

Ceftolozane/Tazobactam Activity Tested Against Aerobic Gram-negative Organisms Isolated From Intra-abdominal Infections in United States Hospitals (2013)

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AMENDED ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Timely and appropriate antimicrobial therapy is important for the management of intra-abdominal infection (IAI). Ceftolozane/tazobactam (TOL/TAZ) is a novel antibacterial with activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (PSA), including drug-resistant strains, and Enterobacteriaceae, including many ESBL-producing and MDR strains. TOL/TAZ is currently under clinical development for treatment of complicated IAI.

METHODS: 425 isolates (1 per patient) were collected in 27 hospitals in the USA from patients with IAI by the Program to Assess TOL/TAZ Susceptibility (PACTS) in 2013. Susceptibility (S) testing was performed by CLSI broth microdilution methods.

RESULTS: TOL/TAZ was potent (MIC_{50/90}* 0.25/1 µg/mL) against 364 Enterobacteriaceae inhibiting 95.6% of isolates at ≤8 µg/mL. *Escherichia coli* was the most common organism (43.5% of total) and had overall ESBL-/MDR-phenotype rates of 12.4/4.9%. All *E. coli* strains were S to meropenem (MEM) and 98.9% were inhibited at TOL/TAZ of ≤8 µg/mL (MIC_{50/90}* 0.25/0.5 µg/mL). *E. coli* S rates for gentamicin (GEN) and levofloxacin (LVX) were 85.9 and 72.3%, respectively. Among *Klebsiella* spp. (KSP; 2nd most common pathogen, 20.7%), ESBL/MDR rates were 18.2/13.6%. TOL/TAZ was active (MIC_{50/90}* 0.25/32 µg/mL; inhibited 89.8% at ≤8 µg/mL) against most KSP, but was less active against ESBL and MDR strains inhibiting only 43.8 and 25.0% at ≤8 µg/mL, respectively. TOL/TAZ was more active against MEM-S-ESBL phenotype KSP (Table). S rates to GEN and LVX were 92.0 and 88.6%, respectively. TOL/TAZ (MIC_{50/90}* 0.25/4 µg/mL) showed greater activity than ceftazidime (CAZ; MIC_{50/90}* 0.5/32 µg/mL) and piperacillin/TAZ (PIP/TAZ; MIC_{50/90}* 4/32 µg/mL) against *Enterobacter* spp. PSA was the 3rd most common pathogen (13.6%); TOL/TAZ (MIC_{50/90}* 0.5/2 µg/mL) and amikacin (MIC_{50/90}* 2/8 µg/mL; 100.0% S) were the most active compounds tested. TOL/TAZ was 4- to 16-fold more active than CAZ (MIC_{50/90}* 2/32 µg/mL) when tested against PSA.

Organism (No. Tested)	% Susceptible (CLSI criteria)			
	TOL/TAZ*	PIP/TAZ	CAZ	MEM
All Enterobacteriaceae (364)	(95.6)*	89.0	87.9	97.5
<i>E. coli</i> (185)	(98.9)*	94.1	91.9	100.0
ESBL-phenotype (23)	(91.3)*	78.3	34.8	100.0
MDR (9)	(77.8)*	44.4	11.1	100.0
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp. (88)	(89.8)*	83.0	86.4	89.8
ESBL-phenotype (16)	(43.8)*	6.3	25.0	43.8
MEM-S-ESBL phenotype (7)	(71.4)	14.3	57.1	100.0
MDR (12)	(25.0)*	0.0	8.3	25.0
<i>Enterobacter</i> spp. (41)	(95.1)*	75.0	73.2	100.0
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> (58)	(98.3)*	82.8	87.9	73.7
MDR (9)	(88.9)*	22.2	55.5	0.0

*Inhibited at ≤8 µg/mL.

CONCLUSIONS: TOL/TAZ was very active against aerobic Gram-negative organisms isolated from IAIs in USA hospitals in 2013. TOL/TAZ coverage against Enterobacteriaceae was comparable to MEM and greater than PIP/TAZ and CAZ. TOL/TAZ activity against PSA was greater than MEM, PIP/TAZ, and CAZ.

