

Pharmacodynamics of nitrofurantoin against pathogens involved in urinary tract infections

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Introduction

Urinary tract infections are one of the most common human infections. Due to the progressive increase of ESBL producing bacteria and the unavailability of new antibiotics, re-evaluation of “old” antibiotics is needed to establish PK/PD relationships, optimization of dose and duration of nitrofurantoin therapy

Aim of the study

To determine the basic PD properties of nitrofurantoin against *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae* and *E. cloacae* by in vitro time-kill assays

Methods

Strains

▪ Nine ESBL producing strains (6 *E. coli*, 2 *K. pneumoniae*, 1 *E. cloacae*) and one ESBL negative *E. cloacae* strain with nitrofurantoin MICs 8-32 mg/L.

Antibiotic and susceptibility testing

▪ Nitrofurantoin (CAS 67-20-9), solvent N,N-dimethylformamide, MIC determined by broth microdilution (ISO).

Time-Kill assay and Analysis

- Exposure to two- or four-fold concentrations ranging from 0.125 to 16 times the MIC, incubation in dark at 37 °C for 24h.
- The kill rate (\log_{10} CFU/ML \times h⁻¹) was determined by log-linear regression analysis for the time interval of 1 until 6 hours.
- A sigmoidal *Emax* model with variable slope was fitted the kill rate-drug concentration data and the PD parameters (max kill rate, Hill slope, concentration corresponding to 50% of maximal killing- EC50) were determined for each strain.

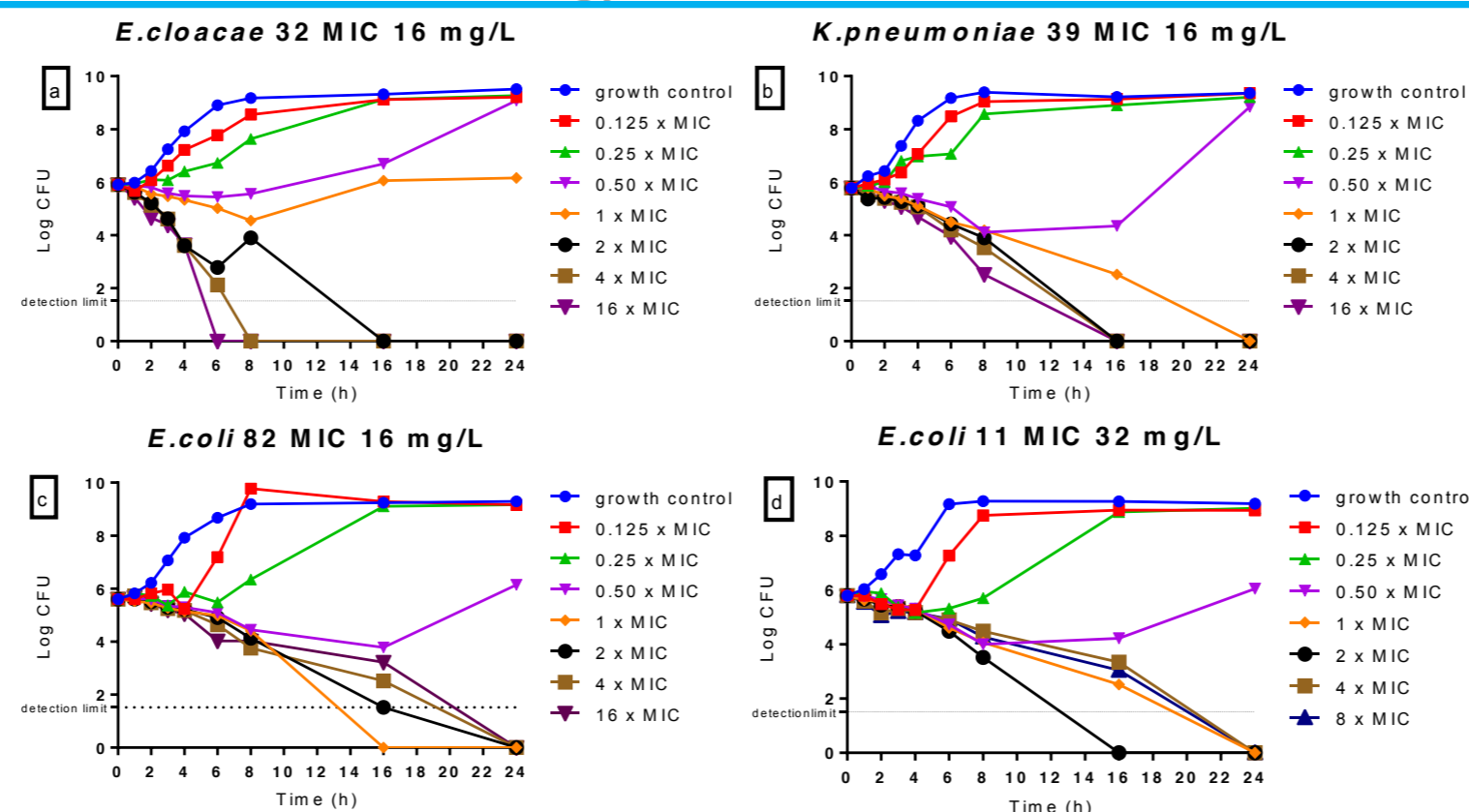


Figure 1. Growth curves of nitrofurantoin against various strains of *E. cloacae*, *K. pneumoniae* and *E. coli*. Cell viability (Log CFU) plotted for cultures grown at different concentrations of nitrofurantoin relative to strain-specific MICs. CFU: colony forming units.

