Solubility of Haloether Anesthetics in Human and Animal Blood

Joao H. N. Soares, D.V.M.,* Robert J. Brosnan, D.V.M., Ph.D.,† Fabiola B. Fukushima, D.V.M.,‡ Joanne Hodges, D.V.M.,§ Hong Liu, M.D.,||

ABSTRACT

Background: Anesthetic blood solubility predicts pharmacokinetics for inhaled agents and is essential for determination of blood anesthetic concentrations from end-tidal gas concentrations using Henry’s Law. Though used to model anesthetic effects in humans, there are limited interspecies solubility comparisons that include modern haloethers. This study aimed to measure hematocrit-adjusted blood:gas anesthetic partition coefficients ($\lambda_{B:G}$) for desflurane, sevoflurane, isoflurane, and methoxyflurane in humans and animals.

Methods: Whole blood was collected from 20 rats, 8 horses, and 4 each of cats, cattle, humans, dogs, goats, pigs, rabbits, and sheep. Plasma or cell volume was removed to adjust all samples to a packed cell volume of 40%. A single-agent calibration gas headspace was added to blood in a glass syringe and was mixed and equilibrated at 37°C for 2 h. Agent concentrations in the calibration gas and syringe headspace were measured using gas chromatography. Anesthetic solubility in saline, citrate-phosphate-dextrose-adenine, and olive oil were similarly measured.

Results: Except for goats, all animal species had at least one $\lambda_{B:G}$ measurement that differed significantly from humans. For each agent, $\lambda_{B:G}$ positively correlated with serum triglyceride concentrations, but this only explained 25% of interspecies variability. Desflurane was significantly less soluble in blood than sevoflurane in some species (e.g., humans) but not in others (e.g., rabbits).

Conclusions: Anesthetic partition coefficients differ significantly between humans and most animals for haloether anesthetics. Because of their similar $\lambda_{B:G}$ values, goats may be a better animal model for inhaled anesthetic pharmacokinetics in people.

What We Already Know about This Topic

• Accurate volatile anesthetic blood-gas partition coefficients are needed to calculate blood concentrations from end-tidal concentrations measured at equilibrium
• The numerous factors that affect blood-gas partition coefficients could include species

What This Article Tells Us That Is New

• Many blood-gas partition coefficients for desflurane, sevoflurane, isoflurane, and methoxyflurane measured in the blood of nine common species differed from those measured in human blood
• These differences could be because of species-related differences in both triglyceride concentration and binding to hemoglobin, plasma protein, and red cell membranes

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the Meyer-Overton hypothesis; the anesthetic EC₅₀ or minimum alveolar concentration (MAC) correlates inversely with the oil:gas partition coefficient (αₒ:ₘ₃). Among conventional and experimental anesthetics with greater range of water solubilities, the Meyer-Overton Constant, defined as MAC×αₒ:ₘ₃, correlates inversely with the salinagas partition coefficient (ΔSₒ:ₘ₃). In addition to pharmacodynamics, partition coefficients are important to modeling inhaled anesthetic pharmacokinetics. Uptake from the lung into blood and from the blood into tissues is directly proportional to the blood:gas anesthetic partition coefficient (ΔB:G). Agents with a high ΔB:G exhibit a slow rate-of-rise of the alveolar anesthetic partial pressure, resulting in a slow rate-of-rise in anesthetic partial pressure in the central nervous system and slow onset kinetics. During recovery, anesthetics with a high ΔB:G or αₒ:ₘ₃ will exhibit slow elimination kinetics because arterial-to-alveolar partial pressure diffusion gradients are lower for a given blood anesthetic concentration and because greater anesthetic solubility will increase the total quantity of anesthetic dissolved in tissues.

The ΔB:G varies with temperature, hematocrit, plasma protein, osmolarity, and lipid concentration. However, ΔB:G may vary between species as well. Although anesthetic partition coefficients have been measured in several species, it is difficult to know to what extent different values in animals and humans are because of methodology versus actual solubility differences. Furthermore, data for contemporary agents is entirely lacking in some animal species of veterinary and research importance.

