

Influence of the Meal and Genotype of CYP2C19 on the Pharmacokinetics of Proton Pump Inhibitors in Healthy Japanese Subjects

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To evaluate the influence of meals on the pharmacokinetics of omeprazole and rabeprazole and to investigate these PPIs with reference to CYP2C19 genotypes in healthy Japanese men. **Methods:** This was a randomized, open label, four-way crossover study. Twelve healthy Japanese male volunteers received a single oral dose of either 20 mg omeprazole or 10 mg rabeprazole, in the fasted state and after a standardized breakfast. **Results:** Between the administration of omeprazole in the fasted state and after breakfast, there were no significant differences in Cmax, AUC, Tmax, and half-life. Between the administration of rabeprazole in the fasted state and after breakfast, there were no significant differences in Cmax, AUC and half-life, whereas the Tmax of rabeprazole after breakfast was significantly delayed $(2.8 \pm 1.0 \text{ vs } 5.3 \pm 1.8 \text{ h}$, respectively; p = 0.006). PMs demonstrated the highest Cmax and AUC after drug intake under the fasting state and after breakfast, and homo EMs showed a significantly delayed Tmax. **Conclusion:** When a single dose of either PPI was administered, the pharmacokinetics of omeprazole was not affected by the meal, whereas the Tmax of rabeprazole after the meal was significantly delayed.

Keywords: Proton Pump Inhibitor; Omeprazole; Rabeprazole; CYP2C19; Pharmacokinetics

1. Introduction

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is a common disease in Western countries [1-3], and the number of patients with GERD is increasing in Japan [4-7]. Gastric acid has an important role in the pathogenesis of GERD. The primary therapeutic approach is suppression of gastric acid secretion, and stronger and prompter gastric acid suppression is required [8]. Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are commonly used as first-line inhibitors because of the high effectiveness and prolonged duration of suppression of gastric acid secretion.

PPIs, such as omeprazole and rabeprazole, are absorbed in the small intestine and inhibit gastric acid secretion by selectively and non-competitively inactivating proton pump (H⁺, K⁺ ATPase) in gastric parietal cells [9,10]. Omeprazole is primarily metabolized by cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily C, and polypeptide 19

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(CYP2C19) and partially metabolized by CYP3A4 [11-13]. Three CYP2C19 genotypes have been identified: homozygous extensive metabolizer (homo EM), heterozygous extensive metabolizer (hetero EM) and poor metabolizer (PM) [12,13]. Several studies have reported that the metabolism of omeprazole is influenced by the CYP2C19 genotype, resulting in interindividual variabilities in the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of omeprazole [11-13]. Accordingly, the genetic polymorphism of CYP2C19 should be of clinical concern in the treatment of acid-related diseases with proton pump inhibitors. On the other hand, rabeprazole is mainly degraded via a non-enzymatic pathway and is only partially metabolized by CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 [14-17].

Thus, rabeprazole is considered to be less affected by the CYP2C19 genotype status compared with other PPIs.

The acid-inhibitory effects of PPIs are significantly dependent on the genotype status, as well as on their intrinsic pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic charac-

teristics and dosing schemes [10,17-20]. The effect of omeprazole on the suppression of gastric acid secretion was related to the area under the time-plasma concentration curve (AUC) [21,22]. In western countries, to avoid the influence of meals on the pharmacokinetics of PPIs, PPIs are usually administrated before a meal. But in Japan, many outpatients take many drugs. Hence, in order to improve drug compliance, omeprazole and rabeprazole are also generally administered after a meal with other drugs.

There are some studies that have shown no effect of food intake on the maximum plasma concentrations (Cmax) and AUC of omeprazole or rabeprazole [23,24].

But it is unclear that which PPI is less influenced by meals between omeprazole and rabeprazole. Therefore, we sought to compare the pharmacokinetics of omeprazole or rabeprazole between under a fasting condition and after breakfast. The objectives of this study were to evaluate the influence of meals on the pharmacokinetics of omeprazole and rabeprazole and to investigate these PPIs with reference to the CYP2C19 genotypes in healthy Japanese men.

2. Materials and Methods

This was a randomized, open label, four-way crossover study conducted in a single center in Japan. Omeprazole and rabeprazole are generally administered at doses of 20 mg or 10 mg, respectively, in the clinical setting in Japan. Thus, in the present study, the omeprazole and rabeprazole doses were set at 20 mg and 10 mg, respectively.

