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研究成果の刊行物・別冊  
(2003. 4. ～ 2006. 3.)

# Hemoglobin-vesicles suspended in recombinant human serum albumin for resuscitation from hemorrhagic shock in anesthetized rats\*

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**Objective:** Hemoglobin-vesicle (HbV) has been developed to provide oxygen-carrying ability to plasma expanders. Its ability to restore the systemic condition after hemorrhagic shock was evaluated in anesthetized Wistar rats for 6 hrs after resuscitation. The HbV was suspended in 5 g/dL recombinant human serum albumin (HbV/rHSA) at an Hb concentration of 8.6 g/dL.

**Design:** Prospective, randomized, controlled trial.

**Setting:** Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, Keio University.

**Subjects:** Forty male Wistar rats.

**Interventions:** The rats were anesthetized with 1.5% sevoflurane inhalation throughout the experiment. Polyethylene catheters were introduced through the right jugular vein into the right atrium for infusion and into the right common carotid artery for blood withdrawal and mean arterial pressure monitoring.

**Measurements and Main Results:** Shock was induced by 50% blood withdrawal. The rats showed hypotension (mean arterial pressure =  $32 \pm 10$  mm Hg) and significant metabolic acidosis and hyperventilation. After 15 mins, they received HbV/rHSA, shed

autologous blood (SAB), washed homologous red blood cells (wRBC) suspended in rHSA (wRBC/rHSA, [Hb] = 8.6 g/dL), or rHSA alone. The HbV/rHSA group restored mean arterial pressure to  $93 \pm 8$  mm Hg at 1 hr, similar to the SAB group ( $92 \pm 9$  mm Hg), which was significantly higher compared with the rHSA ( $74 \pm 9$  mm Hg) and wRBC/rHSA ( $79 \pm 8$  mm Hg) groups. There was no remarkable difference in the blood gas variables between the resuscitated groups; however, two of eight rats in the rHSA group died before 6 hrs. After 6 hrs, the rHSA group showed significant ischemic changes in the right cerebral hemisphere relating to the ligation of the right carotid artery followed by cannulation, whereas the HbV/rHSA, SAB, and wRBC/rHSA groups showed less changes.

**Conclusions:** HbV suspended in recombinant human serum albumin provides restoration from hemorrhagic shock that is comparable with that using shed autologous blood. (Crit Care Med 2004; 32:539-545)

**Key Words:** blood substitutes; artificial red cells; liposome; resuscitation; transfusion

**A** phospholipid vesicle encapsulating concentrated human hemoglobin (Hb) (Hb-vesicle, HbV) can serve as an oxygen carrier whose oxygen-carrying capacity can be formulated to be comparable to that of blood (1-4). HbV are void of blood-type antigens and infectious viruses and are stable and suitable for long-term storage (5). The cellular structure of HbV (particle diameter, ca. 280 nm) has characteristics similar to those of natural

red blood cells (RBCs), because both have lipid bilayer membranes that prevent direct contact of Hb with the components of blood and the endothelial lining. Furthermore, Hb encapsulation in the vesicle suppresses hypertension induced by vasoconstriction, a mechanism presumably due to the effect of free Hb that scavenges the endogenous vasorelaxation factors nitric oxide and carbon monoxide (6, 7) consequent to their high affinity with Hb. Once in the circulation, HbV

particles are captured by the phagocytes in the reticuloendothelial system (mainly the liver and spleen), and they are metabolized completely within 14 days, with no deposition of iron or lipid (8).

Oxygen-carrying fluids for blood replacement using molecular or encapsulated Hbs have been proposed for volume restoration in hemorrhagic shock (9, 10). We tested the efficacy of HbV suspended in plasma-derived human serum albumin (HSA) in extreme normovolemic hemodilution and found that they are comparable with RBCs (11, 12). In this report, we tested the HbV as a resuscitative fluid for hemorrhagic shock in anesthetized rats. HbV was suspended in recombinant HSA (rHSA), and the efficacy of the resulting HbV/rHSA was compared with that of shed autologous blood and of washed RBCs suspended in rHSA at the same Hb concentration. It has been extensively confirmed that the characteristics of the rHSA are identical with those of conventional plasma-derived HSA

**\*See also p. 612.**

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tical Nano-Chemistry" from MEXT, Japan; and by Nipro, Osaka, Japan, which provided rHSA.

