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## Fluoxetine and norfluoxetine mediated complex drug-drug interactions: *in vitro* to *in vivo* correlation of effects on CYP2D6, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4

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### Abstract

Fluoxetine and its circulating metabolite norfluoxetine present a complex multiple inhibitor system that causes reversible or time-dependent inhibition of CYP2D6, CYP3A4, and CYP2C19 *in vitro*. While significant inhibition of all three enzymes *in vivo* is predicted, midazolam and lovastatin AUCs were unaffected by two week dosing of fluoxetine whereas dextromethorphan AUC was increased by 27-fold and omeprazole AUC by 7.1-fold. This observed discrepancy between *in vitro* risk assessment and *in vivo* DDI profile was rationalized by time-varying dynamic pharmacokinetic models that incorporated circulating concentrations of fluoxetine and norfluoxetine enantiomers, mutual inhibitor-inhibitor interactions and CYP3A4 induction. The dynamic models predicted all DDIs with less than 2-fold error. This study demonstrates that complex drug-drug interactions that involve multiple mechanisms, pathways and inhibitors with their metabolites can be predicted and rationalized via characterization of all the inhibitory species *in vitro*.

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### CONFLICT OF INTEREST/DISCLOSURE

The authors state no conflict of interest in the preparation of this manuscript

### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

J.E.S., J.D.L., R.S.F. and N.I. wrote the manuscript, performed the research and analyzed the data. C.D., J.E.S., J.D.L., R.S.F. K.L.K. and N.I. designed the research. \* J.E.S and J.D.L contributed equally to this manuscript.

## INTRODUCTION

Complex drug-drug interactions (DDIs) may arise from co-administration of multiple inhibitors (including racemic mixtures), presence of inhibitory metabolites, occurrence of multiple inhibition mechanisms and inhibition of multiple enzymes and/or transporters. While complex DDIs are relatively common, they present significant challenges to identification, prediction and rationalization of clinically important DDIs. For example, interactions arising from multiple inhibitors with different mechanisms of inhibition may affect observed DDI magnitude. Further, simultaneous inhibition of multiple enzymes can increase the observed *in vivo* DDIs. Consequently, detailed characterization and accurate *in vitro*-to-*in vivo* extrapolation of complex DDIs is challenging, and only a limited number of studies have evaluated simulation and prediction of complex DDIs with multiple inhibitors and inhibition mechanisms.

Chronic fluoxetine administration creates a model complex inhibition system, where a mixture of four inhibitors, the two stereoisomers of fluoxetine together with the corresponding norfluoxetine metabolites circulate with nonlinear and stereoselective pharmacokinetics (1, 2). Fluoxetine and norfluoxetine enantiomers are reversible and time-dependent inhibitors of multiple P450s *in vitro* (3, 4) and fluoxetine is predicted to cause strong inhibition of CYP2D6 and CYP2C19, and at least moderate inhibition of CYP3A4 *in vivo*(3). However, existing *in vivo* data shows a striking discrepancy with these predictions. *In vivo*, fluoxetine is a strong CYP2D6 inhibitor (7.8-fold increase in desipramine AUC) (5) and a moderate CYP2C19 inhibitor (2.9-fold increase in lansoprazole AUC) (6). However, the magnitude of CYP3A4 inhibition is unclear. Multiple dose fluoxetine increased alprazolam and carbamazepine AUC 1.3-fold (7, 8) but had no effect on midazolam AUC (9). Overall, prediction accuracy of fluoxetine DDIs appears to be P450- and probe-dependent. This could be due to variable fluoxetine and norfluoxetine exposures between studies resulting from different dosing regimens and nonlinear pharmacokinetics (10) or unappreciated diverse inhibition mechanisms and probe-specific factors. The aim of this study was to determine whether the simultaneous interactions with CYP2D6, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 resulting from multiple mechanisms and interacting species related to multiple dosing of fluoxetine could be predicted. A novel dynamic simulation setup that accounts for mutual interactions between all inhibitors was used for the *in vitro* to *in vivo* extrapolation and validated by comparison to the clinical study results.

## RESULTS

Parent (R)- and (S)-fluoxetine as well as (R)- and (S)-norfluoxetine metabolites were found to be high affinity reversible inhibitors of CYP2D6 (Table 2) with the (S)-enantiomers approximately 10-fold more potent than the (R)-enantiomers. Calculated unbound  $[I]/K_i$  ratios (0.3 for (R)-fluoxetine, 5.8 for (S)-fluoxetine, 0.4 for (R)-norfluoxetine and 4.5 for (S)-norfluoxetine) predicted a significant decrease in CYP2D6 activity following fluoxetine administration. (S)-fluoxetine and (S)-norfluoxetine were predicted to account for ~90% of the *in vivo* CYP2D6 inhibition (approximately 50% and 40%, respectively). The risk of irreversible inhibition of CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 was predicted using unbound  $\lambda/k_{deg}$  ratios (15 for (R)-fluoxetine, 4 for (S)-fluoxetine, 7 for (R)-norfluoxetine and 17 for (S)-

norfluoxetine towards CYP2C19 and 1.7 for (S)-fluoxetine and 3 (R)-norfluoxetine towards CYP3A4), which suggested a significant decrease in *in vivo* CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 activity due almost entirely to irreversible inhibition. Based on the  $\lambda/k_{deg}$  values (R)-fluoxetine and (S)-norfluoxetine contribute the most to *in vivo* CYP2C19 inhibition whereas (S)-fluoxetine and (R)-norfluoxetine cause CYP3A4 inhibition. Unbound  $[I]/IC_{50}$  values (0.01–0.1) predict little reversible inhibition of CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 *in vivo*. Taken together these  $[I]/K_i$  and  $\lambda/k_{deg}$  values warrant an *in vivo* DDI study for simultaneous CYP3A4, CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 inhibition to determine the true DDI risk following fluoxetine dosing.

The inhibition of CYP2D6, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 was tested in a cocktail study following 12 day dosing of fluoxetine. At day 12 the average plasma concentrations were: (R)-fluoxetine  $280 \pm 90$  nM, (S)-fluoxetine  $770 \pm 270$  nM, (R)-norfluoxetine  $200 \pm 70$  nM and (S)-norfluoxetine  $320 \pm 110$  nM (Supplemental Figure 1). After 12 days, fluoxetine administration significantly decreased CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 activity based on a 99% decrease in dextromethorphan oral CL and 86% decrease in omeprazole oral CL (Table 1). The mean dextromethorphan  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  increased 27-fold and omeprazole  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  7.1-fold compared to control (Table 1 and Figure 1). Surprisingly, the  $t_{1/2}$  of omeprazole was unchanged despite the inhibition of omeprazole oral CL. However, this is consistent with the observations that the  $t_{1/2}$  of omeprazole does not differ between CYP2C19 EMs and PMs (11). Plasma dextromethorphan/dextromethorphan  $AUC_m/AUC_p$  decreased by 98% (90–99%), but dextromethorphan  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  was unchanged ( $P > 0.05$ ). The dextromethorphan/dextromethorphan  $U_m/U_p$  decreased by 99% (95–>99%) after fluoxetine administration, resulting in EM to PM phenotype conversion in all subjects except one, whose  $U_m/U_p$  decreased by 95% after fluoxetine administration but was  $< 3.3$  on control day. No change in  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  for the CYP2C19-formed metabolite, 5-hydroxyomeprazole, was observed ( $p > 0.05$ ), but the plasma  $AUC_m/AUC_p$  of 5-hydroxyomeprazole/omeprazole decreased by 87% (80–94%) ( $p < 0.01$ ) (Table 1 and Figure 1). Based on the decrease in  $AUC_m/AUC_p$ , 5 of the 9 subjects converted from EM to PM phenotype.

