

# Drugs inside: intracellular penetration

**Antonio D'Avolio**

**Unit of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medical Sciences,  
University of Turin, Amedeo di Savoia Hospital, Turin, Italy**

**10<sup>TH</sup> RESIDENTIAL COURSE ON CLINICAL  
PHARMACOLOGY OF ANTIRETROVIRALS**



**21-22-23 January 2015**

2005

2006

2007

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014



# **TDM: search for better PK-PD markers the « quest of the GRAAL »**

- Since the years '70, permanent search for optimal marker of efficacy/toxicity e.g.:
  - Plasma, whole blood, free vs total fraction
  - Sampling time: Cmin, C2, Cmax, full AUC ...
- Progress in pharmacokinetics
  - Mathematics: Pop PK, Bayesian estimates, short AUC,...
- Pharmacogenetics (SNPs):
  - Biotransformation enzymes
  - Drug transporters
- Progress in analytical methods (automation, LC-MSMS, MALDI, SIMS ...)

# Utility of intracellular concentrations



May be only a speculative issue?

nature publishing group

REVIEW

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS | VOLUME 93 NUMBER 3 | MARCH 2013

## Intracellular Drug Concentrations

CT Dollery<sup>1</sup>

Many drug targets are intracellular. To access them, a drug molecule must pass through the cell membrane, a process often facilitated or impeded by transporters. Once in the cytoplasm, basic molecules may become concentrated in organelles. To predict the pharmacologic effect accurately, there must be data concerning the concentration at the target, which is difficult to measure. Techniques that combine mass spectrometry and imaging techniques (matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization, secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS), and nanoSIMS) have promise in addressing this problem.

Modified from *Pr Pierre Wallemacq*,

# Utility of intracellular concentrations

the topic is interesting and recently it is being developed

REVIEW ARTICLE

Clin Pharmacokinet 2010; 49 (1): 17-45  
0312-5963/10/0001-0017/\$49.95/0

© 2010 Adis Data Information BV. All rights reserved.

## Intracellular Pharmacokinetics of Antiretroviral Drugs in HIV-Infected Patients, and their Correlation with Drug Action

Caroline Bazzoli,<sup>1,2</sup> Vincent Jullien,<sup>3,4,5</sup> Clotilde Le Tiec,<sup>6</sup> Elisabeth Rey,<sup>3,4,5</sup> France Mentre<sup>1,2</sup> and Anne-Marie Taburet<sup>6</sup>



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jpba](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jpba)



Review

Therapeutic drug monitoring of intracellular anti-infective agents<sup>☆</sup>

Antonio D'Avolio<sup>\*</sup>, Debora Pensi, Lorena Baietto, Giovanni Di Perri

Laboratory of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacogenetic, Unit of Infectious Diseases, University of Turin, Department of Medical Sciences, Amedeo di Savoia Hospital, Turin, Italy

# SITE OF ACTION OF ACTUAL ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS

Class	Target	Site of Action	N° drugs	
N(t)RTI	Reverse Transcriptase	Intracellular	9	26
NNRTI	Reverse Transcriptase	Intracellular	5	
PI	Protease	Intracellular	9	
II	Integrase	Intracellular	3	
FI	Gp41	Extracellular	1	2
CCR5 Antagonist	CCR5	Extracellular	1	

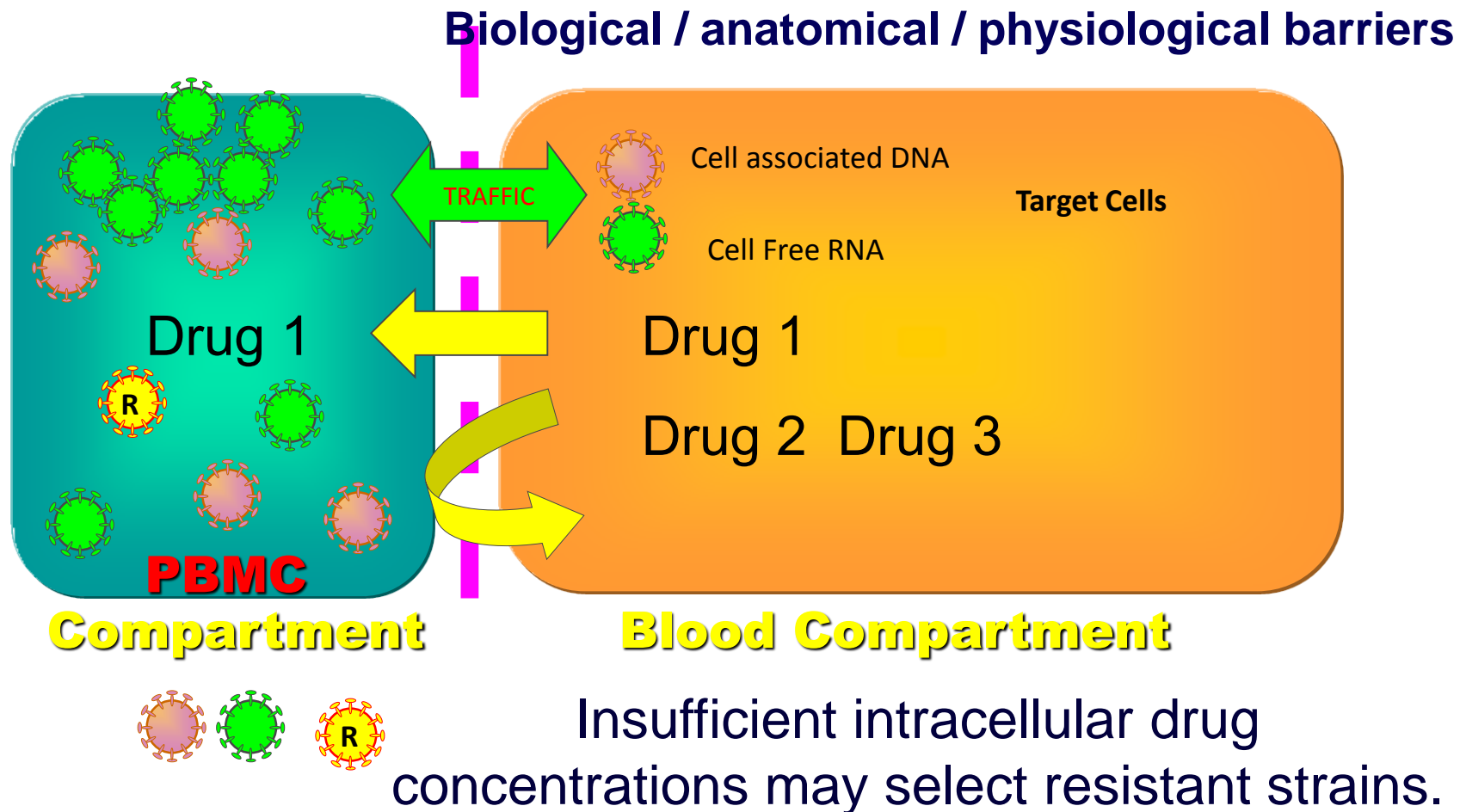
The majority of antiviral drugs act at the intracellular level  
...then intracellular PK is important!!!



U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Protecting and Promoting Your Health

# Clinical relevance - Compartmental viral evolution

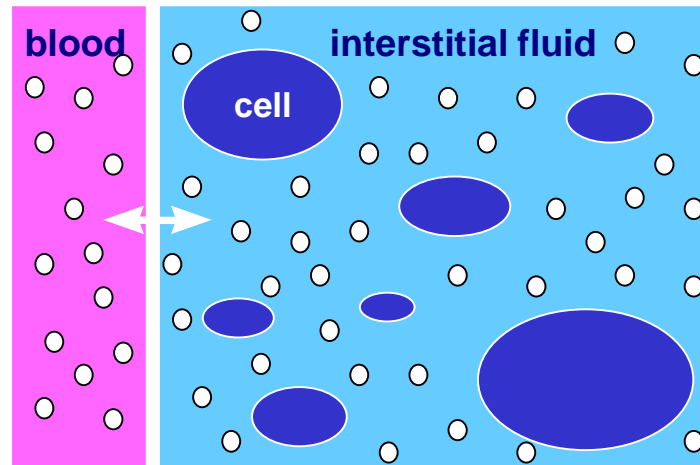
We can assume PBMC (or tissue) as a compartment, and each drug has different capacities to penetrate inside cells



## Remember compartment...

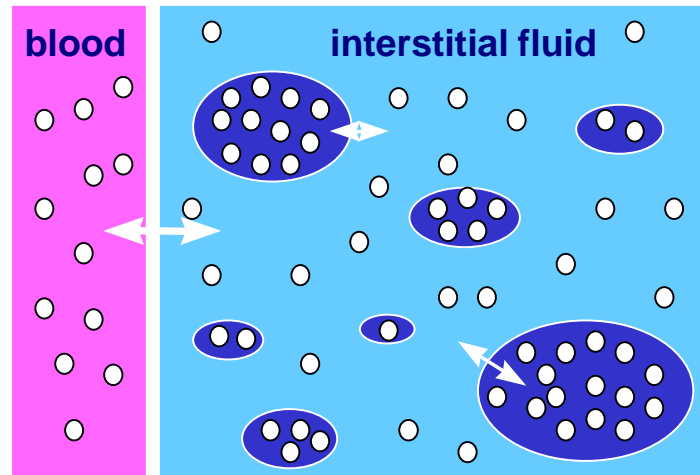
Each drug has own chemical and physical characteristics influencing passive and active diffusion (inside-outside compartments and cells).

### Hydrophilic antibiotics



**Betalactams**  
**Aminoglycosides**  
**Glycopeptides**

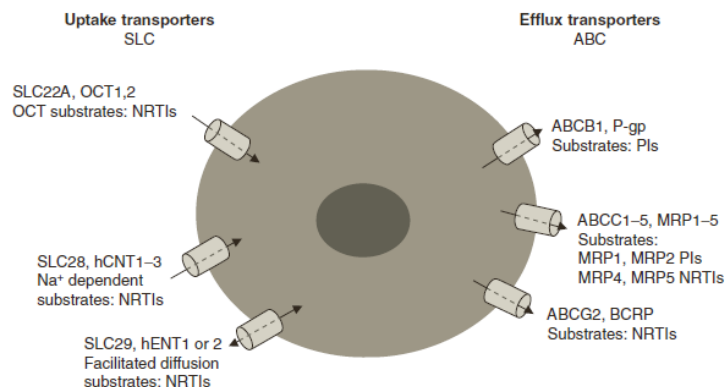
### Lipophilic antibiotics



**Macrolides**  
**Quinolones**



# Membrane transporters



Bazzoli C. et al 2010

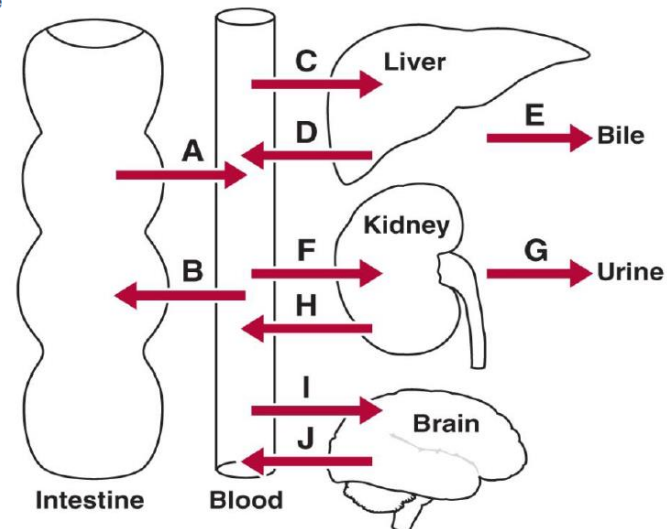
**Fig. 2.** Schematic representation of uptake and efflux transporters that may influence intracellular concentrations of antiretroviral drugs in peripheral blood cells. Transporters are named by gene and proteins (adapted from Ford et al.,<sup>[53]</sup> with permission, and updated<sup>[55-57]</sup>). **ABC** = adenosine triphosphate binding cassette; **BCRP** = breast cancer resistance protein; **hCNT** = human concentrative nucleoside transporter; **hENT** = human equilibrative nucleoside transporter; **MRP** = multidrug resistance protein; **NRTI** = nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor; **OCT** = organic cation transporters; **P-gp** = P-glycoprotein; **PI** = protease inhibitor; **SLC** = solute carrier.