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(13, 14) and that rHSA will soon be approved as a promising plasma expander free from any pathogen from humans.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Preparation of HbV and Washed RBCs Suspended in rHSA.** HbV was prepared under sterile conditions as previously reported (7, 11). Hb was purified from outdated donated blood provided by the Hokkaido Red Cross Blood Center (Sapporo, Japan) and the Japanese Red Cross Society (Tokyo, Japan). The encapsulated purified Hb (38 g/dL) contained 14.7 mM of pyridoxal 5'-phosphate (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) as an allosteric effector at a molar ratio of pyridoxal 5'-phosphate/Hb = 2.5. The lipid bilayer was composed of a mixture of 1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine, cholesterol, and 1,5-bis-*O*-hexadecyl-*N*-succinyl-L-glutamate at a molar ratio of 5/5/1 (Nippon Fine Chemical, Osaka, Japan), and 1,2-distearoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylethanolamine-*N*-poly(ethylene glycol) (NOF, Tokyo, Japan, 0.3 mol% of the total lipid) (15). HbVs were suspended in a physiologic salt solution at [Hb] = 10 g/dL, sterilized with filters (Dismic, Toyo Roshi, Tokyo, Japan, pore size, 0.45  $\mu$ m), and deoxygenated with N<sub>2</sub> bubbling for storage (5). The content of lipopolysaccharide was <0.1 EU/mL.

Before use, the HbV suspension ([Hb] = 10 g/dL, 8.6 mL) was mixed with a solution of rHSA (25%, 1.4 mL, Nipro, Osaka, Japan) to regulate the rHSA concentration in the suspending medium of the vesicles to 5 g/dL. Under this condition, the colloid osmotic pressure of the suspension is about 20 mm Hg (Wescor 4420 Colloid Osmometer, Wescor, Logan, UT) (11). As a result, the Hb concentration of the suspension was 8.6 g/dL. The viscosities of the suspensions were measured with a capillary rheometer (Oscillatory Capillary Rheometer, OCR-D, Anton Paar GmbH, Graz, Austria). Physicochemical variables of the resulting HbV suspension in comparison with those of the other resuscitative fluids are listed in Table 1.

To prepare washed RBC suspended in rHSA (wRBC/rHSA), blood samples from donor Wistar rats were withdrawn into heparinized syringes and centrifuged to obtain an RBC

concentrate. This was washed twice to remove plasma components and buffy coat by resuspension in 5% rHSA and centrifugation (3000  $\times$  *g*, 10 mins). The Hb concentration, measured with a cyanometHb method, of the resulting wRBC/rHSA was adjusted to 8.6 g/dL, equivalent to that of HbV/rHSA. The Hb concentration of the shed autologous blood was 13.4  $\pm$  2 g/dL.

**Animal Model and Preparation.** The experimental protocol was fully approved by the Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee of Keio University School of Medicine. It also complied with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (16).

Experiments were carried out with 40 male Wistar rats (280  $\pm$  27 g body weight; Saitama Experimental Animals Supply, Kawagoe, Japan). All animals were housed in cages and provided with food and water *ad libitum* in a temperature-controlled room with a 12-hr dark/light cycle. The rats were anesthetized with 1.5%-sevoflurane-mixed air inhalation (Maruishi Pharm., Osaka) with a vaporizer (TK-4 Biomachinery, Kimura Med., Tokyo) throughout the experiment (F<sub>IO</sub><sub>2</sub> = 21%). Polyethylene catheters (SP-31 tubing, outer diameter 0.8 mm, inner diameter 0.5 mm, Natsume, Tokyo) filled with saline containing 40 IU/mL heparin were introduced through the right jugular vein into the right atrium for infusion and into the right common carotid artery for blood withdrawal. The catheter in the common carotid artery was connected to a Polygraph system (Nippon Koden, Polygraph LEG-1000). The body temperature of the rats was maintained between 37 and 38°C by an isothermal pad (Braintree Scientific, Braintree, MA) during the experiments.

**Resuscitation From Hemorrhagic Shock.** Hemorrhagic shock was induced by withdrawing 50% of the blood (28 mL/kg, 1 mL/min) from the carotid artery. Systemic blood volume was estimated to be 56 mL/kg body weight (3). Blood was withdrawn into a heparinized syringe and stored for 15 mins at room temperature for the resuscitation with shed autologous blood (SAB). Rats were resuscitated by the infusion of a volume of HbV/rHSA (n = 8), wRBC/rHSA (n = 8), rHSA alone (n = 8), or initially shed autologous blood (n = 8) in 5 min. The volume of the infused resuscitative fluid was identical to the

shed volume (i.e., 50% of the blood volume at baseline). To monitor the severity of the shock, eight hemorrhaged rats were not resuscitated with any fluid (nonresuscitated group).