Following 12 days of fluoxetine administration, midazolam  $AUC_{0-\infty}$ , oral CL and  $t_{1/2}$  were unchanged ( $p > 0.05$ ) (Table 3 and Figure 4). Following 14 days of fluoxetine administration, lovastatin  $AUC_{0-\infty}$ , oral CL and  $t_{1/2}$  ( $n=7$ ) were also unchanged ( $p > 0.05$ ) (Table 1 and Figure 2). Based on *post hoc* analysis ( $\beta=0.20$ ), the study had sufficient power to detect a 34% increase in midazolam  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  ( $n=10$ ) and a 24% increase in lovastatin  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  ( $n=7$ ). In agreement with the lack of effect on midazolam and lovastatin, fluoxetine had no effect on endogenous ( $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisol or  $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisone) measures of hepatic CYP3A4 activity (Table 1), or of cortisol, cortisone,  $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisol or  $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisone  $CL_r$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). Fluoxetine did not affect the  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  ( $43 \pm 22 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{hr}/\text{L}$  versus  $43 \pm 15 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{hr}/\text{L}$ ), oral CL (13L/hr versus 12L/hr) or  $t_{1/2}$  (4.3hr versus 4.5hr) of caffeine ( $p > 0.05$ ), a CYP1A2 probe (Figure 2).

To test whether the observed DDIs could be predicted from *in vitro* parameters, time-varying dynamic models were developed for fluoxetine and norfluoxetine enantiomers and for the three probes, midazolam, dextromethorphan and omeprazole (Table 2, Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure 1). Fluoxetine and norfluoxetine enantiomer accumulation and concentration-time profiles at day 12 of the DDI study were simulated using *in vitro* and *in*

*vivo* kinetic parameters (Supplemental Figure 1), The mean simulated AUCs (n=100) for all three probes were within 25% of the observed on study day 1 (Figure 3). The simulated mean AUC for dextromethorphan after 12 days of fluoxetine dosing was 37% lower than the observed and within the 95% confidence interval of the simulated AUC. For midazolam and omeprazole the simulated mean AUCs were 2000% and 320% higher than the observed, respectively, (Figure 3) demonstrating a significant over-prediction of the DDI (predicted fold increase from control AUC was 31-fold for omeprazole and 13.5-fold for midazolam). When omeprazole and midazolam DDIs were simulated without CYP3A4 inactivation, the simulated mean AUCs for omeprazole and midazolam were 1% and 55% higher than observed, respectively (Figure 3) suggesting that over-prediction of CYP3A4 inhibition was responsible for the prediction failures. Since racemic fluoxetine has been shown to be a weak inducer (maximum 2-fold induction) of CYP3A4 *in vitro* (12), CYP3A4 induction by fluoxetine and norfluoxetine enantiomers was characterized in hepatocytes from three donors to determine whether CYP3A4 induction explained the over-prediction. Fluoxetine and norfluoxetine enantiomers increased CYP3A4 mRNA in a concentration dependent manner *in vitro* (Figure 4), with (R)-norfluoxetine exhibiting the greatest effect. Yet, no induction of CYP3A4 activity was observed in human hepatocytes (Figure 4). When CYP3A4 induction was incorporated into the dynamic DDI simulations together with all the inhibition parameters, the simulated mean AUC for omeprazole was within 31% of the observed and the mean predicted AUC for midazolam was 80% higher than observed (Figure 5). For both probes the 95% confidence interval of the simulated plasma concentrations (n=100) incorporated all observed data. The predicted mean AUC fold-change was 1.2-fold for midazolam and 9.5-fold for omeprazole. Since the *in vivo* study was conducted in a sample of 10 individuals from the population, the between study variability in the observed DDIs was simulated in 10 separate studies with 10 subjects (Supplemental Figure 2). This simulation shows that the above differences between observed and predicted data could be entirely due to between study variability in probe kinetics and DDIs and not a function of simulation accuracy.

## DISCUSSION

This study shows that multiple dose fluoxetine strongly inhibits CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 activity *in vivo*, without affecting CYP3A4 or CYP1A2 activity. The strong inhibition of CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 was classified based on the AUC change in dextromethorphan and omeprazole. However, for both of these probes various metabolic ratios have also been used for classification of *in vivo* DDIs and for detection of genetic variability. The effect of fluoxetine dosing on dextromethorphan/dextromethorphan AUC<sub>m</sub>/AUC<sub>p</sub>, (99% decrease) and on the OH-omeprazole/omeprazole AUC<sub>m</sub>/AUC<sub>p</sub> (87% decrease) is consistent with the observed 99% and 87% decreases in dextromethorphan and omeprazole oral clearances, and suggest that fluoxetine does not affect the elimination clearances of these metabolites (glucuronidation of dextromethorphan and oxidation of OH-omeprazole to carboxy-omeprazole), a potentially confounding feature of metabolic ratios. As such the change in AUC<sub>m</sub>/AUC<sub>p</sub> values is likely due to decreased formation clearance of the metabolites.

This study demonstrates that complex DDIs involving multiple inhibitors and metabolites and multiple DDI mechanisms can be predicted using *in vitro* to *in vivo* extrapolations as

long as all interacting species are adequately characterized and all elimination pathways of substrates incorporated. The fluoxetine enantiomers with their norfluoxetine metabolites present significant challenges to DDI prediction due to stereoselective P450 inhibition and pharmacokinetics, multiple enzyme inhibition by reversible and time-dependent mechanisms, inhibitor-inhibitor interactions and simultaneous inhibition and induction of CYP3A4 by multiple species. As such this system is much more complicated than inhibitor-metabolite combinations with single enzyme inhibition that have been accurately modeled in the past. The initial dynamic model predicted the reversible inhibition of CYP2D6 by fluoxetine and norfluoxetine and dextromethorphan disposition within 2-fold. However, the omeprazole (including CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 mediated clearance) and midazolam AUCs following fluoxetine dosing were greatly over-predicted. Conversely, the DDIs with omeprazole and midazolam were within 2-fold of the observed data when CYP3A4 inactivation was not included in predictions. This, together with the lack of observed change in midazolam or lovastatin AUC when a significant CYP3A4 inhibition was predicted, suggested that the reason for the over-prediction was due to concurrent CYP3A4 inhibition and induction. Indeed, fluoxetine and norfluoxetine were found to induce CYP3A4 mRNA but not activity in human hepatocytes. The lack of increase in CYP3A4 activity in the hepatocytes was expected due to the simultaneous reversible and irreversible inhibition of CYP3A4 by fluoxetine and norfluoxetine isomers. When the mRNA induction was incorporated into the dynamic DDI predictions for all four inhibitors the prediction accuracy with midazolam and omeprazole improved resulting in accurate (within 2-fold) predictions of the AUCs of all probes following 12 days of fluoxetine dosing.

