using fatty acids, the heart will continually import glucose. The import of glucose does not depend on rates of FAO. Instead, when FAO provides adequate acetyl-CoA, the pyruvate formed from glycolysis will be converted to lactate or glycogen (51, 48). The Randle cycle explains this fuel substrate prioritization, implicating products of FAO as short-term graduated inhibitors of glycolysis (52).

The normal heart maintains the capacity to oxidize glucose if necessary. The heart appears to maintain its voracious appetite for glucose as a preparatory measure for acute metabolic stress. With rapid elevations in workload, the heart will increasingly use pyruvate to form acetyl-CoA. Also, in hypoxic environments, the heart continues to import circulating glucose, anaerobically producing ATP through glycolysis and generating lactate (49, 51). Nonetheless, the heart's ability to import glucose does encounter an upper limit, necessitating at least a second fuel substrate in cases of long-term metabolic stress (49).

Ketone oxidation is considerably limited in the normal, adult heart. Unlike glucose in the presence of competing substrates, rates of ketone oxidation do not increase with an increase in cardiac workload (49, 51). However, under experimental conditions fully suppressing FAO, there is an elevation in ketone oxidation. In fact, an increase in myocardial ketone oxidation in absence of FAO is preferential to increased glucose oxidation. The rate of myocardial ketone oxidation is inversely proportional to the rate of FAO. When provided adequate glucose and ketones, the heart can maintain constant ATP production in absence of FAO by using ketones as a primary fuel and glucose as a secondary fuel (49). It is important to note, though, that cardiac ketone metabolism has not been extensively studied *in vivo*, and the aforementioned studies were largely conducted in artificial conditions.

Much of the predilection for FAO in the heart can be attributed to gene regulation by nuclear receptor transcription factors acting as metabolic sensors. The Kelly laboratory defined this network in heart. A variety of endogenous fatty acids serve as

activating ligands for PPARs. Therefore, in the presence of fatty acids, PPARs will regulate expression of target genes in an isoform specific manner. PPAR α and PPAR β/δ both activate FAO enzyme expression, and PPAR β/δ additionally activates expression of glucose oxidation enzymes (53, 54, 40).

The importance of PPAR α as a metabolic sensor was demonstrated in experiments with cardiac-specific overexpression of PPAR α in mice. These mice have increased rates of cardiac FAO. This substantial increase in FAO occurred concurrently with an accumulation of triglycerides in the heart. Interestingly, the PPAR α overexpressing mice develop left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) and dysfunction. This cardiac pathology can then be prevented by deletion of the fatty acid import protein cluster of differentiation 36 (CD36). These experiments provide clear evidence that the levels of PPAR α expression are carefully calibrated for optimal rates of import and oxidation of fatty acids (55).

Other experiments provided further elucidation of the complex gene program governing FAO. ERR α has been shown to activate expression of PPAR α amongst other metabolic genes (43). ERR α is coactivated by PGC-1 α to regulate FAO enzyme expression such as the medium chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD). MCAD catalyzes the first step in oxidation of medium-chain fatty acids and is a necessary intermediate enzyme for oxidation of long and very-long chain fatty acids (42, 56). Furthermore, ERR α has been shown to regulate nearly all other aspects of oxidative energy transduction including transcription of TCA cycle genes and ETC related genes (57, 42).

Metabolism in the Failing Heart

Demand for Energy Exceeds Supply in Heart Failure Heart failure in adults is a progressive syndrome that begins when the healthy heart encounters stress. Chronic pressure-overload of the heart, as occurs in hypertension, typically results in LVH if left untreated (58, 5). Indeed, high-blood pressure is a notorious risk factor for heart failure; 75% of HF patients have antecedent hypertension (1, 5).

The mechanism by which hypertension causes hypertrophy occurs at a cellular level. As afterload (blood pressure) increases, velocity of myocyte shortening decreases. Ventricles with myocytes enduring these conditions become less effective at ejecting blood against the elevated systemic pressures (6). To compensate, the heart increases the number of sarcomeres and mitochondria to supplement contractile function. This, in turn, triggers a hypertrophic growth response resulting in enlarged myocytes (59). The auxiliary contractile function in the pathological hypertrophic growth response is associated with reactivation of gene programs encoding fetal forms of contractile proteins (60). The increased workload placed upon the heart from abnormal hemodynamics intrinsically alters left ventricular function and consequently energy metabolism (2). In fact, hypertension in absence of hypertrophy results in PCr levels equitable to normotensive individuals, suggesting sufficient capacity for the heart to accommodate *acute* elevations in workload (2).

The alterations in cardiac metabolism begin at onset of pressure-overload and precede myocyte hypertrophy. In human heart failure, considerable evidence exists to

support the hypothesis that the failing heart cannot produce sufficient ATP for energetic demand. One study found concentrations of ATP and PCr reduced by 35% and 51% respectively in the failing human heart (3). Other studies have reported significant declines in PCr with no change in ATP. These latter studies concluded the discrepant data likely reflected an earlier stage of heart failure (61). These findings in humans have also been recapitulated in experimental models of HF (62).

Taken together, these data suggest progressive deterioration in the ability of the failing heart to meet energetic demand. In early stages of HF, the heart cannot sufficiently produce ATP. The existing PCr high-energy phosphate stores compensate, resulting in lower PCr levels but maintenance of ATP concentrations. As heart failure progresses, PCr levels continue to decline, unable to compensate for insufficient ATP production. Additionally, significant decreases in creatine and MtCK activity in the failing heart have been reported, potentially accounting for declining ATP concentrations before total exhaustion of PCr (63).

In addition to the "energy-starved" condition accompanying heart failure, many lines of evidence support the notion that metabolic perturbations can cause heart failure. One of the most compelling pieces of evidence exists in the way of inherited genetic conditions. Inborn errors in FAO genes cause early onset cardiomyopathy (PMID: 8114864). Defects in mitochondrial encoded genes cause a variety of myopathies. Mutations in nuclear encoded genes involved in metabolism also cause hypertrophy and heart failure (64). A number of knockout and transgenic mice designed with perturbations in cardiac OXPHOS enzymes develop heart failure as well (65). For

instance, in loss-of-function experiments deleting ERR α in a mouse, pressure-overload results in decompensated heart failure (66).

Interestingly, not all transcription factors appear independently critical as many important regulatory functions have biological "fail-safe" compensatory strategies. For example, PGC-1 α knockout mice do not display overt dysfunction under basal conditions (35). However, following pressure-overload, loss of PGC-1 α results in accelerated cardiac remodeling (PMID: 16775082). Knockout of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma coactivator 1-beta (PGC-1_β) results in a similarly normal phenotype. Further investigation elucidated PGC-1 β as functionally redundant, essentially assuming the role of PGC-1 α in the knockout (PMID: 16775082, PMID:18628400). However, the ability for PGC-1-mediated compensation to maintain function only applies to non-stressed conditions. Mice lacking both isoforms of PGC-1 lose compensatory phenotype seen in single KO, resulting in an early perinatal lethality accompanied by a late fetal arrest of mitochondrial biogenesis in the heart(PMID:18628400). The decrease in FAO that occurs in HF, which is discussed in detail in the next section, is especially striking given the redundancy in the oxidative metabolism gene program.

Fuel Shifts in the Failing Heart: Culprit or Innocent Bystander? The metabolic plasticity of the heart permits rapid changes in fuel substrate utilization. Onset of hypertension triggers a decreased reliance on fatty acids as an oxidative fuel (2). Interestingly, decreased myocardial FAO in hypertensive patients is an independent

predictor of LVH (66). The rationale for the heart decreasing fatty acid utilization upon pressure-overload is not well-understood. Furthermore, it is not known if the correlative decreases in FAO observed during hypertension are causal or consequential of hypertrophy and eventual failure.

As discussed previously, there is substantial evidence supporting the idea that the failing heart cannot adequately meet ATP demand. Generally, there is also agreement that worsening heart failure accompanies reductions in FAO rates. In endstage human heart failure particularly, there is well-established impairment in FAO (4). This is supported by multiple reports of dramatic downregulation in FAO enzymes including significant reductions in long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (LCAD) and MCAD (7).

Early-stage idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy patients also consistently have lower FAO rates (4). Experimental models of pressure-overload induced HF repeatedly show decreases in FAO enzyme expression as well (67, 68, 7, 8). Furthermore, some studies equate decreased FAO enzyme levels with decreased FAO rates. For example, in a canine model of HF, 40% reductions in MCAD protein levels are correlated with an equivalent 40% decrease in FAO capacity (69).

There are a few caveats regarding the downregulation of FAO in HF. Some etiologies of HF demonstrate elevated FAO capacity *early* in disease progression and only exhibit downregulation of FAO in late-stage HF (4). Still other etiologies have a completely opposite metabolic signature; the diabetic failing heart, as an example, does not display the characteristic decreased FAO. Instead, diabetic hearts experience an

upregulation of FAO in hypertrophy, likely reflective of the high levels of free fatty acids activating PPARs (55, 70). The majority of HF, though, occurs as a result of pressureoverload and consistently presents a decreased degree of FAO.

The regulatory mechanisms dictating the decrease in FAO during pressureoverload induced HF are relatively well-described. Similar to the reactivation of fetal isoforms of contractile genes, the metabolic profile in HF is often referred to as a reversion to a "fetal" program (30). The ability of the heart to compensate under hemodynamic stress depends on the same gene regulatory mechanisms responsible for the cardiac fuel substrate switch that takes place during development. PPAR α levels and activity decline in human HF and animal models of pressure-overload induced cardiac hypertrophy (7, 71). Also in human HF, expression of ERR target genes are significantly downregulated (66). Notably, the depression of FAO gene expression starts in hypertrophy preceding overt dysfunction and persists through heart failure (30).

While evidence for lower FAO rates in HF is well-documented, the degree to which the failing heart compensates with an alternative fuel substrate is more enigmatic. Moreover, considerable questions regarding the *consequences* of a fuel substrate switch in HF remain unanswered. The failing heart appears to, at least in part, compensate for decreased FAO with elevated glycolysis. A few studies report elevated glucose oxidation gene expression (55, 70). However, the vast majority of studies report no change in levels of enzymes involved with import of glucose, glycolysis, or conversion of pyruvate into acetyl-CoA (4). The absence of altered glycolytic molecular machinery implicates regulation of glycolytic enzyme activity, potentially via

mechanisms employed by the Randle cycle. Therefore, the most plausible explanation for increased glycolysis in HF is not a deliberate compensation but instead occurs fortuitously by virtue of decreased FAO. Additionally, the degree to which glycolysis can effectively augment ATP production is not clear (4).

The research directly describing lactate utilization and ketone oxidation in the failing heart is scarce. Rodent models of heart failure are consistently reported to have increases in monocarboxylate transporter 1 (MCT-1), which import both lactate and ketones (72). Multiple studies also report elevated plasma ketone levels and hepatic ketogenesis in heart failure patients (73). Additionally, strong positive correlation exists between acetone concentrations in exhalation and severity of HF (74). Another investigation directly measured myocardial ketone extraction rates between healthy and failing human hearts reporting no difference (75). This summarization of the current literature epitomizes the lack of robust research conducted to date regarding alternative fuel substrate utilization in the failing heart.

There is no doubt that metabolism plays a critical role in heart function and dysfunction. Thus, examining the metabolism of the failing heart will certainly provide valuable insight to inform treatment decisions. Some of the intricacies of metabolism in the failing heart have been described. It is well-established that downregulation of FAO occurs in HF. Elucidation of the transcriptional circuitry regulating FAO during HF has provided insight into the mechanisms governing this process. However, very little is known about the role of alternative fuel substrates in HF. Questions remain such as, what happens when FAO is downregulated? What fuel substrates power the failing

myocardium? What dictates preference for one substrate versus another in HF? How does alternative fuel substrate utilization affect prognosis of heart failure?

Thus, the objective of this dissertation aims to begin delineating the consequences of altered short-chain carbon metabolism in heart failure. This dissertation specifically tests the hypotheses that during heart failure: 1) metabolite derangements, namely increases in acetyl-pools, result in post-translational modifications of key metabolic proteins, 2) metabolic reprogramming occurs that increases myocardial ketone oxidation capacity, and 3) the increased capacity for ketone oxidation is an adaptive mechanism.

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CHAPTER THREE: MITOCHONDRIAL PROTEIN HYPERACETYLATION IN THE FAILING HEART¹

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<u>Abstract</u>

Myocardial fuel and energy metabolic derangements contribute to the pathogenesis of heart failure. Recent evidence implicates posttranslational mechanisms in the energy metabolic disturbances that contribute to the pathogenesis of heart failure. We hypothesized that accumulation of metabolite intermediates of fuel oxidation pathways drives posttranslational modifications of mitochondrial proteins during the development of heart failure. Myocardial acetylproteomics demonstrated extensive mitochondrial protein lysine hyperacetylation in the early stages of heart failure in well-defined mouse models and the in end-stage failing human heart. To determine the functional impact of increased mitochondrial protein acetylation, we focused on succinate dehydrogenase A (SDHA), a critical component of both the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle and respiratory complex II. An acetyl-mimetic mutation targeting an SDHA lysine residue shown to be hyperacetylated in the failing human heart reduced catalytic function and reduced complex II-driven respiration. These results identify alterations in mitochondrial acetyl-CoA homeostasis as a potential driver of the development of energy metabolic derangements that contribute to heart failure.

Introduction

The adult mammalian heart requires enormous amounts of energy to sustain contractile function. Given that cardiomyocyte energy stores are limited, ATP must be continually generated by oxidation of carbon fuels, necessitating a high-capacity finely tuned mitochondrial system (1–5). Significant evidence suggests that insufficient capacity for mitochondrial fuel oxidation and ATP production is causally linked to the development of heart failure (HF). For example, human genetic defects in mitochondrial fatty acid oxidation (FAO), the chief fuel utilization pathway in heart, or derangements in oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS)/electron transport complex (ETC), cause cardiomyopathy (6). Studies conducted in animal models of HF have shown reduced capacity for mitochondrial FAO and increased reliance on glycolysis (7–16). Cardiac magnetic resonance spectroscopy studies in humans have shown that myocardial "high-energy" phosphocreatine (PCr) stores are reduced with pathological ventricular hypertrophy and decline further during the transition to HF (17–21). Notably, the [PCr]/[ATP] ratio correlates with HF severity and is a strong predictor of cardiovascular mortality (22, 23).

The mechanisms involved in curtailing the ability of the failing heart to satisfy its voracious appetite for ATP are a subject of intense investigation. To date, most studies have focused on late-stage HF. The results of such studies have identified widespread changes in energy metabolic gene expression associated with structural and functional mitochondrial abnormalities, cardiomyocyte death, and fibrosis, likely reflecting the final common pathway of late-stage disease (24–27). However, the primary events involved in energy metabolic remodeling en route to HF have not been well characterized.

Recently, we employed an unbiased systems biology approach to identify molecular signatures of altered energy metabolism in the hypertrophied and early-stage failing mouse heart using integrated transcriptomics and metabolomics (28). This strategy unveiled the surprising finding that transcription of the majority of genes involved in mitochondrial energy transduction and OXPHOS is not altered in the hypertrophied and failing heart, with the notable exception of a progressive downregulation of genes involved in the failing heart and distinguished the onset of contractile dysfunction and ventricular remodeling. These integrated profiling results strongly suggest that posttranslational mechanisms are an important contributor to the derangements in mitochondrial carbon flux during development of HF.

The results of our recent metabolomic profile of the failing mouse heart (28) revealed a potential mechanism whereby mitochondrial proteins may be altered at the posttranslational level. Notably, levels of acetylcarnitine (C2-carnitine), which are thought to reflect changes in the mitochondrial pool of acetyl-CoA, were increased in the failing heart but not in compensated cardiac hypertrophy (28). Consistent with this finding, acetyl-CoA levels were recently shown to be increased in the failing human heart (29). There is evidence that increased acetyl-CoA concentration can drive acetylation of nonhistone proteins (30, 31). In addition, emerging evidence indicates that increased lysine acetylation may result in enzymatic dysfunction (30, 32, 33). Accordingly, the observed expansion of the acetyl-CoA pool in the failing heart suggests that increased mitochondrial protein acetylation may contribute to derangements in

mitochondrial energy metabolism in the failing heart. To address this possibility, we conducted unbiased, mass spectrometric-based, acetylproteomic studies on heart samples from well-defined mouse models of cardiac remodeling and in the failing human heart. The results demonstrate a striking increase in mitochondrial protein lysine acetylation in the failing heart. Our results also suggest that alterations in protein acetylation can affect mitochondrial fuel oxidation and respiration, contributing to the vicious cycle of "energy starvation" that contributes to the syndrome of HF.

<u>Results</u>

Increased Lysine Acetylation of Mitochondrial Proteins in the Failing Mouse Heart The mitochondrial acetylproteome was profiled in cardiac samples from well-defined mouse models of compensated pathologic cardiac hypertrophy and HF using mass spectrometry. Established mouse models of pressure overload–induced cardiac hypertrophy and failure were used for these studies. In brief, transverse aortic constriction (TAC) was performed on C57BL/6J mice (34). TAC performed on 8- to 12week-old C57BL/6J mice resulted in significant left ventricular (LV) hypertrophy, with preserved systolic function and no evidence of chamber volume remodeling or reduced ejection fraction at the 4-week time point, referred to here as compensated hypertrophy (CH). In a second age-matched experimental group, termed the HF group, TAC was combined with a small apical myocardial infarction (MI) achieved by placing a ligature in the distal portion of the left anterior descending coronary artery, which resulted in predictable global LV systolic and diastolic dilatation and significantly reduced LV

ejection fraction (LVEF) 4 weeks after the procedure (28, 35). This approach allowed us to define molecular profiles in the early stages of CH and HF at a similar age and duration of pressure overload.

Cardiac ventricular mitochondria were purified from the samples taken from CH and HF groups and corresponding sham-operated controls. Acetylated peptides were enriched from the extracted mitochondrial proteins via anti-acetyl lysine antibodies. A total of 244 unique acetylated lysine sites situated in 82 mitochondrial proteins (from a total of 383 mitochondrial proteins identified) were identified (Supplemental Table 1). 57% of the identified acetylated proteins exhibited two or more acetylated lysine residues. Considering fold changes greater than ± 1.5 as compared to control samples, 42 mitochondrial protein acetylation sites were differentially decorated in the HF samples (increased acetylation in 37 residues and decreased acetylation in 5 residues; Supplemental Table 2). Of the 37 residues with increased acetylation, 16 of these sites were identified previously as potential targets of sirtuin 3 (SIRT3) deacetylase activity in mouse heart (32) (Supplemental Table 2).

Pathway analysis (Ingenuity Pathway Analysis) demonstrated that acetylated mitochondrial proteins involved in mitochondrial energy transduction were highly represented (Supplemental Table 3). Notably, a significant number of hyperacetylated proteins in the HF samples were embedded in key fuel catabolic and ATP synthetic pathways, including FAO, tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, and ETC (Figure 1A and Supplemental Table 3). In contrast to the acetylproteomic profile of the HF samples, the CH group exhibited fewer hyperacetylated proteins and greater directional

heterogeneity (hyperacetylated and hypoacetylated proteins) in the FAO, TCA, and ETC pathways (Figure 1B and Supplemental Table 4). Taken together, these findings suggest that, during the progression from compensated cardiac hypertrophy to HF, net mitochondrial protein acetylation increases.



