

## **Biliary and pancreatic secretory component of the migrating myoelectric complex in the pig. Effect on intraduodenal pH**

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**Summary.** The aim of the present study in the pig was to describe the biliary and pancreatic secretory component of the migrating myoelectric complex (MMC) during the interdigestive period and after feeding, and to examine the effects of the extracorporeal diversion of biliary or pancreatic secretions on the MMC and on the cyclical variation of intraduodenal pH.

In a first trial six pigs ( $50.6 \pm 1.6$  kg) were fitted with a permanent catheter in the common bile duct (3 pigs) or in the pancreatic duct (3 pigs) to control the flow of these secretions. They also had a duodenal catheter to return the secretions, and antral and duodenal electrodes for simultaneous recording of motility in fasting conditions. In a second trial ten pigs ( $50.8 \pm 1.5$  kg) underwent a similar surgical preparation (5 bile duct and 5 pancreatic duct fistulations). They had, in addition, a duodenal T-shaped cannula (19 cm distal to the pylorus) allowing continuous intraluminal pH recording parallel to the motility recording. Experiments included 4 situations: secretions returned under fed or fasted conditions; by-passed secretions in fed or fasted pigs.

The flow of bile and pancreatic juice was very high during irregular spiking activity phases (ISA), peaking at the beginning of regular spiking activity phases (RSA); it was minimal during quiescent phases. The duration of the duodenal MMC and of its 3 constitutive phases was not modified by total extracorporeal diversion of bile or pancreatic secretion either in the fed or fasted state. During the interdigestive period the pH was significantly reduced under bile diversion (quiescence: 6.17 vs 7.15; ISA: 4.91 vs 5.94; RSA: 5.40 vs 6.52) as well as under pancreatic juice diversion (quiescence: 5.56 vs 7.18; ISA: 4.21 vs 5.97; RSA: 5.14 vs 6.72). In fed pigs only bile diversion resulted in a small acidification during the postprandial pattern (5.07 vs 5.44) and the consecutive MMC cycles (quiescence: 5.81 vs 6.61; ISA: 4.66 vs 4.92; RSA: 5.11 vs 5.78). Nevertheless the periodicity of pH variation along the MMC cycle was unaffected in bile or pancreatic juice-deprived animals.

It is concluded that a true biliary and pancreatic secretory component of MMC exists in the pig, and that these 2 secretions strongly contribute to the neutralization of the duodenal contents. However, the major determinant of the cyclical variation of the intraduodenal pH appears to be the periodicity of the acid gastric outflow.

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### **Introduction.**

Since the first observation of Szurszewski (1969) in fasting dogs, it has been well established in a great number of animal species (Wingate, 1981; Laplace,

1984) that during the interdigestive state the small intestine exhibits a characteristic pattern of motor activity called the migrating myoelectric complex or the migrating motor complex (MMC). Parallel to these motor events, marked intraduodenal alkalinization has been observed in man (Vantrappen, Peeters and Janssens, 1979). In the pig, cyclical variations of intraduodenal pH were described by Buéno and Fioramonti (1982) who imputed them exclusively to the fact that the flow of acid gastric digesta alternates with the cessation of gastric output at the onset of each duodenal regular spiking activity phase. However, the experimental conditions of these authors do not allow one to speculate on the possible role of biliary and pancreatic secretions which have been reported to be important in the regulation of intraduodenal pH and in the neutralization of gastric chyme in fasting pigs (Abello, Corring and Laplace, 1987).

In the gastroduodenal area, chronological coincidence of the MMC cycle with periodic fluctuation of gastric, pancreatic, and biliary secretions, has been described in humans (Vantrappen, Peeters and Janssens, 1979; Lux *et al.*, 1980; Peeters, Vantrappen and Janssens, 1980) and in fasting dogs (Dimagno *et al.*, 1979; Keane *et al.*, 1980). This so-called secretory component of the MMC consists of a cyclic variation of gastric, biliary and pancreatic secretions estimated by the levels of acid and pepsin in the gastric contents or by those of bicarbonate, amylase and bile acids in the duodenal contents. These secretions prove to be maximal at the end of phase II of the MMC (irregular spiking activity, or ISA) and/or at the beginning of phase III (regular spiking activity, or RSA), and might explain the alkalinization of the duodenum during this period.

The purpose of this study was to demonstrate the existence of a biliary and pancreatic secretory component of the MMC in fasting pigs, and to examine the effect of extracorporal diversion of biliary or pancreatic secretions on the MMC and on the cyclical variation of intraduodenal pH.