**Measurements of Systemic Responses.** Systemic variables and blood gases were evaluated before hemorrhage (baseline), after 50% hemorrhage, just after resuscitation, and 1.0, 3.0, and 6.0 hrs after resuscitation. Blood samples were collected in 70 IU/mL heparinized microtubes (125  $\mu$ L, Clinitubes, Radiometer, Copenhagen) for blood gas analyses and in glass capillaries (Terumo, Tokyo) for hematocrit measurements. A pH/blood gas analyzer (ABL 555, Radiometer, Copenhagen) was used for analysis of Pao<sub>2</sub>, Paco<sub>2</sub>, pH, base excess (BE), and lactate. A recording system (Polygraph System 1000, Nippon Koden, Tokyo) was used for continuous monitoring of mean arterial pressure (MAP) and heart rate (HR). Body temperature was monitored with a thermometer inserted into the anus.

**Histopathological Examination and Serum Clinical Laboratory Tests.** Six hours after resuscitation, about 5 mL of arterial blood was rapidly withdrawn into heparinized syringes, and the animals were laparotomized and killed by acute bleeding from the abdominal aorta. The liver, spleen, kidney, and then the lung, heart, and brain were resected for a histopathological study. The percentage of the area of ischemic changes (a pyknotic change of nuclei and an edematous change) in the cerebral hemisphere was measured with computer software (IPLab, Fairfax, VA). The blood samples were centrifuged at 3000  $\times$  *g* for 5 mins to obtain plasma. The HbV-containing plasma required further ultracentrifugation (50,000  $\times$  *g*, 20 mins) to obtain clear plasma avoiding the interference effect of the HbV particles (17). The samples of serum were stored at -80°C before the clinical laboratory tests (BML, Kawagoe). Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) serum activities were measured. The organs were fixed in a 10% formalin neutral buffer solution (Wako Chemical, Tokyo) immediately after the resection, and the paraffin sections were stained with hematoxylin/eosin.

**Data Analysis.** Data are given as the mean  $\pm$  sd for the indicated number of animals. Data were analyzed using analysis of variance followed by Fisher's protected least significant difference test between the groups. The Student's *t*-test was used for the comparisons with baseline values within each group. The level of confidence was placed at 95% for all the experiments.

**Table 1.** Physicochemical properties of four resuscitative fluids infused into hemorrhagic-shocked rats; hemoglobin-vesicles suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (HbV/rHSA) compared with shed autologous blood (SAB), washed red blood cells suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (wRBC/rHSA), and recombinant human serum albumin (rHSA)

| Variables                       | HbV/rHSA     | SAB             | wRBC/rHSA       | rHSA |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|------|
| Hemoglobin concentration, g/dL  | 8.6          | 13.4 $\pm$ 2    | 8.6             | 0    |
| Particle diameter, nm           | 281 $\pm$ 11 | ca. 7000        | ca. 7000        | —    |
| P <sub>50</sub> , torr          | 32           | 39 <sup>a</sup> | 39 <sup>a</sup> | —    |
| Colloid osmotic pressure, mm Hg | 20           | 22              | 20              | 20   |
| Viscosity, cP at 230/sec        | 2.8          | 5.2             | 2.1             | 1.1  |

<sup>a</sup>From Reference 12.

## RESULTS

**Survival Rate.** All the rats in the HbV/rHSA, wRBC/rHSA, and SAB groups survived for 6 hrs after resuscitation until the kill. In the rHSA group, two of the eight rats died between 1 and 6 hrs (Fig. 1). Accordingly, hemodynamic and blood-



gas variables (Figs. 2 and 3) of the rHSA group were divided into the survivor group and the nonsurvivor groups. Therefore, the numbers of rats (*n*) for the rHSA (survivor) and rHSA (nonsurvivor) groups were six and two, respectively. All the rats in the nonresuscitated group died within 3 hrs.

**Systemic Responses to the Hemorrhagic Shock and Resuscitation.** MAP of the Wistar rats before hemorrhage was  $99 \pm 8$  mm Hg on the average and declined to  $32 \pm 6$  mm Hg after hemorrhage (Fig. 2a). Immediately after resuscitation, the MAP of the SAB group recovered to  $110 \pm 7$  mm Hg, above the baseline value. The value was slightly reduced to  $92 \pm 9$  mm Hg at 1 hr, and the level was maintained for 6 hrs. The MAP of the HbV/rHSA recovered upon retransfusion to  $98 \pm 8$  mm Hg, the baseline level, which was significantly lower than that of the SAB group ( $p = .027$ ). After 1 hr, there was no significant difference between the HbV/rHSA and SAB groups. The HbV/rHSA group showed significantly higher MAP than the rHSA (survivor) ( $p = 0.0005$ ) and wRBC/rHSA ( $p = .0032$ ) groups, whose MAPs at 1 hr were  $74 \pm 9$  and  $79 \pm 8$  mm Hg and remained at this higher level for 6 hrs. The MAP of the nonresuscitated group did not recover and remained at the lowest values. The average HR before hemorrhage was  $405 \pm 38$  beats/min, and there was no significant change after hemorrhage. At 0 hr, the HbV/rHSA ( $p = .0215$ ), SAB ( $p = .0085$ ), and nonresuscitated ( $p = .0076$ ) groups

