Title: Cisplatin drives mitochondrial dysregulation in sensory hair cells

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Abstract:

Cisplatin is a commonly used chemotherapy that causes permanent hearing loss by injuring cochlear hair cells. The underlying mechanisms that drive hair cell loss remain unknown, but mitochondria have emerged as potential mediators of cisplatin ototoxicity. Direct observation of changes in hair cell mitochondrial function are challenging because the mammalian inner ear is optically inaccessible. Here, we perform live *in vivo* imaging of hair cells within the zebrafish lateral-line organ to evaluate the role of mitochondria in cisplatin ototoxicity. Using a genetically encoded biosensor that measures cumulative mitochondrial activity in hair cells, we demonstrate that greater redox history increases susceptibility to cisplatin. Next, we conduct time-lapse imaging of individual hair cells to understand dynamic changes in mitochondrial homeostasis. We observe spikes in mitochondrial calcium and cytosolic calcium immediately prior to hair cell death. Furthermore, we use a mitochondrially-localized probe that fluoresces in the presence of cisplatin to show that cisplatin accumulates in hair cell mitochondria. Lastly, we demonstrate that this accumulation occurs before mitochondrial dysregulation, Caspase-3 activation, and ultimately, hair cell death. Our findings provide additional evidence that suggest mitochondria are integral to cisplatin ototoxicity and cisplatin directly targets hair cell mitochondria.

Key Words: cisplatin ototoxicity, zebrafish, mitochondria, *in vivo* imaging

Introduction:

Cisplatin is a commonly used and effective chemotherapy for the management of solid tumors, but also causes irreversible hearing loss in more than 50% of treated adults and children (1-3). This hearing loss decreases quality of life and has additional long-term ramifications in children for its effect on speech and language development (4-6). Cisplatin has been used clinically since the 1970s and numerous candidate therapies have been developed in an effort to reduce or eliminate cisplatin ototoxicity (7). However, only one therapy has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to mitigate cisplatin-induced hearing loss and its use is limited to children with localized non-metastatic solid tumors; otoprotective drug candidates for adults remain investigational (8). Drug discovery has been challenged, in part, by an incomplete understanding of the cellular mechanisms that drive cisplatin-induced hearing loss. Therefore, elucidating the pathophysiology of cisplatin ototoxicity may have substantial clinical implications.

Cisplatin causes damage to cochlear hair cells, the sensory receptors that facilitate hearing, and may do so through a variety of mechanisms. The most studied pathway of cisplatin cytotoxicity is the formation of bulky adducts with nuclear DNA, thereby preventing replication in rapidly dividing cells, such as cancer cells (9-11). Yet, hair cells are mitotically inactive, which suggests that another process may drive their vulnerability to cisplatin. More recently, production of pathologic reactive oxygen species (ROS) has been shown to facilitate cisplatin ototoxicity, suggesting that free radical scavengers might mitigate this process (12, 13). Although multiple pathways may lead to ROS

overproduction, mitochondria have emerged as likely mediators of cisplatin ototoxicity

because they are a major source of physiologic ROS and represent the only other

organelle in hair cells to contain DNA (14, 15). In support of this theory, preclinical

studies show that cisplatin leads to elevated mitochondrial ROS production, increased

ratios of Bax to Bcl-2 (mediators of apoptosis and hair cell survival, respectively), and

activated Caspase-3 in hair cells (16-18).

The pattern of cochlear injury in response to cisplatin further implicates mitochondria as

critical players in cisplatin ototoxicity. The cochlea is tonotopically organized such that

hair cells located at its base transmit high frequencies and those present at its apex

transmit low frequencies (19). Cisplatin preferentially causes high-frequency hearing

loss by damaging hair cells at the basal turn of the cochlea (20). While the mechanisms

that underlie this selective hair cell susceptibility are unknown, tonotopic differences in

hair cell metabolic activity, endogenous levels of antioxidants, and intracellular calcium

homeostasis may contribute to cisplatin's distinct pattern of cochlear injury (21-23).

Mitochondria, the organelle responsible for many of these functions, may therefore

serve as direct or indirect targets of cisplatin. Similar relationships between

mitochondria and high-frequency hearing loss have also been observed in other

disease processes, including presbycusis (age-related hearing loss) and

aminoglycoside ototoxicity (24-27). Altogether, the literature suggests that mitochondrial

dysregulation is potentially a key cellular event that drives cisplatin ototoxicity.

Despite an association to ototoxicity, direct observation of cisplatin-induced

mitochondrial dysregulation has been elusive. The mammalian cochlea is generally not

suitable for live imaging because it is encased in bone and optically inaccessible. In

contrast, zebrafish contain hair cells that reside along their surface in a sensory organ

called the lateral line. These hair cells are bundled into innervated structures called

neuromasts, and they are genetically, morphologically, and functionally similar to

mammalian hair cells (28, 29). Since zebrafish larvae are transparent, their lateral-line

organ permits consistent drug exposure protocols and live imaging of intact hair cells.

These features make zebrafish a powerful model for exploring mechanisms of cisplatin

ototoxicity and targeted drug discovery (30, 31). In the present study, we use transgenic

zebrafish with genetically encoded biosensors to explore mitochondrial contributions to

selective hair cell susceptibility and to characterize the progression of mitochondrial

dysregulation after exposure to cisplatin. Pre- and post-exposure imaging demonstrate

that greater cumulative mitochondrial activity increases hair cell vulnerability to cisplatin.

Time-lapsed imaging of zebrafish treated with cisplatin demonstrates a slow rise in hair

cell mitochondrial calcium and cytosolic calcium followed by a rapid elevation

immediately prior to death. We further show that cisplatin accumulates in the

mitochondria, and that greater amounts of mitochondrial accumulation of cisplatin is

associated with hair cell death. Lastly, we demonstrate that cisplatin accumulation

within mitochondria occurs prior to mitochondrial dysregulation and Caspase-3

activation. Cumulatively, these results not only provide further evidence that hair cell

mitochondria are involved in cisplatin ototoxicity, but also suggest that they are direct

targets of cisplatin itself.

Results:

Greater cumulative mitochondrial activity in hair cells increases susceptibility to cisplatin

As stated above, the mammalian cochlea demonstrates selective injury of hair cells in high frequency regions following cisplatin exposure. We have previously observed that the zebrafish lateral-line organ also experiences selective hair cell death in response to cisplatin, i.e., exposure to cisplatin appears to target a subset of neuromast hair cells in a dose-dependent manner (32). Since the lateral-line organ does not exhibit tonotopic organization, selective hair cell injury observed within zebrafish is surprising, especially when considering neuromast hair cells diffusely take up cisplatin within 15 minutes of exposure (33). Our initial experiments investigate whether mitochondria play a role in differential hair cell vulnerability to cisplatin.

