

Disso India 2017, Mumbai

# Advantages and Impact of Biorelevant Dissolution Media

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# Linking the lab to the patient

www.goethe-universitaet.de

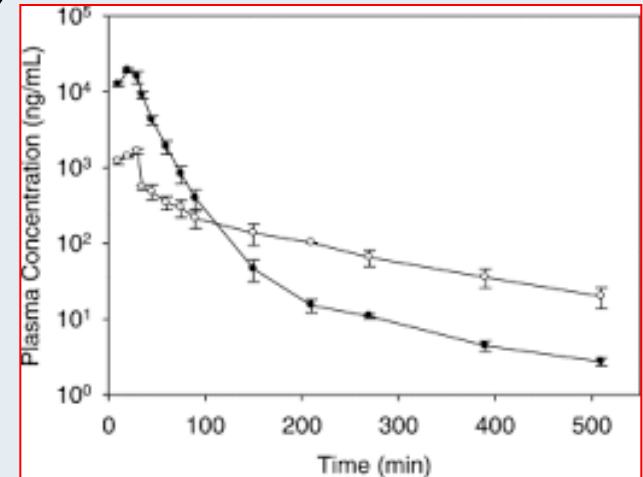
Picture of rat

Picture of patient

Picture of dog



Picture of girl at computer



# „Dissolution Plus PBPK“ Approach

*in vitro*

QC tests

Biorelevant tests in fasted state

Biorelevant tests in fed state

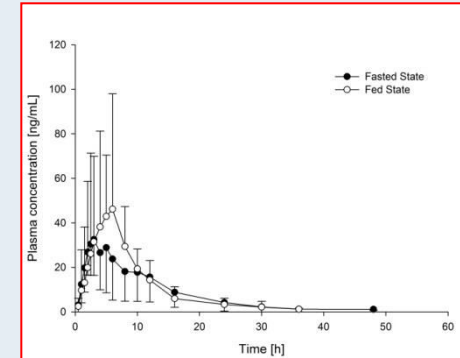
*in silico*

Deconvolution

PBPK modeling

IVIVC

*in vivo*



Picture of girl at computer



Picture of dog

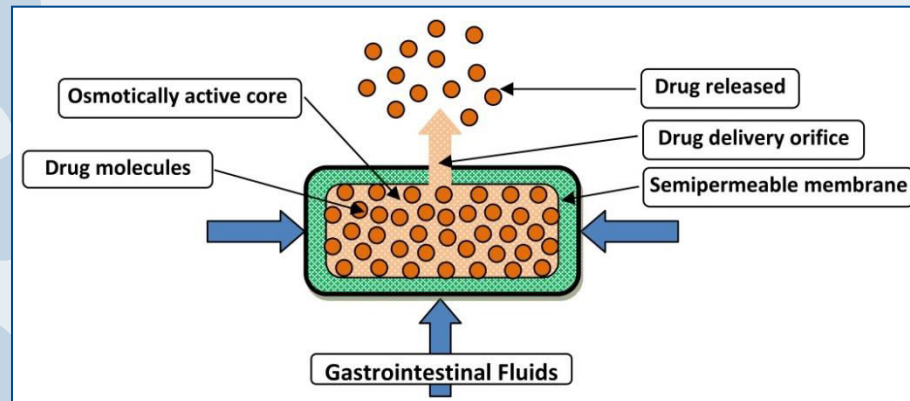
The aim is to  
 → reduce the number of PK studies and  
 → accelerate formulation development

# QC or Biorelevant dissolution tests?

*For some formulations, there is little dependency on GI physiology.....*

e.g. Immediate release dosage forms containing **highly** soluble drugs

e.g. simple osmotic pumps.



For such formulations, media such as water, dilute HCl or phosphate buffer should be sufficient and a simple apparatus (Paddle or Basket) can be used

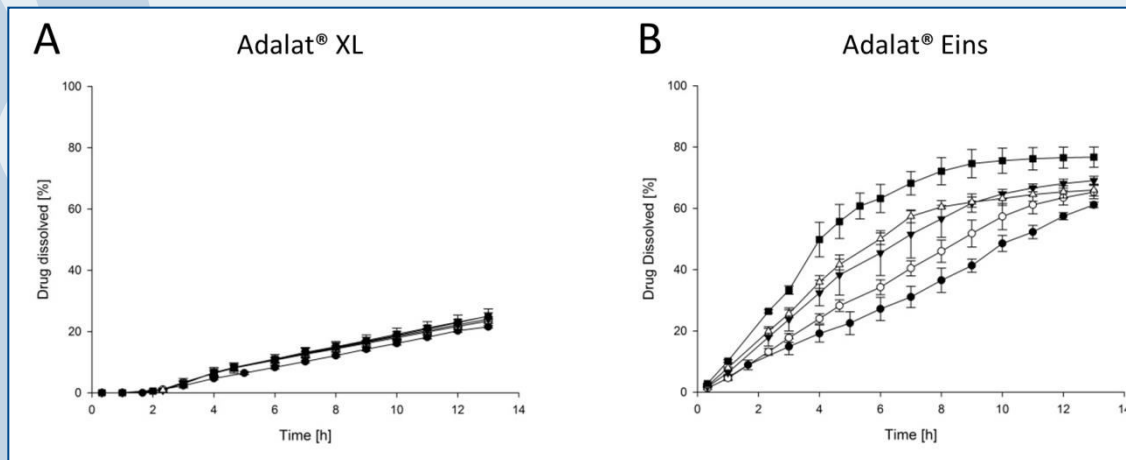
# QC or Biorelevant Dissolution Tests?

.....while for other formulations, release may be highly dependent on GI physiology