2.1. Subjects

Twelve healthy Japanese male volunteers (mean age 28.5 ± 7.0 years) were enrolled. The exclusion criteria included a history of hypersensitivity reactions to any PPI; a history of gastrointestinal disorders or surgery likely to influence drug absorption; a history of significant medical illness; a need to use any prescription or over-the-counter medications during the study.

2.2. Cytochrome P450 (CYP) 2C19 Genotyping

After obtaining informed consent, venous blood samples were collected from all participants. DNA was extracted from venous white blood cells. Genetic mutations were analyzed by fluorescence correlation spectroscopy [25]. On the basis of point mutations in exons 5 and 4, the CYP2C19 gene status can be classified as homo EM, hetero EM, or PM [22,26,27]. Homo EM has wild type (wt) alleles (wt/wt) without any mutation in exons 5 or 4; PM has m1 mutation (m1) alleles or m2 mutation (m2) alleles with mutations in both exons 5 and 4 (m1/m2,

m1/m1, or m2/m2); and hetero EM has a mutated allele in either exon 5 or 4 (wt/m1 or wt/m2).

2.3. Study Protocols

Each subject, after an overnight fast, received a single oral dose of either 20 mg of omeprazole or 10 mg of rabeprazole with 200 mL water at 8:00, in the fasted state or after a standardized breakfast in a randomized, crossover manner. Each study phase was followed by a washout period of at least 7 days. A standardized breakfast with 712 kilocalories was provided at 7:45. A standardized meal with 1080 kilocalories was provided at 12:30. The total nutrient content of the breakfast and lunch was 1792 kcal; protein, 42.8 g lipid, 115.4 g and glucose 145.4 g. Venous blood samples to measure the plasma concentrations of either omeprazole or rabeprazole were collected before and 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 h after dosing. These samples were separated by centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 10 min and then were stored at -20°C until analysis.

2.4. Pharmacokinetic Assessments

Blood samples were collected in heparinized tubes before and 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 h after the administration of each drug. The blood samples were immediately centrifuged at 3000 r/min for 10 min. All samples were stored at -20°C until assayed.

For the determination of the rabeprazole levels in plasma, 100 μL of 1% diethylamine solution was added to 1 mL of plasma. The plasma levels of omeprazole and rabeprazole were measured by high-performance liquid chromatography assay (HPLC) method [26,27]. Analytes and the internal standard were separated using a mobile phase of acetonitrile/1 mmol/L ammonium formate (140/60, v/v) on a C18 analytical column and analyzed in the selected reaction-monitoring (SRM) mode. The lower limit of quantification was 500 fg/20μL.

2.5. Assay of OPZ, RPZ Concentration in Plasma

50 μ L of internal standard (IS) solution (lansoprazole dissolved in 0.1 N NaOH aq/methanol) was added to 200 μ L of plasma. Omeprazole, rabeprozole, and IS in the plasma sample were twice extracted with 1 mL of 0.1% diethylamine in ethyl acetate. The mixture was vortexed and centrifuged at 4900 rpm for 3 min and the organic phase was transferred into another tube and evaporated to dryness under a nitrogen stream. The residue was reconstituted in 100 μ L of 0.1 N NaOH aq/methanol (70:30, v/v). 90 μ L aliquot was analyzed by HPLC (Prominence, Shimadzu Tokyo, Japan).

2.6. Statistical Analyses

In this study, the necessary sample size was not calculated. The values are expressed as mean values ± standard deviation. If at least three-ninths of the sampling schedule were quantifiable, the mean plasma concentrations were calculated. The statistical differences in pharmacokinetic findings of each PPIs, in the fasting state and without breakfast were evaluated using paired t-test. Comparisons of the parameters among the three CYP2C19 genotypes were conducted using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with a Bonferroni correction. A p-value of <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

2.7. Ethics

The study was performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The study protocol was approved by the ethics committee of the Tohoku University Graduate School. UMIN000004761 Subjects provided written informed consent before participating.

3. Results

Because of the low plasma concentrations, 3 subjects, 1 of whom received omeprazole and 2 who received rabeprazole after breakfast, were excluded from the analysis set. One subject whose plasma concentration of rabeprazole after breakfast was 0 ng/ml at every measurement time was included in the analysis.