## Material and methods.

### 1. *Determination of biliary and pancreatic flow rates and characteristics of the MMC.*

Six castrated male pigs of the Large White breed weighing initially  $50.6 \pm 1.6$  kg were used. Under general anaesthesia they were fitted with permanent catheters diverting flow from the common bile duct (3 pigs) according to Corring, Juste and Jimenez (1983) or the pancreatic duct (3 pigs) according to Corring, Aumaitre and Rérat (1972). In both cases, the animals were also fitted with a permanent duodenal catheter implanted close to the natural orifice of the fistulated duct to allow diverted secretions to be returned to the duodenum. For recording the motility by chronic electromyography (Laplace, 1983), they were all provided with groups of 3 stainless steel intraparietal electrodes (Laplace, 1972) on the gastric antrum (2 and 5 cm from the pylorus) and on the duodenum (7, 12 and 20 cm distal to the pylorus), so that the best bipolar derivation for each location could be selected.

The day after the operation, the diverted biliary or pancreatic secretions were permanently and automatically returned to the animal at a rhythm corresponding to that of spontaneous secretion (Juste, Corring and Le Coz, 1983a). All animals were allowed to recover after the operation for 8 days. They were accustomed to receive a standard growing diet (16 % protein), offered in two meals at 9.00 and 17.00 h (800 g flour diluted in 1 600 ml water). Experiments were performed in fasted animals (last meal given 16 h prior to the recording period) and secretions were returned to the duodenum in all animals. The biliary or pancreatic flow rates and the MMC pattern were recorded simultaneously over 8-h periods (9.00 to 17.00 h). Six recordings were carried out on each pig.

## *2. Effect of the diversion of biliary or pancreatic secretions on intraduodenal pH and the MMC.*

Ten Large White pigs weighing initially  $50.8 \pm 1.5$  kg were each surgically fitted either with a fistula of the common bile duct or of the pancreatic duct for the extracorporeal diversion of secretions, as well as with a permanent duodenal catheter for controlled return of the diverted secretions under the same conditions as those of the first experiment. They were also fitted with a T-shaped cannula for measuring the intraluminal pH within the duodenum, 19 cm distal to the pylorus. Four groups of 3 stainless steel electrodes were implanted into the duodenal wall (7, 12, 23 and 28 cm distal to the pylorus), allowing bipolar derivation of electromyograms (EMG).

After a postoperative recovery of 1 week, the EMG and pH were simultaneously recorded over 8-h periods (9.00 to 17.00 h). The experiment was designed to test four situations, so that each pig was its own control within the whole bile (5 pigs) or pancreatic (5 pigs) series. Recording sessions were first performed under permanent normal restitution, alternating over 4 consecutive days the fed (test meal at 9.00 h) and fasted conditions (last meal given 16 h prior to recording) ; then after 3 days without experimentation, a similar schedule was used during permanent diversion of the secretion, *i.e.* 2 sessions under fed conditions alternating with 2 sessions under fasted conditions. The effects of diverting the secretions were tested by a two-way analysis of variance in each of the four situations.

## *3. Mode of recording and expression of results.*

All recordings were made using a pen recorder (Dynograph R.M., Beckman) at a chart speed of  $6 \text{ cm} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ . Electrodes were connected through the front pannel of the recorder to an input coupler with an RC circuit using a short time constant (0.03 sec), allowing the continuous recording of EMG. The outflow of bile or of pancreatic secretion was permanently measured by drop counting using a photoelectric cell (Laplace, 1976b). The signal of the drop counter was transmitted *via* a relay (HP 2-SF, Bamo mesures) to an event marker. A miniature

glass electrode (Ingold, model 440), connected to a pHmeter (Zeromatic SS3, Beckman) coupled with the recorder, allowed continuous recording of pH by DC amplification.

The duodenal MMC was identified and subdivided into quiescent phase (I), ISA phase (II) and RSA phase (III) according to criteria defined by Code and Marlett (1975). The ISA phase was subdivided into two equal periods called IIa and IIb. The biliary or pancreatic flow rate was measured in the first experiment by quantifying the number of drops per min. Mean values were given for each defined period of the MMC. The characteristics of the MMC under the various conditions were systematically studied in the second experiment only. The pH values were recorded each min during the MMC pattern.

**Results.**

*1. MMC-related fluctuations of biliary and pancreatic flow rates.*

Continuous recording of the instantaneous flow rate (drop by drop) of biliary and pancreatic secretions evidenced periodic fluctuations in close connection with the cycle of duodenal MMC. The bile secretion (fig. 1) was always minimal

