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Disclosure(s) Nothing to disclose

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SERUM CREATININE IS SUPERIOR TO SERUM CYSTATIN C IN EXPLAINING INTER-INDIVIDUAL VARIABILITY OF VANCOMYCIN CLEARANCE IN NEONATES AND YOUNG INFANTS

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10.1136/archdischild-2019-esdppp.98

Background Serum creatinine (SCr) is used as a surrogate marker of glomerular filtration rate to guide dosing of drugs eliminated by the kidney. Serum Cystatin C (S-CysC) has been suggested as a more reliable biomarker than SCr for monitoring kidney function in adults and children. Purpose of this study was to evaluate whether S-CysC is a more useful marker for estimating vancomycin clearance in neonates and young infants.

Methods Pharmacokinetic (PK), Scr and S-CysC data were collected in patients undergoing continuous intravenous vancomycin treatment in the neonatal intensive care unit of Robert Debré Hospital - Paris. A population PK analysis was performed with the software package NONMEM, utilizing vancomycin therapeutic drug monitoring samples. S-CysC and SCr were compared in terms of usefulness to explain inter-individual variability (IIV) of vancomycin clearance. Statistical criteria were used for covariate selection.

Results A total of 58 concentrations from 47 patients (gestational age [GA] ranging from 23 to 41 weeks and postmenstrual age [PMA] ranging from 26 to 46 weeks) were modeled with an allometric one-compartment model with first-order elimination. The median (range) values for SCr and S-CysC were 41.5 (12.0 to 102.0) $\mu\text{mol/L}$ and 1.38 (0.95 to 2.32) mg/L , respectively. When tested individually, SCr and S-CysC explained 26.4% and 9.8% of IIV of vancomycin clearance, respectively. PMA was superior as a covariate on clearance, over the combination of GA and postnatal age. As such, body-weight, PMA, and SCr were retained as significant covariates on clearance in the final model.

Conclusions Serum Creatinine was found to be more useful than Serum Cystatin C to explain IIV of vancomycin clearance in this population. Further studies are needed to evaluate the utility of renal biomarkers to predict clearance and dosing of renally eliminated drugs in neonates.

Disclosure(s) Nothing to disclose

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POPULATION PHARMACOKINETICS OF VANCOMYCIN IN CHINESE ICU NEONATES: INITIAL DOSAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

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10.1136/archdischild-2019-esdppp.99

The main goal of our study was to characterize the population pharmacokinetics of vancomycin in critically ill Chinese neonates to develop a pharmacokinetic model and investigate factors that have significant influences on the pharmacokinetics of vancomycin in this population.^{1 2} The study population consisted of 80 neonates in the neonatal intensive care unit (ICU) from which 165 trough and peak concentrations of vancomycin were obtained. Nonlinear mixed effect modeling was used to develop a population pharmacokinetic model for vancomycin.⁴ The stability and predictive ability of the final model were evaluated based on diagnostic plots, normalized prediction distribution errors and the bootstrap method. Serum creatinine (Scr) and body weight were significant covariates on the clearance of vancomycin.^{5 6} The average clearance was 0.309 L/h for a neonate with Scr of 2.33 mmol/L and body weight of 2.9 kg. No obvious ethnic differences in the clearance of vancomycin were found relative to the earlier studies of Caucasian neonates. Moreover, the established model indicated that in patients with a greater renal clearance status, especially Scr < 15 mmol/L , current guideline recommendations would likely not achieve therapeutic area under the concentration-time curve over 24 h/minimum inhibitory concentration ($\text{AUC}_{24\text{h}}/\text{MIC}$) ≥ 400 .³ The exceptions to this are British National Formulary (2016–2017), Blue Book (2016) and Neofax (2017). Recommended dose regimens for neonates with different Scr levels and postmenstrual ages were estimated based on Monte Carlo simulations and the established model. These findings will be valuable for developing individualized dosage regimens in the neonatal ICU setting.

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Disclosure(s) Nothing to disclose