Figure 1. Increased lysine acetylation of mitochondrial proteins involved in multiple mitochondrial energy transduction pathways in cardiac tissue of mice from the heart failure group.

(A) Lysine-acetylated proteins (indicated by circles, protein symbols are noted) identified by mass spectrometry in both heart failure (HF) samples and sham-operated control samples (n = 2/group) in each of the 3 main mitochondrial fuel oxidation/ATP synthesis pathways (β -oxidation, tricarboxylic acid [TCA] cycle, and electron transport complex [ETC]). All acetylated residues with at least ± 1.5 fold change for mean HF/control values are shown. Specific lysine acetylation sites are noted in parentheses. Acetylation status is indicated by color coding: proteins with increased acetylation (HF/sham) are in red; proteins with decreased acetylation are in blue; and proteins with no change are in gray. (B) All detected acetylated mitochondrial proteins were rank ordered according to log2 fold change between compensated hypertrophy (CH) or HF and their corresponding sham controls in mean protein abundance along the x axis (blue circles). The log2 fold change between CH or HF and corresponding sham controls of each detected acetyl isoform (red squares, normalized to corresponding protein abundance) is plotted on the y axis in the same position on the x axis as the corresponding protein. The dashed line represents no change in acetylation level. Additional numerical data is provided in Supplemental Tables 2-4. SDHA, succinate dehydrogenase A.

Increased Acetylation of Mitochondrial Proteins in the Failing Human Heart To determine the relevance of the cardiac acetylproteomic findings in mice to human HF, we interrogated the cardiac acetylproteome of the failing human heart. For these studies, we conducted proteomics on samples prepared from LV of 5 cardiac transplant recipients with end-stage dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM group, LVEF = 10%) and 5 nonfailing (NF) organ donors with normal LV function (NF group, LVEF = 47%-80%). Significant acetylation changes were defined as a cutoff of ± 1.5 fold change or P < 0.05based on a Student's t test when comparing mean values of the DCM versus NF groups. Similar to the findings in the mouse HF samples, failing human heart samples exhibited a marked increase in mitochondrial protein acetylation (Supplemental Table 5). The general increase in mitochondrial protein acetylation in the DCM samples is shown in heat map (Figure 2A) and graphic (Figure 2B) formats. Whereas many of the hyperacetylated lysine residues are shared between mouse and human HF samples, a substantial number were species-specific (as seen in the comparison between Supplemental Tables 3 and 5). The reason for this latter observation is unclear but likely relates to differences in the relative acetylome coverage in each study and, in some cases, nonconserved residues between mice and humans. Importantly, similar to the mouse heart results, enzymes and proteins involved in multiple mitochondrial energy transduction pathways exhibited increased lysine acetylation, including FAO, TCA, ETC, and OXPHOS (Figure 3).



Figure 2. Increased acetylation of mitochondrial proteins in failing human heart.

(A) Heat map of the acetylproteomics data set representing the log2-transformed value of mitochondrial acetyl isoforms from cardiac biopsies of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) patients (n = 5) or nonfailing (NF) controls (n = 5). Acetylation events were normalized to corresponding protein abundance. The horizontal data lines represent the normalized value for each patient relative to the mean value across all 10 samples. The color coding indicates the direction and magnitude of the normalized log2-transformed value for each detected acetyl form, blue indicates low and red indicates high, in each patient sample. (B) All detected acetylated mitochondrial proteins were individually rank ordered according to the log2 fold change in mean protein abundance (DCM/NF) along the x axis (blue circles). The log2 fold change between DCM and NF controls of each detected acetyl isoform (red squares, normalized to corresponding protein abundance) is plotted on the y axis in the same position on the x axis as the corresponding protein. The dashed line represents no change in acetylation level.



Figure 3. Hyperacetylated mitochondrial proteins in failing human heart are involved in multiple energy transduction pathways.

Lysine-acetylated proteins (indicated by circles, protein symbols are noted) identified by mass spectrometry in dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) patients and nonfailing (NF) control samples (n = 5/group) in each of the 3 main mitochondrial fuel oxidation/ATP synthesis pathways (β -oxidation, tricarboxylic acid [TCA] cycle, and electron transport complex [ETC]) are shown. All acetylated residues with at least ± 1.5 fold change for mean DCM/NF values are shown. Mean DCM acetylation levels that were significantly different compared to NF control values based on Student's t test are also indicated (*P < 0.05). Specific lysine acetylation sites are noted in parentheses. Acetylation status is indicated by color coding: proteins with increased acetylation (DCM/NF) are in red; proteins with decreased acetylation are in blue; and proteins with no significant change are in gray. All acetylation levels were normalized to corresponding protein abundance. SDHA, succinate dehydrogenase A.

Altered NAD⁺ Homeostasis in Failing Heart

SIRT3, a mitochondrial-localized NAD-dependent deacetylase, has been shown to play

an important role in mitochondrial protein acetylation status (32, 36, 37). Therefore, we

sought to assess NAD⁺ levels in the mouse and human HF samples to determine

whether, in addition to increased acetyl-CoA levels, capacity for enzymatic deacetylation was altered in the failing heart. Quantitative mass spectrometric assays revealed that myocardial levels of NAD[•] were reduced in the mouse HF group but not the CH group (HF, 1,990 ± 80.27 vs. control, 2,532 ± 174.56 pmol/mg tissue; P = 0.018; Figure 4A). Moreover, NAD[•] was significantly reduced in the human DCM samples compared to NF controls (Figure 4B). Measurements of additional NAD[•] metabolite species in the human heart samples demonstrated that NADH levels were not significantly altered in the DCM samples but that NAD phosphate (NADP[•]) levels were decreased and nicotinamide mononucleotide (NMN) increased in the DCM samples compared to NF controls (Figure 4B). Taken together, these results suggest regulation at several points, including NAD[•] biosynthesis and salvage pathways (Figure 4C) in the failing heart.



Figure 4. Evidence for altered NAD+ homeostasis in failing mouse and human heart.

(A) NAD+ was measured in mouse cardiac tissue by quantitative mass spectrometry (n = 6/group). The values shown are normalized to mg of dry weight of tissue (mg dw). CH, compensated hypertrophy; HF, heart failure; TAC, transverse aortic constriction; MI, myocardial infarction. (B) Levels of NAD+, NADH, NAD phosphate (NADP+), and nicotinamide mononucleotide (NMN) in human failing (dilated cardiomyopathy [DCM]) and nonfailing (NF) control hearts (n = 5 per group). The values shown are normalized to mg of wet weight of tissue. (C) Schematic of NAD+ biosynthesis and salvage (within dashed line) pathways. NA, nicotinic acid; Naprt, nicotinate phosphoribosyltransferase; NaMN, NA mononucleotide; Nmnat, nicotinamide mononucleotide adenylyltransferase; Nadsyn, glutamine-dependent NAD+ synthetase; Nampt, nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase; Nmrk, nicotinamide riboside kinase 1;2; Nt5e, 5'-nucleotidase ecto; NR, nicotinamide riboside. *P < 0.05 based on Student's t test. Bars represent mean ± SEM.

Evidence that Lysine Acetylation Affects Activity of Succinate Dehydrogenase A, a Key Component of the TCA Cycle and ETC Complex II

As an initial step to explore the functional impact of the altered mitochondrial protein acetylation pattern observed in the HF samples, we focused on subunit A of succinate dehydrogenase A (SDHA), an enzyme that serves a critical role in both the TCA cycle and ETC (as part of complex II). SDHA exhibited increased acetylation at several residues in the mouse and human HF samples (Figures 1A and Figure 3), and its protein levels were not different between failing heart and controls in the mouse and human samples (data not shown). We first measured the activity of complex II in saponin-skinned myocardial LV fibers prepared from HF mice and controls. Complex II–driven state 3 respiration (succinate plus rotenone) was significantly lower in the HF samples compared to sham-operated controls (Figure 5A). In contrast, complex I–driven respiration rates were shown to be normal in the mouse HF samples (28). These results are consistent with reduced SDHA activity in the failing heart. In further support of this conclusion, we have shown that succinate levels are increased in mouse HF samples, consistent with reduced SDHA activity in the TCA cycle (28).

We next sought to assess the effects of SDHA lysine acetylation on SDHA catalytic function. For these studies, we determined the impact of a site-directed lysine acetylation-mimetic (K to Q) mutation on SDHA activity. The mutagenesis studies focused on the K179 residue of SDHA, given that it is hyperacetylated in human HF (Figure 3). In addition, K179 is an established SIRT3 substrate and is located in a conserved FAD-binding region (32, 36). Enzyme activity studies were conducted on

mitochondria isolated from HEK293 cells in which WT SDHA or the acetyl-mimetic mutant (K179Q) was overexpressed. The K179Q mutant exhibited a significantly increased *K*_m (Figure 5B). These results suggest that K179 acetylation affects substrate or cofactor (FAD·) binding to SDHA. To further assess the impact of the K179 hyperacetylation on SDHA activity in the cellular context as it relates to complex II function, effects on mitochondrial respiration were measured. Complex II–driven respiration in cells overexpressing K179Q was significantly lower compared to SDHA overexpression controls (Figure 5, C and D). This effect was also observed under both basal and ADP-stimulated conditions. Collectively, these results provide evidence that increased acetylation of SDHA at specific lysine residues, as observed in the failing heart, reduces its function in the TCA cycle and as a component of complex II. It is likely that hyperacetylation of other mitochondrial proteins also confers a functional impact in the failing heart.



Figure 5. Evidence for acetylation effects on succinate dehydrogenase A function relevant to heart failure.

(A) Mitochondrial complex II respiration rates determined on cardiac muscle strips isolated from heart failure (HF) and sham-operated control mice using succinate (5 mM) as a substrate in the presence of rotenone (10 µM) to inhibit complex I flux. Basal, state 3 (ADP-stimulated), and post-oligomycin VO2 rates are shown normalized to mg dry tissue weight (mg dw). RC, respiratory control ratio (state 3/state 4). Bars represent mean respiration rates \pm SEM (n = 5–11). *P < 0.05 compared to sham based on Student's t test. (B) Succinate dehydrogenase A (SDHA) activity was measured in mitochondria isolated from HEK293 cells expressing WT SDHA (WT) or the acetyl-mimetic mutant (K179Q). Km was derived from measurements of initial velocity generated from a range of substrate concentrations using nonlinear regression. Bars represent mean values \pm SEM (3 separate experiments each with n = 3/condition). *P < 0.05 compared to WT based on Student's t test. (C) Oxygen consumption rates (OCRs) were measured in permeabilized NIH-3T3 cells transfected with either a vector encoding WT SDHA (pCS6-SDHA) or K179Q (pCS6-K179Q). The OCR was normalized to the total amount of SDHA in each sample, as quantified by Western blot. The graph shown is representative of 3 separate experiments, each with n =10. Data points represent mean values ± SEM. *P < 0.05 compared to SDHA-K179Q based on Student's t test. (D) Area under the curve (AUC) was calculated from the combination of all 3 individual experiments for basal and succinate-driven respiration (n = 30). Bars represent mean values \pm SEM. *P < 0.05 compared to WT based on Student's t test.

Discussion

We used unbiased quantitative proteomics to detect posttranslational changes in mitochondrial proteins during the transition from compensated cardiac hypertrophy to HF in mice. This approach was spawned by the results of our recent study demonstrating that reduced mitochondrial fuel catabolic flux in the failing heart cannot be fully explained by alterations at the level of gene transcription (28). In addition, we and others have recently found that a subset of myocardial short-chain carbon pools, including acetyl-CoA levels, are increased in the failing mouse heart (28), setting the stage for posttranslational modifications of myocyte proteins during the development of HF. The results herein demonstrate striking alterations in the cardiac mitochondrial protein acetylome during the development of HF in well-defined mouse models and in end-stage HF in humans.

The basis for increased mitochondrial protein acetylation in the failing heart is unclear, but several lines of evidence suggest that it is driven, at least in part, by changes in the mitochondrial matrix environment. Emerging data suggest that the degree of lysine acetylation of proteins is controlled by both enzymatic and nonenzymatic mechanisms. Mitochondrial proteins may be particularly susceptible to nonenzymatic lysine acetylation due to the alkaline pH and relatively high concentrations of acetyl-CoA within the matrix (38). We recently found that levels of C2carnitine, which reflect changes in the mitochondrial pool of acetyl-CoA, were increased in mouse HF but not CH samples (28). In addition, very recent work has shown that acetyl-CoA levels are increased in the myocardium of humans with end-stage HF (29).

The basis for the increased levels of acetyl-CoA in the early-stage failing heart is unknown, but several possible mechanisms could be at play. First, an increase in mitochondrial short-chain carbon pools could reflect shifts in myocardial fuel oxidative flux, leading to metabolite "bottlenecks." We recently found that the hypertrophied and failing mouse heart shifts to ketone bodies as a fuel source in the context of reduced capacity for utilization of fatty acids (39). Chronic utilization of ketones by the cardiomyocyte increases levels of several intermediates, including C2-carnitine. It is possible that the concentration of acetyl-CoA generated by ketone oxidation exceeds capacity for entry into the TCA cycle, increasing the mitochondrion acetyl-CoA pool size. Second, impaired export of mitochondrial acetyl-CoA may contribute to an expansion of the mitochondrial acetyl-CoA pool. In support of this notion, we found that carnitine acetyltransferase (CRAT) is hyperacetylated in the CH and HF samples (Supplemental Tables 2 and 4). CRAT exports acetyl units from the mitochondrion by converting acetyl-CoA to the membrane-permeant carnitine conjugate, C2-carnitine. Progressive reduction in CRAT activity in the context of increased mitochondrial acetyl-CoA levels could set the stage for increased mitochondrial protein acetylation. Third, altered NAD⁺ homeostasis could contribute to the increased mitochondrial protein acetylation observed in the failing heart by diminishing the activity of SIRT3 (40), a key mitochondrial deacetylase. Notably, SIRT3-null mice exhibit increased mitochondrial protein acetylation and are more susceptible to stress-induced mitochondrial dysfunction (32, 36, 37). Cardiac SIRT3 expression was not reduced in the CH or HF groups (data not shown). However, we found that NAD⁺ levels were significantly

reduced in the mouse and human HF samples, likely resulting in reduced sirtuin activity (Figure 4, A and B). Interestingly, our comprehensive profiling of metabolites involved in NAD⁺ metabolism (Figure 4B) indicated that the basis for reduced NAD⁺ levels could involve multiple mechanisms, including alterations in both the biosynthesis and salvage pathways (Figure 4C), given that NMN levels are increased in the context of reduced NAD⁺. Taken together, we propose that both increased mitochondrial acetyl-CoA levels and reduced SIRT3 activity due to derangements in NAD⁺ metabolism conspire to drive increased lysine acetylation of mitochondrial proteins in the failing heart.

The results described herein provide evidence that increased acetylation of selected mitochondrial proteins impairs mitochondrial fuel oxidation and ATP synthesis in the failing heart. Increased lysine acetylation has been shown to reduce the enzymatic activity of mitochondrial proteins involved in FAO, glucose oxidation, the TCA cycle, and ETC (41–45). In this study, we identified hyperacetylated lysine residues of proteins within the FAO, TCA, and ETC/OXPHOS pathways in the HF samples. The functional studies described here focused on SDHA, a key component of both the TCA cycle and respiratory complex II. SDHA was found to be hyperacetylated at multiple lysine residues in both mouse and human samples. Complex II–driven respiration was reduced in cardiac strips prepared from the HF samples, consistent with reduced activity of SDHA. In addition, levels of succinate, the substrate for the TCA cycle reaction catalyzed by SDHA, are increased in the mouse HF samples (28). We found that an acetyl-mimetic point mutation in SDHA altered enzymatic function and succinate-driven respiration via complex II. Notably, human complex II deficiency has

been reported to cause HF (46). As K179 lies within the conserved FAD-binding domain, we speculate that acetylation of this residue directly affects FAD- binding to SDHA. The observed increased *K*, in the SDHA K179Q mutant is consistent with this notion. Interestingly, mitochondrial complex I deficiency in mice results in a phenotype of protein hyperacetylation and HF, suggesting that reduced ETC flux and ATP synthesis could further contribute to mitochondrial protein acetylation, resulting in a vicious cycle (47). It should be noted that current methodology does not allow us to determine the precise acetylation stoichiometry of SDHA and other mitochondrial proteins in the HF samples. Future studies aimed at defining precise lysine acetylation stoichiometry, together with pathway flux analyses, will provide key information on whether the results shown here for alterations in SDHA represent a broader paradigm in HF and other diseases.

Our collective results suggest a model in which progressive mitochondrial protein lysine acetylation, driven by an expansion of the acetyl-CoA pool and reduced NAD-levels, leads to reduced fuel oxidative flux and diminished ATP synthesis (Figure 6). Our results raise the question as to whether strategies aimed at diminishing mitochondrial protein hyperacetylation by targeting nodal points in this pathogenic scheme could have therapeutic utility for HF. A few studies have shown that activation of SIRT1 improves cardiac function in HF and ischemia-reperfusion models, possibly via activation of AMP-activated protein kinase (48–50). However, the impact of specifically activating mitochondrial SIRT3 on the development of HF has not been reported to our knowledge. In addition, as described above, it is likely that a significant subset of the

hyperacetylated proteins identified herein are not SIRT3 targets. Accordingly, proof-ofconcept experimental strategies aimed at maintaining mitochondrial acetyl carbon homeostasis or NAD⁺ metabolism should also be considered.



Figure 6. Schematic depicting a conceptual model for the impact of mitochondrial protein lysine acetylation as a driver of the progressive decline in capacity for mitochondrial oxidative flux and ATP synthesis known to occur during the development of heart failure.

Methods

Animal Studies

Animal studies were performed on female C57BL/6J mice (purchased from JAX labs), 7 to 12 weeks of age, on standard chow (16.4% protein, 4.0% fat, and 48.5% carbohydrates; Harlan Teklad, 2016). The TAC and HF (combination of TAC and small apical MI) surgeries were performed on 8-week-old female C57BL/6J mice (purchased from JAX labs) as described previously (28, 34, 35).

Human Studies

Explant dilated nonischemic failing human hearts were procured at the time of orthotopic heart transplantation, and NF hearts were obtained at the time of organ donation from brain-dead donors. In all cases, warm ischemia was prevented by arresting the heart in situ with 1 liter of ice-cold cardioplegia solution, transportation to the laboratory on wet ice, and flash freezing of biopsies in liquid nitrogen within 4 hours of cardiectomy. All samples were full-thickness biopsies obtained from the free wall of the left ventricle. A total of 10 subjects, 5 organ donors, and 5 patients with DCM provided heart tissue for this research. In each group, there were 2 females and 3 males, the ages were comparable (NF 50 \pm 3 years vs. DCM 58 \pm 5 years), and all but one DCM subject were of mixed European descent. Body mass index was also comparable (NF 31 \pm 4 vs. DCM 26 \pm 3). Based on heart weight at explant (NF 394 \pm 31 grams vs. DCM 531 \pm 50 grams, *P* < 0.05) and LVEF determined by echocardiography

(NF 62% \pm 8% vs. DCM 10% \pm 0%, *P* < 0.005), the DCM hearts had significant pathological hypertrophy and severe contractile dysfunction.