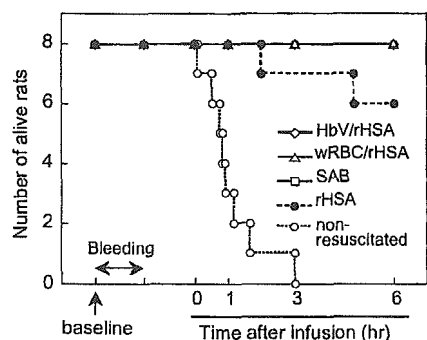


Figure 1. Survival rate of Wistar rats after resuscitation from hemorrhagic shock with infusion of hemoglobin-vesicles suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (HbV/rHSA), shed autologous blood (SAB), washed red blood cells suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (wRBC/rHSA), and recombinant human serum albumin (rHSA) alone. The nonresuscitated group did not receive a resuscitative fluid after the hemorrhage.

showed slightly lower HR than the basal values; however, there was no noticeable change after that (Fig. 2b).

The hematocrit before hemorrhage was  $43 \pm 2\%$  and was reduced to  $36 \pm 2\%$  after bleeding due to autotransfusion (Fig. 2c). After resuscitation, the hematocrit in the SAB group increased to  $42 \pm 4\%$ . The hematocrit values in the rHSA (survivor), rHSA (nonsurvivor), and HbV/rHSA groups were significantly reduced to  $19 \pm 1$ ,  $18 \pm 1$ , and  $20 \pm 2\%$ , respectively ( $p < .0001$  vs. baseline), due to the dilution of the blood with the different solutions. The HbV particles remained dispersed in the plasma phase in the glass capillaries for hematocrit measurements. The hematocrit of the wRBC/rHSA group ( $35 \pm 3\%$ ) was significantly lower than that of the SAB group ( $p < .0001$ ) corresponding to the lower Hb concentration in the fluid of the wRBC/rHSA groups ( $8.6$  g/dL) than in that of the SAB groups ( $13.4 \pm 2.0$  g/dL). The hematocrit of the nonresuscitated group did not change after autotransfusion. The total Hb concentrations in blood after resuscitation with rHSA, HbV/rHSA, wRBC/rHSA, and SAB were estimated to be 6.3, 11, 11, and 13 g/dL, respectively.

Hemorrhagic shock induced metabolic acidosis shown by a decrease in pH from  $7.48 \pm 0.04$  to  $7.40 \pm 0.09$  on the average, a decrease in the BE from  $4.5 \pm 1.4$  to  $-6.9 \pm 3.4$  mM, and an increase in lactate from  $1.4 \pm 0.5$  to  $6.2 \pm 1.4$  mM (Fig. 3). As a result, significant compensatory hyperventilation was observed as an increase in  $P_{aO_2}$  of  $81 \pm 8$  torr to  $103 \pm 6$  torr and a decrease in  $P_{aCO_2}$  of  $38 \pm 5$  torr to  $26 \pm 5$  torr. All the resuscitated groups tended to recover immediately from the hyperventilation after infusion. The pH, BE, and lactate values did not show immediate recoveries after resuscitation but tended to recover at 1 hr. However, they did not return to the baseline level even after 6 hrs ( $p < .05$  vs. baseline). There was no significant difference between the HbV/rHSA and SAB group. The nonresuscitated group remained with significant hyperventilation, acidosis, and reduction of BE at 0 hr ( $p < .01$  vs. baseline). After that, the  $P_{aO_2}$  decrease and the  $P_{aCO_2}$  increase were significant in the rats, leading to death. All the variables of the nonresuscitated group were significantly different from those of the HbV/rHSA group at 3 hrs. There was no clear difference between the rHSA (survi-