The aims of this study were to validate a chromatography method by comparing measurements of ΔSₒ:ₘ₃ and ΔB:G for desflurane, isoflurane, methoxyflurane, and sevoflurane with previously published values and then to use this same method and equipment to determine ΔB:G of these anesthetics for humans, cats, cattle, dogs, goats, horses, pigs, rabbits, rats, and sheep.

**Materials and Methods**

**Blood Collection and Preparation**

A 120 ml sample of human blood was drawn aseptically and with the written, informed consent from four healthy and awake adult volunteers with the approval of the Institutional Review Board at the University of California, Davis, California. Samples were stored in separate sterile bags (Teruflex; Englewood Cliffs, NJ), and CPDA-1 (Terumo Corporation, Tokyo, Japan). Blood solubility was measured within 1 week of collection, and saline anesthetic solubility was simultaneously measured again with the same agent as a process validation control. All studies were conducted in Davis, CA, which is located approximately 16 m above sea level.

**Oswald Partition Coefficient Measurements**

Solubility of desflurane (Suprane, Baxter, Deerfield, IL), sevoflurane (SevoFlo, Abbott Laboratories, Abbott Park, IL), isoflurane (Attane, Piramal Critical Care, Boise, ID), and methoxyflurane (Penthrax, Medical Developments International, Springvale, VIC, Australia) were measured in 0.9% NaCl (USP, Baxter), olive oil (Bertoli Extra Light, Unilever, Englewood Cliffs, NJ), and CPDA-1 (Terumo Corporation, Tokyo, Japan). Blood solubility was measured within 1 week of collection, and saline anesthetic solubility was simultaneously measured again with the same agent as a process validation control. All studies were conducted in Davis, CA, which is located approximately 16 m above sea level.
Three drops of pure silicone oil (Fluke, American Fork, UT) were used to coat the plungers of noninterchangeable, graduated 100 ml glass syringes and were shown in a pilot study not to affect anesthetic solubility measurements in saline. The syringe chamber was sealed with a nylon stopcock, 10-40 ml of liquid (saline, oil, CPDA-1, or blood) was added, and the syringes were incubated in a temperature-calibrated oven at 37°C for 30 min. The precise volume of liquid in the syringe was measured using calibrated scales and previously determined densities for each study liquid.

A 20–40 ml volume of either a desflurane (1.080%), sevoflurane (2.610%), isoflurane (1.207%), or methoxylurane (0.288%) calibration gas standard was anaerobically added using gravimetrically calibrated glass syringes to each liquid-containing 100 ml syringe, thus creating a headspace with a precisely known volume. To minimize the effects of tiny measurement error on calculations of partition coefficients, a higher ratio of liquid volume ($V_l$) to gas volume ($V_g$) in the syringe was used for desflurane and sevoflurane, the less soluble agents. Conversely, a lower $V_l:V_g$ ratio in the syringe was used for the more soluble agents: isoflurane and methoxylurane.

After addition of the gas headspace, syringes were incubated in an oven for 2 h at 37°C and vigorously shaken every 15 min during the first hour. Anesthetic concentrations were measured using gas chromatography by direct headspace injection from a 0.25-ml sample loop onto a packed 183-cm, 0.32-cm 10% SF-96 column with a flame ionization detector (Clarus 500, Perkin Elmer, Waltham, MA). Chromatograph temperature and gas flow protocols, along with retention times for each agent, are listed in table 1.

A detector signal was integrated over time using commercial software (TotalChrom, Perkin Elmer, Waltham, MA). Chromatograph temperature and gas flow protocols, along with retention times for each agent, are listed in table 1. The detector signal was integrated over time using commercial software (TotalChrom, Perkin Elmer). Proportionality between the area under the curve and anesthetic solubility was derived using Equation 1,

$$\lambda_{L,G} = \frac{V_G \times (C_0 - C_G)}{V_L \times C_G},$$

where $C_0$ and $C_G$ are the respective concentrations (or areas under the chromatogram curves) of the calibration gas and the postequilibration headspace gas, and $V_L$ and $V_G$ are the respective volumes of liquid and gas in the syringe. Derivation of a similar relationship used to determine halothane $\lambda_{L,G}$ via this headspace equilibration method has been published.\footnote{18}

### Statistical Analysis

Measurements were described using mean ± SD. Anesthetic solubility comparisons between agents and species were made using a two-way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak\footnote{19} corrections for multiple two-tailed comparisons between agents within a species and for multiple two-tailed comparisons between humans and animals for each agent (v.11, SPSS, Chicago, IL). Pearson product-moments were used to assess correlation between solubility measurements for each agent and plasma osmolarity and serum triglycerides; $P < 0.05$ defined statistical significance.