**all drugs are affected by passive and active transport using several transport proteins**

Key	Process	Example Transporter
A	Intestinal Uptake	OATPs
B	Intestinal Efflux	MDR1*, BCRP
C	Hepatic Uptake	OATPs
D	Hepatic Efflux	MRP3
E	Biliary Secretion	MDR1, MRP2
F	Renal Uptake	OAT3
G	Renal Secretion	MDR1, MRP2
H	Renal Reabsorption	SVCT1
I	Brain Uptake	LAT1
J	Brain Efflux	MDR1, BCRP

**\*Commonly called P-glycoprotein**

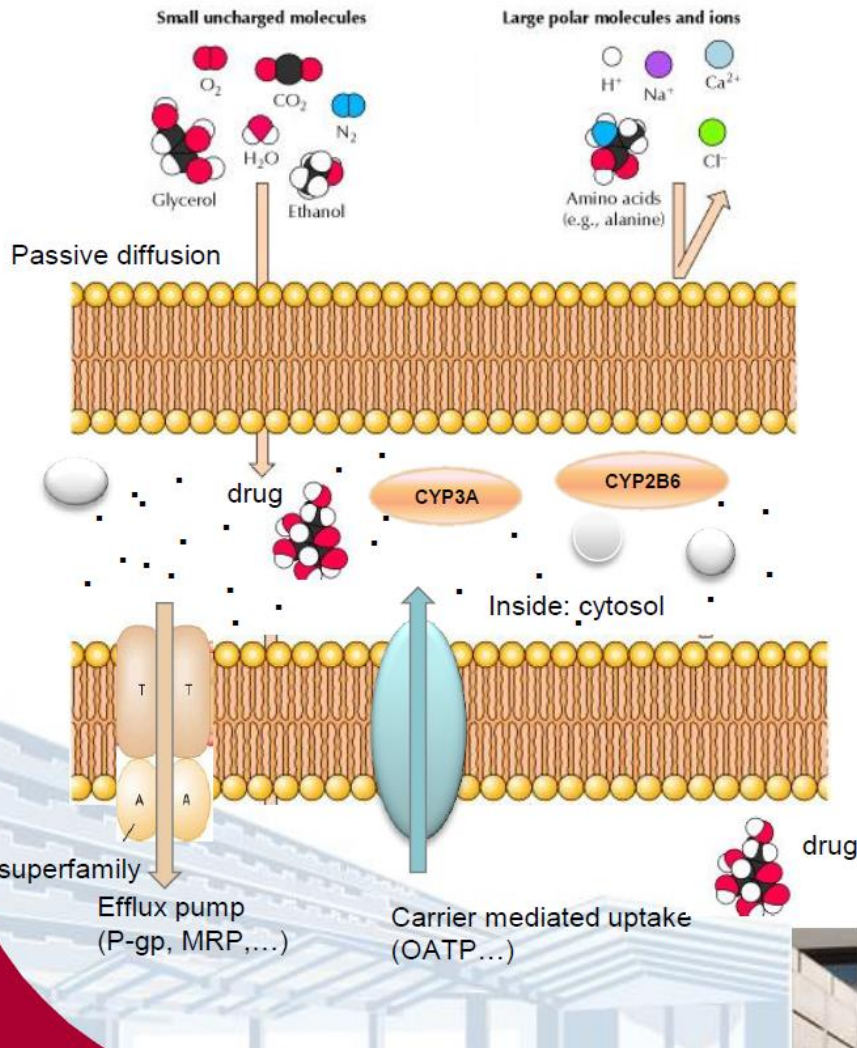
ABCB1 (P-gp efflux pump, MDR1), ABCC2 (MRP2 efflux pump)  
 BCRP (breast cancer resistance protein)  
 Organic anion transporter (OAT) P1B1, OATP1B3  
 Organic cation transporter 2



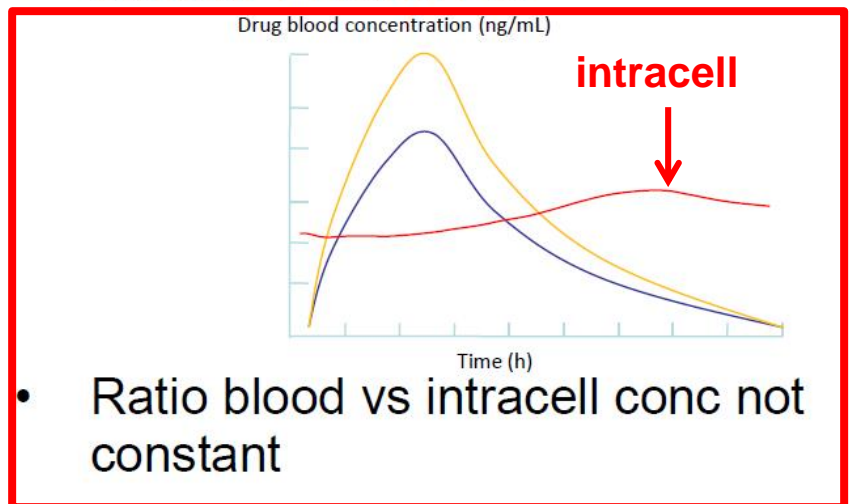
Modified from *Pr Pierre Wallemacq*,



# Drug cell entry

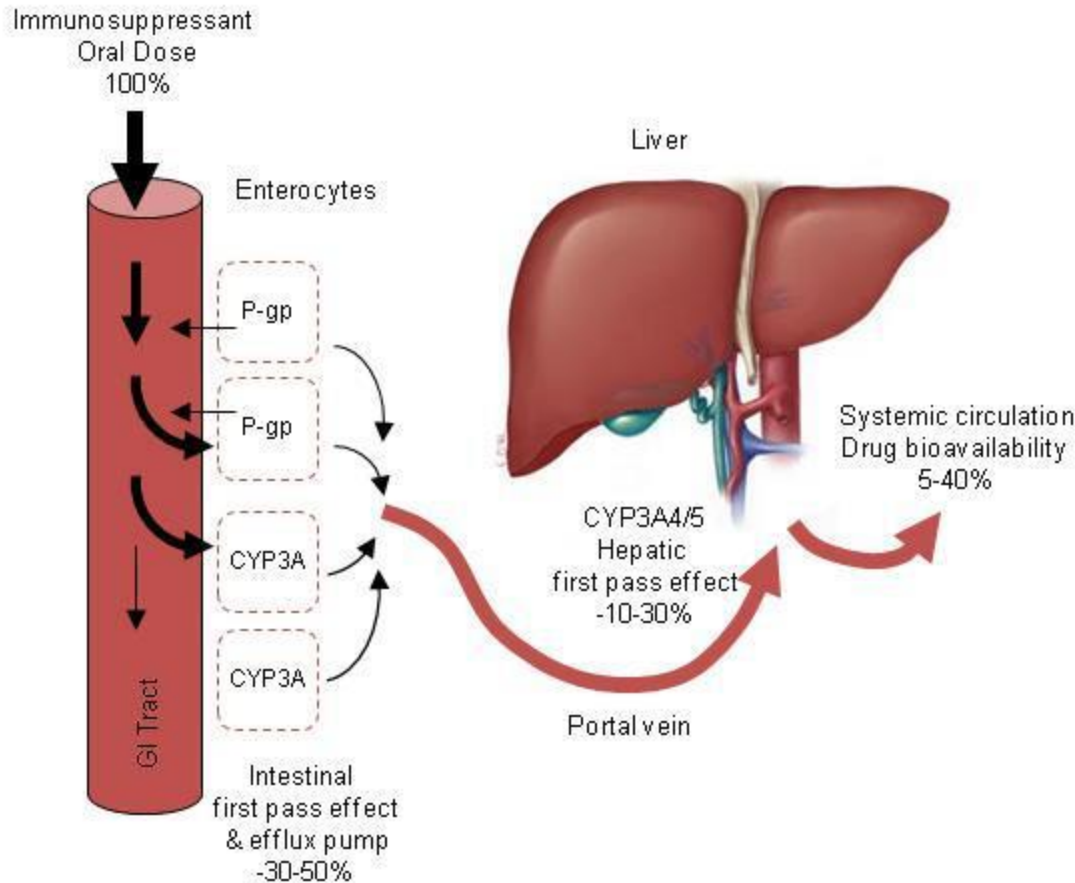


- Intracellular drug conc are regulated by passive or active processes
  - Blood or plasma free conc
  - Physicochemical factors across bilayer membranes (mw, pKa, pH, logP)
  - Carrier-mediated transport (efflux or influx pumps,...)
  - Local biotransformation (CYP)
- Cellular PK and PG



- Ratio blood vs intracell conc not constant

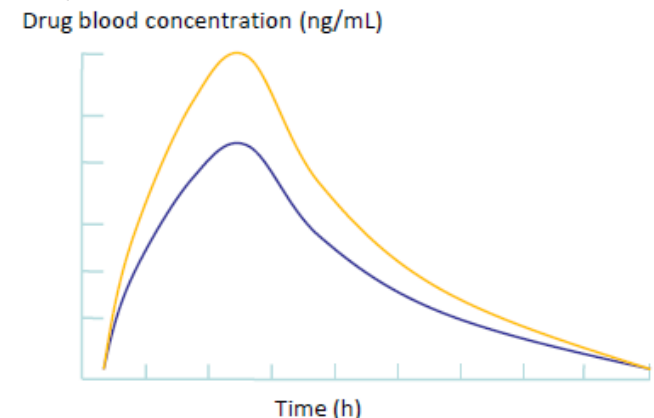
# Blood/Plasma concentration does not necessarily predict target site drug concentration



**Blood concentrations are regulated by PK and PG**

- Bioavailability (first pass effects)
- Distribution ( $f_u$ ,...)
- Drug transporters (P-gp,...)
- Biotransform enzymes (CYP3A...) and clearance
- Drug interactions

## • Typical time-conc profile



# Evaluation of intracellular drug concentrations could be very important!

## Intracellular drug concentrations

First reports for the interest of intracellular drug conc.

- Lithium in RBC in 1977 (Hisayasu GH et al, Clin Chem, 1977, 23, 41-5)
- CsA in hepatocytes in 1992 (Sandborn et al, Hepatology 1992, 15,1086-91)
- Fluoxetine in RBC in 1993 (Amitai Y et al, Vet Hum Toxicol, 1993, 35, 134-6)
- CsA in lymphocytes in 1998 (Masri et al, Transplant Proc, 1998,30,3561-2)
- Lamivudine in lymphocytes in 1999 (Moore et al, AIDS, 1999, 13,2239-50)
- Protease inhibitors in lymphocytes in 2002 (Chaillou S, HIV Clin trials, 2002,3,493-501)
- MPA in lymphocytes in 2007 (Benech H, J Chromatogr B Analyt Technol Biomed Life Sci, 2007,853,168-74)

...rate of accumulation of ARVs within the cells is still debated due to scarce and controversial data and methodological limitations.

From experience in other areas....

# **Intracellular Tacrolimus**

**Would intracellular tacrolimus  
better predict efficacy or toxicity  
than whole blood?**

# Tacrolimus concentration in liver biopsies

## Relationship with histologic rejection score

Validation of a Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometric Assay for Tacrolimus in Liver Biopsies After Hepatic Transplantation: Correlation With Histopathologic Staging of Rejection

Arnaud Capron, MSc,\* Jan Lerut, MD, PhD,† Catherine Verbaandert, MD,‡ Jules Mathys, MD,† Olga Ciccarelli, MD,† Roger Vanbinst, MSc,\* Francine Roggen,† Chantal De Reyck,† Julien Lemaire, MD,† and Pierre E. Wallemacq, PhD\*

(*Ther Drug Monit* 2007;29:340–348)

### Choice of alternative biological matrix

– Better correlation between Tac tissue levels [<30 pg/mg] (hepatic biopsies) and score for rejection than with whole blood

– Surrogate marker for lymphocytes?

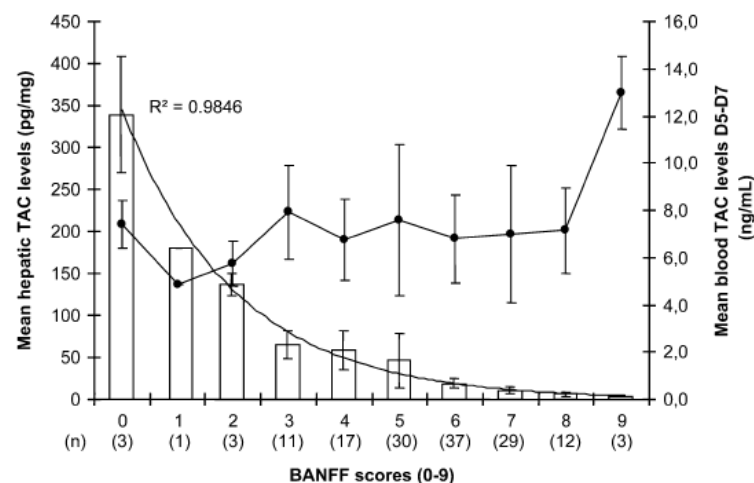


FIGURE 3. Correlations between either mean hepatic tacrolimus concentrations at day 7 (open boxes) or mean blood tacrolimus obtained between day 5 and 7 (black plots) and BANFF scores determined at day 7 as histologic marker of rejection. Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD. Standard deviations reported correspond to interpatient variability both in hepatic tissue and whole blood. Number of patients (n) is represented for each BANFF subgroup. First-order exponential correlation between hepatic concentrations and BANFF scores displays a  $R^2$  of 0.9846 ( $P = 0.002$ ).





## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Correlation of tacrolimus levels in peripheral blood mononuclear cells with histological staging of rejection after liver transplantation: preliminary results of a prospective study

Arnaud Capron,<sup>1,2</sup> Jan Lerut,<sup>3</sup> Dominique Latinne,<sup>4</sup> Jacques Rahier,<sup>5</sup> Vincent Haufroid<sup>1,2</sup> and Pierre Wallemacq<sup>1,2</sup>

- 1 Clinical Chemistry Department, Cliniques universitaires St Luc, Université catholique de Louvain – UCL, Brussels, Belgium
- 2 Louvain centre for Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology, Cliniques universitaires St Luc, Université catholique de Louvain – UCL, Brussels, Belgium
- 3 Starzl Abdominal Transplantation Unit, Cliniques universitaires St Luc, Université catholique de Louvain – UCL, Brussels, Belgium
- 4 Immuno-hematology Department, Cliniques universitaires St Luc, Université catholique de Louvain – UCL, Brussels, Belgium
- 5 Department of Pathology, Cliniques universitaires St Luc, Université catholique de Louvain – UCL, Brussels, Belgium

## Monitoring of tacrolimus concentrations in peripheral blood mononuclear cells: Application to cardiac transplant recipients

Florian Lemaitre<sup>a,b,c,d,\*</sup>, Marie Antignac<sup>d,e</sup>, Christine Fernandez<sup>d,e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Rennes University Hospital, Department of Clinical and Biological Pharmacology and Pharmacovigilance, Pharmacoeconomics and Drug Information Center, Rennes, France

<sup>b</sup> Rennes 1 University, Faculty of Medicine, Laboratory of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology, Rennes, France

<sup>c</sup> Inserm, CIC-P 0203, Clinical Investigation Center, Rennes, France

<sup>d</sup> EA4123, Barrières physiologiques et réponses thérapeutiques, Faculty of Pharmacy, Paris 11 University, Châtenay-Malabry, France

<sup>e</sup> Pharmacy Department, Saint-Antoine Hospital, Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris APHP, Paris, France

## ARTICLE INFO

## Article history:

Received 15 October 2012

Received in revised form 15 February 2013

Accepted 17 February 2013

Available online 27 February 2013

## Keywords:

Pharmacokinetics

Tacrolimus

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells

Cardiac transplant recipients

Heart transplantation

PBMC

Transplantation

## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Despite the intensive therapeutic drug monitoring of tacrolimus (TAC) using trough whole blood concentrations, graft rejections occur in transplant recipient patients. Thus, other ways to monitor closely immunosuppressive treatments are necessary. A promising way of monitoring TAC treatments could be the measure of its concentrations inside of the lymphocyte cell. Whereas the pharmacokinetics of TAC in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) was evaluated in renal and liver transplant recipients, data regarding PBMC concentrations of TAC in cardiac transplant recipients are lacking. This study aimed, in cardiac transplant recipients: to validate a method for determination of TAC in PBMC, to investigate PBMC trough concentrations of TAC, and to evaluate their relationship with trough whole blood concentrations.

**Design and method:** We developed and validated a High-performance-liquid-chromatography tandem mass-spectrometry method of TAC quantitation in PBMC. The method was then evaluated by determining TAC concentrations in PBMC of 24 cardiac transplant recipients.

**Results:** Twenty-four patients were prospectively included in the study. Tacrolimus PBMC concentrations displayed a large inter-individual pharmacokinetic variability (CV = 71.4%) in the cohort. A lack of correlation between TAC whole blood trough concentrations and TAC trough concentrations in PBMCs was found ( $r = 0.259$ ;  $p = 0.183$ ).

**Conclusion:** Further studies should be implemented to evaluate the correlation between TAC concentrations in PBMC and clinical outcomes in cardiac transplant recipients to allow concluding whether monitoring TAC concentrations in PBMC is a good tool to prevent graft rejection in cardiac recipients.

© 2013 The Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists. Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

There are some strong correlations between intracellular concentrations and toxicity and/or the risk of organ rejection.

the key factors (correctly used) of these works are:

- 1) the intracellular values were expressed per million cells
- 2) the cell count was performed with an automated system

**Other drugs?**

**Other clinical (infective) areas?**



# Multiple Classes of Direct Acting Antiviral Agents



Protease

Polymerase

Ribavirin

NS3  
protease inhibitors

NS5A  
Replication  
Complex  
Inhibitors

NS5B  
NUC Inhibitors

NS5B  
Non-NUC  
Inhibitors

Telaprevir  
Boceprevir  
Simeprevir  
Asunaprevir  
ABT-450  
MK-5172  
Faldaprevir  
Sovaprevir  
ACH-2684

Daclatasvir  
Ledipasvir  
ABT-267  
MK-8742  
GS-5885  
GS-5816  
ACH-3102  
PPI-668  
GSK2336805  
Samatasvir

Sofosbuvir  
VX-135  
IDX20963  
ACH-3422

ABT-333  
Deleobuvir  
BMS-791325  
PPI-383  
GS-9669  
TMC647055

**HCV**

**Table 1** A summary of product and dosing information of the medications currently approved by the US FDA and/or EMA

Drug	Brand name	Pharmaceutical form	Route of administration	Dose	Remarks	References
Peginterferon- $\alpha_{2a}$	Pegasys <sup>®</sup>	180 $\mu$ g/mL, 180 $\mu$ g/0.5 mL or 135 $\mu$ g/0.5 mL solution for injection	Subcutaneous	180 $\mu$ g once weekly	Duration of treatment depends on viral genotype, viral response, co-morbidities and whether it is combined with other anti-HCV medication	[34, 35]
Peginterferon- $\alpha_{2b}$	PegIntron <sup>®</sup>	50 $\mu$ g/0.5 mL, 80 $\mu$ g/0.5 mL, 120 $\mu$ g/0.5 mL, 150 $\mu$ g/0.5 mL powder and solvent for solution for injection	Subcutaneous	1.5 $\mu$ g/kg body weight once weekly	Duration of treatment depends on viral genotype, viral response, co-morbidities and whether it is combined with other anti-HCV medication	[33, 36]
Ribavirin	Copegus <sup>®</sup>	200 mg tablet	Oral	800–1,200 mg (in divided doses)	Dose is based on body weight and genotype Should be taken with food Should be given in combination therapy Treatment duration depends on viral genotype, viral response, co-morbidities and treatment combination	[47]
Ribavirin	Rebetol <sup>®</sup>	200 mg capsule 40 mg/mL oral solution	Oral	800–1,400 mg (in divided doses)	Dose is based on body weight and genotype Should be taken with food Should be given in combination therapy Treatment duration depends on viral genotype, viral response, co-morbidities and treatment combination	[48, 49]
Boceprevir	Victrelis <sup>®</sup>	200 mg capsule	Oral	800 mg three times daily (every 7–9 h)	Must be taken with food (a meal or light snack) Should be administered with peginterferon- $\alpha$ and ribavirin Peginterferon and ribavirin are given for 4 weeks before the addition of boceprevir, then boceprevir is added and duration of triple therapy is based on viral response, prior response status and presence of cirrhosis <sup>a</sup> Only for HCV genotype 1	[59, 60]
Telaprevir	Incivek <sup>®</sup> , Incivo <sup>®</sup>	375 mg tablet	Oral	1,125 mg twice daily (10–14 h apart)	Must be taken with food (not low fat) Should be administered with peginterferon- $\alpha$ and ribavirin Triple therapy for 12 weeks, followed by 12 or 36 weeks of peginterferon- $\alpha$ and ribavirin, depending on viral response and prior response status <sup>a</sup> Only for HCV genotype 1	[63, 64]
Simeprevir	Olysio <sup>™</sup>	150 mg capsule	Oral	150 mg once daily	Must be taken with food Should be administered with peginterferon and ribavirin Triple therapy for 12 weeks, followed by 12 or 36 weeks of peginterferon- $\alpha$ and ribavirin, depending on prior response status Only for HCV genotype 1	[9]
Sofosbuvir	Sovaldi <sup>™</sup>	400 mg tablet	Oral	400 mg once daily	Can be taken with or without food Combination with peginterferon- $\alpha$ and/or ribavirin and treatment duration depend on viral genotype	[10, 11]

HCV hepatitis C virus

<sup>a</sup> For schedules of boceprevir- and telaprevir-based regimens see Fig. 2 in reference [145]Clin Pharmacokinet  
DOI 10.1007/s40262-014-0142-5

REVIEW ARTICLE

## Viral Hepatitis C Therapy: Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Considerations

Clara T. M. M. de Kanter · Joost P. H. Drenth ·  
 Joop E. Arends · Henk W. Reesink · Marc van der Valk ·  
 Robert J. de Knegt · David M. Burger

# HCV - Telaprevir & Boceprevir in Human Plasma

[J Chromatogr B Analyt Technol Biomed Life Sci](#). 2013 Aug 1;932:100-10. doi: 10.1016/j.jchromb.2013.06.013. Epub 2013 Jun 17.

**Validation of an electrospray ionisation LC-MS/MS method for quantitative analysis of telaprevir and its R-diastereomer.**

[Penchala SD](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Tijia J](#), [El Sherif O](#), [Back DJ](#), [Khoo SH](#), [Else LJ](#).

[J Chromatogr B Analyt Technol Biomed Life Sci](#). 2009 Dec 1;877(31):4001-6. doi: 10.1016/j.jchromb.2009.10.013. Epub 2009 Oct 14.

**Highly sensitive determination of HCV protease inhibitors boceprevir (SCH 503034) and telaprevir (VX 950) in human plasma by LC-MS/MS.**

[Farnik H](#)<sup>1</sup>, [El-Duweik J](#), [Welsch C](#), [Sarrazin C](#), [Lötsch J](#), [Zeuzem S](#), [Geisslinger G](#), [Schmidt H](#).

[JUBMB Life](#). 2013 Sep;65(9):800-5. doi: 10.1002/iub.1197. Epub 2013 Jul 29.

**Determination of telaprevir in plasma of HCV-infected patients by HPLC-UV.**

[Tempestilli M](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Milano E](#), [D'Offizi G](#), [Montalbano M](#), [D'Avolio A](#), [Gasperi T](#), [Narciso P](#), [Ascenzi P](#), [Pucillo LP](#).

[J Pharm Biomed Anal](#). 2013 May 5;78-79:217-23. doi: 10.1016/j.jpba.2013.02.025. Epub 2013 Feb 27.

**A UPLC-MS/MS method for the simultaneous plasma quantification of all isomeric forms of the new anti-HCV protease inhibitors boceprevir and telaprevir.**

[D'Avolio A](#)<sup>1</sup>, [De Nicolò A](#), [Agnesod D](#), [Simiele M](#), [Mohamed Abdi A](#), [Dilly Penchala S](#), [Boglione L](#), [Cariti G](#), [Di Perri G](#).

[Antiviral Res](#). 2014 Sep;109:7-14. doi: 10.1016/j.antiviral.2014.06.005. Epub 2014 Jun 20.

**Telaprevir-S isomer enhances ribavirin exposure and the ribavirin-related haemolytic anaemia in a concentration-dependent manner.**

[De Nicolò A](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Boglione L](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Ciancio A](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Cusato J](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Strona S](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Cardellino CS](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Abdi AM](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Cariti G](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Troshina G](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Caviglia GP](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Smedile A](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Rizzetto M](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Di Perri G](#)<sup>2</sup>, [D'Avolio A](#)<sup>2</sup>.

**ONLY PLASMA PK DATA ARE AVAILABLE...**

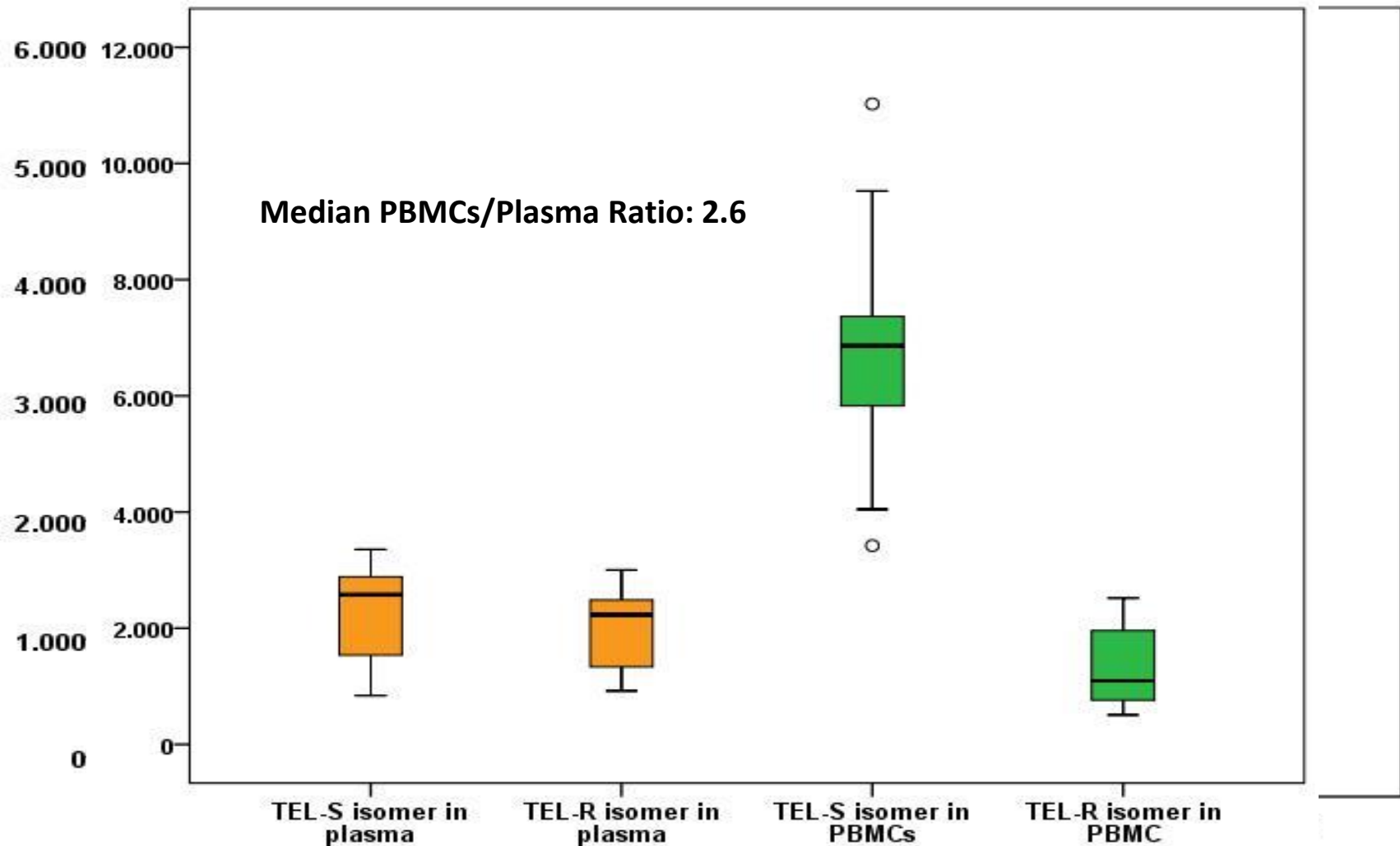
# PATIENTS (FROM AMEDEO DI SAVOIA HOSPITAL)