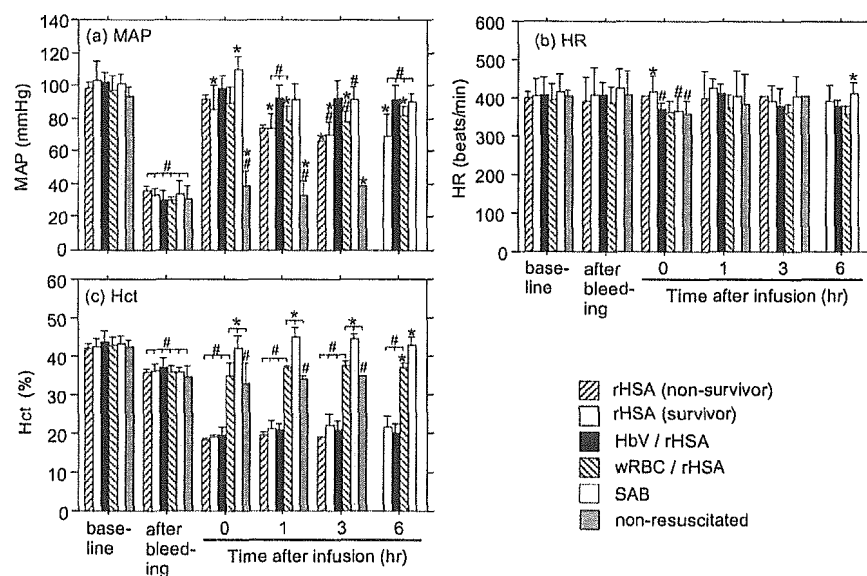


Figure 2. Changes in heart rate (HR), mean arterial pressure (MAP), and hematocrit (Hct) during hemorrhagic shock and resuscitation with infusion of hemoglobin-vesicles suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (HbV/rHSA), shed autologous blood (SAB), washed red blood cells suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (wRBC/rHSA), and recombinant human serum albumin (rHSA) alone. The nonresuscitated group did not receive a resuscitative fluid after the hemorrhage and died within 3 hrs (Fig. 1). The number of surviving rats was three at 1 hr. In the rHSA group, two of the eight rats died between 1 and 6 hrs. Accordingly, the rHSA group was divided into the rHSA (survivor) group and the rHSA (nonsurvivor) group until they died. Therefore, the numbers of rats (*n*) for the rHSA (survivor) and rHSA (nonsurvivor) groups were 6 and 2, respectively. #Significantly different from baseline ( $p < .05$ ); \*significantly different vs. the HbV/rHSA group ( $p < .05$ ).

