

EXPERIENCE WITH TEICOPLANIN IN GRAM-POSITIVE INFECTIONS IN KOREA: ANALYSIS OF MULTI-CENTER STUDIES

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Background : Gram-positive bacteria have been an increasing cause of nosocomial infection in recent years. Treatment of these infections is often difficult, particularly infections caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Teicoplanin, is a new glycopeptide antibiotic structurally related to vancomycin, has been reported to have an excellent in vitro and in vivo effect against various gram-positive infections.

Clinical Studies were reported by several medical center in Korea to evaluate the clinical efficacy and safety of teicoplanin.

Methods : To evaluate the efficacy and safety of teicoplanin, an open, non-comparative clinical study was performed in 142 patients with septicemia (15), pneumonia (13), urinary tract infection (8), endocarditis (7), skin and soft tissue infection (39), bacteremia (5), chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) (2), lower respiratory tract infection (4), catheter associated infection (2), empyema (14) and meningitis (7).

The usual dose of teicoplanin was 200-400 mg once daily intravenously after a loading dose of 400 mg.

Results : A total of 142 patients (95 male and 47 female, mean age, 51±13 years) were studied. The causative pathogens consisted of *Staphylococcus aureus* (51) including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) (37), coagulase (-) *Staphylococcus* (13), *S. viridans* (2), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (7), *Enterococcus* (12), Alpha-hemolytic *Streptococcus* (4), and *S. epidermidis* (1).

The overall 89.9% of the 138 evaluable cases were cured (116/138) or improved (8/138) clinically, and in 83.3% of isolated organism were eradicated after teicoplanin therapy. As adverse events of teicoplanin, elevated liver enzyme (SGOT, SGPT, Alkalin phosphatase) (6), skin rashes (4), dizziness (3), and chill (1), were observed in 14 cases.

Conclusion : Teicoplanin seems to be an effective and safe antimicrobial agent against infections caused by gram-positive bacteria including MRSA.