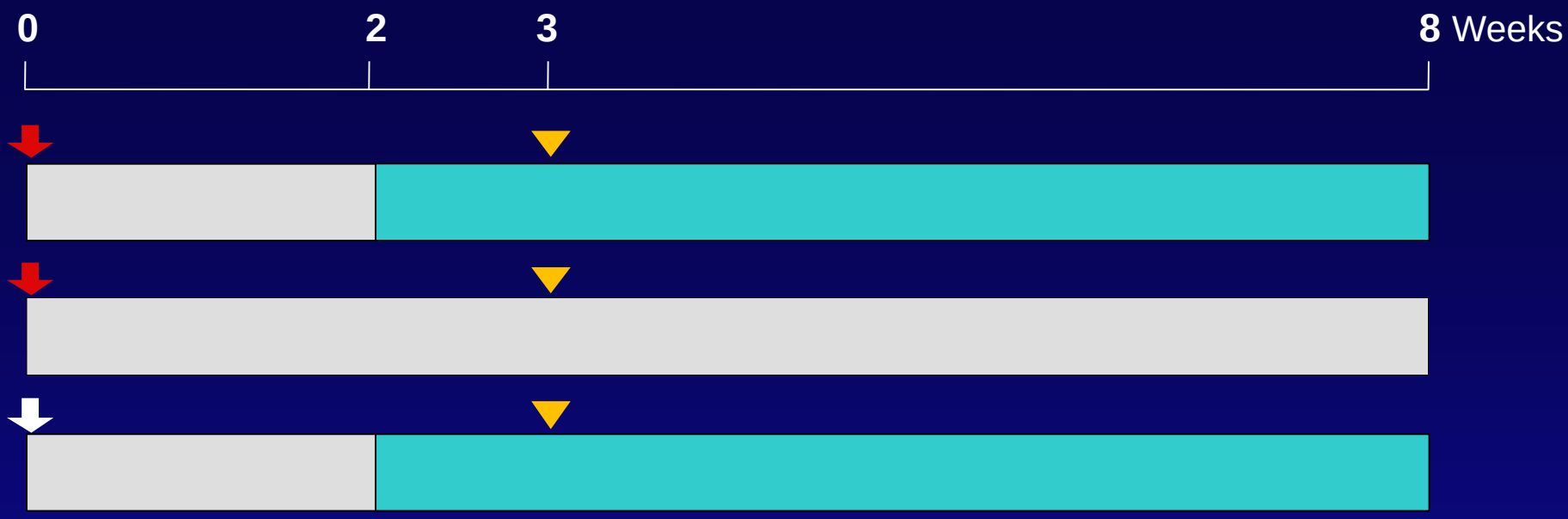
A Rat Medium-term Liver Bioassay for Carcinogens

Liver as a Target Organ for Carcinogenicity

Data source	No. of Chemicals evaluated	Carcinogenic chemicals	
		Total	Liver
IARC	587	147	87 (59%)
NCI/NTP	224	149	80 (54%)

IARC Monographs, Supplement 7, 1987
E. Zeiger, Cancer Res., 1987



Animals : 6-week-old, F344 male rats

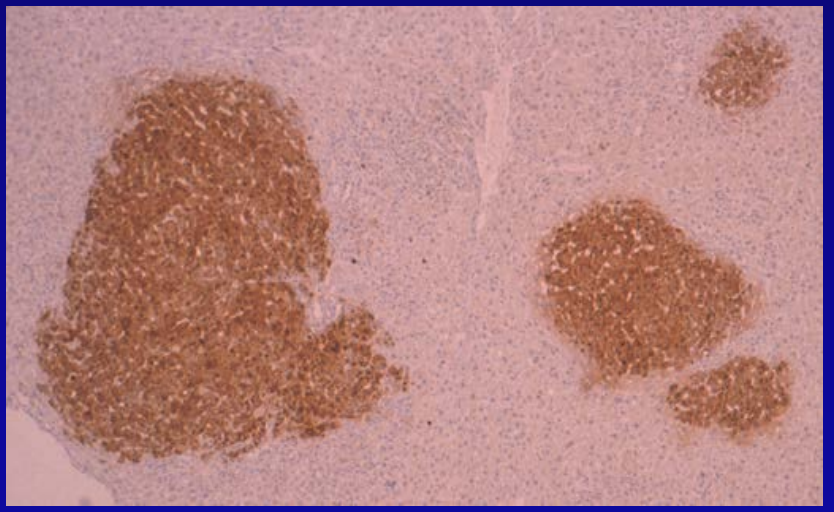
: DEN, 200mg/kg, i.p.

: Saline, i.p.

