

Antimicrobial Activity of Cefotibiprole Tested against Staphylococci and Streptococci from European Countries and Israel (2013)

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To evaluate the *in vitro* activity of the newly approved parenteral broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent cefotibiprole medocartil against contemporary staphylococci and streptococci from Europe and Israel. Cefotibiprole medocartil was approved in 12 European Union countries (October 2013) for the treatment of hospital-acquired pneumonia (excluding ventilator-associated pneumonia) and community-acquired pneumonia in adults.

Methods: The activity of cefotibiprole (active form of the prodrug cefotibiprole medocartil) and comparator agents were evaluated against 2,507 staphylococci, 1,121 streptococci, and 673 enterococci. Clinically relevant isolates were collected from patients at 39 medical centres in 17 European countries and Israel from a variety of infection sites to include bloodstream, respiratory, skin and soft tissue, urinary and others. Cefotibiprole and comparator agents were susceptibility tested according Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute guidelines using validated dry-form broth microdilution panels. Quality control organisms were tested concurrently with clinical isolates and results were within published limits. EUCAST interpretive criteria were applied according to current guidelines.

Results: Cefotibiprole was active against *S. aureus* with a MIC_{50/90} at 0.5/1 mg/L (99.9% susceptible, EUCAST criteria), respectively. For MSSA the MIC_{50/90} were 0.25/0.5, respectively (100.0% susceptible). For MRSA the MIC_{50/90} were 1/2 mg/L, respectively (99.6% susceptible). For coagulase-negative staphylococci the MIC_{50/90} were 1/4 mg/L, respectively with 88.6% of isolates at ≤2 mg/L. Cefotibiprole was active against *Enterococcus faecalis* (MIC_{50/90}, 0.5/4 mg/L) but not active against *E. faecium* (MIC_{50/90}, >8/>8 mg/L). Cefotibiprole was active against β-hemolytic streptococci with the highest MIC at 0.06 mg/L (MIC_{50/90}, 0.015/0.03 mg/L, respectively). Susceptibility to cefotibiprole for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* was 100.0% (MIC_{50/90}, 0.015/0.25 mg/L, respectively). Cefotibiprole was highly active against penicillin-resistant *S. pneumoniae* (cefotibiprole MIC_{50/90}, 0.5/0.5 mg/L, respectively). Susceptibility to ceftazidime for *S. pneumoniae* was 88.3%. All ceftazidime non-susceptible isolates of *S. pneumoniae* were susceptible to cefotibiprole (cefotibiprole MIC_{50/90}, 0.5/0.5 mg/L, respectively). Cefotibiprole was active against viridans group streptococci with a MIC_{50/90} of 0.06/0.25 mg/L, respectively.

Conclusions: Cefotibiprole was active against clinically relevant Gram-positive isolates collected at medical centres during 2013 from 17 European countries and Israel. A total of 99.9% of *S. aureus* including MRSA were susceptible to cefotibiprole. Cefotibiprole also exhibited 100.0% susceptibility against *S. pneumoniae* including isolates that were resistant to penicillin (3.1%) and non-susceptible to ceftazidime (11.7%).

INTRODUCTION

Cefotibiprole is a novel parenteral cephalosporin active against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. Its antibacterial activity is due to the ability to inhibit penicillin binding proteins (PBPs). Cefotibiprole has shown potent inhibition of PBPs from Gram-positive bacteria including those with decreased affinity to other β-lactams such as PBP2a in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and PBP2X in penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Against *E. coli*, cefotibiprole has its greatest activity for PBP3 (the primary target of cephalosporins and monobactams) and PBP2. For *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* it has a similar binding profile to ceftazidime and cefepime, but also exhibits increased binding to PBP2.

Cefotibiprole is administered as the prodrug cefotibiprole medocartil which is rapidly hydrolyzed *in vivo* to the active form, cefotibiprole. During its clinical development cefotibiprole medocartil has been studied in hospitalized community-acquired bacterial pneumonia, hospital-acquired bacterial pneumonia, and acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections. It was recently approved (October 2013) through the decentralized regulatory process in 12 European countries for the treatment of hospital-acquired pneumonia (excluding ventilator-associated pneumonia) and community-acquired pneumonia in adults. In this study, we evaluated the activity of cefotibiprole and comparator agents against a large collection of staphylococci, streptococci, and enterococci isolated from patients at 39 medical centres in 17 European countries and Israel in 2013. The aim of this study was to characterize the *in vitro* activity of cefotibiprole to produce a baseline measurement which can be used for comparison in future surveillance years.