e.g. Immediate release dosage forms containing **poorly** soluble drugs

e.g. enteric coated pellets

e.g. matrix tablets for modified release

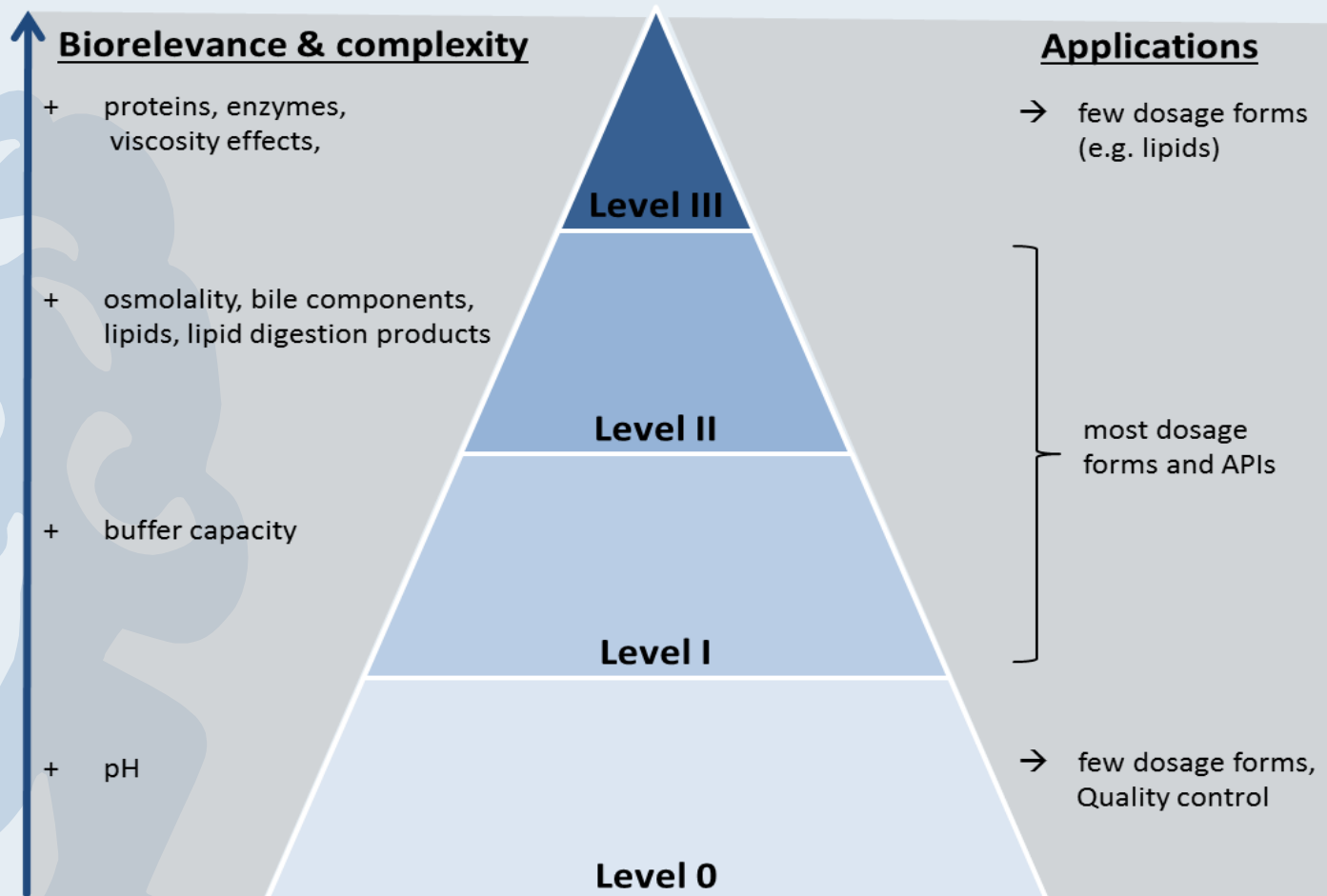


osmotic pump

matrix tablet

For such formulations, aspects of GI physiology that are key to release should be accounted for and an apparatus that facilitates media change should be used

# The Dissolution Media Pyramid



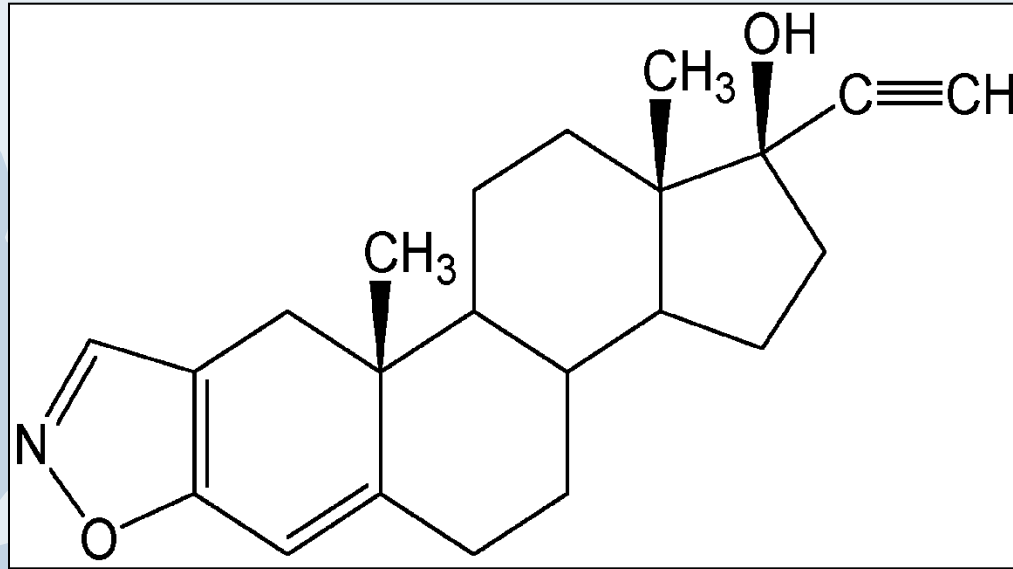
Markopoulos, Andreas et al. In-vitro simulation of luminal conditions for evaluation of performance of oral drug products: Choosing the appropriate test media  
Eur. J. Pharm. Biopharm. **93**: 173-182 (2015)