Western Blotting

Western immunoblotting was performed with total cellular lysate. In brief, cells were harvested with RIPA buffer (1% NP40, 0.1% SDS, 100 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, cOmplete Protease Inhibitors [Roche catalog 11697498001]) on ice. DNA was sheered by passing the sample through a 21-gauge needle. The lysate was incubated on ice for 30 minutes and subsequently centrifuged at 4°C at 20,000 g for 20 minutes. The supernatant was collected, and total protein was quantified using the Micro BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific catalog 23235). Protein samples were run on 12% SDS-PAGE and transferred to nitrocellulose membrane. The membranes were blocked with Odyssey Blocking Buffer (LI-COR Biosciences catalog 927-50000) for 1 hour at room temperature and then probed with primary antibody complex II Fp subunit (Invitrogen catalog 459200) at 1:5,000 in 1:1 Odyssey Blocking Buffer and 0.1% Tween in Tris-buffered saline (TBS-T) overnight at 4°C. The membranes were rinsed for 10 minutes 3 times with TBS-T at room temperature. Secondary antibody IRDye 800CW donkey anti-mouse IgG (H + L) (LI-COR Biosciences catalog 926-32212) was applied to the blot at 1:7,500 dilution in 1:1 Odyssey Blocking Buffer and TBS-T and incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. Western blot image detection and quantification were performed using the LI-COR Odyssey. Protein quantification was performed using the Odyssey Image Studio software (LI-COR Biosciences).

Metabolomic Analysis of NAD-Metabolites

For the NAD[•] metabolite measurements, pulverized frozen mouse heart samples (~50 mg per sample) or pulverized frozen human heart (derived from left ventricle; ~50 mg per sample) were homogenized via hand-held rotary homogenizer in 500 µl of either 0.5 M perchloric acid (for NMN, NAD[•], and NADP[•] determination) or 50:50 methanol/0.1 M NaOH (for NADH determination). The resulting heart homogenates were aliquoted and stored at –80°C. For NMN, NAD[•], and NADP[•] extraction, a 100-µl aliquot of heart homogenate was spiked with a 10-µl aliquot of heavy isotope-labeled internal standards ("O₂-labeled NMN and NAD[•]; synthesized by the Sanford Burnham Prebys [SBP] Medicinal Chemistry Core). This was followed by the addition of 100 µl of 1 M ammonium formate to adjust the homogenate pH to approximately 4. Samples were vortexed thoroughly and centrifuged at 18,000 *g* for 5 minutes at 10°C. The clarified homogenates were passed through an AcroPrep Advance 3K Omega Filter Plate (Pall Corporation) prior to liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) analysis.

For NADH extraction, a 100-µl aliquot of heart homogenate was spiked with a 10µl aliquot of heavy isotope-labeled internal standard (${}^{18}O_2$ -labeled NADH; synthesized by the SBP Medicinal Chemistry Core). Samples were vortexed thoroughly and centrifuged at 18,000 *g* for 5 minutes at 10°C. The clarified homogenates were passed through an AcroPrep Advance 3K Omega Filter Plate (Pall Corporation) prior to LC/MS/MS analysis. All pyridine nucleotides were separated on a 2.1 × 50 mm, 3-µm Thermo Hypercarb column (T = 30°C) using a 5.8-min linear gradient with 10 mM ammonium

acetate, pH 9.5, and acetonitrile at a flow rate of 0.5 ml/min. Quantitation of pyridine nucleotides was achieved using multiple reaction monitoring on an Dionex UltiMate 3000 HPLC/Thermo Scientific Quantiva triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific). For NMN, NAD⁺, and NADP⁺ determination, a standard calibration curve $(0.25-200 \ \mu\text{M} \text{ for NAD}^+, 0.025-20 \ \mu\text{M} \text{ for NADP}^+, \text{ and } 0.0025-2 \ \mu\text{M} \text{ for NMN})$ was prepared by spiking 10-µl aliquots of pyridine nucleotides (Sigma-Aldrich) and internal standards (synthesized by the SBP Medicinal Chemistry Core) into 100-µl aliquots of 0.5 M perchloric acid. Calibration samples were extracted similarly as pyridine nucleotides in heart homogenate. For NADH determination, a standard calibration curve $(0.25-200 \ \mu M$ for both species) was prepared by spiking 10- μ l aliguots of pyridine nucleotides (Sigma-Aldrich) and internal standards (synthesized by the SBP Medicinal Chemistry Core) into 200 µl of 50:50 methanol/0.1 M NaOH. Calibration samples were extracted similarly as pyridine nucleotides in mouse liver homogenate. Data from heart samples were normalized to the mass of lyophilized heart powder (mouse) or heart tissue homogenate (human) provided.

Acetylproteomics

Purified mitochondria (mouse samples) or pulverized tissue (human samples) were subjected to quantitative proteomics/acetylproteomics using recently developed methods (36, 51). The mass spectrometry mouse acetylproteomics data have been deposited into the Proteome Xchange Consortium

(http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pride/archive/login) via the PRIDE partner repository with the data

set identifier PXD001652. The human acetylproteomics data are available at Chorus (<u>https://chorusproject.org/pages/index.html</u>) under the project title heartFailure_acetylation (ID 965).

Chemicals and Supplies

The Tandem Mass Tag (TMT) reagents were purchased from Thermo Scientific. The BCA assay Protein Assay Kit was purchased from Pierce Biotechnology and Trypsin Gold was purchased from Promega. Sep-Pak tC18 cartridges were purchased from Waters Corporation. A polysulfoethyl A column (9.4 mm × 200 mm, 5 mm, 200Å) was purchased from PolyLC Inc. Bridged Ethylene Hybrid (BEH) C18 resin (1.7-m diameter particles, 130 Å pore size) was purchased from Waters Corporation. Fused-silica capillary tubing was purchased from Polymicro Technologies. Formic acid and trifluoroacetic acid ampoules were purchased from Thermo Scientific. Pan-acetyl lysine antibody agarose conjugate was purchased from ImmuneChem. Protease (cOmplete mini ETDA-free) and phosphatase (PhosSTOP) inhibitors were purchased from Roche. All other chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

Mitochondrial Preparation

For the mouse studies, mitochondria were isolated by differential centrifugation by methods previously reported (52). All steps were performed at 4°C. Tissue was suspended in isolation buffer (220 mM mannitol, 70 mM sucrose, 5 mM HEPES KOH, pH 7.4, 1 mM EGTA) supplemented with 10 mg/ml bovine serum albumin (BSA),

protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche cOmplete tablets, 1 tablet per 50 ml buffer), phosphatase inhibitor cocktail (Roche PhosSTOP), and deacetylase inhibitors (10 mM nicotinamide, 10 µM TSA, 5 µM MS257, 10 mM sodium butyrate, 2 µM SAHA). Heart tissue was suspended to 0.1 g/ml in isolation buffer and homogenized with 4 strokes of a power-driven Potter-Elvehjem glass/Teflon homogenizer. The homogenate was decanted and spun at 800 g for 10 minutes. Any lipids were removed from the top of the supernatant by aspiration. The supernatant containing mitochondria was removed and transferred to a Beckman Ultra-clear centrifuge tube and spun at 8,000 g for 10 minutes. The supernatant was discarded, and the pellet was resuspended in 1 ml of isolation buffer. The crude mitochondria were transferred to a 1.5-ml microfuge tube and spun at 8,000 g for 10 minutes in a bench-top centrifuge. The supernatant was removed, and the pellet was washed with resuspension buffer. (Note, resuspension buffer is equivalent to isolation buffer but lacks BSA). The mitochondria were pelleted by centrifugation at 8,000 g for 10 minutes in a bench-top centrifuge. The supernatant was aspirated, and the pellet was frozen immediately in liquid nitrogen.

Sample Preparation

Either purified mitochondria (mouse samples) or pulverized frozen human heart samples were suspended in 8 M urea, 40 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 30 mM NaCl, 1 mM CaCl₂, 1× protease inhibitor tablet, 1× phosphatase inhibitor tablet, and 1× deacetylase inhibitors. Protein was extracted by sonication with a probe sonicator on ice and quantified by BCA assay. Protein from each sample (180 µg for mouse samples, 1 mg

for human samples) was reduced with 5 mM dithiothreitol for 45 minutes at 58°C and then alkylated with 15 mM iodoacetamide for 45 minutes at ambient temperature in the dark. The alkylation was quenched with 5 mM dithiothreitol. Following dilution to 1.5 M urea with 50 mM Tris, pH 8.0, the samples were digested with trypsin (50:1 protein/enzyme) overnight. Additional trypsin (50:1 protein/enzyme) was spiked into the sample the following morning, digestions were quenched by TFA acidification 2 hours later, and samples were desalted with a tC18 sep-Pak. Desalted material was resuspended in 200 mM TEAB pH 8.5 and labeled with 8-plex TMT. Labeled peptides were combined and desalted. Labeling efficiency was evaluated by analyzing a test mixture by LC/MS/MS for each experiment. Labeling efficiency was >95%, calculated by the number of N-terminal–labeled peptides divided by the total number of peptide identifications.

Fractionation and Enrichment

Labeled peptides were fractionated by strong cation exchange on a polysulfoethyl A column (0.4 mm × 200 mm) with mobile phases A (5 mM KH₂PO₄, pH 2.7, and 30% acetonitrile); B (5 mM KH₂PO₄, pH 2.7, 350 mM KCl, and 30% acetonitrile); C (5 mM KH₂PO₄, pH 6.5, 500 mM KCL, and 20% acetonitrile); and D (water). Peptides were eluted over the following gradient on a Surveyor LC quaternary pump (Thermo Scientific) at 3 ml/min: 0–2 minutes, 100% A; 2–5 minutes, 0%–10% B; 5–35 minutes, 10%–60% B; 35–41 minutes, 60%–100% B; this gradient was followed by washes with C and D prior to reequilibration with mobile phase A. Sixteen fractions were collected

and desalted. A small portion, 5%, of each was retained for protein analysis, while the remaining material was pooled into 6 fractions for acetyl lysine enrichment.

These pooled fractions were dissolved in 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.6, 100 mM NaCl, and each fraction was combined with approximately 50 µl pan-acetyl lysine antibody agarose conjugate. The samples were rotated overnight at 4°C and then rinsed 8 times with cold 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.6, and 100 mM NaCl. Rinses were followed by elution with 0.1% TFA, and eluted peptides were desalted prior to analysis.

LC/MS/MS

Mouse samples were analyzed by reverse-phase liquid chromatography on a nanoAcquity (Waters Corporation) coupled to an Orbitrap Elite (Thermo Scientific). Samples were loaded onto a 75-µm-inner diameter analytical column made in-house, packed with 1.7-m-diameter, 130-Å-pore-size, BEH C18 particles (Waters Corporation) to a final length of 30 cm. The column was heated to 62°C for all runs. The elution portion of the gradient was 5% to 30% B (A: water/0.2% formic acid; B: acetonitrile/0.2% formic acid) over 80 minutes for both acetyl enriched fraction and protein fractions.

Instrument methods for mass spectrometry all started with one mass spectrometry survey scan (resolution = 60,000; 300 Th to 1,500 Th) followed by datadependent mass spectrometry fragmentation and analysis (resolution = 30,000) of the 15 most intense precursors by beam-type CAD (HCD; normalized collision energy = 35%, target value = 5e4). Only those precursors with charge state of +2 or higher were

sampled for mass spectrometry. The dynamic exclusion duration was set to 40 seconds, with a 10-ppm tolerance around the selected precursor and its isotopes, and monoisotopic precursor selection was turned on.

Human samples were analyzed by reverse-phase liquid chromatography on a nanoAcquity (Waters Corporation) coupled to an Orbitrap Fusion (Thermo Scientific). Samples were loaded onto a 75-µm-inner diameter analytical column made in-house, packed with 1.7-m-diameter, 130-Å-pore-size, BEH C18 particles (Waters Corporation) to a final length of 35 cm. The column was heated to 65°C for all runs. Mobile-phase buffer A was composed of water, 0.2% formic acid, and 5% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). Mobile-phase B was composed of acetonitrile, 0.2% formic acid, and 5% DMSO. Samples were loaded onto the column for 12 minutes at 0.35 µl/min. Mobile-phase B increases to 4% in the first 0.1 minutes and then to 30% B over 80 minutes, followed by a 5-minute wash at 70% B and a reequilibration at 0% B.

Instrumental methods for mass spectrometry all started with one mass spectrometry survey scan (resolution = 60,000 at 200 m/z; target value = 5e5; 350 Th to 1,400 Th) followed by data-dependent mass spectrometry fragmentation and analysis in the Orbitrap (resolution = 60,000 at 200 m/z) of the most intense precursors by beamtype CAD (HCD; normalized collision energy = 37%, target value = 5e4) over a 5second cycle. Only those precursors with charge state of +2 or higher were sampled for mass spectrometry. The dynamic exclusion duration was set to 30 seconds, with a 10

ppm tolerance around the selected precursor and its isotopes, and monoisotopic precursor selection was turned on.

Database Search, FDR filtering, and Acetylation Analysis

Spectra were converted to searchable text files using a DTA generator. Generated text files were searched for fully tryptic peptides with up to 3 missed cleavages against a UniProt target-decoy database populated with mouse canonical plus isoforms (downloaded August 7, 2013) or human canonical plus isoforms (downloaded July 20, 2012) using the Open Mass Spectrometry Search Algorithm v.2.1.8 (53). Mass tolerance was set to ± 2.5 Da for precursors and ± 0.015 Da for fragment ions. Carbamidomethylation of cysteine, isobaric labeling of lysine, and isobaric labeling of the peptide N-terminus were searched as fixed modifications for all samples. Enriched fractions were additionally searched for variable acetylation modifications, in which the acetylation mass shift was set to the difference between an acetyl group and an isobaric label (-187.1523 Da) to allow the isobaric label on lysine to remain a fixed modification even for acetylated peptides. Search results were filtered to 1% FDR at the unique peptide level using the COMPASS software suite (54). TMT guantitation of identified peptides was performed within COMPASS, as previously reported (55). Peptides were grouped into proteins according to previously reported rules, and protein identifications were further filtered to 1% FDR (56). Protein quantitation was performed by summing all reporter ion intensities within each channel for each protein.

Acetylation events were localized to specific residues using previously described probabilistic methods (57). An acetylation event was considered localized if the calculated localization confidence was 95% or greater based on comparisons to theoretically possible acetyl isoforms. If localized acetylated peptides shared identical modification sites, those peptides were grouped together and their reporter ion intensities were summed; peptides with C-terminal acetylation were excluded from quantitation.

Protein Normalization

All reporter ion intensities were log₂ transformed and mean normalized for every acetyl isoform and protein. To account for protein abundance differences, the acetyl isoforms were normalized by subtracting the quantitative value of the reporter ion channel for the corresponding protein from the value for each acetyl isoform reporter ion channel. This resulted in a protein-normalized acetylation mean value that was then used to investigate fold changes between conditions. Fold change calculations were made by averaging the protein-normalized values for each condition and then calculating the difference of averages.

Mitochondrial Assignment

Proteins were identified as mitochondrial or nonmitochondrial based on inclusion or exclusion from the MitoCarta compendium of mitochondrial mouse proteins (58). MitoCarta EntrezID identifiers were converted to Uniprot identifiers with the Uniprot ID
mapping function. Our list was limited to contain only proteins that were in the canonical database used for searching. Additional mitochondrial proteins identified by Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery were also included.

Mitochondrial Respiration

Mitochondrial respiration rates were determined on saponin-permeabilized LV muscle strips with succinate (5 mM)/rotenone (10 μ M) as substrate as described previously (28, 59).

Vector Construction

An MGC premier Expression-Ready cDNA clone for SDHA-BC031849 (pCS6-BC031849) (Transomic Technologies catalog TCM1304) was used for the WT SDHA vector construct (pCS6-SDHA). Site-directed mutagenesis was performed using a modification to the QuikChange (Stratagene catalog 200518-5) protocol to create the SDHA K179Q in the pCS6-SDHA vector as described previously (60). The following primers were used for the site-directed mutagenesis:

CCTCCAGTTTGGGAAAGGCGGGCAGG (forward) and

CCCAAACTGGAGGCTCTGTCCACCAAATGCAC (reverse).

Cellular Oxygen Consumption Rates

Oxygen consumption rates were measured using the Seahorse Bioscience XF 96 analyzer as described previously (61). Briefly, NIH3T3 (ATCC) cells were transfected with Lipofectamine 3000 (Thermo Scientific catalog L3000-015) using the manufacturer's instructions with expression constructs for WT or K179Q SDHA (pCS6-SDHA or pCS6-K179Q). In the Seahorse assay, two measurements were taken at basal conditions and after each reagent injection. The cells were first injected with 10 mM succinate, 1.5 nM rPFO (Seahorse Bioscience catalog 102504-100), and 4 μ M rotenone. ADP was added at a final concentration of 4 mM. The final concentration of antimycin A was 1 μ M. The oxygen consumption rate was then normalized to total amount of SDHA present, as determined by Western blot of cells transfected with indicated expression construct.

SDHA Activity

HEK293 cells were transfected with pCS6-SDHA or pCS6-K179Q constructs. Mitochondria were isolated and SDHA-specific activity was measured as described previously (62–64). In brief, a coupled enzymatic colorimetric assay utilizing 2 redox dyes, 2,6-dichlorophenolindophenol sodium salt hydrate (DCPIP) and phenazine methosulfate (PMS), was used to measure the oxidation of succinate to fumarate by SDHA. Succinate (21.7 mM) was added to the isolated mitochondria and preincubated to remove oxaloacetate, which is an inhibitor of SDHA succinate oxidation. The reaction solution (2.17 μ M antimycin A, 5.4 μ M rotenone, 54 μ M DCPIP, PMS between 0 mM and 1.07 mM) was then added, and absorbance was measured at 600 nm. The *K*_m was derived by fitting a curve made from measurements of initial velocity at various substrate concentrations using nonlinear regression analysis in GraphPad Prism 6 after measuring the total amount of SDHA present via Western blot. The replicates test confirmed the adequacy of the fit to the Michaelis-Menten model.

Statistics

All statistical analyses were performed with 2-tailed Student's *t* test as indicated. The level of significance was set at P < 0.05 in all cases.

Study Approval

All animal experiments and euthanasia protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at SBP at Lake Nona. Procurement of human myocardial tissue was performed under protocols approved by Institutional Review Boards at the University of Pennsylvania, and consent for research use of explanted tissues was prospectively obtained in all cases.

Author Contributions

JLH, OJM, RBV, DJP, JJC, DMM, and DPK conceived the study. JLH, LL, NMR, ALR, and JJC devised experimental methodology. JLH, OJM, LL, NMR, and ALR performed experiments. TCL, RBV, NMR, and ALR curated data. KCB and KBM provided resources. JLH, OJM, LL, NMR, and ALR provided formal analysis. JLH, OJM, RBV, and DPK wrote the original draft. JLH, LL, NMR, ALR, JJC, DMM, TCL, RBV, and DPK reviewed and edited the manuscript. DPK, DJP, JJC, DMM, and KBM acquired funding. JJC and DPK provided supervision.

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Footnotes

Conflict of Interest:

D.P. Kelly is a scientific consultant for Pfizer Inc. and receives research support from Takeda Pharmaceuticals and Acorda Therapeutics. R.B. Vega and D.M. Muoio receive research support from Pfizer Inc. J.J. Coon is a consultant for Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Reference Information:

JCI Insight. 2016;1(2):e84897. doi:10.1172/jci.insight.84897.