METHODS

Clinically relevant isolates (1 per patient episode) were collected during 2013 from patients at 39 medical centres in 17 European countries and Israel. Isolates were collected from a variety of infection types to include bloodstream, respiratory, skin and soft tissue, urinary and others. More than 4,300 *S. aureus*, coagulase negative staphylococci (CoNS), β-haemolytic streptococci, *S. pneumoniae*, and viridans group streptococci were obtained.

Susceptibility testing was performed by reference broth microdilution (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; CLSI) to determine the antimicrobial susceptibility of cefotibiprole and comparator agents. Validated MIC panels were manufactured by ThermoFisher Inc., formerly TREK Diagnostics (Cleveland, Ohio, USA). *S. aureus* and *Enterococcus* spp. strains were tested in cation-adjusted Mueller-Hinton broth (CA-MHB). Streptococci were tested in CA-MHB supplemented with 2.5-5% lysed horse blood (M07-A9, 2012). Quality control (QC) testing was performed concurrently to assure proper test conditions and procedures. MIC QC strains included *S. aureus* ATCC 29213 and *S. pneumoniae* ATCC 49619. MIC QC results were within the published CLSI ranges. Susceptibility interpretive criteria were based on the CLSI guideline (M100-S24) and EUCAST (2014). Cefotibiprole interpretive criteria were based on information in the Zeftera summary of product characteristics (EMA).

RESULTS

The cefotibiprole MIC_{50/90} was 0.5/1 mg/L for *S. aureus* (MIC range, 0.015-4 mg/L; Tables 1 and 2). A total of 99.9% of isolates were inhibited at a MIC of ≤2 mg/L (99.9% susceptible). Cefotibiprole was four-fold more active against MSSA (MIC_{50/90}, 0.25/0.5 mg/L) than MRSA (MIC_{50/90}, 1/2 mg/L; Tables 1 and 2). All MSSA and 99.6% of MRSA (2 isolates with a MIC at 4 mg/L) exhibited a MIC at ≤2 mg/L. There was 100.0% susceptibility to vancomycin and daptomycin (Table 2). There was one MRSA that was linezolid-resistant. A total of 1.7% of MRSA and 0.1% of MSSA were resistant to trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (Table 2). 87.7% of MRSA and 3.9% of MSSA were resistant to levofloxacin. Against CoNS, cefotibiprole exhibited a MIC_{50/90} of 1/4 mg/L (Tables 1 and 2). A total of 85.8% of methicillin-resistant CoNS and all methicillin-susceptible CoNS were inhibited at a MIC ≤2 mg/L (Table 1).

Cefotibiprole MIC values were lower against penicillin-susceptible (Pen-S, ≤0.06 mg/L) than for penicillin-resistant (Pen-R; MIC ≥2 mg/L) *S. pneumoniae* isolates (cefotibiprole MIC_{50/90}, 0.008/0.015 and 0.5/0.5 mg/L, respectively; Table 1). Against pneumococci, cefotibiprole (MIC_{50/90}, 0.015/0.25 mg/L) was four-fold more active than ceftazidime (MIC_{50/90}, ≤0.06/1 mg/L) and cefepime (MIC_{50/90}, ≤0.5/1 mg/L; Table 3). A total of 29.3% of Pen-R strains and 3.1% of all strains were non-susceptible to ceftazidime (CLSI criteria); 94.8 and 11.7%, respectively by EUCAST criteria. All *S. pneumoniae* isolates, regardless of penicillin or ceftazidime susceptibility status, were susceptible to cefotibiprole. The MIC_{50/90} values for cefotibiprole against ceftazidime non-susceptible *S. pneumoniae* (MIC ≥1 mg/L) isolates were both at 0.5 mg/L (Table 1).