# Linking the Lab to the Patient with Dissolution + PBPK *some case examples*

# **Case example 1: Relationship between dissolution and PK of Danazol (a poorly soluble but highly permeable drug)**



# Case example: danazol



Aqueous solubility: 1 µg/ml

Dose: 200 mg

pKa: neutral

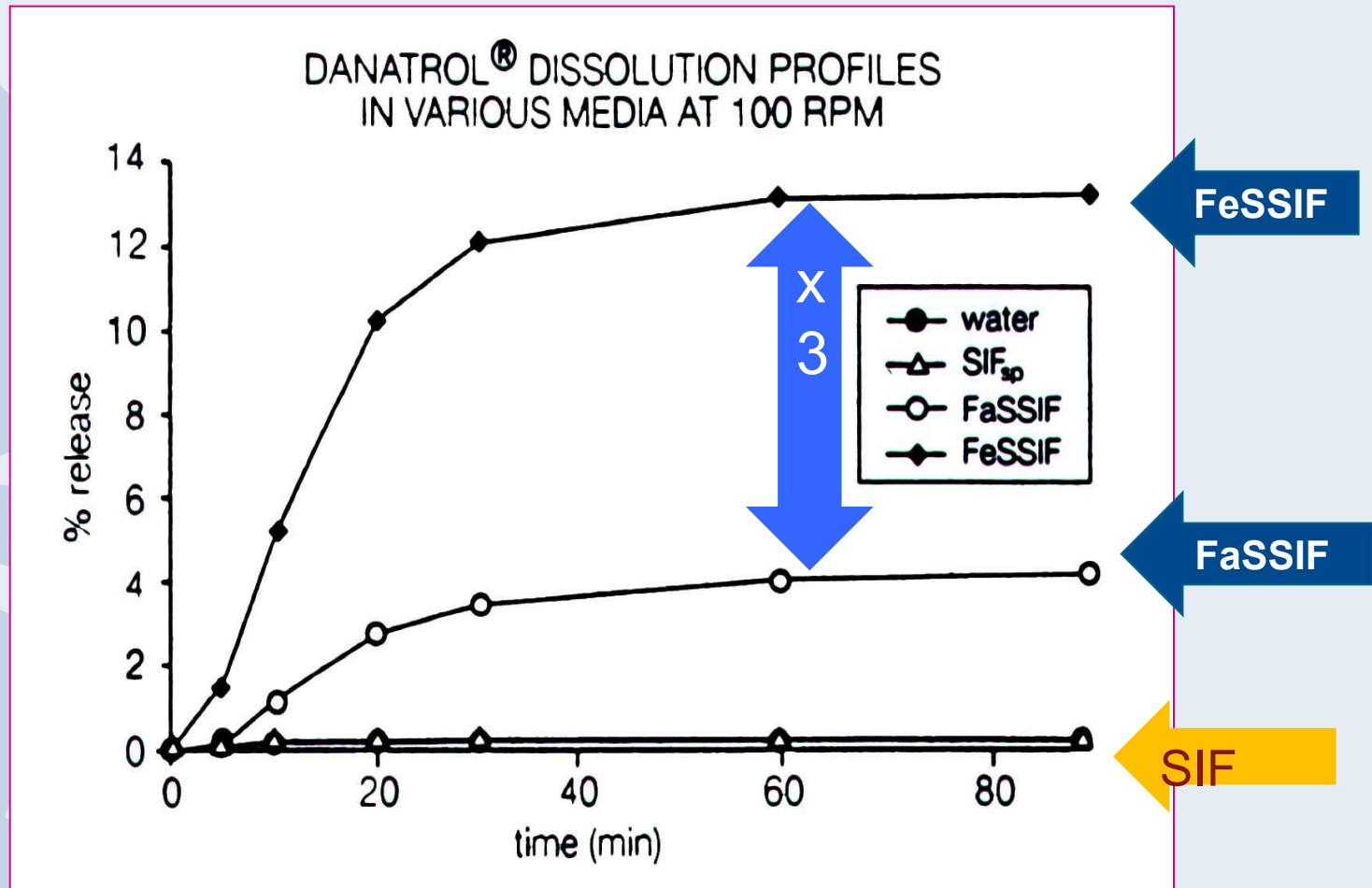
log P: 4.53

D:S 200 liters H<sub>2</sub>O

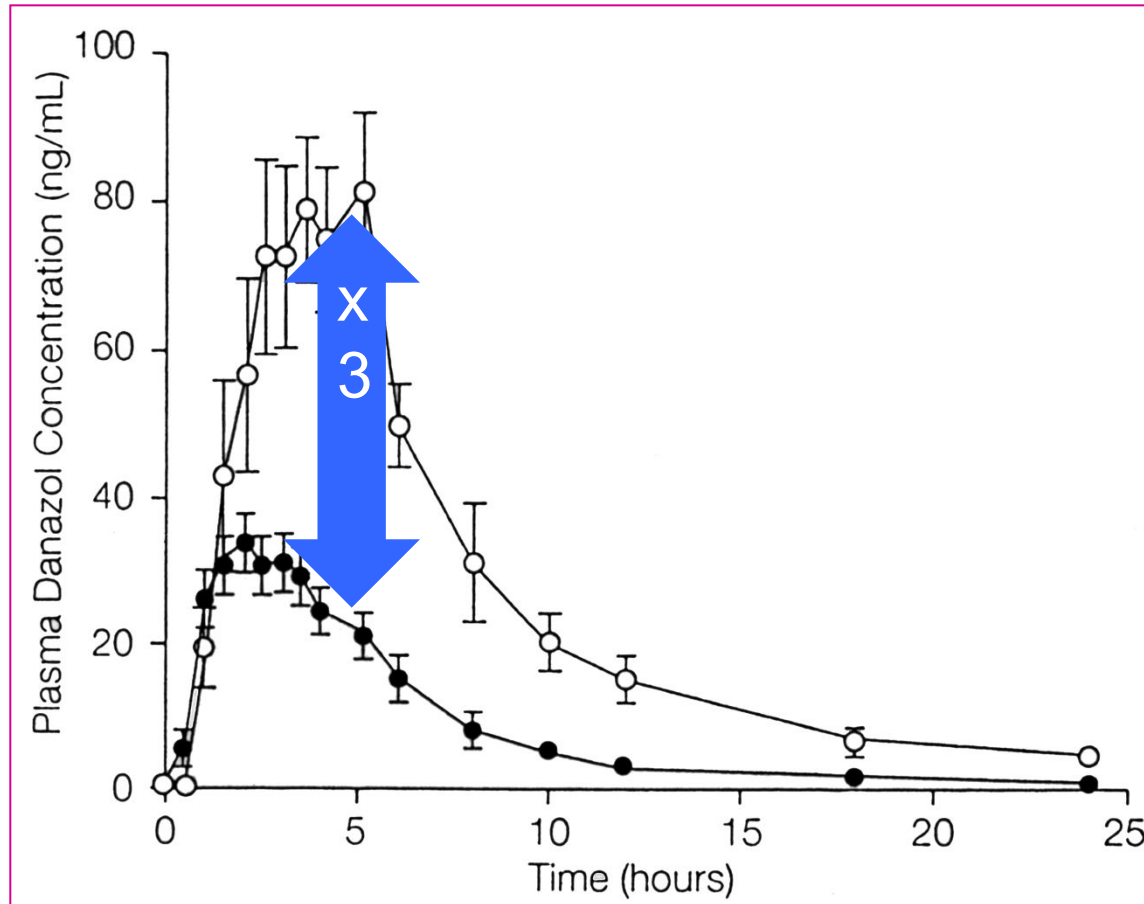
20 liters FaSSIF

6 liters FeSSIF

# Danatrol dissolution profiles in various media at 100 rpm



# Danazol's food effect reflects its dissolution characteristics



Plasma profiles of danazol after administration in the fasted (●) and fed (○) state (from Charman et al.)

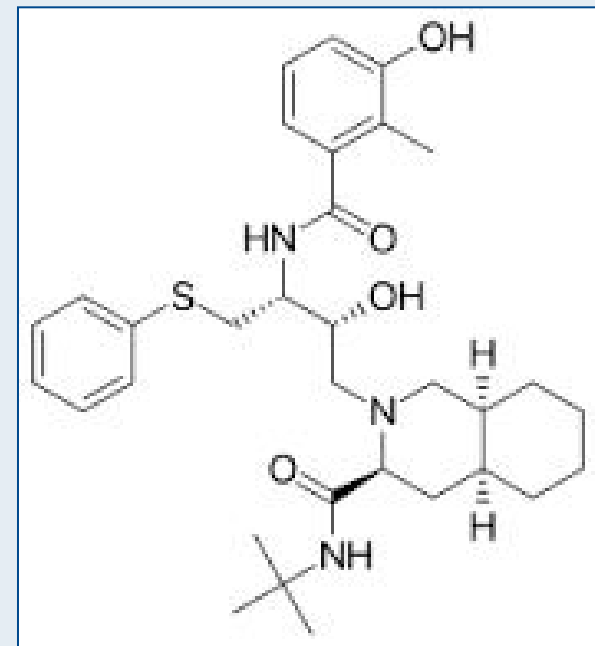
# Linking the Lab to the Patient with Dissolution + PBPK *case example 2*

# Case example 2: predicting the *in vivo* behaviour of poorly soluble bases

Poorly soluble bases may dissolve well in the stomach but then precipitate in the small intestine, leading to poor bioavailability.

e.g. Nelfinavir mesylate

Y. Shono et al. EJPB 79: 349-356 (2011)



# Case example 2: Nelfinavir mesylate

## BCS Class 2 (low solubility and high permeability)

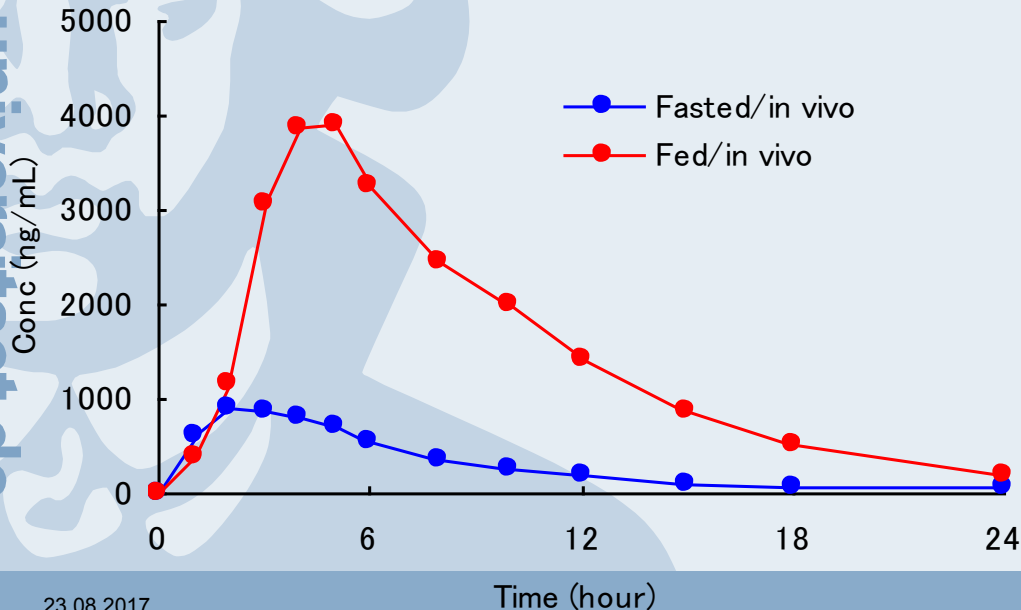
$pK_a$  : 6 and 11 (highly pH dependent solubility)