INTRODUCTION

- Intra-abdominal infections (IAIs) can either be mono- or poly-microbial and often include anaerobes as well as aerobes. Gram-negative bacilli (increasingly drug-resistant strains) play a prominent role in IAIs.
- Among aerobic Gram-negative bacilli, *Escherichia coli* is the species isolated most frequently (in ~50% of cases) followed by other Enterobacteriaceae and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.
- Ceftolozane/tazobactam is a novel antibacterial with activity against *P. aeruginosa*, including multidrug-resistant (MDR) strains, and other common Gram-negative pathogens including most extended-spectrum β-lactamases (ESBL)-producing Enterobacteriaceae.
- In the Assessment of the Safety Profile and Efficacy of Ceftolozane-/Tazobactam in Complicated Intra-abdominal Infection (ASPECT-clAI) trial, ceftolozane/tazobactam plus metronidazole met its primary endpoint of noninferior efficacy to meropenem for clinical cure in patients with clAI.
- In this study, we evaluated the activity of ceftolozane/tazobactam and comparator agents tested against Gram-negative organisms causing IAI in United States (USA) hospitals during 2013.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Organism collection: The organism collection included only aerobic Gram-negative bacilli collected from hospitalized patients with a diagnosis of IAI. In 2013, a total of 425 unique patient organisms were consecutively collected from USA (27 hospitals) medical centers by the Program to Assess Ceftolozane/Tazobactam Susceptibility (PACTS). Species identification was performed at the participant medical center and confirmed at the monitoring laboratory (JMI Laboratories, North Liberty, IA, USA) using the VITEK 2 System (bioMérieux, Hazelwood, MO, USA) or MALDI-TOF (Bruker, Billerica, MA, USA), when necessary. Only 1 strain per patient infection episode was included in this surveillance study.

Susceptibility testing: Isolates were tested for susceptibility to multiple antimicrobial agents at a reference laboratory (JMI Laboratories) by standardized broth microdilution methods as described by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) M07-A9 document. Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) results were interpreted according to CLSI criteria in M100-S24 (2014), as well as European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) breakpoint tables (version 4.0, January 2014). *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. isolates with a MIC of ≥2 µg/mL for ceftazidime or ceftriaxone or aztreonam were categorized as an ESBL-phenotype. Strains were stratified by susceptibility pattern to ceftazidime and meropenem. MDR, extensively drug-resistant (XDR), and pandrug-resistant (PDR) bacteria were classified as such as per recently recommended guidelines by Magiorakos et al (2012), using antimicrobial class representative agents and CLSI susceptibility MIC breakpoints. Classifications were based on the following recommended parameters: MDR = non-susceptible to ≥3 antimicrobial classes; XDR = susceptible to ≤2 antimicrobial classes; PDR = non-susceptible to all antimicrobial classes.

