

BDZ, 5398 for COL, 3473 for CPZ, 4258 for CSA, 4656 for GFZ, 4917 for PHA, and 2403 for RIF. We then selected the probe sets that were commonly changed in all the compounds and 59 probe sets were obtained. A list of these probe sets is in Table 2, where each probe is categorized by its biological function. Figure 2 shows the expression changes of these 59 probe sets at high dose of repeated administration, as a heat map of the average of log 2 ratios. It appears that the trend of the change is to decrease, and the direction of change of the probe sets is not necessarily common with these drugs. Based on gene ontology, the contents of the genes related to cellular metabolism, biosynthesis, lipid metabolism, cellular biosynthesis, cellular physiological process, response to stress, physiological process, and serine family amino acid metabolism were significantly increased (Table 3).

#### *Principal component analysis*

Using the 59 probe sets extracted as above, PCA was performed on the seven drugs elevating TBIL and DBIL. As shown in Figure 3, the treated samples were dose-dependently separated to form clusters from the controls, mainly toward the direction of PC1 (contribution rate: 30.4%). Of the genes contributing to PC1, those with high eigenvalue are listed in Table 4. To examine the time-dependency, all the samples were aligned on a one dimensional graph of PC1 (Figure 4). It appeared that the PC1 value generally increased with time and with the dose for these drugs. In the cases of COL and BDZ, the PC1 value increased with the peak on the 4th day. In case of CPZ, time- and dose-dependency were obscure although the group treated clearly formed a cluster separated from the control cluster.

#### *Verification of the probe sets using 18 test compounds*

In a survey of the literature, in addition to the seven drugs above, we identified 18 more drugs in our database that had been reported to elevate TBIL and DBIL. The data of TBIL and DBIL of the 18 compounds are shown in Figure 5. We performed PCA using the 59 probe sets on the seven typical and 18 additional drugs (25 total), and depicted them in Figure 6 as a one-dimensional graph with PC1 (contribution rate: 35.9 %). It was revealed that 12 out of 18 drugs, that is methapyrilene, thioacetamide, ticlopidine, ethinyl estradiol, alpha-naphthylisothiocyanate, indomethacin, methyltestosterone, penicillamine, allyl alcohol, aspirin, iproniazid, and isoniazid were separated from control clusters in the same way as the seven typical drugs elevating

TBIL and DBIL. Of these 12 drugs, MP, TAA, EE, ANIT, PEN, and IPA showed significant elevation of TBIL and DBIL for at least one time point during repeated administration, whereas the remaining six drugs did not show any toxicologically meaningful elevation. Glibenclamide (GBC) and cyclophosphamide did not change their position very much on the PCA, whereas their extent was roughly equivalent to that of CPZ, a positive control. The remaining four drugs, that is nitrofurantoin, valproate, methotrexate, and tetracycline stayed in the same position as their controls. Reviewing the data of TBIL and DBIL of the latter six drugs with low PC1 values, it was revealed that a statistically significant elevation was absent except for CPA, which showed an increase after 28 days of repeated administration, but its absolute value was quite low (Figure 5). In general, most drugs that had high PC1 values showed high serum concentration of TBIL and DBIL. As shown in Figure 7, the PC1 value had a high correlation with TBIL and DBIL levels.

#### *Possibility of the distinction by samples taken at 24 h after single dose*

The above results clearly suggested that the list of extracted 59 probe sets was a useful diagnostic marker for the elevation of TBIL and DBIL in rat liver. The next question is whether the list works as a prognostic marker for drugs elevating TBIL and DBIL. To examine this possibility, we analyzed the data within 24 h of a single dose of the first seven drugs. Figure 8 shows TBIL and DBIL at 3, 6, 9, and 24 h after a single dose. Although there was some significant increase in these measures, most of them were considered to be toxicologically insignificant based on their absolute values. It was thus concluded that no severe elevation of TBIL and DBIL occurred within 24 h for a single dose. Using the gene expression data at 24 h after dosing, PCA was performed using the 59 probe sets. As shown in Figure 9, all the drugs except RIF and CSA were clearly separated from the control samples in the direction of PC1 (contribution rate: 33.9%). Among these, CPZ, which showed low PC1 values in repeated dosing (Figures 4 and 6), was not distant from its control by single dosing. Interestingly, however, an excellent separation was attained when extra-high dose of CPZ was added (Figure 9).

## Discussion

Hepatotoxic adverse effects, often indicated by cholestasis, are a main concern in drug development and severe hepatotoxicity may cause a drug to be

**Q1 Gene expression profiling in rat liver**  
M Hirode, et al.

6

**Table 2** List of 59 probe sets changed in seven compounds elevating of TBIL and DBIL

<i>Probe ID</i>	<i>Accession No.</i>	<i>Gene title</i>	<i>Gene symbol</i>
<b>Lipid metabolic process</b>			
1368520_at	NM_012737	Apolipoprotein A-IV	Apoa4
1370150_a_at	NM_012703	Thyroid hormone responsive protein	Thrsp
1371615_at	BI279069	Diacylglycerol O-acyltransferase homolog 2 (mouse)	Dgat2
1374440_at	BE098506	Dehydrogenase/reductase (SDR family) member 8	Dhrs8
1387139_at	NM_032082	Hydroxyacid oxidase 2 (long chain)	Hao2
1387508_at	NM_017300	Bile acid-Coenzyme A: amino acid N-acyltransferase	Baat
1390549_at	AA859796	Adiponectin receptor 2	Adipor2
1394112_at	AA945123	Hydroxyacid oxidase 1	Hao1
<b>Transporter</b>			
1368621_at	NM_022960	Aquaporin 9	Aqp9
1369074_at	NM_130748	Solute carrier family 38, member 4	Slc38a4
1379592_at	AI045151	Similar to citrin (predicted)	RGD1565889_predicted
1386960_at	NM_031589	Solute carrier family 37 (glucose-6-phosphate transporter), member 4	Slc37a4
1390591_at	AI169163	Solute carrier family 17 (sodium phosphate), member 3	Slc17a3
1393216_at	BI282044	Solute carrier family 33 (acetyl-CoA transporter), member 1	Slc33a1
1398249_at	NM_053965	Solute carrier family 25 (mitochondrial carnitine/acylcarnitine translocase), member 20	Slc25a20
<b>Ubiquitin-Proteasome</b>			
1383073_at	BG666028	Ubiquitin specific protease 14	Usp14
1398831_at	NM_031629	Proteasome (prosome, macropain) subunit, beta type 4	Psmb4
<b>Mitochondrial function</b>			
1388931_at	AA799440	Mitochondrial ribosomal protein L13	Mrpl13
1367941_at	NM_031326	Transcription factor A, mitochondrial	Tfam
1370918_a_at	BI275939	ATP synthase, H <sup>+</sup> transporting, mitochondrial F1 complex, $\gamma$ polypeptide 1	Atp5c1
1372080_at	BI287936	Inner membrane protein, mitochondrial	Immt
1398326_at	BI282332	Similar to Nur77 downstream protein 2	MGC105647
<b>Cell proliferation/Cell cycle</b>			
1367764_at	NM_012923	Cyclin G1	Ccng1
1367927_at	BI282863	Prohibitin	Phb
1369738_s_at	NM_017334	cAMP responsive element modulator	Crem
1387714_at	AB031423	cAMP responsive element modulator	Crem
1372437_at	BM390921	S-phase kinase-associated protein 1A	Skp1a
1367512_at	AA998435	Chromatin modifying protein 5	Chmp5
1374591_at	AI409042	similar to protein tyrosine phosphatase, receptor type, D (predicted)	RGD1561090_predicted
1388469_at	AA945615	Insulin-like growth factor I mRNA, 3' end of mRNA	—
<b>Translation</b>			
1367610_at	NM_031103	Ribosomal protein L19	Rpl19
1388244_s_at	BG153272	Ribosomal protein SA	Rpsa
1371973_at	AI237620	Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3, subunit 6	Eif3s6
<b>Metabolism</b>			
1371076_at	AI454613	Cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily b, polypeptide 15 /// Cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily b, polypeptide 2	Cyp2b15 /// Cyp2b2
1368905_at	NM_133586	Carboxylesterase 2 (intestine, liver)	Ces2
1369558_at	NM_022614	Inhibin beta C	Inhbc
1387022_at	NM_022407	Aldehyde dehydrogenase family 1, member A1	Aldh1a1
1387034_at	NM_012619	Phenylalanine hydroxylase	Pah
1388788_at	BG664131	Glutaryl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase (predicted)	Gcdh_predicted
1398286_at	M64755	Cysteine sulfinic acid decarboxylase	Csad
<b>Response to oxidative stress</b>			
1367896_at	AB030829	Carbonic anhydrase 3	Ca3
1370064_at	AB004454	Presenilin 2	Psen2
<b>Inflammatory response</b>			
1367804_at	NM_017170	Serum amyloid P-component	Apsc
<b>Blood coagulation</b>			
1388330_at	BM384958	Vitamin K epoxide reductase complex, subunit 1	Vkorc1
1374765_at	BI288055	Transcribed locus, moderately similar to XP_001090810.1 fibrinogen gamma chain isoform 9 [Macaca mulatta]	—
<b>Other</b>			
1372479_at	AI175666	Transcribed locus	—
1373313_at	BM391570	Transcribed locus	—
1374943_at	AI170809	Transcribed locus	—
1375845_at	BI290029	Similar to Aig1 protein (predicted)	RGD1562920_predicted
1377048_at	H31813	Similar to cDNA sequence BC021917	RGD1311026

(continued)

Table 2 (continued)

Probe ID	Accession No.	Gene title	Gene symbol
1377686_at	AA859337	Transcribed locus	—
1381574_at	BF403907	Similar to putative protein, with at least 6 transmembrane domains, of ancient origin (58.5 kD) (3N884) (predicted)	RGD1312038_predicted
1383732_at	AA819810	Similar to hypothetical protein MGC37914 (predicted)	RGD1307603_predicted
1387856_at	BI274457	Calponin 3, acidic	Cnn3
1388119_at	BM392140	Similar to heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A3 /// similar to heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A3 (predicted) /// similar to regulator of G-protein signalling like 1	LOC364506 /// LOC684137 /// RGD1566284_predicted
1390326_at	BF564217	Angiogenin, ribonuclease A family, member 1	Ang1
1392172_at	AI169984	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 9	Ccl9
1393123_at	BM392153	Complement component 8, gamma polypeptide (predicted)	C8g_predicted
1398409_at	AA850428	Transcribed locus	—