### Results

Measured blood parameters are presented in table 2, and solubilities for each of the haloethers are summarized in table 3. The saline- and oil-gas partition coefficients were similar among all agents except methoxylurane, for which values in the present study were 5–8% lower for saline and 35–39% lower for oil. A log-log regression of human MAC for each agent\footnote{20–23} versus $\lambda_{O,G}$ values in table 3 yielded a line described by the equation $\log(MAC) = 1.043 \cdot \log(\lambda_{O,G}) + 2.113$, with $R^2 = 1.000$.

Anesthetic solubility in blood differed significantly by agent and by species, as seen in table 3. In comparison with human blood, all anesthetics tended to be more soluble in blood from dogs, rats, and rabbits and less soluble in blood from cattle. Horse blood exhibited a mixed pattern, with greater desflurane solubility but less isoflurane solubility compared with human blood. Only goat blood approximated human $\lambda_{B,G}$ for all of the anesthetics.

The rank order for increasing liquid phase solubility was: saline = CPDA-1 < blood < oil. For most species, the order of increasing $\lambda_{B,G}$ was desflurane < sevoflurane < isoflurane < methoxylurane. However, in rabbit blood, sevoflurane was actually slightly less soluble than desflurane, although this difference was not statistically significant.

Packed cell volumes and plasma osmolarities were similar between samples, but plasma protein and triglycerides varied considerably (table 2). Solubility for each agent positively correlated with triglyceride concentrations, but this only explained approximately 25% of the variability in $\lambda_{B,G}$ values (table 4). Desflurane solubility also negatively correlated with plasma albumin concentration, but no statistically significant protein effects were detected for the other agents.

### Discussion

Haloether anesthetic $\lambda_{B,G}$ were measured in humans and nine animal species of research and veterinary importance.
using identical equipment and methodology. The consistency between partition coefficient measurements in saline, oil, and human blood measured in the present study and in published literature for contemporary agents served to validate these methods.

Although no longer widely used, methoxyflurane was included in this study as an example of a more soluble chloro-fluoroether for which interspecies differences might be magnified. The methoxyflurane $\lambda_{O:G}$ measured here (table 3) was considerably lower than in previous studies.24,25 This method used for measurement could simply be less accurate for vapors and media with high solubility, as evidenced by the large standard deviations in the methoxyflurane-oil measurement. However, it could also be because of technical limitations of previous methods. For instance, solubility measurements utilizing infrared spectrometry lack precision required to quantify large changes in methoxyflurane headspace concentration caused by its very high $\lambda_{O:G}$25 and even with modern analyzers, anesthetic measurement accuracy can vary considerably.26 Prior chromatographic methods with longer retention times1,27 than in the protocol here (table 1) increase peak asymmetry and alter the relationship between peak height and the area under the chromatogram curve, thereby introducing a small error.28 The present study also benefited from computerized unattended signal integration, high digital sampling rates, and high detector sensitivity, all of which increase measurement accuracy but were not as readily available during the times in which previous studies were performed.28 Consequently, the Meyer-Overton log-log correlation between $\lambda_{O:G}$ and anesthetic MAC in humans was slightly stronger using data from the present study, as evidenced by an $R^2$ of 1.000 versus 0.946 from a prior analysis.29

One limitation of the present study was the use of blood diluted in CPDA-1, which mimics banked but not fresh blood. Yu et al.30 found that the $\lambda_{B:G}$ of desflurane, isoflurane, and halothane were between 12 and 13% lower in banked blood than in fresh. Comparisons between these results and our data are somewhat difficult because the prior study did not state how long blood was stored or whether results were controlled for hematocrit, which would otherwise be decreased from hemodilution. Since the anesthetics are less soluble in anticoagulant than in whole blood (table 3), the addition of 1:9 CPDA-1:blood should reduce $\lambda_{B:G}$ by 3.6–6.0%. However, since all blood samples contained the same volume fraction of anticoagulant, the relative results from interagent and species comparisons should remain unaffected.