$C_s$  : 2.16mg/mL in SGF<sub>sp</sub> (pH1.2)  
: 0.003 mg/mL in SIF<sub>sp</sub> (pH 6.8)

Log  $P$  : 4.0

$P_{app}$  :  $3.4 \times 10^{-6}$  cm/sec (Caco-2)

Mean plasma profiles of nelfinavir 1250mg  
(250mg tablet x 5)



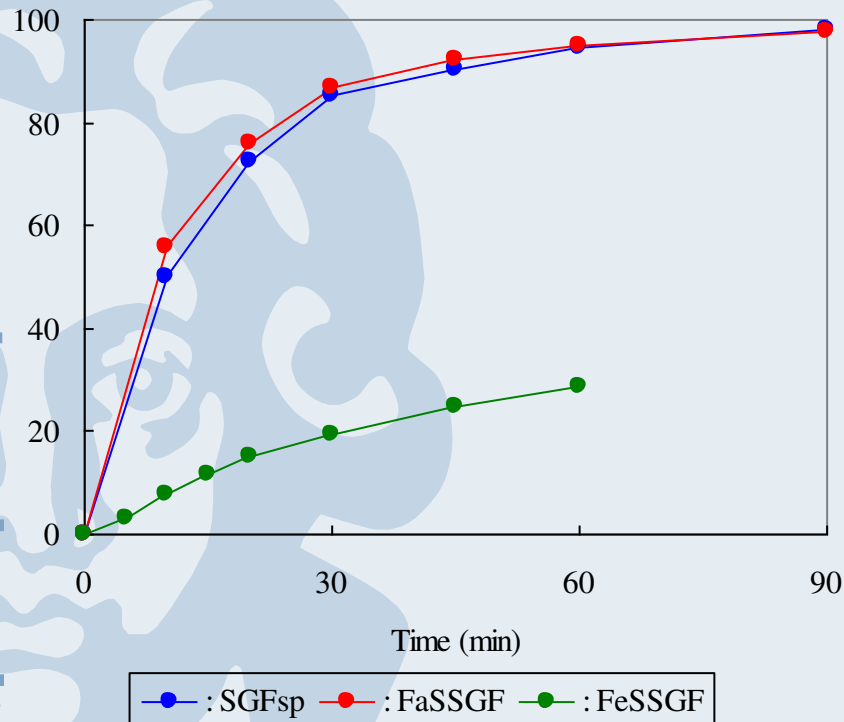
4.9-fold increase in AUC

4.4-fold increase in  $C_{max}$

*Recommended to be  
taken with food*

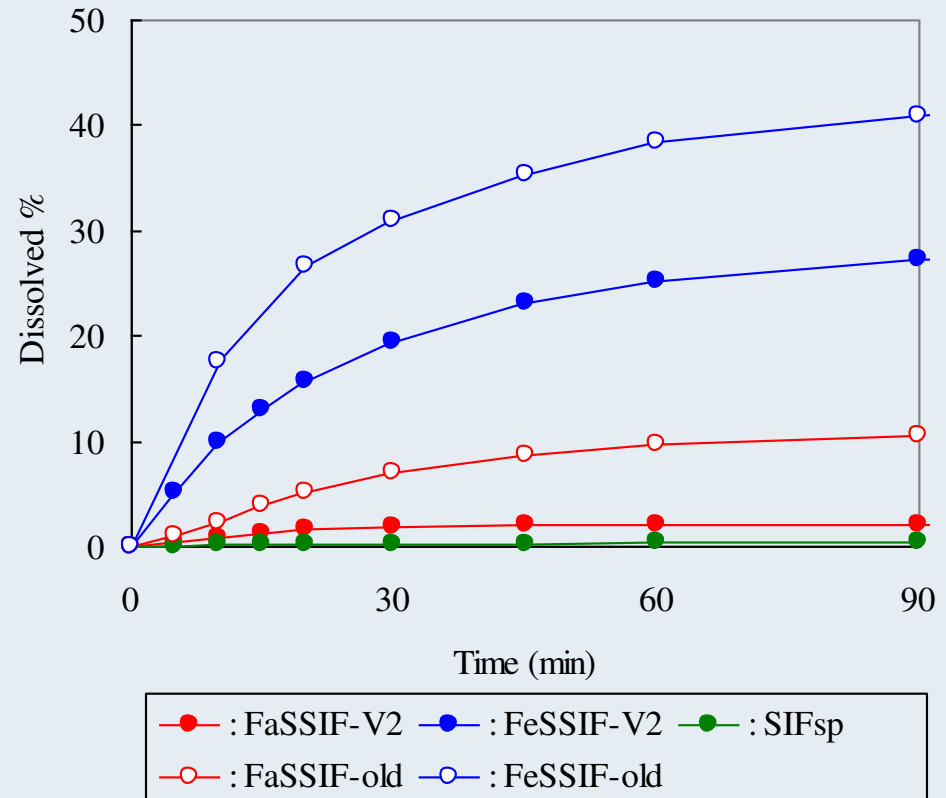
# Dissolution of nelfinavir mesylate 250mg tablets in 250mL of biorelevant media

## Gastric media



Dissolution profiles of nelfinavir mesylate in **gastric** biorelevant media

## Small intestinal media



Dissolution profiles of nelfinavir mesylate in **intestinal** biorelevant media

# For **nelfinavir mesylate**, the solubility gap in the fasted state suggests precipitation could occur

Drug precipitation is likely to occur in the **fasted state** due to the solubility gap between the stomach and the small intestine.



From the dissolution results alone, it is difficult to weigh the contributions from events in the stomach to the bioavailability.



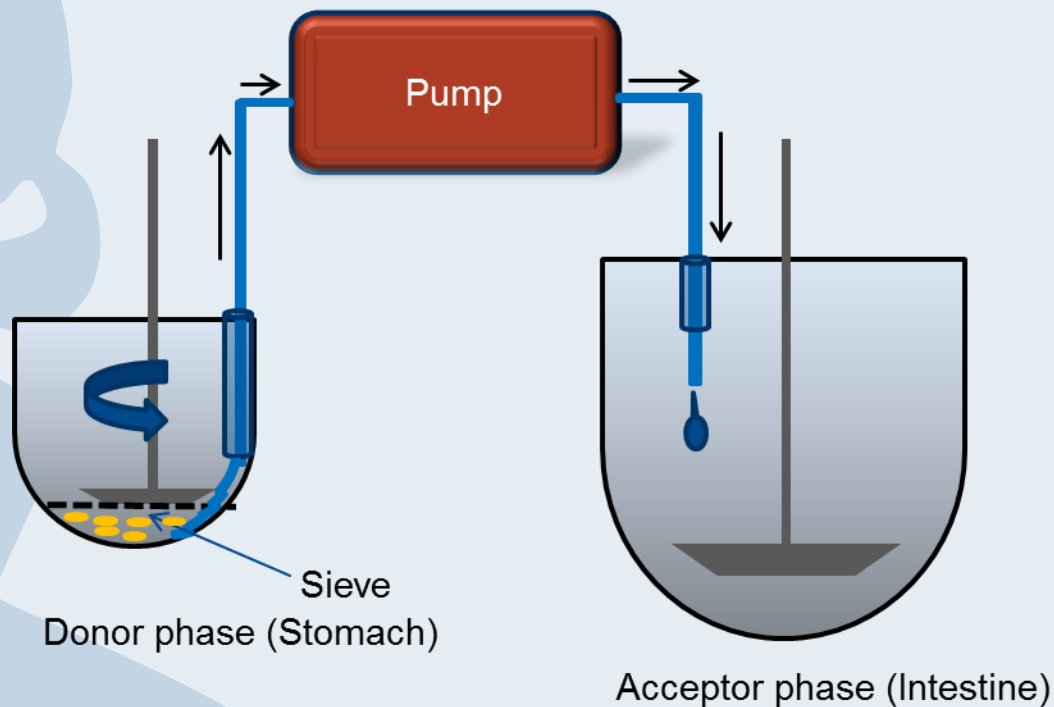
PBPK modeling was invoked to predict food effects for nelfinavir mesylate, using crystal growth theory to describe the precipitation