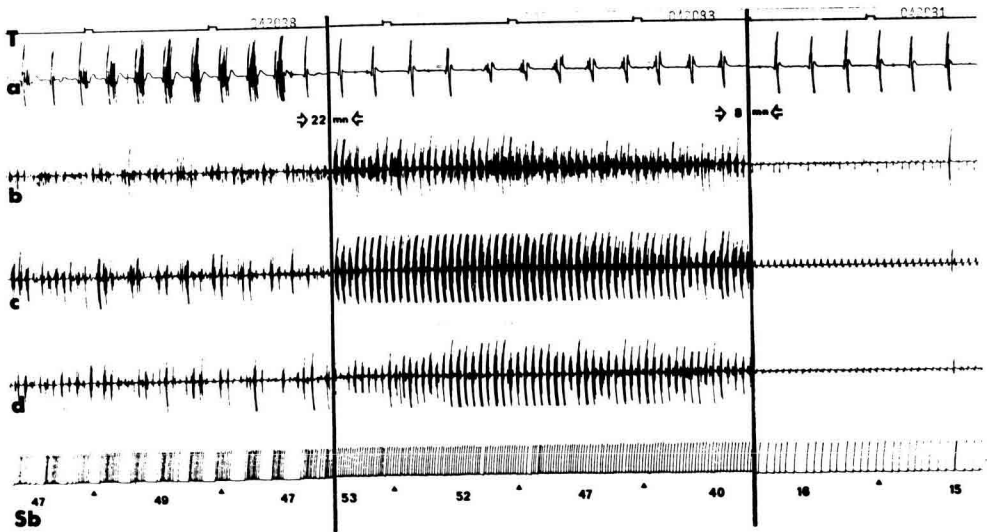


FIG. 1. — Variation in instantaneous bile flow rate (Sb) shown with myoelectric activity of the gastric antrum (a) and proximal duodenum (b, c, d). The figures indicate the total number of bile drops per min (T = time basis, 1 min). Time intervals between ISA and RSA sequences, and between RSA and quiescence sequences, are indicated between the arrows.

with values ranging from 1 to 20 drops per min during the quiescent phases. After the start of the ISA phase, the bile flow immediately increased, the surge of bile drops then occurring rhythmically (around four series of drops per min). The flow rate went on increasing to reach a maximum generally observed during the first min of the subsequent RSA phase. At that moment the bile flow rate reached a two or three-fold higher value than the basal one to which it rapidly returned during the early quiescent phase.

As regards pancreatic secretion (fig. 2), the very low basal level (about 3 drops per min) was also recorded during the quiescent phase. It increased markedly in the ISA phase and reached a maximum flow rate ( $47.5 \pm 2.9$  drops per min) at the onset of the RSA phase. During the following min, and before the end of the RSA phase, pancreatic flow declined to the basal value. Despite large between-pig differences in the amplitude of variation of drop counts along the MMC cycle, a similar pattern was observed in all fasted pigs (fig. 3). Within each animal, the difference between the mean values of biliary and pancreatic flow rates, calculated for each phase of the MMC, were always significant from one phase to another.

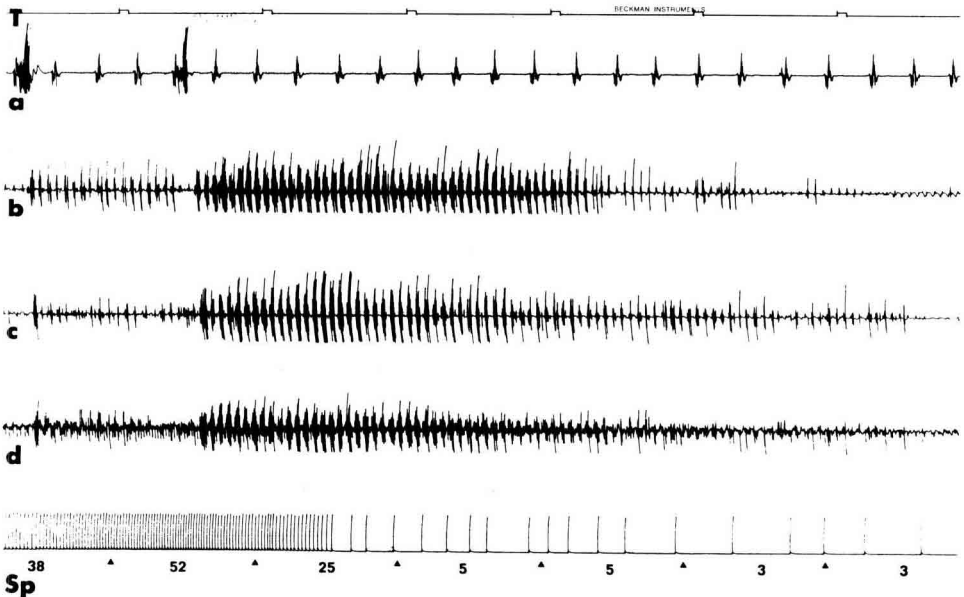


FIG. 2. — Variation in instantaneous pancreatic flow rate (*Sp*) shown with myoelectric activity of the gastric antrum (a) and proximal duodenum (b, c, d). The figures indicate the total number of drops of pancreatic secretion per min (*T* = time basis, 1 min).