A prior zebrafish study investigating lateral-line injury after exposure to neomycin, an aminoglycoside antibiotic that also causes high-frequency hearing loss, indicates that cumulative mitochondrial activity contributes to hair cell vulnerability (21). To determine whether the lateral-line organ demonstrates a similar pattern of selective susceptibility in response to cisplatin, we performed experiments on transgenic zebrafish expressing the biosensor mitoTimer (*Tg*(*myo6b:mitoTimer*)) in their hair cells. MitoTimer encodes a DsRed mutant (DsRed1-E5) localized within mitochondria that irreversibly changes from green to red over time as the Tyr-67 residue undergoes dehydrogenation (34). Thus, mitoTimer serves as an indicator of cumulative mitochondrial oxidation based on the ratio of red to green fluorescence within individual hair cells (21, 35). We measured

baseline mitoTimer fluorescence in 6-day-old transgenic larvae, then exposed them to 1

mM cisplatin for 2 hours followed by 2 hours of recovery in embryo media (EM). This

protocol produces a lesion with approximately 60% hair cell death (32). Upon

completion of the cisplatin exposure protocol, we obtained post-treatment images and

classified each hair cell as alive or dead based on fragmentation and clearance from the

neuromast (21, 36). Baseline red:green ratios of mitoTimer fluorescence were

normalized to the median ratio of living hair cells. We observed a significant difference

in the normalized median mitoTimer fluorescence ratios between living and dying cells,

with dying hair cells showing higher levels of red fluorescence (Living cells: 1.00, 95%

confidence interval = 0.83 to 1.13, n = 113 hair cells; dying cells: 1.60, 95% confidence

interval = 1.51 to 1.78, n = 73 hair cells; Mann-Whitney U test, $p < 0.0001$; Figure 1A –

C). This result suggests that greater cumulative mitochondrial activity increases

vulnerability to cisplatin-induced hair cell death.

To verify this observation, we sought to determine whether elevating baseline

mitochondrial activity prior to cisplatin exposure affects hair cell vulnerability. Therefore,

we exposed 5-day-old Tg(*myo6b:mitoTimer*) larvae to either continuous water flow in a

microflume apparatus or maintained larvae in stationary EM for 24 hours (Figure 2A).

We then measured red:green ratios of mitoTimer fluorescence in individual hair cells

and normalized values to the median ratio of control hair cells. Larvae exposed to

sustained water current demonstrated significantly increased red:green ratios of

mitoTimer fluorescence compared to those maintained in EM (flume cells: 1.54, 95%

confidence interval = 1.41 to 1.61, n = 466 cells; no flume cells: 95% confidence interval

= 0.89 to 1.12, n = 458 cells; Mann-Whitney U test, p < 0.0001; Figure 2 B–C, F).

After establishing that sustained mechanical stimulation increases cumulative lateral-

line hair cell mitochondrial activity, we then exposed fish to either media exchange or

250 μM cisplatin for 2 hours followed by 4 hours of recovery in EM (Figure 2A). This

protocol produces approximately 30% hair cell death (32). Upon conclusion of the

cisplatin exposure protocol, we obtained post-treatment images and counted the

number of remaining hair cells in each neuromast compared to baseline (Figure 2, B-

G). While all neuromasts exposed to cisplatin demonstrated a decreased mean

percentage of viable hair cells when compared to control neuromasts, those that were

also exposed to sustained mechanical stimulation exhibited a significantly lower mean

percentage of surviving hair cells relative to neuromasts in fish not exposed to sustained

water current (Media exchange-no flume: 96.7%, 95% confidence interval = 91.7% to

98.2%, n = 18 neuromasts; media exchange-flume: 97.5%, 95% confidence interval =

94.4% to 100%, n = 17 neuromasts; cisplatin-no flume: 72.1%, 95% confidence interval

= 66.6% to 77.7%, n = 18 neuromasts; cisplatin-flume: 55.1%, 95% confidence interval

= 44.3% to 65.8%, n = 18 neuromasts; Tukey's multiple comparisons test, adjusted ns =

0.94, **adjusted p = 0.0012, ****adjusted p < 0.0001; Figure 2G). These results indicate

that greater cumulative mitochondrial activity increases hair cell vulnerability to cisplatin.

Influx of mitochondrial calcium precedes hair cell death following cisplatin exposure

Mitochondria have been implicated in cisplatin cytotoxicity as sources of pathologic ROS and initiators of Caspase-3-mediated apoptosis in both cancer and non-cancer models (16-18, 37, 38). However, the cellular events and time course of mitochondrial dysregulation have not been well characterized. Our next set of experiments use live *in vivo* imaging of transgenic zebrafish with genetically encoded biosensors to investigate the time course of cisplatin-induced mitochondrial dysregulation.

Mitochondria play a key role in intracellular calcium homeostasis (39). We therefore evaluated the time course of changes in mitochondrial calcium levels in response to cisplatin. These experiments utilized transgenic zebrafish that stably express calcium indicator, GCaMP3, in the mitochondria of their hair cells (*Tg(myo6b:mitoGCaMP3); (36))*. We exposed transgenic larvae at 5 – 7 days post-fertilization (dpf) to either media exchange or 1 mM cisplatin for 2 hours and then allowed recovery in EM for an additional 2 hours. Baseline mitoGCaMP3 fluorescence was measured before treatment initiation and images were acquired every 10 minutes throughout the duration of the cisplatin exposure protocol (Figure 3A). We then determined the change in mitoGCaMP3 fluorescence relative to baseline ($\Delta F/F_O$) of individual hair cells at each time point. Next, we classified cells as dead or alive based on their pattern of hair cell mitochondrial fragmentation and extrusion. We aligned data to the time at which dying hair cells were cleared from the neuromast (Figure 3B–D). All cisplatin-exposed hair cells demonstrated a slight elevation in mitochondrial calcium levels compared to those

that underwent media exchange alone (control). However, dying hair cells exhibited a

gradual elevation of mitochondrial calcium that peaked immediately prior to hair cell

death (Figure 3D). This phenomenon was not observed in living or control hair cells.

When evaluating peak changes in mitochondrial calcium levels, the median change in

fluorescence of hair cells normalized to controls was significantly greater among dying

hair cells than living or control hair cells (control cells: 1.00, 95% confidence interval =

0.97 to 1.05, n = 233 cells; alive cells: 1.89, 95% confidence interval = 1.62 to 2.09, n =

136 cells; dead cells: 3.51, 95% confidence interval = 3.20 to 3.82, n = 155; Dunn's

multiple comparisons test, ****adjusted p < 0.0001; Figure 3E). To evaluate when

surges in mitochondrial calcium levels occurred, we measured the time at which half the

maximum change in fluorescence was observed ($t_{1/2}$ maximum $\Delta F/F_0$) relative to

neuromast clearance. This occurred, on average, 36.3 minutes prior to hair cell

fragmentation (95% confidence interval = 32.9 to 39.6 minutes, Table 1). Altogether,

these data suggest that cisplatin leads to a slow accumulation of hair cell mitochondrial

calcium followed by a rapid elevation immediately prior to death.

