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Metabolism of the new psychoactive substances *N*,*N*-diallyltryptamine (DALT) and 5-methoxy-DALT and their detectability in urine by GC-MS, LC-MSⁿ, and LC-HR-MS/MS

Julian A. Michely * Andreas G. Helfer * Simon D. Brandt * Markus R. Meyer * Hans H. Maurer

J. A. Michely * A. G. Helfer * M. R. Meyer * H. H. Maurer (corresponding author) Department of Experimental and Clinical Toxicology, Institute of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Saarland University, 66421 Homburg (Saar), Germany e-mail: hans.maurer@uks.eu

Telephone: +49 - 6841 16 26050

Fax: +49 - 68941 16 26051

Simon D. Brandt

School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, L3 3AF, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Markus R. Meyer

Present address: Farmakologiska laboratoriet, Klinisk farmakologi, Karolinska Universitetssjukhuset Huddinge, Karolinska Institutet, 141 86 Stockholm, Sweden

Abstract

N,N-Diallyltryptamine (DALT) and 5-methoxy-DALT (5-MeO-DALT) are synthetic tryptamine derivatives that are commonly referred to the so-called new psychoactive substances (NPS). They show psychoactive effects similar that may be similar to other tryptamine derivatives. The aims of the present work were to study the metabolic fate and detectability in urine after intake of DALT and 5-MeO-DALT. For metabolism studies, rat urine samples obtained following high dose administration were prepared by precipitation and analyzed by liquid chromatography-high resolution-mass spectrometry (LC-HR-MS/MS). According to the identified metabolites, multiple aromatic and aliphatic hydroxylations, N-dealkylation, N-oxidation, and combinations thereof could be proposed as main metabolic pathways for both compounds. O-Demethylation was additionally found for 5-MeO-DALT and extensive glucuronidation or sulfation for both compounds after phase I transformation. The cytochrome P450 (CYP) isoenzymes predominantly involved in DALT metabolism were CYP2C19, CYP2D6, and CYP3A4 and those mainly involved in 5-MeO-DALT metabolism were CYP1A2, CYP2C19, CYP2D6, and CYP3A4, respectively. For the detectability studies, rat urine samples were screened by the authors' GC-MS, LC-MSⁿ, and LC-HR-MS/MS urine screening approaches following administration of low doses. The LC-MSⁿ and LC-HR-MS/MS approaches were deemed suitable for monitoring consumption of both compounds. The most abundant targets were a ring hydroxy metabolite of DALT or the N,O-bis-dealkyl metabolite of 5-MeO-DALT as well as their glucuronides. The GC-MS approach only allowed for the screening of DALT via its main metabolites.

Keywords designer drugs; DALT; 5-MeO-DALT; metabolism; SUSA; LC-HR-MS/MS

Introduction

Synthetic tryptamines belong to one class of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in addition to synthetic cannabinoids, phenethylamines, synthetic cathinones, and others [1, 2]. They interact with the serotonergic system, which includes activation of the 5-HT_{1A} and 5-HT_{2A} receptor subtypes [3] and increase of serotonin release [4-8]. Active oral dosage levels of *N*,*N*-diallyltryptamine (DALT) and 5-methoxy-DALT (5-MeO-DALT) have been suggested to range from above 40 mg for DALT and 12-20 mg for 5-MeO-DALT, respectively [9-11]. Their chemical structures are depicted in Fig. 1. The control status of both substances differs across the globe. Misuse of 5-MeO-DALT and the association with adverse effects has been recently reported [12, 13], which serves as a reminder that the ability to carry out suitable toxicological analysis is urgently needed. As far as DALT is concerned, no corresponding data are available.

Analytical methods used for the characterization of *N*,*N*-dialkylated tryptamines [14] and naturally-occurring *N*,*N*-dimethylated tryptamines found in psychoactive beverages [15] have been reviewed but without reference to determination in biofluids. Information on metabolism in urine is important so that appropriate targets can be identified. Katagi et al. reviewed the general metabolic steps and toxicologic analysis of a number of selected 5-methoxy-*N*,*N*-dialkyltryptamines [16]. Metabolism and detectability of DALT and 5-MeO-DALT in relevant matrices have not yet been described. Therefore, the aim of the present work was to identify phase I and II metabolites of DALT and 5-MeO-DALT in rat urine as well as in pooled human liver microsomes (pHLM) by liquid chromatography (LC)-high resolution (HR)-MS/MS and to identify the human cytochrome-P450 (CYP) isoenzymes involved in the main metabolic steps. Furthermore, the detectability of DALT and 5-MeO-DALT in urine by the authors' urine screening approaches (SUSA) using GC-MS, LC-MSⁿ, or LC-HR-MS/MS was tested.

Experimental

Chemicals and reagents

DALT, DALT-*d*₄, and 5-MeO-DALT were synthesized following established methods [17], isocitrate and isocitrate dehydrogenase from Sigma (Taufkirchen, Germany), NADP⁺ from Biomol (Hamburg, Germany), acetonitrile (LC-MS grade), ammonium formate (analytical grade), formic acid (LC-MS grade), methanol (LC-MS grade), and all other chemicals and biochemicals from VWR (Darmstadt, Germany). The baculovirus-infected insect cell microsomes (Supersomes) containing 1 nmol/mL of human cDNA-expressed CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6, CYP2E1 (2 nmol/mL), CYP3A4, or CYP3A5 (2 nmol/mL), and pooled human liver microsomes (pHLM, 20 mg microsomal protein/mL, 400 pmol total CYP/mg protein) were obtained from BD Biosciences (Heidelberg, Germany). After delivery, the microsomes were thawed at 37 °C, divided into aliquots, snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80 °C until use.

Urine samples

As usual, investigations were performed using rat urine samples from male Wistar rats (Charles River, Sulzfeld, Germany) for toxicological diagnostic reasons. The compound was administered once in an aqueous suspension by gastric intubation in a single 20 mg/kg body mass (BM) dose for the identification of the metabolites and once in a single 1 mg/kg BM dose for toxicological analysis.

The rats were housed in metabolism cages for 24 h, having water ad libitum. Urine was collected separately from feces over a $2\frac{4}{4}$ h period. Blank urine samples were collected before drug administration to confirm the absence of interfering compounds. The samples were directly analyzed and then stored at -20 °C.