Anesthetic $\lambda_{B:G}$ varies for many anesthetics between humans and animals as well as between different animal species. However, one exception is the goat, for which $\lambda_{B:G}$ was similar to humans for all agents in our study. For a given alveolar ventilation, cardiac output, and anesthetic partial pressure gradient, the rate of anesthetic uptake and elimination is determined by the agent $\lambda_{B:G}$.7 Hence, goats may serve as the most suitable animal model for extrapolation of inhaled anesthetic pharmacokinetic data to humans. The agents desflurane and sevoflurane had statistically indistinguishable $\lambda_{B:G}$ values in some animal species (table 3). Although sample sizes in this study were relatively small, the measurement variability was likewise small. Even controlling for multiple comparisons, it was possible to detect statistically significant differences as low as 7% between

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**Table 2.** Species Demographic Data and Corresponding Measurements of Packed Cell Volume, Plasma Osmolarity, and Serum Triglycerides (Mean ± SD) in Blood Collected into Citrate-Phosphate-Dextrose-Adenine Bags

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Age (yr)</th>
<th>Breed or Strain (N)</th>
<th>Sex (N)</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>PCV (%)</th>
<th>Protein (mg/dl)</th>
<th>Osmolarity (mOsm/l)</th>
<th>Triglycerides (mg/dl)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>4.3 ± 0.8</td>
<td>Domestic Short Hair (4)</td>
<td>M (4)</td>
<td>6.5 ± 0.9</td>
<td>39.5 ± 2.7</td>
<td>6.5 ± 0.3</td>
<td>352 ± 9</td>
<td>242 ± 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>1.5–2.0</td>
<td>Angus (4)</td>
<td>F (4)</td>
<td>567 ± 38</td>
<td>37.0 ± 0.8</td>
<td>6.9 ± 0.2</td>
<td>335 ± 3</td>
<td>31 ± 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>4.2 ± 1.0</td>
<td>Labrador (2)</td>
<td>F (2)</td>
<td>34.1 ± 3.7</td>
<td>41.5 ± 1.3</td>
<td>5.9 ± 0.3</td>
<td>345 ± 3</td>
<td>83 ± 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>Saanen (2)</td>
<td>F (4)</td>
<td>60 ± 3</td>
<td>40.3 ± 1.7</td>
<td>6.2 ± 0.2</td>
<td>341 ± 3</td>
<td>41 ± 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>15.3 ± 2.4</td>
<td>Quarter Horse (3)</td>
<td>F (3)</td>
<td>587 ± 32</td>
<td>38.9 ± 2.2</td>
<td>6.1 ± 0.3</td>
<td>323 ± 5</td>
<td>34 ± 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human</td>
<td>33.8 ± 5.0</td>
<td>Yorkshire (4)</td>
<td>F (2)</td>
<td>69 ± 29</td>
<td>39.0 ± 1.2</td>
<td>7.0 ± 0.4</td>
<td>328 ± 3</td>
<td>98 ± 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>0.3 ± 0.0</td>
<td>New Zealand White (4)</td>
<td>M (3)</td>
<td>44 ± 4</td>
<td>37.5 ± 1.7</td>
<td>5.3 ± 0.2</td>
<td>330 ± 3</td>
<td>69 ± 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbit</td>
<td>0.9 ± 0.0</td>
<td>Brown Norway (20)</td>
<td>F (20)</td>
<td>0.37 ± 0.13</td>
<td>38.9 ± 2.3</td>
<td>6.0 ± 0.2</td>
<td>338 ± 13</td>
<td>164 ± 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>0.3 ± 0.0</td>
<td>Suffolk (4)</td>
<td>F (4)</td>
<td>52 ± 1</td>
<td>36.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>5.9 ± 0.3</td>
<td>354 ± 10</td>
<td>23 ± 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PCV = packed cell volume.
means. Furthermore, in contrast to humans, the λ_{B:G} in rabbits was actually greater for desflurane than for sevoflurane; this finding cannot be simply attributed to inadequate statistical power. When delivered at equal partial pressures, sevoflurane equilibration between the alveolar and central nervous system partial pressures may actually be slightly faster than for desflurane in rabbits. Yet since it is much less potent than sevoflurane as an anesthetic, \(^{51,32}\) desflurane is typically administered at much higher concentrations, and these higher partial pressure gradients may still permit faster wash-in and washout kinetics.\(^7\) A similar effect has been demonstrated for desflurane and nitrous oxide in humans. Despite having approximately equal λ_{B:G} values, nitrous oxide has a much higher MAC than desflurane and is delivered at much higher concentrations, resulting in a faster rate of rise of the alveolar concentration for nitrous oxide than for desflurane.\(^{33}\)