Calcium accumulates in cytosol of dying hair cells after exposure to cisplatin

We next explored the time course of cytosolic calcium shifts in response to cisplatin.

These experiments utilized transgenic zebrafish that express GCaMP3 in the cytosol of

hair cells (*Tg(myo6b:cytoGCaMP3); (36)*). We measured baseline cytoGCaMP3

fluorescence of transgenic larvae at 5 – 7 dpf, exposed them to either media exchange

or 1 mM cisplatin followed by 2 hours of recovery in EM, and obtained time-lapse

images at 10-minute intervals (Figure 4A–B). The $\Delta F/F_0$ of individual hair cells at each

time point was determined and these changes in fluorescence were aligned to time of

neuromast clearance (Figure 4C). Among dying hair cells, we observed a slow rise in

cytosolic calcium levels followed by a sharp peak immediately before fragmentation.

Similar to the observed surge of mitochondrial calcium in dying hair cells (Figure 3),

large shifts in cytosolic calcium were not observed in control or living hair cells. The

median change in maximum fluorescence over baseline (normalized to controls) was

significantly greater among dying hair cells than living or control hair cells (control cells:

1.00, 95% confidence interval = 0.98 to 1.01, n = 169 cells; alive cells: 1.17, 95%

confidence interval = 1.12 to 1.23, n = 155 cells; dead cells: 1.70, 95% confidence

interval = 1.40 to 1.87, n = 87 cells; Dunn's multiple comparisons test, ****adjusted $p <$

0.0001; Figure 4D). The $t_{1/2}$ maximum $\Delta F/F_0$ of cytoGCaMP3 occurred 24.9 minutes

prior to clearance from the neuromast (95% confidence interval = 22.5 to 27.4 minutes,

Table 1). This shift in cytosolic calcium took place 11.3 minutes after the accumulation

of mitochondrial calcium (95% confidence interval = 5.9 to 16.7 minutes, Tukey's

multiple comparisons, ****adjusted $p < 0.0001$, Table 1). These data suggest that dying

hair cells experience a large increase in cytosolic calcium levels shortly after surges in

mitochondrial calcium levels.

Cisplatin treatment leads to progressive activation of Caspase-3 prior to hair cell

death

We have previously shown that cisplatin induces Caspase-3-mediated apoptosis in

conjunction with disruption of hair cell mitochondrial bioenergetics, suggesting a

mitochondrially driven cell death pathway (18). To evaluate the onset and pattern of

Caspase-3 activation, we exposed wildtype larvae at 6 dpf to either media exchange or

1 mM cisplatin for 2 hours, then allowed recovery in EM for an additional 2 hours. At

baseline and every 30-minute interval, a subset of larvae was euthanized, fixed, and

stained for activated Caspase-3 (Figure 5A–B). We quantified the percentage of hair

cells with activated Caspase-3 present within a given neuromast at each time point. We

then averaged these percentages within each larva to account for fish-to-fish variability

in response to cisplatin. Cisplatin-exposed larvae demonstrated significantly greater

percentages of hair cells with activated Caspase-3 than control fish at approximately 90

minutes after treatment (Figure 5C, mixed model, Bonferroni's multiple comparisons

test, *adjusted p = 0.016, **adjusted p = 0.0012, ****adjusted p < 0.0001; n = 42 – 45

neuromasts per time point from 14 – 15 fish; Table 2). These results indicate that

activation of Caspase-3-mediated apoptosis begins in a subset of hair cells within 90

minutes of 1 mM cisplatin treatment and peaks at ~210 minutes after initiating the

treatment protocol. Cumulatively, these observations suggest activation of the intrinsic

apoptosis pathway precedes mitochondrial dysfunction and subsequent hair cell death.

Cisplatin heterogeneously accumulates in hair cell mitochondria prior to

mitochondrial dysregulation and Caspase-3 activation

The prior time-lapse imaging experiments demonstrate that rapid mitochondrial

dysfunction occurs prior to hair cell death. This dysfunction may occur due to a variety

of reasons, like disrupted endoplasmic reticulum calcium shuttling or ROS

overproduction (24, 27, 40). Yet to be determined was whether hair cell mitochondria

are direct targets of cisplatin or if mitochondrial dysregulation is purely collateral

damage from different cellular processes. Prior literature indicates that cisplatin

accumulates in the mitochondria of cancer cell lines, presumably exerting its anticancer

effects through adduct formation with mitochondrial DNA (41). Yet, cisplatin

accumulation in mitochondria had not been demonstrated within hair cells. We therefore

used Rho-Mito, a mitochondria-targeting probe that fluoresces when bound to cisplatin,

to explore the uptake of cisplatin in hair cell mitochondria of live zebrafish (41). To

identify the location of mitochondria, we used the transgenic zebrafish reporter line

t*g(myo6b:mitoGCaMP3)* ((36); see Figure 3). We exposed larvae at 5 – 7 dpf to either

media exchange or 1 mM cisplatin for 1 hour, then incubated them in Rho-Mito 3 µM for

15 minutes. Next, baseline images were acquired at this time to observe overlap

between Rho-Mito and mitoGCaMP3 fluorescence. The larvae were then allowed to

recover for an additional 4 hours in EM. We obtained post-treatment images at the

conclusion of the cisplatin exposure protocol and classified each hair cell as alive or

dead as previously described (21, 36). Baseline fluorescence of Rho-Mito was

normalized to the median of living hair cells. We first noticed that strong Rho-Mito

fluorescence overlaps with mitoGCaMP3 in a subset of hair cells present within a given

neuromast (Figure 6A – C). This overlap indicates that hair cell mitochondria

accumulate cisplatin. Furthermore, hair cells that died following 4 hours recovery

demonstrated a significantly higher amount of Rho-Mito fluorescence than hair cells that

lived (Dead cells: 2.51, 95% confidence interval = 1.82 to 4.08, n = 92 hair cells; living

cells: 1.00, 95% confidence interval = 0.93 to 1.08, n = 229 hair cells; Mann-Whitney U

test, $p < 0.0001$; Figure 6D – E). We also observed differences in mitochondrial calcium

levels within individual hair cells 1 hour following exposure to cisplatin. However,

observed differences in mitochondrial calcium levels at this timepoint did not correlate

with cisplatin ototoxicity (Mann-Whitney U test, ns = 0.14; Figure 6F). This result is

consistent with what we reported in Figure 4C, where we observed heterogeneous

mitoGCaMP3 fluorescence in individual hair cells at baseline, and minimal changes in

mitochondrial calcium following 60 minutes cisplatin exposure. These data reveal that

mitochondrial accumulation of cisplatin corresponds with hair cells that subsequently die

following cisplatin exposure.