- Ceftolozane/tazobactam was very active (MIC required to inhibit the growth of 50%/90% of organisms [MIC_{50/90}], 0.25/1 µg/mL; 94.2/95.6% inhibited at ≤4/≤8 µg/mL) against 364 Enterobacteriaceae (Table 1). The MDR, XDR, and PDR rates in Enterobacteriaceae were 8.5%, 1.9%, and 0.0%, respectively.
- Against all 185 *E. coli* isolates, ceftolozane/tazobactam was very active (MIC_{50/90}* 0.25/0.5 µg/mL).
 - Ceftolozane/tazobactam retained activity against many of the MDR isolates, inhibiting 77.8% (7/9) at a MIC of ≤8 µg/mL (Table 1).
 - 91.3% (21/23) of ESBL-phenotype isolates were inhibited at a MIC of ≤8 µg/mL (Table 1).
 - Meropenem was the most potent (MIC_{50/90}* ≤0.06/≤0.06 µg/mL) agent overall against *E. coli* (Table 2).
 - Susceptibility rates (CLSI) ranged from 72.3% for levofloxacin to 100.0% for meropenem and tigecycline (Table 2).
- Ceftolozane/tazobactam demonstrated good activity (MIC_{50/90}* 0.25/8 µg/mL) against 88 isolates of *Klebsiella* spp., inhibiting 89.8% at a MIC ≤8 µg/mL (Table 1).
 - Ceftolozane/tazobactam potency was very high against all 72 non-ESBL-phenotype *Klebsiella* spp. (MIC_{50/90}* 0.25/0.5 µg/mL).
 - However, activity was much lower against the 16 ESBL-phenotype isolates (MIC₅₀* 32 µg/mL), 12 MDR (MIC₅₀* >32 µg/mL), and 6 XDR (MIC₅₀* >32 µg/mL), likely due to the co-carriage of carbapenemases in some of these strains as evidenced by an overall meropenem resistance rate for *Klebsiella* spp. of 9.1% (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1. Cumulative MIC Distributions of Ceftolozane/Tazobactam Tested Against Gram-negative Pathogens by Resistance Phenotype

Organism*	No. of Isolates	Number of Isolates (Cumulative %) Inhibited at Ceftolozane/Tazobactam MIC (µg/mL)										MIC ₅₀	MIC ₉₀
		≤0.12	0.25	0.5	1	2	4	8	16	32	>32		
Enterobacteriaceae (all)	364	86 (23.6)	167 (69.5)	58 (85.4)	19 (90.7)	8 (92.9)	5 (94.2)	5 (95.6)	3 (96.4)	2 (97.0)	11 (100.0)	0.25	1
<i>E. coli</i>	185	67 (36.2)	86 (82.7)	19 (93.0)	7 (96.8)	3 (98.4)	0 (98.9)	0 (98.9)	0 (98.9)	2 (100.0)	0.25	0.5	0.5
MDR	9	0 (0.12)	1 (11.1)	2 (33.3)	3 (66.7)	0 (66.7)	1 (77.8)	0 (77.8)	0 (77.8)	0 (77.8)	1	-	-
non-ESBL-phenotype	162	67 (41.4)	82 (92.0)	11 (98.8)	1 (99.4)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	0.25	0.25	0.25
ESBL-phenotype	23	0 (0.0)	4 (17.4)	8 (52.2)	6 (78.3)	2 (87.0)	1 (91.3)	0 (91.3)	0 (91.3)	2 (100.0)	0.5	4	-
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp.	88	14 (15.9)	42 (63.6)	13 (78.4)	4 (83.0)	3 (86.4)	0 (86.4)	3 (89.8)	0 (89.8)	1 (90.9)	8 (100.0)	0.25	32
MDR	12	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (8.3)	0 (8.3)	2 (25.0)	0 (25.0)	1 (33.3)	8 (100.0)	>32	>32
XDR	6	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (16.7)	0 (16.7)	1 (33.3)	4 (100.0)	>32	-
non-ESBL-phenotype	72	13 (18.1)	42 (76.4)	13 (94.4)	3 (98.6)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	0.25	0.5	0.5
ESBL-phenotype	16	1 (6.3)	0 (6.3)	0 (6.3)	1 (12.5)	2 (25.0)	0 (25.0)	3 (43.8)	0 (43.8)	1 (50.0)	8 (100.0)	32	>32
MEM-S-ESBL phenotype	7	1 (14.3)	0 (14.3)	0 (14.3)	1 (28.6)	2 (57.1)	0 (57.1)	1 (71.4)	0 (71.4)	0 (71.4)	2 (100.0)	2	-
MEM-S	79	1 (1.3)	42 (70.9)	13 (87.3)	4 (92.4)	3 (96.2)	0 (96.2)	1 (97.5)	0 (97.5)	0 (97.5)	2 (100.0)	0.25	1
<i>Enterobacter</i> spp.	41	3 (7.3)	19 (53.7)	7 (70.7)	3 (78.1)	2 (82.9)	4 (92.7)	1 (95.1)	0 (95.1)	1 (97.6)	1 (100.0)	0.25	4
CAZ-S	30	3 (10.0)	19 (73.3)	6 (93.3)	2 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	0.25	0.5	0.5
CAZ-NS	11	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (9.1)	1 (18.2)	2 (36.4)	4 (72.3)	1 (81.8)	0 (81.8)	1 (90.9)	1 (100.0)	4	32
<i>Citrobacter</i> spp.	19	1 (5.3)	13 (73.7)	1 (79.0)	0 (79.0)	0 (79.0)	0 (79.0)	1 (84.2)	3 (100.0)	-	-	0.25	16
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	17	0 (0.0)	6 (35.3)	10 (94.1)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
<i>S. marcescens</i>	10	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (60.0)	4 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	1
Indole-positive <i>Proteus</i> spp.	4	1 (25.0)	1 (50.0)	2 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.25	-
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	58	0 (0.0)	4 (6.9)	35 (67.2)	9 (82.8)	8 (96.6)	1 (98.3)	0 (98.3)	0 (98.3)	0 (98.3)	1 (100.0)	0.5	2
MDR	9	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)	1 (22.2)	5 (77.8)	1 (88.9)	0 (88.9)	0 (88.9)	0 (88.9)	1 (100.0)	2	-
XDR	3	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (66.7)	0 (66.7)	0 (66.7)	0 (66.7)	0 (66.7)	1 (100.0)	2	-
<i>Acinetobacter</i> spp.	3	1 (33.3)	0 (33.3)	0 (33.3)	0 (33.3)	0 (33.3)	1 (66.7)	0 (66.7)	0 (66.7)	0 (66.7)	1 (100.0)	8	-