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Supplemental Material

Supplemental Table 1. Cardiac mitochondrial acetyl proteoforms in the mouse heart.

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform
Q8BWT1	Acaa2	K137
Q8BWT1	Acaa2	K171
Q8BWT1	Acaa2	K234
Q8BWT1	Acaa2	K240
D3Z7X0	Acad12	K334
Q8JZN5	Acad9	K206
P51174	Acadl	K156
P51174	Acadl	K419

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform
P50544	Acadvl	K240
P50544	Acadvl	K279
P50544	Acadvl	K52
Q8QZT1	Acat1	K171
Q8QZT1	Acat1	K187
Q8QZT1	Acat1	K220
Q8QZT1	Acat1	K242
Q8QZT1	Acat1	K248
Q8QZT1	Acat1	K304
Q8QZT1	Acat1	K335
Q8QZT1	Acatl	K340
Q8QZT1	Acat1	K80
Q99KI0	Aco2	K50
Q99KI0	Aco2	K517
Q99KI0	Aco2	K517 K520
Q99KI0	Aco2	K521
Q99KI0	Aco2	K523
Q99KI0	Aco2	K689
Q99KI0	Aco2	K723
Q99KI0	Aco2	K736
Q99KI0	Aco2	K739
Q9CQR4	Acot13	K127
Q9CQR4	Acot13	K27
Q9CQR4	Acot13	K37
Q9CQR4	Acot13	K43
Q9WTP7	Ak3	K29
Q8CG76	Akr7a2	K123
Q8CHT0	Aldh4a1	K54
Q8CHT0	Aldh4a1	K92
Q9EQ20	Aldh6a1	K117
Q9EQ20	Aldh6a1	K47
Q925I1	Atad3	K494
Q03265	Atp5a1	K126
Q03265	Atp5a1	K239
Q03265	Atp5a1	K498
Q03265	Atp5a1	K531
Q03265	Atp5a1	K539
P56480	Atp5b	K133
P56480	Atp5b	K485
P56480	Atp5b	K522
Q9DCX2	Atp5h	K117
Q9DCX2	Atp5h	K48
Q9DCX2	Atp5h	K63
Q9DCX2	Atp5h	K63 K72

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform
Q9DCX2	Atp5h	K78
Q9DCX2	Atp5h	K85
Q9DCX2	Atp5h	K95
Q06185	Atp5i	K34
Q06185	Atp5i	K48
P97450	Atp5j	K105
P97450	Atp5j	K41
P97450	Atp5j	K46
P97450	Atp5j	K99
Q9DB20	Atp5o	K162
Q9DB20	Atp5o	K192
Q9DB20	Atp5o	K53
Q9DB20	Atp5o	K60
Q9DB20	Atp5o	K70
Q9DB20	Atp5o	K84
Q9JLZ3	Auh	K80
Q91VT4	Cbr4	K151
O91WS0	Cisd1	K68
Q6P8J7	Ckmt2	K292
O6P8J7	Ckmt2	K344
Q8R4N0	Clybl	K55
O8R4N0	Clybl	K80
O8R4N0	Clybl	K90
P19783	Cox4i1	K164
P19783	Cox4i1	K67
P19783	Cox4i1	K78
P12787	Cox5a	K109
P56391	Cox6b1	K85
P56392	Cox7a1	K31
P56393	Cox7b	K75
P17665	Cox7c	K25
Q9CZU6	Cs	K321
Q9CZU6	Cs	K327
09CZU6	Cs	K370
Q9CZU6	Cs	K52
Q9D172	D10Jhu81e	K162
Q9D172	D10Jhu81e	K201
Q9D172	D10Jhu81e	K231
Q9CQ62	Decrl	K185
Q9CQ62	Decrl	K42
Q8BMF4	Dlat	K632
O08749	Dld	K104
O08749	Dld	K143
O08749	Dld	K155

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform
O08749	Dld	K273
O08749	Dld	K410
O08749	Dld	K420
O08749	Dld	K66
Q9D2G2	Dlst	K268
Q9D2G2	Dlst	K268 K273
Q9D2G2	Dlst	K273
Q9D2G2	Dlst	K278
O35459	Ech1	K97
Q8BH95	Echs1	K101
P42125	Ecil	K222
P42125	Ecil	K229
P42125	Ecil	K76
Q99LC5	Etfa	K162
Q99LC5	Etfa	K164
Q99LC5	Etfa	K69
Q99LC5	Etfa	K75
Q9DCW4	Etfb	K110
Q9DCW4	Etfb	K114
P26443	Glud1	K415
P26443	Glud1	K503
P26443	Glud1	K84
P05202	Got2	K122
P05202	Got2	K296
P05202	Got2	K302
P05202	Got2	K309
P05202	Got2	K363
P05202	Got2	K396
P05202	Got2	K404
P05202	Got2	K73
P05202	Got2	K90
Q61425	Hadh	K127
Q61425	Hadh	K185
Q61425	Hadh	K192
Q61425	Hadh	K212
Q61425	Hadh	K241
Q61425	Hadh	K75
Q61425	Hadh	K81
Q61425	Hadh	K87
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K289
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K334
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K353
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K386
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K406

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K540
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K569
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K60
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K728
Q99JY0	Hadhb	K202
Q99JY0	Hadhb	K273
Q99JY0	Hadhb	K333
Q99JY0	Hadhb	K73
Q99L13	Hibadh	K237
Q99L13	Hibadh	K94
Q8QZS1	Hibch	K352
P38647	Hspa9	K135
P38647	Hspa9	K288
P38647	Hspa9	K300
P38647	Hspa9	K612
P38647	Hspa9	K76
P63038	Hspd1	K125
P63038	Hspd1	K130
P63038	Hspd1	K202
P63038	Hspd1	K455
P63038	Hspd1	K87
Q8BIJ6	Iars2	K725
Q8CAK1	Iba57	K222
P54071	Idh2	K106
P54071	Idh2	K155
P54071	Idh2	K166
P54071	Idh2	K180
P54071	Idh2	K199
P54071	Idh2	K256
P54071	Idh2	K272
P54071	Idh2	K280
P54071	Idh2	K384
P54071	Idh2	K400
P54071	Idh2	K48
P54071	Idh2	K67
Q9D6R2	Idh3a	K100
Q9D6R2	Idh3a	K336
Q9D6R2	Idh3a	K343
Q9D6R2	Idh3a	K58
Q9D6R2	Idh3a	K77
Q9JHI5	Ivd	K76
P14152	Mdh1	K107
P14152	Mdh1	K164
P08249	Mdh2	K165

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform
P08249	Mdh2	K239
P08249	Mdh2	K296
P08249	Mdh2	K301
P08249	Mdh2	K307
P08249	Mdh2	K328 K329
Q9CQ75	Ndufa2	K64
Q62425	Ndufa4	K56
Q9CPP6	Ndufa5	K36
Q9CPP6	Ndufa5	K40
Q9CPP6	Ndufa5	K60
Q9CPP6	Ndufa5	K66
Q9DC69	Ndufa9	K189
Q9DC69	Ndufa9	K254
Q9D6J5	Ndufb8	K176
Q9CQJ8	Ndufb9	K121
Q9DCT2	Ndufs3	K259
P52503	Ndufs6	K41
Q9D6J6	Ndufv2	K60
Q60597	Ogdh	K897
Q91ZA3	Pcca	K146
Q91ZA3	Pcca	K61
P35486	Pdha1	K244
P35486	Pdha1	K267
P35486	Pdha1	K321
P35486	Pdha1	K63
P35486	Pdha1	K83
Q8BKZ9	Pdhx	K321
P20108	Prdx3	K254
P20108	Prdx3	K92
Q8K2B3	Sdha	K179
Q8K2B3	Sdha	K480
Q8K2B3	Sdha	K485
Q8K2B3	Sdha	K498
Q8K2B3	Sdha	K547
Q8K2B3	Sdha	K550
Q8K2B3	Sdha	K608
Q9CQA3	Sdhb	K269
Q9CQA3	Sdhb	K53
Q9CQA3	Sdhb	K57
Q8BH59	Slc25a12	K578
P51881	Slc25a5	K105
P31881	SIC25a5	K155
P09671	Sod2	K114
PU96/1	Sod2	K122
P09671	Sod2	K130

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform
P09671	Sod2	K68
Q9WUM5	Suclg1	K54
Q8R1I1	Uqcr10	K59
Q9DB77	Uqcrc2	K92
Q9CR68	Uqcrfs1	K172
P99028	Uqcrh	K40
P99028	Uqcrh	K83
Q78IK2	Usmg5	K16

All identified mitochondrial acetylproteoforms are listed. Mitochondrial proteins were defined based on GOCC annotation in DAVID and MITOCARTA.

Uniprot ID	Cana Symbol	A cetyl Proteoform	HF/Sham (FC)	SIRT3	Regulated
O8BWT1		K137	1 56	No	
D377X0	Acad12	K137 K334	2.08	No	No
P50544	Acadvl	K52	1.91	No	No
P50544	Acadvl	K240	1.75	Yes	No
080ZT1	Acatl	K187	1.75	No	No
Q99KI0	Aco?	K107	1.50	No	No
Q32MW3 09R0X4	Acot10/Acot9	K102	1.50	Yes	Yes
09COR4	Acot13	K102 K27	2 72	No	No
0970X1 B1AU25	Aifm1	K592	-1.66	No	Ves
Q)2071 DIA025	Abu7a2	K572 V122	-1.00	No	I CS
	AKT/UZ	K125 K270	1.05	NO	INO
Q3U6I3 Q3UJW1 Q3TVM2	Alan2	K570	1.55	res	res
P56480	Atp5b	K133	1.60	Yes	Yes
Q9D3D9 Q9DCZ0	Atp5d	K165	-1.55	No	Yes
Q9D0J2					
Q8R4N0	Clybl	K80	1.56	Yes	No
Q8R4N0	Clybl	K55	1.56	Yes	No
P19783	Cox4i1	K67	1.77	No	No
P47934 H7BX88	Crat	K270	1.70	No	Yes
Q9D172	D10Jhu81e	K231	1.79	Yes	No
Q9D172	D10Jhu81e	K201	1.62	Yes	No
Q9CQ62	Decr1	K42	2.07	Yes	No
Q8BH95	Echs1	K101	1.55	Yes	No
P21550	Eno3	K28	-2.43	No	No
Q9DCW4	Etfb	K114	1.77	No	No
Q921G7 Q6PF96	Etfdh	K133	1.72	No	No
Q61425	Hadh	K87	1.60	Yes	No
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K406	1.68	Yes	No
Q99JY0	Hadhb	K73	1.92	Yes	Yes
P38647	Hspa9	K300	2.26	No	No
P63038	Hspd1	K455	2.66	No	Yes
P63038	Hspd1	K130	1.52	Yes	No
P63038	Hspd1	K125	1.51	Yes	No
Q8CAK1	Iba57	K222	-2.87	No	No
P54071	Idh2	K67	2.78	No	No
P54071	Idh2	K272	1.56	No	No
P54071	Idh2	K106	1.56	No	No
P08249	Mdh2	K165	1.69	No	No
P03930 A3R404	Mtatp8/mt-	K48	1.69	Yes	No
Q5GA80	Atp8/ATP8				

Supplemental Table 2. Mitochondrial protein acetylation sites regulated in HF mice.

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform	HF/Sham (FC)	SIRT3 Target	Regulated in CH
P09541 Q9CZ19 A2A6Q8	Myl4	K140	1.66	No	No
Q3UIU2 A2AP32	Ndufb6	K24	1.67	No	No
Q9D6J5	Ndufb8	K176	-1.88	No	No
P52503	Ndufs6	K41	2.11	No	Yes
Q8K2B3	Sdha	K608	1.98	No	Yes

A fold-change cut-off of ± 1.5 was used for this analysis.

Ingenuity Canonical Pathways	# of genes regulated	# of genes in pathway	p-value	Acetylated Proteins
Oxidative	7	100	7.943E-10	SDHA,ATP5B,ATP5D,NDUFS6,
Phosphorylation/Electron				NDUFB6,NDUFB8,COX4I1
Transport Chain				
Fatty Acid β-oxidation I	5	30	2.754E-09	HADHB,ECHS1,ACAA2,HADHA, HADH
Glutaryl-CoA Degradation	4	11	3.802E-09	HADHB,ACAT1,HADHA,HADH
Isoleucine Degradation I	4	14	1.148E-08	HADHB,ECHS1,ACAT1,HADHA
Tryptophan Degradation III (Eukaryotic)	4	20	5.623E-08	HADHB,ACAT1,HADHA,HADH
Ketolysis	3	8	3.715E-07	HADHB,ACAT1,HADHA
Ketogenesis	3	10	7.943E-07	HADHB,ACAT1,HADHA
Mevalonate Pathway I	3	12	1.445E-06	HADHB,ACAT1,HADHA
Superpathway of	3	12	3.631E-06	HADHB,ACAT1,HADHA
Geranylgeranyldiphosphate Biosynthesis I (via Mevalonate)				
Valine Degradation I	3	18	5.370E-06	HADHB,ECHS1,HADHA
TCA Cycle II (Eukaryotic)	3	22	8.710E-06	SDHA,ACO2,MDH2
Superpathway of Cholesterol	3	27	1.905E-05	HADHB,ACAT1,HADHA
Biosynthesis				
Gluconeogenesis I	2	24	8.318E-04	ENO3,MDH2
Phenylethylamine Degradation I	1	4	7.762E-03	ALDH2
Aspartate Degradation II	1	7	1.148E-02	MDH2
LXR/RXR Activation	2	110	1.950E-02	ECHS1,HADH
Phenylalanine Degradation IV	1	14	2.512E-02	ALDH2
(Mammalian, via Side Chain)				
Histamine Degradation	1	12	2.512E-02	ALDH2
Methylglyoxal Degradation III	1	14	2.692E-02	AKR7A2
Putrescine Degradation III	1	16	3.090E-02	ALDH2
Fatty Acid α-oxidation	1	15	3.090E-02	ALDH2
Oxidative Ethanol Degradation III	1	15	3.090E-02	ALDH2
Tryptophan Degradation X (Mammalian, via Tryptamine)	1	17	3.236E-02	ALDH2
Aldosterone Signaling in Epithelial Cells	2	148	3.311E-02	HSPA9,HSPD1
Ethanol Degradation IV	1	17	3.467E-02	ALDH2
Dopamine Degradation	1	20	3.802E-02	ALDH2
Glycolysis I	1	23	4.169E-02	ENO3
Tumoricidal Function of Hepatic Natural Killer Cells	1	22	4.365E-02	AIFM1

Supplemental Table 3. Pathway analysis of mitochondrial proteins with regulated acetylation sites in murine HF.

All significantly regulated pathways as identified by Ingenuity Pathway Analysis are listed. Major energy transduction pathways are shown in bold.

	Gene	Acetyl	CH/Sham	SIRT3	Regulated in
		K127	(FC) 1.50	1 arget	
$Q_{0}D_{W}^{T}$	Acuu2	K137	1.59	No	Tes No
$Q_0 QZ T 1$	Acall	K00 V171	-1.30	No	No
QoQZII	Acall	K1/1 K720	-1.03	NO	No
Q99KI0	ACO2	K/39	-1.60	Yes	INO
Q32MW3 Q9R0X4	Acot10/Acot9	K102	1.50	Yes	Yes
Q9Z0X1 BIAU25	Aifm1	K592	-2.08	No	Yes
Q3U6I3 Q3UJW1 Q3TVM2	Aldh2	K370	1.61	Yes	Yes
O03265	Atp5a1	K126	-1.54	Yes	No
P56480	Atp5b	K133	1.96	Yes	Yes
Q9D3D9 Q9DCZ0 Q9D0J2	Atp5d	K165	1.75	No	Yes
O9DCX2	Atp5h	K48	1.77	No	No
P97450	Atp5i	K99	-1.64	No	No
P97450	Atp5i	K41	-1.66	No	No
O6P8J7	Ckmt2	K292	1.63	No	No
P19536 O9D881	Cox5b	K74	1.67	No	No
P19536 O9D881	Cox5h	K121	1.64	No	No
P56393	Cox7b	K75	1.85	No	No
P47934H7BX88	Crat	K270	2.04	No	Yes
Q9D0M3 Q9D0M3-	Cyc1	K177	-1.98	No	No
2 008749	Dld	K420	1.79	No	No
09D2G2	Dist	K278	-1.63	No	No
035459	Ech1	K97	1.69	No	No
P42125	Ecil	K222	-2.12	No	No
Q9WUR2 Q9WUR2- 2 Q3TCD4	Eci2	K138	3.39	No	No
099LC5	Etfa	K164	1.54	No	No
P26443	Glud1	K415	2.35	No	No
P26443	Glud1	K84	-1.82	No	No
P05202	Got2	K122	1.74	No	No
O61425	Hadh	K127	1.52	No	No
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K334	1.58	Yes	No
Q8BMS1	Hadha	K519	1.54	No	No
Q99JY0	Hadhb	K73	-1.64	Yes	Yes
P63038	Hspd1	K455	2.46	No	Yes
P54071	Idh2	K400	2.32	No	No
Q9D6R2	Idh3a	K336	-1.57	No	No
E9Q800 Q3TEY5	Immt	K596	1.80	No	No
P08249	Mdh2	K239	1.53	Yes	No
P51667	Myl2	K165	1.64	No	No

Supplemental Table 4. Mitochondrial protein acetylation sites regulated in CH mice.

	Gene	Acetyl	CH/Sham	SIRT3	Regulated in
Uniprot ID	Symbol	Proteoform	(FC)	Target	HF
Q9CPP6	Ndufa5	K36	1.51	No	No
Q91VD9 Q3TIU7	Ndufs1	K98	1.62	No	No
P52503	Ndufs6	K41	1.58	No	Yes
Q9JHW2	Nit2	K68	-2.80	No	No
Q60597	Ogdh	K897	-1.52	No	No
P35486	Pdha1	K321	1.76	No	No
P35486	Pdha1	K63	1.65	No	No
Q8K1R3 Q8K1R3-2 Q3TST0 Q3UNL5 Q3TN29	Pnpt1	K285	1.64	No	No
Q8K2B3	Sdha	K608	2.07	No	Yes
Q8VEM8 G5E902 Q3THU8	Slc25a3	K230	2.41	No	No
P51881	Slc25a5	K155	1.57	No	No
Q9D855 Q9CQB4	Uqcrb	K110	1.59	No	No
Q9D855 Q9CQB4	Uqcrb	K83	-1.99	No	No

A fold-change cut-off of ± 1.5 was used for this analysis.