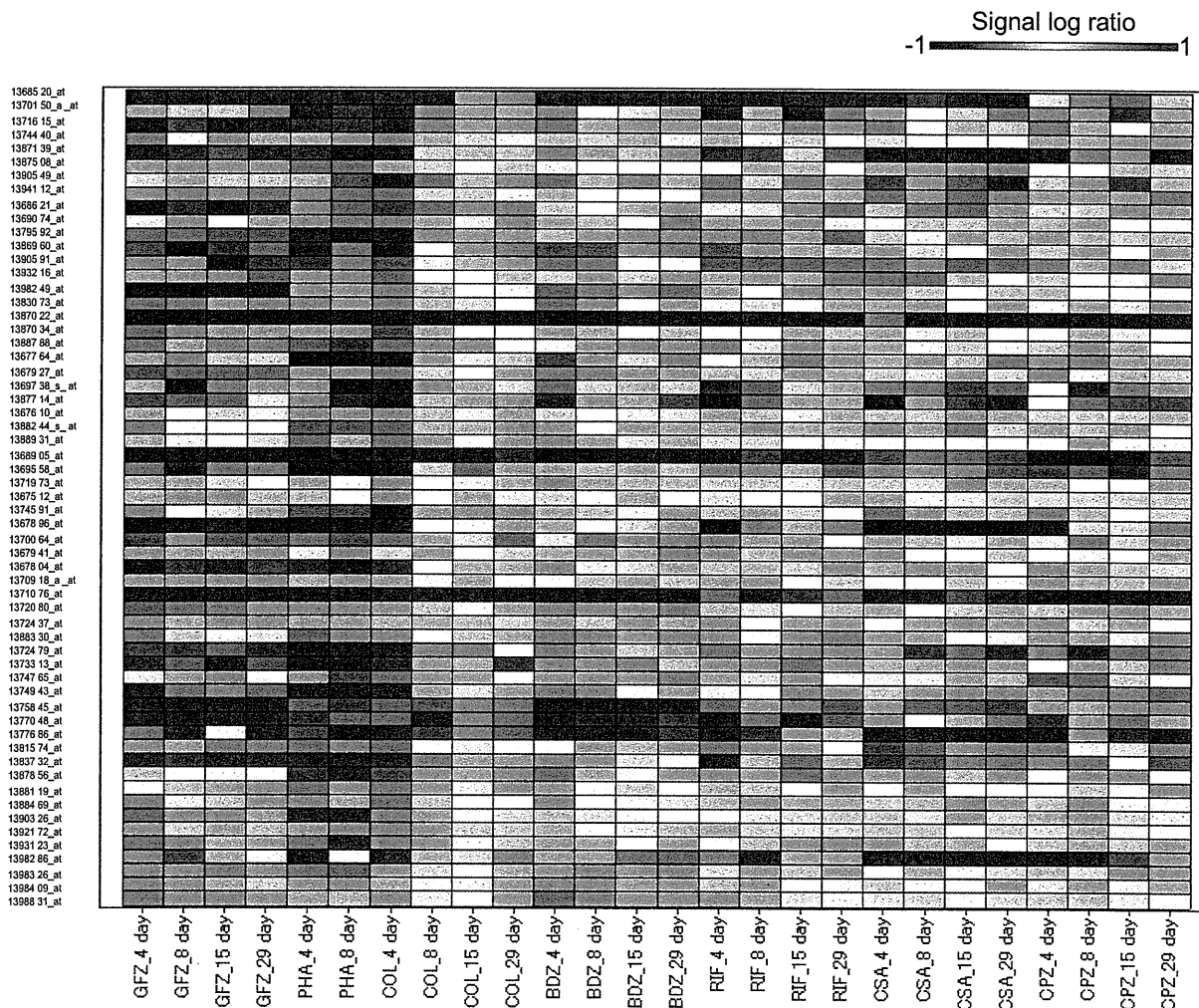


Figure 2 Heat map of the gene expression profiles of gemfibrozil (GFZ), phalloidin (PHA), colchicine (COL), bendazac (BDZ), rifampicin (RIF), cyclosporine A (CSA), and chlorpromazine (CPZ) that induced elevation of total bilirubin (TBIL) and direct bilirubin (DBIL) in the present study using the commonly mobilized 59 probe sets. Values are expressed as average log<sub>2</sub> ratio, for each time point at high dosage.

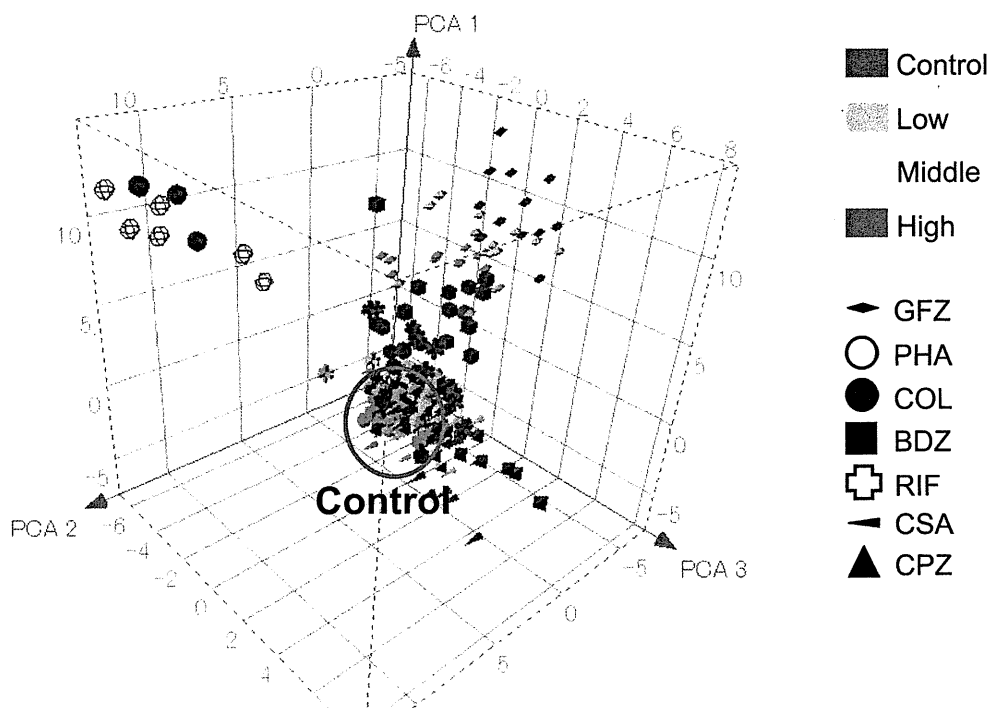
**Table 3** GO analysis of identified 59 probe sets

Term	Count	Percent	P-value
Metabolism	32	51.6	3.5E-3
Cellular metabolism	29	46.8	1.2E-2
Biosynthesis	9	14.5	6.0E-2
Lipid metabolism	6	9.7	6.3E-2
Cellular biosynthesis	8	12.9	8.6E-2
Cellular physiological process	40	64.5	8.8E-2
Response to stress	8	12.9	8.9E-2
Physiological process	43	69.4	9.6E-2
Serine family amino acid metabolism	2	3.2	1.0E-1

withdrawn from the market. Cholestasis results either from a functional defect in bile formation at the level of the hepatocyte (hepatocellular cholestasis) or from an impairment in bile secretion and flow at the level of bile ductules or ducts (ductular/ductal cholestasis). Cholestatic hepatitis is the most common type of drug-induced cholestasis and is more frequent than cholestatic viral hepatitis. It is caused by a metabolic or, more frequently, immunological idiosyncrasy of a drug. Therefore, drugs causing this type of reaction are unpredictable, dose-independent hepatotoxins, and cholestasis occurs only in a small proportion of exposed individuals.

Prototypic drugs causing cholestatic hepatitis include RIF,<sup>8</sup> CPZ,<sup>9-12</sup> GFZ,<sup>13</sup> COL,<sup>14-16</sup> BDZ,<sup>17</sup> CSA,<sup>18-20</sup> and PHA.<sup>21</sup> Indeed, they had elevated TBIL and/or DBIL in our database. We then selected this phenotype to search for a biomarker.

The goal of our project is to extract toxicity biomarkers useful for drug development from our transcriptome database. In the course of our study, we have used a strategy to select a few genes that showed a common change in response to a certain phenotype among the database, but usually we got nothing. Even if we got a candidate, its reproducibility was poor and thus useless. We also frequently experienced such a case that the fingerprint marker genes reported from other institutes are quite different from those in our gene list. This might not be due to the problem of genomics technology, but due to the biology, that is a toxicological phenotype is a result of various biological factors, each of which contains inevitable variations. Therefore, one has to use a strategy to make a prediction based on a pattern of changes of considerable numbers of genes, in order to assure the robustness of the result.



**Figure 3** Principal component analysis of the gene expression profiles of gemfibrozil (GFZ), phalloidin (PHA), colchicine (COL), bendazac (BDZ), rifampicin (RIF), cyclosporine A (CSA), and chlorpromazine (CPZ), using the commonly mobilized 59 probe sets. Results are expressed as a three dimensional figure for PC1, 2 and 3. Treated samples were dose-dependently separated from the cluster of the controls (circled by a blue line), mainly toward the direction of PC1 (contribution rate: 30.4 %). For simplicity, rats receiving the same dose with different durations (3, 7, 14, and 28 days [except PHA for 3 and 7 days],  $N=3$  for each; 12 total) are expressed by the same symbol.

**Table 4** List of 18 probe sets contributing PC1

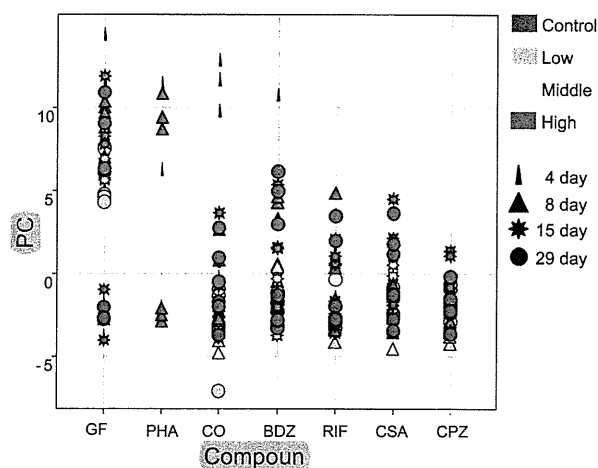
Ranking	Probe set ID	Gene title	Eigenvalue
1	1367927_at	Prohibitin	0.202260
2	1368905_at	Carboxylesterase 2 (intestine, liver)	0.197374
3	1387022_at	Aldehyde dehydrogenase family 1, member A1	0.184622
4	1372080_at	Inner membrane protein, mitochondrial	0.183434
5	1375845_at	Similar to Aig1 protein (predicted)	0.180442
6	1398831_at	Proteasome (prosome, macropain) subunit, beta type 4	0.175160
7	1383073_at	Ubiquitin specific protease 14	0.175074
8	1398249_at	Solute carrier family 25 (mitochondrial carnitine/acylcarnitine translocase), member 20	0.170555
9	1372479_at	Transcribed locus	0.154284
10	1398409_at	Transcribed locus	0.143625
11	1372437_at	S-phase kinase-associated protein 1A	0.129215
12	1367512_at	Chromatin modifying protein 5	0.121613
13	1367764_at	Cyclin G1	0.120058
14	1388244_s_at	Ribosomal protein SA	0.118388
15	1367610_at	Ribosomal protein L19	0.116662
16	1371973_at	Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3, subunit 6	0.110324
17	1388931_at	Mitochondrial ribosomal protein L13	0.109371
18	1367941_at	Transcription factor A, mitochondrial	0.107880

There are two representative ways of classification, that is supervised and unsupervised ones. When the mechanism of action of the drug is clear, or the feature of the drug is undoubtedly designated, a supervised method, such as discriminant analysis is a powerful tool. In fact, we reported a success using this strategy.<sup>3</sup> However, in most of the cases of toxicological phenotypes, it is usually difficult to judge which one is positive or negative. In case of medicines, it hardly happens that a drug never causes a certain phenotype at any dose level. Otherwise, a drug developer needs to know a safety margin. In such cases, it is quite difficult to set positive/negative since the sensitivity of the detection is usually different between gene expression and toxicological phenotype. To our experience, discriminant analysis is often difficult for