Characteristics	Median Values Or Frequencies (number of cases)	
	BOC	TEL
Number of patients	25	10
Weight (kg)	78.0 IQR (70.0-83.5)	80.0 IQR (74.3 – 87.5)
BMI	25.5 IQR (23.9-28.6)	27.6 IQR (24.9 – 29.8)
Sex (M/F)	18/7	9/1
Age (years)	46.0 IQR (42.0-52.5)	43.0 IQR (37.0 – 57.3)
Viral Genotype (1a/1b)	12/13	4/6
RBV Dose (mg)	1200 IQR (1000-1200)	1000 IQR (1000 – 1200)
PEG-INF Dose	120 IQR (100-150)	180
Type of PEG-INF $\alpha$ (2a/2b)	2/23	10/0
Metavir (F <sub>0</sub> /F <sub>1</sub> / F <sub>2</sub> / F <sub>3</sub> / F <sub>4</sub> )	1/5/4/5/10	2/3/0/2/3



1 month and 3 months

# PATIENTS RESULTS - 1



- **ACCUMULATION OF BOTH DRUGS ACTIVE ISOMER (-S) IN PBMCs WHEN COMPARED TO PLASMA CONCENTRATIONS**
- **GREATER PRESENCE OF THE -S ISOMERS, COMPARED WITH THE -R ONES**

# HCV - Discussion



**BOC and TEL accumulate in PBMCs**



**Outstanding greater presence of -S isomers, justifying antiviral S isomers activity both for TEL and BOC**

**The low number of patients can not allow a significant correlations with toxicity or therapeutic response**

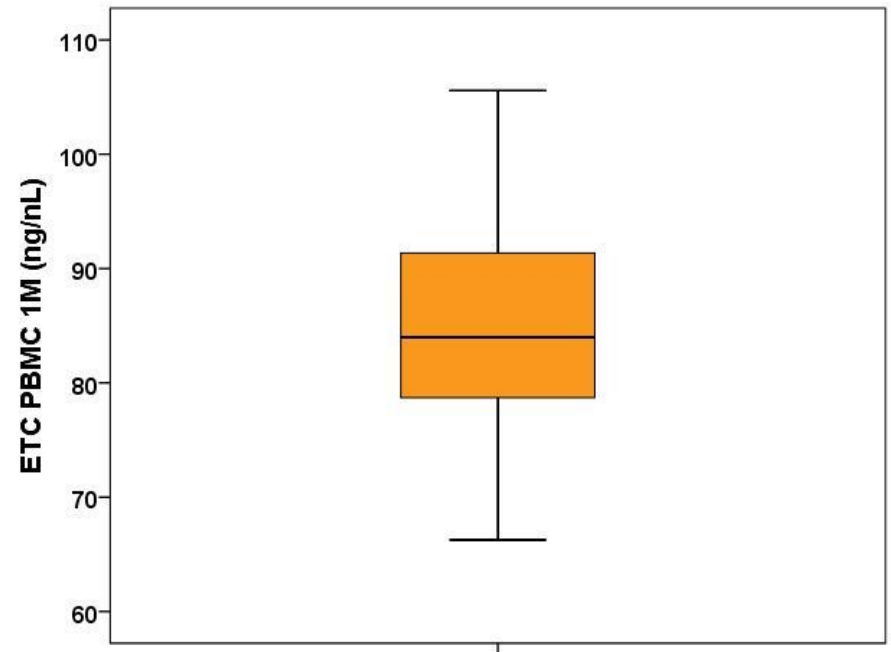
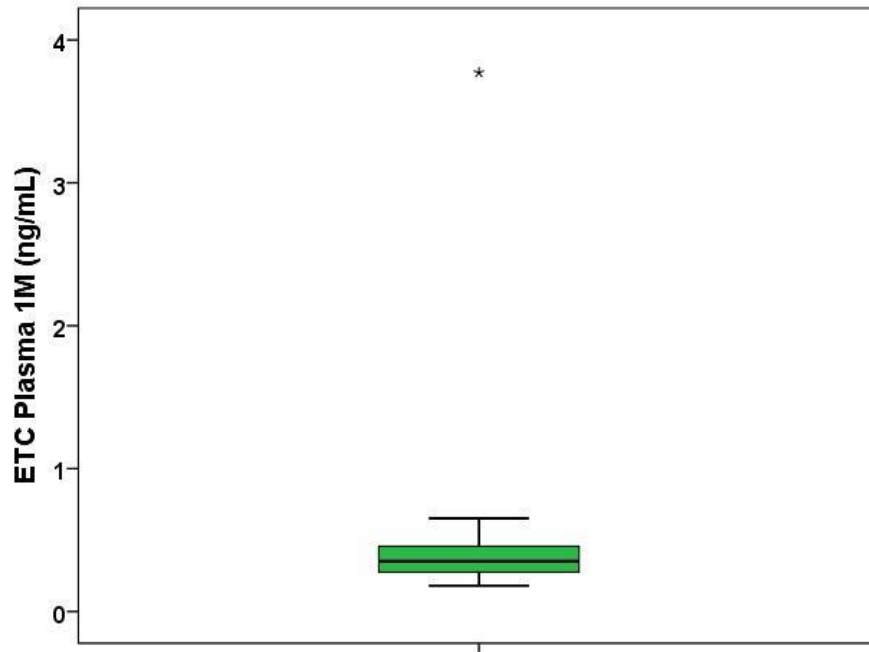
**maybe the same happens in hepatocytes (?) explaining why it is S-isomer works**

**....useful data for other isomeric drugs (sofosbuvir -S, GS-7977)?**

# HBV - Entecavir

Data on n=11 patients  
Explorative Data  
De Nicolò et al. Submitted

**Entecavir significantly accumulates inside PBMC**



**HBV**

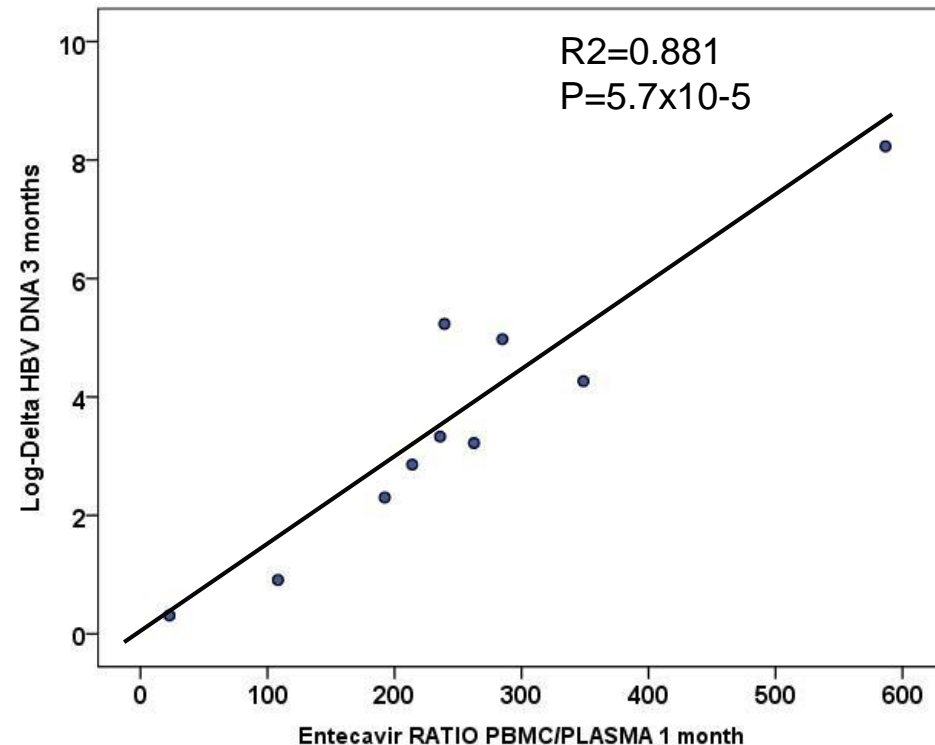
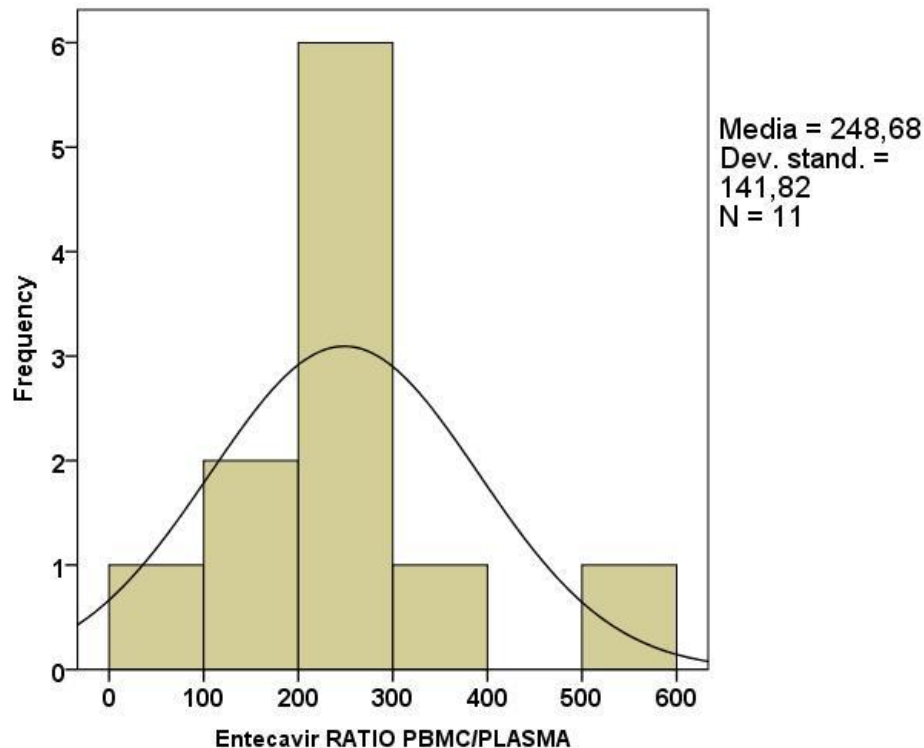


# HBV - Entecavir

Data on n=11 patients  
Explorative Data  
De Nicolò et al. Submitted

**PBMC/Plasma Ratio is around 250**

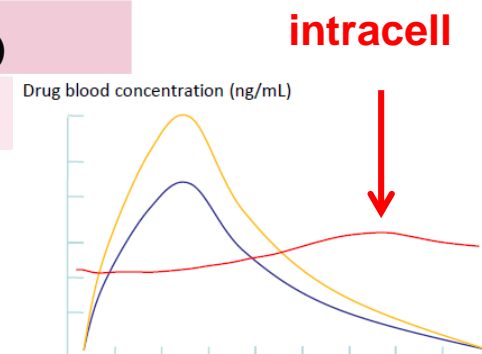
**Strong correlation between RATIO (1 month) and logarithmic HBV-DNA decline (3 months)**



# **Antitubercular drugs**

# INTRACELLULAR/PLASMA Ratio (n=10 patients)

		Ratio $C_{\text{trough}}$ intracellular/ $C_{\text{trough}}$ plasma (Median, IQR)	Ratio $C_{\text{max}}$ intracellular/ $C_{\text{max}}$ plasma (Median, IQR)
Week 2	<b>INH</b>	-	0.03 (0.16-0.055)
	<b>RFP</b>	0.73 (0.27-1.54)	1.3 (0.9-1.72)
	<b>PZA</b>	0.05 (0.04-0.8)	0.04 (0.03-0.07)
	<b>ETB</b>	34.5 (27.4-61.4)	15.1 (3.7-40.3)
Week 4	<b>INH</b>	-	0.02 (0.015-0.2)
	<b>RFP</b>	0.73 (0.29)	1.12 (0.8-2.65)
	<b>PZA</b>	0.07 (0.05-0.9)	0.07 (0.045-0.185)
	<b>ETB</b>	35.3 (19.2-81.59)	32.5 (18-36.83)



- High inter-individual variability of the ratio
- Isoniazid seems to not accumulate within cells
- Rifampicin seem to a little accumulate within cells ( $C_{\text{max}}$  only)
- Pirazinamide seems to not accumulate within PBMCs
- Ethambutol accumulation of 30-15 times in PBMCs