This study highlights the importance of accounting for all elimination pathways of substrate drugs and the effect of inhibitors on those pathways as well as characterization of all the relevant circulating species including metabolites. Norfluoxetine enantiomers were found to play an important role in determining the magnitude of *in vivo* DDIs observed following fluoxetine administration: Accurate prediction of accumulation of fluoxetine following multiple dosing requires incorporation of inhibition of CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 mediated fluoxetine clearance by norfluoxetine, and based on static predictions (S)-norfluoxetine is responsible for approximately half of the observed DDIs with CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 and (R)-norfluoxetine contributes approximately half to the observed inhibition and induction of CYP3A4. As such this study supports the characterization of circulating metabolites during DDI evaluation. The importance of understanding the multiple P450 inhibition by fluoxetine is well illustrated in the omeprazole simulations that incorporate both CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 inhibition and predict a 31-fold increase in the AUC in comparison to 7.4-fold increase when only CYP2C19 inhibition is included. This simulation is in agreement with the recognized risk of multiple P450 inhibition (13). While fluoxetine was not a CYP3A4 inhibitor *in vivo* it was identified as a strong inhibitor of two enzymes (CYP2D6 and CYP2C19). This is clinically relevant as it could result in DDIs greater in magnitude than expected from single enzyme inhibition. For example atomoxetine is used to treat ADHD and coadministration with fluoxetine is likely. *In vivo*, atomoxetine is eliminated via CYP2D6, demonstrating a 7.1-fold increase in AUC'/AUC after paroxetine administration (14). Remaining atomoxetine elimination is mostly due to CYP2C19 (15). Simultaneous strong inhibition of CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 due to fluoxetine coadministration could result

in a greater increase in atomoxetine exposure than with paroxetine. Similarly, fluoxetine administration with CYP2C19 substrates warrants caution. The clinically plausible coadministration of fluoxetine with diazepam could cause increased diazepam concentrations, increased sedation and other adverse effects (16, 17). In contrast, CYP2C19 is principally responsible for the formation of the active metabolite of clopidogrel (18, 19) and fluoxetine is likely to inhibit the formation of this metabolite, leading to decreased anti-platelet activity. As such, the results of this study establish fluoxetine as a strong inhibitor of CYP2D6 and CYP2C19.

## METHODS

### CYP2D6 inhibition *in vitro*

Reversible CYP2D6 inhibition constants ( $K_i$ ) of fluoxetine and norfluoxetine enantiomers were determined in pooled human liver microsomes (HLMs) from 6 donors confirmed to be CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 EMs and CYP3A5\*3/\*3 genotype. Dextromethorphan (1.7 $\mu$ M, 5 $\mu$ M and 25 $\mu$ M) O-demethylation was used as a probe and  $K_i$ -values were determined using nonlinear regression.

### Clinical protocol

The study was approved by the University of Washington Institutional Review Board and registered at [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) (NCT01361217). Ten subjects (5 women and 5 men) were enrolled in the study after giving their written informed consent. Eight subjects were Caucasian, one Chicano and one Hispanic. The subjects were 30 $\pm$ 10 yr of age, 172 $\pm$ 11 cm high and 72 $\pm$ 14 kg on average. None of the subjects had a history of systemic disease and all had normal laboratory renal and hepatic function values. Tobacco users or subjects with history of allergy to any of the study medications or related medications were excluded. Each subject was genotyped as described (20) for CYP2D6, CYP2C19 and CYP3A5. Subjects with a CYP2D6 copy number other than 2 or CYP2D6\*3, CYP2D6\*4, CYP2D6\*10, CYP2C19\*2 or CYP3A5\*1 single nucleotide polymorphism were excluded from the study. From 2 weeks before to 3 weeks after the study, subjects were asked to abstain from over-the-counter medications, prescription medications and grapefruit products. Subjects also abstained from caffeine (1 day before) and alcohol products (2 days before) through the end of each sample collection period. Each subject participated in two control and two treatment sessions. On control day 1 and treatment day 12, subjects received a validated cocktail (21) of: 100mg caffeine, 2mg midazolam, 30mg dextromethorphan and 20mg omeprazole (enteric coated formulation) orally with 250mL of water (21). On control day 3 and treatment day 14 (48 hours after cocktail administration in all cases), subjects received 20mg of lovastatin with 250mL of water. Subjects took 20mg of fluoxetine orally on treatment day 1 then increased to 60mg daily for 13 days. The probes were administered 1 hour after fluoxetine. Blood samples were collected between 0 and 12 hours on control day 1 and then from 48 to 60 hours, (control day 3). Following study day 12 (cocktail administration) blood samples were collected for 96 hours (0–24 hours and 48–96 hours) including study day 14. Plasma was isolated from blood by centrifugation and stored at –80°C until analysis. Urine was collected from 0–12 hr and 12–24 hr after each probe

administration. Total urine volume was recorded and aliquots were stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  until analysis.

### Quantification of study drugs and metabolites

All reference materials were obtained from Sigma Aldrich, St Louis, MO, Toronto Research Chemicals, North York Ontario CA, and Cerilliant, Round Rock, TX, except norfluoxetine stereoisomers which were synthesized in house(3). Concentrations of omeprazole, 5-hydroxyomeprazole, dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, dextrorphan-O-glucuronide, midazolam and caffeine in plasma and urine were analyzed using a Shimadzu Prominence UHPLC (Tokyo, Japan) coupled to an AB Sciex API3200 MS/MS (Framingham, MA) as described previously (3, 22). Cortisol, cortisone,  $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisol,  $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisone, lovastatin and hydroxylovastatin acid were analyzed using an Agilent 1290 UHPLC (Santa Clara, CA) coupled to an AB Sciex API5500 MS/MS. Analytes were separated using a Thermo Hypersil Gold 100x2.1mm, 1.9 $\mu\text{m}$  column (West Palm Beach, FL) with a gradient elution from 90% water with 0.1% formic acid:10% acetonitrile (0.5 min), to 90% acetonitrile by 3.5 minutes, held until 5 min, then allowed to re-equilibrate to initial conditions until 7 minutes. The (R)- and (S)- enantiomers of fluoxetine and norfluoxetine were separated using an Astec Chirobiotic V 250x2.1mm, 5 $\mu\text{m}$  (St. Louis, MO) column and isocratic elution with 10% water and 90% methanol with 10mM ammonium formate. All analytes were detected using positive electrospray ionization except for dextrorphan-O-glucuronide,  $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisol,  $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisone and hydroxylovastatin acid, which were detected using negative electrospray ionization. All MRM transitions (m/z) were as previously described (22) except the following: 272 $\rightarrow$ 128 (dextromethorphan), 258 $\rightarrow$ 157 (dextrorphan), 432 $\rightarrow$ 256 (dextrorphan-O-glucuronide), 195 $\rightarrow$ 138 (caffeine), 363 $\rightarrow$ 121 (cortisol), 361 $\rightarrow$ 163 (cortisone), 423 $\rightarrow$ 347 ( $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisol), 421 $\rightarrow$ 345 ( $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisone), 427 $\rightarrow$ 325 (lovastatin) and 421 $\rightarrow$ 319 (hydroxylovastatin acid). The injection volume for all assays was 10 $\mu\text{L}$ . The lower limits of quantitation were less than 1nM for all analytes, except for caffeine (15nM). Inter-day percent coefficient of variation for all analytes at 1nM (30nM for caffeine) was less than 15%. All samples were protein precipitated with 1:2 sample:acetonitrile, except omeprazole and 5-hydroxyomeprazole (2:3:1 sample:acetonitrile:methanol), centrifuged twice at 3000g for 15min and the supernatant was used for analysis. The organic solvent contained 100nM of  $d_3$ -omeprazole,  $d_4$ -midazolam,  $d_6$ -fluoxetine or simvastatin as internal standards. Cortisol, cortisone,  $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisol and  $6\beta$ -hydroxycortisone were extracted from the 6 hr plasma sample and the 0–12 hr urine sample from control day 3 and study day 14 using a previously described liquid-liquid extraction method (23) with the addition of a second extraction and using the internal standard of 100nM  $16\beta$ -methylprednisolone.