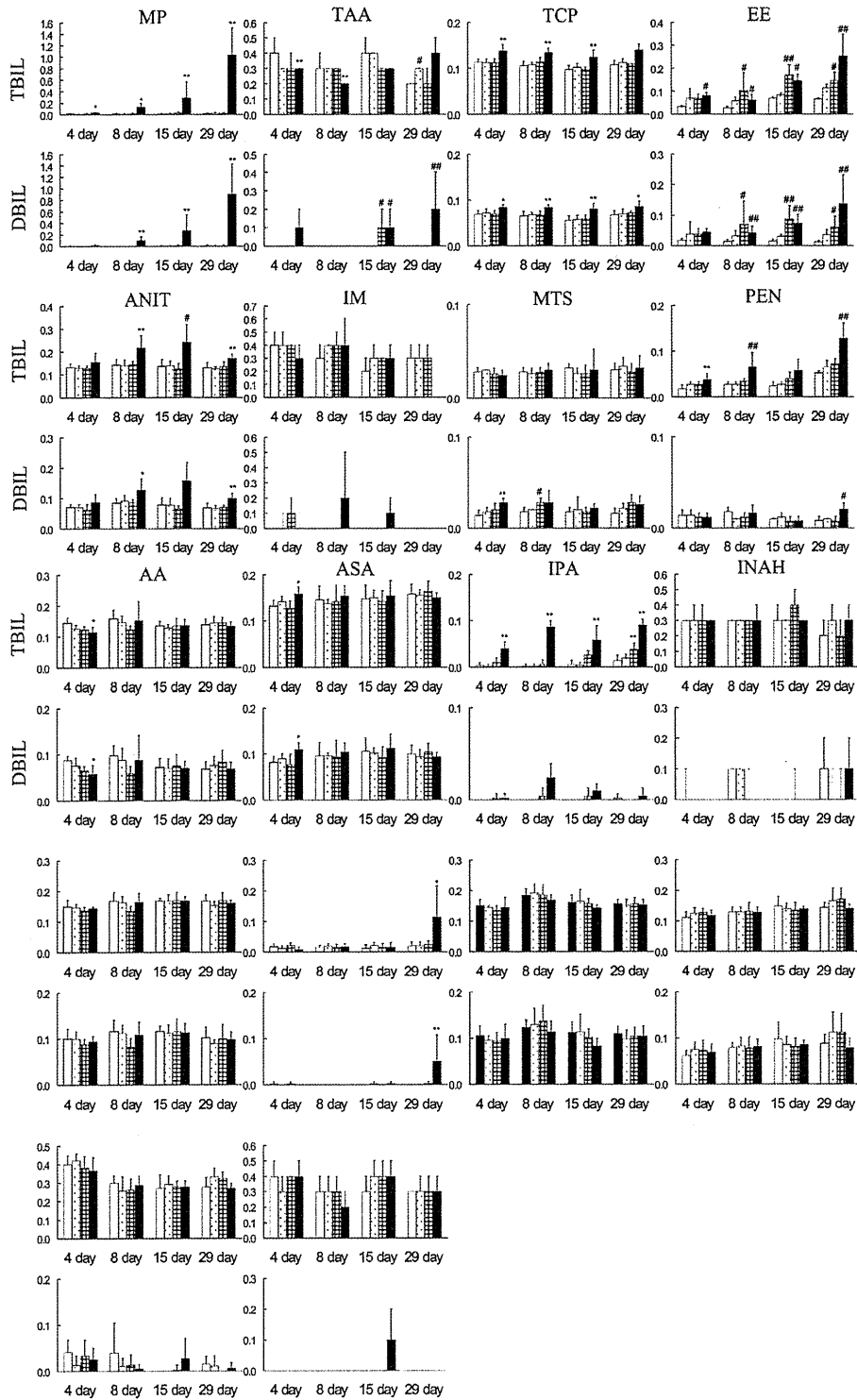
a phenotype induced by multiple causes or it is highly dependent on the dose level and time after dosing, since a small difference in a choice of positive/negative significantly affects the results. However, unsupervised classification such as PCA or hierarchical clustering enables one to visualize the feature of various drugs semi-quantitatively, although it is not quantitative. This could supply important information for drug development. We already reported candidate marker gene sets for diagnosis and prediction of phospholipidosis.<sup>2</sup>

In the current study, we used the latter strategy, that is we extracted probe sets for commonly mobilized genes among seven typical drugs causing cholestasis. Using these genes, we have shown that PCA clearly separated dose- and time-dependent clusters of the treated groups from their controls. To verify the usefulness of the probe sets, we explored the potential drugs causing cholestasis in the literature, and further (rarer) examples were found to be antifungal, anthelmintic, antidepressant, anticonvulsive, antihypertensive, antiarrhythmic, antidiabetic, antithyroid, antirheumatic drugs, and H<sub>2</sub>-blockers. We then selected 18 drugs for verification from our database.

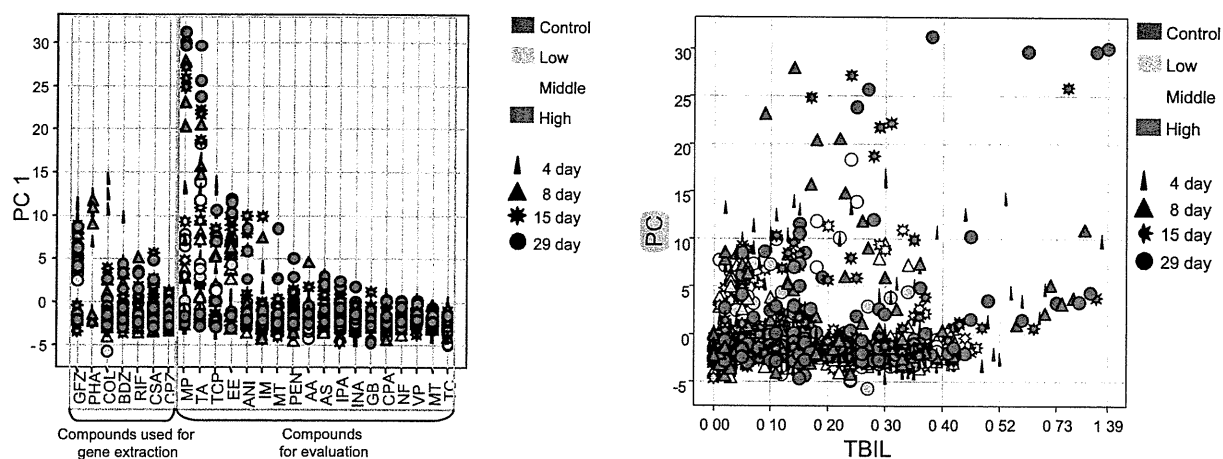
Of these drugs, MP,<sup>22</sup> TAA,<sup>23</sup> EE,<sup>24-28</sup> ANIT,<sup>29</sup> and PEN<sup>30,31</sup> showed high TBIL and DBIL as well as high PC1 by PCA using these probe sets. In the case of TCP,<sup>32</sup> IM,<sup>33,34</sup> MTS,<sup>35-37</sup> AA,<sup>38</sup> ASA,<sup>39</sup> IPA,<sup>40,41</sup> and INAH,<sup>42</sup> which have been reported to cause cholestasis, these were judged as negative by blood chemical examination in the current study. However, they were clearly separated from their controls by PCA using the probe sets. This suggests that the sensitivity of the diagnosis by gene expression is higher than the measurement of plasma bilirubin.



**Figure 4** Principal component analysis of the same as Figure 3 but one dimensional expression using principal component 1. For each drug, each individual rat is depicted by a symbol with a different color and shape as shown on the right panel.



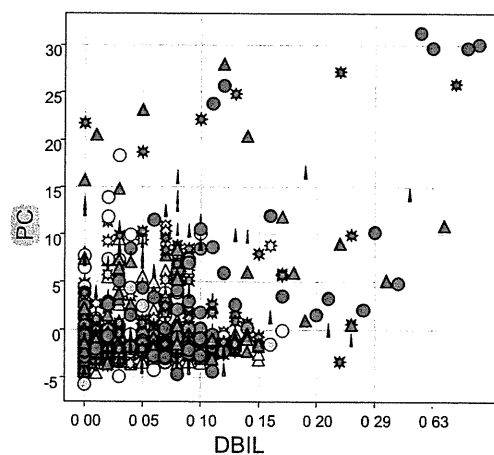
**Figure 5** Plasma total bilirubin (TBIL) and direct bilirubin (DBIL) concentrations for rats treated with 18 test-drugs. Plasma TBIL and DBIL concentrations were estimated as shown in Figure 1. Open (control), dotted (low dose), checked (middle dose), and filled (high dose) columns represent plasma TBIL and DBIL concentrations (mg/dL). Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of five rats for each time and compound. Significant difference from the control rats: (\* $P$  < 0.05, \*\* $P$  < 0.01; Dunnett test, #  $P$  < 0.05, ##  $P$  < 0.01; Dunnett type mean rank test).



**Figure 6** Principal component analysis of gene expression profiles of 18 more drugs which have been reported to elevate total and direct bilirubin, in addition to the seven typical drugs using the commonly mobilized 59 probe sets. Of the 25 compounds, the seven typical compounds used in Figures 3 and 4, are shown on the left panel. Results are expressed as a one dimensional figure with PC1 (contribution rate: 35.9 %). For each drug, each individual rat is depicted by a symbol with a different color and shape, as shown on the right panel.

CPA is reported to induce cholestasis,<sup>43</sup> but showed a low PC1 value in the current study. Stone, *et al.*<sup>44</sup> observed that plasma bile salt concentration was increased in rats after administration of 10 mg/kg of CPA. They suggested that CPA inhibits the uptake of bile acids from the portal blood into hepatocytes. Moreover, there was no change in liver histology in cholestasis caused by CPA,<sup>45</sup> suggesting that the cytotoxicity of intracellular bile acids induced by CPA is not very severe, and it might be the reason why this drug was not separated by PCA in the current study.

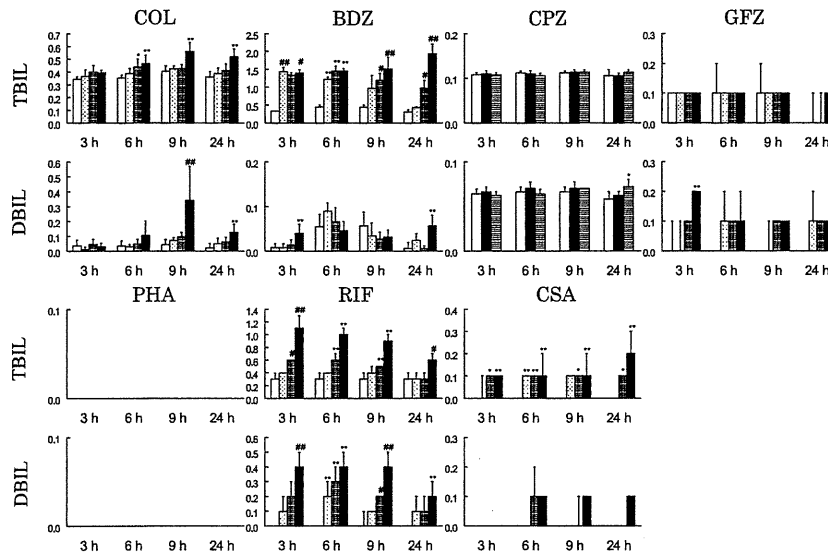
Based on the successful classification of the drugs by PCA using the extracted 59 probe sets, it is expected that the expression changes of these genes are directly or indirectly related to the pathogenesis of cholestasis. From experimental models of cholestasis, several mechanisms have been postulated to account for impaired bile secretion. They are 1) inhibition of Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase; 2) increased paracellular permeability and regurgitation into plasma of bile constituents; 3) impaired function of the cytoskeleton, mainly microfilaments; 4) alteration of intracellular calcium homeostasis; e) alteration or mislocation of canalicular carriers; 5) ductular obstruction.<sup>46-48</sup> Reviewing the 59 probe sets, however, we could not identify genes related to the mechanisms listed above. It could be pointed out that it contains considerable numbers of 1) components regulating lipid metabolism, 2) transporters, 3) ubiquitin-proteasome



**Figure 7** Correlation between the PC1 value, total bilirubin (TBIL), and direct bilirubin (DBIL). Results are expressed as a graph with TBIL or DBIL on the y-axis and PC1 value on the x. Each individual rat is depicted by a symbol with a different color and shape, as shown on the right panel. Note that the PC1 value shows a high correlation with the TBIL and DBIL with a few exceptions.

related factors, and 4) mitochondrial components (Table 2).