A previous study using fluorescently labeled cisplatin suggests diffuse uptake into hair

cells within 15 minutes following exposure (33). To confirm heterogeneous

accumulation of cisplatin in mitochondria and explore the time course of mitochondrial

localization, we performed a follow-up experiment in transgenic zebrafish that do not

express a reporter in mitochondria to ensure that Rho-Mito localization in mitochondria

was not influenced by mitoGCaMP3. We used transgenic fish expressing GFP in

neuromast supporting cells to provide a silhouette of hair cells as previously described

(*Tg(TNKS1bp1:EGFP);* (18, 42, 43)). We exposed 5 – 7 dpf larvae to 1 mM cisplatin for

various lengths of time, incubated them in 3 µM Rho-Mito, then acquired images (Figure

7A-C). Rho-Mito fluorescence of each hair cell was normalized to the median of control

hair cells that were incubated in EM alone (Figure 7A). Neuromast hair cells exposed to

cisplatin demonstrated significantly greater Rho-Mito fluorescence compared to control

(Control hair cells: 1.00, 95% confidence interval = 0.95 to 1.05, n = 287 hair cells; 30-

minute exposure: 1.44, 95% confidence interval = 1.27 to 1.77, n = 337 hair cells; 60-

minute exposure: 1.76, 95% confidence interval = 1.50 to 2.09, n = 320 hair cells;

Dunn's multiple comparisons test, ****adjusted $p < 0.0001$; Figure 7D). Neuromast

exposed to cisplatin demonstrated heterogeneous mitochondrial accumulation, with a

subset of hair cells accumulating cisplatin within their mitochondria (Figure 7B-C). On

post-hoc analysis, hair cells incubated in cisplatin for 60 minutes did not demonstrate

increased accumulation of Rho-Mito fluorescence compared to those incubated for only

30 minutes (Dunn's multiple comparisons test, adjusted ns > 0.9999; Figure 7D). Since

Caspase-3 activation is observed in a subset of hair cells ~90 minutes after onset of

cisplatin treatment (Figure 5), these data indicate that mitochondrial accumulation of

cisplatin occurs prior to events that signal hair cell death. Altogether, these data suggest

that 1) mitochondrial accumulation of cisplatin occurs in some, but not all, hair cells

within the first 30 minutes of exposure, 2) greater accumulation of mitochondrially-

localized cisplatin corresponds with hair cell death, and 3) mitochondrial accumulation

of cisplatin precedes Caspase-3 activation and mitochondrial dysregulation.

Discussion:

Our recent studies in zebrafish lateral-line hair cells provided evidence that cisplatin

disrupts mitochondrial homeostasis and initiates the intrinsic apoptosis pathway through

activation of the downstream effector Caspase-3 in zebrafish lateral-line hair cells (18).

In this study, we evaluated whether cumulative mitochondrial activity contributes to hair

cell susceptibility to cisplatin, examined the time course of hair cell calcium

dysregulation, and determined whether cisplatin accumulates within hair cell

mitochondria following exposure. These data reveal that hair cell susceptibility to

cisplatin-induced death correlates with both cumulative mitochondrial activity and

accumulation of cisplatin within mitochondria, and that mitochondrial accumulation of

cisplatin is an early event that precedes activation of Caspase-3. Additionally, we show

that mitochondrial and cytosolic calcium, which are elevated in all cisplatin treated hair

cells, gradually increase then surge prior to hair cell death. Taken together, these

results suggest that cisplatin directly targets hair cell mitochondria, and that

accumulation of cisplatin within hair cell mitochondria drives mitochondrial dysregulation

and contributes to hair cell death.

Cumulative hair cell mitochondrial activity may underlie selective vulnerability to

cisplatin

Our evaluation of cisplatin toxicity in the zebrafish lateral line indicates that hair cells

with higher cumulative metabolic activity are more vulnerable to cisplatin-induced death.

This observation corresponds with two recent studies evaluating susceptibility of lateral

line hair cells to the ototoxic antibiotic neomycin. The first study, which established and

validated the hair cell expressing mitoTimer transgenic line used in this study, revealed

that hair cells with greater cumulative mitochondrial activity were more susceptible to

neomycin-induced death (21). A subsequent study reported that hair cells with reduced

mitochondrial oxidation and ROS buildup were less vulnerable to neomycin (44). Taken

together, work in zebrafish lateral-line hair cells supports that cumulative oxidation of

mitochondria and accumulation of ROS underlies the specific susceptibility of hair cells

to ototoxic insults.

How does information from zebrafish lateral line studies relate to hair cell susceptibility

in humans? In patients that experience ototoxicity from cisplatin treatment, hearing

impairment manifests as high frequency hearing loss (45). This observed clinical

outcome is due to cisplatin preferentially affecting outer hair cells at the basal turn of

cochlea, corresponding to the region responsible for detection of high frequency

sounds. Preferential ototoxicity to hair cells at the base of the cochlea could be due to

unequal distribution of cisplatin within the cochlea, with higher accumulation of

chemotherapy at the base than apex (1, 46), and/or intrinsic vulnerability of high

frequency outer hair cells to cisplatin. Our results suggest differential hair cell

vulnerability to cisplatin is, at least in part, related to differences in mitochondrial

metabolism. Observations from cochlear studies in mammalian model systems support

this idea. High frequency outer hair cells have been shown to be metabolically more

responsive to their microenvironment than low frequency outer hair cells (47, 48), and

genetic disruption of mitochondrial bioenergetic homeostasis makes outer hair cells

more susceptible to cisplatin-induced death (49, 50).

Hair cell ability to regulate intracellular calcium homeostasis may be predictive of

vulnerability to cisplatin

Intracellular calcium homeostasis may contribute to hair cell susceptibility to

environmental and ototoxic insults (51). Mitochondria play a critical role in regulating

local intracellular calcium concentrations as well as provide ATP to drive clearance of

cytosolic Ca^{2+} via plasma membrane Ca^{2+}-ATPases (PMCA1 & PMCA2a; (52)).