### Human hepatocyte studies

Induction of CYP3A4 by fluoxetine and norfluoxetine enantiomers, was determined in cryopreserved hepatocytes from three donors. Hepatocytes were thawed at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  and immediately placed into plating media (InVitroGro CP medium plus Torpedo antibiotic mix; BioreclamationIVT, Baltimore, MD). Cell count and viability were determined by automated cell counting. Hepatocytes were plated at 240,000 live cells per well in a 24-well collagen type-I coated plates (Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, NJ) and allowed to attach

for ~8 hours. The plating media was then replaced with Williams E media containing cell maintenance supplements (CM4000; LifeTechnologies, Grand Island, NY) and (S)- or (R)-fluoxetine or (S)- or (R)-norfluoxetine (0.1, 1 and 5 $\mu$ M), rifampin (10 $\mu$ M) or DMSO (vehicle control). Higher concentrations of fluoxetine and norfluoxetine could not be used due to toxicity to the cells. Media and test compounds were refreshed daily. After the 48-hour induction period, the hepatocytes were washed twice with maintenance media, maintenance media containing 100 $\mu$ M midazolam (final concentration) was added and cells incubated for 1 hour. Incubations were stopped with two volumes of ice-cold acetonitrile containing 0.1 $\mu$ M tolbutamide as an internal standard. 1'-hydroxymidazolam formation was analyzed as described (24). For mRNA analysis, the cells were harvested using Tri-Reagent (Life Technologies, Grand Island, NY) and mRNA extracted according to manufacturers instructions. cDNA was generated using Taqman reagents and rt-PCR conducted using TaqMan gene expression master mix (Life Technologies, Grand Island, NY) according to manufacturers instructions. Induction of CYP3A4 mRNA was measured using a StepOne plus real time PCR (Applied Biosciences, Foster City, CA) and relative mRNA expression compared to GAPDH as a housekeeping gene was determined using the  $C_t$  method. Fold change in expression and activity was normalized to the DMSO control.  $E_{max}$  and  $EC_{50}$  values for (S)-fluoxetine and (S)-norfluoxetine were determined by fitting equation 1 to the data from each donor using nonlinear squares analysis in Graphpad Prism (Graphpad Software, San Diego CA).  $E_{max}$  is the maximum induction effect and the  $EC_{50}$  is the concentration causing half maximal induction. Average  $E_{max}$  and  $EC_{50}$  values were incorporated into predictions. A linear relationship between concentration and mRNA fold induction was used for (R)-fluoxetine and (R)-norfluoxetine. To account for induction by both compounds in the predictions, a slope was fit to the average values of the three donors.

$$E = 1 + \frac{E_{max} \times [Ind]}{EC_{50} + [Ind]} \quad (1)$$

### ***In vitro-to-in vivo* predictions**

Overall DDI risk was first assessed via static predictions using  $[I]/K_i$  and  $\lambda/k_{deg}$  (time-dependent inhibition rate divided by P450 degradation rate constant) (25) using unbound inhibitor concentrations and inhibition constants. The  $k_{deg}$  values were 0.02 hr<sup>-1</sup> for CYP2C19 and 0.029hr<sup>-1</sup> for CYP3A4 (26, 27). The previously determined  $IC_{50}$ ,  $K_I$  and  $k_{inact,app}$  and  $f_u$  values are listed in Table 2. *In vivo* DDIs and increase in probe drug AUC were predicted via semi-physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (dynamic) modeling with SimCYP v.12 (Certara, Sheffield, UK) using the default healthy population (n=100) with the same gender proportion, age range and genotypes as the study population. In order to assess the variability between trials, 10 trials were run with 10 subjects each. Several modifications were made to the default dextromethorphan, omeprazole and midazolam models and drug specific parameters for each of these probes are presented in Table 2. Recombinant enzyme  $CL_{int}$  values for dextromethorphan were predicted using oral CL value of 1405L/hr and  $fm_{CYP2D6}$  of 0.98 (28), based on a reported oral CL of 1289 $\pm$ 414L/hr in CYP2D6 phenotyped extensive metabolizers (29). The remainder of the hepatic clearance was attributed to CYP3A4. For midazolam, the recombinant enzyme intrinsic clearance values



were calculated in Simcyp using  $f_{mCYP3A4}$  of 0.94 and a  $CL_{iv}$  of 33L/hr reported after 1mg IV dosing in CYP3A5 nonexpressors (30). For omeprazole, recombinant enzyme intrinsic clearance values were calculated in Simcyp using  $f_{mCYP2C19}$  of 0.93 and  $f_{mCYP3A4}$  of 0.07 (31), and oral CL of 80L/hr (32). Additionally, an ADAM model was used to simulate the absorption profile of enteric-coated omeprazole capsules. The triggering pH was set to 6, the intrinsic solubility to 0.25mg/mL, and the Caco-2 permeability was  $26.2 \times 10^{-06}$  cm/s, as reported (33). Drug files were created for (S)- and (R)-fluoxetine and for (S)- and (R)-norfluoxetine as metabolites of fluoxetine with the drug specific parameters (Table 2). The recombinant enzyme intrinsic clearance values were calculated in Simcyp from the *in vivo* oral CL in CYP2D6 extensive metabolizers and the CYP2D6  $f_m$  of 0.98 based on EM versus PM studies (34), and simulated kinetics were compared to observed.  $CL_{iv}$  values for the norfluoxetine enantiomers were estimated to reflect the reported  $t_{1/2}$  for each compound following a single oral dose. Distribution parameters for all four inhibitors were predicted in Simcyp from the LogP and pKa values. No other enzymes or transporters were included in the simulations than those listed in Table 2. The interactions between fluoxetine and norfluoxetine and their CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 inhibition kinetics were simulated as described (35) incorporating the interplay and mutual inhibition between the four moieties. The *rac*-fluoxetine dosage regimen simulated was identical to the dosage regimen in the *in vivo* study. Simulated day 12 concentrations agreed well with the observed day 12 concentrations in the study.

### Pharmacokinetic calculations

Noncompartmental pharmacokinetic analysis was performed using Phoenix (Pharsight, Mountainview, CA). For lovastatin, the ring closed lactone and ring opened hydroxylovastatin acid were measured separately and summed for pharmacokinetic analysis. One subject was excluded from the omeprazole analysis as an outlier (Grubb's outlier test,  $p < 0.01$ ). This individual's omeprazole concentrations were  $< 4$ nM on the fluoxetine administration day (compared to  $2800 \pm 1200$ nM in the other subjects) except for 34nM at the 12-hour sample. The metabolite/parent AUC ratios ( $AUC_m/AUC_p$ ) were calculated using  $AUC_{0-\infty}$ . The metabolite/parent urinary molar amount excreted over 24 hr ratio ( $U_m/U_p$ ) was measured for dextrorphan plus dextrorphan-O-glucuronide then divided by dextromethorphan. Based on literature values, the cutoff for categorizing subject phenotype between extensive metabolizers (EM) and poor metabolizers (PM) was  $EM > 3.3 > PM$  for dextrorphan/dextromethorphan  $U_m/U_p$  and  $EM > 0.11 > PM$  for 5-hydroxyomeprazole/omeprazole  $AUC_m/AUC_p$  (31, 36). The formation clearance ( $Cl_f$ ) of 6 $\beta$ -hydroxycortisol and 6 $\beta$ -hydroxycortisone was calculated from the amount of metabolite excreted in urine from 0–12hr divided by the 6hr plasma concentration of parent as described (23). The renal clearance ( $Cl_r$ ) was calculated from the amount excreted in urine from 0–12hr divided by the plasma concentration at 6hr.

### Statistical analysis

The mean and standard deviation are reported for  $AUC_{0-\infty}$ . The mean change and range are reported for all other values. Two-sided paired t-tests were used to evaluate the significance of change in *in vivo* parameters between control and treatment days. *Post hoc* power analysis

was performed assuming a paired, two-sided hypothesis,  $\alpha=0.05$  and  $\beta=0.20$ . All statistical analyses were performed using Excel (Microsoft Office 2011, Redmond, WA).

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

### What is the current knowledge on the topic?

Fluoxetine isomers and their norfluoxetine metabolites are inhibitors of multiple P450s *in vitro* and *in vivo* and act through both time-dependent and reversible mechanisms.