The discovery that lithocholic acid (LCA) is an endogenous ligand for pregnane X receptor (PXR) suggests that bile acids may also regulate drug metabolism in the liver and intestine by the induction of CYP450 enzymes.<sup>49,50</sup> PXR and its human ortholog steroid and xenobiotic receptor induce the CYP3A, CYP2B, and CYP2C families of steroid- and drug-metabolizing enzymes in the liver and intestine.<sup>51</sup> LCA is the most efficacious bile acid that activates PXR and induces CYP3A4 to catalyze 6-hydroxylation of LCA to hyodeoxycholic acid.<sup>49,50</sup> Lipid metabolic process related genes and CYP2B were generally down-regulated by administration of



**Figure 8** Plasma total bilirubin (TBIL) and direct bilirubin (DBIL) concentrations for rats after a single dose treatment with gemfibrozil (GFZ), phalloidin (PHA), colchicine (COL), bendazac (BDZ), rifampicin (RIF), cyclosporine A (CSA), and chlorpromazine (CPZ). Plasma TBIL and DBIL concentrations were estimated as shown in Figure 1. Open (control), dotted (low dose), checked (middle dose), filled (high dose), and horizontal-striped (extra-high dose) columns represent the plasma TBIL and DBIL concentrations (mg/dL). Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of five rats each for each time and compound. Significant difference from the control rats: (\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ : Dunnett test, # $P < 0.05$ , ## $P < 0.01$ : Dunnett type mean rank test). Note that no pathologically meaningful elevation of TBIL and DBIL occurred yet, except for COL, BDZ, and RIF.

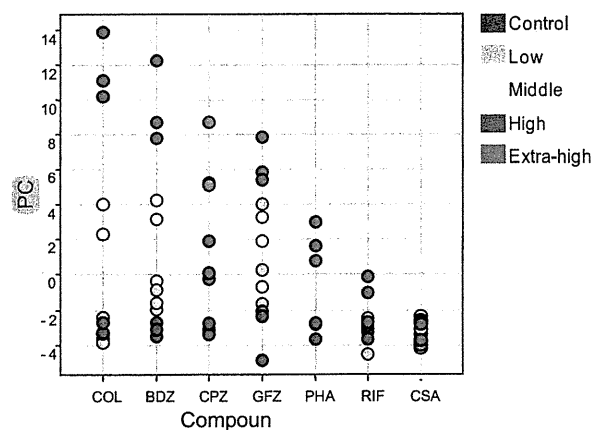
the positive drugs in this study. This might be a feedback response to elevated bilirubin.

Hepatic uptake and efflux processes involved in bile formation are maintained by distinct transport systems (sodium-dependent and sodium-independent transport pathways and ATP-dependent efflux

pumps) expressed at the two polar surface domains of liver cells.<sup>47</sup> In the current study, some transporters, Aqp9, and Slc families, were mobilized by administration of the drugs causing cholestasis. This might be also a feedback response to elevated bilirubin.

At present, we cannot propose a close link between cholestasis and ubiquitin-proteasome or mitochondrial function. For the former, it was reported that ubiquitination of cytoke- ratin was involved in cholestasis produced by bile-duct ligation.<sup>52</sup> As for the mitochondrial function, it was described that cholestasis practically disturbed mitochondrial bioenergetics,<sup>53</sup> and bile acids were involved in the process of cell death through mitochondrial function.<sup>54</sup> Investigation of these factors in cholestasis would bring a new insight in the understanding of its pathogenesis. For this purpose, the gene list in the current study would supply important information.

In conclusion, we identified 59 probe sets from gene expression profiles in rat liver treated with various bilirubin-elevating compounds stored in our database. PCA using these 59 probe sets would be useful for GeneChip users to predict the risk of cholestasis in the preclinical stage of drug development. At present, it would be difficult to make an appropriate prediction by measuring these genes by another platform, such as quantitative PCR, since the procedure is



**Figure 9** Principal component analysis of gene expression profiles of the samples of 24 h after single dosage using 59 probe sets. Results are expressed as a one dimensional figure with PC1 (contribution rate: 33.9 %). Each individual rat is depicted by a symbol with a different color and shape as shown on the right panel. Note that the higher dose (magenta) showed even higher PC1 values.



dependent on the device. However, it would be possible that these probe sets contain a biomarker(s) useful even in a clinical field. Further work is obviously necessary to improve and generalize the candidate for a marker suggested in this study.

## Acknowledgment

This work was supported in part by the grants from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (H14-Toxico-001 and H19-Toxico-001).

## References

- Urushidani, T. Prediction of hepatotoxicity based on the toxicogenomics database. In: Sahu, SC, (ed), Hepatotoxicity: from Genomics to in vitro and in vivo Models. John Wiley & Sons; 2008. p. 507–529.
- Hirode, M, Ono, A, Miyagishima, T, Nagao, T, Ohno, Y, Urushidani, T. Gene expression profiling in rat liver treated with compounds inducing phospholipidosis. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol* 2008; **229**: 290–299.
- Uehara, T, Hirode, M, Ono, A, Kiyosawa, N, Omura, K, Shimizu, T, et al. A toxicogenomics approach for early assessment of potential non-genotoxic hepatocarcinogenicity of chemicals in rats. *Toxicology* 2008; **250**: 15–26.
- Kiyosawa, N, Uehara, T, Gao, W, Omura, K, Hirode, M, Shimizu, T, et al. Identification of glutathione depletion-responsive genes using phorone-treated rat liver. *J Toxicol Sci* 2007; **32**: 469–486.
- Omura, K, Kiyosawa, N, Uehara, T, Hirode, M, Shimizu, T, Miyagishima, T, et al. Gene expression profiling of rat liver treated with serum triglyceride-decreasing compounds. *J Toxicol. Sci.* 2007; **32**: 387–399.
- Takashima, K, Mizukawa, Y, Morishita, K, Okuyama, M, Kasahara, T, Toritsuka, N, et al. Effect of the difference in vehicles on gene expression in the rat liver—analysis of the control data in the Toxicogenomics Project Database. *Life Sci* 2006; **78**: 2787–2896.
- Dennis Jr, G, Sherman, BT, Hosack, DA, Yang, J, Gao, W, Lane, HC, et al. DAVID: Database for annotation, visualization, and integrated discovery. *Genome Biol* 2003; **4**: 3.
- Adachi, Y, Nanno, T, Yamashita, M, Ueshima, S, Yamamoto, T. Induction of rat liver bilirubin-conjugating enzymes and glutathione S-transferase by rifampicin. *Gastroenterol Jpn* 1985; **20**: 104–110.
- Knodell, RG. Effects of chlorpromazine on bilirubin metabolism and biliary secretion in the rat. *Gastroenterology* 1975; **69**: 965–972.
- Mullock, BM, Hall, DE, Shaw, LJ, Hinton, RH. Immune responses to chlorpromazine in rats. Detection and relation to hepatotoxicity. *Biochem Pharmacol* 1983; **32**: 2733–2738.
- Obata, T. Intrahepatic cholestasis and hyperbilirubinaemia in ethynyl estradiol and chlorpromazine-treated rats. *Gastroenterol Jpn* 1983; **18**: 538–548.
- Ros, E, Small, DM, Carey, MC. Effects of chlorpromazine hydrochloride on bile salt synthesis, bile formation and biliary lipid secretion in the rhesus monkey: a model for chlorpromazine-induced cholestasis. *Eur J Clin Invest* 1979; **9**: 29–41.
- Jacobs, WH. Intrahepatic cholestasis following the use of Atromid-S. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1976; **66**: 69–71.
- Barnwell, SG, Lowe, PJ, Coleman, R. The effects of colchicine on secretion into bile of bile salts, phospholipids, cholesterol and plasma membrane enzymes: bile salts are secreted unaccompanied by phospholipids and cholesterol. *Biochem J* 1984; **220**: 723–731.
- Gregory, DH, Vlahcevic, ZR, Prugh, MF, Swell, L. Mechanism of secretion of biliary lipids: role of a microtubular system in hepatocellular transport of biliary lipids in the rat. *Gastroenterology* 1978; **74**: 93–100.
- Lowe, PJ, Barnwell, SG, Coleman, R. Rapid kinetic analysis of the bile-salt-dependent secretion of phospholipid, cholesterol and a plasma-membrane enzyme into bile. *Biochem J* 1984; **222**: 631–637.
- Prieto de Paula, JM, Rodríguez Rodríguez, E, Villamandos Nicás, V, Sanz de la Fuente, H, Prada Mínguez, A, del Portillo Rubí, A. Bendazac hepatotoxicity: analysis of 16 cases. *Rev Clin Esp* 1995; **195**: 387–389.
- Bramow, S, Ott, P, Thomsen Nielsen, F, Bangert, K, Tygstrup, N, Dalhoff, K. Cholestasis and regulation of genes related to drug metabolism and biliary transport in rat liver following treatment with cyclosporine A and sirolimus (Rapamycin). *Pharmacol Toxicol* 2001; **89**: 133–139.
- Galan, AI, Zapata, AJ, Roman, ID, Muñoz, ME, Muriel, C, Gonzalez, J, et al. Impairment of maximal bilirubin secretion by cyclosporin A in the rat. *Arch Int Physiol Biochim Biophys* 1991; **99**: 373–376.
- Galán, AI, Fernández, E, Morán, D, Muñoz, ME, Jiménez, R. Cyclosporine A hepatotoxicity: effect of prolonged treatment with cyclosporine on biliary lipid secretion in the rat. *Clin Exp Pharmacol Physiol* 1995; **22**: 260–265.
- Ishizaki, K, Kinbara, S, Miyazawa, N, Takeuchi, Y, Hirabayashi, N, Kasai, H, et al. The biochemical studies on phalloidin-induced cholestasis in rats. *Toxicol Lett* 1997; **90**: 29–34.
- Steinmetz, KL, Tyson, CK, Meierhenry, EF, Spalding, JW, Mirsalis, JC. Examination of genotoxicity, toxicity and morphologic alterations in hepatocytes following in vivo or in vitro exposure to methapyrilene. *Carcinogenesis* 1988; **9**: 959–963.
- Martin-Sanz, P, Cascales, C, Gómez, A, Brindley, DN, Cascales, M. Effect of a rhodium complex on alterations of hepatic function in thioacetamide-induced hyperplastic noduligenesis in rats. *Carcinogenesis* 1987; **8**: 1685–1690.
- Accanito, L, Figuerora, C, Pirazzo, M, Solis, N. Enhanced biliary excretion of canalicular membrane enzymes in estradiol-induced and obstructive cholestasis, and effects of different bile acids in the isolated perfused rat liver. *J Hepatol* 1995; **22**: 658–670.
- Accanito, L, Pirazzo, M, Solis, N, Koenig, CS, Vollrath, V, Chianale, J. Modulation of hepatic content and biliary excretion of P-glycoproteins in hepatocellular and obstructive cholestasis in the rat. *J Hepatol* 1996; **25**: 349–361.