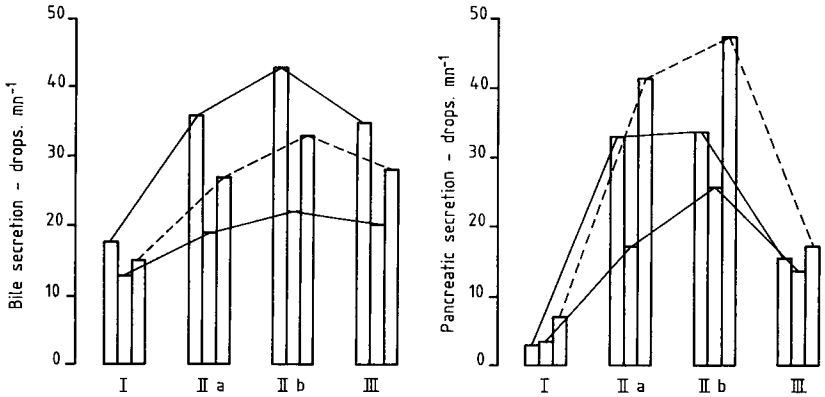


FIG. 3. — Mean values of instantaneous flow rate of biliary and pancreatic secretions calculated for each MMC phase, i.e. quiescent phase (I), ISA (II), RSA (III). The 3 overlapped columns correspond to separately calculated means for the 3 pigs fitted with a biliary or pancreatic fistula. IIa and IIb correspond to respectively the first and the second half of the ISA phase.

## 2. Characteristics of the MMC in pigs fitted with a biliary or pancreatic fistula.

The mean duration of the MMC and its constitutive phases in pigs whose biliary and pancreatic secretions were returned to or diverted from the duodenum is shown in table 1. In all pigs there was a relative shortening of the quiescent phase in fed vs fasted conditions. When biliary or pancreatic secretions were diverted from the duodenum of fasted pigs, the quiescent and RSA phases were significantly shortened. When the pigs were fed there was a further significant shortening of the RSA phase in the bile fistula animals only. The duration of the postprandial pattern was not significantly decreased by bile diversion ( $75.4 \pm 9.6$  vs  $98.6 \pm 8.8$  min) nor by pancreatic diversion ( $96.0 \pm 13.6$  vs  $114.9 \pm 9.0$  min).

## 3. MMC related fluctuations of intraduodenal pH.

The intraduodenal pH underwent various types of fluctuations. Very short oscillations whose amplitude could reach 4 pH units within a few seconds (fig. 4), depending on the size and acidity of the gastric outflow, occurred randomly throughout the ISA phase of the MMC. Another kind of pH variation always coincided with the onset of the RSA phase and subsequent quiescent phase; it was a relative alkalization of the duodenum which started during the RSA phase, and then remained stable during late RSA phase and throughout the whole quiescent phase (fig. 5). The resulting pH plateau, close to neutrality, generally disappeared abruptly at the onset of the subsequent ISA phase.

The periodic recurrence of this alkalization always coincided with the appearance of the RSA of the duodenal MMC (fig. 6). This cyclically recurring event was observed in both biliary and pancreatic fistula animals under fasted and

TABLE 1  
 Mean duration (min  $\pm$  s.e.m.) of the myoelectric migrating complexes (M.M.C.) and their main phases in the two groups of pigs, depending on the experimental conditions.

Five bile duct fistulated pigs					
Feeding conditions	Bile secretion	Whole M.M.C.	I Quiescence	II I.S.A.	III R.S.A.
Fasted	Returned	55.4 $\pm$ 2.8 n = 40	13.4 $\pm$ 1.3 n = 43	38.9 $\pm$ 2.2 n = 40	3.5 $\pm$ 0.1 n = 46
	Diverted	48.3 $\pm$ 2.5 n = 65	6.7 $\pm$ 0.6 n = 74	39.2 $\pm$ 2.2 n = 65	2.8 $\pm$ 0.1 n = 74
Statistical significance of diversion effects		NS	p < 0.001	NS	p < 0.001
Fed	Returned	54.6 $\pm$ 4.6 n = 28	4.1 $\pm$ 0.6 n = 35	48.2 $\pm$ 4.6 n = 28	2.9 $\pm$ 0.1 n = 36
	Diverted	54.2 $\pm$ 3.1 n = 41	3.8 $\pm$ 0.3 n = 49	48.0 $\pm$ 3.2 n = 41	2.4 $\pm$ 0.1 n = 49
Statistical significance of diversion effects		NS	NS	NS	p < 0.01
Five pancreatic duct fistulated pigs					
Feeding conditions	Pancreatic secretion	Whole M.M.C.	I Quiescence	II I.S.A.	III R.S.A.
Fasted	Returned	73.4 $\pm$ 3.9 n = 44	18.2 $\pm$ 1.4 n = 62	52.5 $\pm$ 3.5 n = 44	3.2 $\pm$ 0.1 n = 62
	Diverted	65.7 $\pm$ 3.4 n = 61	11.2 $\pm$ 0.9 n = 82	51.8 $\pm$ 3.2 n = 61	3.0 $\pm$ 0.1 n = 83
Statistical significance of diversion effects		NS	p < 0.001	NS	p < 0.05
Fed	Returned	53.9 $\pm$ 2.3 n = 60	5.4 $\pm$ 0.5 n = 71	46.0 $\pm$ 2.3 n = 60	2.9 $\pm$ 0.1 n = 72
	Diverted	55.8 $\pm$ 2.2 n = 50	4.5 $\pm$ 2.2 n = 59	48.8 $\pm$ 2.2 n = 50	3.0 $\pm$ 0.1 n = 59
Statistical significance of diversion effects		NS	NS	NS	NS

