

Propojení výuky oborů Molekulární a
buněčné biologie a Ochrany a tvorby
životního prostředí OPVK
(CZ.1.07/2.2.00/28.0032)

The bacterial tightrope

Nature 516, S14–S16 (04 December
2014) doi:10.1038/516S14a

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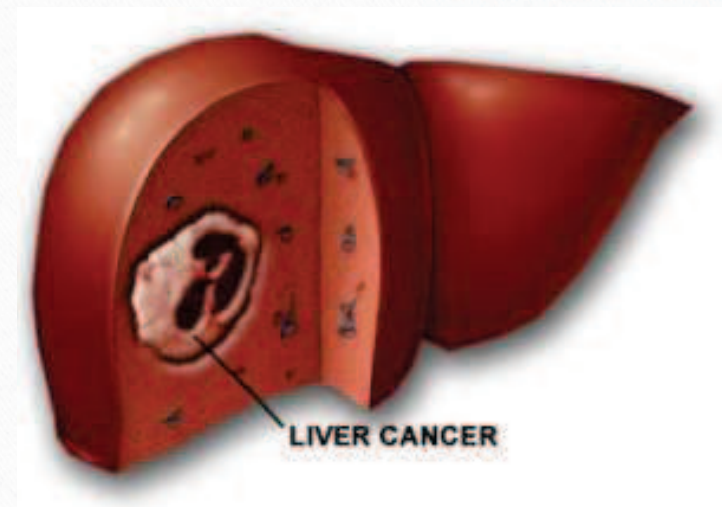
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Tereza Vojtková
MBB 2. ročník 2. 3. 2015

- Researchers had known for many years that obesity was associated with liver cancer
- Liver cancer almost always develops in the wake of preceding problems, such as fatty liver disease or viral hepatitis



Obr. 1

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Obr.2



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Research

- When he and his colleagues exposed obese mice to a carcinogen that normally causes liver cancer and then gave them antibiotics, they found that killing the bacteria had a protective effect: the animals did not develop the disease





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Knowledge

- liver cancer without liver disease is very rare
- studies have found that people with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease have a different composition of bacteria in their gut from healthy individuals



Obr. 6

Gyongyi Szabo



Obr. 3

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Obr. 4

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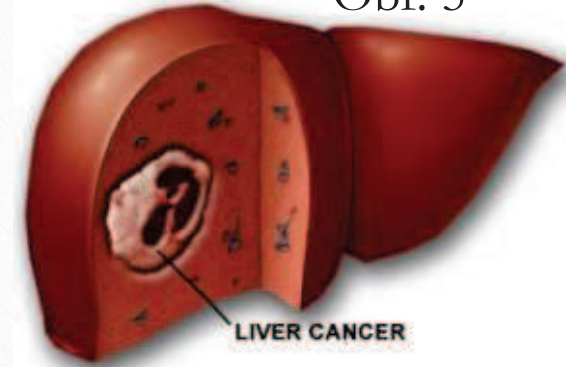
Obr. 5