Sustained clearance of calcium from the stereocilia bundle via PMCA2a pumps is

required to maintain calcium at physiological levels (53). Hair cells in the high frequency

region of the cochlea show larger amplitude current through mechanotransduction

channels corresponding with larger calcium influx. This generates a larger calcium load

entering the stereocilia of high frequency hair cells, resulting in greater levels of

metabolic stress on mitochondria (51). Therefore, the hair cell's ability to handle

intracellular calcium load may be predictive of hair cell susceptibility to environmental

and ototoxic stress. Our data shows increased vulnerability to cisplatin with cumulative

mitochondrial activity (Figure 2) as well as dysregulation of calcium homeostasis in all

hair cells exposed to cisplatin (Figure 3,4), possibly indicating that hair cells with greater

cumulative mitochondrial activity have a reduced capacity to regulate intracellular

calcium concentrations and are more susceptible to death from dysregulation driven by

cisplatin. This idea is further supported by the observation that hair cell mitochondrial

calcium measurements at baseline were not predictive of cisplatin vulnerability (i.e. that

mitochondria with less cumulative metabolic activity are better able to buffer intracellular

calcium levels even when stressed; Figure 6). Inhibiting mitochondrial calcium uptake

with either calcium chelators or pharmacological inhibitors has been shown to

significantly reduce neomycin induced hair cell death in lateral line neuromasts (27, 36).

Still to be determined is whether modulating mitochondrial calcium transients during a

critical window prior to the activation of Caspase-3 could provide protection from

cisplatin induced hair cell death. One important difference between neomycin-induced

and cisplatin-induced hair cell death in the zebrafish lateral line is that neomycin kills

hair cells within minutes, while cisplatin-induced death takes hours (32). A key

challenge to performing this experiment in cisplatin-treated zebrafish is determining

when and how to inhibit hair cell mitochondrial calcium uptake such that it provides

protection while minimally impacting normal hair cell respiration and metabolism (54).

Cisplatin accumulation in mitochondria correlates with hair cell death

We observed mitochondrial accumulation of cisplatin in a subset of hair cells as an early

event predictive of hair cell death (Figure 6, 7), suggesting that this accumulation

triggers downstream cellular events that culminate in hair cell apoptosis. One likely

target for cisplatin in hair cells is mitochondrial DNA. Prior work has reported cisplatin-

induced mitochondrial DNA damage and mitochondrial degradation in dorsal root

ganglion neurons (55). Additional studies in head and neck cancer cell lines implicate

mitochondrial DNA as a major determinant of cisplatin sensitivity (56, 57). In addition,

mitochondrial membrane proteins, such as Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel

1 (VDAC-1), may also be directly targeted by cisplatin (56). Future work is needed to

identify mitochondrial target of cisplatin in sensory hair cells and to determine how

accumulation of cisplatin in mitochondria contributes to hair cell death.

Conclusion

Cisplatin will continue to be a staple for solid and hematologic malignancies in the

coming decades. As such, developing strategies that ameliorate or prevent ototoxicity

should remain a focus of research and innovation. Using live *in vivo* imaging of

zebrafish lateral line organs, this study established that mitochondrial accumulation of

cisplatin precedes mitochondrial calcium dysregulation and eventual Caspase-3-

mediated hair cell death. Our findings advance the notion that mitochondria are key

mediators of cisplatin ototoxicity, and that they may even be direct targets of cisplatin

itself. Future investigations may seek to determine whether prevention of calcium

dysregulation reduces ototoxicity and to characterize the activity of cisplatin within

mitochondria. Such studies will provide further insight to the underpinnings of cisplatin

ototoxicity and guide additional targeted drug discovery.

Methods:

Sex as a biological variable

Sex cannot be determined or predicted in larval zebrafish. Larvae were therefore

chosen at random without consideration of sex.

Zebrafish husbandry and lines

Embryos were maintained in embryo media (EM: 15 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM KCl, 1 mM

$CaCl_2$, 1 mM $MgSO_4$, 0.015 mM KH_2PO_4, 0.042 mM Na_2HPO_4, 0.714 mM $NaHCO_3$) at

28°C with 14-hour light and 10-hour dark cycles (58). After 3 days post-fertilization (dpf),

larvae were transferred to 250-mL plastic beakers, raised in 100 – 200 mL of EM, and

fed rotifers daily. All experiments were performed on larvae aged 5 – 7 dpf

Previously described transgenic lines included: w119Tg (*Tg(myo6b:mitoGCaMP3)*;

(27)), w78Tg (*Tg(myo6b:cytoGCaMP3); (36)*), w208Tg (*Tg(myo6b:mitoTimer); (21)*, and

y229Gt (*Tg(TNKS1bp1:EGFP); (42)*. The first three lines were used to evaluate

changes in mitochondrial calcium levels, cytoplasmic calcium levels, and cumulative

mitochondrial activity, respectively. The last line expresses GFP in neuromast

supporting cells, permitting identification of hair cells in the absence of genetically

encoded biosensors. Fluorescent transgenic larvae were identified at 3 – 4 dpf under

anesthesia with 0.01% tricaine in EM.

Zebrafish live imaging and cisplatin exposure protocol

Larvae at 5 – 7 dpf were anesthetized in 0.01% tricaine methanesulfonate (MS-222) in

EM and mounted lateral-side up in an open bath image chamber (Warner Instruments;

RC-26G) with a coverglass bottom. A slice anchor (Warner Instruments; 64-0253) was

used to secure up to 3 larvae at a time. Larvae were maintained in approximately 1 mL

EM with 0.01% tricaine throughout the duration of the live imaging.

After larvae were immobilized, three baseline images were acquired in 5 min intervals.

Then, 4 – 5 volumes of EM containing 0.01% MS-222 (1 mL each) with or without

cisplatin (Abcam; ab141398) were exchanged around the mounted fish to initiate the

exposure protocol. After 2 hours of exposure, fish were rinsed with 4 – 5 volumes of EM

containing 0.01% MS-222 (1 mL each), maintained under sedation for an additional 2 –

4 hours depending on the specific experiment, and then euthanized.

For experiments with *mitoTimer* larvae, imaging was obtained before and after the

cisplatin exposure protocol. For time-lapse experiments, images were acquired every 10

minutes throughout the 4-hour exposure protocol.

Experiments involving Rho-Mito

Rho-Mito is a vital dye that localizes within mitochondria and fluoresces in the presence

of cisplatin (41). Larvae at 5 – 7 dpf expressing either GCaMP3 in mitochondria

(*Tg(myo6b:mitoGCaMP3)*) or GFP in supporting cells (*Tg(TNKS1bp1:EGFP)*) were

incubated in EM with or without 1 mM cisplatin for either 30 or 60 min, depending on the

experiment. This was followed by three rinses in EM. They were then submerged in EM

containing Rho-Mito 3 µM for 15 minutes. Next, the larvae were rinsed twice in EM and

then sedated and mounted for live imaging as previously described. Larvae expressing

mitoGCaMP3 were imaged at baseline and after 4 additional hours of recovery in EM to

observe subsequent hair cell death. Larvae expressing GFP in supporting cells were

only imaged at their specified time point to evaluate the dynamics of cisplatin

accumulation within mitochondria.