: 2/3 Partial Hepatectomy

: Basal diet

: Test compounds

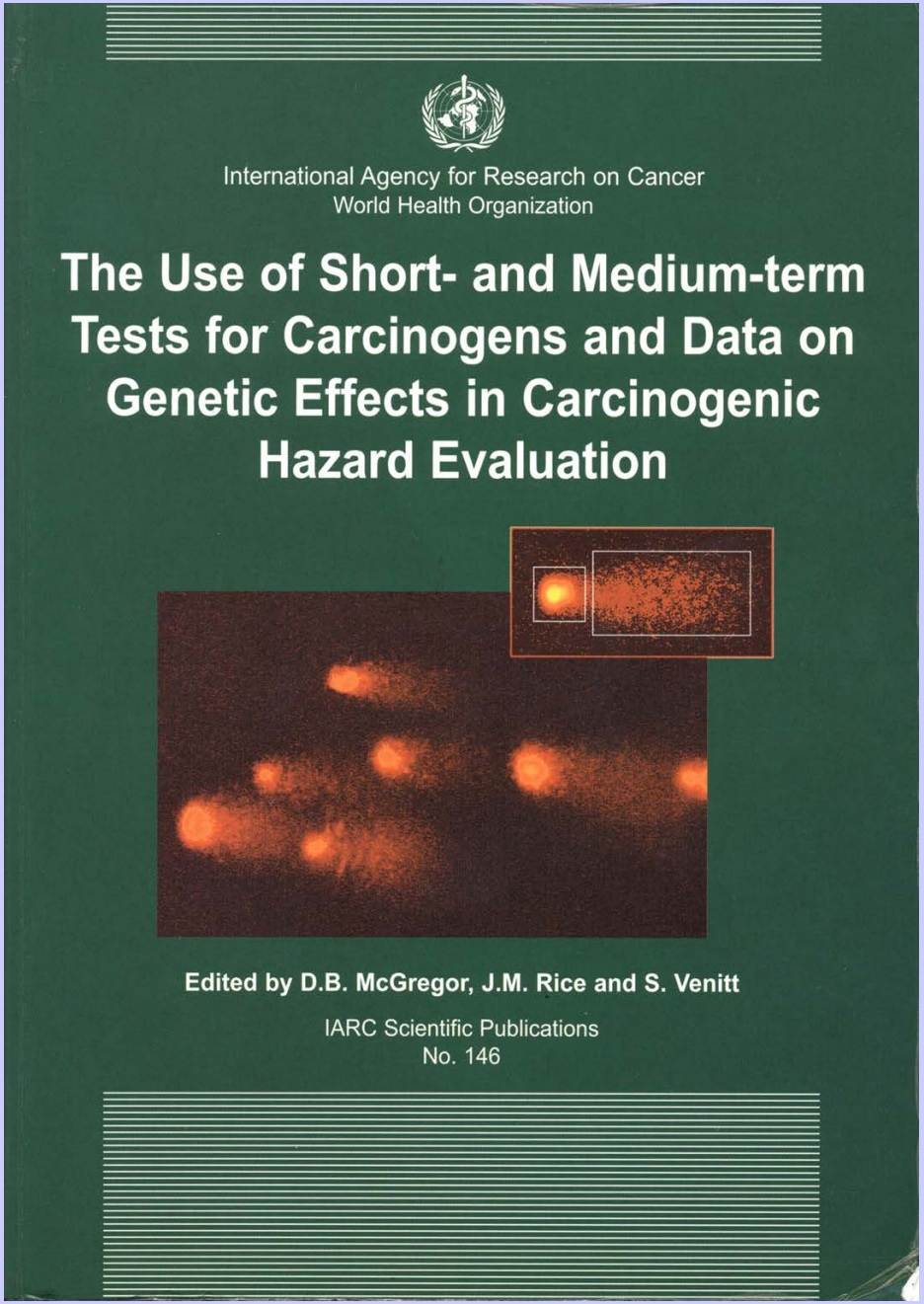


End-point marker : GST-P Positive Liver Cell Foci

Rat Medium-term Liver Bioassay for Carcinogens

Advantages of the Rat Medium-term Liver Bioassay

1. Good correlation with long-term carcinogenicity data.
2. Predictability of carcinogenic dose with clear dose-response relationship.
3. Positive detection of many non-genotoxic hepatocarcinogens.
4. Detection of hepatocarcinogens reported only in mouse.
5. Small amount of test chemicals.
6. Saving animals, time and cost.
7. Detection of modifying potentials of chemicals on liver carcinogenesis.