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Obr. 6

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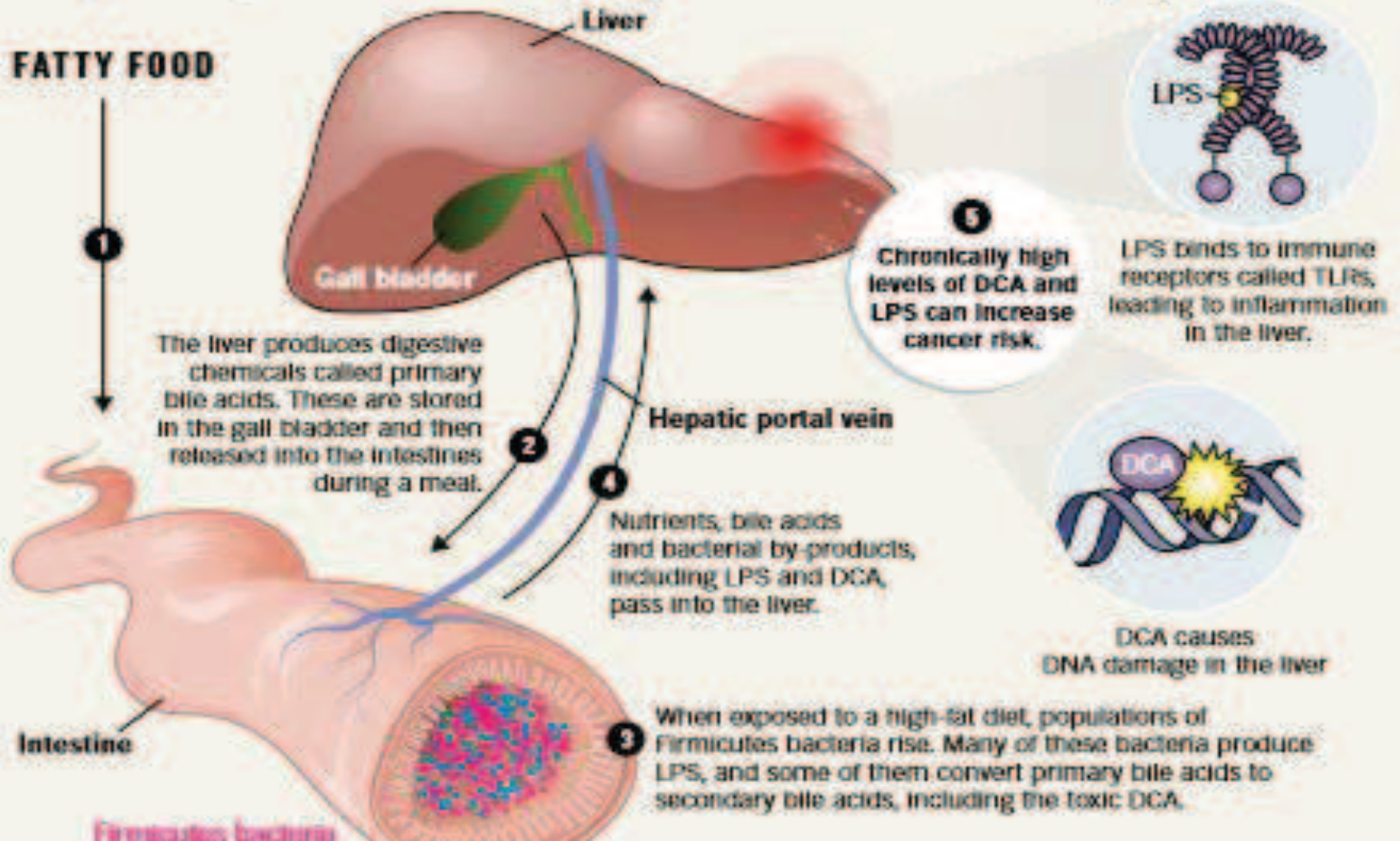


Obr. 2

Connection between liver and gut

BACTERIAL LINKS

The gut and liver are intimately connected. Bacterial populations living in the gut change their composition in response to diet, and such bacterial activity might contribute to liver-cancer risk and progression.



-
- dysbiosis and the immune reaction it provokes can even contribute to cancer
 - they discovered that cells in the liver express [immune] receptors that bind to bacterial products
 - the main reasons are lipopolysaccharides (LPS), large molecules that are found in the cell walls of many bacteria

Deoxycholic acid (DCA)

- DNA damage => cancer
- Dysbiosis
- DCA kills certain bacteria, which leads to a greater preponderance of the DCA-producing strains

Experiment

- two groups of mice: one in which the animals had been isolated from birth so that they were completely bacteria-free, and another in which they had been dosed with strong antibiotics.
- All of the animals were treated with the same liver-damaging carcinogen as in the first experiment, but both groups remained cancerfree

Three factors

1. an active immune pathway
2. the harmful bacteria
3. the carcinogen

Treatment

- Targeting these newly discovered pathways therapeutically is a difficult proposition.
- Knocking out Toll-like receptors ?
- Attack on all bacteria that make lipopolysaccharides ?
- Cocktails of good bacteria ?



