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# Preservation of Mitochondrial Enzymes in Brain and Muscle in Reye's Syndrome

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I appreciate Dr. Partin's concern over the possible interpretation of the results published in *Pediatric Research* 12: 1045 (1978). These biochemical measurements do not rule out the possibility that a small number of mitochondria are damaged and compromised in the same way as the mitochondria in the liver. Neither do these measurements give any indication of the amount of mitochondrial damage present. Measurement of the total enzyme activity on a tissue basis tells us that brain and muscle mitochondria do not suffer the general fate as their counterparts in liver, *i.e.*, loss of enzyme activity. A subpopulation of mitochondria within brain or muscle might suffer the same fate as the liver mitochondria in Reye's syndrome. However, only combined microscopic and biochemical evidence could prove this to be so.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

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