Image acquisition and analysis for live imaging

Z-stack images (2 µm step size; 30 steps per Z-stack) of neuromasts L2 – L4 were

obtained with an ORCA-Flash 5.0 V3 camera (Hamamatsu) using an X-Light V2TP

spinning disk confocal and a 63x/0.9N.A. water immersion objective on a Leica DM6

Fixed Stage microscope. Green fluorescence from *mitoGCaMP3-, cytoGCaMP3-,* and

mitoHyPer-labeled hair cells and GFP-labeled supporting cells were imaged using a 470

nm wavelength laser at 20% power with a 50 ms/frame exposure time. Red

fluorescence from hair cells labeled with Rho-Mito were imaged using a 555 nm

wavelength laser at 20% power with a 50 ms/frame exposure time. In *mitoTimer*-labeled

hair cells, green and red fluorescence were measured simultaneously using a Cairn

OptoSplit II Bypass Image Splitter (Cairn Research Ltd). Multi-position image acquisition

was accomplished using a Motorized ZDeck Quick-Adjust Platform System (Prior

Scientific) directed by MetaMorph software (Molecular Devices).

Digital images of neuromasts were processed and analyzed using ImageJ software

(60). Evaluation of changes in fluorescent intensity of genetically encoded biosensors

was performed as previously described with a few modifications (59). In brief, maximum

intensity projections of each z-stack were generated, then background subtraction was

performed using a rolling ball radius of 100 pixels. A circular region of interest (ROI) with

a diameter of 4 µm was placed around each hair cell according to its baseline position.

Average fluorescence intensities within the ROI were then measured and expressed

relative to the median baseline intensity of control hair cells. For time-lapse

experiments, Stackreg and Turboreg ImageJ plugins were used for recursive alignment

of hair cells that drifted over the acquisition time (61). Hair cells were characterized as

living or dying based on their fragmentation and neuromast clearance (as described in

(36)). Data were excluded at time points when fragments of dying hair cells drifted into

neighboring ROIs of living hair cells.

Microflume protocol

Experiments with the microflume were adapted from methods that used an orbital

shaker to stimulate the lateral-line organ (21). Briefly, larvae at 5 dpf were transferred

into a microflume apparatus that produces a consistent flow stimulus of 5 mm/sec (~1

larval length/sec) (62). Larvae were exposed to this flow stimulus for 24 hours in EM.

Following exposure to microflume stimulation, larvae were immobilized and baseline

images were acquired. Then they were exposed to 250 µM cisplatin for 2 hours and

imaged after an additional 4 hours of recovery in EM with 0.01% tricaine. Imaging

processing and analysis were performed as in the other live imaging experiments with

the following modifications. Images were acquired with an exposure time of 100

ms/frame instead of 50 ms/frame. The ratio of *mitoTimer* red:green fluorescence for

each hair cell was calculated and normalized to the median value of control hair cells.

Hair cell counts per neuromast were expressed as a percentage of remaining intact hair

cells after cisplatin exposure compared to baseline.

Whole-mount immunohistochemistry, imaging, and analysis of Caspase-3 experiments

Cisplatin exposure and fixation with activated Caspase-3 antibodies were performed as

previously described with a few modifications (18). Briefly, groups of wildtype larvae

(AB*) at 6 dpf were incubated for 2 hours in 30 mL EM with or without 1 mM cisplatin

(Abcam) at 28˚C. Larvae were then rinsed and allowed to recover for an additional 2

hours in 30 mL EM. At every 30-minute increment starting immediately prior to

treatment initiation, groups of control and cisplatin-exposed larvae were euthanized by

rapid chilling and fixed overnight in 4% paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M phosphate-buffered

solution (PBS pH = 7.4) at 4˚C. The next day, fixed specimens were rinsed, blocked,

and incubated in primary antibodies (1:500 HCS-1 mouse monoclonal, DSHB,

University of Iowa; 1:400 anti-cleaved Caspase-3 rabbit polyclonal, Cell Signaling

Technology). After overnight incubation in primary, specimens were rinsed and

incubated in DAPI (5 µg/mL) and secondary antibodies (1:500 anti-mouse IgG

conjugated to Alexa Fluor 488 and 1:500 anti-rabbit IgG conjugated to Alexa Fluor 555)

at room temperature in darkness. Specimens were rinsed in PBS prior to being

mounted on glass slides with elvanol (13 % w/v polyvinyl alcohol, 33 % w/v glycerol, 1

% w/v DABCO (1,4 diazobicylo[2,2,2] octane) in 0.2 M Tris, pH 8.5).

The posterior lateral-line neuromasts (L3 – L5) of fixed and labeled zebrafish were

imaged as in the prior live imaging experiments, except that images were acquired with

an exposure time of 100 ms/frame and a step size of 1 µm. DAPI-stained hair cells were

acquired with a 405 nm wavelength laser. The percentage of hair cells with cleaved

Caspase-3 were determined for each neuromast and then averaged across neuromasts

present within the same fish to account for fish-to-fish variability.

Statistics

Standard descriptive statistics were used to describe experimental results. The

D'Agostino-Pearson test was used to determine normality of data. Differences between

two groups were determined using the unpaired Student's *t*-test or Mann-Whitney *U*

test, as appropriate. Comparison of multiple groups was performed by one-way ANOVA

or Kruskal-Wallis test depending on data normality with appropriate *post hoc* tests as

needed. A mixed model with Bonferroni *post hoc* analysis was performed on the

cleaved Caspase-3 experiments. All statistical analyses were conducted using Prism 9

(GraphPad Software Inc).

Study approval

All experiments on zebrafish were performed with the approval of the Institutional

Animal Care and Use Committee of Washington University School of Medicine in St.

Louis (Protocol number: 20-0158) and in accordance with NIH guidelines for

use of zebrafish.

Data availability

Underlying graphed data and reported means can be found in the Supporting Data

Values file. STL files of microflume components are available in the Open Science

Framework repository, https://osf.io/rvyfz/.

Author contributions:

DSL, WHA, MW, and LS contributed towards experimental design. DSL and AS

performed experiments, acquired data, and analyzed data. WHA and JZ additionally

provided reagents and guidance on experimental design. DSL, WHA, MW, and LS

contributed towards writing and revising the manuscript to its final form.