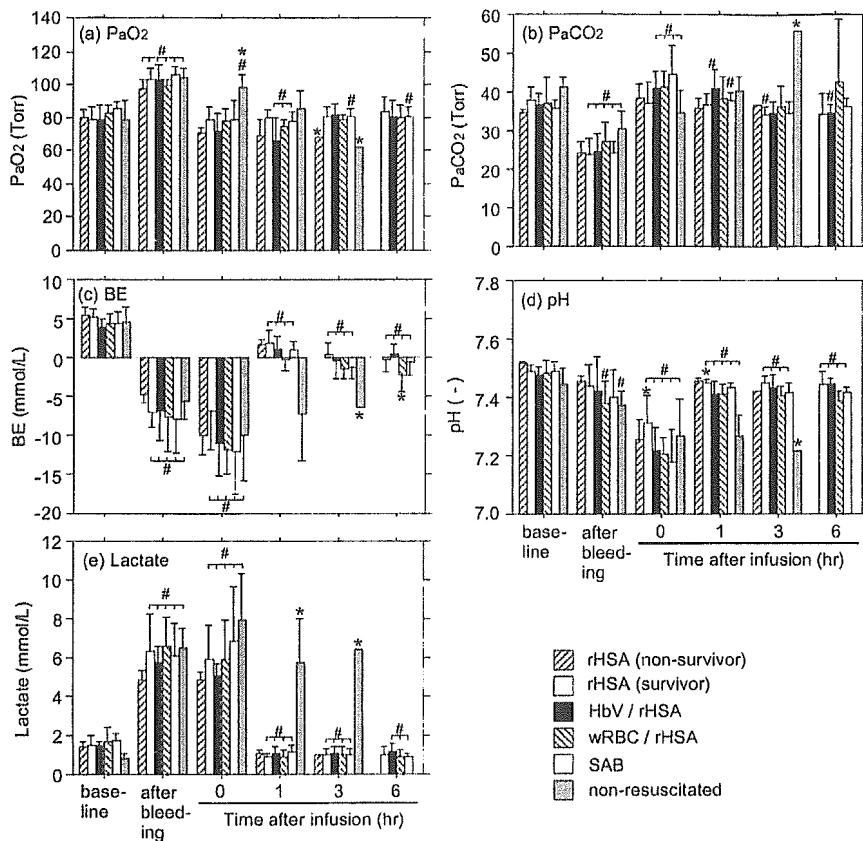


Figure 3. Changes in blood gas variables during hemorrhagic shock and resuscitation with infusion of hemoglobin-vesicles suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (*HbV/rHSA*), shed autologous blood (*SAB*), washed red blood cells suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (*wRBC/rHSA*), and recombinant human serum albumin (*rHSA*) alone. The nonresuscitated group did not receive a resuscitative fluid after the hemorrhage and died within 3 hrs (Fig. 1). The number of surviving rats was three at 1 hr. In the *rHSA* group, two of the eight rats died between 1 and 6 hrs. Accordingly, the *rHSA* group was divided into the *rHSA* (survivor) group and the *rHSA* (nonsurvivor) group until they died. Therefore, the numbers of rats (*n*) for the *rHSA* (survivor) and *rHSA* (nonsurvivor) groups were 6 and 2, respectively. #Significantly different from baseline ( $p < .05$ ); \*significantly different vs. the *HbV/rHSA* group ( $p < .05$ ). *BE*, base excess.

vor) and *rHSA* (nonsurvivor) groups in MAP and HR in Figure 2. However, the *rHSA* (nonsurvivor) group tended to show a slightly lower  $P_{aO_2}$  than the *rHSA* (survivor) group at 0 and 1 hr and significantly at 3 hrs ( $p = .0374$ ) in Figure 3.

**Clinical Laboratory Tests of Blood Serum.** Normal Wistar rats showed AST and ALT of  $70 \pm 13$  and  $37 \pm 5$  units/L, respectively (Fig. 4). The *HbV/rHSA*, *wRBC/rHSA*, and *SAB* groups showed significant or nonsignificant increases in AST ( $p = .003$ ,  $.016$ , and  $.005$ , respectively) and ALT values ( $p = .031$ ,  $.110$ , and  $.025$ , respectively) compared with the baseline values. On the other hand, the *rHSA* (survivor) group showed the smallest changes.

**Histopathological Examination 6 Hrs After Resuscitation With *HbV/rHSA*.** The hematoxylin/eosin staining of the rat or-

gans demonstrated no significant morphologic abnormalities in the lung, kidney, and liver (data not shown). The red pulp zone of the spleen showed the accumulation of *HbV* particles as pink-colored dots (8). The myocardium showed focal minimal ischemic changes without apparent necrosis, probably due to the hemorrhagic shock. This histologic finding also was observed in other experimental groups including the *rHSA* (survivor) group. The cerebral hemisphere on the right side of the *rHSA* group showed significant ischemic changes, a pyknotic change of the nuclei, and an edematous change ( $34 \pm 3\%$  of the total section area), relating to the ligation of the right carotid artery. However, the other groups that were resuscitated with oxygen-carrying fluids showed minimal changes ( $p < .001$  vs. *rHSA*; *HbV/rHSA*,  $13 \pm 5\%$ ;

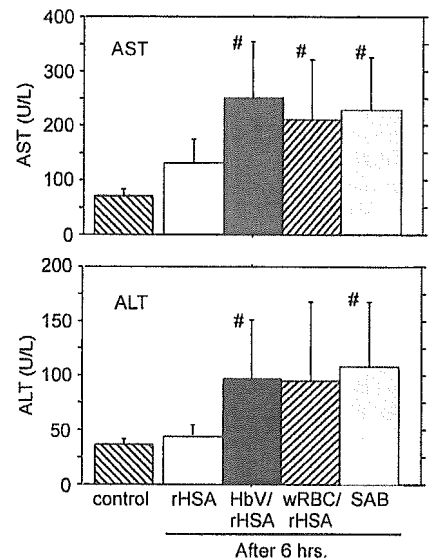


Figure 4. Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) concentrations 6 hrs after resuscitation with infusion of hemoglobin-vesicles suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (*HbV/rHSA*), shed autologous blood (*SAB*), washed red blood cells suspended in recombinant human serum albumin (*wRBC/rHSA*), and recombinant human serum albumin (*rHSA*) alone. #Significantly different from the control group ( $p < .05$ ).

*SAB*,  $11 \pm 6\%$ ; *wRBC/rHSA*,  $11 \pm 3\%$ ). The nonresuscitated rats that died spontaneously did not show such ischemic changes.