Although serum osmolality can affect λ_{B:G},\(^{15}\) the range of values in this study were limited and not correlated with solubility. Hematocrit was adjusted for all species to approximately 40%, since changes in erythrocyte content could affect inhalants' blood solubility.\(^{12,13}\) Hence λ_{B:G} differences cannot be because of hemoglobin quantity in this study. Red blood cells from rats and humans have different affinity for volatile organic compounds, such as toluene, chloroform and n-hexane, as well as for blood components, such as plasma proteins and hemoglobin.\(^{34}\) Therefore, differences in both the blood protein concentration and the species-specific protein structure could explain differences in inhalant anesthetic λ_{B:G}. Four plausible explanations for λ_{B:G} Variability remain: species differences in hemoglobin-anesthetic binding, cell membrane anesthetic solubility, plasma protein quantity and/or anesthetic binding, and plasma lipid quantity and/or solvent properties.

### Table 3. The Partition Coefficients (λ_{B:G}, λ_{O:G}, and λ_{B:O}) for Desflurane, Sevoflurane, Isoflurane, and Methoxyflurane (Mean ± SD) Measured at 37°C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Desflurane (Mean ± SD)</th>
<th>Sevoflurane (Mean ± SD)</th>
<th>Isoflurane (Mean ± SD)</th>
<th>Methoxyflurane (Mean ± SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human</td>
<td>0.498 ± 0.012</td>
<td>0.639 ± 0.011</td>
<td>1.32 ± 0.04</td>
<td>14.3 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>0.537 ± 0.018*</td>
<td>0.648 ± 0.051</td>
<td>1.13 ± 0.06*</td>
<td>13.0 ± 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>0.442 ± 0.032</td>
<td>0.521 ± 0.016*</td>
<td>1.22 ± 0.03</td>
<td>11.3 ± 0.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>0.496 ± 0.056†</td>
<td>0.557 ± 0.027*</td>
<td>1.34 ± 0.09</td>
<td>13.2 ± 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td>0.520 ± 0.017†</td>
<td>0.564 ± 0.042</td>
<td>1.37 ± 0.06</td>
<td>13.0 ± 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>0.502 ± 0.054†</td>
<td>0.521 ± 0.050</td>
<td>1.07 ± 0.05*</td>
<td>11.1 ± 0.5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>0.631 ± 0.015*</td>
<td>0.664 ± 0.013</td>
<td>1.40 ± 0.16</td>
<td>26.1 ± 4.0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>0.583 ± 0.012†</td>
<td>0.593 ± 0.034</td>
<td>1.40 ± 0.08</td>
<td>26.4 ± 1.3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat</td>
<td>0.611 ± 0.027*</td>
<td>0.744 ± 0.019*</td>
<td>1.41 ± 0.09</td>
<td>17.7 ± 1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbit</td>
<td>0.721 ± 0.052\†</td>
<td>0.691 ± 0.030</td>
<td>1.37 ± 0.09</td>
<td>25.0 ± 2.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>0.287 ± 0.003*</td>
<td>0.329 ± 0.007*</td>
<td>0.517 ± 0.014*</td>
<td>4.01 ± 0.17*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPDA-1</td>
<td>0.290 ± 0.017\†</td>
<td>0.315 ± 0.006*</td>
<td>0.536 ± 0.060*</td>
<td>3.05 ± 0.02*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive oil</td>
<td>19.2 ± 0.4* (17.9–18.7)(\text{SD})</td>
<td>51.3 ± 1.5* (47.2–53.4)(\text{SD})</td>
<td>89.8 ± 3.1* (88.2–97.8)(\text{SD})</td>
<td>611 ± 77* (825–850)(\text{SD})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Partition coefficient values for an agent that are statistically different from measurements in human blood. † Within a species, λ was statistically different between agents, except as denoted between desflurane and sevoflurane. Published measurements at 37°C for each species are included in parentheses for comparison. ‡ Values denoted were measured at 38–38.5°C.