### What question this study addressed?

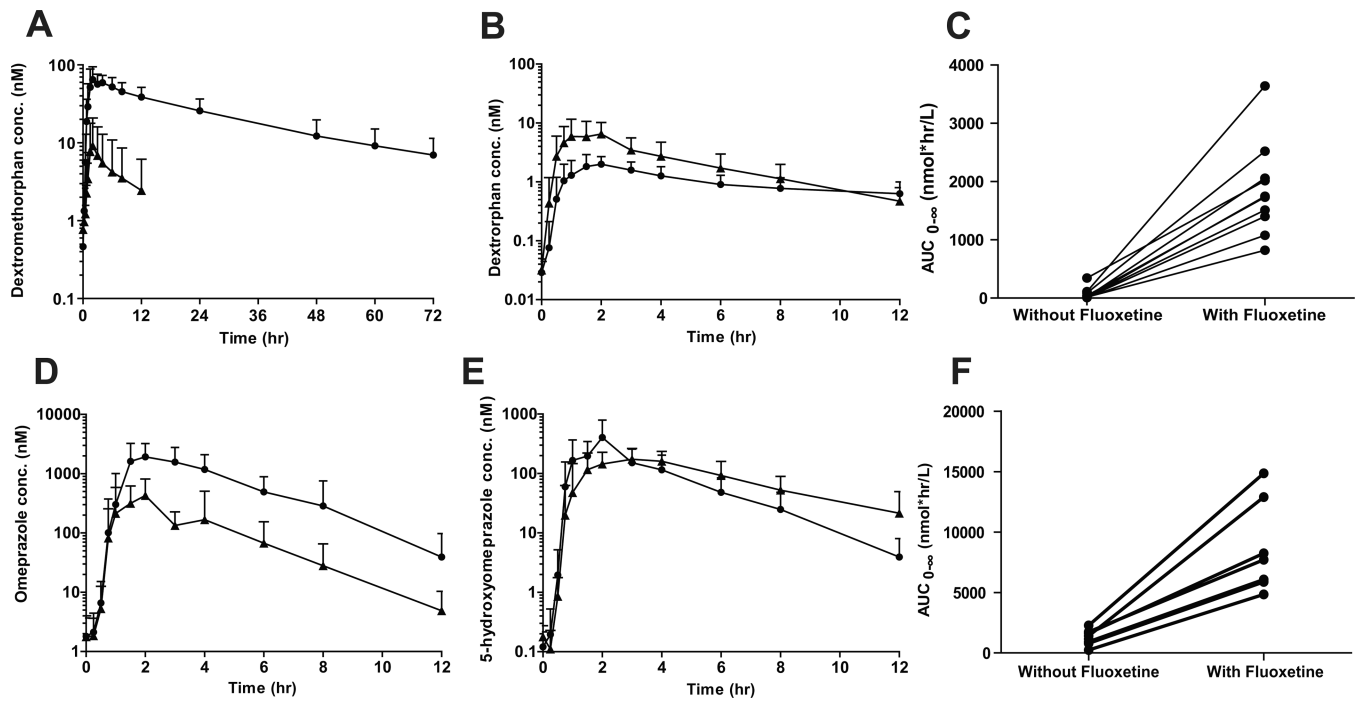
This study was designed to evaluate whether *in vivo* complex DDIs precipitated by enantiomers of fluoxetine and their metabolites could be predicted from *in vitro* data.

### What this study adds to our knowledge?

This study shows that complex DDIs with a combination of mechanisms and inhibitors can be predicted from *in vitro* data and characterization of metabolites in DDIs is important. The results of this study also establish fluoxetine as a strong inhibitor of CYP2C19.

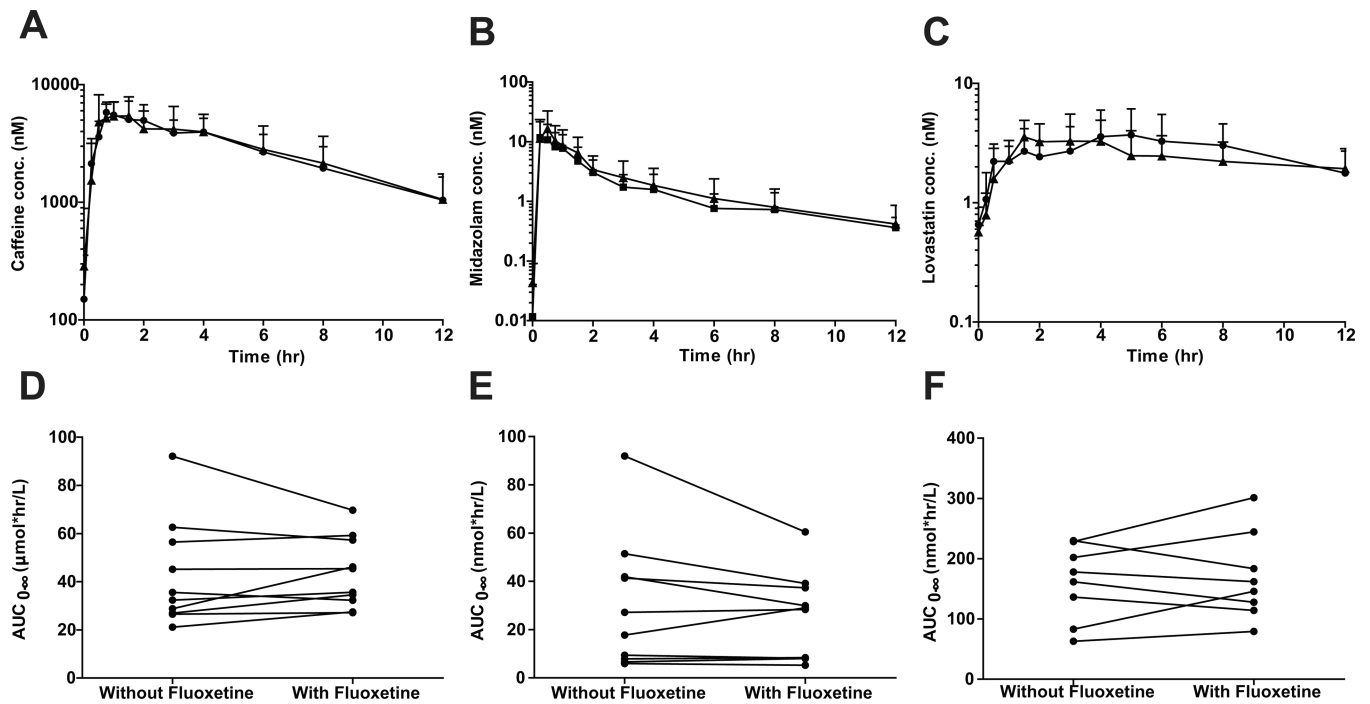
### How this might change clinical pharmacology and therapeutics?

Understanding of DDI mechanisms and relevant inhibitors is essential for evaluating DDI risk for novel compounds. Strong CYP2C19 inhibition by fluoxetine requires attention when fluoxetine is coadministered with drugs cleared by CYP2C19.