A total of 9 subjects consisting of 3 PMs (33.3%), 2

hetero EMs (22.3%), and 4 homo EMs (44.4%) were included in the pharmacokinetic analyses. The characteristics of the participants are shown in **Table 1**. Among the three CYP2C19 genotype groups, there were no significant differences in terms of subject profiles, including age, height, body weight, and body mass index (**Table 2**).

The median pharmacokinetic parameters of 9 subjects are shown in **Table 3**. The mean plasma concentration-time curves of omeprazole and rabeprazole in fasting state and after breakfast are shown in **Figure 1**. Because at least three-ninths of the sampling schedule were not quantifiable, the AUC_{0-inf} of omeprazole after breakfast was calculable by each of 8 subjects, and that of rabeprazole after breakfast was obtained in only each of 3 subjects. Therefore, the AUC_{0-t}, but not the AUC_{0-inf} was evaluated. Between the administration of omeprazole in the fasted state and after breakfast, there were no significant differences in Cmax $(666.7 \pm 587.0 \text{ vs } 574.9 \pm 556.2 \text{ ng/ml}$, respectively), AUC_{0-t} $(2143.6 \pm 2382.9 \text{ vs } 1511.1 \pm 1677.5 \text{ ng} \cdot \text{h/mL}$, respectively), Tmax $(2.9 \pm 1.3 \text{ vs})$

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of study participants.

No. of subjects	9
Age (years)	28.7 ± 8.0
Height (cm)	172.7 ± 5.1
Body Weight (kg)	65.5 ± 10.1
Body mass index (kg/cm ²)	21.9 ± 2.8

Data represent mean values \pm standard deviation.

Table 2. Baseline characteristics of study participants with the different CYP2C19 genotypes.

	Homo EM	Hetero EM	PM	p-value
No. of subjects	4	2	3	
Age (years)	24.8 ± 5.9	33.5 ± 13.4	30.7 ± 7.1	NS
Height (cm)	173.3 ± 4.8	175.5 ± 6.4	170.0 ± 5.6	NS
Body Weight (kg)	66.4 ± 8.3	72.5 ± 17.7	60.0 ± 6.8	NS
Body mass index (kg/cm ²)	20.6 ± 1.5	23.4 ± 4.0	22.2 ± 3.3	NS

NS, not significant; Data represent mean values ± standard deviation; Homo EM, homozygous extensive metabolizer; Hetero EM, heterozygous extensive metabolizer; PM, poor metabolizer.

Table 3. Pharmacokinetic parameters of omeprazole and rabeprazole in fasted state and after a meal.

Parameter	Omeprazo	le (20 mg)		Rabeprazo		
	In fasted state After a meal		p-value	In fasted state After a meal		p-value
Cmax (ng/mL)	666.7 ± 587.0	574.9 ± 556.2	NS	264.3 ± 88.4	189.1 ± 170.2	NS
AUC _{0-t} (ng·h/mL)	2143.6 ± 2382.9	1511.1 ± 1677.5	NS	548.5 ± 255.1	480.6 ± 434.6	NS
Tmax (h)	2.9 ± 1.3	4.1 ± 1.9	NS	2.8 ± 1.0	5.3 ± 1.8	0.01
t1/2 (h)	2.3 ± 1.5	1.5 ± 0.8	NS	1.6 ± 1.5	3.3 ± 1.7	NS

NS, not significant; data represent mean values \pm standard deviation; Homo EM, homozygous extensive metabolizer; Hetero EM, heterozygous extensive metabolizer; PM, poor metabolizer Camx, maximum plasma concentrations, AUC_{0-t}, the area under the plasma-time concentration curve, Tmax, the time to maximum plasma concentration from time 0 to the time of the last quantifiable concentration, t1/2, half-time.

 4.1 ± 1.9 h, respectively) and half-life (2.3 ± 1.5 vs 1.5 ± 0.8 h, respectively). Between the administration of rabeprazole in the fasted state and after breakfast, there were no significant differences in Cmax (264.3 ± 88.4 vs 189.1 ± 170.2 ng/ml, respectively), AUC_{0-t} (548.5 ± 255.1 vs 480.6 ± 434.6 ng/ml, respectively), half-life (1.6 ± 1.5 vs 3.3 ± 1.7 h, respectively), whereas the Tmax of rabeprazole after breakfast was significantly delayed in comparison to that in the fasted state (2.8 ± 1.0 vs 5.3 ± 1.8 h, respectively; p < 0.01).