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform	DCM/NF (FC)	p-value
O9UKU7	ACAD8	K144	2.22	0.055
P16219	ACADS	K343	2.04	0.059
A2A274	ACO2	K50	1.35	0.021
A2A274	ACO2	K138	2.03	0.022
B7Z452	ACSL1	K561	1.83	0.059
P30038	ALDH4A1	K531	2.01	0.013
P30038	ALDH4A1	K119	1.99	0.042
P30038	ALDH4A1	K93	1.52	0.169
Q8NCW5	APOA1BP	K148	1.62	0.030
Q6UXV4	APOOL	K105	2.46	0.033
P25705	ATP5A1	K252	2.55	0.004
P25705	ATP5A1	K498	-1.62	0.007
P25705	ATP5A1	K316	1.53	0.010
P25705	ATP5A1	K194	1.82	0.038
P25705	ATP5A1	K506	1.45	0.040
P25705	ATP5A1	K531	-1.62	0.186
P25705	ATP5A1	K230	2.09	0.074
O75947	ATP5H	K58	1.59	0.110
P18859	ATP5J	K94	1.85	0.095
Q9UII2	ATPIF1	K82	1.79	0.045
Q02338	BDH1	K97	1.88	0.045
Q02338	BDH1	K212	1.62	0.060
P04040	CAT	K237	2.29	0.023
Q03135	CAV1	K47	1.85	0.064
Q9NZ45	CISD1	K68	2.05	0.001
P12277	СКВ	K307	3.76	0.002
P12277	СКВ	K298	1.67	0.088
P17540	CKMT2	K230	1.67	0.001
Q14061	COX17	K40	2.45	0.003
P13073	COX4I1	K159	1.97	0.040
Q92523	CPT1B	K40	2.01	0.022
P07339	CTSD	K341	2.01	0.063
Q9UHQ9	CYB5R1	K167	-1.23	0.018
P11182	DBT	K295	1.60	0.255
P11182	DBT	K243	2.01	0.071
P11182	DBT	K257	2.03	0.153
P36957	DLST	K267/K272	1.54	0.255
P15924	DSP	K916	1.41	0.003
P15924	DSP	K1687	2.04	0.012
P15924	DSP	K485	1.91	0.039
P15924	DSP	K1099	1.84	0.126
P15924	DSP	K2393	1.84	0.095
P30084	ECHS1	K115	1.70	0.056
P13804	ETFA	K69	1.94	0.075
Q16134	ETFDH	K96	1.60	0.025
P00505	GOT2	K279	2.55	0.016
P00505	GOT2	K94	2.19	0.024

Supplemental Table 5. Mitochondrial protein acetylation sites regulated in human failing hearts.

Uniprot ID	Gene	Acetyl	DCM/NE (EC)	n voluo
Cilipi ot ID	Symbol	Proteoform	DCM/NF (FC)	p-value
P40939	HADHA	K406	-2.49	0.008
P40939	HADHA	K353	-1.67	0.135
P40939	HADHA	K411	-1.63	0.072
P40939	HADHA	K326/K334	1.54	0.409
P40939	HADHA	K605	2.45	0.064
P49590	HARS2	K52	1.92	0.020
P31937	HIBADH	K56	1.89	0.103
O75874	IDH1	K81	2.28	0.018
P50213	IDH3A	K223	-1.82	0.008
O43837	IDH3B	K199	3.74	0.002
P83111	LACTB	K225	1.60	0.187
P42704	LRPPRC	K66	2.37	0.038
Q9BQ69	MACROD1	K117	1.53	0.007
P21397	MAOA	K469	2.36	0.058
P23368	ME2	K24	-2.33	0.020
P82909	MRPS36	K78	2.13	0.015
Q9Y3D2	MSRB2	K176	2.38	0.038
Q9UI09	NDUFA12	K114	1.70	0.005
Q9UI09	NDUFA12	K47	1.72	0.169
Q9P0J0	NDUFA13	K22	2.05	0.288
Q9P0J0	NDUFA13	K7	2.80	0.105
P56556	NDUFA6	K44	1.60	0.575
P51970	NDUFA8	K106	3.13	0.005
P51970	NDUFA8	K38	1.60	0.148
Q16795	NDUFA9	K163	2.17	0.006
O96000	NDUFB10	K121	1.86	0.078
O95298	NDUFC2	K114	1.59	0.002
075489	NDUFS3	K109	1.84	0.000
O43920	NDUFS5	K38	1.63	0.008
O43920	NDUFS5	K101	1.32	0.012
O00217	NDUFS8	K88	2.00	0.037
Q13423	NNT	K100	2.10	0.007
Q13423	NNT	K331	1.58	0.009
Q13423	NNT	K462	1.75	0.020
Q13423	NNT	K453	2.32	0.030
Q13423	NNT	K403	1.69	0.178
E9PCR7	OGDH	K363	2.53	0.006
E9PCR7	OGDH	K402	1.58	0.033
E9PCR7	OGDH	K416	-1.64	0.093
E9PCR7	OGDH	K252	2.37	0.053
P55809	OXCTI	K41	2.46	0.037
P55809	OXCII	K296	1.51	0.333
P30405	PPIF	K/3	-1.81	0.018
P30405	PPIF	K167	1.95	0.040
P4/89/	QARS	K230	2.17	0.036
Q91512	SAMM50	K227	1.34	0.012
D6RFM5	SDHA	K361	1.64	0.018
E9PEF8	SDHA	K396	1.52	0.020
DORFM5	SDHA	KT/9	1.84	0.130

Uniprot ID	Gene Symbol	Acetyl Proteoform	DCM/NF (FC)	p-value
P12235	SLC25A4	K163	1.67	0.003
P12235	SLC25A4	K33	1.81	0.013
P12235	SLC25A4	K96	1.53	0.051
P53597	SUCLG1	K54	1.88	0.012
P21980	TGM2	K672	2.51	0.001
P49411	TUFM	K297	2.13	0.015
P49411	TUFM	K55	1.78	0.101
P31930	UQCRC1	K447	1.60	0.032
P22695	UQCRC2	K159	1.35	0.043
P07919	UQCRH	K85	1.85	0.002
O14949	UQCRQ	K33	1.90	0.040
P21796	VDAC1	K224	1.20	0.018
P21796	VDAC1	K109	1.23	0.019
P21796	VDAC1	K252	1.74	0.022

A fold-change cut-off of ± 1.5 or p < 0.05 was used for this analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR: THE FAILING HEART RELIES ON KETONE BODIES AS A FUEL²

²This is a non-final version of an article published in its final form as: GA Aubert, OJ Martin, JL Horton, L Lai, RB Vega, TC Leone, T Koves, SJ Gardell, M Kruger, CL Hoppel, ED Lewandowski, PA Crawford, DM Muoio, and DP Kelly. The Failing Heart Relies on Ketone Bodies as a Fuel. *Circulation.* 2016;133(8):698-705

Abstract

Background

Significant evidence indicates that the failing heart is "energy-starved". During the development of heart failure, the capacity of the heart to utilize fatty acids, the chief fuel, is diminished. Identification of alternate pathways for myocardial fuel oxidation could unveil novel strategies to treat heart failure.

Methods and Results

Quantitative mitochondrial proteomics was used to identify energy metabolic derangements that occur during the development of cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure in well-defined mouse models. As expected, amounts of proteins involved in fatty acid utilization were downregulated in myocardial samples from the failing heart. Conversely, expression of β -hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase 1 (BDH1), a key enzyme in the ketone oxidation pathway, was increased in the heart failure samples.

Studies of relative oxidation studies in an isolated heart preparation using ex vivo NMR combined with targeted quantitative myocardial metabolomic profiling using mass spectrometry revealed that the hypertrophied and failing heart shifts to oxidizing ketone bodies as a fuel source in the context of reduced capacity to oxidize fatty acids. Distinct myocardial metabolomic signatures of ketone oxidation were identified.

Conclusions

These results indicate that the hypertrophied and failing heart shifts to ketone bodies as a significant fuel source for oxidative ATP production. Specific metabolite biosignatures of in vivo cardiac ketone utilization were identified. Future studies aimed at determining whether this fuel shift is adaptive or maladaptive could unveil new therapeutic strategies for heart failure.

Keywords:

heart failure, hypertrophy, metabolism, molecular biology, fatty acid

Introduction

Growing evidence indicates that derangements in myocardial fuel metabolism and bioenergetics contribute to the development of heart failure, a global health problem. The adult mammalian heart requires enormous amounts of energy to sustain contractile function. Given that cardiac myocyte energy reserves are limited, ATP must be continually generated by oxidation of carbon fuels (1–5). Over 95% of the ATP produced in the healthy adult mammalian heart comes from mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation, with the remainder being derived from glycolysis (2–5). Genetic studies have provided evidence that alterations in mitochondrial ATP production is casually linked to the development of heart failure. Specifically, human genetic defects

in mitochondrial fatty acid oxidation (FAO) and oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) cause cardiomyopathy.

Studies in humans with common acquired forms of heart failure have also provided evidence that derangements in fuel and energy metabolism contribute to heart failure. Cardiac magnetic resonance spectroscopy studies have shown that myocardial "high-energy" phosphate (phosphocreatine or PCr) stores are reduced in humans with pathological ventricular hypertrophy, with further decline during the transition to heart failure (6–10). Notably, the [PCr]/[ATP] ratio correlates with heart failure severity and is a strong predictor of cardiovascular mortality (11,12). In addition, studies conducted in animal models have consistently revealed re-programming of myocardial fuel utilization in the hypertrophied and failing heart; a shift from the chief fuel metabolic pathway, fatty acid oxidation (FAO), to increased reliance on glycolysis (13–20). Cardiac positron emission tomography studies in humans with hypertensive cardiac hypertrophy or idiopathic cardiomyopathy have largely corroborated this fuel shift (21–23). The mechanisms through which the failing heart compensates for this reduced capacity for oxidizing its chief energy substrate are unknown. Delineation of such alternate fuel utilization pathways, if they exist, could unveil new therapeutic strategies for heart failure.

In this study, we undertook an unbiased proteomic approach to probe mitochondrial fuel and energy metabolic abnormalities that occur during the development of heart failure in well-defined models of compensated and decompensated pressure overload-induced cardiac hypertrophy in mice. Our results

confirmed that contents of proteins involved in fatty acid utilization are reduced in the hypertrophied and failing heart. The proteomic dataset also demonstrated that the β -hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase 1 (BDH1), a key enzyme in the ketone oxidation pathway, is upregulated in the hypertrophied and failing heart. Metabolite profiling and labeled substrate utilization studies supported the conclusion that the hypertrophied and failing heart shifts to ketone bodies as an alternate fuel.

<u>Methods</u>

Animal Studies

All animal experiments and euthanasia protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute at Lake Nona. Studies were performed on female C57BL/6J mice 7–12 weeks of age on either standard chow (16.4% protein, 4.0% fat and 48.5% carbohydrates; Harlan Teklad, #2016) or ketogenic diet (8.6% protein, 75.1% fat and 3.2% carbohydrates; BioServ Co, AIN-76A). Animals were fed the ketogenic diet starting at 7–8 weeks of age.

8 week old female C57BL/6J mice in the following groups were utilized: compensated hypertrophy (CH) vs sham controls; heart failure (HF) vs sham controls. CH was achieved by transverse aortic constriction (TAC). HF was achieved by TAC plus a small apical myocardial infarction as described (24–26). Mice were harvested 1 month following each procedure.

Proteomics using Stable Labeling by Amino Acids (SILAC) Mass spectrometry-based quantitative proteomics was conducted on mitochondrial enriched fractions (27) prepared from cardiac tissue of CH, HF, and sham control nonlabeled (light) mice, spiked with Lys6 labeled mitochondria prepared from cardiac tissue of Lys6 (¹³C6-Lysine, Silantes) labeled (heavy) non-surgery mice, (28) as described in the Data Supplement. The proteomics data have been deposited into the Proteome Xchange Consortium (http://proteomecentral.proteomexchange.org) via the PRIDE partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD001820.

Substrate Oxidation Measurements

Langendorff heart perfusions were performed as previously described (29,30). Briefly, mice received 100 units of heparin by intraperitoneal injection and 10 min later were anesthetized with an intraperitoneal injection of 390 mg/kg sodium pentobarbital.

Excised hearts were perfused with a modified Krebs-Henseliet buffer (118 mM NaCl, 25 mM NaHCO₃, 4.7 mM KCl, 0.4 mM KH₂PO₄, 2.5 mM CaCl₂, pH 7.4) supplemented with 5 mM glucose and either i) 0.6 mM [2, 4,6,8,10,12,14,16-¹³C8] palmitate complexed (3:1 ratio) to a 3% fatty acid free bovine serum albumin (BSA) plus unlabeled 1 mM β OHB or unlabeled 0.6 mM palmitate/BSA plus 1 mM [2, 4-¹³C2] β OHB, with 1 mU/ml insulin (rDNA origin; Lilly) and continuous equilibration to a 95% O2/5% CO₂ gas mixture. Following each perfusion, hearts were snap frozen in LN₂ cooled tongs.

In vitro NMR spectroscopy was performed on reconstituted (D2O) lyophilized samples of neutralized, acid extracts of frozen myocardium, as previously described using either direct detect proton-decoupled ¹³C NMR or ¹³C-edited, 1H-observed NMR (30,31). The relative contribution of each substrate was calculated as previously described (29,31). Briefly, glutamate enrichment was used as a reporter of carbon entry into the TCA cycle. The fractional enrichment of acetyl-coenzyme A (Fc) entering the TCA cycle and the contribution of anaplerosis relative to citrate synthase activity (Y) were determined by isotopomer analysis of the glutamate 3- and 4-carbon ¹³C resonance.

RNA Analyses

Total RNA was isolated from mouse bi-ventricle using the RNAzol method (Tel-Test). qRT-PCR was performed as described previously (32) and in the Data Supplement.

Western Blot

Western blotting was performed with lysates from bi-ventricle as previously described (33) using the following antibodies: VDAC/porin, (Abcam #ab15895); and BDH1 (Abcam #ab93931). Detection was performed by measuring the chemiluminescent signal as assayed by SuperSignal Dura (Pierce).

Metabolomic Analysis of Organic Acids and Acylcarnitines

Measurements of succinate, C4OH-carnitine, and acetylcarnitine (C2-carnitine) in mouse heart were conducted as described (25,34) and in the Data Supplement.

Plasma Biochemistry Measurements

Ketone bodies (total and β-hydroxybutyrate) were measured in blood serum using assays from Wako (Wako Diagnostics) according to the manufacturer's instructions or on a Beckman-Coulter UniCel DxC 600 Analyzer. Plasma glucose and free fatty acids were measured using assays from Cayman (Cayman Chemical). Plasma triglyceride levels were determined using the Stanbio (Stanbio Laboratory) assay. The assays were conducted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Statistical Analyses

All data were analyzed with a 2-tailed Mann-Whitney or Student's T-test (GraphPad Prism 6), where noted. The level of significance was set at p < 0.05 in all cases. The Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to define the relationship between the amounts of CH and HF proteins.

<u>Results</u>

Mitochondrial Proteomic Profiling Reveals Evidence for Altered Fuel Utilization in the Hypertrophied and Early Stage Failing Mouse Heart As an initial step towards defining energy metabolic alterations in the hypertrophied and early stage failing heart, quantitative mitochondrial proteomics was conducted on two well-defined mouse surgical models that exhibit distinct cardiac functional manifestations over a 4 week period: i) Left ventricular (LV) hypertrophy with preserved ventricular function (compensated hypertrophy or CH) achieved via surgically-placed transverse aortic constriction (TAC); (24) and ii) decompensated cardiac hypertrophy (heart failure or HF) caused by combining TAC with a small apical myocardial infarction (TAC/MI) leading to reduced LV systolic function and global chamber dilatation (25,26). To identify regulated proteins, mitochondrial-enriched samples prepared from cardiac ventricles of CH and HF mice, and corresponding sham-operated control mice were subjected to quantitative proteomics using Stable Isotope Labeling by Amino Acids (SILAC) in mouse. Heavy isotope-tagged mitochondrial-enriched proteins were prepared from the hearts of control mice fed a diet containing ¹³C6-Lysine (Lys6) for 3 generations (35) (Figure 7A). 516 mitochondrial proteins were identified in all samples (Table 1 in the Data Supplement). The levels of 55 of these protein were determined to be regulated in CH (23), HF (10) or both (22) groups compared to corresponding controls, using a cutoff of < -1.25 or > 1.5-fold change (Figure 7B, and in the Data Supplement Table 7). Notably, the majority of dysregulated proteins in the HF group were similarly impacted in the CH group. In addition, changes in protein amounts in CH and HF are significantly correlated (Pearson correlation coefficient r=0.82; Figure 7C).

Rather surprisingly, the proteomic data revealed that few proteins involved in the electron transport chain (ETC) or mitochondrial OXPHOS were downregulated in CH or HF mice, in contrast to the results from other studies using models of chronic heart failure (36–39). These results are consistent, however, with the results of our previous transcriptomic profiling of the same samples demonstrating that very few genes involved in ETC/OXPHOS were regulated in CH or HF samples (25). Many of the regulated proteins detected in our study were involved in myocyte fuel metabolism.





(A) Schematic of the experimental design for quantitative proteomic analysis using stable isotope labeling by amino acids (SILAC), in mitochondrial-enriched fractions, from the ventricles of sham-operated, compensated hypertrophy (CH), and heart failure (HF) animals. (B) Venn diagram displaying the number of regulated proteins identified in the CH, HF, or both groups using a cutoff of -1.25- or >1.5-fold change (FC) in comparison with sham-operated controls (n=2 per group). (C) The graph denotes fold change in levels of proteins that meet the defined cutoffs: HF/sham (ordinate) and CH/sham (abscissa). The key denotes regulated proteins involved in 2 fuel utilization pathways of interest as described in the text: fatty acid β -oxidation (white) and ketone catabolism (black). Spearman correlation coefficient (r) was calculated to determine the relationship between the CH and HF protein changes. BDH1 indicates β -hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase 1

First, proteins needed for cellular fatty acid utilization were reduced in both the CH and HF groups [enoyl-CoA, hydratase/3-hydroxyacyl CoA dehydrogenase (EHHADH), enoyl CoA hydratase 1 (ECH1), acetyl-CoA acyltransferase 2 (ACAA2), and hydroxysteroid (17-beta) dehydrogenase 4 (HSD17B4), non-specific lipid transfer protein (SCP2); Figure 7C]. These results are concordant with many published studies showing that expression of genes involved in FAO are downregulated in the hypertrophied and failing hearts (15,16,20,40–42). Secondly, BDH1, an enzyme involved in ketone body metabolism, was increased in both CH and HF samples (2.8 and 1.9 fold, respectively; Figure 7C, and in the Data Supplement Table 7). The induction of BDH1 protein expression was among the highest in the dataset. Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) and immunoblotting confirmed a significant increase in Bdh1 mRNA and protein expression in CH and HF hearts harvested under both fed and fasted conditions (Figures 8A, B).

The Hypertrophied Heart Re-programs to Utilize Ketone Bodies as an Alternate Fuel Source

We next conducted studies to determine whether the hypertrophied heart shifts to using ketone bodies as suggested by the results of the proteomic profiling. ¹³C-NMR studies were performed to measure the relative contribution of fatty acids and ketone bodies tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle flux. For these studies, hearts isolated from CH or shamoperated control groups were perfused in the Langendorff mode with ¹³C-labeled palmitate in the presence of unlabeled R- β -hydroxybutyrate (R- β OHB), or ¹³C-labeled in the presence of unlabeled palmitate. Consistent with findings described in

numerous published studies (15,16,18,31,41,43,44), the contribution of ¹³C-labeled palmitate to oxidative intermediary metabolism was decreased by approximately 40% in the CH hearts (Figure 1 in the Data Supplement).



Figure 8. *Bdh1* expression is induced in the hypertrophied and failing mouse heart.