Sample preparation for identification of phase I and II metabolites by LC-HR-MS/MS

As described previously [18], 500 μ L of acetonitrile was added to 100 μ L of urine. The mixture was shaken on a rotary shaker for 2 min. After centrifugation for 2 min at 10,000×g, 500 μ L was transferred into a glass vial and evaporated to dryness under a gentle stream of nitrogen at 70 °C. The residue was dissolved in 50 μ L of methanol. A 10- μ L aliquot of each extract was then injected onto the LC-HR-MS/MS system.

Microsomal incubations for pHLM and initial CYP activity screening studies

Conditions for the performance of the microsomal incubations for each isomer were published previously [19]. Briefly, drugs (50 μ mol/L each) were incubated with the CYP isoenzymes (50 pmol/mL, each) CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6, CYP2E1, CYP3A4, CYP3A5, or pHLM (1 mg protein/mL) for 30 min. Reactions were initiated by addition of the substrate and stopped with 50 μ L of ice-cold acetonitrile containing DALT-d₄ (1 mg/L) as internal standard. The solution was centrifuged for 2 min at 14,000×*g*, 50 μ L of the supernatant phase were transferred to a glass vial and a 10- μ L aliquot injected onto the LC-HR-MS/MS system.

LC-HR-MS/MS apparatus for identification of phase I and II metabolites in urine and microsomal incubations

According to published procedures [20], the extracts were analyzed using a Accela LC system consisting of an HTC PAL autosampler, a degasser, two 1250 quaternary pumps, an Aria Transcend TLX-I HTLC system, and a valve interface module with built-in switching valves, all controlled by the Aria software version 1.6.3, coupled to a Q-Exactive system equipped with a heated electrospray ionization (HESI)-II source and Xcalibur 2.2 SP1.48 software (all of ThermoFisher, Dreieich,

Germany). Mass calibration was done according to the manufacturer's recommendations every 72 h using external mass calibration. According to Helfer et al. (submitted for publication), the LC conditions were as follows: a ThermoFisher Accucore PhenylHexyl column (100 mm \times 2.1 mm I.D., 2.6 µm), guarded by an UHP filter cart (0.5 µm). Chromatography was performed at 35 °C maintained by an analytical column heater (HotDog 5090, Prolab, Reinach, Switzerland). The mobile phases consisted of 2 mM aqueous ammonium formate plus 0.1% formic acid (pH 3, eluent A) and 2 mM aqueous ammonium formate with acetonitrile:methanol (50:50, v/v; 1% water) plus 0.1% formic acid (eluent B). The flow rate was set to 0.5 mL/min for 10 min and 0.8 mL/min from 10-13.5 min. The gradient was programmed as follows: 0-1.0 min 99% A, 1-10 min to 1% A, 10-11.5 min hold 1% A, 11.5 - 13.5 min hold 99% A. The HESI-II source conditions were as follows: heater temperature, 320 °C; sheath gas, 60 arbitrary units (AU); auxiliary gas, 10 AU; spray voltage, 3.00 kV; capillary temperature, 320 °C; and S-lens RF level, 60.0. Mass spectrometry was performed in positive ionization mode using full scan mode and a subsequent data-dependent acquisition (DDA) mode. The settings for the full scan mode were as follows: scan range, m/z 130-1000; resolution, 35,000; microscans, 1; automatic gain control (AGC) target, 1e6; and maximum injection time (IT), 120 ms. The settings for the DDA mode were as follows: resolution, 17,500; microscans, 1; AGC target, 2e5; maximum IT, 250 ms; loop count, 5; isolation window, m/z 1.0; high collision dissociation (HCD) cell stepped normalized collision energy (NCE), 17.5, 35, and 52.5%; spectrum data type, profile; intensity threshold, 4.0e3; dynamic exclusion, 8.0 s.

GC-MS SUSA

According to published procedures [21], the urine sample (5 mL) was divided into two aliquots where one part was submitted to acid hydrolysis followed by extraction of the combined parts with a dichloromethane-isopropanol-ethyl acetate mixture. After evaporation, the residue was acetylated with an acetic anhydride-pyridine mixture under microwave irradiation, again evaporated and

reconstituted in 100 µL of methanol. A 1-µL aliquot was injected onto the GC-MS system. This consisted of a Hewlett Packard (HP, Agilent, Waldbronn, Germany) 5890 Series II gas chromatograph combined with an HP 5972A MSD mass spectrometer and an HP MS ChemStation (DOS series) with HP G1034C software version C03.00. The GC conditions were as follows: splitless injection mode; column, ThermoFisher TG-1MS capillary (12 m x 0.2 mm I.D.); cross-linked methyl silicone, 330 nm film thickness; injection port temperature, 280 °C; carrier gas, helium; flow rate, 1 mL/min; column temperature, programmed from 100 to 310 °C at 30 °C/min; initial time, 2 min; final time, 5 min. The MS conditions were as follows: full scan mode, m/z 50-550; electron ionization (EI) mode, ionization energy, 70 eV; ion source temperature, 220 °C; and capillary direct interface, 280 °C [22].

The full scan data files were evaluated by the automated mass spectral deconvolution and identification system (AMDIS) (http://chemdata.nist.gov/mass-spc/amdis/) in simple mode. The target library was a modified version of the Maurer/Pfleger/Weber MPW_2015 library [23]. The deconvolution parameter settings were as follows [24]: width, 32; adjacent peak subtraction, 2; resolution, high; sensitivity, very high; shape requirements, low; minimum match factor, 50.

LC-MSⁿ SUSA

The workup was identical to the procedure described above for identification of phase I and II metabolites. Analysis was performed using a LXQ linear ion trap MS equipped with an HESI II source and coupled to an Accela LC system (all from ThermoFisher). The LC and the MS settings were described elsewhere [18]. Briefly, DDA was conducted on precursor ions selected from MS^1 : MS^1 was performed in the full scan mode (m/z 100-800) and MS^2 and MS^3 were performed in the DDA mode. ThermoFisher Xcalibur 2.2 SP1.48 software was used for data acquisition, NIST MS Search 2.0 (National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) for library generation, ThermoFisher ToxID 2.1.1 for automatic target screening in the MS² screening mode.

The settings were as follows: retention time (RT) window, 20 min; RT, 0.1 min; signal threshold, 100; search index, 600; and reverse search index, 700. ToxID was run automatically after file acquisition using a Xcalibur processing method starting the software tool. The target library was a modified version of the Maurer/Wissenbach/Weber MWW_2014 library [25].