# ARVs Examples

Intracellular Concentration of Protease Inhibitors in HIV-1-Infected Patients: Correlation with -1 Gene Expression and Low Dose of Ritonavir

R. Garraffo,<sup>2</sup> E. Georgenthum,<sup>1</sup> C. Roptin,<sup>2</sup> P. Clevenbergh,<sup>1</sup> V. Mondain,<sup>1</sup> P.M. Roger,<sup>1</sup> and P. Dellamonica<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>, Hôpital Archet 1, Nice, France; <sup>2</sup>Service de Pharmacologie, Hôpital Pasteur, France; <sup>3</sup>CISIH- Hôpital Archet 1, Nice, France

HIV Clin Trials 2002;3(6):493-501

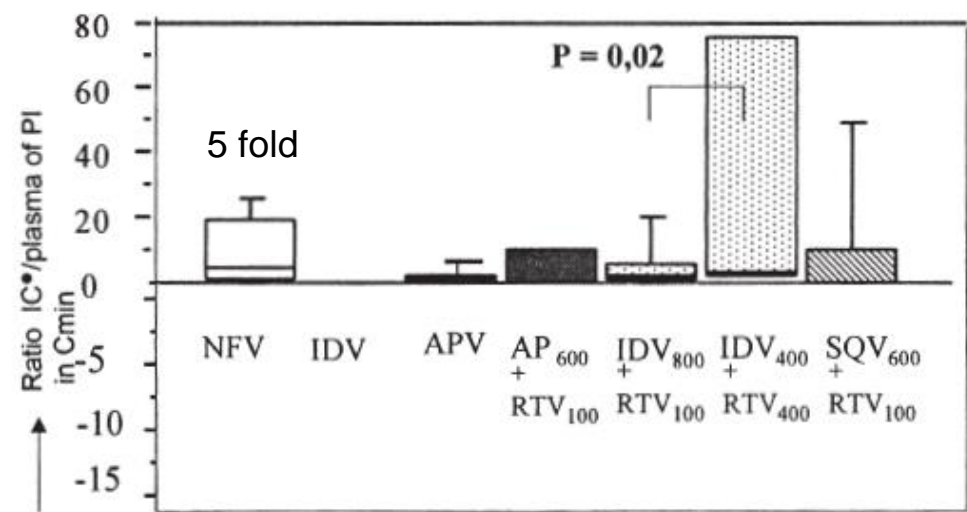
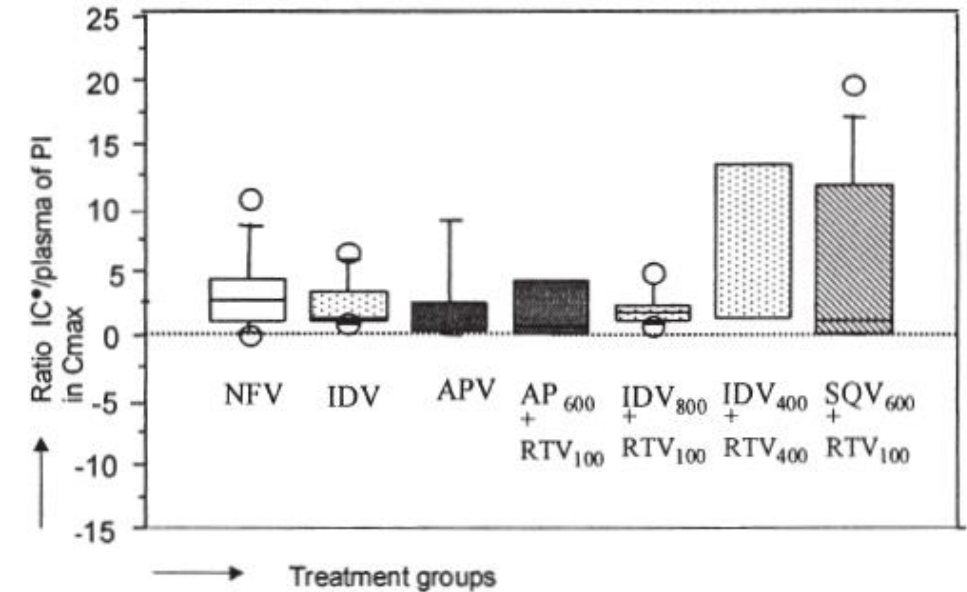


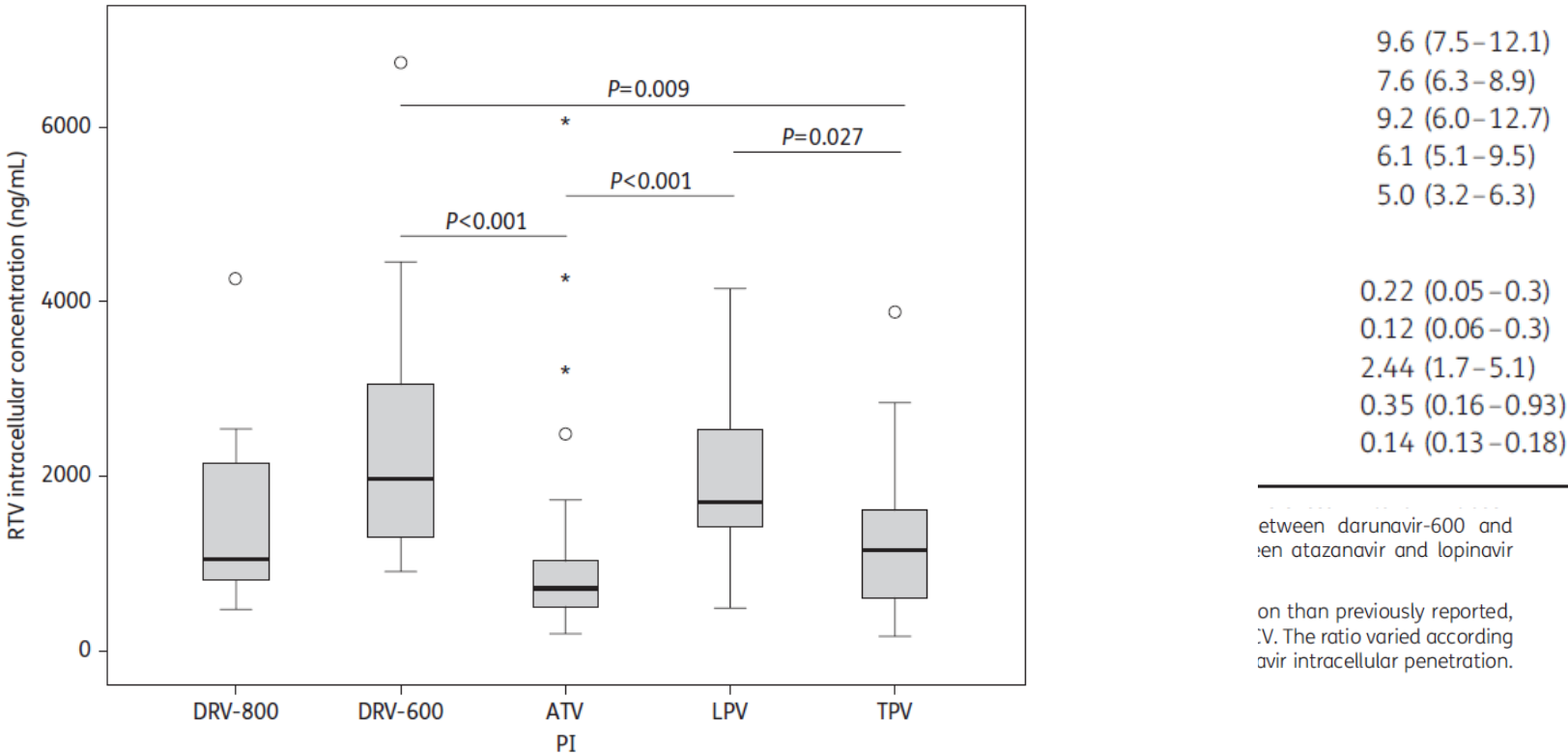
Figure 1. Ratio of different protease inhibitors within the cells and in the plasma in HIV-positive patients at C<sub>min</sub> (A) and at C<sub>max</sub> (B). IC concentration was determined for each PI used alone or with ritonavir (RTV). Intracellular RTV concentration is not represented here. Results are presented as median with 25th and 75th percentiles. Attached horizontal bars represent 10th and 90th percentiles. \*IC: intracellular concentration of PI was interpreted for 10<sup>6</sup> cells.



Different accumulation ratios between protease inhibitors in Cmin and Cmax with a high variability.

## Intracellular accumulation of ritonavir combined with different protease inhibitors and correlations between concentrations in plasma and peripheral blood mononuclear cells

**The different penetration capacity of molecules are influenced by concomitant medications of each patient.**



**Figure 1.** Ritonavir intracellular concentrations (ng/mL) according to concomitant PIs. Mild outliers ( $>1.5 \times \text{IQR}$  from other values) are shown by open circles. Extreme outliers ( $>3 \times \text{IQR}$  from other values) are shown by asterisks. Ritonavir, RTV; darunavir, DRV; atazanavir, ATV; lopinavir, LPV; tipranavir, TPV.

# Intracellular Antiviral Activity of Low-Dose Ritonavir in Boosted Protease Inhibitor Regimens

Amedeo De Nicolò, Marco Simiele, Andrea Calcagno, Adnan Mohamed Abdi, Stefano Bonora, Giovanni Di Perri, Antonio D'Avolio

Unit of Infectious Diseases, University of Turin, Department of Medical Sciences, Amedeo di Savoia Hospital, Turin, Italy

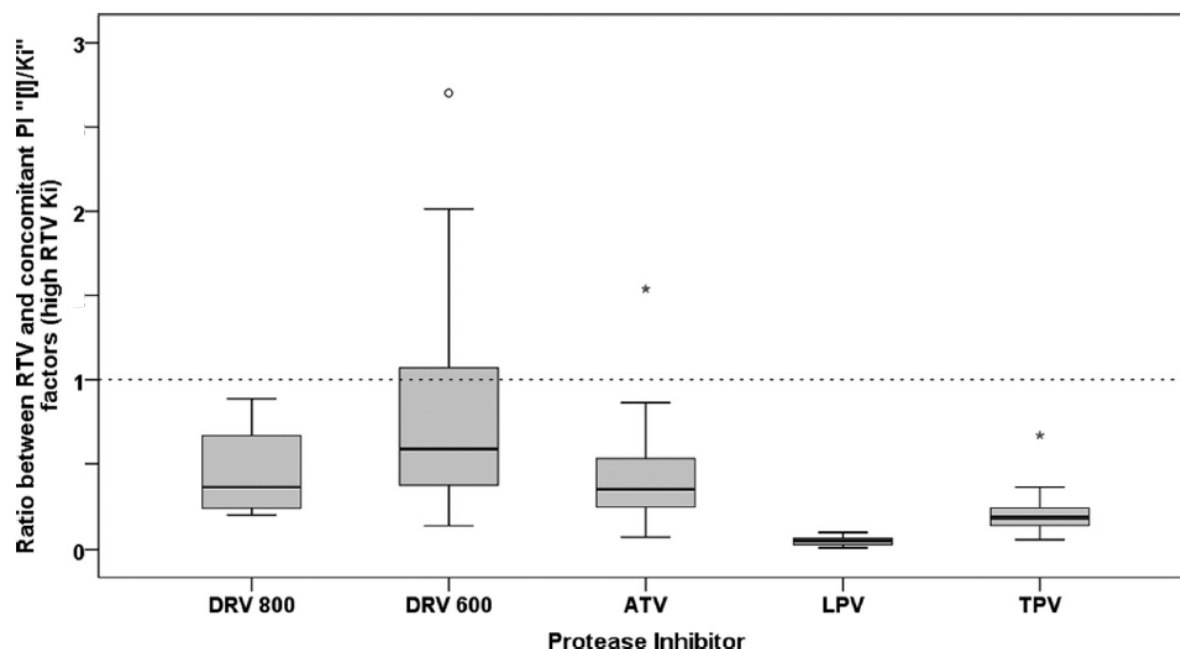


FIG 2 Distribution of the ratio between the  $[I]/K_i$  factor of RTV (considering the highest RTV  $K_i$ ) and that of the other PIs among the patients. The dashed line marks the cutoff of 1, indicating a higher activity of RTV than that of the concomitant PI. DRV800, DRV-RTV 800 and 100 mg once daily; DRV600, DRV-RTV 600 and 100 mg twice daily. Circles and asterisks indicate mild and extreme outliers, respectively.

