

James E. Heubi, MD

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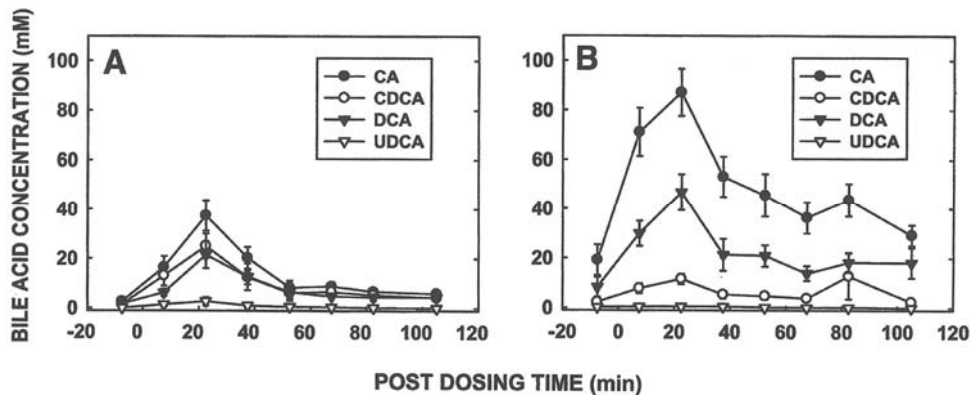
Description of Research:

Dr. Heubi actively pursues a variety of patient-oriented projects that relate to liver disease and nutrition. He is investigating the pathogenesis of inborn errors of bile acid metabolism, including peroxisomal disorders. As new defects have been identified, he actively investigated the development of specific therapies directed toward the underlying abnormalities. He is participating in the Cholestatic Liver Disease Consortium (CLiC) funded by NIH to study rare cholestatic liver diseases in 10 centers throughout the U.S. One current line of investigation focuses on exploring the role of intraluminal contents, such as the composition of bile acids and phospholipid content, on cholesterol absorption and synthetic rate in adults utilizing stable isotope technology. He is also exploring the physiologic basis for variable responses to statins and cholesterol absorption inhibitors as well as exploring the roles of specific intestinal transporters of cholesterol on cholesterol absorption. In another area of research Dr. Heubi is developing a novel non-invasive method to measure fat excretion in humans, and is pursuing a number of projects related to bone metabolism in health and disease.

Collaborations:

Dr. Heubi collaborates with Dr. Bezerra in studies of children with chronic liver disease as part of the NIH-funded CLiC network. He also works up with Drs. Hui and Tso investigating bile acid composition and cholesterol absorption. Dr. Heubi works with Dr. Stark on studies of calcium supplementation in children with Crohn's Disease.

Representative Figure:



Bile acid concentration in the lumen of subjects fed AHA heart-healthy diets while receiving cholic acid (CA) or no bile acid supplement. Bile acid concentrations are shown for subjects consuming no bile acid supplements (A) or CA (B). Data are presented as unadjusted means \pm SEM. Fig.1 from *Gastroenterology*, 2004; 126:724-731.