Troubles

- anaerobic and cannot be grown using conventional laboratory methods
- If Hara and his colleagues can identify the bacteria that contribute to liver cancer, tests could be developed to identify people whose microbiomes put them at risk

Resources

- Obr. 1: <http://zoom.iprima.cz/clanky/proc-jsou-chudi-tak-casto-obezni-miliarda-ubohych-tlustych>
- Obr. 2: <http://craigcameron.us/fatty-liver-and-nash/244-new-study-confirms-link-between-nonalcoholic-steatohepatitis-and-liver-cancer/attachment/liver-cancer-img/>
- Obr. 3:
http://cafe.daum.net/_c21_/bbs_search_read?grpId=1BfOS&fIdId=JBbB&dataNum=1105
- Obr.4
: http://www.verkehrpsychologie.at/wirkung_alkohol_menschliche_r_koerper.htm



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- Obr. 5: <http://sciencenordic.com/dna-glues-oil-droplets-together>
- Obr. 6: Nature 516, S14–S16 (04 December 2014) doi:10.1038/516S14a

Thank you for your attention



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Dragonflies predict and plan their hunts

STACEY A. COMBES

15 JANUARY 2015

NATURE

LENKA VYSLOUŽILOVÁ



Dragonflies

- ▶ formidable predators
- ▶ huge eyes - provide an almost spherical view of the world
- ▶ perch on vegetation → waiting for prey
- ▶ right time → pursuit → scooping up victims
- ▶ succeed in catching prey about 95 % of the time



Pursuit prey

- ▶ guided by their reactions to the movements of their prey
- ▶ Mischiati and colleagues – majority of dragonfly manoeuvres are not associated with any change in prey motion
- ▶ prey-independent manoeuvres – related to the mechanical requirements of prey capture
- ▶ align themselves with the flight path of their prey → approaching from below

Pursuit prey

- ▶ bodies and heads move independently during prey capture
- ▶ head – target, body – optimal orientation for capture
- ▶ until now it was assumed – these target-locking head motions were performed reactively
- ▶ with dragonflies moving their head to re-centre the prey

Research

- ▶ Mischiati *et al.* – extremely accurate high-speed measurements of prey position, and of dragonfly head and body orientation
- ▶ only in controlled, indoor setting – dragonflies typically refuse to chase prey
- ▶ → indoor flight arena, complete with backdrops of natural scenery and lighting (sunny day)
- ▶ quantified the movements of dragonflies and prey
- ▶ calculated how the image of the prey moved across the dragonfly's eyes (as the result of the movements of both parties)

Result

- ▶ dragonfly's head motions are remarkably effective at cancelling out the large image drift across the eye that would have resulted from its own body rotations and the prey's anticipated motion
- ▶ prey image remains within a few degrees of the dragonfly's visual acute zone (its sight is at its sharpest)
- ▶ Dragonflies must be generating predictions using internal models of how prey- and self-motion will affect the location of the prey image on their eyes, and moving their heads to compensate before image drift occurs.

Laboratory studies

- ▶ used either slow, laboratory-reared fruit flies – rarely take evasive action, or artificial prey undergoing a single change in speed
- ▶ results indicate that most manoeuvres relate to the dragonfly's pre-choreographed capture strategies – in the wild, dragonflies must contend with prey that behave more unexpectedly

Broadly

- ▶ open up new avenues for exploring the mechanistic basis of complex behaviours involving both predictive and reactive control
- ▶ the brain can align its internal predictions with an appropriate reaction when reality deviates from expectations
- ▶ had previously been demonstrated only in vertebrates
- ▶ dragonflies – accessible neural circuitry – for measurements of behaviour and neural activity (free flight)
- ▶ opportunity for conducting detailed, mechanistic studies of the neural circuits – underlie complex behaviours



Thank you for your attention