- 26 Frezza, M, Tritapepe, R, Pozzato, G, Di Padova, C. Prevention of S-adenosylmethionine of estrogen-induced hepatobiliary toxicity in susceptible women. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1988; **83**: 1098–1102.
- 27 Sánchez Pozzi, EJ, Crozenci, FA, Pellegrino, JM, Catania, VA, Luquita, MG, Roma, MG, et al. Ursodeoxycholate reduces ethinylestradiol glucuronidation in the rat: role of prevention in estrogen-induced cholestasis. *J Pharmacol Exp Ther* 2003; **306**: 279–286.
- 28 Simon, FR, Fortune, J, Iwahashi, M, Gartung, C, Wolkoff, A, Sutherland, E. Ethinyl estradiol cholestasis involves alterations in expression of liver sinusoidal transporters. *Am J Physiol* 1996; **271**: G1043–G1052.
- 29 Leonard, TB, Popp, JA, Graichen, ME, Dent, JG. alpha-Naphthylisothiocyanate induced alterations in hepatic drug metabolizing enzymes and liver morphology: implications concerning anticarcinogenesis. *Carcinogenesis* 1981; **2**: 473–482.
- 30 Barzilai, D, Dickstein, G, Enat, R, Bassan, H, Lichtig, C, Gellei, B. Cholestatic jaundice caused by D-penicillamine. *Ann Rheum Dis* 1978; **37**: 98–100.
- 31 McLeod, BD, Kinsella, TD. Cholestasis associated with d-penicillamine therapy for rheumatoid arthritis. *Can Med Assoc J* 1979; **120**: 965–966.
- 32 Wegmann, C, Münzenmaier, R, Dormann, AJ, Huchzermeyer, H. Ticlopidine-induced acute cholestatic hepatitis. *Dtsch Med Wochenschr* 1998; **123**: 146–150.
- 33 Cappell, MS, Kozicky, O, Competiello, LS. Indomethacin associated cholestasis. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 1988; **10**: 445–447.
- 34 Martinez, G, Boiardi, L, Butturini, L, Bernardi, S, Gelmini, G. Hepatic alterations in indomethacin-treated rabbits. *Clin Rheumatol* 1988; **7**: 24–27.
- 35 Borhan-Manesh, F, Farnum, JB. Methyltestosterone-induced cholestasis. The importance of disproportionately low serum alkaline phosphatase level. *Arch Intern Med* 1989; **149**: 2127–2129.
- 36 Tennant, BC, Balazs, T, Baldwin, BH, Hornbuckle, WE, Castleman, WL, Boelsterli, U, et al. Assessment of hepatic function in rabbits with steroid-induced cholestatic liver injury. *Fundam Appl Toxicol* 1981; **1**: 329–333.
- 37 Westaby, D, Ogle, SJ, Paradinas, FJ, Randell, JB, Murray-Lyon, IM. Liver damage from long-term methyltestosterone. *Lancet* 1977; **2**: 262–263.
- 38 Sell, S. Comparison of liver progenitor cells in human atypical ductular reactions with those seen in experimental models of liver injury. *Hepatology* 1998; **27**: 317–331.
- 39 López-Morante, AJ, Sáez-Royuela, F, Díez-Sánchez, V, Martín-Lorente, JL, Yuguero, L, Ojeda, C. Aspirin-induced cholestatic hepatitis. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 1993; **16**: 270–272.
- 40 Nelson, SD, Mitchell, JR, Snodgrass, WR, Timbrell, JA. Hepatotoxicity and metabolism of iproniazid and isopropylhydrazine. *J Pharmacol Exp Ther* 1978; **206**: 574–585.
- 41 Rosenblum, LE, Korn, RJ, Zimmerman, HJ. Hepatocellular jaundice as a complication of iproniazid therapy. *Arch Intern Med* 1960; **105**: 583–593.
- 42 Tasduq, SA, Kaiser, P, Sharma, SC, Johri, RK. Potentiation of isoniazid-induced liver toxicity by rifampicin in a combinational therapy of antitubercular drugs (rifampicin, isoniazid and pyrazinamide) in Wistar rats: a toxicity profile study. *Hepatol Res* 2007; **37**: 845–853.
- 43 Senthilkumar, S, Devaki, T, Manohar, BM, Babu, MS. Effect of squalene on cyclophosphamide-induced toxicity. *Clin Chim Acta* 2006; **364**: 335–342.
- 44 Stone, BG, Udani, M, Sanghvi, A, Warty, V, Plocki, K, Bedetti, CD, et al. Cyclosporin A-induced cholestasis. The mechanism in a rat model. *Gastroenterology* 1987; **93**: 344–351.
- 45 Kukongviriyapan, V, Stacey, NH. Chemical-induced interference with hepatocellular transport. Role in cholestasis. *Chem-Biol Interact* 1991; **77**: 245–261.
- 46 Arrese, M, Ananthanarayanan, M. The bile salt export pump: molecular properties, function and regulation. *Pflügers Arch* 2004; **449**: 123–131.
- 47 Pauli-Magnus, C, Meier, PJ. Hepatobiliary transporters and drug-induced cholestasis. *Hepatology* 2006; **44**: 778–787.
- 48 Roma, MG, Crocenzi, FA, Sánchez Pozzi, EA. Hepatocellular transport in acquired cholestasis: new insights into functional, regulatory and therapeutic aspects. *Clin Sci (Lond)* 2008; **114**: 567–588.
- 49 Staudinger, JL, Goodwin, B, Jones, SA, Hawkins-Brown, D, MacKenzie, KI, LaTour, A, et al. The nuclear receptor PXR is a lithocholic acid sensor that protects against liver toxicity. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2001; **98**: 3369–3374.
- 50 Xie, W, Radomska-Pandya, A, Shi, Y, Simon, CM, Nelson, MC, Ong, ES, et al. An essential role for nuclear receptors SXR/PXR in detoxification of cholestatic bile acids. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2001; **98**: 3375–3380.
- 51 Kliewer, SA, Goodwin, B, Willson, TM. The nuclear pregnane X receptor: a key regulator of xenobiotic metabolism. *Endocr Rev* 2002; **23**: 687–702.
- 52 Fickert, P, Trauner, M, Fuchsichler, A, Stumptner, C, Zatloukal, K, Denk, H. Bile acid-induced Mallory body formation in drug-primed mouse liver. *Am J Pathol* 2002; **161**: 2019–2026.
- 53 Rolo, AP, Oliveira, PJ, Moreno, AJ, Palmeira, CM. Bile acids affect liver mitochondrial bioenergetics: possible relevance for cholestasis therapy. *Toxicol. Sci.* 2000; **57**: 177–185.
- 54 Rolo, AP, Palmeira, CM, Holy, JM, Wallace, KB. Role of mitochondrial dysfunction in combined bile acid-induced cytotoxicity: the switch between apoptosis and necrosis. *Toxicol Sci* 2004; **79**: 196–204.

---

**AUTHOR QUERIES****Art. ID = het-09104528**

Please note your article has been edited for journal house style and lightly edited for clarity and grammar.

Q1	Please amend or approve the suggested short title.
Q2	Please provide expansion for "PCI".
Q3	Please provide manufacturer's city, state (If US) and country.
Q4	Please provide manufacturer's city, state (If US) and country.
Q5	Please provide expansion for "RLT".
Q6	Please provide manufacturer's city, state (If US) and country.

Original Article

## Gene expression profiling in rat liver treated with various hepatotoxic-compounds inducing coagulopathy

Mitsuhiro Hirode<sup>1</sup>, Ko Omura<sup>1</sup>, Naoki Kiyosawa<sup>1</sup>, Takeki Uehara<sup>1</sup>, Toshinobu Shimuzu<sup>1</sup>,  
Atsushi Ono<sup>1,2</sup>, Toshikazu Miyagishima<sup>1</sup>, Taku Nagao<sup>3</sup>, Yasuo Ohno<sup>1,2</sup>  
and Tetsuro Urushidani<sup>1,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Toxicogenomics Project, National Institute of Biomedical Innovation, 7-6-8 Saito-Asagi, Ibaraki, Osaka 567-0085, Japan

<sup>2</sup>National Institute of Health Sciences, 1-18-1 Kamiyoga, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 158-8501, Japan

<sup>3</sup>Food Safety Commission of Japan, 2-13-10 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8989, Japan

<sup>4</sup>Department of Pathophysiology, Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts, Kodo, Kyotanabe, Kyoto 610-0395, Japan

(Received February 10, 2009; Accepted March 3, 2009)

**ABSTRACT** — A large-scale transcriptome database of rat liver (TG-GATEs) has been established by the Toxicogenomics Project in Japan. In the present study, we focused on 8 hepatotoxic compounds within TG-GATEs, i.e., clofibrate, omeprazole, ethionine, thioacetamide, benzbromarone, propylthiouracil, Wy-14,643 and amiodarone, which induced coagulation abnormalities. Aspirin was selected as a reference compound that directly causes coagulation abnormality, but not through liver toxicity. In blood chemical examinations, for all the coagulopathic compounds there was little elevation of aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and/or alanine aminotransferase (ALT), suggesting no severe cell death by treatment with the compounds. We extracted 344 probe sets from the data for these 8 typical drugs, which induced this phenotype at any time from 3 to 28 days of repeated administration. Principal component analysis using these probe sets clearly separated dose- and time-dependent clusters of the treated groups from their controls, except aspirin and propylthiouracil, both of which were considered to cause coagulopathy not due to their hepatotoxicity but due to their direct effects on the blood coagulation system. Reviewing the extracted genes, changes in lipid metabolism were found to be dominant. Genes related to blood coagulation were generally down-regulated by these drugs except that vitamin K epoxide reductase complex subunit 1 (*Vkorc1*) like 1, a paralogous gene of *Vkorc1*, was up-regulated. As expected, expression changes of these genes were least prominent in aspirin or propylthiouracil-treated liver. We concluded that these probe sets could be a good starting point in developing mechanism-based biomarkers for diagnosis or prognosis of hepatotoxicity-related coagulation abnormalities in the early stage of drug development.

**Key words:** Coagulopathy, Toxicogenomics, Rat, Liver

### INTRODUCTION

In toxicological examinations, abnormality in blood coagulation is often associated with hepatotoxicity, since most factors related to the coagulation system are synthesized by the liver. Although the best tests for hepatocellular damage so far are measurement of serum enzymes such as aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase, lactate dehydrogenase, and  $\gamma$ -glutamyl transpeptidase (Fujii, 1997; Ozer *et al.*, 2008), liver insufficiency can be also

approached through the measurement of serum fibrinogen and coagulation tests (Kerr *et al.*, 2003). If drug-induced coagulopathy is linked to hepatotoxicity by a mechanism-based interpretation, diagnosis or prognosis of liver damage during drug development would be greatly improved.

The Toxicogenomics Project is a 5-year collaborative project by the National Institute of Biomedical Innovation (NIBIO), the National Institute of Health Science (NIHS) and 15 pharmaceutical companies in Japan that started in 2002 (Urushidani, 2008). Its aim was to construct a large-scale toxicology database of transcriptomes for prediction

Correspondence: Tetsuro Urushidani (E-mail: turushid@dwc.doshisha.ac.jp)

of toxicity of new chemical entities in the early stage of drug development. In 2007, the project finished and the whole system, consisting of the database, the analyzing system and the prediction system, was completed and named as TG-GATEs (Genomics Assisted Toxicity Evaluation System developed by the Toxicogenomics Project, Japan). One mission of our project is to identify candidate biomarker genes to diagnose and/or predict certain toxicological phenotypes. Recently we identified a candidate biomarker for diagnosis of hepatic phospholipidosis (Hirode *et al.*, 2008), serum bilirubin-elevation (Hirode *et al.*, 2009), non-genotoxic hepatocarcinogenicity (Uehara *et al.*, 2008), glutathione depletion-responsive (Kiyosawa *et al.*, 2007), and serum triglyceride-decreasing (Omura *et al.*, 2007) using our database.