LC-HR-MS/MS SUSA

The workup and the LC-HR-MS/MS method were the same as described above for identification of phase I and II metabolites. ThermoFisher TraceFinder Clinical Research 3.2 software was used for data evaluation as described by Helfer et al. (submitted for publication).

Results and discussion

Identification of the phase I and phase II metabolites by LC-HR-MS/MS

The structures of the urinary metabolites were deduced from their MS/MS spectra in correlation to the spectra of the parent compounds. The fragmentation patterns were postulated based on established rules [26]. The LC-HR-MS/MS spectra of DALT and its phase I metabolites are given in Fig. S1, those of 5-MeO-DALT and its phase I metabolites in Fig. S2 supplied as electronic supplementary material. The LC-HR-MS/MS spectra of the phase II metabolites of DALT are given in Fig. S3 and those of 5-MeO-DALT in Fig. S4, respectively. In addition, the proposed chemical structures, accurate masses of the ions, calculated elemental formulas, and mass error values in parts per million (ppm) are given in the corresponding spectra.

Proposed fragmentation patterns for identification of the phase I metabolites by LC-HR-MS/MS

For better description of positions, the basic structure was divided into three sections (Fig. 1), the aromatic ring (section 1), the ethyl spacer (section 2), and *N*,*N*-diallylamine (section 3). In the following, important fragmentation patterns of the mass spectra of DALT, 5-MeO-DALT, and their phase I metabolites will be discussed in detail. All masses within this paragraph are the calculated, exact masses.

DALT

The spectrum of the parent compound is given in Fig. S1, no. 1. In addition to the protonated molecule with m/z 241.1699 ($C_{16}H_{21}N_2^+$), the DALT spectrum showed **a** characteristic fragment ion with m/z 144.0808 ($C_{10}H_{10}N^+$) representing the ethyl indole residue (section 1+2), **a** fragment ion with m/z 117.0701 ($C_9H_9^+$) representing the indole ring after loss of HCN, and m/z 110.0964 ($C_7H_{12}N^+$) that represented the *N*,*N*-diallylmethanimine residue (section 3) following typical α -cleavage [14].

When section 3 in the metabolites was unchanged, fragment ions could be observed with m/z 110.0964 (nos. 5, 7-13 in Fig. S1) and if *N*-deallylated (- 40.0313 u) with m/z 70.0651 (2-4 in Fig. S1). When sections 1 and 2 were unmodified, fragment ions with m/z 144.0808 (2, 12 in Fig. S1) appeared, when mono-hydroxylated (+ 15.9949 u) with m/z 160.0757 (3-5, 7, 8, 11 in Fig. S1), when di-hydroxylated (+ 31.9898 u) with m/z 176.0706 (9, 10 in Fig. S1), or when tri-hydroxylated (+ 47.9847 u) with m/z 192.0655 (13 in Fig. S1). Furthermore, fragment ions with m/z 117.0699 (2-6, 12 in Fig. S1) were observed in *N*-deallylated metabolites or in those with an unchanged indole ring. In case of ring mono-hydroxylation, ions with m/z 115.0542 (C₉H₇⁺) were formed instead (3, 4, 7, 8 in Fig. S1), representing the hydroxylated indole ring after loss of HCN and further elimination of water. Both fragments were not formed in compounds with multiple hydroxylation sites on the ring system or hydroxylations in section 2. Minor fragment ions with m/z 132.0808 (C₉H₁₀N⁺) representing methyl indole residues were formed by all compounds with either an un-substituted or mono-hydroxylated indole ring (2-5, 7, 8, 11 in Fig. S1).

The two hydroxy metabolites (7, 8 in Fig. S1) showed protonated molecule with m/z257.1648 ($C_{16}H_{21}ON_2^+$) and identical fragments. Besides fragment ion with m/z 160.0757 $(C_{10}H_{10}ON^{+})$, no loss of water (- 18.0100 u) could be observed indicating hydroxylation in section 1. The spectra of the four di-hydroxy metabolites (9-12 in Fig. S1) showed the protonated molecule with m/z 273.1598 (C₁₆H₂₁O₂N₂⁺). Three of them (9-11 in Fig. S1) showed a fragment ion with m/z231.1128 ($C_{13}H_{15}O_2N_2^+$) resulting from allyl cleavage (see also fragment ion with m/z 261.1234 in spectra nos. 16 and 17 in Fig. S2). Two isomers (9, 10 in Fig. S1) showed an additional fragment ion with m/z 148.0393 (C₈H₆O₂N⁺) indicating that two hydroxylations occurred in section 1. The third isomer (11 in Fig. S1) showed a loss of two hydrogens (- 2.0156 u) to give m/z 174.0550 (C₁₀H₈O₂N⁺) instead of a fragment ion with m/z 176.0706 (C₁₀H₁₀O₂N⁺) representing the same structure with a double bond in section 2. A further loss of carbon monoxide (- 27.9950 u) could be observed leading to m/z 146.0600 (C₉H₈ON⁺). The presence of the fragment ion with m/z 110.0964 (C₇H₁₂N⁺) suggested the formation of one aryl hydroxy group in section 1 and one alkyl hydroxy group in section 2. The fourth isomeric spectrum (12 in Fig. S1) showed different fragmentation patterns. The main fragment ion with m/z 144.0808 (C₁₀H₁₀N⁺) and m/z 142.0863 (C₇H₁₂O₂N⁺) indicated that both oxygens were introduced at the N_N-diallylic group in section 3 leaving section 1 and 2 unmodified. Instead of a fragment ion with m/z 231.1128 (9-11 in Fig. S1), a shift of one hydrogen (+ 1.0078 u) was observed to give a radical cation with m/z 232.1206 (C₁₃H₁₆O₂N₂^{+•}). Despite the shift, this fragment ion allowed for the positions of the hydroxy groups to be established. Either both were located at the same allyl group or one hydroxy was located at the nitrogen forming an N-oxide. Beyond this, the fragment ion with m/z 100.0757 (C₅H₁₀ON⁺) represented a hydroxylated N-allyl-N,N-bis-methyl amine with two possible positions. Either one oxidation led to an N-oxide or both hydroxy groups were located at different substituents, although this might be excluded from detection of the fragment ion with m/z 232.1206. Thus, the proposed metabolite structure seemed more consistent with an N-oxide. In general, N-oxides were eluting later on reversed phase columns compared to the parent compounds. A corresponding metabolite representing allylic hydroxylation in

section 3 was not detected. As far as the detected hydroxy and di-hydroxy metabolites were concerned (7-12 in Fig. S1), the proposed *N*-oxide had the longest RT (4.5 min) compared to all others (RT between 3.4 and 4.3 min), which appear to support this suggestion. Among hydroxy and di-hydroxy metabolites, tri-hydroxy metabolite could also be identified (13 in Fig. S1). The mass spectrum showed a protonated molecule with m/z 289.1547 (C₁₆H₂₁O₃N₂⁺) and a fragment ion with m/z 164.0342 (C₈H₆O₃N⁺) that corresponded to addition of one oxygen (+ 15.9949 u) in contrast to the fragment ion with m/z 148.0393 (C₈H₆O₂N⁺) observed in aryl di-hydroxy metabolites. It represented the threefold aryl hydroxylated metabolite.