**Referring to the intracellular concentrations of ritonavir and PIs, ritonavir could have a possible additive and / or synergistic antiviral activity.**



# Intracellular Antiviral Activity of Low-Dose Ritonavir in Boosted Protease Inhibitor Regimens

Amedeo De Nicolò, Marco Simiele, Andrea Calcagno, Adnan Mohamed Abdi, Stefano Bonora, Giovanni Di Perri, Antonio D'Avolio

Unit of Infectious Diseases, University of Turin, Department of Medical Sciences, Amedeo di Savoia Hospital, Turin, Italy

TABLE 2 Observed RTV dispositions in combination with each concomitant PI and comparison between RTV and concomitant PI effect on viral protease

Parameter	Median (interquartile range) for concomitant PI				
	ATV	DRV600 <sup>a</sup>	DRV800 <sup>b</sup>	LPV	TPV
No. of samples	40	22	4	21	16
RTV intra-PBMC concn (μM)	0.90 (0.61–1.40)	2.96 (1.82–4.95)	1.45 (1.16–4.47)	2.60 (1.86–3.76)	1.65 (0.93–2.30)
RTV plasma concn (μM)	0.09 (0.06–0.19)	0.48 (0.26–0.55)	0.17 (0.14–0.61)	0.39 (0.22–0.65)	0.38 (0.20–0.70)
RTV intra-PBMC/plasma ratio	9.07 (5.97–12.83)	7.59 (6.20–9.97)	7.561 (6.60–11.11)	7.21 (5.71–10.45)	5.27 (3.12–6.39)
Intracellular [RTV]/[PI]	0.42 (0.29–0.64)	4.04 (2.48–8.03)	2.49 (1.49–5.35)	0.57 (0.29–0.76)	0.19 (0.13–0.25)
[I]/K <sub>i</sub> (RTV)/[I]/K <sub>i</sub> (PI) (high RTV K <sub>i</sub> )	0.35 (0.24–0.54)	0.59 (0.36–1.17)	0.36 (0.22–0.78)	0.05 (0.03–0.07)	0.19 (0.13–0.25)
[I]/K <sub>i</sub> (RTV)/[I]/K <sub>i</sub> (PI) (mean RTV K <sub>i</sub> )	0.49 (0.36–0.80)	0.91 (0.61–2.24)	0.53 (0.32–1.14)	0.07 (0.06–0.10)	0.29 (0.25–0.37)
Reaction speed ratio with/without RTV	0.74 (0.65–0.80)	0.63 (0.46–0.74)	0.74 (0.57–0.82)	0.95 (0.94–0.96)	0.84 (0.80–0.88)
Fraction of antiviral effect accounted for by RTV (%)	26 (20–35)	37 (26–54)	26 (18–43)	5 (4–6)	16 (12–20)

<sup>a</sup> DRV600, DRV-RTV 600 and 100 mg BID.

<sup>b</sup> DRV800, DRV-RTV 800 and 100 mg QD.

**Ritonavir PBMC/Plasma Ratio changes according to the concomitant PI**



**INTRACELLULAR PHARMACOKINETICS  
OF RILPIVIRINE IN  
HIV-POSITIVE PATIENTS  
TREATED WITH SINGLE-TABLET  
REGIMEN FIXED-DOSE COMBINATION**

L. Marinaro, A. Calcagno, M. Simiele,  
L. Trentini, M.C. Tettoni, C. Alcantarini,  
S. Raviolo, M. Ferrara, J. Cusato,  
A. D'Avolio, G. Di Perri and S. Bonora.

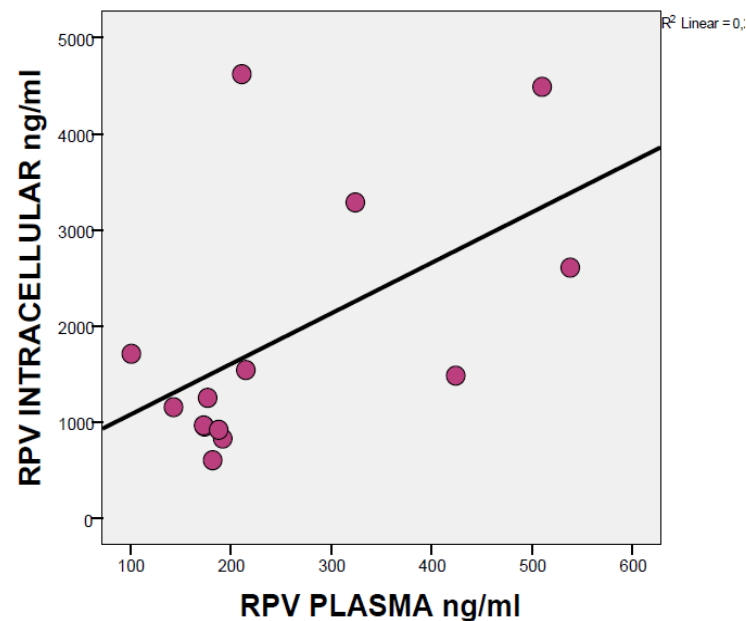
Unit of Infectious Diseases,  
Department of Medical Sciences,  
University of Torino, Italy



**ICAR**  
Italian  
Conference on  
AIDS and  
Retroviruses  
  
ROMA,  
25-27 MAGGIO  
2014  
SHERATON  
CONFERENCE  
CENTRE

# RESULTS

PHARMACOKINETICS		
<b>RPV pC<sub>12</sub> ng/ml</b>	med, IQR	<b>190 (43.3-52.9)</b>
<b>RPV iC<sub>12</sub> ng/ml</b>	med, IQR	<b>1366 (943-2776)</b>
<b>RPV i/p ratio</b>	med, IQR	<b>6.3 (4.7-9.1)</b>
<b>TDF pC<sub>12</sub> ng/ml</b>	med, IQR	<b>73 (58-103)</b>
<b>FTC pC<sub>12</sub> ng/ml</b>	med, IQR	<b>350 (242-453)</b>



- These are the first data on intracellular rilpivirine penetration.
- Plasmatic and intracellular RPV concentrations showed a trend towards correlation ( $p=0.078$ ,  $r: 0.486$ ).
- RPV showed an high accumulation rate in PBMCs, with a ratio (6.3) well above those reported for other NNRTIs (nevirapine, efavirenz and etravirine), ranging from 1.3 to 0.05\*.
- Further clinical studies are warranted in order to elucidate clinical implications of RPV intracellular exposure.

\*Bazzoli C, et al. Clin Pharmacokinet 2010; 49 (1): 17-45

**Table III.** Relationships between intracellular concentrations and efficacy of antiretroviral drugs in patients

Study	Primary objective (yes/no); type of trial	Intracellular moieties	Dosage regimen	Patients	Study parameters from intracellular concentrations	Efficacy criteria	Results <sup>a</sup>
<b>NRTIs</b>							
Moore et al. <sup>[85]</sup>	Yes; clinical trial substudy				Wk 28: average of 1 h and 4 h concentrations postdose	Change between wk 0 and wk 24 in: (i) log plasma HIV RNA (ii) CD4 cell count	(i) p < 0.02 (ii) p = NS
		3TC-TP	3TC 150 mg + ZDV 300 mg bid or 3TC 150 mg + d4T 40 mg bid	39 treatment-naïve			(i) p < 0.02 (ii) p = NS
		ZDV-TP	ZDV 300 mg + 3TC 150 mg bid	10 treatment-naïve			(i) p < 0.02 (ii) p = NS
		d4T-TP	d4T 40 mg + 3TC 150 mg bid	15 treatment-naïve			(i) p = NS (ii) p = NS
Aweeka et al. <sup>[125]</sup>	No; cross-sectional analysis	ZDV -TP	Any regimen containing ZDV	13 HCV- or HBV-co-infected, with stable regimen >4wk	AUC (NCA) from 5 samples: predose and 1, 4, 6 and 8 h postdose	CD4 cell count at time of PK sampling	p = NS
Anderson et al. <sup>[8]</sup>	Yes; clinical trial substudy	ZDV-TP	ZDV 300 mg bid + 3TC 150 mg bid + IDV 800 mg tid; or concentration-controlled ZDV-3TC-IDV regimen	33 treatment-naïve	Median concentration above threshold (yes/no) from samples 2 h postdose at wk 2, wk 28 and wk 56 and at 2–8 h postdose at 9 visits from wk 8 to wk 80 Thresholds: ZDV-TP: 30 fmol/10 <sup>6</sup> 3TC-TP: 7017 fmol/10 <sup>6</sup>	(i) Time to reach <50 copies/mL of HIV RNA (ii) Undetectable HIV RNA (<50 copies/mL) at wk 24 and wk 52 (iii) Time to loss of virological response in patients achieving undetectable HIV RNA (iv) CD4 cell counts at wk 24 and wk 48	(i) p = 0.01 (ii) wk 24: p = 0.009; wk 52: p = NS (iii) p = 0.02 (iv) p = NS
		3TC-TP					(i) p = 0.02 (ii) wk 24: p = 0.002; wk 52: p = 0.0008 (iii) p = 0.002 (iv) p = NS
Fletcher et al. <sup>[89]</sup>	Yes; clinical trial substudy	ZDV-TP	ZDV 300 mg bid + 3TC 150 mg bid + IDV 800 mg tid; or concentration-controlled ZDV-3TC-IDV regimen	8 treatment-naïve	Median concentration from samples 2 h postdose at wk 2, wk 28 and wk 56 and at 2–8 h postdose at 9 visits from wk 8 to wk 80	Change between wk 0 and wk 24 in: (i) log HIV RNA (ii) CD4 cell count	(i) p = 0.03 (ii) p = 0.001

Continued next page

Table III. Contd

Study	Primary objective (yes/no); type of trial	Intracellular moieties	Dosage regimen	Patients	Studied parameters from intracellular concentrations	Efficacy criteria	Results <sup>a</sup>
3TC-TP							(i) p = 0.003 (ii) p = NS
Stretcher et al. <sup>[135]</sup>	Yes; PK trial	Total ZDV phosphates	ZDV only: 800 mg/day, 100 mg every 4 h while awake	21 ZDV-naïve	AUC (NCA) from 6 samples: predose and 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 h postdose at wk 4 and >wk 24	Change between wk 0 and wk 4 or wk 0 and wk 24 in: (i) % CD4 cells (ii) CD4/CD8 ratio	(i) wk 4: p = 0.029; wk 24: p = NS (ii) wk 4: p = 0.028; wk 24: p = NS
<b>PIs</b>							
Lamotte et al. <sup>[103]</sup>	No; secondary objective of clinical trial	SQV	SQV 1600 mg + RTV 100 mg od + 2 or 3 NRTIs/NTRTIs/NNRTIs	13 treatment-naïve	C <sub>trough</sub> (24 h postdose) at wk 2, wk 4 or wk 12	Change in plasma HIV RNA between wk 0 and wk 12	p = NS for all periods of C <sub>trough</sub> measurements
Breilh et al. <sup>[105]</sup>	Yes; observational study	LPV	LPV 400 mg + RTV 100 mg bid + 2 or 3 NRTIs/NTRTIs/NNRTIs	38 LPV-naïve	C <sub>trough</sub> (12 h postdose) at wk 4 and wk 24	Virological success: (i) HIV RNA <50 copies/mL before wk 4 (ii) HIV RNA <50 copies/mL before wk 4 and during all follow-up until wk 24	(i) p < 0.0002 (ii) p < 0.002
Chaillou et al. <sup>[81]</sup>	No; secondary objective of cross-sectional trial	NFV, IDV, APV, SQV, RTV	NFV 750 mg tid or IDV 800 mg tid or APV 1200 mg bid or IDV 800 mg + RTV 100 mg bid or SQV 600 mg + RTV 100 mg bid or APV 600 mg + RTV 100 mg bid or IDV 400 mg + RTV 400 mg bid + 2 or 3 NRTIs/NNRTIs	49 treatment-experienced	Ratio of intracellular to plasma C <sub>trough</sub> and C <sub>max</sub> (1.5–3 h postdose) on day of study: (i) main PI (ii) RTV	Undetectable HIV RNA (<40 copies/mL) on day of study	(i) p = NS for PI ratio (ii) p = 0.04 for presence of intracellular RTV, p = 0.029 with RTV ratio in 28 patients receiving RTV

<sup>a</sup> Significant results always associated better efficacy with higher intracellular concentrations.

**3TC** = lamivudine; **APV** = amprenavir; **AUC** = area under the concentration-time curve; **bid** = twice daily; **C<sub>max</sub>** = maximum concentration; **C<sub>trough</sub>** = trough concentration; **d4T** = stavudine; **HBV** = hepatitis B virus; **HCV** = hepatitis C virus; **IDV** = indinavir; **LPV** = lopinavir; **NCA** = noncompartmental analysis; **NFV** = nelfinavir; **NNRTI** = non-NRTI; **NRTI** = nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor; **NS** = nonsignificant; **NTRTI** = nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitor; **od** = once daily; **PI** = protease inhibitor; **PK** = pharmacokinetic; **RTV** = ritonavir; **SQV** = saquinavir; **tid** = three times daily; **TP** = triphosphate; **ZDV** = zidovudine.