In order to investigate gene expression profiles reflecting the relationship between hepatotoxicity and coagulopathy, we picked nine hepatotoxic compounds from our database, i.e., aspirin (ASA), clofibrate (CFB), omeprazole (OPZ), ethionine (ET), thioacetamide (TAA), benzbromarone (BBR), propylthiouracil (PTU), Wy-14643 (WY), and amiodarone (AM), which induced coagulation abnormalities, such as increase in prothrombin time, increase in activated partial thromboplastin time, or decrease in serum fibrinogen concentration. When the commonly mobilized genes were extracted, ASA was excluded, since ASA is known to directly affect blood coagulation and platelet activation (Yip, 2004), but this is not due to an indirect effect via liver damage.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Compounds

Of the compounds stored in our database, nine compounds were selected and used for the data analysis as listed in Table 1, in which the chemical name, abbrevi-

ation, dosage, administration route and vehicle used are summarized. In order to assure uniformity of the database, the highest dose was routinely determined as the maximally tolerated dose, chosen based on data derived from preliminary toxicity studies of 7 days duration. Subsequently, the middle and low doses were set as 1/3 and 1/10 of the highest, respectively.

### Animal treatment

The experiments were carried out as previously described in the literature (Takashima *et al.*, 2006). Male Crl:CD(SD) rats were purchased from Charles River Japan Inc., (Kanagawa, Japan) at 5 weeks of age. After a 7-day quarantine and acclimatization period, the animals were divided into groups of 5 animals using a computerized stratified random grouping method based on body weight for each age. The animals were individually housed in stainless-steel cages in a room that had lighting for 12 hr (7:00-19:00) daily, ventilated with an air-exchange rate of 15 times per hour and maintained at 21-25°C with a relative humidity of 40-70%. Each animal was allowed free access to water and pellet food (CRF-1, sterilized by radiation, Oriental Yeast Co., Tokyo, Japan). Rats in each group were dosed orally with various drugs suspended or dissolved in either 0.5% methylcellulose solution or corn oil according to their dispersibility. The animals were treated for 3, 7, 14 or 28 days and were sacrificed 24 hr after the last dose. Under ether anesthesia, blood samples were collected upon sacrifice in tubes containing heparin lithium (for blood biochemistry), EDTA-2K (for hematology; Advia 120, Bayer, Ramsey, MN, USA), or 1/9 vol of 3.8% citric acid (for coagulation). Prothrombin time, active partial prothrombin time, and fibrinogen were measured by an automated coagulation analyzer (Sysmex CA-5000, Sysmex, Hyogo, Japan). A routine blood biochemical analysis was performed by an

**Table 1.** List of compounds used in the present study

Compound name	Abbreviation	Dose (Dose level, mg/kg)			Vehicle
		Low	Middle	High	
Clofibrate	CFB	30	100	300	MC
Omeprazole	OPZ	100	300	1,000	MC
Ethionine	ET	25	80	250	MC
thioacetamide	TAA	4.5	15	45	MC
benzbromarone	BBR	20	60	200	MC
propylthiouracil	PTU	10	30	100	MC
Wy-14,643	WY	10	30	100	CO
Amiodarone	AM	20	60	200	MC
Aspirin	ASA	45	150	450	MC

MC: 0.5 w/v% methylcellulose; CO: corn oil

## Gene expression profiling in rat liver inducing coagulopathy

autoanalyzer (Hitachi 7080, Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan). The liver samples were obtained from each animal immediately after sacrifice. The experimental protocols were reviewed and approved by the Ethics Review Committee for Animal Experimentation of the National Institute of Health Sciences.

### Microarray gene expression analysis

After collecting blood samples, the animals were euthanized by exsanguination from the abdominal aorta under ether anesthesia. An aliquot of the sample (about 30 mg) for RNA analysis was obtained from the left lateral lobe of the liver in each animal immediately after sacrifice, kept in RNAlater® (Ambion, Austin, TX, USA) overnight at 4°C, and frozen at -80°C until use. Liver samples were homogenized with the buffer RLT supplied in the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA, USA) and total RNA was isolated according to the manufacturer's instructions. Microarray analysis was conducted on 3 out of 5 samples, selected based on their body weight excluding the highest and the lowest, for each group by using the GeneChip® Rat Genome 230 2.0 Arrays (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA, USA), containing 31042 probe sets. The procedure was conducted basically according to the manufacturer's instructions using the Superscript Choice System (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) using T7-(dT)24-oligonucleotide primer (Affymetrix) for cDNA synthesis, cDNA Cleanup Module (Affymetrix) for purification and BioArray High yield RNA Transcript Labeling Kit (Enzo Diagnostics, Farmingdale, NY, USA) for synthesis of biotin-labeled cRNA. Ten micrograms of fragmented cRNA were hybridized to a Rat Genome 230 2.0 Array for 18 hr at 45°C at 60 rpm, after which the array was washed and stained by streptavidin-phycoerythrin using a Fluidics Station 400 (Affymetrix) and then scanned by a Gene Array Scanner (Affymetrix). The digital image files were processed by Affymetrix Microarray Suite version 5.0 and intensities were normalized for each chip by setting the mean intensity to 500 (per chip normalization).

### Microarray data analysis

In order to extract probe sets related to hepatotoxicity-related coagulopathy, we first picked 9 compounds, i.e., ASA, CFB, OPZ, ET, TAA, BBr, PTU, WY and AM, for which coagulopathy (increased prothrombin time, activated partial thromboplastin time, or decreased serum fibrinogen concentration) was confirmed. We then excluded ASA from the analysis since ASA has been reported to directly affect blood coagulation and platelet activation (Yip, 2004), but this is not due to an indirect effect via liver damage. Although the time required for coagu-

lopathy varied among the compounds, data in all the time points, i.e., 3, 7, 14 and 28 days of repeated administration, were used in order to not overlook any changes of gene expression preceding the occurrence of coagulation abnormality.

After removing the probe sets with Affymetrix absent call in all the 48 samples for each drug (N = 3 for 4 time points and 4 dose levels for one drug), genes differentially expressed by the treatment were extracted by one-way ANOVA ( $p < 0.05$ ) for the dose level at one time point. This procedure was continued for all time points and the genes showing significant change at any point were combined as coagulopathy-responsive genes. In the next step, commonly mobilized genes among the above mentioned 8 chemicals were selected. Finally, probe sets without unique Entrez Gene ID were removed from the analysis and we selected only matching probes (Grade A by NetAffx). Like these compounds, gene extraction was performed on the samples treated with ASA.

The individual expression value (global mean) was converted to a ratio by the mean of the corresponding control value, and all the values with different doses and time points of the test compounds were gathered and normalized by converting them to z-scores for each gene (pergene normalization). Principal component analysis (PCA) was performed using Spotfire Decision Site (Spotfire, Somerville, MA, USA).

### Pathway and Gene Ontology (GO) analysis

The identified probe sets were subjected to GO analysis by DAVID (Database for Annotation, Visualization, and Integrated Discovery; <http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov/>) using Fisher's exact test (Dennis *et al.*, 2003).

### Statistical analysis

The results of blood chemical and hematological examinations were expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D.. They were analyzed by the Bartlett test that evaluates the homogeneity of variance. If the variances were homogeneous, ANOVA was applied. If the variances were heterogeneous, Kruskal-Wallis test was performed. When ANOVA resulted in a statistical difference between the groups, Dunnett test was applied. When Kruskal-Wallis test resulted in statistically different groups, Dunnett type mean rank test was performed.

## RESULTS

### Hematological and blood biochemical examinations

A summary of the hematological and blood biochem-

ical examinations is shown in Table 2. A slight increase of serum alkaline phosphatase and/or lactate dehydrogenase concentration was observed in ET, TAA, BBr, WY and AM, whereas no increase of serum AST, ALT and/or  $\gamma$ -glutamyl transpeptidase was observed in any of these compounds. PT was significantly increased by the ET, TAA, BBr, PTU, WY, AM and ASA treatments (Fig. 1). Activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) was significantly increased by the CFB, OPZ, ET, BBr and AM

treatments (Fig. 2). The fibrinogen concentration was significantly decreased by the CFB, OPZ, ET, TAA, PTU, WY and AM treatments (Fig. 3). In summary, coagulation abnormalities were induced by all the compounds including ASA, whereas a toxicologically significant increase of serum marker enzymes was not always associated.

### Identification of genes related to coagulopathy

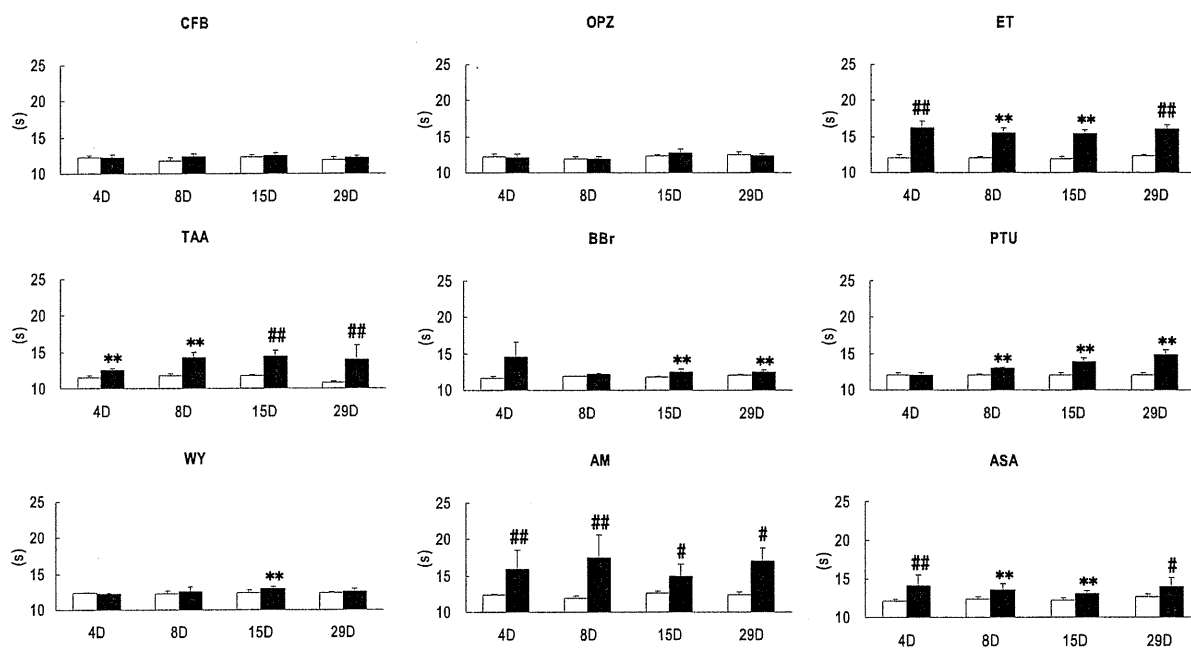
Differentially expressed genes with statistical sig-

**Table 2.** Summary of clinical examinations

Compound	PT	APTT	FBG	AST	ALT	ALP	LDH	GTP
CFB	-	↑	↓	-	-	-	-	-
OPZ	-	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	-	-
ET	↑	↑	↓	-	-	↑	-	-
TAA	↑	-	↓	↑*	↑*	-	↑	-
BBr	↑	↑	-	-	-	-	↑	-
PTU	↑	-	↓	-	-	-	-	-
WY	↑	-	↓	-	-	↑	-	-
AM	↑	↑	↓	-	-	↑	-	-
ASA	↑	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*: only Day 4