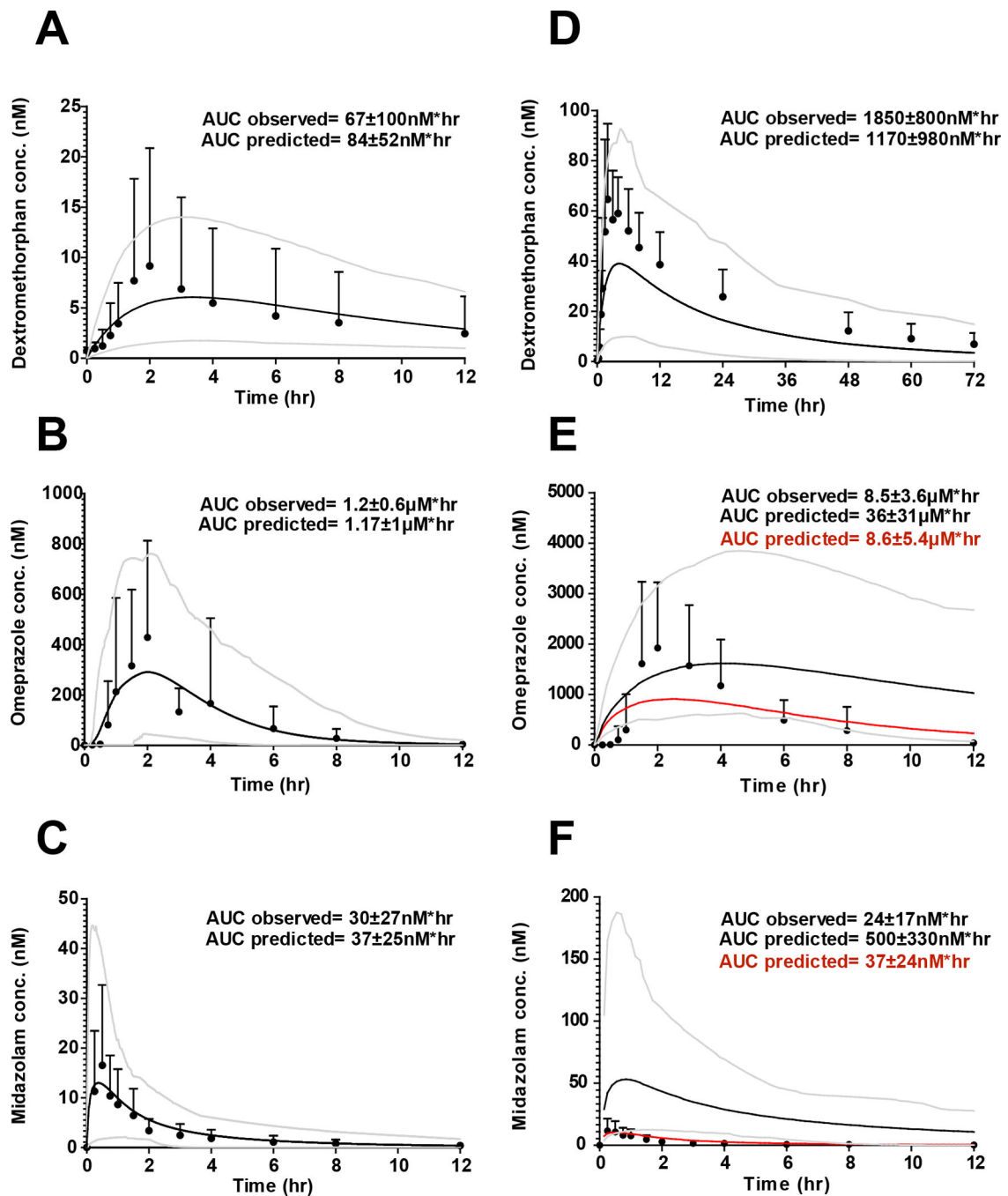


**Figure 1.**

The effect of fluoxetine administration on dextromethorphan and omeprazole pharmacokinetics. The mean (with standard deviation) plasma concentration versus time curves for dextromethorphan (A), dextrophan (B) omeprazole (D), and 5-hydroxyomeprazole (E) in the presence (circles) and absence (triangles) of fluoxetine (n=10) are shown with the effect of fluoxetine on the AUC<sub>0-∞</sub> of dextromethorphan and omeprazole in each individual subject shown in panels C and F.



**Figure 2.** Disposition of caffeine (A and D), midazolam (B and E) and lovastatin (C and F) in the presence and absence of fluoxetine administration. Mean and standard deviation (n=10) plasma concentration versus time curves are displayed in the presence (circles) and absence (triangles) of fluoxetine. AUC<sub>0-∞</sub> changes are shown for individual subjects.

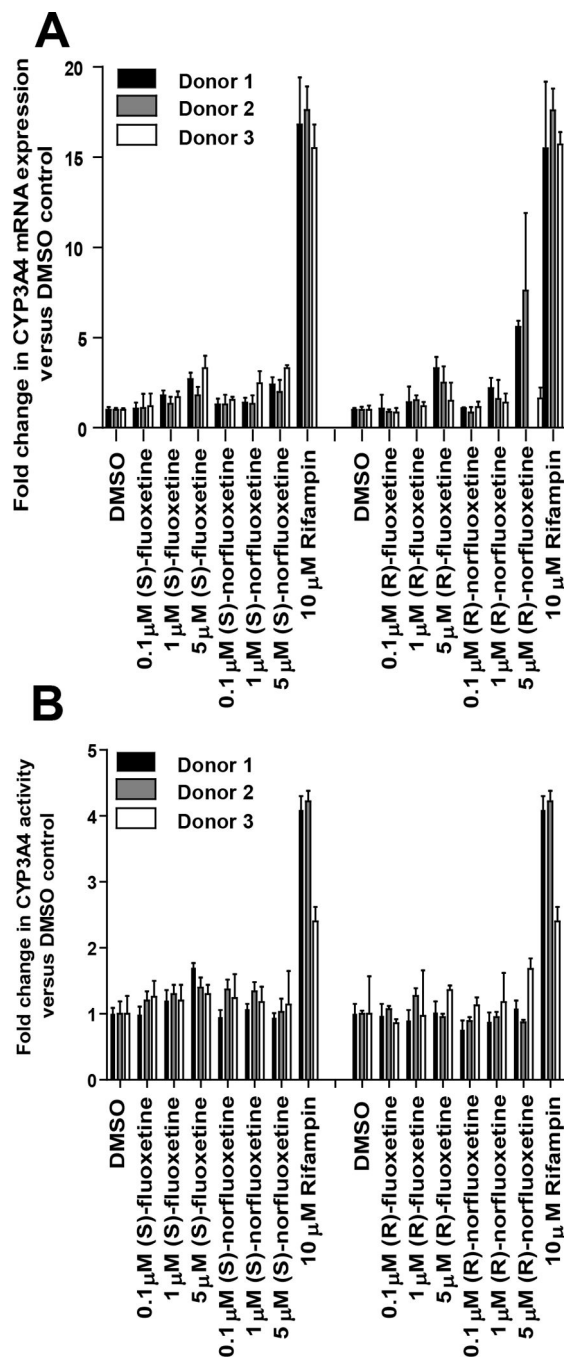


**Figure 3.**

Simulated and observed concentration profiles of dextromethorphan (A and D), omeprazole (B and E) and midazolam (C and F) on day 12 of the study following fluoxetine administration (right panel) and in the control day (left panel). Observed mean and standard deviation plasma concentration versus time curves are shown as circles and simulated curves are shown as lines. The grey lines represent the 95 and 5% confidence intervals of the simulated data in 100 subjects. In panels E and F the red lines represent the simulated concentration versus time curve of omeprazole and midazolam in the absence of CYP3A4



inactivation, respectively. The control day observed  $C_{\max}$  values were  $8.7 \pm 11.4$  nM,  $660 \pm 380$  nM, and  $17 \pm 16$  nM for dextromethorphan, omeprazole and midazolam, respectively. The corresponding predicted control day  $C_{\max}$  values were  $6.2 \pm 4$  nM,  $340 \pm 230$  nM, and  $15 \pm 15$  nM. The observed day 12  $C_{\max}$  values were  $74 \pm 31$  nM,  $2500 \pm 1400$  nM and  $14.5 \pm 10$  nM for dextromethorphan, omeprazole and midazolam, respectively. The corresponding predicted day 12  $C_{\max}$  values were  $40 \pm 25$  nM,  $1700 \pm 940$  nM and  $58 \pm 62$  nM.