## DISCUSSION

One particle of *HbV* (diameter, ca. 250 nm) contains about 30,000 Hb molecules. *HbV* acts as a particle in the blood and not as a solute; therefore, the colloid osmotic pressure of the *HbV* suspension is nearly zero. It requires an addition of a plasma expander for a large substitution of blood such as normovolemic hemodilution to maintain blood volume (18). The candidates of plasma expanders are HSA, hydroxyethyl starch, dextran, or gelatin depending on the clinical setting, cost, countries, and clinicians (19). In this report we tested for the first time the addition of *rHSA*. The absence of any infectious disease from humans is the greatest advantage of *rHSA*, which will be soon approved for clinical use in Japan. Moreover, there should be no immunologic and hematologic abnormalities that are often seen with the use of dextran and hydroxyethyl starch (19). The virus inactivation and removal from a human-derived Hb solution can be aggressively

performed in our preparation process of HbV (20, 21). However, to completely avoid unknown infectious diseases, the combination of recombinant Hb-vesicles and recombinant HSA would be the most ideal "artificial red blood cells" in the future.

In our hemorrhagic shock model, all the rats in the nonresuscitated group, which did not receive any fluid, died within 3 hrs, indicating the severity of the shock state. The infusion of the resuscitative fluids resulted in the improvement of all the variables and survival, indicating the importance of the recovery in blood volume. Especially, our principal findings are that the infusion of HbVs suspended in rHSA restores the MAP and blood gas variables including BE and lactate after hemorrhagic shock and that all the rats survived 6 hrs after resuscitation despite the fact that in the rHSA group two rats among eight died within 6 hrs. This clearly shows that the ability of HbV/rHSA as an effective oxygen-carrying resuscitative fluid is comparable with shed autologous blood. After the resuscitation, there were minor differences in blood gas variables between the groups in Figure 3. It would seem that all the animals were hypervolemic in the initial phase of resuscitation, because they experienced autotransfusion during the shock period, although it lasted only 15 mins. This could be one of the reasons there were no significant changes in BE and pH between the groups. Moreover, after the infusion of rHSA, the Hb concentration should not be significantly lower than the transfusion trigger. However, the rHSA group dissociated into the survivor and nonsurvivor groups. There was no remarkable difference between the two, and it was difficult to determine the cause of death. If anything, the rHSA (nonsurvivor) group tended to show the lower  $P_{aO_2}$  values compared with the rHSA (survivor) group ( $p = .037$  at 3 hrs), indicating that the respiratory function was not adequate to sustain metabolism under the condition of sevoflurane anesthesia and spontaneous breathing after resuscitation with nonoxygen-carrying fluid. In this case, the combination of the significant hypotension that was seen in all the rats in the rHSA group and the respiratory problem may be one of the causes of incidental death (22). Immediately after resuscitation, the HbV/rHSA group showed a recovery of MAP,  $P_{aO_2}$ , and  $P_{aCO_2}$  that was similar to that of the SAB group. However, the BE, pH, and lactate

levels did not show immediate recovery due to the "washing out" of accumulated metabolites including nonvolatile lactate in the peripheral tissues (23). These values recovered 1 hr after resuscitation.

In our previous report (10), we tested HbV suspended in plasma-derived HSA for resuscitation from hemorrhagic shock of conscious small hamsters (ca. 60–70 g body weight) with much lower remaining hematocrit values, maintaining the MAP at 40 mm Hg for 1 hr. Even though the species was different and the observation period after resuscitation was only 1 hr, it seemed that the conscious hamsters showed sufficient compensation of hyperventilation even after resuscitation with HSA alone. In the present study, we could demonstrate the effectiveness of HbV/rHSA in anesthetized rats (280 ± 27 g body weight) as long as 6 hrs after resuscitation, where respiratory function was depressed and compensatory function was not sufficient. This indicates the effectiveness of HbV suspended in a plasma expander for resuscitation from hemorrhagic shock.

It has been reported that resuscitation from hemorrhagic shock with acellular Hb modifications such as polymerized or intramolecularly cross-linked Hb causes the elevation of MAP beyond the baseline values (9, 24, 25), whereas a refined polymerized human Hb that does not contain molecular Hb (<1%) shows no hypertension (26). The hypertension may be presumably due to the high affinity for nitric oxide of molecular Hbs and their smaller size that enables nitric oxide trapping in the proximity of the endothelium (7, 27). However, MAP did not exceed the baseline values after resuscitation with HbV. This is one advantage of cellular HbV in comparison with acellular molecular Hb modifications that may cause vasoconstriction and therefore hypoperfusion of peripheral tissues.

