

## Effect of *UGT2B15* Genotype on the Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Drug Interactions of Lorazepam

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**Objective:** To investigate the effect of the *UGT2B15* genetic polymorphism on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of lorazepam in basal, inhibited, and induced metabolic states in healthy normal volunteers.

**Methods:** Twenty four healthy subjects were enrolled and grouped into *UGT2B15*\*1/\*1 or *UGT2B15*\*2/\*2 genotype groups. The pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic profiles of intravenous lorazepam were characterized before and after valproate administration (600 mg once daily for 4 days), and also following rifampin pretreatment (600 mg once daily for 10 days), with a washout period of 10 days between. The plasma concentrations of lorazepam and lorazepam-glucuronide were analyzed before and 0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24, and 48 hours after lorazepam administration by LC-MS/MS. Visual analog scale assessments and psychomotor coordination tests (Vienna) were done before and up to 12 hours after drug administration.

**Results:** The *UGT2B15*\*2/\*2 group showed less systemic clearance by 42% ( $p < 0.0001$ ) during the basal state, and a greater area under the visual analog scale-time curve by 37% ( $p = 0.037$ ) during the induced state than the *UGT2B15*\*1/\*1 group. The average systemic clearance of lorazepam reduced by 20% in the inhibited state, and increased by 140% in the induced state. Metabolic inhibition or induction effects on pharmacokinetic or pharmacodynamic parameters were no different by genotype.

**Conclusions:** Our results suggest that the *UGT2B15* genotype is a major determinant of interindividual variability with respect to the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of lorazepam.