*Shono et al. Eur. J. Pharm. Biopharm. 79: 349-356 (2011)*

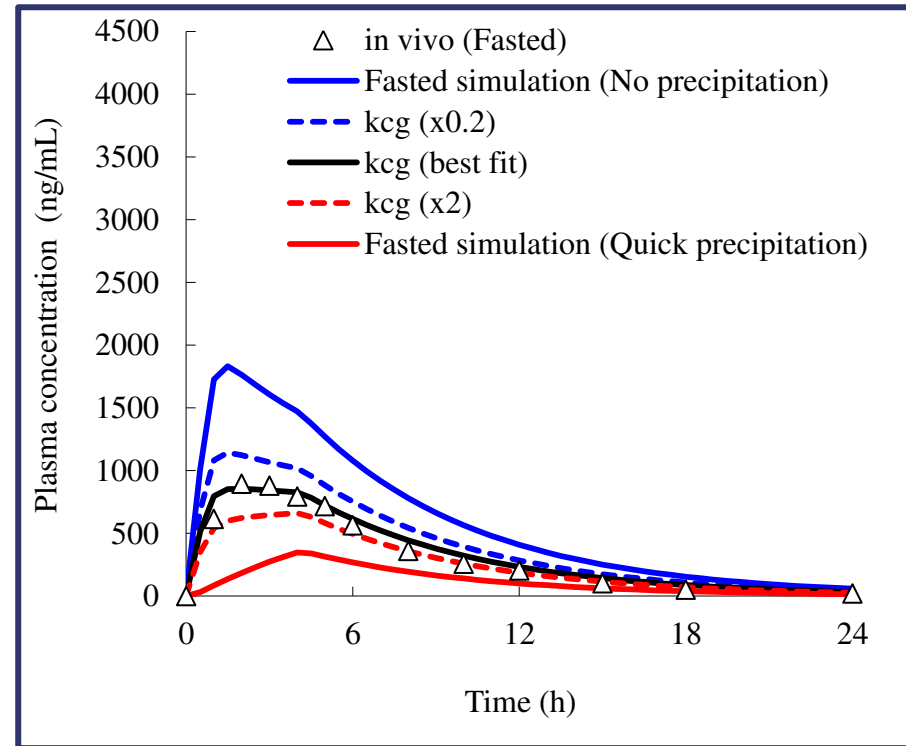
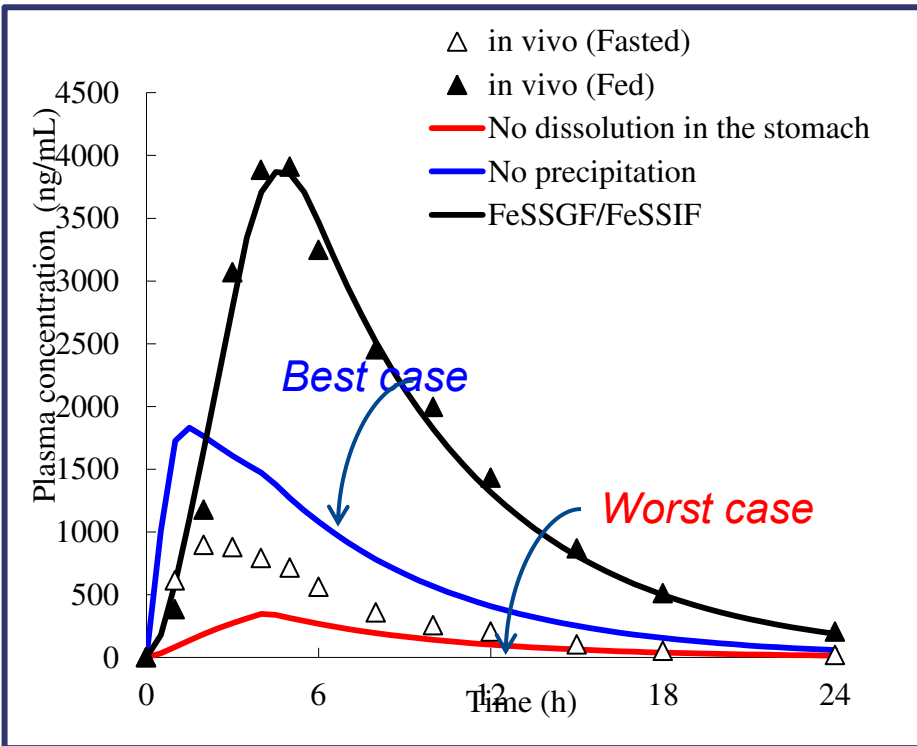


# Alternative: Transfer Model approach

In the lab, the Transfer Model can be used to detect precipitation of weak bases upon entry into the small intestine




# Contribution of Dissolution in the Stomach and Effects of Precipitation on the Absorption of Nelfinavir Mesylate



Results with the model indicated that invoking drug precipitation in the small intestine is necessary to describe the *in vivo* performance of nelfinavir mesylate in the **fasted state**.

In the **fed state**, the dissolution is higher under intestinal than under gastric conditions: no precipitation is expected.



**Linking the Lab to the Patient with  
Dissolution + PBPK  
*case example 3***

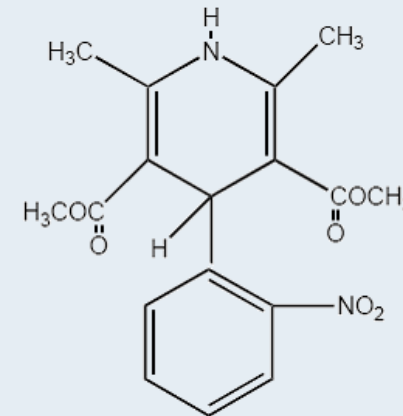
# Nifedipine– API and formulations

## API

- indication: hypertension
- BCS class II
- pKa = neutral
- logP = 2.2
- light-sensitive
- Half life: 2-4h

## Formulations

- Adalat XL (*extended release*)
- Adalat Eins (*extended release*)



Picture of Adalat  
XL

Picture of Adalat  
Eins

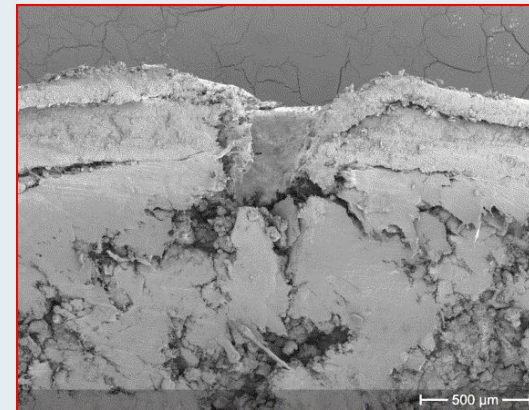
# Nifedipine– research question

Can the dosage-form dependent food effect be predicted using *in vitro* tests?

