

Journal

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# the fate of foreign compounds in biological systems

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Research Article

## Nitrosation of quaternary ammonium compounds in vivo in the Wistar rat

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Abstract

1. Animals dosed orally with nitrite ( $1.5 \times 10^{-3}$  mol/kg) and nonyl dimethylbenzylammonium bromide ( $2.9 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/kg) exhibit liver damage within two hours; cetyl trimethylammonium bromide plus nitrite was not significantly hepatotoxic.

2. Both nonyl dimethylbenzyl ammonium bromide and cetyl trimethylammonium bromide were demethylated by rat-liver microsomal preparations; substrate concentrations of 1 mM or more were inhibitory.

3. Bile from rats given i.p. doses of cetyl trimethylammonium bromide, nonyl dimethylbenzylammonium bromide or dodecyl dimethylbenzylammonium bromide contains only metabolites, no unchanged compounds were detected.

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