Protonated molecules with m/z 255.1492 (C₁₆H₁₉ON₂⁺) revealed two oxo metabolites (5, 6 in Fig. S1). The first isomer spectrum (5 in Fig. S1) showed fragment ion analogous to the aryl hydroxy metabolites (7, 8 in Fig. S1). However, instead of m/z 115.0542 (C₉H₇⁺), **a** fragment ion with m/z 117.0699 (C₉H₉⁺) was detected that pointed toward an un-substituted indole ring as described above. Regarding these fragments, the proposed keto function could only be positioned in section 2. The second isomer spectrum (6 in Fig. S1) showed completely different fragmentation patterns compared to all other spectra. Both main fragment ion with m/z 214.1101 (C₁₃H₁₄ON₂⁺⁺) and m/z 173.0709 (C₁₀H₉ON₂⁺) contained the unchanged amine group and calculated chemical formulas could only be explained by ring closure with **a** suggested structure given in spectrum 6 in Fig. S1. The initial step may reflect hydroxylation in the amine α -position representing a rather instable hemiaminal. This chemical structure could either degrade, oxidized to an amide, or could engage in nucleophilic attack of the indole 2-position position. The product after ring closure could explain both main fragment ion after loss of the allyl groups (- 41.0391 u), respectively, as well as m/z 146.0600 (C₉H₈ON⁺) after further loss of hydrocyanic acid (- 27.0109 u).

A metabolic *N*-dealkylation step led to a spectrum (2 in Fig. S1) that revealed a protonated molecule with m/z 201.1386 (C₁₃H₁₇N₂⁺) and a typical fragment ion with m/z 70.0651 (C₄H₈N⁺) similar to what was described above. Combinations with mono-hydroxylation led to two isomers (3, 4 in Fig. S1) with protonated molecule with m/z 217.1335 (C₁₃H₁₇ON₂⁺). Both isomers showed

similar fragmentation patterns as aryl hydroxy metabolites (7, 8 in Fig. S1), except for the allyl shift and an additional fragment ion with m/z 148.0757 (C₉H₁₀ON⁺), which represented aryl hydroxylation in a methylindole species. It should be mentioned that this fragment ion differed from fragment ion with m/z 148.0393 (C₈H₆O₂N⁺) detected in aryl di-hydroxy metabolites (9, 10 in Fig. S1).

5-MeO-DALT

The 5-MeO-DALT spectrum is given in Fig. S2, no. 1. Basic fragmentation patterns were analogous to those of DALT. Thus, in addition to the protonated molecule with m/z 271.1805 (C₁₇H₂₃ON₂⁺), the ethyl indole residue (section 1+2) was represented by fragment ion with m/z 174.0913 (C₁₁H₁₂ON⁺), the indole ring after HCN loss by fragment ion with m/z 117.0699 (C₉H₉⁺), and the iminium ion (section 3) by fragment ion with m/z 110.0964 (C₇H₁₂N⁺). Moreover, an additional fragment ion was observed with m/z 159.0679 (C₁₀H₉ON⁺) representing the hydroxy ethylindole part following radical loss of a methyl group (see also spectra nos. 3, 18, 21 in Fig. S2).

When section 3 in the metabolites was unmodified, fragment ions could be observed with m/z 110.0964 (7-11, 13-17, 19, 20 in Fig. S2) and when *N*-deallylated (- 40.0313 u), ions with m/z 70.0651 (2-6 in Fig. S2) were detected. When there was no metabolic change in sections 1 and 2, fragment ion with m/z 174.0913 (3, 18, 21 in Fig. S2) appeared, when mono-hydroxylated with m/z 190.0863 (5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14 in Fig. S2), when di-hydroxylated with m/z 206.0812 (16, 17 in Fig. S2), when tri-hydroxylated with m/z 222.0761 (20 in Fig. S2), or when *O*-demethylated with m/z 160.0757 (2 in Fig. S2), respectively. *O*-Demethylation in combination with mono-hydroxylation led to fragment ion with m/z 176.0706 (4, 8 in Fig. S2) or, when di-hydroxylation was involved, to a fragment ion with m/z 117.0699 (2, 3, 10-12 in Fig. S2) or 115.0542 (2, 7 in Fig. S2). Both fragments were not formed in compounds with multiple hydroxylations at the ring system, with hydroxylations in section 2 (4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15-21 in Fig. S2), or with aryl-hydroxy-methoxy substituents (6, 14 in Fig.

 S2). Finally, the methyl indole residues were represented by fragment ion with m/z 132.0808 $(C_{9}H_{10}N^{+})$ in all compounds that either displayed an un-substituted or mono-hydroxylated indole ring (2, 7 in Fig. S2), except for those hydroxylated in section 2 (9 in Fig. S2).

