

HRN™: Hepatic Cytochrome P450 Reductase Null Mouse Model

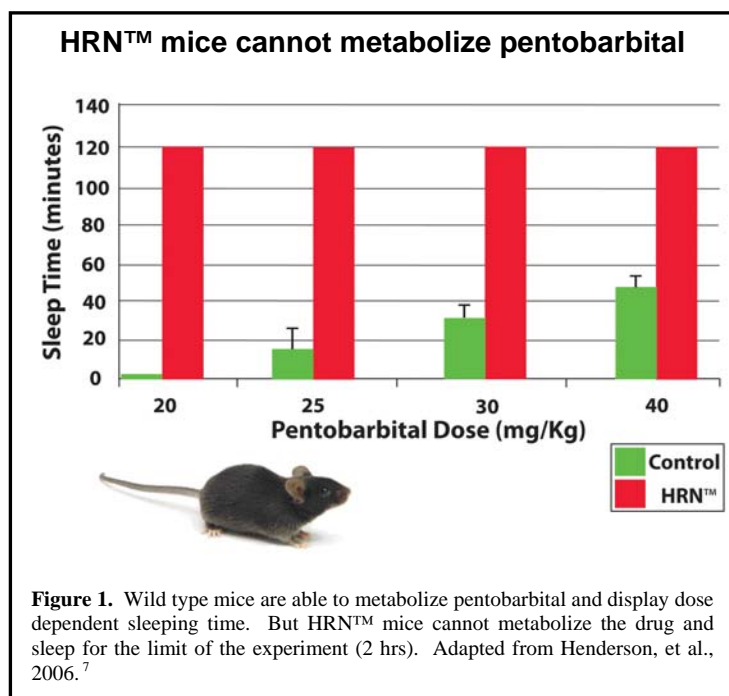
The Hepatic Reductase Null mouse provides a unique model for drug discovery/development and ADMET studies.

Applications of the HRN™ Mouse Model

Taconic's HRN™ Targeted Mutation/Microinjected Mice are homozygous for the tissue-specific targeted disruption of the *Por* gene in the liver. This genetic modification results in the ablation of hepatic cytochrome P450 activity. As the cytochrome P450 system plays a major role in drug metabolism and disposition, this model is very useful for efficacy, bioavailability and other ADMET studies. The lack of first pass metabolism can increase the circulating levels of compounds normally metabolized by the P450 system, thereby increasing the chances of demonstrating *in vivo* efficacy.

Applications include:

- **Efficacy studies:** allows use of smaller amounts of lead compounds in early efficacy studies.
- **Metabolism studies:** evaluation of the role of P450 metabolism on drug bioavailability as well as evaluation of the role of hepatic vs. extrahepatic metabolism.
- **Metabolite profiling:** the HRN™ mouse allows true dosing of parent compounds, which may not be otherwise possible. Evaluate the contribution of metabolites vs. parent compounds to efficacy or toxicity.
- **Toxicokinetic studies:** identify the optimal route and method of administration of drugs.
- **Reduced dosing:** high clearance compounds can be easily dosed in the HRN™ mouse, compared to wild type mice which might require dosing multiple times daily or the use of constant infusion pumps.
- **Basic research:** study of the role of P450 metabolism in normal homeostasis.



Features of the HRN™ mouse (models 007293 and 007353)

- Mice are homozygous for a liver-specific knockout of the *Por* gene.
- Animals are healthy and develop normally, but display enlarged and hyperlipidemic livers.¹
- HRN™ mice have lowered serum cholesterol and triglycerides.

Scientific Profiles of the HRN™ Mouse Model

POR serves as the essential electron donor for all cytochrome P450 enzymes.² Multiple P450 genes exist, and deletion of all these genes is impractical. However, the POR enzyme serves as the key electron donor for all P450 proteins, so the tissue-

specific deletion of the *Por* gene in the HRNTM mouse results in disruption of all P450 activity in the liver. Constitutive deletion of *Por* is embryonic lethal,³ but the tissue-specific targeting found in the HRNTM mouse results in a viable and healthy animal. The cre transgene present becomes active neonatally, so most experiments with HRNTM mice should use adult mice to ensure appropriate tissue-specific disruption of *Por*.

POR activity is significantly reduced in HRNTM mice. POR activity in microsomal fractions derived from livers of adult HRNTM mice is reduced by approximately 90% compared to hepatic microsomes derived from wild type controls. Significant differences were not observed for POR activity in kidney microsomal fractions of HRNTM mice compared to controls, demonstrating the specificity of the tissue-specific mutation.¹

HRNTM mice have phenotypic changes in the liver. Compared to wild type controls, HRNTM mice have livers almost twice as large. Livers of HRNTM mice are also hyperlipidemic. HRNTM mice display a 90% reduction in volume of bile acid in the gall bladder and have lower serum cholesterol and triglycerides.¹

HRNTM mice lack significant hepatic P450 activity. Metabolite formation by a wide range of P450 enzymes, including members of the CYP2A and CYP3A families, was significantly reduced. However, these mice display greatly altered expression of P450s, with some enzymes upregulated and others downregulated.^{1,4}

The hepatic disruption of *Por* in HRNTM mice results in profoundly altered drug metabolism. HRNTM mice are unable to metabolize the anaesthetic pentobarbital; doses that leave wild type mice unaffected cause HRNTM mice to sleep longer than two hours.¹ This experiment demonstrates that pharmacological effects can be observed at much lower concentrations in the HRNTM mouse compared to wild type mice.