# Nifedipine – Adalat XL

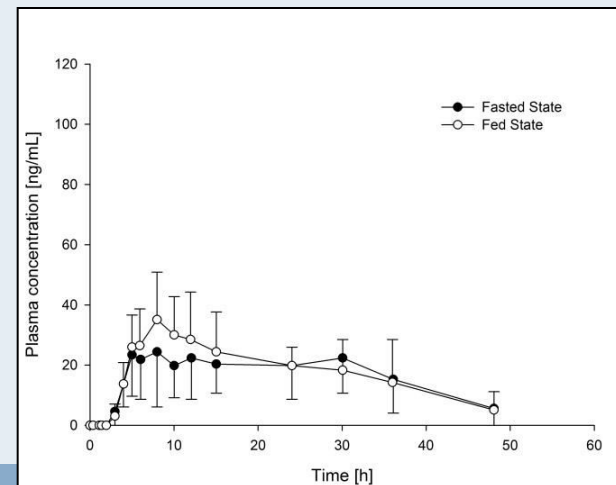
## Release characteristics:

- osmotic pump
- approx. 2 hour lag time
- zero-order release rate



## In vivo data :

- **C<sub>max</sub>** Fed-to-Fasted ratio: **1.21**
- **AUC** Fed-to-Fasted ratio: **1.03**

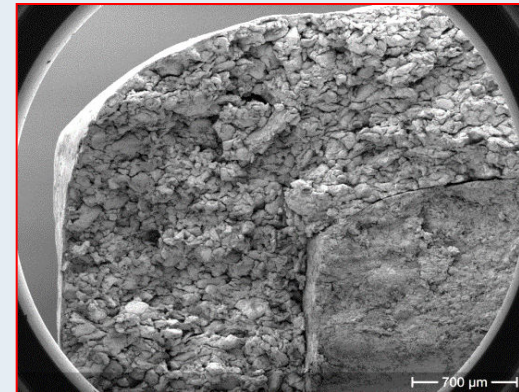


Andreas et al., 2016

# Nifedipine – Adalat Eins

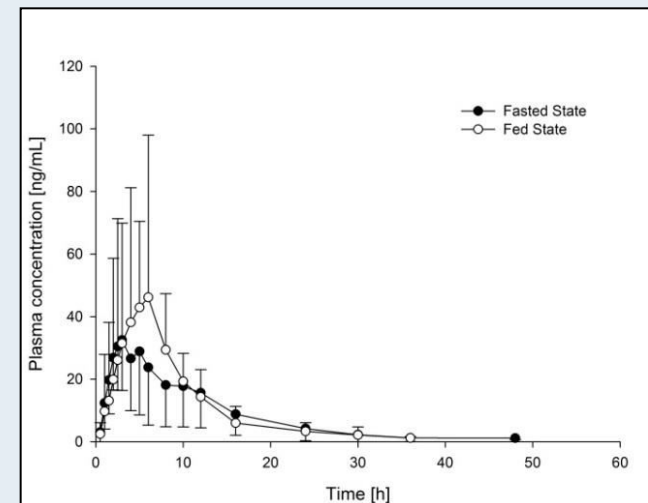
## Release characteristics:

- coat core formulation
- slowly eroding coat, fast disintegrating core
- no lag time

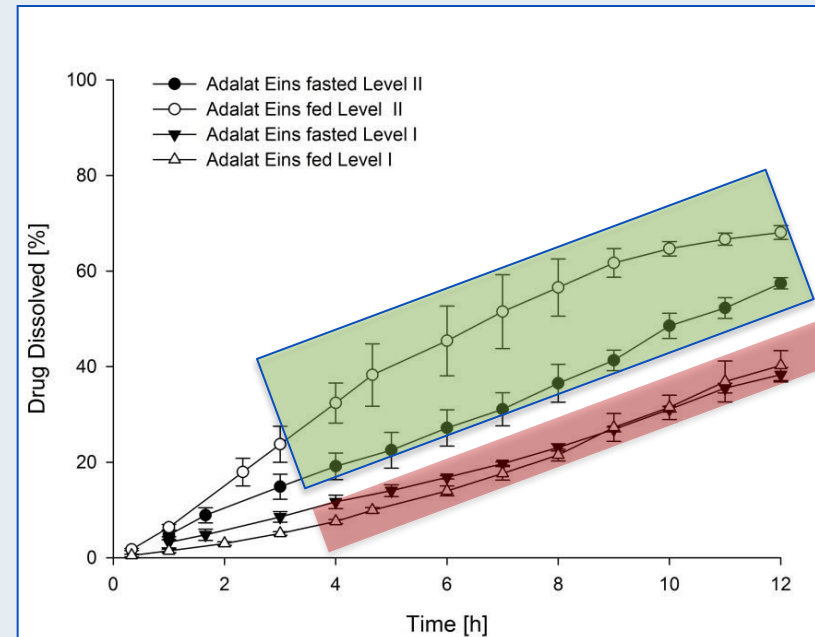
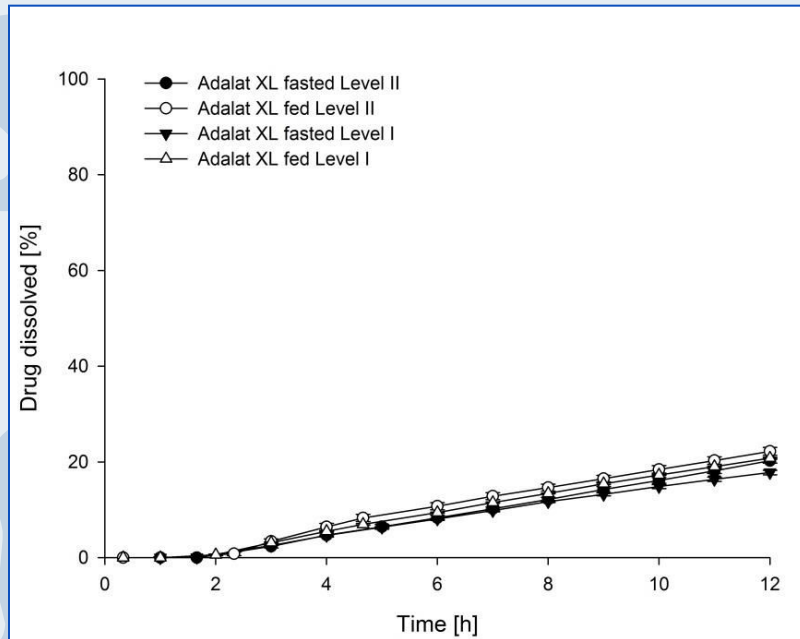


## In vivo data :

- **C<sub>max</sub>** Fed-to-Fasted ratio: **2.24**
- **AUC** Fed-to-Fasted ratio: **1.20**