The two hydroxy metabolites (13, 14 in Fig. S2) showed a protonated molecule with m/z287.1754 (C₁₇H₂₃O₂N₂⁺). The first isomer (13 in Fig. S2) showed metabolic hydroxylation in section 2, identified by a fragment ion with m/z 158.0600 ($C_{10}H_8ON^+$) representing the hydroxy ethylene indole part after subsequent loss of the O-methyl group and water. For the second isomer (14 in Fig. **S2**), a fragment ion with m/z 162.0550 (C₉H₈O₂N⁺) represented the di-hydroxy methyl indole part after loss of the O-methyl group, which specified the position of hydroxylation in section 1. Three di-hydroxy metabolites were detected (16-18 in Fig. S2) with protonated molecules with m/z303.1703 (C₁₇H₂₃O₃N₂⁺). Two of them (16, 17 in Fig. S2) were consistent with aryl di-hydroxy metabolites with fragment ion with m/z 178.0499 (C₉H₈O₃N⁺: 162.0550 + 15.9949 u) as described above. In contrast, the third isomer (18 in Fig. S2) showed a fragment ion with m/z 174.0913 $(C_{11}H_{12}ON^{+})$ indicating a loss of both hydroxy groups within section 3. This could be confirmed by the detection of ion with m/z 142.0863 (C₇H₁₂O₂N⁺: 110.0964 + 31.9899 u). Furthermore, the fragment ion with m/z 100.0757 (C₅H₁₀ON⁺) represented hydroxylated N-allyl-N,N-bis-methyl amine, as already described for DALT, and again two options could be considered. Either the two hydroxy groups were located at different N-allyl positions or one of them was an N-oxide. Considering N-oxidation, a comparable fragmentation pattern as for the proposed DALT N-oxide and a comparable shift in RT (4.4 min) compared to other metabolites could be observed, again suggesting the presence of the N-oxide. Three tri-hydroxy metabolites (19-21 in Fig. S2) were found with protonated molecules with m/z 319.1652 (C₁₇H₂₃O₄N₂⁺). Isomer one (19 in Fig. S2) showed only two fragment ions with m/z 110.0964 (C₇H₁₂N⁺) and 178.0499 (C₉H₈O₃N⁺). The first fragment ion represented a non-hydroxylated section 3, the second fragment ion a tri-hydroxy methylindole after loss of the O-methyl group as already described above. Both fragment ions indicated the positions of two aryl hydroxy groups presented in section 1 and one in section 2. In isomer two (20 in Fig. S2), all

hydroxy groups were positioned in section 1, confirmed by detection of a fragment ion with m/z 194.0448 (C₉H₈O₄N⁺) representing threefold hydroxylated methyl indole. Isomer three (21 in Fig. S2) exhibited all hydroxy groups on the alkyl side chain in section 3. Confirmation of this assignment came from a fragment ion with m/z 174.0913 (C₁₁H₁₂ON⁺) as described for the spectrum of the parent compound and a fragment ion with m/z 158.0812 (C₇H₁₂O₃N⁺: 110.0964 + 47.9848 u). Regarding fragmentation patterns and RT (4.4 min), the presence of an *N*-oxide was indicated.

Three oxo metabolites showed protonated molecules with m/z 285.1598 (C₁₇H₂₁O₂N₂⁺) (10-12 in Fig. S2). According to their common fragmentation patterns, the oxygen positions were consistent with section 2 for two of the isomers (10, 11 in Fig. S2) as proven by the presence of fragment ion with m/z 110.0964 (C₇H₁₂N⁺) and the loss of carbon monoxide (- 27.9950 u) in fragment ions with m/z 190.0863 (C₁₁H₁₂O₂N⁺) to result in formation of m/z 162.0913 (C₁₀H₁₂ON⁺). It should be mentioned that this fragment ion differed from the fragment ion with m/z 162.0550 (C₉H₈O₂N⁺) representing di-hydroxy methylindole regarding loss of the *O*-methyl group as described above (14, 16, 17 in Fig. S2). The third isomer (12 in Fig. S2) showed fragmentation patterns similar to those described for DALT in spectrum no. 6 in Fig. S1. Fragment ions with m/z 244.1206 (C₁₄H₁₆O₂N₂^{+•}), 203.0815 (C₁₁H₁₁O₂N₂⁺), and 176.0706 (C₁₀H₁₀O₂N⁺) were considered analogous to fragment ions with m/z 214.1101 (C₁₃H₁₄ON₂^{+•}), 173.0709 (C₁₀H₉ON₂⁺), and 146.0600 (C₉H₈ON⁺), respectively.

N-Dealkylation led to a spectrum (3 in Fig. S2) that showed a protonated molecule with m/z 231.1492 (C₁₄H₁₉ON₂⁺) and a typical fragment ion with m/z 70.0651 (C₄H₈N⁺) as already described above. Combinations of *N*-dealkylation and hydroxylation led to two metabolites with protonated molecule with m/z 247.1441 (C₁₄H₁₉O₂N₂⁺) (5, 6 in Fig. S2) and a fragment ion with m/z 178.0863 (C₁₀H₁₂O₂N⁺). This was degraded either to give a fragment ion with m/z 158.0600 (C₁₀H₈ON⁺), indicating hydroxylation in section 2, or to a fragment ion with m/z 162.0550 (C₉H₈O₂N⁺), indicating an aryl hydroxylation in section 1.

O-Demethylation (7 in Fig. S2) led to a protonated molecule with m/z 257.1648 (C₁₆H₂₁ON₂⁺) with fragment ions similar to those described for aryl hydroxy DALT (7, 8 in Fig. S1). Two

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O-demethyl hydroxy metabolites could be postulated (8, 9 in Fig. S2) with protonated molecules with m/z 273.1598 (C₁₆H₂₁O₂N₂⁺). Fragmentation of the first isomer (8 in Fig. S2) did not differ from that obtained from aryl di-hydroxy DALT (9, 10 in Fig. S1) with fragment ions with m/z 162.0550 $(C_{9}H_{8}O_{2}N^{+})$ and hydroxylation in section 1. For the second isomer (9 in Fig. S2), a loss of water (-18.0100 u) from fragment ion with m/z 176.0706 ($C_{10}H_{10}O_2N^+$) to m/z 158.0606 ($C_{10}H_8ON^+$) indicated hydroxylation in section 2. An O-demethyl di-hydroxy metabolite (15 in Fig. S2) could be detected with a protonated molecule with m/z 289.1547 ($C_{16}H_{21}O_3N_2^+$) and fragment ions similar to those identified for aryl tri-hydroxy DALT (13 in Fig. S1). Thus, the two metabolically formed hydroxy groups were located in section 1. The spectrum of the O-demethyl N-dealkyl metabolite (2 in Fig. S2) showed a protonated molecule with m/z 217.1335 (C₁₃H₁₇ON₂⁺) and fragment ions that did not differ from those of N-dealkyl aryl hydroxy DALT (3, 4 in Fig. S1). Further hydroxylation of this metabolite (4 in Fig. S2) led to a protonated molecule with m/z 233.1285 (C₁₃H₁₇O₂N₂⁺). The position of the hydroxy group was thought to be located in section 2 because of the observed fragment ion with m/z 148.0757 (C₉H₁₀ON⁺) that excluded the position of the second hydroxy group on the methylindole ring. Proposed fragmentation patterns for identification of the phase II metabolites by LC-HR-MS/MS In the following, important fragmentation patterns of the mass spectra of DALT, 5-MeO-DALT phase II metabolites will be discussed. All masses within the paragraph are the calculated exact

DALT

masses.