The pharmacokinetic parameters of omeprazole in the three different genotype groups following the administration of the respective PPI are shown in **Table 4**. The mean plasma concentration-time curves of omeprazole in the three different genotype groups are shown in **Figure 2**. In each CYP2C19 genotype, between the administration of omeprazole in the fasted state and after breakfast, there were no significant differences in Cmax and AUC_{0-t}. In hom Ms, the Tmax of omeprazole after breakfast tended to be delayed, although the difference was not statistically significant $(3.1 \pm 1.4 \text{ vs } 4.8 \pm 1.9 \text{ h}, \text{ respecsion})$

tively; p = 0.061).

The three different genotype groups following the administration of the respective PPI are shown in Table 5. The mean plasma concentration-time curves of rabeprazole in the three different genotype groups are shown in Figure 3. Between the administration of rabeprazole in the fasted state and after breakfast, there were no significant differences in AUC_{0-t} in the three CYP2C19 groups. In homo EMs, the Cmax of rabeprazole in the fasted state was significantly higher than that after breakfast (228.3 \pm 65.0 vs 133.8 \pm 53.9 ng·h/mL, respectively; p < 0.05). Homo EMs showed a significantly delayed Tmax of rabeprazole after breakfast (2.4 \pm 0.8 vs 6.3 \pm 1.0 h, respectively; p < 0.01). The half-life of rabeprazole after breakfast was delayed significantly in PMs (1.6 \pm 0.5 vs 3.5 ± 0.4 h, respectively; p < 0.05). In hetero EMs and homo EMs, the half-life was not calculable because of the lack of sufficient data.

Regardless of the administration of omeprazole and rabeprazole, PMs demonstrated the highest Cmax and AUC_{0-t} after PPI intake under the fasting state and after

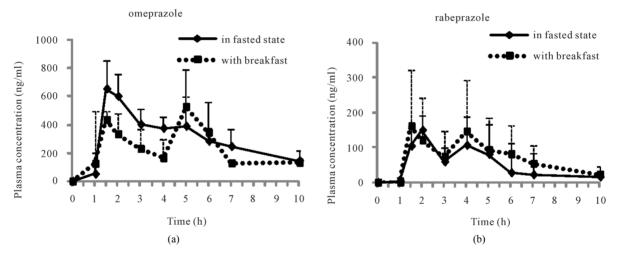


Figure 1. Mean plasma concentration-time curves of a single dose of 20 mg omeprazole and 10 mg rabeprazole in fasting state and with breakfast. Each point represents the mean standard \pm deviation.

Table 4. Pharmacokinetic parameters of omeprazole in fasted state and after a meal in the three different CYP2C19 genotypic groups.

	Omeprazole								
Parameter	Parameter Homo EM (n = 4)		Hetero EM $(n = 2)$			PM(n=3)			
	In fasted state	After a meal	p-value	In fasted state	After a meal	p-value	In fasted state	After a meal	p-value
Cmax (ng/mL)	243.1 ± 176.6	207.8 ± 214.3	NS	514.1 ± 61.3	523.3 ± 600.5	NS	1333.4 ± 529.8	1098.8 ± 551.6	NS
$\begin{array}{c} AUC_{0\text{-t}} \\ (ng \cdot h/mL) \end{array}$	435.0 ± 294.8	365.2 ± 341.3	NS	1144.8 ± 735.6	1130.0 ± 1368.3	NS	5087.5 ± 1573.5	3293.1 ± 1615.8	NS
Tmax (h)	3.1 ± 1.4	4.8 ± 1.9	0.06	2.5 ± 0.7	5.0 ± 0.0	NS	2.8 ± 1.9	2.7 ± 2.0	NS
t1/2 (h)	1.3 ± 0.9	1.0 ± 0.3	NS	2.0 ± 1.9	1.0 ± 0.4	NS	3.6 ± 1.0	2.3 ± 0.5	NS

NS, not significant; data represent mean values \pm standard deviation; Homo EM, homozygous extensive metabolizer; Hetero EM, heterozygous extensive metabolizer; PM, poor metabolizer; Cmax, maximum plasma concentrations, AUC_{0-t}, the area under the plasma-time concentration curve, Tmax, the time to maximum plasma concentration from time 0 to the time of the last quantifiable concentration, t1/2, half-time.