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Figures

Figure 1. Cumulative mitochondrial activity increases hair cell susceptibility to cisplatin. (A –
B) Maximum-intensity projections of confocal z-stack images of *Tg(myo6b:mitoTimer)* neuromasts
prior to (**A**) and after (**B**) 2 h cisplatin (1 mM) exposure followed by 2 h recovery in EM.
Representative hair cells with high baseline cumulative mitochondrial activity (high 555/470 ratio) are
indicated by arrowheads and representative hair cells with low cumulative mitochondrial activity (low
555/470 ratio) are indicated by arrows. **(C)** Baseline ratios of mitoTimer fluorescence (normalized to
median of control) indicate that dying hair cells exhibit significantly higher ratios red to green ratios
than surviving hair cells (Mann-Whitney U test, ****p < 0.0001). Median values with corresponding
95% confidence intervals shown. n = 113 alive hair cells, 75 dead hair cells; N = 3 trials, 2 zebrafish
per trial, 3 neuromasts per zebrafish.

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Figure 2. Sustained lateral line hair cell stimulation increases cumulative mitochondrial
activity and susceptibility to cisplatin. (A) Schematic of the microflume and workflow of the
cisplatin treatment protocol. **(B – E)** Maximum-intensity projections of confocal z-stack images of
Tg(myo6b:mitoTimer) zebrafish neuromasts prior to (**B, C, D, E**) and after 2 h treatment with either
EM (media exchange; **B', C'**) or 250 μM cisplatin (**D', E'**) followed by recovery in EM for 2 h. Prior to
initiating the exposure protocol, zebrafish either underwent incubation with no water flow for 24 h (**B**,
D) or sustained stimulation to water flow in a flume for 24 h (**C**, **E**). **(F)** Ratios of mitoTimer
fluorescence (normalized to no flume condition) after completion of a 24 h incubation in the presence
or absence of sustained water flow indicate that prolonged hair cell stimulation increases cumulative
mitochondrial activity (Mann-Whitney U test, ****$p < 0.0001$). **(G)** Percent of baseline hair cells per
neuromast after completion of the cisplatin treatment protocol indicate that moderate-dose cisplatin
(250 μM) kills a greater proportion of hair cells among flume stimulated versus unstimulated lateral
line neuromasts (Tukey's multiple comparisons test, adjusted ns = 0.94, ****, $p < 0.0001$; **$p =$
0.0012). Median and mean values with corresponding 95% confidence intervals shown for (**F**) and
(**G**), respectively. n = 458 hair cells no flume, 466 hair cells in flume; N = 3 trials, 6 zebrafish per
condition per trial, 2 – 3 neuromasts per zebrafish.
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Figure 3. Elevated mitochondrial Ca²⁺ uptake is observed in all cisplatin exposed hair cells
and progressively increases prior to hair cell death. (A) Schematic of cisplatin exposure and *in*
vivo live imaging workflow. **(B – C)** Maximum-intensity projections of time-lapse confocal z-stack
images show *Tg(myo6b:mitoGCaMP3)* zebrafish neuromasts at various points throughout the
exposure protocol. Zebrafish were treated with either 2 h of EM (media exchange; **B**) or 1 mM
cisplatin (**C**) followed by 2 h recovery in embryo media. Dotted circles indicate a representative 4 μm
region of interest (ROI) in an individual hair cell used to measure mean mitoGCaMP3 fluorescence
intensity. An ROI was applied to every hair cell within each neuromast. **(D)** Changes in mitoGCaMP3
fluorescence intensity relative to mean baseline fluorescence intensity (ΔF/F$_0$) for each neuromast
hair cell over time. Hair cells were grouped by treatment. Cisplatin-exposed hair cells were further
categorized into those alive or dead at the conclusion of the exposure protocol. Data are aligned

relative to when dying hair cells were cleared from the neuromast. **(E)** Maximum change in
fluorescence relative to baseline (normalized to control) demonstrates significant differences in
mitochondrial Ca^{2+} levels between all three groups of hair cells (Dunn's multiple comparisons test,
****adjusted *p* < 0.0001). Median values with corresponding 95% confidence intervals shown for
both (**C**) and (**D**). n = 233 media exchange hair cells, 136 alive cisplatin-exposed hair cells, 155 dead
cisplatin-exposed hair cells; N = 3 trials, 3 zebrafish per trial, 2 – 3 neuromasts per zebrafish.
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799   **Movie 1.** The corresponding time lapse video of Figure 3C showing changes in hair cell
800   mitochondrial Ca^{2+} during and after cisplatin exposure.
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Figure 4. Elevated cytosolic Ca²⁺ uptake precedes cisplatin-induced hair cell death. (A – B) Maximum-intensity projections of time-lapsed confocal z-stack images show *Tg(myo6b:cytoGCaMP3)* zebrafish neuromasts at various points throughout the exposure protocol. Zebrafish were treated with either 2 h of EM (media exchange; **A**) or 1 mM cisplatin (**B**) followed by 2 h recovery in EM. Dotted circles indicate representative 4 μm ROI used to measure mean mitoGCaMP3 fluorescence intensity. **(C)** Changes in cytoGCaMP3 fluorescence intensity relative to baseline ($\Delta F/F_O$) for each hair cell over time. Data are aligned relative to when dying hair cells were cleared from the neuromast. **(D)** Comparison of maximum change in fluorescence relative to baseline (normalized to media exchange) demonstrates significant differences in cytosolic Ca²⁺ accumulation between all three groups of hair cells (Dunn's multiple comparisons test, ****adjusted *p* < 0.0001). Median values with corresponding 95% confidence intervals shown for both (**C**) and (**D**). n = 169 media exchange hair cells, 155 alive cisplatin-exposed hair cells, 87 dead cisplatin-exposed hair cells; N = 2 trials for media exchange and 4 trials for cisplatin 1 mM, 3 zebrafish per trial, 2 – 3 neuromasts per zebrafish.

Movie 2. The corresponding time lapse video of Figure 4B showing changes in hair cell cytosolic Ca2+ during and after cisplatin exposure.

Figure 5. Progressive activation of Caspase-3 in a subset of neuromast hair cells initiates within 90 minutes of 1 mM cisplatin exposure. (A – B) Maximum-intensity projections of z-stack confocal images of immunolabled neuromasts at various points throughout the cisplatin exposure protocol. Zebrafish were treated for various amounts of time with either media exchange (**A**) or 1 mM cisplatin (**B**) followed by recovery in embryo media for up to 2 h. Hair cells were identified by immunolabel of Otoferlin (Hair Cell Soma-1; green) and stained for cleaved Caspase-3 (orange). All cell nuclei were labeled with DAPI (blue). **(C)** Percentage of hair cells per neuromast with activated Caspase-3 throughout the cisplatin exposure protocol. Neuromasts of cisplatin-treated zebrafish demonstrate a significantly greater proportion of hair cells with cleaved Caspase-3 starting at 90 minutes following exposure to cisplatin (Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test, **adjusted p = 0.016, ***adjusted p = 0.0012, ****adjusted p < 0.0001; Table 2). Mean values with corresponding 95% confidence intervals shown. n = 42 – 45 neuromasts per group; N = 3 trials, 4 – 5 zebrafish per trial, 2 – 3 neuromasts per zebrafish.