**Table IV.** Relationships between intracellular concentrations and toxicity of antiretroviral drugs in patients

Study	Primary objective (yes/no); type of trial	Intracellular moieties	Dosage regimen	Patients	Studied parameters from intracellular concentrations	Toxicity criterion	Results <sup>a</sup>
<b>NRTIs</b>							
Anderson et al. <sup>[8]</sup>	Yes; clinical trial substudy	ZDV-TP, 3TC-TP	ZDV 300 mg bid + 3TC 150 mg bid + IDV 800 mg tid; or concentration-controlled ZDV-3TC-IDV regimen	33 treatment-naïve	Median concentration above threshold (yes/no) from samples 2 h postdose at wk 2, wk 28 and wk 56 and at 2–8 h postdose at 9 visits from wk 8 to wk 80 Thresholds: ZDV-TP: 30 fmol/10 <sup>6</sup> 3TC-TP: 7017 fmol/10 <sup>6</sup>	Occurrence of a grade I laboratory event (haemoglobin, absolute neutrophil count, AST, ALT)	NS
Stretcher et al. <sup>[135]</sup>	Yes; PK trial	Total ZDV phosphates	ZDV only: 800 mg/day; 100 mg every 4 h while awake	21 treatment-naïve	AUC (NCA) from 6 samples: predose and 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 h postdose at wk 4 and wk 24	Change between wk 0 and wk 4 or wk 0 and wk 24 in: (i) neutrophils (ii) red blood cells (iii) haemoglobin	(i) p = NS (ii) p = NS (iii) p = NS
Durand-Gasselin et al. <sup>[83]</sup>	Yes; PK trial	ZDV-TP, 3TC-TP	ZDV (8 mg/kg/day in 4 daily doses) ± 3TC (4 mg/kg/day in 2 daily doses)	49 neonates	Single-point concentration (time of sampling NR)	Proportions of the haematological toxicity grade between neonates with intracellular concentrations above or below the observed median	NS
<b>NNRTI</b>							
Rotger et al. <sup>[101]</sup>	Yes; PK trial	EFV	EFV + ZDV + 3TC EFV + abacavir + 3TC EFV + d4T + ddI ± PI (doses NR)	55	Intracellular AUC obtained by Bayesian estimation (no. of samples per patient and sampling times NR)	Presence of grade I to IV of: (i) sleep disorder (ii) mood disorder (iii) fatigue	(i) p = NS (ii) p = 0.02 (iii) p = NS

a Significant results always associated increased risk of toxicity with higher intracellular concentrations.

**3TC** = lamivudine; **AUC** = area under the concentration-time curve; **bid** = twice daily; **d4T** = stavudine; **ddI** = didanosine; **EFV** = efavirenz; **IDV** = indinavir; **NCA** = noncompartmental analysis; **NR** = not reported; **NS** = nonsignificant; **PI** = protease inhibitors; **PK** = pharmacokinetic; **tid** = three times daily; **TP** = triphosphate; **ZDV** = zidovudine.

# **TDM...**

**The correlation between plasma  
and intracellular drug  
concentrations are essential to  
not consider useful the TDM in  
PBMCs.**

# Utility and futility of plasma concentrations

Regul Toxicol Pharmacol. 1990 Oct;12(2):137-60.

**Interspecies comparisons in toxicology: the utility and futility of plasma concentrations of the test substance.**

Monro AM.

Pfizer Central Research, Groton, Connecticut 06340.

## **Abstract**

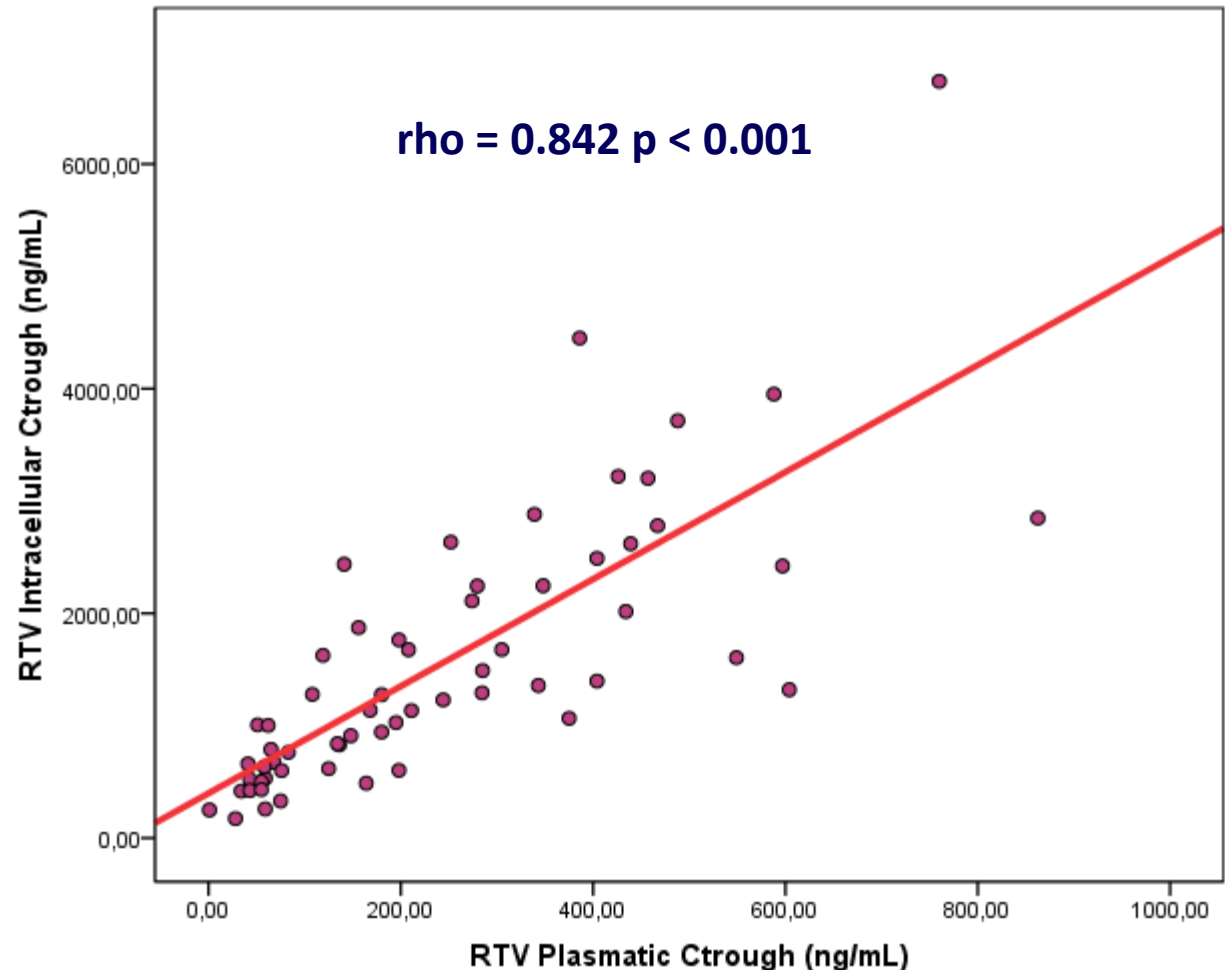
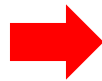
A classical dilemma in toxicology is how the dose administered relates to the dose delivered to the target site. Plasma concentrations of the test substance may be misleading since the concentration of any given substance in the plasma may not be representative of its concentration in tissues. Furthermore, a given tissue concentration of a xenobiotic can evoke responses which are highly species-dependent. While evaluating toxicity data

**Often lack of correlation between plasma concentration and tissue concentration (site of action)**



Plasma and intracellular drug concentrations were “often” statistically correlated (but with controversial data!; No NRTIs and many times PIs [Bazzoli C. et al 2010; D’Avolio A. et al 2014]).

Ritonavir  
considering  
all boosted  
PIs



D’Avolio A. et al - JAC 2012

D’Avolio A. et al - ICAR 2011

# **Technical and Methodological Issues**

# The raltegravir “paradigm”

ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS AND CHEMOTHERAPY, Jan. 2011, p. 72–75  
0066-4804/11/\$12.00 doi:10.1128/AAC.00789-10  
Copyright © 2011, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.

Vol. 55, No. 1

## Plasma and Intracellular (Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells) Pharmacokinetics of Once-Daily Raltegravir (800 Milligrams) in HIV-Infected Patients<sup>∇</sup>

study. No differences in the times to the maximum concentration of raltegravir in plasma or the raltegravir half-lives were observed between plasma and PBMCs. The geometric mean raltegravir maximum concentration, the concentration at the end of the dosing interval, and the area under the concentration-time curve during the dose interval in plasma versus PBMCs were 2,640 ng/ml (range, 887 to 10,605 ng/ml) versus 199 ng/ml (range, 82 to 857 ng/ml) (geometric mean ratio [GMR], 13.30; 95% confidence interval [CI], 3.11 to 56.89;  $P = 0.003$ ); 89 ng/ml (range, 51 to 200 ng/ml) versus 7 ng/ml (range, 2 to 15 ng/ml) (GMR, 13.21; 95% CI, 3.94 to 44.26;  $P = 0.001$ ); and 12,200 ng · h/ml (range, 5,152 to 30,130 ng · h/ml) versus 909 ng · h/ml (range, 499 to 2,189 ng · h/ml) (GMR, 13.43; 95% CI, 5.13 to 35.16;  $P < 0.001$ ), respectively. Raltegravir does not accumulate in PBMCs, with intracellular concentrations being about 1/10 of the concentrations in plasma.

s added to the antiretroviral regimen at a dose of 800 mg once daily from days 0 to 24. The pharmacokinetic profile was obtained for each participant. Raltegravir concentrations in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were determined by high-performance liquid chromatography and by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). The pharmacokinetic parameters of the raltegravir in plasma and PBMCs were determined by noncompartmental analysis. Raltegravir was well tolerated, and all participants completed the study. No differences in the times to the maximum concentration of raltegravir in plasma or the raltegravir half-lives were observed between plasma and PBMCs. The geometric mean raltegravir maximum concentration, the concentration at the end of the dosing interval, and the area under the concentration-time curve during the dose interval in plasma versus PBMCs were 2,640 ng/ml (range, 887 to 10,605 ng/ml) versus 199 ng/ml (range, 82 to 857 ng/ml) (geometric mean ratio [GMR], 13.30; 95% confidence interval [CI], 3.11 to 56.89;  $P = 0.003$ ); 89 ng/ml (range, 51 to 200 ng/ml) versus 7 ng/ml (range, 2 to 15 ng/ml) (GMR, 13.21; 95% CI, 3.94 to 44.26;  $P = 0.001$ ); and 12,200 ng · h/ml (range, 5,152 to 30,130 ng · h/ml) versus 909 ng · h/ml (range, 499 to 2,189 ng · h/ml) (GMR, 13.43; 95% CI, 5.13 to 35.16;  $P < 0.001$ ), respectively. Raltegravir does not accumulate in PBMCs, with intracellular concentrations being about 1/10 of the concentrations in plasma. The mean raltegravir concentrations at the end of the dosing interval in plasma and PBMCs were 89 ng/ml and 7 ng/ml, respectively. The protein-binding-adjusted 95% inhibitory concentration ( $IC_{95}$ ) and  $IC_{50}$  for raltegravir were 100 ng/ml and 10 ng/ml, respectively.

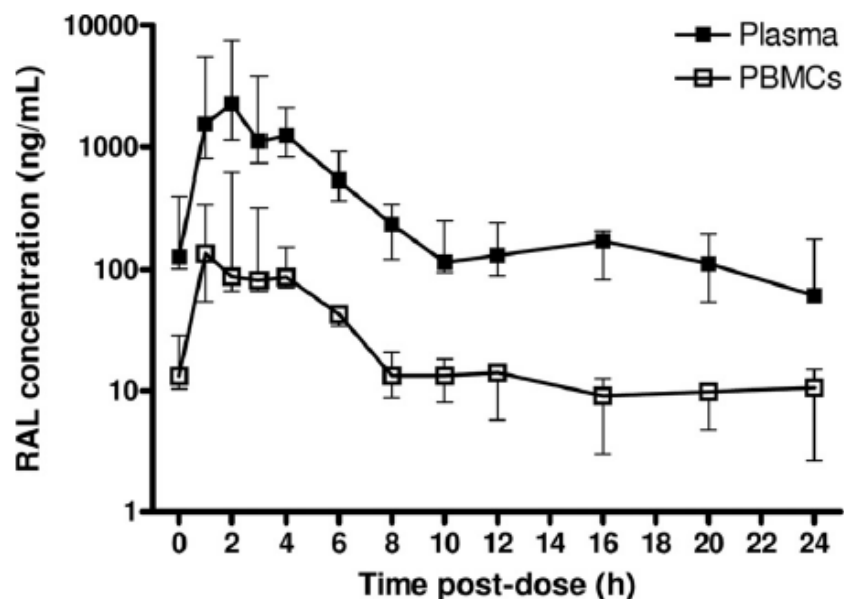


FIG. 1. Raltegravir time-concentration curve in plasma and PBMCs. Data are represented as medians and interquartile ranges. RAL, raltegravir.