I.S.A.: Irregular spiking activity; R.S.A.: Regular spiking activity; N.S.: Not significant; n = number of data.

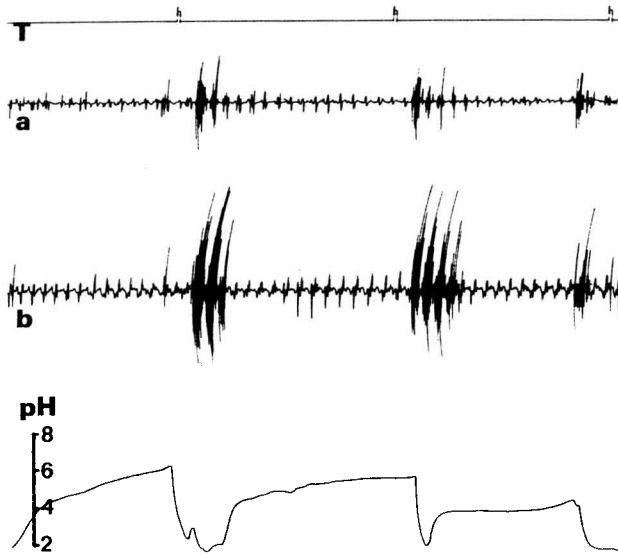


FIG. 4. — Coincidence between intraduodenal pH fluctuations and irregular myoelectric spiking activities (a, b) in the proximal duodenum after emptying of an acid bolus by the stomach. T = time basis, 1 min.

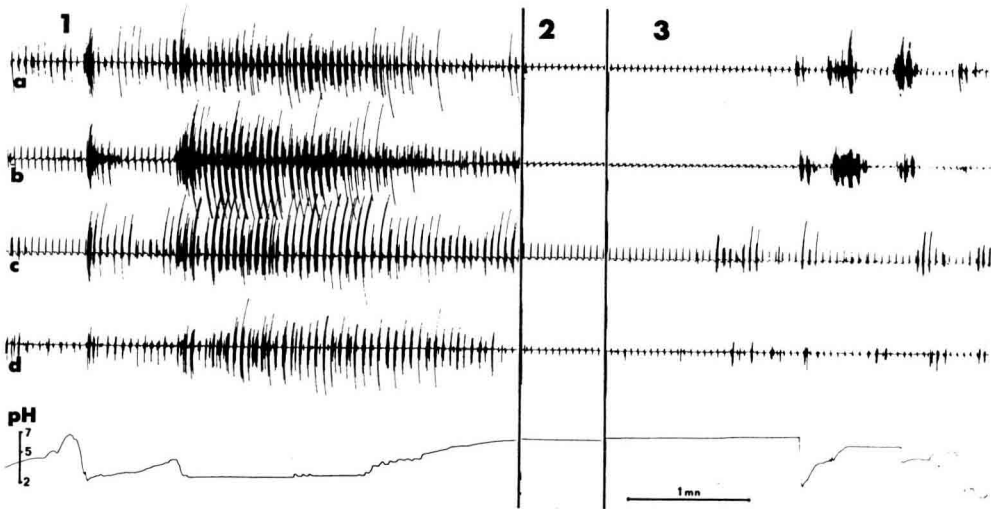


FIG. 5. — Cyclical variation of intraduodenal pH associated with the MMC pattern recorded from the proximal duodenum (4 locations : a, b, c, d).  
 1 : End of ISA followed by a RSA phase during which the pH reached a plateau.  
 2 : Quiescent phase during which the pH plateau continued unmodified. The period illustrated here lasted 8 min.  
 3 : End of quiescent phase and beginning of ISA phase. An abrupt fall of pH occurred in connection with the first gastric emission during early ISA phase.



fed conditions when the secretions were being returned to the duodenum. The maximum mean pH variation during the cycle ranged from 1.29 (pancreas series) to 1.43 (bile series) pH units in fasted animals, and from 1.53 (pancreas series) to 1.76 (bile series) pH units in fed animals. There was a greater variation in amplitude in the fed pigs. In addition, the mean pH values recorded during each phase were systematically a little more acid in fed than in fasted animals. This difference ranged from 0.5 to 0.7 pH units in phases I and III and reached 0.9 to 1.2 during the ISA period (IIa and IIb).