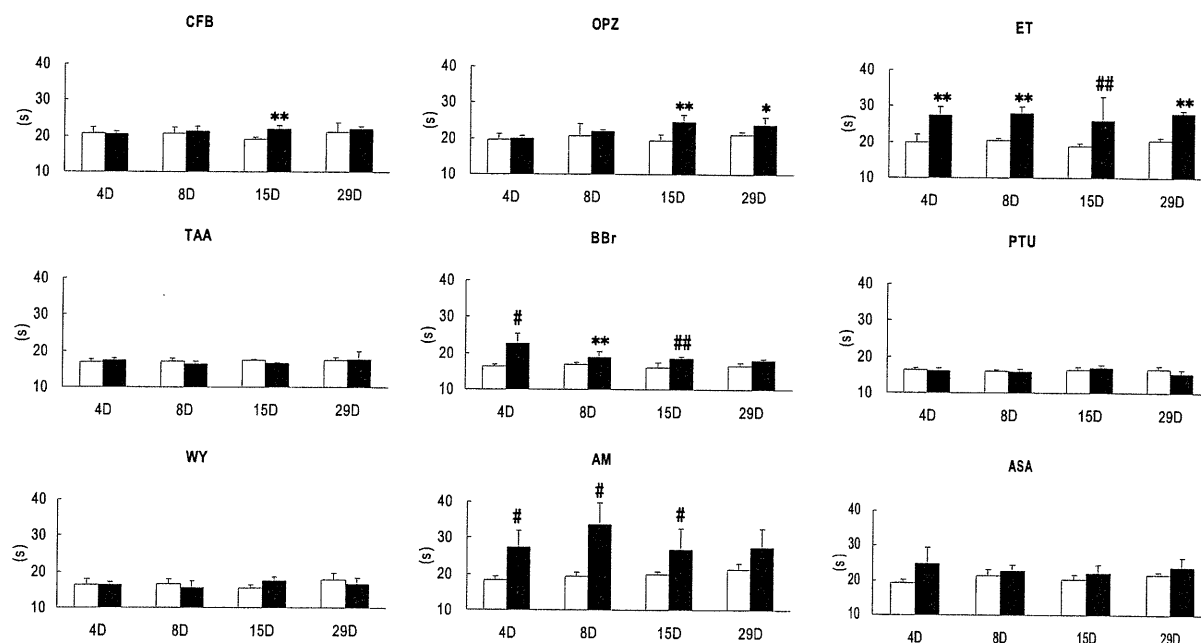
↑: increased, ↓: decreased, -: not remarkable



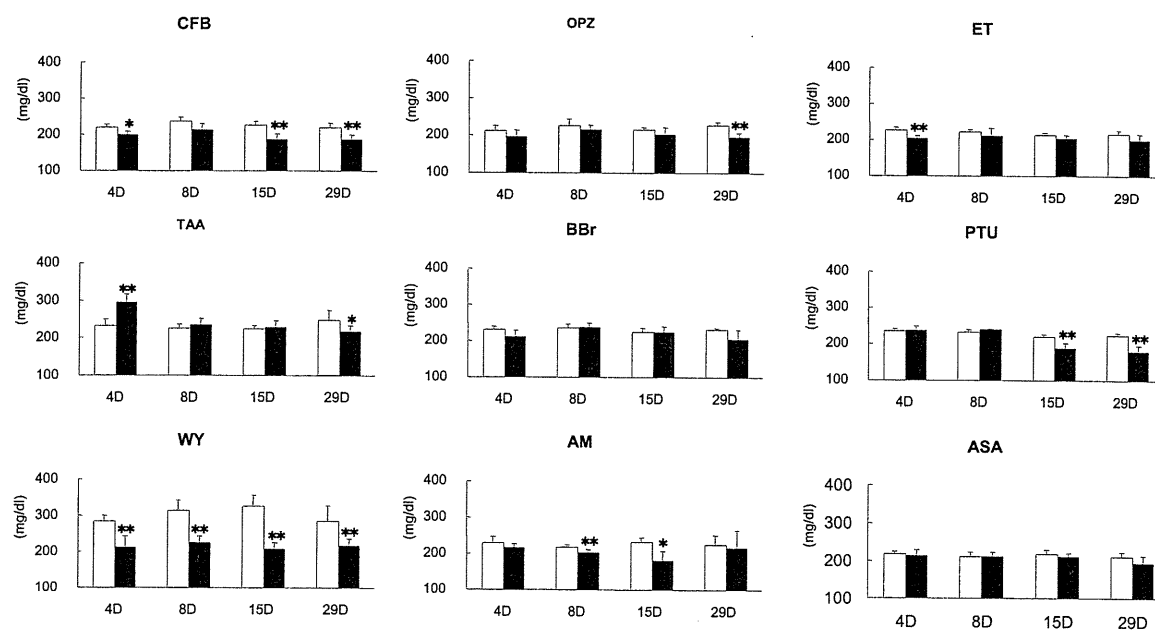
**Fig. 1.** Effect of hepatotoxic compounds on prothrombin time (PT).

For simplicity, the data of the highest dose are presented for each compound. Open (control) and filled (high dose) columns represent PT, which are expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D. of 5 rats each for each time and compound. Significant difference from control rat: (\* $p$  < 0.05, \*\* $p$  < 0.01: Dunnett test, # $p$  < 0.05, ## $p$  < 0.01: Dunnett type mean rank test).

## Gene expression profiling in rat liver inducing coagulopathy



**Fig. 2.** Effect of hepatotoxic compounds on APTT. For simplicity, the data of the highest dose are presented for each compound. Open (control) and filled (high dose) columns represent APTT, which are expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D. of 5 rats each for each time and compound. Significant difference from control rat: (\* $p$  < 0.05, \*\* $p$  < 0.01: Dunnett test, # $p$  < 0.05, ## $p$  < 0.01: Dunnett type mean rank test).



**Fig. 3.** Effect of hepatotoxic compounds in serum fibrinogen (FBG) concentration. For simplicity, the data of the highest dose are presented for each compound. Open (control) and filled (high dose) columns represent FBG, which are expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D. of 5 rats each for each time and compound. Significant difference from control rat: (\* $p$  < 0.05, \*\* $p$  < 0.01: Dunnett test, # $p$  < 0.05, ## $p$  < 0.01: Dunnett type mean rank test).



nificance were extracted from each of the 8 compounds inducing coagulopathy as well as from ASA, as described in the Methods section. The numbers of extracted probe sets were 7,742 for CFB, 7,742 for OPZ, 10,305 for ET, 12,845 for TAA, 9,000 for BBr, 7,922 for PTU, 11,115 for WY, 7,738 for AM and 6,278 for ASA. We then selected the probe sets that were commonly changed in the 8 compounds excluding ASA, those without unique Entrez Gene ID were removed from the analysis, those with matching probes (Grade A by NetAffx) were selected, and finally 344 probe sets were obtained (see Supplemental Data). As shown in Table 3, GO analysis of these revealed that some metabolic processes were mainly changed. Genes related to blood coagulation was found to be changed by these chemicals, although their contribution was relatively low and statistically insignificant.

To check the expression profile of genes related to blood coagulation, we selected 30 such probe sets by keywords from the ones equipped in GeneChip irrespective of their statistically significant changes. Fig. 4 shows the expression changes of these probe sets at high dose of repeated administration as a heat map of the average of log<sub>2</sub> ratios. The mRNA levels of several genes involved in coagulation cascades, such as coagulation factors (FII, III, V, VIII, X, XII and XIIa1), thrombomodulin, plasminogen, fibrinogen (a and b), protein C,

protein S, serine proteinase inhibitor (serpin), and vitamin K epoxide reductase complex subunit 1 (Vkorc1) were changed and the direction of their change tended to decrease in general. One obvious exception was vitamin K epoxide reductase complex subunit 1-like 1 (Vkorc1l1), which is a paralogous gene of Vkorc1 and was generally up-regulated. In contrast to these drugs, animals treated with ASA or PTU did not show marked expression changes in these genes. One exception was coagulation factor III which looked largely up-regulated by ASA, but its reliability was considered to be quite low because of the large variation and lack of dose-dependency (data not shown).

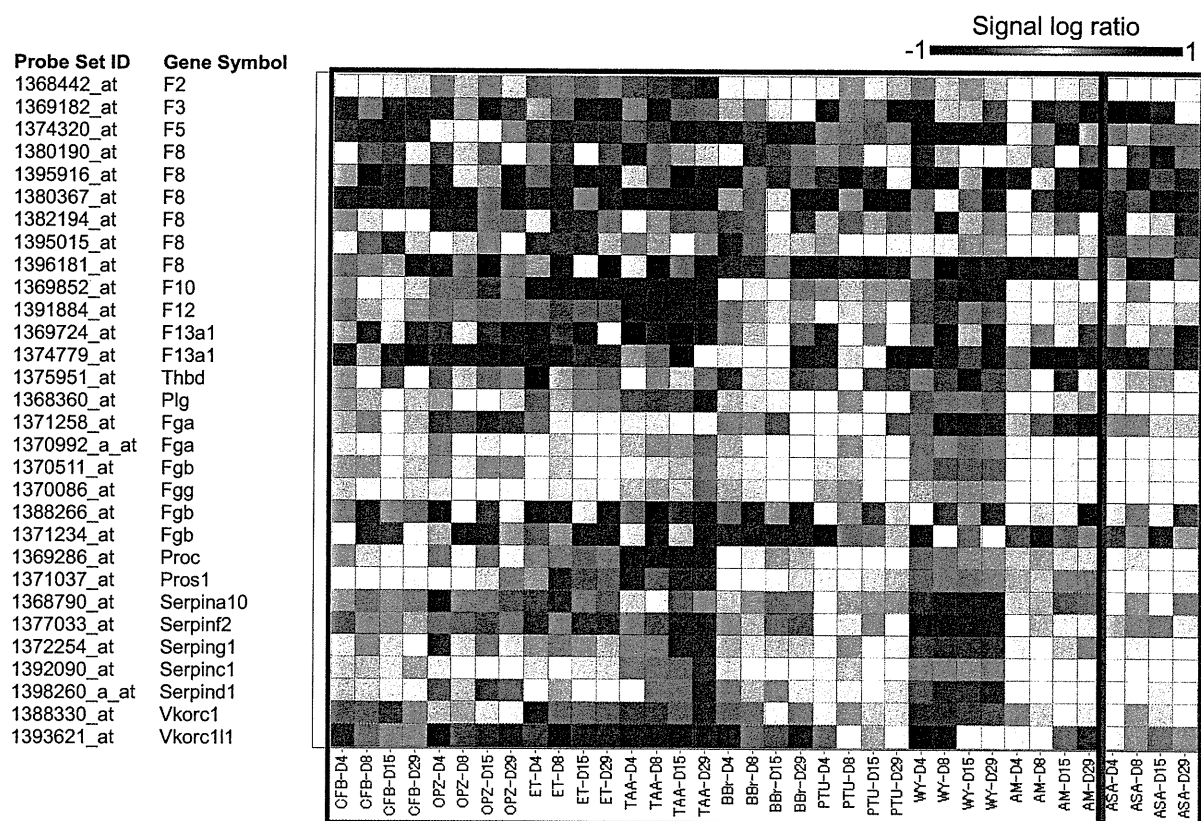
### Principal component analysis (PCA)

Using the 344 probe sets extracted as above, PCA was performed on the coagulopathic 8 compounds. As shown in Fig. 5, each sample was separated from control according to the expression of these probe sets. It should be noted that liver treated with BBr, CFB and ET had a relatively large principal component PC1 (contribution rate: 38.7%), while ET showed larger PC2 (contribution rate: 12.8%). Liver treated with WY and TAA had a large value in both axes of PC. On the other hand, PTU did not change its position for PC1 and PC2, but it showed larger PC3 (contribution rate: 6.8%). Of the genes contrib-