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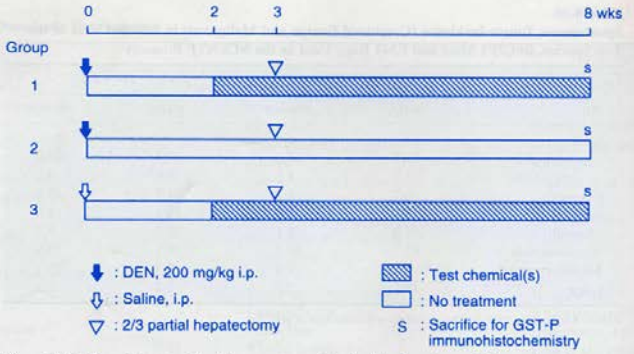


Figure 8-30. The medium-term liver bioassay protocol for identification of potentially carcinogenic agents.

DEN, diethylnitrosamine; GST-P, glutathione *S*-transferase–π. [Reproduced from Shirai (1997), with permission of author and publisher.]

dose of diethylnitrosamine poses some problems in that this dose by itself is carcinogenic, but only after a year or more. Furthermore, this high dose is also clastogenic to rat hepatocytes in vivo (Sargent et al., 1989). However, these authors and their colleagues have demonstrated a significant degree of correlation between long- and medium-term results, indicating the usefulness of this assay as a potential surrogate for the chronic bioassay (Ogiso et al., 1990). More recently these authors have used a slightly modified protocol in which five potent carcinogenic agents are administered for a 4-week period, followed by administration of the test chemical for a subsequent 24- to 32-week period (Ito et al., 1996). Unlike the assay depicted in Fig. 8-29, this more complicated procedure may allow the detection of promoting and progressor agents as well as complete carcinogens in a variety of different tissues. However, outside of Japan these assay procedures have not been generally utilized.

The newborn mouse model of chemical carcinogenesis was initially described by Shubik and his colleagues (Pietra et al., 1959) and later used extensively in studies of mouse hepatocarcinogenesis by Vesselinovitch and his colleagues (1978). More recently, Fujii (1991) has utilized this procedure in the determination of the carcinogenic potential of 45 different chemicals with quite reasonable results. The endpoint of neoplasms in a variety of different tissues, including lung, liver, lymphoid and hematopoietic tissues, is determined within a 1-year period. The assay is relatively inexpensive, utilizing small amounts of the test materials. As yet, however, this assay has not found general usefulness in the determination of carcinogenic potential by regulatory agencies.

Multistage Models of Neoplastic Development

As we have previously noted, the original studies on multistage models of carcinogenesis were developed with the epidermis of the mouse. It was not until some 40 years after those initial experiments that there was some attempt at standardization of the multistage model of carcinogenesis in mouse skin for the analysis of the carcinogenic potential of specific chemicals (Pereira, 1982). The for mat for such assays was essentially that depicted in Fig. 8-18. Fe refinements in the procedure were added with the exception of th use of a genetically susceptible strain of mice, the SENCAR strain which is now utilized in such tests (Slaga, 1986). This system ma also be extended to the potential analysis of progressor agents (Hen nings et al., 1993; Warren et al., 1993).

Considerably later than the initial reports of the mouse ski system, Hicks et al. (1975) demonstrated the cocarcinogenic or promoting action of several agents in the development of bladder cancer in the rat. Subsequently, other promoting agents have been demonstrated with this or a related assay, some of which appear to be relatively unique to this tissue for both anatomical and chemical reasons (Cohen and Lawson, 1995; Ito and Fukushima, 1989). At about the same time as the initial report of the multistage bladder model of carcinogenesis, Peraino and associates (1977) reported a multistage model of carcinogenesis in the rat liver. This finding led to the development of a number of models of multistage carcinogenesis in the rat liver. Solt and Farber (1976) reported a model somewhat analogous to that of Ito and his colleagues, but with an aim directed primarily at studying mechanisms of hepatocarcinogenesis rather than utilizing it as an assay system for potential carcinogens. Shortly thereafter, Pitot et al. (1978) developed a model wherein initiation was performed with a nonnecrogenic dose of the initiating agent, subsequently followed by chronic administration of a promoting agent. The format of these two assay systems are noted in Fig. 8-31. The endpoint of these systems is the quantitative analysis of altered hepatic foci measured by one of several enzymatic markers, the most sensitive being the expression of GSTP (Hendrich et al., 1987). Several studies have investigated the potential for such analyses in the detection of chemical carcinogens (Pereira and Stoner, 1985; Williams, 1989; Oesterle and Deml, 1990). A similar format has been used to study the preneoplastic aberrant crypt foci in the colon of animals administered potential carcinogens (Ghia et al., 1996). However, as yet all such assays utilizing preneoplastic endpoints have not found general usefulness in the identification of potential carcinogenic agents.

