Development of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Model for Losartan and Its Active Metabolite E3174 - Ethnic Differences in Pharmacokinetics between Caucasian and Asian Populations

Jin Dong, Grazyna Fraczkiewicz, Viera Lukacova, Michael B. Bolger
Simulations Plus, Inc., 42505 10th Street West, Lancaster, California 93534, USA

OBJECTIVE
Losartan is a selective, competitive angiotensin II receptor type 1 (AT1) antagonist for hypertension treatment. Although losartan itself is pharmacologically active, its primary metabolite, E3174, produced by CYP2C9 and CYP3A4 enzymes, has 10- to 40-fold higher potency and a longer half-life.

Ethnic differences in E3174 exposure have been observed between Caucasian and Asian subjects, which cannot be explained by genetic polymorphism of CYP2C9 alone. A validated losartan and E3174 model was developed to investigate the sources of ethnic differences in E3174 pharmacokinetics.

RESULTS
The extended final model well described pharmacokinetic profiles of losartan and its metabolite E3174 after both IV and PO administrations in Caucasians (Figures 2A and B). However, the model significantly underestimated E3174 plasma-concentration-time profile in Japanese subjects (Figure 2C).

The extended final model also successfully simulated the cumulative amount of E3174 secreted in urine after IV administration of E3174 in Caucasians (Figure 3). The observed cumulative amount of E3174 secreted in urine as percent of dose was reported to be 55.1% [9].

The extended final model adequately described dose proportional pharmacokinetics of losartan and its metabolite E3174 in Japanese after PO administration over the dose range of 25 to 200 mg by adjusting expression levels of hepatic transporters modulating E3174 hepatic disposition (Figure 4).

Simulation results of complete inhibition of P-gp (Table 2) suggest that P-gp-mediated transport kinetics does not have significant influence on losartan and its metabolite E3174 disposition. This is consistent with the clinical evidence reported by Yasar et al. [7].

Parameter sensitivity analysis (PSA) results (Figure 5) indicate that hepatic efflux transporters have higher impact on E3174 disposition than hepatic influx transporters.

E3174 has a shorter half-life of elimination (t1/2p) in Japanese than in Caucasians while its renal clearances in these two populations are the same [8]. This suggests the biliary clearance of E3174 is higher in Japanese. For this reason, higher activities of apical hepatic efflux transporters in Japanese are expected.

Given that the clearance of E3174 is higher in Japanese, most likely, the activities of basolateral hepatic efflux transporters must be higher in Japanese as the observed E3174 plasma exposure is higher in Japanese.

CONCLUSIONS
Losartan itself doesn’t display significant ethnic differences in pharmacokinetics. However, there are differences observed for the metabolite E3174.

CYP2C9 polymorphism is unlikely to be the reason for the observed ethnic difference in E3174 pharmacokinetics.

The ethnic differences in the pharmacokinetics of E3174 could be driven by differences in transporter kinetics, and not metabolism, between Caucasian and Japanese populations.

METHODS
A physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) model for losartan and E3174 was previously developed by another group based on the in vitro data [1]. In this study, the published model [1] was extended by

- Adding gut P-glycoprotein (P-gp)
- Adding kidney transporter
- Assigning two different sets of hepatic transporters to losartan and its metabolite E3174 as suggested by Solder et al. [2] that the primary transporters modulating losartan and E3174 active transport could be different (Figure 1)
- Optimizing Hepatic transport kinetics

The extended final model was validated using plasma and urinary excretion data after IV and PO administration from several studies in Caucasian subjects.

Table 1: Transporter parameters of the Final Extended PBPK Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substrate</th>
<th>Transporter</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Expression (nmol/mg)</th>
<th>Vmax (nmol/min/mg)</th>
<th>Km (nmol/L)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Losartan</td>
<td>Kidney-LinAP</td>
<td>Efflux</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>4.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-gp</td>
<td>Gut-LinBL</td>
<td>Efflux</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Losartan</td>
<td>P-gp</td>
<td>Linap</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GATPB1</td>
<td>Linap</td>
<td>Efflux</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LinBL</td>
<td>Efflux</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.04</td>
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<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

where Ap = apical; B1 = basolateral; CAU = Caucasian; JPN = Japanese; G+ = default value in GastroPlus™ 9.5

REFERENCES