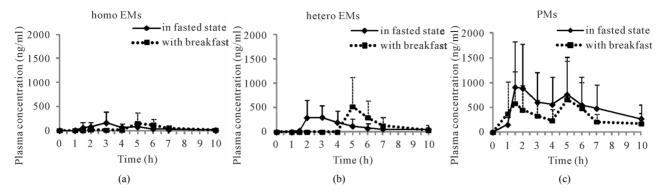


Figure 2. Mean plasma concentration-time curves of omeprazole in fasting state and with breakfast in homozygous extensive metabolizers (homo EMs), heterozygous extensive metabolizers (hetero EMs) and poor metabolizers (PMs) classified by CYP2C19 genotype. Each point represents the mean standard \pm deviation.

Table 5. Pharmacokinetic parameters of rabeprazole in fasted state and after a meal in the three different CYP2C19 genotypic groups.

	Rabeprazole								
Parameter	Homo EM (n = 4)			Hetero EM $(n = 2)$			PM (n = 3)		
	In fasted state	After a meal	p-value	In fasted state	After a meal	p-value	In fasted state	After a meal	p-value
Cmax (ng/mL)	228.3 ± 65.0	133.8 ± 53.9	< 0.05	215.9 ± 103.9	121.8 ± 129.5	NS	344.4 ± 70.6	307.6 ± 267.3	NS
$\begin{array}{c} AUC_{0\text{-t}} \\ (ng \cdot h/mL) \end{array}$	366.1 ± 62.8	320.4 ± 69.5	NS	427.6 ± 154.1	344.0 ± 253.8	NS	872.4 ± 63.9	785.4 ± 711.8	NS
Tmax (h)	2.4 ± 0.8	6.3 ± 1.0	< 0.01	3.0 ± 1.4	6.0 ± 0.0	NS	3.3 ± 1.2	2.8 ± 1.8	NS
t1/2 (h)	2.0 ± 2.2	1.1 ^a	-	0.9 ± 0.3	5 ^a	-	1.6 ± 0.5	3.5 ± 0.4	< 0.05

NS, not significant; data represent mean values \pm standard deviation; Homo EM, homozygous extensive metabolizer; Hetero EM, heterozygous extensive metabolizer; PM, poor metabolizer; Cmax, maximum plasma concentrations, AUC_{0-t} , the area under the plasma-time concentration curve, Tmax, the time to maximum plasma concentration from time 0 to the time of the last quantifiable concentration, t1/2, half-time; ^aOne patient; only one patient got enough data for the analysis.

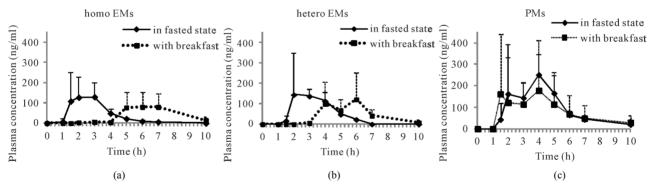


Figure 3. Mean plasma concentration-time curves of rabeprazole in fasting state and with breakfast in homozygous extensive metabolizers (homo EMs), heterozygous extensive metabolizers (hetero EMs) and poor metabolizers (PMs) classified by CYP2C19 genotype. Each point represents the mean standard \pm deviation.

breakfast. When administered omeprazole under the fasting state, PMs had significantly higher Cmax and AUC_{0-t} values compared with EMs (Cmax; p < 0.05, AUC_{0-t} ; p < 0.05, respectively). With the administration of rabeprazole in the fasted state, AUC_{0-t} in PMs was significantly higher than that in homo EMs (p < 0.05).

4. Discussion

In the present study, between the administration of omeprazole or rabeprazole in the fasted state and after breakfast, there were no significant differences in Cmax and AUC_{0-t}. Meanwhile, the Tmax of rabeprazole after breakfast was significantly longer than that in the fasted state.

These results were similar to those of previous reports [23,24]. Delayed gastric emptying might result in delayed absorption of rabeprazole. It was reported that meals with a high fat content slowed gastric emptying [28,29], and that food, especially a fatty meal, delayed the gastric emptying time of enteric-coated tablets [30].

In the present study, AUC_{0-inf} was calculable in 8 of 9 subjects administered omeprazole after a meal and only in 4 of 9 rabeprazole after a meal because of insufficient data. This may be because the time of the elevation of the plasma rabeprazole concentrations after a meal is delayed more than 10 hours after the administration of a single dose of 10 mg rabeprazole, or rabeprazole absorption was not influenced by the meal. And it could be considered that meal is also influenced by the pharmacokinetics of PPI according to the CYP2C19 genotypes. Therefore, for example, at on-demand therapy, the administration of PPIs after meal should be avoided since before a meal may be more effective than after a meal.