In general, the conjugates of the aryl mono-hydroxy metabolites showed same fragment ion as the underlying phase I metabolites, following conjugate losses of -79.9568 u for sulfates or -176.0321 u for glucuronides, with additional fragment ions with m/z 240.0325 (3S, 4S, 7S, 8S in Fig. S3) for

sulfates or at 336.1078 (3G, 4G, 7G, 8G in Fig. S3) for glucuronides. These fragment ions represented the ethyl indole part (sections 1+2) with + 79.9568 u for sulfates or + 176.0321 u for glucuronides. In total, sulfates and glucuronides could be detected for two aryl hydroxy isomers (7S, 8S, 7G, 8G in Fig. S3) and two *N*-dealkyl aryl-hydroxy isomers (3S, 4S, 3G, 4G in Fig. S3).

5-MeO-DALT

Sulfates and glucuronides were found for alkyl hydroxy (13S, 13G in Fig. S4), aryl hydroxy (14S, 14G in Fig. S4), *N*-dealkyl alkyl hydroxy (5S, 5G in Fig. S4), *N*-dealkyl aryl hydroxy (6S, 6G in Fig. S4), *O*-demethyl (7S, 7G in Fig. S4), *O*-demethyl *N*-dealkyl (2S, 2G in Fig. S4), and *O*-demethyl *N*-dealkyl alkyl hydroxy (4S, 4G in Fig. S4) isomers. For *O*-demethyl alkyl hydroxy (9G in Fig. S4) and *O*-demethyl aryl hydroxy (8G in Fig. S4) metabolites, only glucuronides could be observed. Again, in addition to the fragment ions described for phase I metabolites, fragment ions with *m/z* 240.0325 (2S, 7S in Fig. S4), 256.0274 (4S in Fig. S4), 270.0431 (5S, 6S, 13S, 14S in Fig. S4), 336.1078 (2G, 7G in Fig. S4), 352.1027 (4G, 8G, 9G in Fig. S4), or 366.1183 (5G, 6G, 13G, 14G in Fig. S4) were detected for sulfates or glucuronides of metabolites with hydroxy groups on the ethylindole moiety (sections 1+2).

Proposed metabolic pathways

According to the identified metabolites, metabolic pathways could be proposed as depicted in Fig. 2 for DALT and in Fig. 3 for 5-MeO-DALT.

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Three hydroxylations were expected on the indole ring although only two of them could be detected (7, 8 in Fig. 2), most probably due to insufficient separation or low abundance of the third isomer. These mono-hydroxy metabolites were further hydroxylated to two isomeric di-hydroxy metabolites

(9, 10) and these finally to a tri-hydroxy metabolite (13). Aliphatic hydroxylation in section 2 formed a precursor for the corresponding oxo metabolite (5) and the ring-rearranged metabolite (6). *N*-dealkylation (2) and *N*-oxidation could also be observed. The following combinations could be proposed from these observations: aromatic and aliphatic hydroxylation in section 2 (11), *N*-oxidation with aliphatic hydroxylation in section 3 (12), and *N*-dealkylation with aromatic hydroxylation (3, 4). Glucuronidation and sulfation could be observed for both isomers of the aryl hydroxylated metabolites with (3, 4) and without (7, 8) *N*-dealkylation.

5-MeO-DALT

The metabolic pathways were similar to those observed for DALT including aromatic and aliphatic hydroxylation at various sites. Again, the indole ring was expected to bear three different hydroxylation sites but although only one of them could be detected (14 in Fig. 3), presumable due to similar reasons mentioned above. These mono-hydroxy metabolites were further hydroxylated to two isomeric di-hydroxy metabolites (16, 17) and finally to a tri-hydroxy metabolite (20). Aliphatic hydroxylation in section 2 (13) formed a precursor for the corresponding two oxo metabolites (10, 11) and the ring-rearranged metabolite (12). *N*-Dealkylation (3), *N*-oxidation, or *O*-demethylation (7) could also be observed. The following combinations could be proposed: aromatic and aliphatic hydroxylation in section 2 (19), *N*-oxidation with aliphatic mono- or di-hydroxylation in section 3 (18, 21), *N*-dealkylation with aliphatic (5) or aromatic (6) hydroxylation, *O*-demethylation (2), or *N*-dealkylation with aliphatic hydroxylation (4). Glucuronidation and sulfation could be observed for alkyl (13) or aryl hydroxy metabolites (14, for *O*-demethyl alkyl (9) or aryl hydroxy metabolites (3), and *O*-demethyl hydroxy metabolites (2, 4-6). For *O*-demethyl alkyl (9) or aryl hydroxy metabolites (8), only glucuronides were detected.

Comparing the pathways of both drugs, it is obvious that one of the di-hydroxy metabolites of DALT (9 in Fig. 2) should be identical to the *O*-demethyl hydroxy metabolite of 5-MeO-DALT (8 in Fig. 3). Similarly, the tri-hydroxy metabolite of DALT (13 in Fig. 2) would be identical to the *O*-demethyl di-hydroxy metabolite of 5-MeO-DALT (15 in Fig. 3), thus, accounting for identical spectra and retention times. The *O*-demethyl metabolite of 5-MeO-DALT (7 in Fig. 3) could be identical either to the hydroxy metabolite 7 (Fig. 2) of DALT with slightly different spectra and retention times or to the undetected hydroxy metabolite.

Microsomal incubations of DALT and 5-MeO-DALT

Unfortunately, no human urine samples were available to confirm that the metabolites in rat urine would also be found in human urine. According to many former studies [16, 20, 27-34], combination of rat urine studies with incubations of new drugs with pHLM provides a tool for good predictions of phase I metabolites for detection in human urine. Katagi et al. discussed the transferability for other *N*,*N*-di-alkyl tryptamines [16]. After pHLM incubation, all phase I metabolites could be detected for DALT and metabolites 3, 5-7, 10-14, 16-18, and 21 (Fig. 3) for 5-MeO-DALT. Therefore, it seems reasonable to assume that at least some of these metabolites might also be found in human urine.