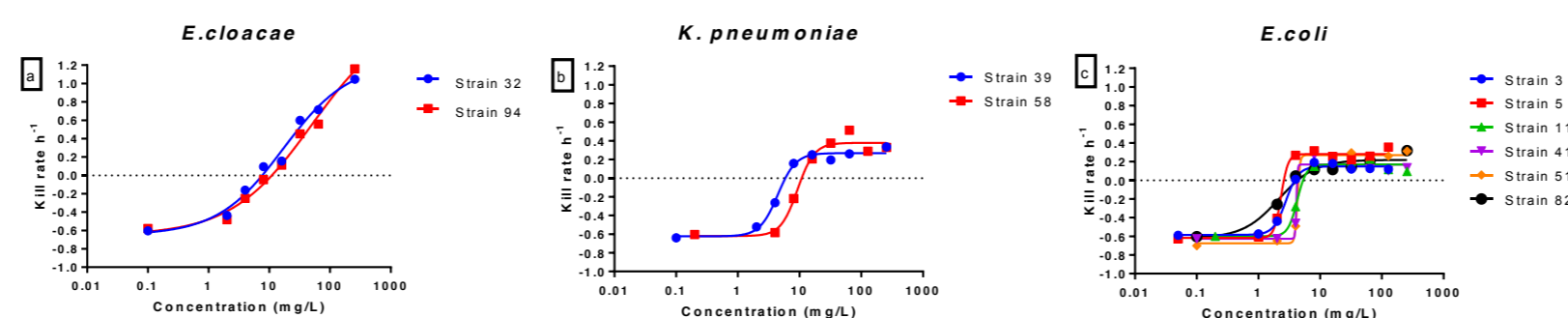


Figure 2. Best fitted sigmoid curves obtained from sigmoid maximum effect (*Emax*) model for *E. cloacae*, *K. pneumoniae* and *E. coli* exposed to nitrofurantoin between 1-6 hours.

Table 1: Parameter estimates, *Emax*, 50 % effective concentration (EC50), Hill's slope and R² derived from sigmoidal maximum effect model.

Species	<i>E. cloacae</i>		<i>K. pneumoniae</i>		<i>E. coli</i>					
	Strain 94	Strain 32	Strain 58	Strain 39	Strain 82	Strain 51	Strain 41	Strain 11	Strain 5	Strain 3
MIC (mg/L)	16	16	32	16	16	16	16	32	8	8
Max killrate (h ⁻¹)	1.76	1.23	0.38	0.27	0.22	0.27	0.17	0.17	0.28	0.15
Species max killrate mean ± SD	1.49 ± 0.27		0.32 ± 0.05		0.21 ± 0.05					
Hill slope	0.65	0.81	3.19	2.97	1.49	21.32	45.67	5.80	7.72	4.26
Species Hill slope mean ± SD	0.73 ± 0.076		3.08 ± 0.11		14.38 ± 15.35					
EC50 (mg/l)	50.21	16.84	9.27	4.43	2.15	4.28	4.12	4.25	2.33	2.79
Species EC50 mean ± SD	33.53 ± 16.69		6.85 ± 2.42		3.32 ± 0.92					
R ²	0.989	0.986	0.977	0.990	0.962	0.995	0.979	0.976	0.991	0.993

Results

- Complete killing was observed after 16h for 2-16 x MIC for *E. cloacae* and *K. pneumoniae* but not for *E. coli*. Regrowth occurred after initial killing in all experiments for 0.50 x MIC (Fig. 1).
- Different killing patterns among the different species
 - In *E. coli* a maximal kill observed at relative low concentrations in a concentration independent manner (time dependent → β -lactam like) (Fig. 1C and D).
 - In *E. cloacae* concentration dependent killing was found (Fig. 1A).
- The highest killing rate was observed against *E. cloacae* followed by *K. pneumoniae* and *E. coli* (Fig. 2 and Table 1).
- The antibiotic concentration corresponding to 50% of maximal effect was lower in *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae* and higher in *E. cloacae* (Table 1).

Conclusion

- Nitrofurantoin was bactericidal against all species.
- High killing rates were observed against *E. cloacae* strains. The lowest killing rates were observed for *E. coli* strains.
- Kill patterns differed among species.
 - Time-dependent vs. concentration-dependent killing
- The species-dependent pharmacodynamic differences may have consequences on dosing frequencies against different pathogens.

Acknowledgments

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