Cefotibiprole was active against β-haemolytic and viridans group streptococci with MIC_{50/90} values of 0.015/0.03 and 0.06/0.25 mg/L, respectively (Tables 1 and 3). All β-haemolytic streptococci MIC values for cefotibiprole were ≤0.06 mg/L and 99.4% of viridans group streptococci were inhibited at a MIC ≤1 mg/L (Table 1).

Cefotibiprole was inactive against *E. faecium* (MIC_{50/90} at >8/>8 mg/L) but demonstrated activity against *E. faecalis* (MIC_{50/90} at 0.5/4 mg/L; Tables 1 and 4). A total of 95.0% of *E. faecalis* isolates were inhibited by cefotibiprole at a MIC of ≤4 mg/L (Table 1).

CONCLUSIONS

Cefotibiprole, approved in October 2013 through the decentralized regulatory process in Europe, is a parenteral broad-spectrum anti-MRSA cephalosporin with Gram-negative activity that demonstrated potent activity against a large collection of clinically relevant isolates of staphylococcal, streptococcal, and enterococcal species from patients in 39 medical centres in 17 European countries and Israel. Included in the spectrum of cefotibiprole *in vitro* activity were *S. aureus* including MRSA, CoNS, *S. pneumoniae* including penicillin- and ceftazidime non-susceptible *S. pneumoniae*, β-haemolytic streptococci, and viridans streptococci.

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Table 1. Summary of cefotibiprole activity tested against staphylococci and streptococci from European medical centres (2013).

Organism (no. tested)	No. of organisms (cumulative %) inhibited at cefotibiprole MIC in mg/L of:																	
	≤0.004	0.008	0.015	0.03	0.06	0.12	0.25	0.5	1	2	4	8	>8	MIC ₅₀	MIC ₉₀			
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (2,033)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.2)	5 (0.4)	868 (43.1)	730 (79.0)	272 (82.4)	152 (99.9)	2 (100.0)	–	–	–	0.5	1		
MSSA (1,554)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.1)	0 (0.1)	3 (0.3)	5 (0.6)	868 (65.4)	878 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.25	0.5	
MRSA (479)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.4)	101 (11.1)	272 (87.8)	152 (99.6)	2 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	1	2	
Coagulase-negative staphylococci (474)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.2)	0 (0.2)	9 (2.1)	36 (9.7)	66 (23.6)	154 (45.6)	151 (77.4)	53 (98.6)	53 (99.8)	1 (100.0)	–	–	–	1	4	
MSCoNS (95)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.1)	0 (1.1)	9 (10.5)	33 (45.3)	50 (97.9)	2 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.25	0.25	
MRCoNS (379)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.8)	16 (5.0)	102 (31.9)	151 (71.8)	83 (58.8)	53 (99.7)	1 (100.0)	–	–	–	1	4	
<i>Enterococcus</i> spp. (893)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.1)	0 (0.1)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.4)	12 (2.2)	112 (18.3)	182 (44.8)	22 (47.8)	49 (54.8)	27 (68.7)	17 (81.2)	269 (100.0)	2	–	–	>8	
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> (403)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.3)	0 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	12 (3.0)	111 (31.0)	179 (75.4)	19 (80.1)	37 (89.3)	23 (85.0)	17 (99.3)	2 (100.0)	–	–	–	0.25	0.5
<i>Enterococcus faecium</i> (280)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.7)	9 (3.9)	4 (6.4)	285 (100.0)	2	–	–	>8	
Beta-haemolytic streptococci (396)	4 (1.0)	189 (47.8)	68 (65.9)	134 (99.7)	1 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.015	0.03
Group A <i>Streptococcus</i> (149)	3 (2.0)	129 (86.6)	13 (97.3)	4 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.008	0.015
Group B <i>Streptococcus</i> (168)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	38 (22.6)	129 (99.4)	1 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.03	0.03
other streptococci (79)	1 (1.3)	60 (77.2)	17 (98.7)	1 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.008	0.015
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> (548)	12 (2.2)	245 (46.9)	173 (78.5)	20 (82.1)	13 (84.5)	7 (85.8)	44 (83.8)	34 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.015	0.25
Pen-S (MIC, ≤0.06 mg/L; 408)	11 (2.7)	239 (61.3)	150 (98.0)	6 (99.3)	2 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.015	0.015
Pen-R (MIC, 0.12–1 mg/L; 82)	1 (1.2)	6 (8.5)	23 (36.8)	14 (53.7)	11 (67.1)	7 (75.6)	20 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.03	0.25
Pen-R (MIC, ≥2 mg/L; 58)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	24 (41.4)	34 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.5	0.5
Pen-S (MIC, ≤2 mg/L; 531)	12 (2.3)	245 (46.4)	173 (81.0)	20 (84.7)	13 (87.2)	7 (88.5)	42 (96.4)	19 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.015	0.25
Pen-R (MIC, 4 mg/L; 17)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (11.8)	15 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.5	0.5
CRoNS (MIC, ≥1 mg/L; 64)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	30 (46.9)	34 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.5	0.5
CRoNS (MIC, 2 mg/L; 17)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (23.5)	13 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.5	0.5
Viridans group streptococci (177)	1 (0.6)	13 (7.9)	35 (27.7)	27 (42.9)	31 (60.5)	44 (85.3)	14 (83.2)	3 (94.3)	8 (99.4)	0 (99.4)	0 (99.4)	1 (100.0)	–	–	–	–	0.06	0.25