For the initial CYP activity screening, the metabolites were detected after incubation with individual CYPs. The relative involvement of the single CYPs in metabolic pathways of DALT are given in Table 1 and those of 5-MeO-DALT in Table 2. The relative involvement of individual CYPs was defined in relation to the highest peak abundances during precursor ion monitoring of the formed metabolites. A CYP was defined as mainly involved if the corresponding relative peak abundance values were above 50 %. According to these findings, the following isoenzymes were mainly involved in given metabolic steps: for DALT, CYP3A4 in all types of hydroxylations, CYP2D6 in oxidation to the oxo metabolite, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 in *N*-dealkylations; for 5-MeO-DALT, CYP3A4 in all type of hydroxylations, CYP1A2 and CYP2D6 in oxidation to the oxo metabolites,

CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 in *N*-dealkylations, and CYP2D6 in *O*-demethylations. Given that several CYP enzymes were involved in the metabolism of both drugs, one might expect that CYP enzyme polymorphisms might be of minor toxicological relevance.

Toxicological detection of DALT and 5-MeO-DALT by GC-MS, LC-MSⁿ, and LC-HR-MS/MS

The doses of 1 mg/kg BM administered to rats corresponded to low human single doses of about 10 mg scaled by dose-by-factor approach according to Sharma et al. [35]. As described above, these doses corresponded to the suggested dose for 5-MeO-DALT [9-11]. The corresponding urine samples were used for the detectability studies. As already discussed, no human urine samples were available and thus, the main target for human urinalysis could not be elucidated. However, the SUSAs cover all metabolites detected in rat urine including those identified in pHLM with their conjugates. From the experience gained in the last years, the possibility that consumption of these drugs and identification of their metabolites could be overlooked seems rather low.

Using GC-MS, only DALT could be screened for via the metabolites given in Table 3 with the corresponding fragment ions, their relative abundances, and their retention indices. 5-MeO-DALT and its metabolites could be monitored only in rat urine after high dose administration and might therefore be detectable only in overdose cases. The corresponding GC-MS data are published elsewhere [23].

Using LC-MSⁿ, both drugs could be screened for via the metabolites given in Table 4 using the protonated precursor ions, characteristic MS^2 and MS^3 fragment ions, and retention times. The LC-HR-MS/MS SUSA allowed for monitoring an intake of both drugs by detecting the following metabolites with the given HR-MS/MS spectra: for DALT, spectra nos. 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 in Fig. S1 and 3S, 4S, 8S, 3G, 4G, 7G, 8G in Fig. S3; for 5-MeO-DALT, spectra nos. 2 in Fig. S2 and 7S, 13S, 5G, 6G, 7G, 9G, 13G, 14G in Fig. S4. Reconstructed LC-HR-MS/MS ion chromatograms with the given m/z of the most abundant metabolites following work-up of a rat urine sample (low dose) are depicted

in Fig. 4. The metabolites of DALT (part A) with the most abundant peak areas were aryl-hydroxy-glucuronide isomer 1 (7G in Fig. S3), its isomer 2 (8G in Fig. S3), aryl-hydroxy isomer 1 (7 in Fig. S1), and aryl-tri-hydroxy metabolite (13 in Fig. S1). The metabolites of 5-MeO-DALT (part B) with the most abundant peak areas were *O*-demethyl-glucuronide (7G in Fig. S4), alkyl-hydroxy-glucuronide (13G in Fig. S4), *N*-dealkyl-aryl-hydroxy-glucuronide (6G in Fig. S4), aryl-hydroxy-glucuronide (14G in Fig. S4), and *N*-dealkyl-alkyl-hydroxy-glucuronide metabolite (5G in Fig. S4), respectively. Fortunately, because various targets could be detected, the risk of false negative results caused by ion suppression of a particular target was limited.

To assess the general performance of the SUSAs, the limits of detection (LOD) for the parent compounds were determined in the particular approaches although they were not the main targets chosen for urinalysis. Urine samples spiked with the corresponding drugs in decreasing concentrations were analyzed with all SUSAs and the signal-to-noise ratio of 3 was defined as LOD. For GC-MS, LC-MSⁿ, and LC-HR-MS/MS SUSA, the LODs for DALT in urine were 10, 10, and 1 ng/mL and for 5-MeO-DALT 50, 10, and 1 ng/mL, respectively. Considering the fact, that for GC-MS, 5 mL and for both LC-MS approaches only 0.1 mL of urine was processed for work-up, the LODs for DALT were comparable for GC-MS and LC-MSⁿ, but as expected much lower for LC-HR-MS/MS. The rather high LOD for 5-MeO-DALT in GC-MS might be caused by reduced ionization, as the peak area of the reference standards also differed in the same range.

Conclusions

The two new psychoactive substances DALT and 5-MeO-DALT were extensively metabolized in rats. It could be assumed that those metabolites should also be found in human urine considering the results obtained from pHLM incubations. CYP2C19, CYP2D6, and CYP3A4 were mainly involved in DALT and 5-MeO-DALT metabolism. The LC-MSⁿ and LC-HR-MS/MS SUSAs should be

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suitable for reliably monitoring an intake of both drugs. The GC-MS SUSA should be able to monitor DALT intake, but 5-MeO-DALT only in overdose cases.

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C I P Isoenzymes	Hydroxylations, all types (%)	Oxidations to oxo metabolites (%)	<mark>N-dealkylations (%</mark>
CYP1A2	11	<mark>35</mark>	<mark>46</mark>
CYP2A6	1	0	L
CYP2B6	12	<mark>4</mark>	<mark>5</mark>
CYP2C8	3	<mark>0</mark>	<mark>5</mark>
CYP2C9	3	2	<mark>20</mark>
CYP2C19	4	13	<mark>69</mark>
CYP2D6	25	100	25
CYP2E1	3	<mark>0</mark>	<mark>5</mark>
CYP3A4	<mark>100</mark>	<mark>5</mark>	<mark>100</mark>
CYP3A5	0	<mark>0</mark>	<mark>0</mark>

Table 2 Relative involvement of human CYP isoenzymes in metabolic pathways of 5-MeO-DALT

CYP isoenzymes	Hydroxylations, all types (%)	Oxidations to oxo metabolites (%)	N-dealkylations (%)	<mark><i>O</i>-Demethylations</mark> (%)
CYP1A2	1	100	23	<mark>0</mark>
CYP2A6	<mark>0</mark>	<mark>0</mark>	1	<mark>0</mark>
CYP2B6	<mark>0</mark>	3	3	<mark>0</mark>
CYP2C8	<mark>0</mark>	O	5	<mark>0</mark>
CYP2C9	1	<mark>0</mark>	<mark>39</mark>	3
CYP2C19	Ū	20	100	21
CYP2D6	0	92	29	100
CYP2E1	0	<mark>0</mark>	1	<mark>0</mark>
CYP3A4	<mark>100</mark>	17	88	15
CYP3A5	0	0	5	<mark>0</mark>