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Figure 6. Mitochondrial accumulation of cisplatin corresponds with hair cell death. (A – D)
Maximum-intensity projections of the same *Tg(myo6b:mitoGCaMP3]* neuromast after exposure to
1mM cisplatin for 1 h (**A – C**) followed by an additional 4 h recovery in EM (**D**). Rho-Mito
fluorescence is observed within some, but not all, hair cell mitochondria. Hair cells with elevated
Rho-Mito fluorescence following incubation in cisplatin are indicated by arrowheads and hair cells
with minimal Rho-Mito fluorescence are indicated by arrows. **(E)** Dying hair cells exhibit significantly
more Rho-Mito fluorescence than living hair cells (Mann-Whitney U test, ****p < 0.0001). (F)
MitoGCaMP3 fluorescence in dying hair cells is not significantly different than living hair cells
immediately following 1 h cisplatin exposure (Mann-Whitney U test, ns = 0.14). Median values with
corresponding 95% confidence intervals shown. n = 229 alive hair cells, 92 dead hair cells; N = 3
trials, 2 – 3 zebrafish per trial, 2 – 3 neuromasts per zebrafish.
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Figure 7. Cisplatin accumulates within hair cell mitochondria shortly after exposure. (A – C)
Maximum-intensity projections of confocal z-stack images show (*Tg(TNKS1bp1:EGFP)* larvae
expressing GFP in neuromast supporting cells at various time points after exposure to cisplatin.
Zebrafish were treated with either EM (**A**) or 1 mM cisplatin for up to 1 h (**B** – **C**) followed by a 15
min incubation in 3 µM Rho-Mito. Hair cells were identified as GFP-negative silhouettes. **(D)** Relative
fluorescence of Rho-Mito in hair cells normalized to the median of the control. Hair cells exposed to
cisplatin demonstrate a significantly greater amount of Rho-Mito fluorescence at all time points
(Dunn's multiple comparisons test, ****adjusted *p* < 0.0001). Although cisplatin appears to
progressively accumulate in mitochondria over time, this trend was not significant (Dunn's multiple
comparisons test, adjusted ns > 0.9999). Median values with corresponding 95% confidence
intervals shown. n = 287 media exchange hair cells, 337 hair cells after 30 min cisplatin, 320 hair
cells after 60 min cisplatin; N = 3 trials for control and cisplatin-exposed groups, 2 – 3 zebrafish per
trial, 2 – 3 neuromasts per zebrafish.

867   **Tables**
868
869   **Table 1.** Time to half maximum $\Delta F/F_O$ prior to clearance from neuromast and after
870   exposure to cisplatin.
871

	Biosensor	Mean (min.)	95% confidence interval (min.)	Comparison	Mean difference (min.)	95% confidence interval (min.)	Adjusted p value
$t_{1/2}$ max $\Delta F/F_O$ prior to NM clearance	mitoGCaMP3	-36.3	-39.6 to -32.9	cytoGCaMP3	-11.3	-16.7 to -5.9	<0.0001
	cytoGCaMP3	-24.9	-27.4 to -22.5	mitoGCaMP3	11.3	5.9 to 16.7	<0.0001
$t_{1/2}$ max $\Delta F/F_O$ after cisplatin	mitoGCaMP3	131.8	123.9 to 139.7	cytoGCaMP3	19.7	5.3 to 34.2	0.0041
	cytoGCaMP3	112.1	100.9 to 123.2	mitoGCaMP3	-19.7	-34.2 to -5.3	0.0041

872
873   Mean data from individual hair cells shown in Figures 3 and 4. (NM = neuromast)
874
875   **Table 2.** Results from repeated measures mixed model of Caspase-3 activation in the
876   presence or absence of cisplatin 1 mM.
877

Time after assay initiation (min.)	Exposure group (% HC with activated Caspase-3/NM)		Mean difference (%)	95% confidence interval (%)	Adjusted p value
	Cisplatin 1 mM	Media exchange			
0	0.67	0.33	0.34	-1.1 to 1.8	>0.9999
30	0.63	0.34	0.29	-1.3 to 1.9	>0.9999
60	2.4	1.48	0.9082	-2.9 to 4.7	>0.9999
90	6.55	0.33	6.22	0.92 to 11.5	0.016
120	13.0	0.22	12.78	6.5 to 19.1	<0.001
150	17.1	0.17	16.9	6.3 to 27.6	0.0012
180	22.6	0.32	22.3	14.4 to 30.2	<0.001
210	29.7	0.16	29.5	20.5 to 38.6	<0.001
240	27.0	0.56	26.5	16.8 to 36.1	<0.001

878
879   Mean percentages of hair cells with activated-Caspase 3 from neuromasts shown in
880   Figure 5. (HC = hair cell, NM = neuromast)

Figure 1

Figure 2

A Microflume Protocol

PUMP

24-hour flume

Cisplatin Treatment Protocol

Pre-tx Images

Tx Initiation

Media Exchange

Post-tx Images

Media Exchange or Cisplatin
2 hours

Recovery in Embryo Media
4 hours

F

Normalized MitoTimer 555/470 Ratio

****

No Flume   Flume

Media Exchange

Pretreatment   Posttreatment

B   **B'**   No Flume

RFP 0—800   GFP 0—800   5 μm

C   **C'**   Flume

Cisplatin 250 μM

Pretreatment   Posttreatment

D   **D'**   No Flume

E   **E'**   Flume

G

% Pretreatment Hair Cell Count/NM

****

****

***

ns

Flume   −   +   −   +

Cisplatin   −   −   +   +

Figure 3

A Pre-tx Images

Tx Initiation

Media Exchange

Media Exchange or Cisplatin 1mM (2 hours) | Recovery in Embryo Media (2 hours)

Time-Lapse Imaging Every 10 Minutes

B Media Exchange

Pre-tx   5 µm   60 min   120 min   180 min   240 min

C Cisplatin 1 mM

Pre-tx   0 ▮ 300   60 min   120 min   180 min   240 min

D

Legend:
- Cisplatin (dead)
- Cisplatin (alive)
- Media exchange

y-axis: mitoGCaMP3 ΔF/F$_O$ (−1.0 to 4.0)
x-axis: Time to Neuromast Clearance (min) (−240 to 0)

E

y-axis: Normalized Maximum mitoGCaMP3 ΔF/F$_O$ (0 to 10)
x-axis categories: Media Exchange, Alive, Dead

****
****
****

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

After 1-hour exposure to cisplatin 1 mM

After 4-hour recovery in EM

A Rho-Mito   0 ▬ 150

B mitoGCaMP3   0 ▬ 600

C Rho-Mito mitoGCaMP3   5 μm

D

E ****

F ns

Figure 7