Table 2. Activity of cefotibiprole and comparator antimicrobial agents when tested against staphylococci from European medical centres (2013).

Organism group (no. tested)/ antimicrobial agent	MIC (mg/L)			%SusC / %Resistant	EUCAST ^a
	50%	90%	Range		
All <i>S. aureus</i> (2,033)	0.5	1	0.015–4	-/-	99.9/0.1
Cefotibiprole	0.5	1	0.015–4	-/-	99.9/0.1
Oxacillin	0.5	>2	≤0.25–>2	76.4/23.6	76.4/23.6
Daptomycin	0.25	0.5	≤0.06–1	100.0/0.0	100.0/0.0
Levofloxacin	0.25	>4	≤0.12–>4	75.8/23.7	75.8/23.7
Linezolid	1	1	≤0.12–8	>99.9/0.1	>99.9/0.1
Tetracycline	0.25	0.25	0.06–>32	94.3/5.1	93.9/5.8
Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole	≤0.5	≤0.5	≤0.5–>4	95.5/0.5	95.5/0.4
Vancomycin	1	1	≤0.12–2	100.0/0.0	100.0/0.0
MRSA (479)	1	2	0.25–4	-/-	99.6/0.4
Cefotibiprole	1	2	0.25–4	-/-	99.6/0.4
Daptomycin	0.25	0.5	0.12–1	100.0/0.0	100.0/0.0
Levofloxacin	>4	>4	≤0.12–>4	11.3/87.7	11.3/87.7
Linezolid	1	1	≤0.12–8	99.8/0.2	99.8/0.2
Tetracycline	0.25	2	0.06–>32	95.9/4.8	95.9/4.8
Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole	≤0.5	≤0.5	≤0.5–>4	98.3/1.7	98.3/1.7
Vancomycin	0.5	1	0.25–2	100.0/0.0	100.0/0.0
MSSA (1,554)	0.25	0.5	0.015–0.5	-/-	100.0/0.0
Cefotibiprole	0.25	0.5	0.015–0.5	-/-	100.0/0.0
Daptomycin	0.25	0.5	0.06–1	100.0/0.0	100.0/0.0
Levofloxacin	0.25	0.25	0.12–>4	95.9/3.9	95.9/3.9
Linezolid	1	1	0.25–2	100.0/0.0	100.0/0.0
Tetracycline	0.12	0.25	0.06–>32	95.5/4.1	95.2/4.6
Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole	≤0.5	≤0.5	≤0.5–>4	99.0/1.0	99.0/1.0
Vancomycin	1	1	≤0.12–2	100.0/0.0	100.0/0.0
CoNS (474)	1	4	0.015–8	-/-	-/-
Cefotibiprole	1	2	0.25–>2	20.0/80.0	20.0/80.0
Oxacillin	>2	>2	≤0.25–>2	20.0/80.0	20.0/80.0
Daptomycin	0.25	0.5	0.06–4	99.6/0.4	99.6/0.4
Levofloxacin	4	>4	≤0.1		