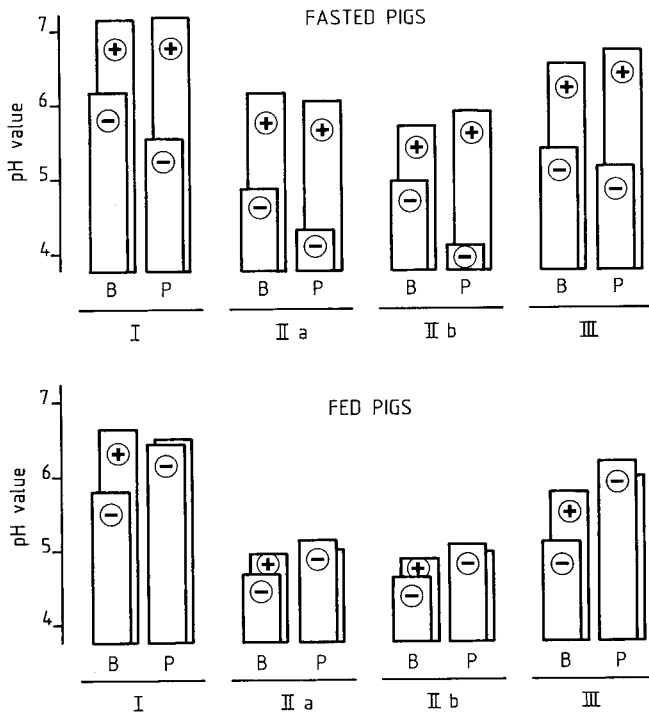


FIG. 6. — *Intraduodenal pH mean values during the different consecutive MMC phases : quiescent phase (I), ISA phase (IIa and IIb), RSA phase (III) in fasted or fed pigs fitted with a biliary (B) or pancreatic (P) fistula for restitution (+) or total extracorporeal diversion (-) of the involved secretion. Diversion of secretion (- vs +) caused a significant (P < 0.001) fall in pH except in the case of pancreatic secretion in fed pigs.*

The cyclical variation of duodenal pH was still observed when bile or pancreatic secretion was diverted from the duodenum (fig. 6). In fasted conditions, the maximum variation of the mean pH value ranged from 1.31 (bile diversion) to 1.45 units (pancreatic diversion). In fed conditions, the maximum cyclical variation ranged from 1.18 (bile diversion) to 1.36 units (pancreatic diversion). This pattern of variation was analogous (fasted animals) or not

significantly different (fed pigs) when compared with values obtained in animals whose secretions were returned to the duodenum. The pH range within which the cyclical variation took place was very significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) more acid during bile or pancreatic juice diversion in fasted pigs and during bile diversion in fed animals. The diversion of pancreatic secretion did not affect the mean intraduodenal pH values in any phase of the MMC in fed pigs. During the postprandial motor pattern, the intraduodenal pH was on an average significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) more acid under diversion of bile or pancreatic secretion (5.07 and 5.27, respectively) than during the restitution of these secretions (5.44 and 5.45).

## Discussion.

This study in the pig proves that the flow rate of biliary and pancreatic secretions varies rhythmically in relation to duodenal MMC. We confirm that the pig exhibits a cyclical variation of intraduodenal pH occurring concomitantly with the duodenal MMC cycle. The systematic analysis of the effects of biliary or pancreatic diversion allows us to speculate on the contribution of gastric, biliary and pancreatic secretions to this fluctuation.

However, to assess the physiological connections between intestinal motility, secretions and pH it is necessary to determine whether the techniques used alter duodenal myoelectric activity and whether the MMC is disturbed by the diversion of biliary or pancreatic secretions. During the restitution of biliary or pancreatic secretions according to a procedure already validated (Juste, Corring and Le Coz, 1983a), neither fistulation of the common bile duct or of the pancreatic duct, nor the presence of a duodenal T-shaped cannula led to disturbances of the MMC. The mean values of the MMC cycle period were found to be similar to those previously described (60-70 min) in intact pigs (Laplace, 1978). Likewise, the mean length of the postprandial pattern in the two series of pigs corresponded to usual values taking into account the size of the meals (Ruckebusch and Buéno, 1976; Laplace, 1978). The permanent diversion of secretions caused no large changes, and the MMC cycle period was not affected in fasted or fed pigs. This is in keeping with the fact that a variation in the amount of bile acids poured into the duodenum did not affect the cycle period of the MMC in dogs (Scott, 1986). However the opposite has been reported by Romanski *et al.* (1986) who described the disappearance of duodenal RSA during bile acid depletion in dogs, and the restoration of the cycling pattern by infusion of individual bile acids.