**Figure 4.**

Induction of CYP3A4 by fluoxetine and norfluoxetine enantiomers. Concentration dependent effects of fluoxetine and norfluoxetine on CYP3A4 mRNA (A) and activity (B) are shown for three donors. Rifampicin was used as the positive control for CYP3A4 induction. The mRNA induction parameters obtained were  $I_{max}$  of 2.8 fold and  $EC_{50}$  of 3.5 μM for (S)-fluoxetine and  $I_{max}$  of 2.6 fold and  $EC_{50}$  of 3.9 μM for (S)-norfluoxetine. For (R)-fluoxetine and (R)-norfluoxetine toxicity to the hepatocytes prevented treatments at concentrations that would be high enough to show saturation of induction and hence the

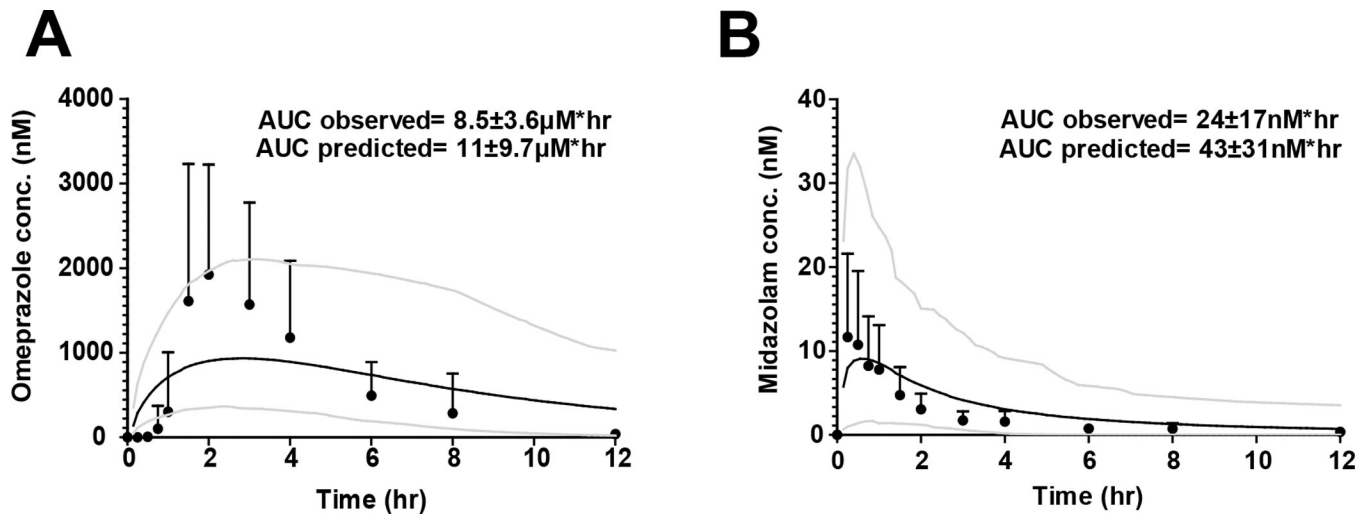
induction slope was determined. The slopes were  $0.3 \mu\text{M}^{-1}$  for (R)-fluoxetine and  $0.8 \mu\text{M}^{-1}$  for (R)-norfluoxetine respectively.

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**Figure 5.**

Simulated and observed concentration profiles following fluoxetine administration when CYP3A4 induction is incorporated. Mean and standard deviation plasma concentration versus time curves along with the simulated curves are displayed for omeprazole (A) and midazolam (B). Black circles represent observed concentrations, the solid black line represents the simulated concentration versus time curve resulting from the incorporation of CYP3A4 induction. Grey lines represent the 95 and 5% confidence intervals of the simulated curve. The observed  $C_{max}$  values for omeprazole and midazolam were  $2500 \pm 1400$  nM and  $15 \pm 15$  nM, respectively. The corresponding predicted  $C_{max}$  values were  $980 \pm 550$  nM and  $10 \pm 11$  nM.

**Table 1**

Summary of the pharmacokinetic parameters of dextromethorphan, dextrorphan (n=10), omeprazole and 5-hydroxyomeprazole (n=9) at the control and fluoxetine treatment study days.

	Control	Treatment	Treatment/Control
<b>Dextromethorphan</b>			
AUC <sub>0-∞</sub> (nmol*hr/L)	68±100	1850±800 <sup>***</sup>	27 (5.8–160)
Cl (L/hr)	5800±4500	70±30	
t <sub>1/2</sub> (hr)	5±1	21±6	
<b>Dextrorphan</b>			
AUC <sub>0-∞</sub> (nmol*hr/L)	29±18	28±17	0.97 (0.47–1.4)
AUC <sub>m</sub> /AUC <sub>p</sub>	1.1 (0.047–2.9)	0.017 (0.0043–0.038) <sup>**</sup>	0.015 (0.005–0.08)
U <sub>m</sub> /U <sub>p</sub>	8.2 (1.0–37)	0.058 (0.026–0.10) <sup>*</sup>	0.007 (0.0014–0.051)
<b>Omeprazole</b>			
AUC <sub>0-∞</sub> (μmol*hr/L)	1.2±0.6	8.5±3.6 <sup>**</sup>	7.1 (4.4–20)
Cl (L/hr)	70±65	8±3	
t <sub>1/2</sub> (hr)	1.2±0.5	1.3±0.1	
<b>5-Hydroxyomeprazole</b>			
AUC <sub>0-∞</sub> (μmol*hr/L)	1.0±0.4	1.1±0.3	1.1 (0.69–1.7)
AUC <sub>m</sub> /AUC <sub>p</sub>	0.90 (0.32–3.3)	0.12 (0.045–0.21) <sup>*</sup>	0.13 (0.063–0.20)
<b>Midazolam</b>			
AUC <sub>0-∞</sub> (nmol*hr/L)	30±27	24±17	0.80
Cl (L/hr)	300 (67–1000)	340 (110–1300)	
t <sub>1/2</sub> (hr)	2.2 (1.6–3.5)	2.3 (1.4–4.0)	
<b>Lovastatin</b>			
AUC <sub>0-∞</sub> (nmol*hr/L) <sup>*</sup>	180±90	170±70	0.94
Cl (L/hr) <sup>*</sup>	300 (130–780)	320 (160–620)	
t <sub>1/2</sub> (hr) <sup>*</sup>	5.1 (3.3–10)	4.4 (2.8–8.9)	
<b>Cortisol</b>			
C <sub>p</sub> (nM)	140±60	160±80	
Cl <sub>r</sub> (mL/hr)	36 (9.0–77)	35 (16–80)	
<b>Cortisone</b>			
C <sub>p</sub> (nM)	27±9	23±5	
Cl <sub>r</sub> (L/hr)	0.43 (0.14–1.2)	0.48 (0.14–0.91)	
<b>6β-hydroxycortisol</b>			
Cl <sub>r</sub> (L/hr)	4.2 (0.85–30)	3.4 (0.43–13)	
Cl <sub>f</sub> (mL/hr)	40 (5.8–340)	28 (6.8–130)	0.7
U <sub>m</sub> /U <sub>p</sub>	1.1 (0.25–5.8)	0.79 (0.17–3.0)	

	Control	Treatment	Treatment/Control
<b>6<math>\beta</math>-hydroxycortisone</b>			
Cl <sub>r</sub> (L/hr)	25 (13–68)	19 (7.1–30)	
Cl <sub>f</sub> (mL/hr)	100 (38–390)	87 (39–190)	0.87

\* n=7, N.D. not determined.