λ_{B:G} = blood:gas anesthetic partition coefficient; λ_{O:G} = oil:gas partition coefficient; λ_{B:O} = saline:gas partition coefficient; CPDA-1 = citrate-phosphate-dextrose-adenine anticoagulant solution.
Red blood cells are an important, and perhaps the major, carrier of inhalant anesthetics in blood. Two major red blood cells components that can be responsible for \( \lambda_{B:G} \) variation within species are hemoglobin and lipids. Species differences in hemoglobin-oxygen binding affinity are well established, and are in part the result of differences in hemoglobin molecular structure. For example, bovine hemoglobin has a lower affinity for oxygen compared with human hemoglobin because of substitution of alanine by lysine in the N-terminal that increases hydrophilicity. Substitution of histidine at position 2 with methionine in bovine hemoglobin \( \beta \)-chains increase affinity for oxygen even in the absence of 2,3-diphosphoglycerate by creating a hydrophobic pocket. 

Volatile and gaseous anesthetics can also bind to hydrophobic sites of proteins, such as occurs for xenon in equine hemoglobin. Currently unknown hemoglobin variations may be present in other species as well, and create variability in the number and/or size of hydrophobic and amphipathic pockets suitable for anesthetic binding. Further study of species-specific hemoglobin ultrastructure may be useful to potentially explain the \( \lambda_{B:G} \) variability.

Erythrocyte membrane lipids vary quantitatively and qualitatively. Mammalian erythrocyte membranes have higher concentrations of phospholipids and neutral lipids than gangliosides or glycolipids, although total lipid composition differs among species. If the four halotoles used in this study follow the same pattern as xenon, which had different solubility for gangliosides, phospholipids, and neutral lipids, variation in \( \lambda_{B:G} \) among species might be because of different lipid solvent properties of erythrocyte membranes.

Albumin is the most abundant protein in mammals, and its sequence homology among humans, cows, sheep, rats, horses, dogs, and rabbits is greater than 70%. However, because of albumin’s importance in binding lipophilic molecules, any nonconservative structural changes could confer differences in drug-binding properties. In the presence of normal concentrations of serum constituents, albumin transports three times more halothane than triglycerides, and it is an important determinant of anesthetic solubility. Albumin has two major drug-binding sites (I and II), and these can vary among species: Dog albumin has the same site II as humans, but rabbits and rats have the same site I. Interestingly, inhalant anesthetics can bind to albumin in other hydrophobic pockets, and binding affinity and capacity may be affected by the number and size of these pockets. Bovine albumin has 3–5-fold more affinity than human albumin for halothane as a result of a leucine residue at position 135 (one of the putative albumin-binding sites) instead of a tryptophan, suggesting a role for aromatic amino acids in inhaled anesthetic binding. Even within a given albumin species, affinity can differ between structural isomers, such as between isoflurane and enflurane, and so relative affinities and effects on interspecies \( \lambda_{B:G} \) are not generalizable across all halothanes.

Plasma triglycerides showed a positive correlation with the \( \lambda_{B:G} \) of all studied agents. The species with lower plasmatic triglycerides tended to have lower \( \lambda_{B:G} \); this finding is consistent with intraspecies triglyceride solubility effects, but only accounts for 25% of measured interspecies variability. The remaining variability in these data are probably explained by the effects of red blood cells and plasma proteins on the anesthetic solubility in blood.

In summary, Ostwald blood:gas partition coefficients for desflurane, sevoflurane, isoflurane, and methoxyflurane are different between humans and most animals. Use of species nonspecific \( \lambda_{B:G} \) values in pharmacokinetic models or in calculations of blood anesthetic concentrations from headspace or alveolar gas can introduce significant error.

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