(A) *Bdh1* mRNA levels in cardiac ventricular tissue from mice 4 weeks after sham, TAC (CH), or TAC/MI (HF) surgeries. Expression is normalized to *Rplp0* (36B4). Bars represent mean±SEM values (n=9–11 per group). *P<0.05. (B) Representative immunoblot analyses performed using protein extracts prepared from mouse cardiac ventricular tissue homogenates 4 weeks postsham, post-CH, or post-HF surgeries collected in the fed state (4 hours after feeding) or following a 24-hour fast. Antibodies used are shown on the left. Anti-VDAC was used as a mitochondrial protein-loading control. AU indicates arbitrary unit; BDH1, β -hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase 1; CH, compensated hypertrophy; HF, heart failure; MI, myocardial infarction; SEM, standard error of the mean; TAC, transverse aortic constriction; and VDAC, voltage-dependent anion channel.

Conversely, the contribution of β OHB to carbon entry into the oxidative pathway of the TCA cycle increased significantly in hearts from CH mice compared to control mice (Figure 9, left). These data indicate a 25% increase in the contribution of β OHB to oxidative production of ATP from carbon flux through the TCA cycle. In addition, the entry of anaplerotic carbon flux into the TCA cycle was increased in the CH heart, consistent with previous reports (31,43,45) (Figure 9, right).



Figure 9. Increased βOHB oxidation in the hypertrophied heart.

Left, The fraction of ¹³C-enriched acetyl-CoA entering the TCA cycle from ¹³C-labeled β OHB (Fc, β OHB) is shown. **Right**, The fraction of carbon entering the TCA cycle via anaplerosis relative to that entering via citrate synthase (Y) is shown for CH and sham-operated controls. Data are shown as mean±SEM (n=10, sham; and n=11, CH). *P<0.05. CH indicates compensated hypertrophy; CoA, coenzyme A; β OHB, β -hydroxybutyrate; SEM, standard error of the mean; and TCA, tricarboxylic acid.

Identification of Metabolite Signatures of Ketone Utilization in the Myocardium of the Failing Heart

We next sought to determine whether cardiac ketone utilization was increased in vivo in

the failing heart. To this end, we measured myocardial levels of metabolites that reflect

ketone body oxidation. Targeted quantitative metabolomic datasets generated

previously from heart samples of the CH and HF groups and corresponding controls
(25) were analyzed for changes in metabolites that can be produced during ketone body metabolism including hydroxybutyrylcarnitine (C4OH-carnitine), acetylcarnitine (C2-carnitine), and succinate (Figure 10A). Levels of C4OH-carnitine and C2-carnitine have been shown to rise in the context of increased ketone body utilization in human and mouse skeletal muscle, and in human subcutaneous interstitial fluid (46–48)



Figure 10. The myocardial metabolite profile of the failing heart is indicative of increased ketone utilization in the failing heart.

(A) Schematic of the ketone metabolism pathway indicating relevant intermediary metabolite derivatives (dashed arrows). (B) Levels of ketone utilization pathway metabolite derivatives (C4OH-carnitine, succinate, C2-carnitine) in cardiac biventricular tissue from CH or HF mice and corresponding shamoperated controls 4 weeks postsurgery as measured previously by using mass spectrometry–based quantitative metabolomics (25). Data are shown as mean±SEM (n=6 per group). *P<0.05. ACAT1 indicates acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase 1; BDH1, β -hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase 1; C2-carnitine, acetylcarnitine; C4OH-carnitine, hydroxybutyrylcarnitine; CH, compensated hypertrophy; CoA, coenzyme A; HF, heart failure; MCT, monocarboxylate transporters; MI, myocardial infarction; β OHB, β -hydroxybutyrate; SCOT, succinyl-CoA:3-oxoacid-CoA transferase; SEM, standard error of the mean; TAC, transverse aortic constriction; and TCA, tricarboxylic acid

Concentrations of C4OH-carnitine, C2-carnitine, and succinate were increased in hearts of the HF group, but not the CH samples, compared to corresponding controls (Figure 10B), consistent with increased flux through the reaction catalyzed by BDH1The relevance of the distinct HF metabolite signatures to myocardial ketone body metabolism was further assessed by comparison with profiles obtained from hearts of wild-type C57BL/6J mice fed a ketogenic diet for 4 weeks to increase myocardial ketone body delivery and utilization (29,49–51). As expected, the ketogenic diet resulted in a dramatic increase in concentration of plasma ketone bodies compared to controls fed a standard chow (Figure 2 in the Data Supplement). Notably, this dietary intervention had no effect on ventricular function in this timeframe (echocardiographic data not shown). Importantly, the pattern of myocardial metabolite alterations observed in the mice fed a ketogenic diet was strikingly similar to that observed for the HF mice on a standard chow diet, including elevated amounts of both the R and S enantiomers of C4OHcarnitine (Figure 11A). An increase in both C4OH-carnitine enantiomers is consistent with an increase in uptake and oxidation of ketone bodies. In addition, rat ventricular myocytes cultured in fatty-acid free, ketone body-rich media also showed an elevated content of C4OH-carnitine compared to cells in control (ketone body-free) media (Figure 11B). Notably, the amount of Coenzyme A (CoASH) was not different between HF and control groups (data not shown).



Figure 11. Myocardial metabolite profile on a ketogenic diet is similar to that observed for the HF mice on a standard chow diet.

A, Levels of R-C4OH-carnitine, S-C4OH-carnitine, and C2-carnitine in cardiac ventricular tissue from wildtype C57BL/6J mice fed a ketogenic (Keto) diet or standard (Std) chow diet for 4 weeks (n=5 per group). Values were determined by using mass spectrometry. *P<0.05. B, Total C4OH-carnitine levels in extracts prepared from neonatal rat ventricular myocytes (NRVMs) cultured in media ± 8 mmol/L ketone, R- β OHB, in the presence of 1g/L glucose and 1 mmol/L carnitine, for 24 hours (n=3 per group, *P<0.05 by the Student t test). C, Total plasma ketones (acetoacetate+ β OHB), glucose, free fatty acids (FFA), and triglycerides in CH, HF, and sham-operated control mice in the fed state (after a 4-hour morning fast; n=5–11 per group). Bars represent mean±SEM for all panels.*P<0.05. C2-carnitine indicates acetylcarnitine; CH, compensated hypertrophy; C4OH-carnitine, hydroxybutyrylcarnitine; HF, heart failure; MI, myocardial infarction; β OHB, β -hydroxybutyrate; SEM, standard error of the mean; and TAC, transverse aortic constriction.

Lastly, to assess ketone delivery to the heart in the CH and HF groups, plasma substrate concentrations were measured. Plasma ketone body levels were modestly but significantly increased in HF but not CH, compared to corresponding controls (Figure 11C). Plasma glucose, free fatty acid levels, and triglycerides were unchanged in CH or HF groups (Figure 11C). The expression of the genes encoding the putative cellular ketone body transporters [Slc16a1 (MCT1) and Slc16a7 (MCT2)] were also assessed as an indirect measure of transport capacity given that Bdh1 expression was increased in CH and HF. Analysis of our published gene expression profiles (25) did not reveal any differences in CH or HF compared with control myocardium following a 4h fast. However, after a 24h fast, when circulating ketone bodies are increased, we found that Slc16a7 mRNA levels were significantly increased in both CH and HF samples, compared to corresponding sham-operated controls (Figure 3 in the Data Supplement). Taken together, these results provide evidence that myocardial ketone body utilization is increased in the HF mice through several potential mechanisms including increased delivery of ketone bodies and gene regulatory re-programming of ketone uptake and oxidation.

Discussion

The results of this study yielded several new findings including: 1) the amounts of relatively few mitochondrial proteins involved in energy transduction and ATP production are regulated in the early stages of cardiac hypertrophy (CH) and heart failure (HF) in the mouse models studied here. Within the subset of regulated proteins in

the CH and HF samples, a significant number were involved in fatty acid utilization, providing proteomic confirmation that the failing heart has reduced capacity for oxidizing fatty acids as a fuel; 2) the hypertrophied and failing rodent heart oxidizes ketone bodies as an alternate fuel for oxidative ATP production; and 3) metabolite signatures of myocardial ketone oxidation have been identified and suggest that a subset of mitochondrial ketone oxidation intermediate pools accumulate in the failing heart.

Our data support the conclusion that the shift to ketone oxidation in the failing heart occurs through several complementary mechanisms. First, ketone bodies are competitive with other substrates for heart, particularly fatty acids. The observed shift to ketone body oxidation in the hypertrophied and failing heart occurs in the context of reduced oxidation of fatty acids, the chief substrate for the normal adult heart. Downregulation of FAO gene expression is a well-characterized response in the hypertrophied and failing heart, driven at least in part, by reduced PPARα-mediated transcriptional control of genes involved in fatty acid utilization (20,52-54). Second, the delivery of ketone bodies is increased in the failing heart (increased plasma concentration). Indeed, previous studies have shown that the mammalian heart is capable of avid ketone body uptake and oxidation (55–57). We also cannot rule out the possibility that ketone body synthesis is activated in the cardiac myocyte although our gene expression data do not support this notion. Third, our results indicate that the hypertrophied and failing heart undergo gene regulatory re-programming to increase capacity for uptake and oxidation of ketone bodies. Specifically, the expression of Bdh1 and the transporter *Slc16a1* were increased in CH and HF.

Our work has identified metabolite signatures of myocardial ketone utilization in the failing and normal heart (C4OH-carnitine and C2-carnitine). The metabolites were selected based on known derivatives of ketone utilization pathway intermediates (Figure 10A), and published work by others focused on tissues known to oxidize ketones (46-48). It should be noted that this set of metabolites are not unique to ketone utilization pathways, given that other metabolic pathways can generate the intermediates. However, our results demonstrate that this metabolite profile is elevated in both HF samples and normal mice fed a ketogenic diet, providing additional support for our conclusion. In addition, we found that C4OH content is increased in rat neonatal cardiac myocytes exposed to β OHB. Interestingly, the increase in C4OH-carnitine and C2carnitine was observed in HF but not CH samples. The reason for this latter specificity is unknown, but could reflect higher ketone oxidation rates related to increased ketone body delivery (elevated plasma levels) in HF. Alternatively, capacity for flux through downstream pathways such as the TCA cycle, ETC, and OXPHOS may become reduced with progression to HF creating a mismatch with high flux rates through the ketone oxidation pathway. This latter conclusion is supported by our observation that most TCA cycle organic acid intermediates (with the exception of succinate) are reduced in HF samples, (25) consistent with a "bottleneck" downstream of ketone and other fuel inputs to the TCA cycle. It will be of significant interest to explore this metabolomic signature in other experimental heart failure models, and in humans, to determine whether activation of ketone utilization is a broad paradigm relevant to energy metabolic reprogramming of the failing heart.

We speculate that the shift toward ketone body utilization in the hypertrophied heart is an early adaptive response to maintain adequate fuel supplies for oxidative ATP production in the context of reduced FAO. Consistent with this notion, a recent study demonstrated that targeted disruption of succinyl-CoA:3-oxoacid-CoA transferase (SCOT), a key enzyme in the ketone body metabolic pathway, resulted in a heart failure phenotype in mice in the context of pressure overload (30). However, it is possible that over the longer term, high rates of ketone utilization lead to maladaptive consequences. Others have shown that ketone oxidation may lead to reduced anaplerotic input in an isolated heart preparation (58). In addition, as noted above, the pools of several metabolite intermediates including succinate and C2-carnitine are expanded in the myocardial samples from the HF group. Increased availability of short-chain carbon moieties and succinate could set the stage for post-translational modifications of mitochondrial enzymes and proteins reducing oxidative flux or ATP generation.

The findings described herein raise the obvious question of relevance to human heart failure. Little is known about ketone body metabolism in the failing human heart, although studies have shown increased concentrations of ketone metabolites in urine and breath samples of patients with heart failure (59–62). In addition, increased concentrations of serum β OHB have been described in patients with severe heart failure (63).

Conclusions

In summary, our findings indicate that during the development of pathologic cardiac remodeling in mouse models of heart failure, the myocardium increasingly relies on ketone bodies as a fuel. We propose that this fuel metabolic shift is triggered by reduced capacity for oxidizing fatty acids, the chief fuel for the normal adult mammalian heart. Future studies aimed at determining the relevance of these findings to human heart failure, and delineation of the impact of chronic ketone utilization on cardiac metabolism and function will be important to determine whether this response represents a new therapeutic target for the metabolic modulation of heart failure.

Clinical Perspective

Significant evidence, based on results of pre-clinical studies and observations in humans, indicates that energy metabolic derangements contribute to the development of heart failure. A prototypical fuel shift occurs in the hypertrophied and failing heart, in which the capacity for oxidizing fatty acids, the chief substrate for the normal adult heart, becomes reduced along with an increase in reliance on glucose. It is generally believed that reduced capacity for oxidation of fatty acids leads to an "energy-starved" heart. Therefore, identification of alternate fuel utilization pathways that may compensate for this fuel shift could lead to new therapeutic strategies aimed at heart failure. In this study, using well-defined mouse models of cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure, we demonstrate that the heart begins to utilize ketone bodies en route to the development of heart failure. This shift to reliance on ketone bodies as a fuel is likely

driven by multiple mechanisms, including elevation in plasma ketones, a reduction in competition with fatty acids, and gene regulatory re-programming of the heart. These findings set the stage for future studies aimed at determining whether the shift to oxidizing ketone bodies in the failing heart is adaptive or maladaptive. This fuel utilization pathway could prove to be a new candidate target for metabolic modulatory therapies aimed at early stages of heart failure.

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Data Supplement

Supplemental Methods

RNA analyses Total RNA was isolated and reverse transcribed with AffinityScript QPCR

cDNA Synthesis Kit (Agilent Technologies). PCR reactions were performed in triplicate

in a 96-well format using the MX3005P (Stratagene). The primer sets (SYBR green)

used to detect specific gene expression are as follows: mBDH1 fwd-

TCTCGGACTGCCTGCGCTAT, revACCGCTGTTGCAGTAGGTTT; m36B4 fwd-

TGGAAGTCCAACTACTTCCTCAA m36B4 rev-ATCTGCTGCATCTGCTTGGAG;

mMCT1 fwdTGCAACGACCAGTGAAGTATC, rev-GACAACCACCAGCGATCATTA;

mMCT2 fwdATACTTGCAGGTCCTCTCATTC, rev-GGAAGAGGCAGACAACGATAA. 36B4 primer set was included in a separate well (in triplicate) and used to normalize the gene expression data. Proteomics using Stable Isotope Labeling by Amino Acids (SILAC) Crude mitochondrial fractions were prepared from cardiac tissue of Lys6 (13C6-Lysine, Silantes) labeled (heavy) and non-labeled (light) mice. Mitochondrial fractions were prepared as previously described (1) Briefly, immediately following euthanasia, the mouse ventricles were dissected, washed and placed in ice-cold isolation buffer (220 mM mannitol, 70 mM sucrose, 5mM HEPES-KOH, pH 7.4, 1mM EGTA, 1mg/ml BSA and protease inhibitor cocktail). The tissue was then minced and homogenized using a Potter-Elvehjem glass/Teflon homogenizer. A crude mitochondrial fraction was extracted from the homogenate using differential centrifugation and resuspended in small amount of the isolation buffer (300 µl). A 1:1 mixture of heavy and light heart mitochondrial fractions were then separated by gel electrophoresis on precast 4–12% NuPAGE gradient gels (Invitrogen) and stained with the 1 Colloidal Blue Staining Kit (Invitrogen). Evenly sized gel pieces were excised and processed for mass spectrometry. The gel pieces were subjected to in-gel reduction and alkylation, followed by LysC (Wako) digestion as described previously (2) In brief, trypsin digested gel pieces were washed twice with 50% 50 mM NH4HCO3 eluent additive for LC-MS (Sigma-Aldrich) / 50% ethanol for 20 min, and dehydrated with 100% ethanol for 10 min, and then vacuum centrifuged. Gel pieces were reduced with 10 mM DTT for 45 min at 56°C and alkylated with 55 mM iodoacetamide for 30 min at RT in the dark. After two cycles of washing and dehydration, samples were dehydrated twice with 100% ethanol

for 15 min and vacuum centrifuged. Gel pieces were digested overnight at 37°C in 50 µl of digestion buffer containing 12.5 ng/µl of LysC (Wako). Released peptides were extracted once with 30% acetonitrile/ 3% trifluoracetic acid (TFA), twice with 70% acetonitrile, followed by two final extractions with 100% acetonitrile. Extracts were vacuum centrifuged to remove acetonitrile and subsequently acidified with 0.5% TFA. Peptides were desalted and concentrated with homemade "STAGE" tips (Stop and Go extraction tips) filled with C-18 (C18 Empore Disks, 3M) as described.(3) Mass spectrometric experiments were performed on a nano-flow HPLC system (Agilent) connected to a LTQ-Orbitrap XL instrument (Thermo Scientific) equipped with a nanoelectrospray source (Proxeon). The mass spectrometer was operated in the data dependent mode to monitor MS and MS/MS spectra. Survey full-scan MS spectra (from m/z 300-2000) were acquired in the Orbitrap with a resolution of R=60,000 at m/z 400 after accumulation of 1,000,000 ions. The five most intense ions from the preview survey scan delivered by the Orbitrap were sequenced by collision-induced dissociation (CID) in the LTQ. Mass spectra were analyzed using MaxQuant software (Version 1.0.14.10)(4) and all tandem mass spectra were 2 searched against the mouse International Protein Index protein sequence database (IPI version 3.54) and concatenated with reversed copies of all sequences. The required false positive rate was set to 1% at the protein and peptide level. Maximum allowed mass deviation was set to 7 ppm in MS mode and 0.5 Da for MS/MS peaks. The parameter settings were: LysC as digesting enzyme, a maximum of two missed cleavages, a minimum of six amino acids, carbamidomethylation at cysteine residues as fixed and oxidation at

methionine residues as variable modifications. Metabolomic analysis of organic acids and acylcarnitines Immediately following deep anesthesia by intraperitoneal injection of pentobarbital (100 mg/kg body weight), bi-ventricle was excised and frozen. Specimens of powdered bi-ventricle tissue were diluted 20-fold (mass:volume) in 50% acetonitrile supplemented with 0.3% formate (acylcarnitines, amino acids, and organic acids). Samples were homogenized in a TissueLyser II (Qiagen). Tissue extracts were derivatized and analyzed as previously described.(5) Levels of succinate, C4OHcarnitine, and C2-carnitine were determined using stable isotope dilution techniques. The data were acquired using a Waters AcquityTM UPLC system equipped with a TQ (triple quadrupole) detector and a data system controlled by MassLynx 4.1 operating system (Waters Corporation). Metabolites were quantified using methods described previously.

Supplemental Table 6. Mitochondrial proteins identified by proteomic profiling in compensated hypertrophy (CH) and/or heart failure (HF) samples.