# Nifedipine – Biorelevant dissolution results



## Adalat XL

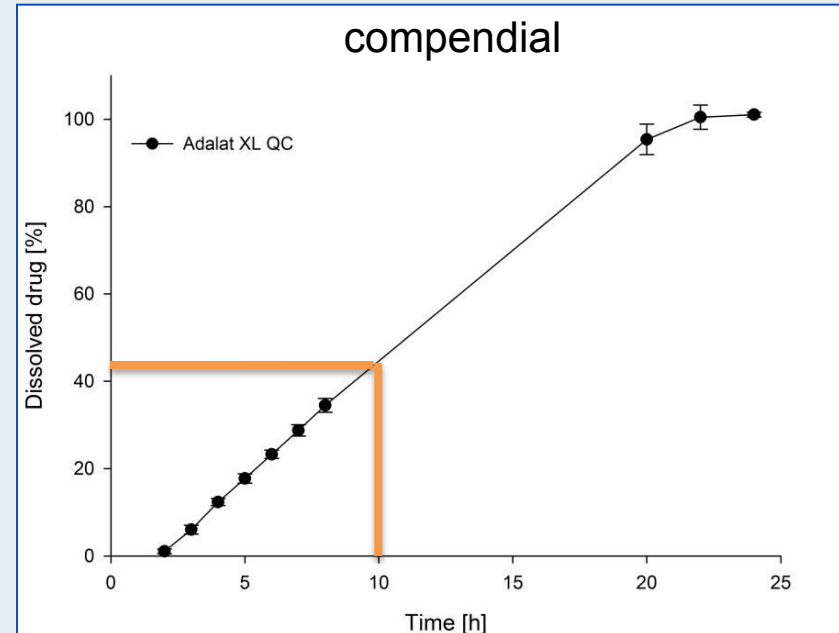
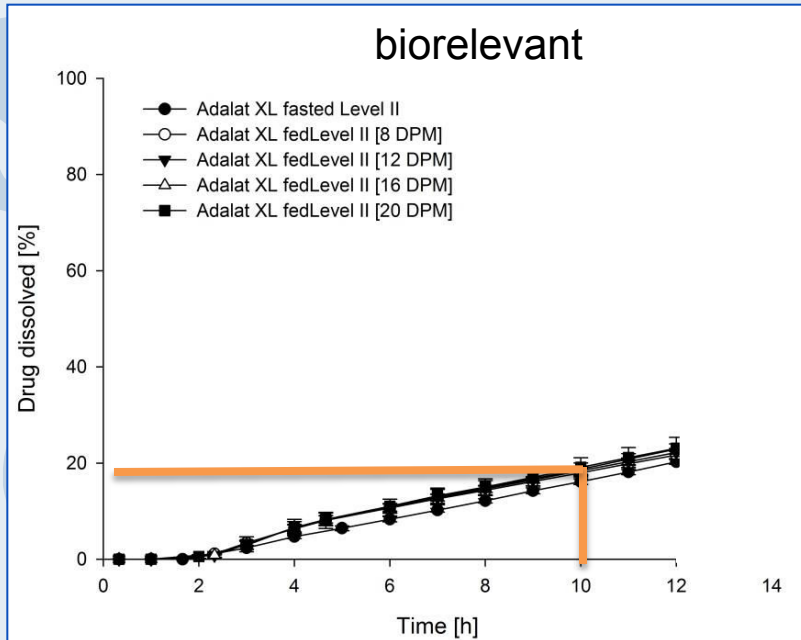
- no indication of food effect with either Level 1 or 2 media

## Adalat Eins

- no indication of food effect using Level 1 media
- bile salt/lipid containing media (Level 2) were necessary to predict the food effect



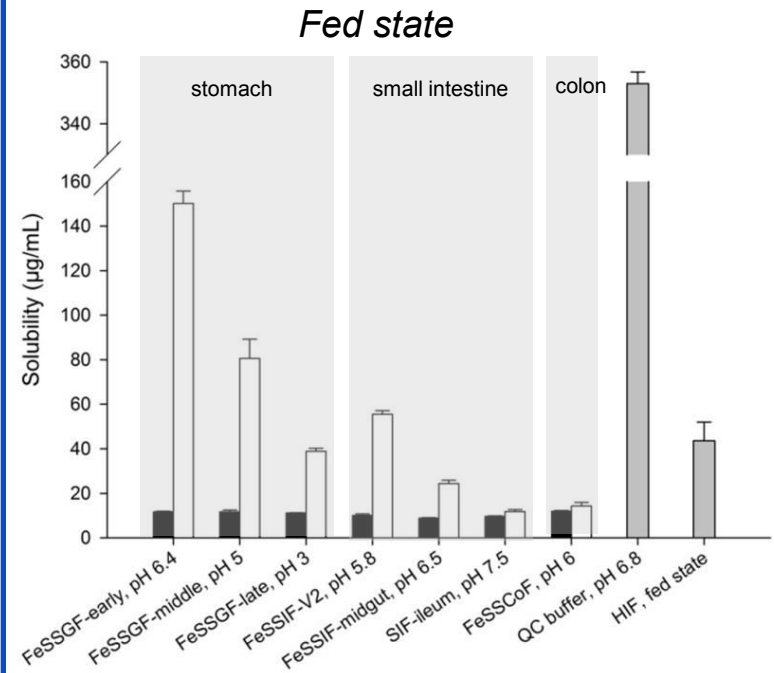
# Nifedipine – Biorelevant vs. compendial dissolution results



## Adalat XL (osmotic pump)

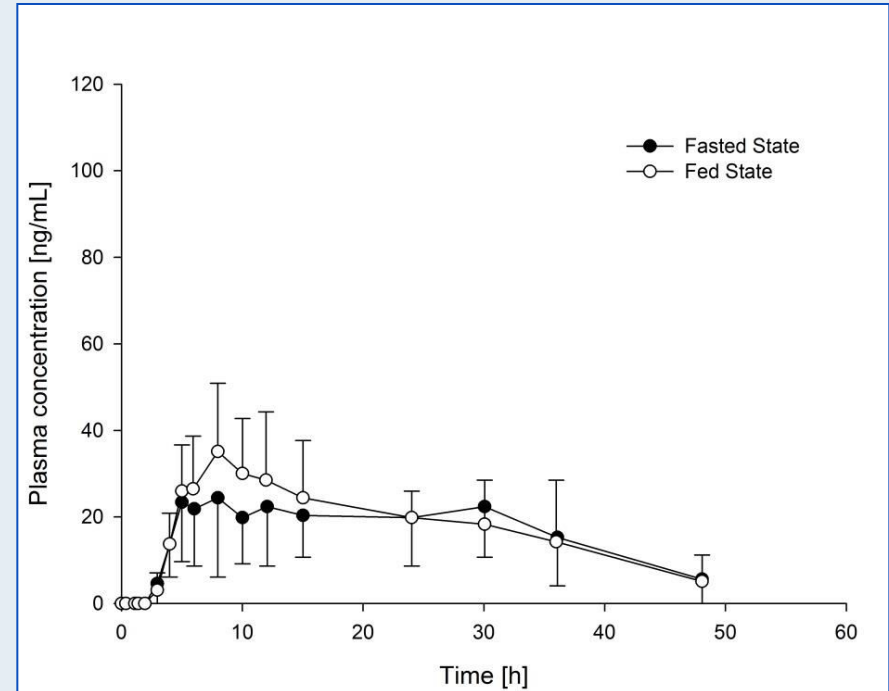
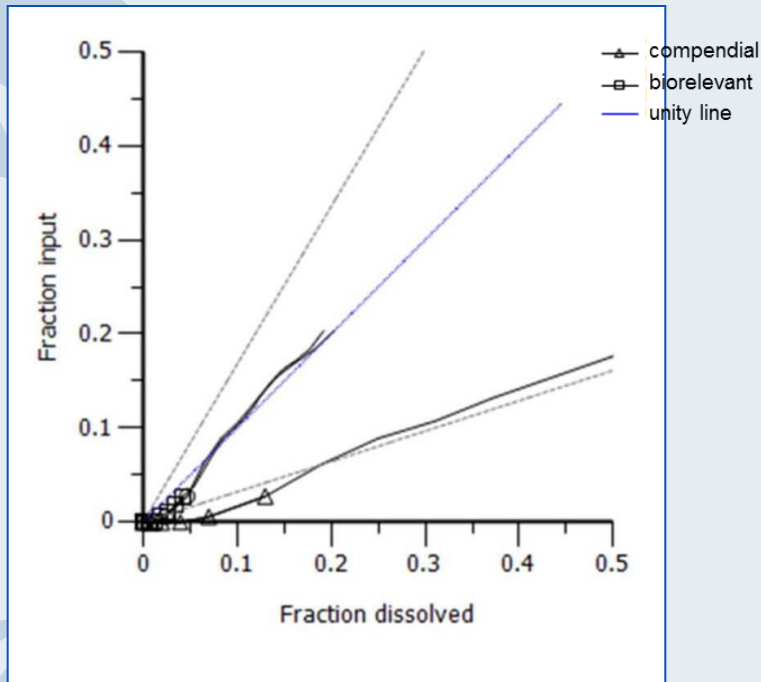
- different dissolution rates in biorelevant vs. compendial (1% SDS) dissolution methods
- no impact of hydrodynamics on dissolution rate
- significantly higher dissolution rate in compendial media