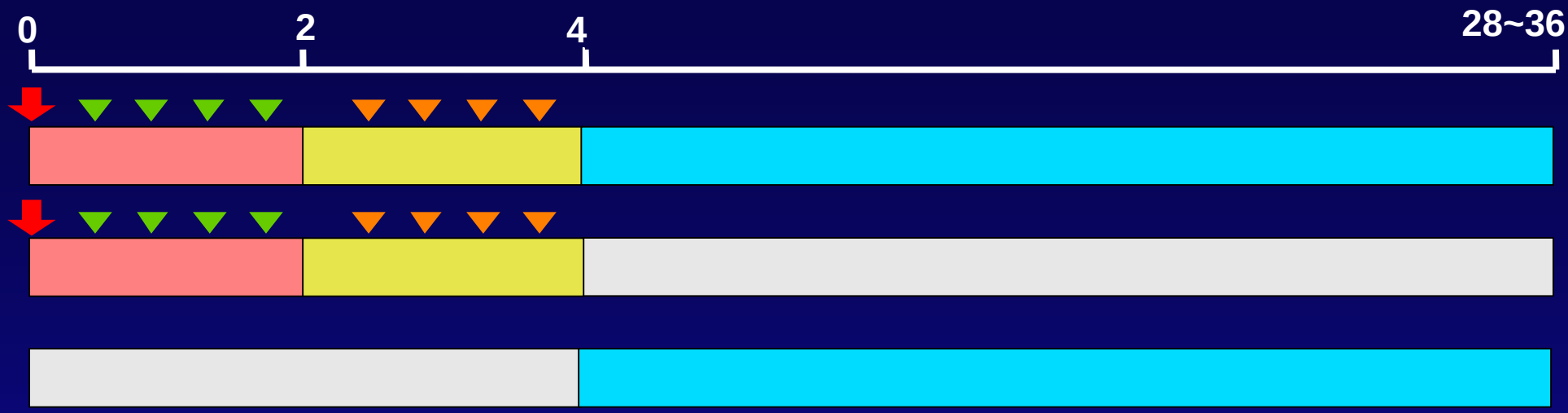
A Medium-term Multi-organ Bioassay

Basic Concepts for the Rat Medium-term Multi-organ Bioassay for Carcinogens

1. Detection of carcinogenic agents, especially those targeting organs other than the liver, using a single bioassay model.

2. Analysis of modifying effects (enhancement or inhibition) of test chemicals in multi-organs.

3. Dose response analysis of test chemicals in multi-organ carcinogenesis, including at low dose.



Animals : 6-week-old, F344 male rats

DMBDD treatments

: DEN, 100mg/kg, i.p.

: MNU, 20mg/kg, i.p.

: DMH, 40mg/kg, s.c.

: BBN, 0.05% in drinking water

: DHPN, 0.1% in drinking water, 2 weeks

: Test chemicals

: Basal diet

Rat Multi-Organ Bioassay (DMBDD Methods)

Carcinogens Used in the Rat Multi-organ Carcinogenesis Bioassay

Carcinogen	Route of Administration	Main Target Organs
DEN	i.p.	Liver
MNU	i.p.	Esophagus, Forestomach, Glandular stomach, S. intestine, Kidney, Urinary bladder, Nervous system
BBN	Water	Urinary Bladder
DHPN	Water	Lung, Thyroid, Kidney
DMH	s.c.	Colon

Endpoint Markers Available for the Rat Medium-term Multi-Organ Bioassays for Carcinogens

Organ	Marker Lesions
Nasal cavity	PN hyperplasia, Papilloma, Carcinoma
Lung	Hyperplasia, Adenoma, Carcinoma
Tongue, Esophagus	PN hyperplasia, Adenoma, Carcinoma
Forestomach	Hyperplasia, Adenoma, Carcinoma
Glandular stomach	PAPG, Hyperplasia, Adenoma, Carcinoma
Intestines	ACF, Adenoma, Carcinoma
Liver	GST-P positive foci, Adenoma, Carcinoma
Pancreas	Acinar cell focus, Adenoma, Carcinoma
Kidneys	Altered tubulus, Adenoma, Carcinoma
Urinary bladder	PN hyperplasia, Adenoma, Carcinoma
Thyroid	Adenoma, Carcinoma
Prostate	Dysplasia, Carcinoma

PN, papillary or nodular;
PAPG, pepsinogen 1 altered pyloric glands

CONCLUSIONS

The rat medium-term liver bioassays for carcinogens and the rat multi-organ bioassays for carcinogens are useful and reliable methods to detect carcinogenic or modifying potentials for screening of chemicals.