ID	Gene Name		
1900387379	2,4-dienoyi CoA reductase 1, mitochorabia		
190017964, 1900127625	3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-Coonzyme A lyas		
IP100330754, IP100090322, IP100857770	3-hydroxybatyrate dehydrogenane, type 1		
B900885424, B900154047	3-hydroxyysishatyryl-Counzyme A hydrolau		
0900132653, 0900856651, 0900858156	3-monicid CoA stantistant 1		
IP900606168, IP900656229, IP900227445, IP900407499	4-annoch-ityrate intrinotransferanc		
19400648312	S-maclootalase dumain containing 3		
1900648335, 1900187512	5'-mailcondree, cytonolo: III		
IP100230589, IP100230541, IP900230590, IP100894854, IP100890007, IP100230593, (P900115506, IP100230592	A kimae (PRKA) anchor prosein 1		
0400323406	ATP synthese mitochoodrial F3 complex assembly factor 1		
1900336348	A IP synthese mnochondrial F1 complex assembly factor 2, similar to ATP synthese mnochondrial F1 complex assembly factor 2		
IPH00468-101	ATP synthese, IF+ transporting innochondrial FT complex, beta subunit		
0900056424, 0900125460	ATP synthuse, IF+ transporting, mitochondrial F0 complex, subunit F pseudogene; similar to ATF synthuse coupling fa 5, mitochondrial prenarsor (ATPase subunit F6); ATP synthuse, H+ transporting, mitochondrial F0 complex, subunit F		
1900341282	ATP synthese, H+ mangesting, mitochandrial F0 complex, subant h, isoform 1; predicted game 12231		
0/100/657439, 0/1001/302367	ATP synthese, H+ maniporting, mitochondrial F1 complex, alpha subunit, isoform 1		
IP100750074, IP100313475, IP100775853, IP100776084, IP100776275, IP100751391, IP00776312	ATP synthase, H+ transporting, mitochondrial F1 complex, gamma polypeptide 1		
P100761546, IP100672553, IP100816848	ATP-binding casactic, sub-family B+MDR/FAP), member 7		
P100456267, IP100856125, IP100123422, IP100459381	ATP-binding custofier, sub-family II (MDR/TAP), member 8		
P100135646, IP100553576	ATP-builing custoffic, sub-family D (ALD), number 1		
P100106410	ATPase family, AAA domain containing 1		
0200126933, 12100464208	ATPase family, AAA domain containing 3A		
P100127598, (P100531463	AlPase uthilutory factor i		
P100880712, 1P100880589, 1P300880341, 1P300357510, P100357511, 1P100124600	AU RNA handing protected encyl-coentryme A hydratuse		
P100006647, IP100321499	BC1.2-like 13 (apoptonic facilitator)		
P10012#346	CIX/SH innumitar alomain 1		
P900345740, IP900649328, IP900649725	CDOH me with domain 3		
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P100624902 1P100468992 1P200111111 UPD0881254	Drud (Han40) homolog, subfamily C. member 15		
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1900331517	Hiti-1 domain family, member 1A		
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1990624653	upregulated during skeletal muscle growth 3
1P800222180	valy5-00NA synthesise 2, mitochondrial (parative); similar to valy1-00NA synthesise 2-lik
1P800230544, IP100122548, IP100657067	voltage-dependent aroon channel 1
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Matchoodrial protounia profiling in compensated hypernophy (CH) and heart failure (HP). Quantumive proteonics analysis was done using the Stable house Labeling by Amino ACoh (SLAC) method is minischoudreal potence identified in all samples are listed. GOUC association in DAVID and the Mitocarta went used to define proteins an matchoodrial.

Supplemental Table 7. Proteins regulated in compensated hypertrophy (CH) and heart failure (HF) samples.

Gene Symbol	Protein Names	CHATTRI	UPA TRI
Abbd11	Ahhydrolase domain-containing protein 11	1.29	1.6
Niul	Putative uncharacterized protein	1.19	2.71
uffd2u	Furnary lacetoacetate hydrolase domain-containing protein 2A	-1.07	2.02
Abat	4-aminobiirytate aminoiransferant	3.84	L.95
Bdhi	3-hydroxybutyrain debydrogenase	1.74	1.89
Regts	Hydroxyacylglutathione hydrolase	1.73	1.80
ltc	Clathran heavy chain	1,38	1.75
Nin	Neurolysin	1.67	1.65
Sir25a10	Mitochandrial dicarbosylate carrier	1.17	1.55
fars?	Probable arginyl-tRNA synthetase	1,43	1.52
Thr2	Carbonyl reductate [NAD041] 2	1.68	1.49
Code58	Colled-cod domain-containing protein 58	1.51	1.44
ilk.)	Hexakinane 1	1.65	1.44
Testi	Cathernin B;Cathersin B1;Cathersin B light chant;Cathersin B heavy chair	1.53	1.43
shi25al	Solute eartier family 26	1.75	1.43
(vhốc)	Cytechnome b5 reductase 3	1.84	1.78
Nuclt13	Nucleouide diphonolutis-linked mourty X motif 13	1.62	1.37
Ventil	Acyl-coenzyme A thioestmane 9	1.67	1.37
Cybird.	NADE-extochrome h5 reductors 1	1.76	1.37
Desig.	Coproporthyrizogen-III availase	1.68	1.23
ik2	Hexakinane-2	1.69	1.32
Thing	Growth homone-inducible transmembrane protein	1.53	1.31
ink .	Givenni kinne	1.54	1.71
Faamm 70a	Translocase of outer membrane 70 kEta subunit	1.65	1.28
ila	FAD-Inded addeviryl output ALR	1.69	1.20
Acs(2)	Acyl-CoA nonfletime family member 2	1.59	1.14
Countil 26s	Transmembratic protein 126A	3.00	1.13
Afren 10	288 phonomal protein \$30	1.54	1.10
Denne 22	Mitocheiddrial import inner membrane translocate subunit	-1.27	1.02
Slz25a42	Solute currier family 25 member 42	-1.44	-1.18
Acarl	Acetyl-coentyme A synthetise 2-like	-1.27	+1.19
Agen	Alkylgivernee phonohute synthese	-1.73	+1.19
Cat	Catalase	-1.37	-1.21
Gentle 1	Glutatione S-transferase kappa 1	-1.37	-1.25
Oru3	Ontic approby 3 postein hemoles	1.13	-1.30
Finant 43	Transcembrate protein 143	1.06	+1.26
(hei)	COGSH iron sullar domain-containing pottern 1	1.27	-1.26
Acun?	Acetvi-Computer A acylmaniferme 2	.1.72	.1.27
01061700384	Probable 16, from thereads durifying deballessence	-1.55	1.74
C1-75-79	Marchandrid elements coming 1	1.26	1.77
Sector R	Providence and an advantage of the		
-Inspan	Cynchaonie e oukaise minimi in Az	-1,13	• 6
NCT	Non-specific liput-transfer protein	-1,53	-1-12
Akl	Adenytate kinase isoenayne I	+1.29	-1,58
lad17h4	17-beta-bydroxysteroid debydrogenase 4	-1,46	+1.28
Fehi	Duba(3,5)-Delta(2,4)-dienayl-CoA isomarasa	+1,47	-1.39
ipdi	Glycerol-3-phosphate delty drogenane [NAD+]	+1,25	-1.24
Abcd3	ATP-binding cassette, sub-family D (ALD), member 1	-1.64	46.40
AcadTI	Acyl-CnA dehydrogenuse family member []	-1.56	-1.42
pmlk	Protein phosphatase UK	+1.61	-1.42
Activel	Acsi-Conzyme A oxidme 1	+1.71	+1.54
didit 1	Mulate defisidmentuse	-1.51	1.54
Industria.	Frank CaA by druting F 3 drams grand CaA is a manual	1.36	11.60
(Their	1. Justice of the Assumption II of them.		1.43
These P	a		-1.63
untra	someonering mending protects a	+4.30	+1,07
Pkm2	Pyruvate kinaar morymes M1/M2;Pyruvate kinase muscle moryns	-1,10	+1,91

Quantitative proteomsc analysis was done using the Stable Isotope Labeling by Amiro <u>AC</u>yds (SILAC) method in unitochendria isolated from the ventricles of sham-openated, CH, and HF animals. Proteins that exhibited a significant difference in the CH and/or HF models vs. corresponding sham-

operated controls as determined using mass spectrometry-based quantitative proteomic analysis (MSAMS processing; Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap Velos) are listed. A cut-off of <-1.25 or > 1.5 FC was used to identify regulated proteom.



Supplemental Figure 1. Reduced palmitate oxidation in the hypertrophied heart. The relative contribution of palmitate to TCA carbon cycle flux is shown for CH and sham-operated controls. Data are shown as mean ±SEM (n=6, Sham and 7, CH).



Supplemental Figure 2. Ketogenic diet results in an increase in circulating ketone bodies. Plasma ketone levels measured in wild-type C57BL/6J mice fed a ketogenic diet for 4 weeks compared to control diet fed mice. Bars represent mean ±SEM values (n=6-7 per group) *p<0.05.





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CHAPTER FIVE: CONSEQUENCES OF INCREASED KETONE OXIDATION IN HEART FAILURE

Introduction

Heart failure (HF) is a significant public health problem that is growing as a greater proportion of our population ages. Despite current treatments, ~43% of patients die within five years of initial hospitalization (1). Heart failure prevalence is predicted to increase 46% between 2012 and 2030. Realization of this projection amounts to diagnosed heart failure in over 8 million adults (2). Thus, the expectation of pervasive critical illness in the near future necessitates rapid development of therapies to prevent and treat heart failure.

Heart failure refers to a syndrome in which the heart cannot adequately pump blood throughout the body. A multitude of studies indicate that there is a fundamental imbalance in energy transduction to adenosine triphosphate (ATP) and demand in the failing heart. In the healthy adult heart, fatty acid oxidation (FAO) accounts for 70-90% of ATP production (3). The failing heart, though, exhibits a dramatically altered fuel substrate preference. In HF, FAO rates decline concurrent with a decrease in FAO enzyme expression (4). Increased contribution to ATP production from alternative fuel substrates accompanies diminution of FAO. The failing heart, in large part due to the reduction of FAO, increasingly relies on glucose to generate ATP. Many in the field believe that this fuel shift with increased reliance on glucose as a substrate is inadequate to meet the energy demands of the failing heart, further contributing to cardiac dysfunction and effectively creating a "vicious cycle".

As we have recently described, there is also an increased reliance on ketone metabolism in heart failure (5, 6). Another group concurrently arrived at the same conclusion in human HF, demonstrating translational relevance of our findings. They reported an increase in 3-hydroxybutanoyl-CoA (CoA ester equivalent of C4-OH carnitine) in human HF. Serum ketone levels and decreased levels of ketones in the myocardium were also observed in HF patients. Importantly, they found increased expression of 3-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, type 1 (BDH1) in the failing human heart, confirming our findings in the experimental model of HF (6).

While these collective results demonstrate that ketone oxidation is increasingly relied on in HF, the implications of this fuel substrate switch are more enigmatic. Specifically, it is unknown as to whether the switch to ketone bodies as a fuel is an adaptive response providing an alternative fuel source when FAO is depressed. To address this key question, we sought to investigate the functional impact of ketone utilization in the failing heart. To this end, we generated and assessed a novel cardiac-specific (cs) BDH1 knockout (KO) mouse line. We confirmed that csBDH1 KO mice are unable to produce acetyl-CoA from 3-hydroxybutyrate oxidation in the heart. In response to transverse aortic constriction with a small apical myocardial infarction (TAC/MI), BDH1 KO mice display exaggerated pathological remodeling with severely depressed left ventricular systolic function and dilatation. Given these results, we hypothesize that increased ketone oxidation is an adaptive response in heart failure.

<u>Results</u>

Generation of Cardiac-specific BDH1 KO Mouse

Mice harboring a "floxed" *Bdh1* gene were crossed to mice with Cre-recombinase (Cre) expression regulated by the myosin heavy chain, α isoform (α MHC) gene promoter (α MHC-Cre mice) to produce csBDH1 KO mice (Figure 12A). This strategy deletes exons 3 and 4, which encode the majority of the catalytic domain (7). Subsequent reverse transcription quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) analysis confirmed loss of *Bdh1* (Figure 12B, left). Likewise, western blot shows near complete knockout of BDH1 protein in hearts of BDH1 KO mice (Figure 12B, right).

BDH1 KO mice did not show any difference in weight, growth rate, or ventricular weight (vw)/ body weight (bw) compared to WT (data not shown). There was also no difference in absolute heart weight (HW) or cardiac function as determined by echocardiograph (echo) (data not shown). Levels of circulating 3-hydroxybutyrate (30HB) were measured in fed and fasted states and found to be unchanged in BDH1 KO mice compared to WT controls (data not shown). However, assessment of the Mendelian ratio of the crosses revealed a small but significantly lower than predicted number of csBDH1 KO mice at time of weaning (Table 1). These latter results suggest some perinatal or postnatal lethality. We next assessed substrate utilization in the csBDH1 KO mouse heart using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR). Hearts were isolated and perfused in the Langendorff mode with ¹³C-labeled R- β -hydroxybutyrate.



Figure 12. Generation of cardiac-specific (cs) BDH1 KO mice.

(A) Schematic of design for generating csBDH1 KO mice. ES cells with Bdh1 targeting (Bdh1-) construct (top row) were injected into blastocysts to generate founder mice. Bdh1 construct contains FRT sites flanking cassette with SA sequence, reporter genes lacZ and neo, and pA signals. Start sites (ATG) for transcript variants of Bdh1 are indicated. Loxp sites flank *Bdh1* exons 3 and 4. Exon 5-7 are in construct but not shown on diagram. Founder mice mated with Flp mice to produce progeny with *Bdh1^{flox}* (*Functional*) alleles. *Bdh1^{flox}* mice were subsequently mated with α MHC-Cre mice. Offspring from this pairing either inherited Cre-recombinase transgene (Cre⁺) resulting in α MHC-driven Cre expression and knockout of Bdh1 or did not (Cre). The Bdh1^{rec} (Null) schematic (bottom row) shows the BDH1 KO allele, which has lost exon 3 and 4. RT-qPCR primer sites indicated as P1 (E1), P2-3 (E2-3), P3-4 (E3-4). (B)(Left) Bdh1 mRNA in cardiac tissue of WT (grey) and KO (black) mice . Expression corrected to 36b4 and normalized to WT (=1). Each pair of bars represents the amplicon region of qPCR primer pairs; exon 1 (E1), exon 2-3 (E2-3), exon 3-4 (E3-4), and exon 7 (E7). E2-3 and E3-4 primers were designed to span introns. E1 and E7 were designed within respective exons. Bars represent mean ± SEM (n = 6-12); *p-value<0.05 WT vs. KO with Mann-Whitney test. (Right) Western blot using protein from hearts of Cre-Bdh1^{flox} (WT) and Cre⁺ Bdh1^{flox} (KO) mice (n=3). Antibodies used are labeled on the left. Anti-SDHA was used as a mitochondrial protein-loading control. Cs.cardiac specific: BDH1, 3-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, type 1; KO, knockout; ES, embryonic stem; FRT, flippase recognition target; SA, splice acceptor; neo, neomycin resistance gene; pA, poly-A; loxp, Locus of Crossover in P1; Flp, Flp1 recombinase; aMHC, myosin heavy chain, a isoform; mRNA, messenger ribonucleic acid; WT, wild-type; 36b4, Ribosomal Protein Lateral Stalk Subunit P0; qPCR, quantitative polymerase chain-reaction; SDHA, succinate dehydrogenase, subunit A
Cre +/ -	Gender	Number of Mice	Expected Percentage	Actual Percentage
+	М	26	25%	20%
+	F	21	25%	17%

Table 1. Mendelian ratios for offspring from Cre⁻, Bdh1^{f/f} crossed with Cre⁺, Bdh1^{f/f}.

Chi squared =9.031 with 3 degrees of freedom. Two-tailed p-value=0.0289

BDH1 KO hearts were shown to completely lack the ability to form acetyl-CoA from R-βhydroxybutyrate (Figures 13A,B). Consistent with the substrate oxidation data, levels of 3OHB were markedly increased in csBDH1 KO hearts (Figure 13C).



Figure 13. csBDH1 KO mice are unable to oxidize 3OHB.

(A) The fraction of acetyl-CoA formed from ¹³C-labeled 3OHB is shown. (B) The percent of glutamate derived from ¹³C-labeled 3OHB is shown. (C) The total amount of 3OHB in ventricular tissue normalized to wet weight from Sham WT and Sham KO is shown. Bars represent mean \pm SEM (n = 3-5); *p-value<0.05 WT vs. KO using Welch's t-test. Cs,cardiac specific; BDH1, 3-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, type 1; KO, knockout; 3OHB, 3-hydroxybutyrate; Fc, fractional contribution; WT, wild-type; N.D., not detected; FE, fractional enrichment

BDH1 deficiency results in worsened pathologic cardiac remodeling in context of a pressure-overload stress

We next sought to address the impact of lost ketone oxidation capacity for cardiac response to a pathophysiological stress known to cause heart failure. For these studies, BDH1 WT and KO mice were subjected to (TAC/MI) (8). As we previously reported, the TAC/MI procedure results in left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) and remodeling in wild-type mice (8). There was no significant difference in mortality rates between the BDH1 WT and KO mice up to 4-weeks following surgery (Figure 14). Echocardiographic analyses were conducted 4-weeks post-surgery to assess cardiac function and remodeling (Table 2). Although the degree of LVH did not differ (Figure 15A), ejection fraction was significantly lower in the BDH1 KO compared to WT controls (Figure 15B). Additionally, end-systolic volume (ESV) and end-diastolic volume (EDV) were both significantly elevated in the BDH1 KO failing heart compared to WT controls (Figures 15C-D).



Figure 14. Survival rates following TAC/MI.

Kaplan-Meier plot shows percent of mice surviving (y-axis) at specified time-points (x-axis). Sham WT (black line) n=5, sham KO (red line) n=6, TAC/MI WT (blue line) n=16, and TAC/MI KO (green line) n=18 are shown. Log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test used to determine significance. TAC,transverse aortic constriction; MI, myocardial infarction; WT, wild-type; KO, knockout



Table 2. Echocardiography data 4-weeks post-TAC/MI or sham procedure

Mean +/- SEM is shown. *p<0.05 WT vs. KO, #p<0.05 Sham vs. HF using ANOVA with Tukey's post-hoc analysis. TAC, transverse aortic constriction; MI, myocardial infarction; HR, heart rate; BW, body weight; Ao, aorta; Prox, proximity; VTI, velocity-time integral; EDV, end diastolic volume; ESV, end systolic volume; EF, ejection fraction; SWMI, segmental wall motion score index; WT, wild-type; HF, heart failure; KO, knockout



Figure 15. BDH1 KO mice exhibit severe pathological remodeling.

Scatter plots for cardiac remodeling parameters of each TAC/MI mouse that survived to echo (28 days post-surgery). **(A)** VW/BW shown as ratio of (mg/g). **(B)** EF shown as % **(C)** ESV graphed as volume (vl) **(D)** EDV graphed as volume (vl). Values are mean +/- SEM, *p<0.05 WT vs. KO, using ANOVA with Tukey's post-hoc. BDH1 indicates 3-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, type 1 ; KO, knockout; WT, wild-type; TAC, transverse aortic constriction; MI, myocardial infarction; echo, echocardiograph; VW, ventricular weight; BW, body weight; EF, ejection fraction; ESV, end systolic volume; EDV, end diastolic volume

Known gene markers of cardiac hypertrophy and failure were assessed in the

hearts of experimental animals. In the TAC/MI groups, cardiac pathological hypertrophy

gene markers, encoding contractile proteins and natriuretic peptides, were increased in

the wild-type mice and to a greater extent in csBDH1 KO mice (Figure 16A). Conversely, a similarly exacerbated pathological gene signature was observed for ATPase sarcoplasmic/endoplasmic reticulum Ca²⁺ transporting 2 (*Atp2a2*) and troponin 1, cardiac type (*Tnni3*), whose transcript levels are known to decrease in HF (Figure 16B). Interestingly, some gene expression changes were noted in the sham treated BDH1 KO compared to the BDH1 WT sham mice. Specifically, myosin heavy chain beta isoform (*Myh7*) levels were increased significantly and *Tnni3* levels were significantly decreased in sham BDH1 KO mouse hearts (Figure 16B). In addition, expression of genes involved in fatty acid utilization, which are characteristically downregulated in heart failure (9), was suppressed to a greater extent in csBDH1 KO hearts (Figure 16C). Lastly, we found an increase in BDH1 expression in the WT failing heart, consistent with our previous findings (Figure 16C) (5). Collectively, these data demonstrate that the csBDH1 KO mice exhibit exaggerated cardiac remodeling in response to TAC/MI.

