

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Interstitial Fluid: a Feasibility Study Using a Comprehensive Panel of Drugs

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Introduction

- Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) usually requires drawing blood.
- Obtaining blood samples might be difficult in certain populations such as neonates, infants, children, and patients with fragile/bad veins.
- Interstitial fluid (ISF) can serve as an alternative matrix for TDM in patients for whom it has traditionally been impossible to draw sufficient blood samples.
- ISF is essentially equivalent to blood without the proteins and has the following potential advantages:

- Minimally invasive
- Minimally painful
- No bleeding
- Hemolysis of no concern
- Direct analysis possible without cleanup

The **objective** of this study was to determine the feasibility of using ISF for TDM by comparing concentration-time profiles in ISF and blood using a panel of drugs that warrant TDM in the clinic today. A **novel scoring algorithm** was also devised to help aid the determination of the suitability of using ISF for TDM.

Methods

- An ultrafiltration probe (UF-3-12, Bioanalytical Systems Inc) for ISF collection was implanted SC between the shoulders of rabbits ($n = 4 - 6$ / group).
- On the next day, an IV bolus of vancomycin (20 mg/kg), gentamicin (50 mg/kg), tacrolimus (0.1 mg/kg), cyclosporine (5 mg/kg), mycophenolate (40 mg/kg), valproic acid (50 mg/kg), phenobarbital (30 mg/kg), phenytoin (10 mg/kg), carboplatin (18.7 mg/kg), cisplatin (3 mg/kg), methotrexate (15 mg/kg), theophylline (12 mg/kg), or digoxin (0.02 mg/kg) was administered into the ear vein.
- Serial (0 – 72 hrs post dose) of ISF and blood concentrations were determined by validated drug assays.
- Pharmacokinetic parameters were generated using Phoenix™ WinNonlin 5.1.

Figure 1: Scoring Algorithm to Determine the Feasibility of TDM in ISF

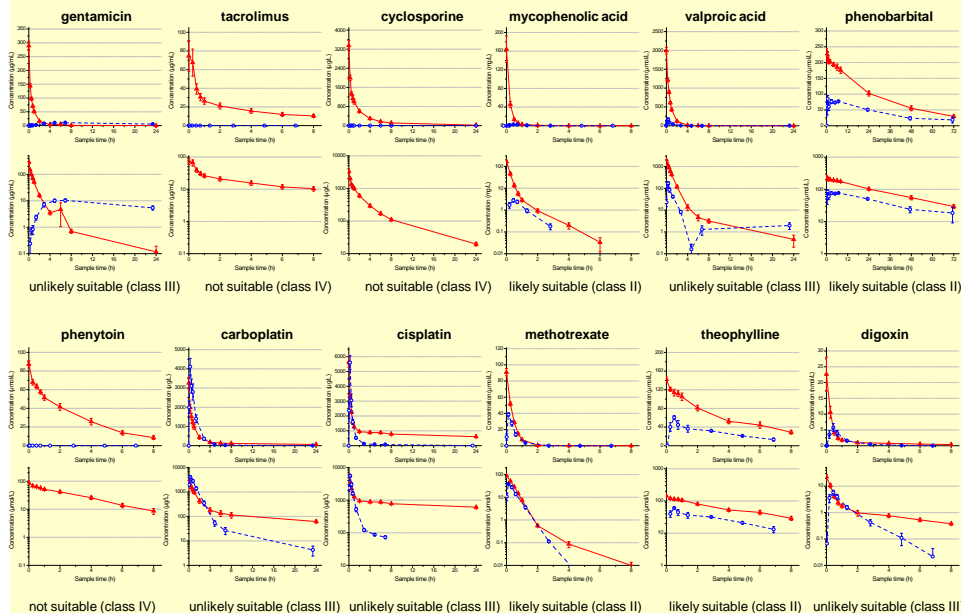
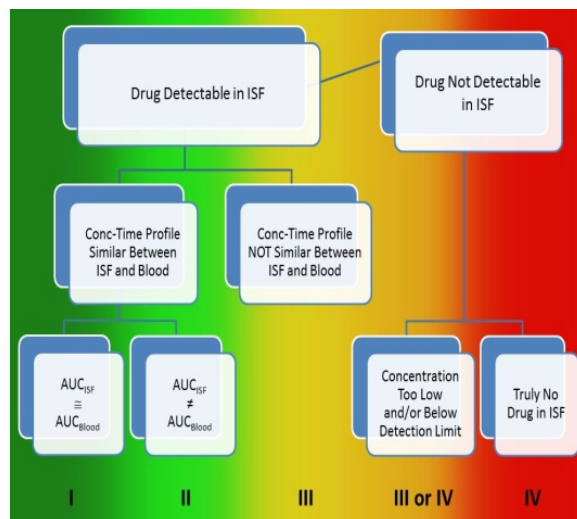


Figure 2: Concentration-Time Profiles

Table 1: Cmax and AUC Values (ISF vs. Blood)

Drug	Cmax		AUC	
	ISF	Blood	ISF	Blood
vancomycin (µg/mL)	32.1 ± 2.6*	80.2 ± 18.5	75.3 ± 7.7	89.8 ± 15.7
gentamicin (µg/mL)	10.8 ± 3.6*	289.5 ± 40.3	176.1 ± 54.0	188.8 ± 44.7
tacrolimus (µg/mL)	ND	74.7 ± 32.8	ND	157.3 ± 48.7
cyclosporine (µg/L)	ND	3349.2 ± 536.9	ND	5144.4 ± 1129.5
mycophenolic acid (mg/L)	2.6 ± 1.3*	164.2 ± 69.3	3.2 ± 1.3*	40.3 ± 15.9
valproic acid (µmol/L)	178.2 ± 56.6*	1992.5 ± 217.6	177.5 ± 32.5*	1424.9 ± 213.3
phenobarbital (µmol/L)	95.5 ± 16.8*	239.3 ± 20.1	2822.4 ± 274.5*	6700.4 ± 1199.2
phenytoin (µmol/L)	ND	87.4 ± 8.7	ND	241.4 ± 49.3
carboplatin (µg/L)	4110.5 ± 1058.9	3259.3 ± 730.1	5667.3 ± 1755.6	5004.1 ± 2049.9
cisplatin (µg/L)	5600.0 ± 1017.1	5639.0 ± 799.9	4002.3 ± 826.7*	20128.1 ± 1328.1
methotrexate (µmol/L)	36.3 ± 8.7*	90.8 ± 10.9	19.7 ± 5.2*	39.4 ± 5.2
theophylline (µmol/L)	62.5 ± 7.1*	142.5 ± 12.4	190.8 ± 51.8*	513.9 ± 103.7
digoxin (nmol/L)	5.9 ± 2.9*	22.7 ± 13.2	6.4 ± 3.2*	14.6 ± 6.9

Conclusion & Future Direction

- A novel scoring algorithm for determining the feasibility of using ISF for TDM has been devised (Fig 1).
- Vancomycin is **suitable** for TDM in ISF (Fig 2, Table 1).
- Other drugs can be classified as **likely suitable**, **unlikely suitable**, or **not suitable** (See Fig 1 for the suitability grading of individual drugs)
- Clinical studies to determine the feasibility of ISF for TDM are being planned for select drugs.

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