The gastrointestinal secretions, together with the buffering ability of the food, contribute to intraluminal pH. According to the design of our study, diversion of either biliary or pancreatic secretion using well-tried techniques (Corring, Aumaitre and Rérat, 1972; Corring, Juste and Jimenez, 1983), should not affect the secretory rate of the other or even gastric acid secretion. Indeed, neither the secretion of bile nor that of gastric acid seems to be disturbed by pancreatic

secretion diversion. Similar to our observations in pigs, humans suffering from pancreatic insufficiency experience relative acidification of the intraduodenal medium resulting from a reduced capacity to neutralize gastric acid (Dutta, Russell and Iber, 1979a and b). However, a marked increase in gastric acid secretion has been reported in dogs after pancreatic duct ligation (Sekine *et al.*, 1981). As regards bile duct fistulation, the secretion may either be returned into the lower common bile duct in order to irrigate the Oddi sphincter, or directly to the duodenum like in this experiment. Though the contractions of the Oddi sphincter delay the outflow of bile from the common bile duct towards the intestine (Laplace, 1976a), the latter method did not affect the postprandial secretion of bile from the gallbladder (Corring, Juste and Jimenez, 1983) or the bile volume; it did significantly reduce the 24-h bile acid production (Juste, Corring and Le Coz, 1983b), but this had no effect on the buffering ability of the bile. Despite the bypass of the sphincter in our pigs, the intermittent bile outflow during the ISA phase (approximately 4 groups of drops per min) could give some support to the passive pumping mechanism of bile in the common duct suggested by Rayner, Wenham and Gregory (1984). But exclusion of the Oddi sphincter does not eliminate the pulsatile pattern of fasting duodenal bile acid delivery in the dog (Scott, Eidt and Shaffer, 1985). So the techniques used do not give rise to abnormalities. Nevertheless it cannot be excluded that bile diversion affects gastric and/or pancreatic secretions in pigs. For example, gastric acid hypersecretion and pancreatic inhibition were recorded in bile deprived dogs (Davies *et al.*, 1985).

Under the above limitation, the described cyclic variations in biliary and pancreatic output proved to be a true secretory component of duodenal MMC in pigs. Due to overlapping of the plateau of alkalization with the RSA and quiescent phases (which did not correspond to any passage of digesta) and to the coincidence of the acid phase with the ISA phase (during which the gastroduodenal transit occurred) Buéno and Fioramonti (1982) considered that only the flow of acid gastric digesta and its interruption during the RSA and quiescent phases were responsible for cyclic pH variations. However, in their experimental conditions, bile and pancreatic secretion were diverted together with gastric outflow. This extracorporeal diversion of total duodenal contents being performed proximal to the site of pH measurement, the stable neutral pH value recorded by Buéno and Fioramonti (1982) reflected only the contribution of duodenal secretions. They therefore could not speculate on the potential contributing factors. Our experimental results demonstrate, under conditions of normal gastroduodenal transit, that neither diversion of bile nor of pancreatic secretion suppresses cyclical variation in pH, and suggest that the flow of acid gastric digesta could play a determining role. This is in agreement with the occurrence of gastric emptying during the duodenal ISA phase and the cessation of gastric outflow at the onset of the duodenal RSA phase (Laplace, 1978). Nevertheless, the very important role of biliary and pancreatic secretions in the neutralization of duodenal chyme in the pig, previously established (Abello, Corring and Laplace,

1987), is also demonstrated in the present study since the cyclical variation in pH took place within a much more acid range during biliary or pancreatic diversion in fasting pigs.

Speculating on possible mechanisms of coordination, several hypotheses can be considered, depending on whether fluctuations in secretions and pH are responsible for the MMC phases or the reverse. In dogs under fasting conditions, the transport of intestinal bile acids to the liver has been shown to be pulsatile rather than continuous, and determined by the MMC. Maximum hepatic secretion occurs when intraluminal bile acids reach their site of absorption (Scott *et al.*, 1983). But, the overall time necessary for transit and entero-hepatic recycling does not fit with the timing of the various events recorded in the duodenal area. Moreover both biliary and pancreatic secretions exhibit periodic fluctuations, and it was shown they were not responsible for the cyclical variation in pH. Nevertheless, the pH could be the focus of reciprocal relationships, as suggested years ago by the temporary inhibition of gastric motility by acid infusion in the small intestine (Boldyreff, 1904). Duodenal alkaline buffer solutions or pancreatic juice in dogs stimulate motility of gastric denervated pouches and — to a lesser degree — that of transplanted gastric pouches (Brown *et al.*, 1966). Duodenal infusion of 100 mM HCl in human beings induces a contractile activity resembling the duodenal RSA phase of a MMC (Lewis *et al.*, 1979). The cumulative effects of acid digesta emptied from the stomach could induce the duodenal RSA phase, which in turn results in the gastric quiescent period. Then cumulative effects of alkalinity in the duodenum could re-activate gastric motility. According to such a sequence, cyclic variations of intra-duodenal pH and MMC cycles in the gastro-duodenal area would be a self-induced alternating system. However such an hypothesis does not fit, for example, with the existence of a sustained acid flow during the postprandial pattern, nor with the fact that acid-induced duodenal RSA in human beings is not preceded by a maximal gastric activity (Lewis *et al.*, 1979).