**Table 3.** GO analysis of identified 344 probe sets

Term	Count	Percent	p-value
Generation of precursor metabolites and energy	39	10	4.3E-10
Biosynthetic process	66	18	4.5E-10
Cellular metabolic process	183	49	1.1E-09
Catabolic process	40	11	1.2E-09
Primary metabolic process	172	46	3.7E-06
Response to external stimulus	35	9.3	5.9E-06
Response to stress	41	11	1.6E-04
Nitrogen compound metabolic process	23	6.1	1.8E-04
Translation	26	6.9	7.7E-04
Secondary metabolic process	6	1.6	0.0045
Transport	67	18	0.0074
Establishment of localization	68	18	0.011
Defense response	19	5.0	0.012
Death	25	6.6	0.018
Activation of immune response	6	1.6	0.020
Immune effector process	7	1.9	0.043
Response to endogenous stimulus	14	3.7	0.073
Regulation of immune system process	6	1.6	0.081
Response to abiotic stimulus	9	2.4	0.084
Regulation of multicellular organismal process	13	3.5	0.086
Coagulation	5	1.3	0.098

## Gene expression profiling in rat liver inducing coagulopathy



**Fig. 4.** Heat map of gene expression profiles of CFB, OPZ, ET, TAA, BBr, PTU, WY and AM, as well as ASA using coagulation-related 30 probe sets. Values are expressed as average log 2 ratio, for each time point at high dosage.

uting to PC1 and PC2, those with high eigenvalue, the top 20 for each, are listed in Table 4. It appears from the table that both components contain mainly lipid metabolism-related genes. PC1 also contains cellular stress-related genes such as prohibitin and CIDE-A, whereas PC2 are dominant in peroxisome-related genes, reflecting that PPAR $\alpha$  agonists such as WY, CFB and BBr, are well separated from ET and TAA in the direction of PC2.

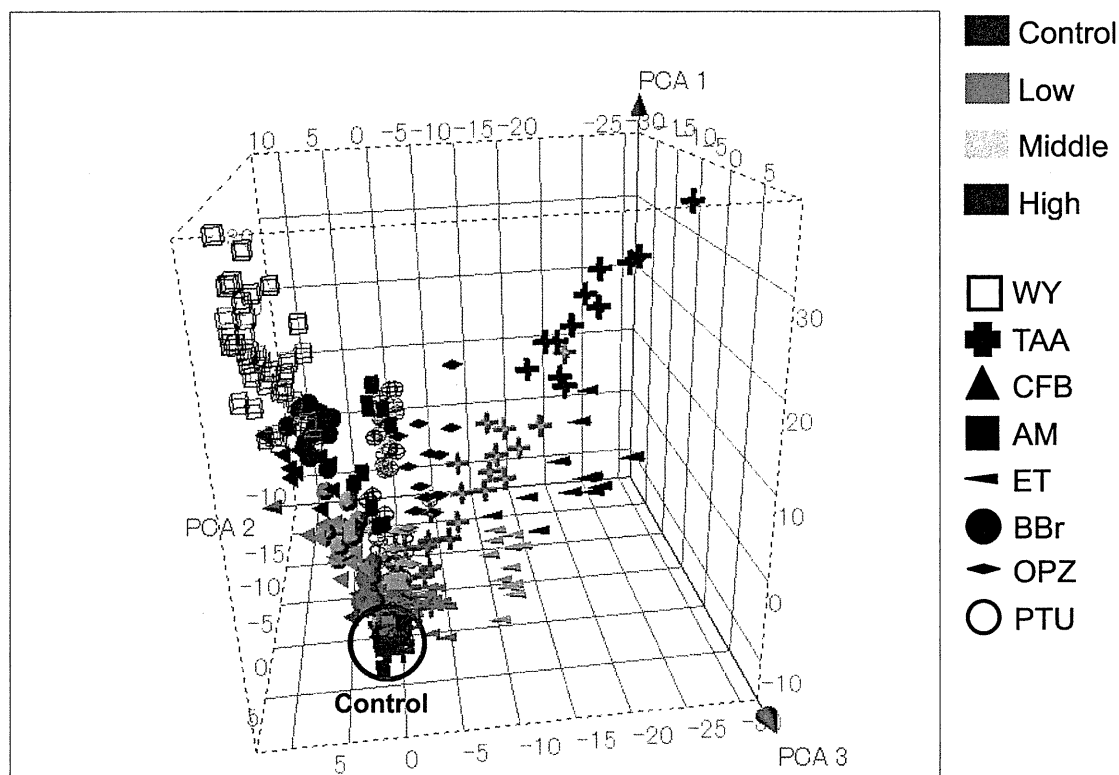
#### Verification of probe sets using ASA

To examine whether these identified probe sets have specificity to coagulopathy by liver toxicity, we applied PCA using the 344 probe sets on these 8 compounds inducing coagulopathy by liver toxicity as well as ASA, which induced prolongation of prothrombin time (Fig. 1 and Table 2), as a pharmacological effect. The results were depicted as a two-dimensional graph with PC1 (contribution rate: 38.5%) and PC2 (contribution rate: 12.4%) for each axis, where ASA did not change their position very

much on PCA, but shifted a little toward PC1 (Fig. 6). In order to visualize the difference between the compounds clearly, all the samples were aligned on a one-dimensional graph using PC1 (Fig. 7). It appeared that ASA as well as PTU showed the smallest shift among the compounds in spite of their obvious anti-coagulation effect.

#### DISCUSSION

Abnormality of hemostasis is often associated with hepatotoxicity. However, the precise mechanism of this acquired coagulopathy remains unclear. There are a number of proposed hypotheses regarding homeostatic disturbance in liver injury, including reduced synthesis, increased consumption, and reduced clearance of coagulation factors (Peck-Radosavljevic, 2007). In the present study, drug-induced, hepatotoxicity-related coagulopathy was able to be diagnosed by PCA using 344 genes which were commonly mobilized in 8 drugs. Although the gene



**Fig. 5.** Principal component analysis of gene expression profiles of CFB, OPZ, ET, TAA, BBr, PTU, WY and AM, using the commonly mobilized 344 probe sets. Results are expressed as a three dimensional graph for PC1, 2 and 3. Treated samples were dose-dependently separated from the cluster of the controls (circled by a blue line), mainly toward the direction of PC1 (contribution rate: 36.9%). For simplicity, rats receiving the same dose with different durations (3, 7, 14 and 28 days, N = 3 for each; 12 total) are expressed by the same symbol.

list contained several genes related to coagulation, those with higher contribution were mainly categorized as lipid metabolism and cell damage. PCA is a powerful tool as a non-supervised analysis, and it is quite useful to reveal the underlying mechanism when the principal components are suggestive. In the present case, however, the separation was considered attained by the indirect events in the hepatocytes that emerge as expression changes of these genes. Further analysis is obviously necessary to elucidate the mechanism of drug-induced coagulopathy by the present strategy.

As a part of the multifactorial role of liver in protein synthesis, most of the coagulation factors (fibrinogen, prothrombin, factor-V, -VII, -VIII, -IX, -X, -XI, -XII, -XIII, prekallikrein), natural anticoagulants (antithrombin-III, heparin cofactor-II, protein C, protein S, TFPI-1, TFPI-2), and components of the fibrinolytic system (plasminogen,  $\alpha$ 2-antiplasmin, TAFI) are produced in the liver (Watson,

1999; Berndt *et al.*, 2001; Savage *et al.*, 1992; Caldwell *et al.*, 2004). Pathophysiological changes in these can be detected by measurement of individual coagulation factors, or through the prolongation of PT or APTT, which are cumulatively responsive to most coagulation factors synthesized by the liver. Therefore, coagulation could be attributed to a vital synthetic capacity of the organ, not always, but at least to some extent. In the present study, a decrease in mRNA levels of some coagulation factors was observed, and it might be due to a malfunction of hepatocytes, not due to necrosis of hepatocytes, because no obvious leakage of hepatic enzymes was detected. This suggests it might be possible to detect a functional disturbance within hepatocytes by gene expression analysis. Another interesting point is that the pattern of changes in gene expression (Fig. 4) looks different among drugs, dose levels, and time points. A simple interpretation is that a decrease in coagulation factors or an increase in

**Table 4.** Probe sets contributing PC1 (left) and PC2 (right) in the PCA in Fig. 5. Top 20 probe sets with highest eigenvalue are listed for each component. Shaded probe sets are common in both PC1 and PC2.

Probe sets contributing PC1				Probe sets contributing PC2			
ranking	Probe set ID	Gene title	Eigenvalue	Ranking	Probe set ID	Gene title	Eigenvalue
1	1368317_at	aquaporin 7	0.070009144	1	1389169_at	similar to 4631434O19Rik protein	0.076072075
2	1368037_at	carbonyl reductase 1	0.068086758	2	1367672_at	peroxisomal multifunctional enzyme type II	0.075988223
3	1367926_at	prohibitin	0.067983584	3	1374475_at	similar to alpha/beta hydrolase-1	0.073630648
4	1371886_at	similar to carnitine acetyltransferase	0.067583732	4	1380431_at	similar to KIAA0564 protein	0.072382202
5	1367937_at	aldehyde reductase like 6	0.067191284	5	1388531_at	similar to 4631434O19Rik protein	0.071730013
6	1390358_at	calcium channel, voltage dependent, alpha2/delta subunit 3	0.066297774	6	1367763_at	acetyl-coenzyme A acetyltransferase 1	0.06845887
7	1368206_at	4,8-dimethylnonanoyl-CoA thioesterase	0.066110077	7	1369050_at	phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase, C2 domain containing, gamma polypeptide	0.066532737
8	1371985_a_at	HLA-B associated transcript 5	0.065669124	8	1387100_at	aquaporin 3	0.065969965
9	1367767_at	3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl CoA lyase	0.065441346	9	1367897_at	acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, very long chain	0.065740005
10	1398249_at	solute carrier family 25 member 20	0.064983662	10	1367777_at	2,4-dienoyl CoA reductase 1, mitochondrial	0.065545622
11	1388908_at	similar to Peci protein	0.064839999	11	1370818_at	2-4-dienoyl-Coenzyme A reductase 2, peroxisomal	0.065292746
12	1370491_a_at	histidine decarboxylase	0.064505345	12	1386885_at	enoyl coenzyme A hydratase 1	0.064882077
13	1375845_at	similar to 1500031O19Rik protein	0.064282403	13	1375845_at	similar to 1500031O19Rik protein	0.064743473
14	1387100_at	aquaporin 3	0.064133715	14	1368150_at	solute carrier family 27 (fatty acid transporter), member 32	0.063597102
15	1389179_at	similar to cell death activator CIDE-A	0.06405368	15	1376296_at	acyl-coA oxidase	0.063222767
16	1368977_a_at	fractured callus expressed transcript 1	0.063993326	16	1367680_at	fatty acid desaturase 2	0.062867058
17	1387740_at	peroxisomal membrane protein Pmp26p (Peroxin-11)	0.063938006	17	1368453_at	carbonyl reductase	0.062473231
18	1367927_at	prohibitin	0.063680305	18	1370814_at	cytosolic acyl-CoA thioesterase 1	0.062293648
19	1374210_at	similar to RIKEN cDNA 2510027N19	0.063409988	19	1388211_s_at	peroxisomal membrane protein Pmp26p (Peroxin-11)	0.061676191
20	1370164_at	hydroxyacyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, alpha subunit	0.063337769	20	1379361_at	enoyl-Coenzyme A, hydratase	0.061650054

Gene expression profiling in rat liver inducing coagulopathy