The PPIs are acid-labile substances. Under fed conditions, food delays gastric emptying and PPI degradation increases with increased time in the stomach. It was reported that a considerable interindividual variability in omeprazole bioavailability and suppression of gastric acid secretion exists because of the acid-labile nature of PPIs [31]. Previous studies have revealed a wide interindividual variability in the plasma concentrations of PPIs following the administration of identical doses to different individuals [32]. Interindividual variability in the intragastric pH influences the dissolution of entericcoated PPIs. As a result, the absorption of PPIs varies among individuals. The buffering effects of meals temporarily raise the intragastric pH, promoting the absorption of PPIs. Since the effect of food may be a balance of all of these factors, it is not possible to know definitively based on the results of this study.

No studies have been reported comparing the influence of a meal on the pharmacokinetics of PPIs among CYP2C19 genotype groups. In the present study, we found that CYP2C19 genotypes could affect the disposition of omeprazole and rabeprazole. When a single dose of 20 mg omeprazole was given in the fasting state, Cmax and AUC_{0-t} in PMs were significantly higher compared with those in homo EMs. With the administration of omeprazole in the fasting state, the relative Cmax value in the homo EMs, hetero EMs and PMs was 1:2.1:5.5; the relative AUC_{0-t} value was 1:2.6:11.7, respectively. When a single dose of 10 mg of rabeprazole in the fasting state was administrated, the AUC_{0-t} in PMs was significantly higher than that in homo EMs. With the administration of rabeprazole in the fasting state, the relative Cmax value in the homo EMs, hetero EMs and PMs was 1:0.95:1.5; the relative AUC_{0-t} value was 1:1.2:2.4, respectively. Because CYP2C19 was deficient in the PM group, the duration of high and sustained plasma concentrations of omeprazole is presumed to be longer in the PM group than in the homo EM group, thereby achieving a stronger and longer inhibition of gastric acid secretion. These results support that rabeprazole was less influenced by CYP2C19 compared with omeprazole, but the pharmacokinetics of rabeprazole was certainly influenced by CYP2C19. Rabeprazole is metabolized to thioether product [33]. This product less effectively suppresses gastric acid than rabeprazole, and is mainly metabolized by CYP2C19 [34]. Because of thioether, rabeprazole seems to be influenced by the genotype of CYP2C19.

In the three CYP2C19 groups, homo EMs may be more likely to be affected by a meal than hetero EMs and PMs.

The proportions of PM, hetero EM, and homo EM individuals in the Caucasian population have been reported to be 2.1%, 25.3% and 72.6%, respectively [35], The proportion of individuals with PMs, hetero EMs and homo EMs in the present study were 33.3%, 22.3%, and 44.4%, respectively. The higher percentage of PMs in the present study may have affected the results. With the exception of PMs, the Tmax of omeprazole after a meal was significantly delayed compared with that under the fasting state (p < 0.01), and that of rabeprazole after a meal was significantly delayed compared to that under the fasting state (p < 0.01). The Cmax and AUC_{0-t} of omeprazole and rabeprazole in homo EMs and hetero EMs were not significantly influenced by a meal (data not shown).

In the present study, intragastric pH monitoring following the administration of omeprazole or rabeprazole was not undertaken. However, the suppression of gastric acid secretion is related to the AUC of PPIs [21,22]. When a single dose of 10 mg rabeprazole was administered under the fasting state, PMs had the highest mean Cmax, AUC₀₋₂₄ and intragastric mean pH among three different CYP2C19 genotypic groups. However, a single dose of not 10 mg but 20 mg rabeprazole was compared among CYP2C19 genotypes. These results slightly differ from those of previous reports [16,18-20,36] in which rabeprazole induced an earlier rise in the intragastric pH than other PPIs. However, most previous studies examined the effects after the administration of 20 mg rabeprazole or other PPIs on days 3 - 7 [16,18-20,36], not the early postadministration phase (1 - 12 h) of a single dose.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, when a single dose of either PPI was administered, the pharmacokinetics of omeprazole was not affected by the meal, whereas the Tmax of rabeprazole

after the meal was significantly delayed.

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