Accordingly, it may be suggested that various nervous and/or humoral mechanisms are involved in intraduodenal acidification. Cyclical variations in the plasma levels of motilin (Cuber, Laplace and Chayvialle, 1984), cholecystokinin (Cuber *et al.*, 1986a), gastrin and pancreatic polypeptide (Cuber *et al.*, 1986b) with a periodicity closely related to that of the MMC were recently described in the pig. Results obtained in pigs also suggest that the acidification may lead to a growing release of various peptides such as secretin (Cuber *et al.*, 1985). The occurrence of a pH close to neutrality during early RSA may interrupt this release and could account for the rapid decrease in biliary and pancreatic flow rates. According to this, the pH cycle, which appears to be a consequence of the motor cycle (gastric acid delivery), might regulate rhythmic variation in the secretion of biliary and pancreatic secretions. It may also be suggested that the internal clock of the myenteric plexus (Laplace, 1984) directly controls both the MMC (through the cholinergic neuronal network) and the release of various regulatory peptides from the duodenum, or indirectly affects the release of various peptides due to intraduodenal pH conditions. Thus the observed chronological relationships would only reflect a sequential control by neural and peptidergic factors. Specific

studies would therefore be required before stating that the biliary and pancreatic secretory component of the MMC in pigs is the consequence of one or the other of the above mechanisms or of a combination of them.

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**Résumé.** *Composante sécrétoire biliaire et pancréatique des complexes myoélectriques migrants chez le Porc. Incidence sur le pH intraduodéal.*

L'objectif de cette étude chez le porc est double : (1) mettre en évidence l'existence d'une composante sécrétoire biliaire et pancréatique des complexes myoélectriques (CMM) en période interdigestive et (2) examiner l'effet d'une privation totale de l'une ou l'autre de ces sécrétions sur la structure des CMM et la variation cyclique du pH intraduodéal.

Six porcs ( $50,6 \pm 1,6$  kg) ont été munis d'un cathéter permanent soit dans le canal cholédoque (3 porcs), soit dans le canal pancréatique (3 porcs). L'ensemble des animaux a été équipé avec un cathéter duodéal pour la réintroduction de la sécrétion dérivée et d'électrodes chroniques souples implantées dans l'antrum gastrique et le duodénum. Le débit de la sécrétion dérivée est enregistré parallèlement à l'activité électromyographique avant restitution. Dix porcs ( $50,8 \pm 1,5$  kg) préparés de la même façon (5 porcs avec cathétérisme du canal cholédoque, 5 porcs avec cathétérisme du canal pancréatique) ont en outre été munis d'une canule duodéale en T positionnée à 19 cm du pylore et permettant l'introduction d'une électrode pour la mesure du pH. Ce dernier a été enregistré parallèlement à l'activité électromyographique dans 4 situations différentes : sécrétions réintroduites, en période interdigestive ou postprandiale ; bile ou suc pancréatique non réintroduit, chez le porc alimenté ou à jeun.

Les débits de bile et de suc pancréatique sont très importants pendant le déroulement de l'activité irrégulière (AI), avec un maximum à la fin de celle-ci juste avant le déclenchement de l'activité régulière (AR), et à l'inverse très faibles pendant la phase de quiescence. La durée des CMM duodéaux et de leurs phases constitutives n'est pas fondamentalement modifiée par une dérivation extracorporelle totale de la bile ou du suc pancréatique, que ce soit en période interdigestive ou postprandiale. En période interdigestive, le pH est significativement diminué lors de dérivation de la bile (quiescence : 6,17 vs 7,15 ; AI : 4,91 vs 5,94 ; AR : 5,40 vs 6,52) ou du suc pancréatique (quiescence : 5,56 vs 7,18 ; AI : 4,21 vs 5,97 ; AR : 5,14 vs 6,72). En période postprandiale, seule la dérivation de la bile entraîne une acidification pendant les déroulements du « pattern » postprandial (5,07 vs 5,44), des phases de quiescence (5,81 vs 6,61), d'AI (4,66 vs 4,92) et d'AR (5,11 vs 5,78). Néanmoins la périodicité des fluctuations du pH liée au déroulement du cycle des CMM subsiste lors de dérivation de bile ou de suc pancréatique.

Ces résultats mettent en évidence l'existence chez le porc d'une composante sécrétoire biliaire et pancréatique des CMM duodéaux, et confirment que ces sécrétions ont un rôle important dans la neutralisation des contenus duodéaux. Néanmoins la variation cyclique du pH intraduodéal s'avère essentiellement déterminée par la périodicité du débit des digesta gastriques acides.

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