The HRNTM model allows for sophisticated toxicokinetic experiments. Studies using HRNTM mice demonstrated that hepatic metabolism is the major route elimination and disposition of the anticancer agent cyclophosphamide.⁵

HRNTM mice have altered lipid metabolism. HRNTM mice display elevated diacylglycerols and extremely elevated triacylglycerols in the liver. Lesser increases in phosphatidylcholine and cholesterol esters were noted. However, minimal changes were seen to the lipid profiles of plasma and jejunum in HRNTM mice.⁶

Origins of the Model

The HRNTM mouse was developed in the laboratory of C. Roland Wolf of the Ninewells Hospital & Medical School. The model was created by targeting the *Por* gene to generate a floxed allele in GK129/1 embryonic stem cells derived from 129P2 mice and injecting the targeted cells into C57BL/6 blastocysts. Resultant chimeras were backcrossed to C57BL/6 for one generation. Mice heterozygous for the floxed *Por* allele were intercrossed to generate mice homozygous for the floxed *Por* allele on a mixed B6;129P2 background. The Alb-cre transgene was developed in the laboratory of Mark A. Magnuson at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine by microinjecting Cre recombinase gene under the control of the rat albumin enhancer/promoter into B6D2F2 zygotes. Mice homozygous for the floxed *Por* allele were bred to carriers for the Alb-cre transgene to generate HRN mice. The HRNTM model was backcrossed to C57BL/6J a total of 6 generations (N6). Taconic received stock from CXR Biosciences in April 2007. Line 007293 was embryo transfer derived. Mice of line 007353 were backcrossed to C57BL/6NTac (N7) and embryo transfer derived. The colonies are maintained through mating of mice that are homozygous for the floxed *Por* allele and carriers for the Alb-cre transgene.

Ready for Your Experiments

Taconic's HRNTM Mouse Models are produced in Isolator Barrier Unit (IBUTM) facilities. Mice are shipped in Taconic Transport Cages (TTCTM) and come with an up-to-date health report documenting their Murine Pathogen Free (MPFTM) health status. Barrier housing conditions are recommended for maintenance of HRNTM Mice.

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4. Wang XJ, Chamberlain M, Vassieva O, Henderson CJ, Wolf CR. (2005) **Relationship between hepatic phenotype and changes in gene expression in the cytochrome P450 reductase (POR) null mice.** *Biochem J* 388:857-867.
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7. Henderson CJ, Pass GJ, Wolf CR. (2006) **The hepatic cytochrome P450 reductase null mouse as a tool to identify a successful candidate entity.** *Cancer Res* 162:111-117.

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Related Mouse Models from Taconic

Taconic provides a number of mouse models relevant to ADME research. Call or fax for information about these additional models:

- **Bcrp Targeted Mutation Mouse (model 002767)** – carrying a disrupted *Abcg2* gene. Associated with multi-drug resistance. Useful for studies of drug uptake and cellular transport.
- **Mdr1a Targeted Mutation Mouse (model MDR1A)** – carrying a disrupted *Abcb1a* gene, a multi-drug resistance-associated transport protein, conferring a deficiency in the blood-brain barrier; useful in neurotoxicology and in studies of drug design, cellular transport and testing
- **Mdr1a/b Targeted Mutation Mouse (model 001487)** – carrying disruptions of two genes, *Abcb1a* and *Abcb1b* and lacking cellular transport mechanisms by their two multi-drug resistance-associated protein products, conferring a deficiency in the blood-brain barrier; useful in neurotoxicology and in studies of drug design, cellular transport and testing.
- **Mdr1a/b-Bcrp Targeted Mutation Mouse (model 003998)** – carries disruptions of three genes; *Abcb1a*, *Abcb1b*, and *Abcg2*, that encode for three drug-extruding transporters.
- **Mrp1 Targeted Mutation Mouse (model 001486)** – carrying a disruption of the *Abcc1a* (multi-drug

resistant associated protein gene), an ATP dependent drug-extruding transporter. This mouse exhibits impaired inflammatory stimulus response and is useful for studying the role of MRP1 in mediating inflammation responses and testing drug disposition *in vivo*.

- **Oct1/2 Targeted Mutation Mouse (model 006622)** – carrying a disruption of the *Slc22a1* and *Slc22a2*

genes, which encode the organic cation transporters 1 and 2. This model is important for a wide range of ADME-tox and oncology studies.

- **PXR Targeted Mutation Mouse (model 001414)** – carrying a disruption of the *Nl1i2* gene, which encodes the pregnane X receptor. PXR controls the expression of various drug metabolizing enzymes in response to xenobiotic exposure.

**Taconic Transgenic Models
Publication Reference List
HRN™ Mouse**

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