Discussion

Recently, our lab identified an increased reliance on ketone body oxidation in a mouse model of early-stage HF (5). Another group arrived at the same conclusion in human HF (6). However, the consequences of increased ketone oxidation in HF are not welldefined.



Figure 16. The gene expression signature indicates severe pathological remodeling in the BDH1 KO mouse.

mRNA expression_levels in cardiac tissue of Sham WT (white), Sham KO (black), TAC/MI WT (grey) and TAC/MI KO (stripes) mice normalized to *36b4*. **(A)** mRNA levels of *Myh6*, *Myh7*, *Nppa*, *and Nppb* are shown. **(B)** Excitation-contraction coupling *Atp2a2* and *Tnni3* mRNA levels shown. **(C)** Oxidative phosphorylation genes *Ppara*, *Acadm*, *Acsl1*, and *Bdh1* mRNA levels shown. All gene expression levels are normalized to Sham WT (=1). Bars represent mean ± SEM (n=5-16); *p-value<0.05 Sham vs. TAC/MI; #p-value<0.05 WT vs. KO Mann-Whitney. BDH1, 3-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, type 1; KO, knockout;; WT, wild-type; 36b4, Ribosomal Protein Lateral Stalk Subunit P0; Myh6, myosin heavy chain 6; Myh7, myosin heavy chain 7; Nppa, natriuretic peptide A; Nppb, natriuretic peptide B; Atp2a2, ATPase sarcoplasmic/endoplasmic reticulum Ca2+ transporting 2; Tnni3, Troponin I3, cardiac type; Ppara, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor alpha; Acadm, medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase; Acsl1, long chain fatty-acid CoA ligase 1

Notably, though, a study using mice with targeted deletion of the gene encoding succinyl-CoA-3-oxaloacid CoA transferase (SCOT) in the heart, which catalyzes the acetoacetate->acetoacetate-CoA reaction, advances pathological progression of pressure-overload induced HF (10). Other investigations report indirect correlations between circulating ketone levels and cardiac health.

Recently, the results of trials with sodium-glucose transporter-2 inhibitors (SGLT2i), new glucose-lowering agents, are of significant interest and may relate to our work. The EMPA-REG OUTCOME trial was originally conducted to determine the cardiovascular effects of empagliflozin, which at the time was indicated as a treatment for type 2 diabetes. This massive study followed 7020 patients for a median of 3.1 years. The results showed a 38% relative risk reduction for cardiovascular related death in patients given empagliflozin (11). Empagliflozin treatment also commonly causes elevated circulating ketone levels (12). The precise reasons for improved cardiovascular mortality are not known, but the correlation between increased ketone levels and cardiac benefits has provoked intense interest in cardiac ketone metabolism (13).

In this study, we sought to directly determine the consequences of increased ketone oxidation in the failing heart. To this end, we generated a cardiac-specific (cs) BDH1 KO mouse. The csBDH1 KO adult mouse exhibits no overt baseline phenotype other than a possible lethality of incomplete penetrance. We suspect that perinatal deaths may account for this difference due to the importance of myocardial ketone oxidation in cardiac maturation (14). Studies monitoring viability of pups at birth are underway to establish if death occurs in neonates disproportionately.

Although it is widely believed that 3-hydroxybutyrate is oxidized solely by BDH1, we sought to verify that csBDH1 KO hearts would be unable to oxidize 3hydroxybutyrate (7). We reasoned that if an alternate mechanism is capable of oxidizing 3-hydroxybutyrate in absence of BDH1, our experimental premise of eliminating myocardial 3-hydroxybutyrate oxidation by KO of BDH1 would be erroneous. We confirmed the necessity of BDH1 for 3OHB oxidation. Given the degree of compensation typically observed in metabolic enzymes, it is somewhat surprising that no other enzyme accommodates 3OHB oxidation in the BDH1 KO heart (15). Whether BDH1 remains necessary for terminal ketone oxidation with varying substrate concentrations is a question addressed in ongoing experiments. The complete absence of compensation combined with the lack of evident defects in the csBDH1 KO mouse suggests that, at least in basal conditions, cardiac ketone oxidation is not essential for proper function of the adult heart. Indeed, most studies find ketone bodies contribute minimally to normal cardiac energy production (14). Contrary to the aforementioned ostensible insignificance, though, we observed ~40% of the acetyl-CoA produced in the perfusion experiments with BDH1 WT hearts originated from 3-hydroxybutyrate.

Similar experiments using labeled palmitate are planned to assess how absence of ketone oxidation affects FAO. Based on existing literature, we expect fatty acids will have an increased contribution to the acetyl-CoA pool in absence of BDH1 (14). Given that the normal heart generates 70-90% of its ATP from FAO; one could speculate the heart's capacity to oxidize ketones "on demand" is insurance for periods of nutritive stress (3). The fact that we observe accumulation of 3OHB in the hearts of BDH1 KO

mice suggests continuous 3OHB import irrespective of oxidative capacity further supporting the notion that the heart exists in a perpetual state of preparedness.

The small contribution of 3OHB to the glutamate pool in the csBDH1 KO also provides insight into potential fates of excessive 3OHB. It appears that when the heart is completely prevented from oxidizing 3-hydroxybutyrate, some of the ketone enters the TCA cycle via anaplerosis subverting acetyl-CoA production. To provide further understanding of the fate of accumulated 3OHB in the heart, we are conducting unbiased metabolomics with csBDH1 KO hearts and WT counterparts.

When subjected to TAC/MI surgery, csBDH1 KO mice fare worse than BDH1 WT mice. The significant differences in ejection fraction, ESV, and DSV all demonstrate more severe remodeling in hearts unable to oxidize 3OHB. The gene expression data further corroborates the conclusion that csBDH1 KO mice are at a disadvantage in HF. The combined results from the TAC/MI experiments strongly suggest that the shift to increased myocardial ketone oxidation in HF is an adaptive phenomenon.

The results also raise the important question: what is the basis for the cardiac remodeling phenotype in csBDH1 KO mice? Two primary possibilities are currently being considered to explain the adaptive nature of increased ketone oxidation in HF (Figure 17). Notably, these hypotheses are not mutually exclusive. The simplest explanation for the more severe HF pathology in the csBDH1 KO is that 30HB oxidation provides additional ATP production when FAO is downregulated. Accordingly, the worsened heart failure phenotype of csBDH1 KO mice could reflect fuel and, thus, energy "starvation". The other possibility is that loss of BDH1 leads to accumulation of

toxic metabolites related to an elevation in levels of 3-hydroxybutyrate in the myocardium. If this is the causation for the phenotype observed in csBDH1 KO mice post TAC/MI, a number of mechanisms could be factors.

Increased levels of 3-hydroxybutyrate or its downstream metabolites could have a number of ramifications. There is evidence implicating 3OHB in a variety of cellular processes including: redox homeostasis, differentiation, signaling, inflammation, oxidative stress, epigenomic regulation and other post-translational modification of proteins (14). BDH1 KO may effectively poison the cell due to the aberrant effects caused by accumulating 3OHB. Given that BDH1 catalyzes the oxidation of 3hydroxybutyrate and simultaneously reduces NAD⁺ to form NADH, it is possible disturbing this reaction could affect intracellular redox state (14). This possibility will be addressed with experiments measuring the NAD⁺ and NADH concentrations in normal and failing hearts of WT and csBDH1 KO mice.

From a mechanistic standpoint, it will be important to distinguish between the "energy starvation" and "metabolite toxin" hypotheses. One approach is to assess the response of csSCOT KO mice to TAC/MI. If the mice do not exhibit a heart failure phenotype, the "metabolite toxin" theory would be implied. Conversely, if csSCOT KO mice phenocopy the csBDH1 KO mice, the "energy starvation" model seems likely.

Given the interest in SGLT2i-mediated positive outcome on cardiovascular events in patients and the potential connection to ketone metabolism, we are planning studies using SGLT2i in our mouse model of HF. These studies will first determine if SGLT2i treatment of non-diabetic mice results in elevated levels of ketones. Once this

determination is made, we will treat TAC/MI mice with SGLT2i and assess their outcome. Follow-up experiments combining SGLT2i with csBDH1 KO and csSCOT KO mice in HF are also planned. This research will elucidate, at least in part, the role of ketone oxidation in the failing heart and potentially provide insight into the cardioprotective effects of empagliflozin.



Figure 17. Proposed models for cardiac remodeling in csBDH1 KO mice.

BDH1, 3-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, type 1; NAD⁺, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide; NADH, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide plus hydrogen; SCOT, succinyl-CoA:3-ketoacid CoA transferase; ATP, adenosine triphosphate; PCr, phosphocreatine; HDAC, histone deacetylase

Methods

Animal Studies

All experiments performed with animals were conducted with protocols approved by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute at Lake Nona. Studies were performed on male C57BL/6N mice 6 to 12 weeks of age on standard chow.

Cardiac specific BDH1 Knockout Mouse Production

We used the α MHC-Cre recombinase system to make an inducible cardiac myocyte specific *Bdh1* knockout mouse (Figure 12). The engineered *Bdh1*⁻ construct contains a FRT flanked cassette comprised of SA, lacZ, and pA sites. Loxp sites flank *Bdh1* exons 3 and 4 (Figure 12A, top). Subsequent mating of *Bdh1*⁻ mice with Flp mice produced progeny with *Bdh1*^{flox} alleles which encode functional BDH1 (Figure 12A, middle). We backcrossed the *Bdh1*^{flox} mice with wild-type C57BL/6N (BL6N) mice to obtain *Bdh1*^{flox} mice on a BL6N genetic background. Final breeding pairs consisted of a *Bdh1*^{flox} BL6N mouse and a hemizygous α MHC-Cre BL6N mouse. The litters from final breeding pairs included mice with floxed *Bdh1* allele either with (Cre⁺) or without (Cre⁻) (Figure 1A, bottom).

Genotyping

Ear punch samples from 4 week old mice at onset of weaning were used for DNA extraction. DNA was extracted by adding 100ul 25mM NaOH, 0.2mM EDTA pH 12,

heating at 95C for 20mins, then adding 100ul 40mM Tris pH 5 to neutralize. Samples were used immediately following extraction or stored at 4°C. PCR solution used 1 μ l of extracted DNA with appropriate primers and Tm as listed. PCR products were analyzed using standard gel electrophoresis (1.2% for *Bdh1*, 1.5% *Nnt*, 2% for *Cre*). Genotyping primers are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Genotyping PrimersBdh1 Fwd: TGCAGGAATCAGTGCTCTCTCCTAGBdh1 Rev: GGTGTCAGGGCTGAAGGATGTm=58°CCre Fwd: CCGGTGAACGTGCAAAACAGGCTCTACre Rev: CTTCCAGGGCGCGAGTTGATAGCTm=60°CNnt Fwd: GTA GGG CCA ACT GTT TCT GCANnt WT Rev: GGG CAT AGG AAG CAA ATA CCANnt MUT Fwd: GTG GAA TTC CGC TGA GAG AACTm=60°C

Heart failure model

HF model was achieved by surgical application of transverse aortic constriction

combined with a small apical myocardial infarct (TAC/MI) as described previously (8).

Mice were subject to echocardiograph and harvested 28 days post-operation. Hearts

were immediately excised from mice deeply anesthetized with pentobarbital. Atriums

were removed and ventricles immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen (LN₂). Samples were

stored at -80°C until use.

RNA Isolation

One-third of the pulverized heart was partitioned into a Precellys homogenization tube on ice. After addition of 700 μ l of QIAzol Lysis Reagent to the samples they were secured in the pre-chilled Precellys Homogenizer. The homogenization protocol used three cycles of 20 seconds 6800rpm agitation followed by a 10 second pause. The remainder of the RNA isolation followed the standard Qiagen miRNeasy kit protocol. Isolated RNA was diluted to 0.1ug/ μ l with ddH2O

RT-qPCR

A two-step protocol was used to assess mRNA expression. For cDNA synthesis, 0.5µg of RNA was used with Agilent Genomics AffinityScript cDNA Synthesis Kit according to manufacturer instructions. Synthesized cDNA was used with Brilliant III Ultra-Fast SYBR Green QPCR Master Mix for qPCR performed in triplicate using Roche LightCycler 480 Instrument II and primers for specific genes. Gene expression was normalized to levels of *36b4*. Primers used are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. . RT-qPCR Primers

•

<u>Gene Target</u>	-	Sequence 5'->3'
Bdh1 Exon 3-4	Fwd	TCAGGCAGATGCGGCTA
	Rev	ATGCTTGGCCAGTGAGAAC
36b4	Fwd	TGGAAGTCCAACTACTTCCTCAA
	Rev	ATCTGCTGCATCTGCTTGGAG
Acadm	Fwd	ATGACGGAGCAGCCAATGAT
	Rev	TAATGGCCGCCACATCAGAG
Acsl1	Fwd	CGCCCATATGTTTGAGACCG
	Rev	GTCGTCCATAAGCAGCCTGA
Atp2a2	Fwd	GGAGATGCACCTGGAAGACT
	Rev	CCACAGCCGACGAAA
Nppa	Fwd	AGTGCGGTGTCCAACACAGA
	Rev	GACCTCATCTTCTACCGGCATCT
Myh7	Fwd	GCCAACTATGCTGGAGCTGATGCC
	Rev	GGTGCGTGGAGCGCAAGTTTGTCATAAG
Tnni3	Fwd	TCTGCCAACTACCGAGCCTAT
	Rev	CTCTTCTGCCTGTCGTTCCAT
Nppb	Fwd	GCTGCTTTGGGCACAAGATAG
	Rev	GCAGCCAGGAGGTCTTCCTA
Ppara	Fwd	ACTACGGAGTTCACGCATGTG
	Rev	TTGTCGTACACCAGCTTCAGC
Myh6	Fwd	GGTCCACATTCTTCAGGATTCTCT
	Rev	CCTTCTCTGACTTTCGGAGGTACT

Metabolite Analysis

3-hydroxybutyrate measurements in the heart were obtained from analysis of organic

acids using methods described previously (5, 16).

Substrate Oxidation Measurements

Mice were heparinized (100 U) by intraperitoneal (IP) injection and anesthetized with 85

mg/kg ketamine and 12 mg/kg xylazine. Following sacrifice, hearts were isolated and

perfused with a modified Langendorff perfusion protocol (10mM glucose, 0.5mM,

sodium D-3-hydroxybutyrate-2,4-¹³C₂, 1mM lactate, 0.4mM 1:3 palmitate/BSA).

Following each perfusion, hearts were snap frozen with liquid nitrogen-cooled tongs.

NMR spectroscopy was used to quantify the fractional contribution (Fc) of acetyl-CoA

and fractional enrichment (FE) of glutamate produced from labeled ketone.

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CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION

Cardiac metabolism plays a critical role in the vital function of the heart. The heart is essentially a biotic pump that uses tremendous amounts of energy to force blood through circulation. In order to satiate the high energy requirement of heart function, kilograms of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) are produced daily in the heart. The heart has evolved to be an energetic omnivore, allowing it to adapt to changing physiological environments and nutrient conditions. This characteristic metabolic plasticity is quite apparent in the development of the heart. Substantial metabolic reprogramming events also occur when the heart encounters stress.

Several metabolic abnormalities are signatures of the failing heart. The welldocumented alterations include decreased phosphocreatine (PCr)/ATP (excellent prognostic indicators) and decreased fatty acid oxidation (FAO) rates. However, the degree to which the metabolic derangements are causative agents in the pathogenesis of heart failure (HF) is largely unknown.

In an effort to begin to understand how metabolic changes contribute to pathogenesis of early-stage HF, an unbiased systems based approach was used to characterize the metabolome, transcriptome, and proteome. In this series of experiments, the following observations were made: 1) transcript and protein levels are positively correlated between compensated hypertrophy (CH) and HF, 2) very little changes in metabolic gene expression outside of lipid metabolism occur, and 3) metabolite profiles between CH and HF vary drastically. Based on this data set, we hypothesized that a post-translational modification (PTM) was likely regulating enzyme

activity accounting for the discrepant alterations in metabolite profiles without coordinate changes in gene expression.

We then sought to identify candidates for a post-translational modification that could be a causative agent. Based on our data showing elevations in acetyl (C2) pools, we hypothesized that acetylation levels of metabolic proteins may be altered in the failing heart. Indeed, subsequent acetylproteomic analysis showed hyperacetylation of mitochondrial proteins specifically in mouse and human HF but not in CH. At this point, we were unsure of the functional consequences of hyperacetylation, so we used an acetyl-mimic mutation of one of the hyperacetylated residues to establish whether these PTM in HF could be causing dysfunction. The lysine 179 (K179) residue of succinate dehydrogenase, subunit A (SDHA) was mutated to glutamine (K179Q). Whole cell respirometry and biochemical assays showed the K179Q mutation resulted in significant loss-of-function. These data suggested that at least some of the hyperacetylation events observed in HF have functional consequences. Currently, we are establishing parameters, including stoichiometry, by which acetylation events are more likely to be functionally relevant.

Our –omics data also revealed elevations in C4-OH, a by-product of ketone oxidation, leading us to investigate ketone oxidation as an alternative fuel source in HF. Our query found increased levels of 3-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, type 1 (BDH1) on both a transcript and protein level. Collaborative efforts led to substrate oxidation experiments in the isolated heart, showing an increased capacity for ketone oxidation. Ketogenic diet studies and *in vitro* studies verified C4-OH carnitine as a valid

representative metabolite for ketone metabolism. Taken together, these data provided evidence for the hypothesis that ketone oxidation is increasingly relied upon as a fuel in HF. Once we established the presence of increased ketone oxidation, we sought to address the consequences of this fuel substrate shift in HF.

In order to determine if the switch to increased ketone oxidation was adaptive, maladaptive, or otherwise inconsequential, we generated a cardiac-specific (cs) BDH1 knockout (KO) mouse. These mice did not display any overt phenotype other than a slight reduction in the Mendelian ratio of KO mice born. However, when subjected to stress of transverse aortic constriction combined with a small apical myocardial infarction (TAC/MI), the csBDH1 KO fared worse than wild-type (WT) counterparts. From these data, we concluded that increased ketone oxidation in the failing heart is likely an adaptive response. Future experiments are planned to further assess the mechanism by which ketone oxidation plays an adaptive role.

The elevations observed in acetyl pools result in hyperacetylation of mitochondrial proteins in the failing heart. While more investigation is needed to establish which hyperacetylation events are deleterious, we show that at least the K179 SDHA hyperacetylation event is detrimental. The research discussed in this dissertation also shows ketone oxidation is increasingly used in the failing heart. Furthermore, the elevation in ketone oxidation is an adaptive event in HF. This could have far-reaching implications especially in light of the EMPA-REG trials. The main conclusion arrived at in this dissertation is that *short-chain carbon metabolism is a highly consequential factor in the failing heart phenotype.*

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