Significant differences between control and treatment days are indicated as

\* p < 0.01,

\*\* P < 0.001 and

\*\*\* p < 0.0001.

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Table 2

Summary of drug specific parameters used for simulations

	(R)-fluoxetine	(R)-norfluoxetine	(S)-fluoxetine	(S)-norfluoxetine	Omeprazole	Dextromethorphan	Midazolam
MW	309.2	294.2	309.2	294.2	345.4	271.4	325.8
LogP	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	2.23	3.8	3.53
pKa 1	10	9	10	9	8.7	8.3	10.95
pKa 2	-	-	-	-	4.4	-	6.2
$f_u$	0.22	0.2	0.14	0.13	0.043	0.5	0.032
B/P	1.19 <sup>a</sup>	1.14 <sup>a</sup>	0.96 <sup>a</sup>	0.94 <sup>a</sup>	0.56	1.32	0.86 <sup>i</sup>
$k_a$ (hr <sup>-1</sup> )	0.97	-	0.97	-	-	0.6*	2.5 <sup>j</sup>
$f_a$	0.95	-	0.95	-	-	1	0.88
$f_g$	1	-	1	-	-	1	1
$V_{ss}$ (L/kg)	6.37 <sup>a</sup> (method 2)	3.5 <sup>a</sup> (method 1)	4.07 <sup>a</sup> (method 2)	3.27 <sup>a</sup> (method 1)	0.24 <sup>b</sup>	14.45 <sup>f</sup>	1.27 <sup>k</sup>
$V_{sac}^*$ (L/kg)	-	-	-	-	0.1	1	0.75
$k_{in}$ (hr <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
$k_{out}$ (hr <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.5
$V_{sac} Q$ (L/hr)	-	-	-	-	10	15	-
$CL_r$ (L/hr)	0.141	-	0.141	-	0.037	0.375	0.085
$CL_{po}$ (L/hr)	40 <sup>c</sup>	-	33 <sup>c</sup>	-	80 <sup>b</sup>	1405 <sup>h</sup>	-
$CL_{IV}$ (L/hr)	-	11.8	-	5.8	-	-	33 <sup>k</sup>
CYP2D6	0.58 <sup>c</sup>	-	98 <sup>c</sup>	-	-	0.98 <sup>g</sup>	-
CYP2C9	0.33 <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
CYP2C19	0.09 <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	0.93 <sup>e</sup>	-	-
CYP3A4	-	-	-	-	0.07	0.018	0.94
$f_m$							
$K_1$ (μM) ( $f_u$ ) <sup>m</sup>	2.3 {0.48}	15 {0.42}	34 {0.52}	4.1 {0.47}	-	-	-
$K_1$ (μM) ( $f_u$ )	1.8 {0.088}	15 {0.065}	55 {0.095}	7 {0.067}	-	-	-
$k_{inact}$ (hr <sup>-1</sup> )	1.02	3.0	3.3	3.5	-	-	-

	(R)-fluoxetine	(R)-norfluoxetine	(S)-fluoxetine	(S)-norfluoxetine	Omeprazole	Dextromethorphan	Midazolam
CYP2D6	$K_i$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) $\{f_0\}$	0.86 {0.48}	0.5 {0.42}	0.068 {0.52}	-	-	-
	$K_i$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) $\{f_0\}^f$	80 {0.48}	5.1 {0.42}	47 {0.52}	-	-	-
	$K_i$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) $\{f_0\}^f$	-	7.7 {0.065}	21 {0.095}	-	-	-
CYP3A4	$k_{\text{inact}}$ ( $\text{hr}^{-1}$ ) <sup>g</sup>	-	0.66	0.564	-	-	-
	$E_{\text{max}}$ <sup>h</sup>	-	-	2.8	-	-	-
	$\text{Ind}_{50}$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) $\{f_0\}^n$	-	-	3.5 {0.01}	-	-	-
	$\text{Ind}_{\text{slope,u}}$ ( $\mu\text{M}^{-1}$ ) <sup>n</sup>	30	80	-	-	-	-

Unless otherwise noted, all parameters were taken from the SimCYP compound library. In order to simulate all of the inhibitors and metabolites, (R)-fluoxetine and (R)-norfluoxetine were set as substrate 1 and the primary metabolite of substrate 1, respectively. (S)-fluoxetine and (S)-norfluoxetine were set as inhibitor 1 and the metabolite of inhibitor 1, respectively. The substrate was included as inhibitor 2.

<sup>a</sup>Predicted in Simeyp.

<sup>b</sup> $\text{CL}_{\text{po}}$  of 80L/hr for omeprazole was calculated from the reported  $\text{CL}_{\text{iv}}$  of 37L/hr and bioavailability of 0.46 (32).  $V_{\text{ss}}$  of omeprazole was previously reported (37).

<sup>c</sup>Median  $\text{CL}_{\text{po}}$  values of 35.7 and 40.1L/hr for (R)-fluoxetine and (S)-fluoxetine in extensive metabolizers of spartine have been reported (38).  $\text{CL}_{\text{po}}$  values of 40L/hr and 33L/hr were used for (R) and (S)-fluoxetine, respectively to reflect the observed in vivo half-life and multiple dosing accumulation of both analytes. The AUC ratio in poor and extensive CYP2D6 metabolizers was used to calculate the fmCYP2D6 (34).

<sup>d</sup>CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 have been implicated in the in vitro metabolism of (R)-fluoxetine, with CYP2C9 contributing more than CYP2C19(39). Scaling the  $\text{CL}_{\text{int}}$  of each enzyme to the hepatic enzyme expression in Simeyp suggests that CYP2D6 contributes approximately 80% of the non-CYP2D6 mediated clearance of R-fluoxetine.

<sup>e</sup>Omeprazole fmCYP2C19 was calculated from the AUC ratio in CYP2C19 poor and extensive metabolizers (31).

<sup>f</sup>The  $V_{\text{ss}}$  for dextromethorphan was used previously(40).

<sup>g</sup>The fmCYP2D6 was calculated from the ratio of the AUC in the presence and absence of quindine in genotyped CYP2D6 extensive metabolizers. In the same subjects, the  $f_0$  was reported to be 0.02. The rest of the CL was assumed to be due to CYP3A4-mediated metabolism (28).

<sup>h</sup>An oral CL of  $1289 \pm 414$ L/hr was reported in 11 phenotyped CYP2D6 extensive metabolizers (28). To reflect the half-life in genotyped CYP2D6 extensive metabolizers, the oral CL of dextromethorphan was set to 1405L/hr.

<sup>i</sup>The blood to plasma ratio (B/P) was previously reported (41).

<sup>j</sup>The  $k_d$  of midazolam was previously estimated (42).

<sup>k</sup>The  $V_{\text{ss}}$  of midazolam was previously determined after IV dosing in CYP3A5 nonexpressors (30).

<sup>l</sup>Inhibition constants were previously published(3).



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Inhibition parameters were previously published.

<sup>m</sup> The total  $K_i$  and  $K_I$  values listed were entered into Simeyp along with the corresponding  $f_{u, inc}$  values, which are reported in brackets.

<sup>n</sup> Induction parameters were not scaled to Rifampin. The observed  $Ind_{50}$  values were entered along with the estimated  $f_{u, inc}$ , which is in brackets. The  $Ind_{slope}$  was corrected for  $f_{u, inc}$  and the  $Ind_{slope, u}$  was entered into Simeyp.

<sup>\*</sup>  $V_{sac, kin}$ ,  $k_{out}$  and  $V_{sac, Q}$  parameters were estimated to achieve desired distribution kinetics. The  $k_a$  value of dextromethorphan was estimated in order to reflect observed  $C_{max}$  and  $t_{max}$ .