# Nifedipine – Solubility profile



- pH-independent solubility profile
- bile-salt/lipid mediated solubility enhancement
- excessive solubilization in compendial media
- biorelevant media show much closer solubility values to intestinal aspirates (HIF)

# Nifedipine – Adalat XL - IVIVC



- IVIVC indicated that dissolution rates were more physiological using the biorelevant setup
  - compendial setup: release rate = dissolution rate
  - biorelevant setup: release rate  $\neq$  dissolution rate

# Nifedipine - summary

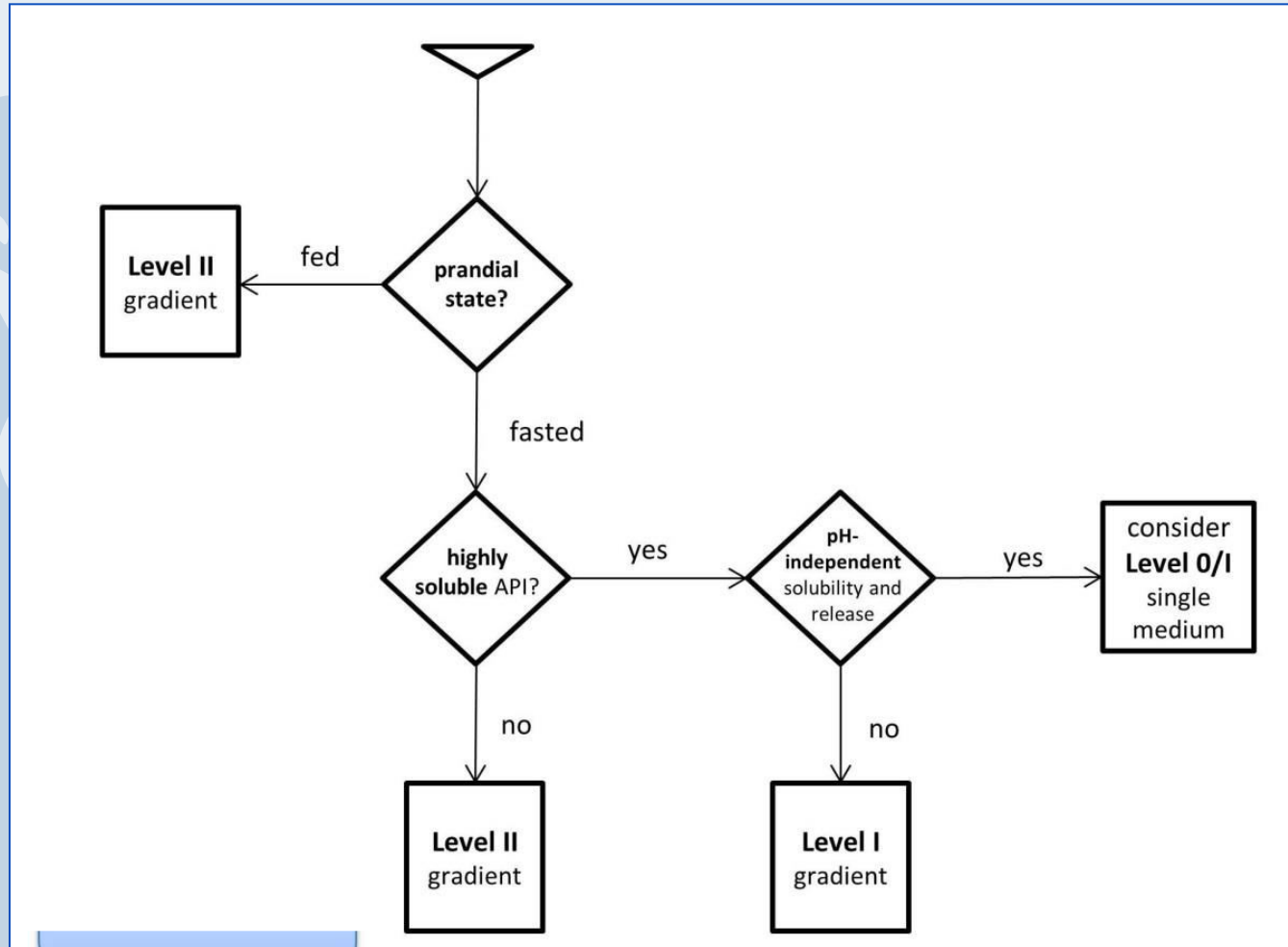
## Food effects

- most likely caused by better solubilization of the API in the fed state
- Adalat XL (osmotic pump):
  - Effect is limited due to the 2 hour lag time and slow release from the osmotic pump combined with slow dissolution rate of the suspension
- Adalat Eins (matrix-type):
  - Positive food effect due to solubility enhancement of the API in the fed state

## Accuracy of generated *in vitro* data

- biorelevant dissolution method:
  - successful identification of dosage-form dependent food effect
  - complex composition (Level 2) media necessary
  - *in vitro* input resulted in more physiological IVIVC
- compendial dissolution method:
  - 1% SDS overestimated the dissolution rate
  - indication of food effects not possible with QC media

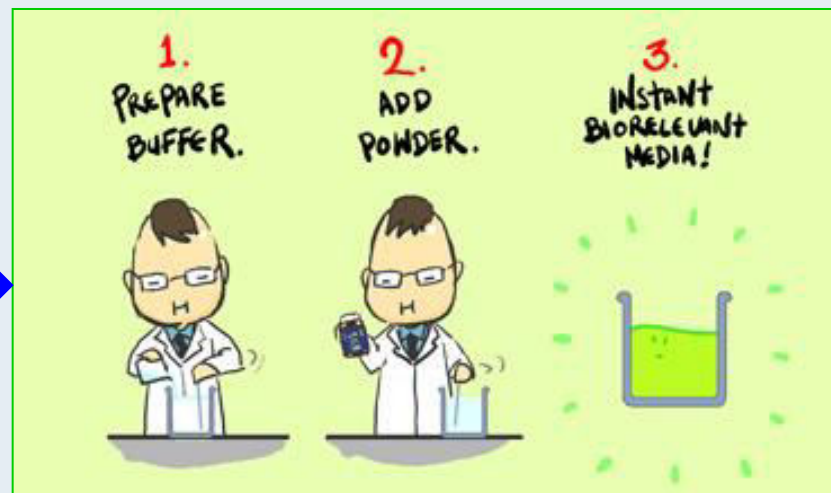
# Decision tree for most appropriate media selection for predictive tests (MR Dosage Forms)



# Biorelevant dissolution media

*Using „instant“ powders to make the biorelevant media:*

**„Study of a Standardized Taurocholate–Lecithin Powder for Preparing the Biorelevant Media FeSSIF and FaSSIF“  
*Dissolution Technologies***



*source: [www.biorelevant.com](http://www.biorelevant.com)*

# ***What are the benefits of combining Biorelevant dissolution with PBPK?***

- Better understanding of exactly which factors really affect the PK profile
- Fewer (no?) animal experiments in the pharmaceutical development phase of R&D of new drugs
- Easily able to predict PK profile in patients with non-standard GI physiology (pediatric, geriatric, PPI users etc.) => reduce the number of clinical studies necessary
- Predict food effects on the PK profile => recommend dosing
- Predict whether a SUPAC change will be BE with the predecessor formulation (predict outcome of bridging studies)

***Let's all work together to provide optimal therapy for the patient!***

**Picture of elephants kissing**



*Thank you for your attention!*

Acknowledgements:

**Eric Galia**



**Yasushi Shono**



**Cord Andreas**

