

Supplementary material

Liver and kidney oxidative status

Due to the vulnerability of the liver and kidney tissue to oxidative stress, these organs typically have increased antioxidant activity [1]. Both tissues demonstrate vulnerability to heat and dehydration-induced oxidative stress [2-6]. Liver and kidney tissues differ in their oxidative status in several aspects; firstly, differences in antioxidant capacity are apparent as glutathione, the main thiol used for antioxidant scavenging [7], is primarily produced and stored in the liver, resulting in the liver being generally higher in non-enzymatic antioxidant activity [8-11]. Enzymatic antioxidants also differ, with superoxide dismutase (SOD) existing in three different isoenzymes, namely: Cu/Zn SOD, MnSOD and FeSOD [12]. The Cu/Zn SOD is the most abundant isoenzyme, these isoenzymes varying not just within but between tissues depending on species, with the general trend being that total liver SOD is higher than kidney total SOD [13]. SOD levels can also vary depending on the stressor present within a tissue and the susceptibility of the tissue to the stressor; for example, heat stress will likely affect the liver more than the kidneys [14]. SOD markers and other antioxidant enzymes are generally affected by age, which can reduce observed enzyme activity levels [15,16]. Oxidative damage is also highly dependent on the rate of free radical production, with the liver and kidney being metabolically active tissues [13,17]. These tissues differ in their mitochondrial respiration rates [18], where respiration rates contribute to radical production as a by-product of respiration [19,20]. In *Rattus norvegicus* rats, the kidneys have a higher respiration rate compared to the liver [18]. This may explain why malondialdehyde (MDA), a marker of lipid damage following circadian variations, was higher in the kidneys compared to the liver [21]. For one mole-rat species where the liver and kidney were investigated, the liver and kidney had similar MDA levels, where MDA was slightly higher in the kidneys in non-breeding individuals [22]. In the same way, total oxidant status (TOS) will also be affected by the rate of free radical production, TOS being a measure of all hydroperoxides present as opposed to the single product of lipid peroxidation, such as MDA [23].

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