

Comparative Efficacy of TR-701 (Prodrug of Terezolid), Vancomycin (Vanco) and Daptomycin (Dapto) in a Rabbit Model of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Endocarditis

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Abstract

Background: Terezolid (TR-700), the active metabolite of the prodrug TR-701 (TOR), is an investigational oxazolidinone that is 8-10x more potent than linezolid against *S. aureus* in vitro. To determine whether this potency translates into a bactericidal effect in vivo TOR was compared to Vanco and Dapto in a rabbit model of aortic valve endocarditis caused by the MRSA strain COL.

Methods: A catheter was positioned across the aortic valve of the rabbit and left in place. 48h later infection was established by IV injection of 10⁷ CFU of COL (MICs of 0.125 mg/L, 1mg/L and 1mg/L for TR-700, Vanco and Dapto respectively). ~18 h later untreated controls were sacrificed and remaining rabbits were treated either with TOR (15 mg/kg IV bid), Vanco (30 mg/kg IV bid) or Dapto (18 mg/kg IV once daily) for 4 days. Rabbits were sacrificed the following day and vegetations, spleen and kidney were quantitatively cultured.

Results: Mean plasma concentrations (mg/L) at 1h were 9.7±1.8 (TR-700), 34±10 (Vanco) and 93±13 (Dapto) and at 9h were 5.8±2.2 (TR-700). Mean±SD log₁₀ CFU/g tissues were as follows:

Tissues	Treatment Groups			
	Control (n=9)	TOR (n=14)	Vanco (n=16)	Dapto (n=16)
Vegetation	7.7±1.2	6.0±2.0	5.5±2.6	3.5±2.6
Spleen	4.6±0.7	3.0±1.4	3.2±1.5	2.3±1.5
Kidney	3.5±1.3	2.5±1.1	2.6±1.2	2.2±1.0

TOR significantly decreased the numbers of bacteria in each target tissue compared to untreated control (p<0.05). Dapto was more effective than TOR in reducing cfu in (p=0.05). TOR, Vanco and Dapto were similarly effective in reducing cfu in spleens and kidneys.

Conclusion: The efficacy of TOR was comparable to that of Vanco, each producing about a 2 log₁₀ cfu/g kill, and slightly less than that of Dapto in the model.

Objective

The purpose of these studies was to determine whether Terezolid (TR-700), the active metabolite of the prodrug TR-701 (TOR) that is 8-10 x more potent in vitro than linezolid, has bactericidal activity against *S. aureus* in vivo

TOR was compared to two standard agents, Vanco and Dapto, in a rabbit model of aortic valve endocarditis

Methods

Microbiology

- COL, a homogeneous highly methicillin-resistant strain, was used to establish infection
- MICs were determined according CLSI guidelines

Treatment Regimen

- Antibiotic regimens were given IV for 4 days:
 - TR-701: 15mg/kg twice daily
 - Vancomycin: 30 mg/kg twice daily
 - Daptomycin: 18 mg/kg once daily
- Antibiotics were started 16-18h after infection
- Blood was obtained 1h (all drugs) and 9h (TR-701 dosed animals only) after IV injection to determine serum concentrations
- All animals were sacrificed at day 5; vegetations, spleens and kidneys were quantitatively cultured

Endocarditis Model

- 2.5-3 kg New Zealand White male rabbits
- Endocarditis was established by standard method
- 48h post-surgery, a 1ml suspension of 3.7x10⁷ (±1.9) CFU of MRSA strain COL was injected intravenously
- 16h-18h after infection, untreated controls were sacrificed and the hearts, spleens and kidneys were harvested to determine pretreatment bacterial counts

Statistical Analysis

- Results were expressed as log₁₀ cfu/g of tissue
- The lower limit of detection was 1 CFU/tissue sample weight in grams
- Statistical analysis was determined by student's paired t-test without adjustments for multiple comparisons.

Results

Vegetation Titers

Treatment	Mean Organism Titer (log ₁₀ CFU/g) ± SD	P value for the comparison btw TOR and other groups	P value for the comparison btw control and other groups
Control (n=9)	7.7 ± 1.2	0.03	ref
TOR (n=14)	6.0 ± 2.0	ref	0.03
Dapto (n=16)	3.5 ± 2.0	0.003	<0.001
Vanco (n=16)	5.5 ± 2.6	0.599	0.024

Spleen Titers

Treatment	Mean Organism Titer (log ₁₀ CFU/g) ± SD	P value for the comparison btw TOR and other groups	P value for the comparison btw control and other groups
Control (n=9)	4.6 ± 0.7	0.004	ref
TOR (n=14)	3.0 ± 1.4	ref	0.004
Dapto (n=16)	2.3 ± 1.5	0.12	<0.001
Vanco (n=16)	3.2 ± 1.5	0.743	0.013

Kidney Titers

Treatment	Mean Organism Titer (log ₁₀ CFU/g) ± SD	P value for the comparison btw TOR and other groups	P value for the comparison btw control and other groups
Control (n=9)	3.5 ± 1.3	0.066	ref
TOR (n=14)	2.5 ± 1.1	ref	0.066
Dapto (n=16)	2.2 ± 1.0	0.478	0.012
Vanco (n=16)	2.6 ± 1.2	0.767	0.109

Mean Plasma Concentration

Antibiotic	Mean Plasma Concentrations (mg/L)	
	1 hour	9 hour
Terezolid	9.7±1.8	5.8±2.2
Vancomycin	34±10	N/A
Daptomycin	93±13	N/A

Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations

Antibiotic	MIC <i>S. aureus</i> COL
Terezolid	0.125mg/L
Vancomycin	1mg/L
Daptomycin	1mg/L

Findings

TOR treatment significantly lowered the bacterial burden in vegetations compared to controls with a 1.7 log₁₀ CFU/g decrease.
 TOR was not significantly different from Vancomycin.
 Daptomycin was superior to both TOR and Vancomycin in the treatment of aortic valve endocarditis with a 2.5 and 2.0 log₁₀ decrease, respectively.

TOR treatment significantly lowered the bacterial burden in spleen compared to controls with a 1.6 log₁₀ CFU/g decrease.
 TOR was similarly effective in lowering bacterial burden in the spleen compared to Daptomycin and Vancomycin.

TOR treatment significantly lowered the bacterial burden in kidneys compared to controls with a 1.0 log₁₀ CFU/g decrease.
 TOR, Daptomycin and Vancomycin were similarly effective in reducing CFU in the kidneys.

Conclusion

Daptomycin was the most effective antibiotic in reducing bacterial counts in vegetations.

TOR, Daptomycin, and Vancomycin were similarly effective in reducing bacterial counts in the spleen and kidneys.

TOR was as effective as Vancomycin.

Doses used produced serum concentrations of terezolid projected to be similar to an 800 mg twice daily oral dose in humans.