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 Table 3
 Targets for GC-MS SUSA monitoring DALT with molecular masses, five most abundant

fragment ions, their relative abundances, and retention indices according to Kovats [36]

Compound	Molecular mas <mark>s (u)</mark>	GC-MS fragment ions (<i>m/z)</i> and their relative abundance (%)	Retention index
DALT-M (HO-) AC	298	110 (100), 146 (9), 160 (3), 257 (1), 298 (1)	2310
DALT-M (<i>N</i> -dealkyl-HO-) 2AC	300	159 (100), 70 (59), 146 (56), 201 (53), 300 (10)	2690
DALT-M (tri-HO-) 3AC	414	110 (100), 373 (15), 146 (10), 160 (3), 414 (1)	2400

Table 4 Targets for LC-MSⁿ SUSA monitoring DALT or 5-MeO-DALT with protonated

precursor ions, characteristic MS² and MS³ fragment ions, and retention time (RT)

Targets for SUSA	Precursor ions (<i>m/z</i>)	MS ² fragment ions (<i>m/z)</i> , and relative intensity (%)	MS ³ fragment ions (<i>m/z</i>) on the ion given in bold and relative intensity (%)	RT (min)
DALT-M (<i>N</i> -dealkyl-HO-aryl-glucuronide)	393	160 (100), 217 (87), 148 (47), 336 (38), 324 (21)	160 : 132 (100), 160 (79), 116 (64)	1.5
DALT-M (tri-HO-aryl-)	289	110 (100), 247 (7), 192 (5), 176 (4), 229 (3)	110 : 81 (100), 69 (12), 79 (11), 68 (10), 69 (10)	2.3
DALT-M (HO-aryl-glucuronide) isomer 1	433	257 (100), 336 (39), 160 (33), 215 (1), 376 (1)	257 : 110 (100), 160 (62), 111 (7), 98 (3), 77 (2)	2.9
DALT-M (HO-aryl-glucuronide) isomer 2	433	336 (100), 160 (36), 257 (20), 318 (2), 405 (1)	336 : 160 (100), 132 (2), 115 (1)	4.7
DALT-M (di-HO-aryl-)	273	176 (100), 231 (91), 232 (68), 148 (21), 174 (8)	176 : 148 (100), 130 (3), 82 (1)	5.2
DALT-M (HO-aryl-)	257	110 (100), 160 (6), 215 (3), 79 (1), 82 (1)	110 : 81 (100), 68 (29), 80 (19), 70 (11), 55 (9)	5.3
5-MeO-DALT-M (<i>N</i> -dealkyl-HO-alkyl-glucuronide)	423	178 (100), 366 (65), 354 (38), 190 (29), 247 (29)	178 : 146 (100), 118 (9), 122 (3)	1.6
5-MeO-DALT-M (<i>O</i> -demethyl-glucuronide)	433	257 (100), 160 (33), 336 (23)	257 : 110 (100), 160 (76), 98 (2), 81 (1), 80 (1)	3.0
5-MeO-DALT-M (HO-aryl-glucuronide)	273	366 (100), 287 (74), 190 (41), 164 (3), 348 (3)	366 : 190 (100), 158 (2), 175 (2)	5.0

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Fig. 1 Structure of DALT (A) and 5-MeO-DALT (B) with corresponding division into sections to aid the identification procedure of metabolites

Fig. 2 Proposed metabolic pathways for DALT (numbering according to Fig. S1)

Fig. 3 Proposed metabolic pathways for 5-MeO-DALT (numbering according to Fig. S2)

Fig. 4 Reconstructed LC-HR-MS ion chromatograms with the corresponding protonated molecular exact masses (+/- 5 ppm) indicating the given DALT metabolites (part A) and 5-MeO-DALT metabolites (part B) in rat urine samples after low dose administration

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Fig. 1 Structure of DALT (A) and 5-MeO-DALT (B) with corresponding division into sections to aid the identification procedure of metabolites 80x92mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Fig. 3 Proposed metabolic pathways for 5-MeO-DALT (numbering according to Fig. S2) 217x159mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Fig. 3 Proposed metabolic pathways for 5-MeO-DALT (numbering according to Fig. S2) 217x159mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Fig. 4 Reconstructed LC-HR-MS ion chromatograms with the corresponding protonated molecular exact masses (+/- 5 ppm) indicating the given DALT metabolites (part A) and 5-MeO-DALT metabolites (part B) in rat urine samples after low dose administration 125x79mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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Electronic Supplementary Material

Metabolism of the new psychoactive substances *N*,*N*-diallyltryptamine (DALT) and 5-methoxy-DALT and their detectability in urine by GC-MS, LC-MSⁿ, and LC-HR-MS/MS

Julian A. Michely * Andreas G. Helfer * Markus R. Meyer * Hans H. Maurer (corresponding author)

Department of Experimental and Clinical Toxicology, Institute of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and

Toxicology, Saarland University, 66421 Homburg (Saar), Germany

e-mail: hans.maurer@uks.eu

Simon D. Brandt

School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, L3 3AF, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Markus R. Meyer

Present address: Farmakologiska laboratoriet, Klinisk farmakologi, Karolinska Universitetssjukhuset Huddinge,

Karolinska Institutet, 141 86 Stockholm, Sweden



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Fig. S1 LC-HR-MS/MS spectra of DALT and its phase I metabolites arranged according to their precursor values, proposed chemical structures, accurate masses, calculated elemental formulas, and mass error values in parts per million (ppm) rounded to two decimals



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Fig. S2 LC-HR-MS/MS spectra of 5-MeO-DALT and its phase I metabolites arranged according to their precursor values, proposed chemical structures, accurate masses, calculated elemental formulas, and mass error values in parts per million (ppm) rounded to two decimals

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Fig. S3 LC-HR-MS/MS spectra of DALT phase II metabolites arranged according to their precursor values, proposed chemical structures, accurate masses, calculated elemental formulas, and mass error values in parts per million (ppm) rounded to two decimals

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Fig. S4 LC-HR-MS/MS spectra of 5-MeO-DALT phase II metabolites arranged according to their precursor values, proposed chemical structures, accurate masses, calculated elemental formulas, and mass error values in parts per million (ppm) rounded to two decimals