Interestingly, the HbV/rHSA group showed a significantly higher MAP than the wRBC/rHSA group and one that was comparable with that of the SAB group except immediately after resuscitation. It has been extensively confirmed that HbV is not vasoactive and does not induce hypertension (6, 7, 10). Because the total Hb concentrations are identical between the two resuscitative fluids (8.6 g/dL), one of the possible explanations could be related to the more effective oxygen transport by HbV than RBC to the myocardium where the oxygen consumption is significantly large and the oxygen ten-

sion gradient is steep. This is speculated from the facts that HbV distributes closer to the endothelial cell layer in the arteriolar blood flow whereas RBCs flow near the axial line (28). Another explanation should be related to the viscosity difference. The viscosity of HbV/rHSA (2.8 cP) is slightly higher than that of wRBC/rHSA (2.1 cP), and this may contribute to the higher vascular resistance and the resulting higher MAP. The slightly higher MAP for the SAB group immediately after infusion may be due to hypervolemia, the trace hemolysis that induces nitric oxide trapping and vasoconstriction, higher viscosity, or clotting during the preservation despite the heparinization.

Histopathological examination of the spleen showed accumulation of HbV in the red pulp zone as previously reported in the study of bolus infusion of HbV in normal rats (8). It was confirmed that HbVs, as foreign particles, were finally captured by the reticuloendothelial system mainly in the spleen and liver, and they were smoothly metabolized within 2 wks. Because the circulation half-life of HbV is about 35 hrs, the spleen had already started to show accumulation of HbV 6 hrs after resuscitation. The lung and kidney did not show any abnormalities such as embolism in the capillaries derived from the aggregation of vesicles (29). In our case, poly(ethylene glycol) modification of the surface of HbV guarantees the homogeneous dispersion and prompt blood flow in microcirculation (11, 30). The complete recovery of the blood gas variables and lactate concentration also supports the normal gas exchanging function of the lung and the excretion and decomposition of metabolites through the kidney and liver, respectively. The myocardium showed a slight influence of ischemic damage for all the groups. The significant difference was observed in the cerebral tissue between the groups receiving oxygen-carrying and noncarrying fluids. The rHSA group showed a significantly larger area with ischemic changes, a pyknotic change of the nuclei, and an edematous change, on the right side; however, other groups receiving oxygen-carrying fluids showed a significantly lower level of changes. We considered that ligation of the right carotid artery and the influence of hypoperfusion induced by the hemorrhagic shock caused ischemic environment in the right cerebral hemisphere, leading to pathologic and irreversible changes of cerebral tissues. The brain tissue was not

**H**emoglobin-vesicle suspended in recombinant human serum albumin provides restoration from hemorrhagic shock that is comparable with that using shed autologous blood.

examined in our previous shock study using hamsters with ligation of a carotid artery in the same manner. In the present study, the significantly higher level of ischemic change only in the rHSA group may be caused by the prolonged hypotension and lower oxygen content in blood after resuscitation. Therefore, the cause of death in the rHSA group could be due, in part, to aggravated cerebral damage.

Even though histopathological examination of the liver did not show any abnormalities, the plasma clinical laboratory tests demonstrated elevation of AST and ALT for the HbV/rHSA, wRBC/rHSA, and SAB groups but not for the rHSA (survivor) group. Chemically modified Hbs also were reported to elevate AST and ALT after resuscitation (31, 32). This indicated that the resuscitation with oxygen-carrying fluids might induce ischemia/reperfusion injury that influences liver function (33, 34). However, because AST and ALT values represent the concentration in plasma, the difference in plasma volume between the groups should be considered. The plasma volume ratio should be calculated by subtracting the volumes of RBC and HbV from whole blood. Under the assumption that whole blood volume is equal between the groups, the rHSA group has a 1.35 and 1.20 times larger volume of plasma compared with the SAB group and the HbV/rHSA group, respectively, due to the reduced hematocrit for the rHSA group. Therefore, enzyme concentrations in the rHSA group may possibly be slightly underestimated. Including some antioxidative reagents such as active oxygen scavengers in the resuscitative fluid should be considered to obtain better resuscitation (35, 36).

## CONCLUSION

HbV suspended in recombinant HSA at a concentration of only 8.6 g/dL of Hb showed effectiveness for resuscitation from hemorrhagic shock that was comparable to that using shed autologous blood. This acute study encourages us to continue further studies to optimize the physicochemical variables of the HbV suspension such as Hb concentration and oxygen affinity and to look at a longer term survival beyond 6 hrs to weeks using a larger animal model. Some of the polymerized Hbs are now in the final stages of clinical trials (37), and our HbV have to be compared with these materials in terms of safety and efficacy to demonstrate the advantage of cellular structure of HbV.

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