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Author	青山, 由利(Aoyama, Yuri) 吉田, 雄三(Yoshida, Yuzo) 園田, よし子(Sonoda, Yoshiko) 佐藤, 良博(Sato, Yoshihiro)
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**7-Oxo-24,25-dihydrolanosterol: a novel lanosterol 14 $\alpha$ -demethylase  
P-450<sub>14DM</sub> inhibitor which blocks electron transfer  
to the oxyferro intermediate\***

Yuri AOYAMA,\*\* Yuzo YOSHIDA,\*\* Yoshiko SONODA,  
and Yoshihiro SATO

青山由利, 吉田雄三, 園田よし子, 佐藤良博

7-Oxo-24,25-dihydrolanosterol (3 $\beta$ -hydroxy-8-lanosten-7-one, 7-oxo-DHL) was a potent competitive inhibitor for lanosterol 14 $\alpha$ -demethylase (cytochrome P-450<sub>14DM</sub>) of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Affinity of 7-oxo-DHL for the enzyme was more than 50-times higher than those of the inherent substrates, lanosterol and 24,25-dihydrolanosterol. 7-Oxo-DHL accelated NADPH-dependent reduction of cytochrome P-450<sub>14DM</sub> in the reconstituted system consisting of the cytochrome and NADPH-cytochrome P-450 reductase. These observations indicated that 7-oxo-DHL interacted with the substrate site of cytochrome P-450<sub>14DM</sub>. However, 7-oxo-DHL was not metabolized by the reconstituted system. Incubation of 7-oxo-DHL with the reconstituted system caused accumulation of oxyferro intermediate of cytochrome P-450<sub>14DM</sub>. It can thus be concluded that 7-oxo-DHL interfered with electron transfer to the oxyferro intermediate of the cytochrome, though it stimulated reduction of the heme iron. So far as we know, 7-oxo-DHL is the first example of a cytochrome P-450 inhibitor which selectively interferes with the electron transfer to oxyferro intermediate. 7 $\alpha$ -Hydroxy-24,25-dihydrolanosterol was also a competitive inhibitor of cytochrome P-450<sub>14DM</sub>. However, this compound was metabolized by the reconstituted system and could not block the electron transfer to oxyferro intermediate. 11-Oxo-24,25-dihydrolanosterol, an isomer of 7-oxo-DHL, did not have such inhibitory effects. These lines of evidence suggest a possibility that the keto group at C-7 of lanost-8-ene skeleton may interact with a certain site of cytochrome P-450<sub>14DM</sub> which has an important role in the electron transfer to oxyferro intermediate.

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\*\* 武庫川女子大学, 薬学部.