# II - Raltegravir

## Research Letter

*AIDS* 2012, **26**:2257–2259

Measurement of plasma and intracellular concentrations of raltegravir in patients with HIV infection

Uriel Sandkovsky<sup>a,b</sup>, Susan Swindells<sup>a,b</sup>, Briar Robbins<sup>c,d</sup>, Sarah R. Nelson<sup>c</sup>, Edward P. Acosta<sup>e</sup> and Courtney V. Fletcher<sup>a,b,c,d</sup>

**This paper confirm the previous with no accomulation of raltegravir within the cells**

**But ratio is different (0.2 – 0.5).**

**Table 1. Plasma and intracellular concentrations in participants receiving raltegravir 400 mg twice daily vs. participants receiving raltegravir 800 mg daily.**

Time (h) No. of samples	Raltegravir 400 mg twice daily				Raltegravir 800 mg once daily			
	Plasma concentrations (ng/ml)				Plasma concentrations (ng/ml)			
	2 <i>n</i> = 3	4 <i>n</i> = 6	6 <i>n</i> = 3	12 <i>n</i> = 12	2 <i>n</i> = 1	4 <i>n</i> = 4	6 <i>n</i> = 2	24 <i>n</i> = 6
Mean	1104.2	845.4	1538.3	205.6	7848	617.3	672.2	73.2
SD	1457.4	884.6	1394.3	145.2	–	583.9	633.3	92.5
CV	132%	105%	91%	71%	–	95%	94%	126%
Median	335.8	522.8	1368	165.3	7848	600	672.2	50.8
Min	191.7	80.8	237	34.7	7848	96.1	224.3	7
Max	2785	2316	3010	540.8	7848	1173	1120	230.2
Time (h)	Intracellular concentrations (ng/ml)				Intracellular concentrations (ng/ml)			
	2	4	6	12	2	4	6	24
Mean	227.1	262.7	663.5	67.2	3099.8	184.4	240.9	33.8
SD	195.7	321.1	641.9	70.8	–	135.1	221.6	42
CV	86%	122%	97%	105%	–	73%	92%	124%
Median	184.8	140.3	511	50.8	3099.8	182.7	240.9	16.7
Min	56.1	25.1	111.7	7	3099.8	37	84.2	1.56
Max	440.6	874.9	1367.9	264.6	3099.8	335.3	397.6	109

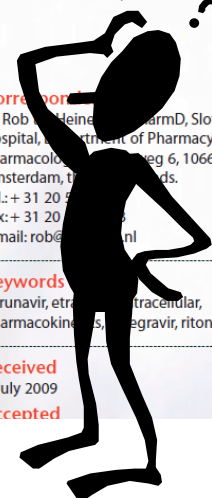
CV, coefficient of variation; Min, minimum measured concentration; Max, maximum measured concentration SD, standard deviation.

# II - Raltegravir\*

**Correspondence:**  
Dr Rob de Witte, PharmD, Slotervaart  
Hospital, Department of Pharmacy &  
Pharmacology, P.O. Box 6, 1066 EC,  
Amsterdam, the Netherlands.  
Tel.: +31 20 596 1111  
Fax: +31 20 596 1111  
E-mail: rob@slotervaart.nl

**Keywords:**  
darunavir, etravirine, intracellular,  
pharmacokinetics, raltegravir, ritonavir

**Received**  
4 July 2009  
**Accepted**



## AIM

To study the steady-state plasma and intracellular pharmacokinetics of raltegravir, etravirine, darunavir and ritonavir in heavily pre-treated patients.

## METHODS

Patients on a salvage regimen containing raltegravir, etravirine, darunavir and ritonavir were eligible for inclusion. During a 12 h dosing interval plasma and peripheral blood mononuclear cells were collected. Drug concentrations were measured using a validated LC-MS/MS assay and pharmacokinetic analysis was performed using non-linear mixed

## RESULTS

Irregular absorption was observed caused by enterohepatic cycling. When compared with other ritonavir pharmacokinetics showed wide inter-individual variability. Raltegravir concentrations could not be detected in PBMCs. The intracellular to plasma ratios for etravirine, darunavir and ritonavir were 12.9, 1.32 and 7.72, respectively, and the estimates were 16.3%, 12.3% and 16.3%, respectively.

## CONCLUSIONS

The observed distinct intracellular pharmacokinetics of the different antiretroviral drugs may explain the absence of PK-PD relationships in heavily pre-treated patients. The observed distinct intracellular concentrations of ritonavir may explain the lack of replication in the cellular compartment with HIV harbouring PI resistance.

cellular and intracellular steady-state pharmacokinetics of raltegravir, darunavir, etravirine and ritonavir in heavily pre-treated

**Table 2**

Observed pharmacokinetics in plasma and PBMCs

	Raltegravir		Etravirine		Darunavir		Ritonavir	
Mean $\pm$ SD	Plasma		Plasma	PBMCs	Plasma	PBMCs	Plasma	PBMCs
n	11		9		10		10	
C <sub>pre-dose</sub> (mg l <sup>-1</sup> )	0.0690 $\pm$ 0.0507		0.235 $\pm$ 0.092	4.53 $\pm$ 6.01	1.89 $\pm$ 1.27	1.45 $\pm$ 1.11	0.124 $\pm$ 0.0741	0.976 $\pm$ 0.485
C <sub>max</sub> (mg l <sup>-1</sup> )	0.709 $\pm$ 0.760		0.444 $\pm$ 0.135	9.40 $\pm$ 6.47	4.47 $\pm$ 1.82	9.73 $\pm$ 5.37	0.350 $\pm$ 0.213	2.55 $\pm$ 1.22
t <sub>max</sub> (h)	3.08 $\pm$ 2.47		2.89 $\pm$ 0.735	2.64 $\pm$ 0.907	2.23 $\pm$ 0.934	2.26 $\pm$ 1.31	3.42 $\pm$ 1.66	2.74 $\pm$ 2.29

**Table 3**

### A) Estimated pharmacokinetic parameters of raltegravir, etravirine and darunavir

	Raltegravir (RSE)*	Etravirine (RSE)*	Darunavir (RSE)*
Number of transition compartments	2	4	2
Mean absorption time (h)	1.49 (27.9%)	1.77 (14.8%)	0.965 (22.3%)
CL/F (l h <sup>-1</sup> )	191 (16.0%)	55.3 (9.11%)	21.3 (13.9%)
V/F (l)	820 (25.5%)	781 (13.6%)	220 (14.5%)
Accumulation ratio	–	12.9 (16.3%)	1.32 (12.3%)
IIV MAT (%)	75.0 (59.5%)	36.9 (14.8%)	62.8 (22.3%)
IIV CL/F (%)	49.7 (59.5%)	26.3 (23.2%)	43.0 (31.1%)
Correlation IIV CL/F and IIV V/F	0.273 (47.6%)	0.0697 (45.2%)	0.133 (37.5%)
IIV V/F (%)	72.1 (35.6%)	30.3 (60.3%)	40.5 (38.2%)
IIV accumulation ratio (%)	–	55.1 (52.4%)	35.4 (52.7%)
Exponential residual error plasma observations (%)	68.1	13.2	19.4
Exponential residual error intracellular observations (%)	–	53.3	75.2



# II - Raltegravir

*J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* • Volume 58, Number 5, December 15, 2011

## Plasma and Intracellular Pharmacokinetics of Darunavir/ Ritonavir Once Daily and Raltegravir Once and Twice Daily in HIV-Infected Individuals

Table 1. Plasma and IC Concentrations of Darunavir, Raltegravir, and Ritonavir and PK Parameter Comparison

	Plasma		IC		GM IC to Plasma Ratio	
	Group 1 (n = 13)	Group 2 (n = 12)	Group 1 (n = 13)	Group 2 (n = 12)	Group 1	Group 2
Period 1 (day 21)						
Raltegravir						
GM AUC, ng·h <sup>-1</sup> ·mL <sup>-1</sup>	1944	1635	9010	8780	4.9	5.6
GM C <sub>max</sub> , ng/mL	533	361	2306	1871	4.6	5.5
GM C <sub>trough</sub> , ng/mL	23	28	101	115	5.1	4.6
Period 2 (day 35)						
Raltegravir						
GM AUC, ng·h <sup>-1</sup> ·mL <sup>-1</sup>	1759	1979*	9223	11,183	5.8	6.0
GM C <sub>max</sub> , ng/mL	438	556*	2173	2817	5.6	6.8
GM C <sub>trough</sub> , ng/mL	20	11*	105	22	4.5	2.4
Darunavir						
GM AUC, ng·h <sup>-1</sup> ·mL <sup>-1</sup>	40,064	50,040	20,2865	26,3148	5.3	5.6
GM C <sub>max</sub> , ng/mL	4235	5092	20,210	29,293	6.8	6.3
GM C <sub>trough</sub> , ng						4.3
Ritonavir						
GM AUC, ng·h <sup>-1</sup> ·mL <sup>-1</sup>	7422	7337	23,767	20,062	10.0	6.9
GM C <sub>max</sub> , ng/mL	492	617	2992	2290	12.0	5.7
GM C <sub>trough</sub> , ng/mL						1
Period 1 (day 21)						
Darunavir						
GM AUC, ng·h <sup>-1</sup> ·mL <sup>-1</sup>						9
GM C <sub>max</sub> , ng/mL						8
GM C <sub>trough</sub> , ng/mL						4
Ritonavir						
GM AUC, ng·h <sup>-1</sup> ·mL <sup>-1</sup>	4568	4516	36,769	27,652	9.5	6.5
GM C <sub>max</sub> , ng/mL	528	527	4041	2607	13.5	5.2
GM C <sub>trough</sub> , ng/mL	44	36	478	369	11.7	10.6

Which data are correct for raltegravir?

There are key methodological factors:

The wash numbers and time!

Raltegravir goes very easy outside the PBMC.



# Technical Questions

**Intracellular TDM for ARVs should be  
in PBMC cells**



# Open questions...

- CPT tube or Ficoll for PBMCs isolation?
- How many times we have to wash PBMCs?
- Cold Ice Phosphate buffered saline (PBS), NaCl 0.9%, oil or other solution?
- How to count PBMCs?
- How to converse absolute drug determination in ng/mL?



# Technical Conclusions

## ...for ARVs (and other drugs) intracellular determinations

To date, there isn't a “gold standard” methodology.

- PBMCs isolation:
  - CPT tube or Ficoll separation?
  - Number of washes?
  - Kind of solution? PBS, NaCl 0.9%, Oil, other?

**You have to choose on the basis of your drug!**

Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis 101 (2014) 183–193



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jpba](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jpba)



Review

Therapeutic drug monitoring of intracellular anti-infective agents<sup>☆</sup>

Antonio D'Avolio\*, Debora Pensi, Lorena Baietto, Giovanni Di Perri

Laboratory of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacogenetic, Unit of Infectious Diseases, University of Turin, Department of Medical Sciences, Amedeo di Savoia Hospital, Turin, Italy



# Technical Conclusions

## Other KEY FACTORS for a correct intracellular drug evaluation are:

- Automated counting with Coulter Counter, with calculation of Mean Cellular Volume [MCV] for a personalized evaluation and data correction in ng/mL).
- No use of 400 fL, it is incorrect! [Simiele et al., AAC 2011] (at least report results per  $10^{-6}$  cells)
- Chromatographic methods... others discussion points

Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis 101 (2014) 183–193



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jpba](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jpba)



Review

Therapeutic drug monitoring of intracellular anti-infective agents<sup>☆</sup>

Antonio D'Avolio<sup>\*</sup>, Debora Pensi, Lorena Baietto, Giovanni Di Perri

Laboratory of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacogenetic, Unit of Infectious Diseases, University of Turin, Department of Medical Sciences, Amedeo di Savoia Hospital, Turin, Italy



---

# Pitfalls Associated with the Use of Liquid Chromatography–Tandem Mass Spectrometry in the Clinical Laboratory

Michael Vogeser<sup>1\*</sup> and Christoph Seger<sup>2\*</sup>



# Conclusions

Bazzoli C. et al 2010  
D'Avolio A. et al. 2014

- Intracellular concentrations of ARVs could play a major role in their efficacy and toxicity, and are influenced by numerous factors.
- The number of published clinical studies in this area is limited; most studies have been small and not always adequately designed.
- Larger and prospectively designed clinical studies are needed to further investigate the links between intracellular concentrations of ARVs and clinical endpoints.
- **Standardization of assays and PBMC counts and use of MCV should be warranted.**

# TAKE HOME MESSAGES

.... routinely TDM for ARVs  
should be performed only in PLASMA

**despite poor correlation between  
plasma drug concentrations and  
intracellular drug concentrations**



**Actual methods are NOT EASY to perform and they  
could have high imprecision if not well validated!**

**Maybe for research only...  
excluding immunosuppressive drugs.**

# Acknowledgement

## University of Turin

Prof. Giovanni Di Perri

Prof. Stefano Bonora

Prof. Francesco Giuseppe De Rosa

Andrea Calcagno

Maria Cristina Tettoni

Laura Trentini

Letizia Marinaro

Pino Cariti

Lucio Boglione

Chiara Cardellino

## The Laboratory Team

Mauro Sciandra

Lorena Baietto

Marco Simiele

Jessica Cusato

Amedeo De Nicolò

Alessandra Ariaudo


Debora Pensi

Cristina Tomasello

Chiara Carcieri

...and the students

30/12/13 TDM\_home



### Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Università degli Studi di Torino / ASL TO2  
Clinica Universitaria di Malattie Infettive (Direttore Prof. Giovanni Di Perri) Dipartimento di Scienze Mediche  
Laboratorio di Farmacologia Clinica e Farmacogenetica (Responsabile Dr. Antonio D'Avolio)  
Padiglione Q, Ospedale Amedeo di Savoia, C.so Svizzera 184, 10149 TORINO (Italy)  
Tel. Seg. +39.011.4393979, Fax: +39.011.4393882, Tel. Lab. +39.011.4393867, e-mail: info@tdm-torino.org

#### Links

- Linee Guida BHIVA
- Linee Guida DHHS

#### Terapia anti HIV: ogni paziente è unico

**EN UNI ISO 9001:2008 Certified Laboratory**

#### Il ruolo del Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM)

Il Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, meglio noto con l'acronimo di TDM, rappresenta un esempio di ricaduta clinica pratica dell'attività di laboratorio farmacologica. Come noto consiste nella determinazione delle concentrazioni plasmatiche di un farmaco e nell'eventuale variazione posologica sulla base di tali risultanze.....[\(continua\)](#)

[www.tdm-torino.org](http://www.tdm-torino.org)

**Laboratory of Clinical Pharmacology  
and Pharmacogenetics**  
**UNI EN ISO 9001:2008 Certified Laboratory**