CAZ = ceftazidime; MEM = meropenem; NS = non-susceptible; S = susceptible.

RESULTS

- For the 7 meropenem-susceptible, ESBL-phenotype *Klebsiella* spp., 71.4% (5/7) of isolates were inhibited at a MIC of ≤8 µg/mL (Table 1).
- Ceftolozane/tazobactam also demonstrated good activity against other Enterobacteriaceae; *Enterobacter* spp. (MIC_{50/90}* 0.25/4 µg/mL), *Citrobacter* spp. (MIC_{50/90}* 0.25/16 µg/mL; 3/19 isolates were 16 µg/mL), *Proteus mirabilis* (MIC_{50/90}* 0.5/0.5 µg/mL), and *Serratia marcescens* (MIC_{50/90}* 0.5/1 µg/mL; Table 2).
- Overall, ceftolozane/tazobactam was the most active agent (MIC_{50/90}* 0.5/2 µg/mL; Table 2) tested against the 58 *P. aeruginosa*, demonstrating at least 4-fold greater activity than ceftazidime (MIC_{50/90}* 2/32 µg/mL) and cefepime (MIC_{50/90}* 2/16 µg/mL), at least 8- to 16-fold greater activity than aztreonam (MIC_{50/90}* 8/>16 µg/mL) and piperacillin/tazobactam (MIC_{50/90}* 4/>64 µg/mL), and up to 4-fold greater activity than meropenem (MIC_{50/90}* 0.5/8 µg/mL; Table 2). Susceptibility rates (CLSI criteria) for β-lactam agents tested ranged from 72.4% for aztreonam to 87.9% for ceftazidime and cefepime (Table 2). All isolates were susceptible to colistin and amikacin (by CLSI criteria), whereas levofloxacin susceptibility was only 72.4% (Table 2).
- Importantly, ceftolozane/tazobactam retained potency against most (8/9) of 9 MDR strains (MIC₅₀* 2 µg/mL; 88.9% inhibited at ≤4 µg/mL) and 2/3 XDR strains of *P. aeruginosa* (Table 1).
- Ceftolozane/tazobactam had variable activity against the limited number of *Acinetobacter* spp. (only 3 isolates; Table 1).

Table 2. Antimicrobial Activity of Ceftolozane/Tazobactam and Various Comparator Agents Tested Against Gram-negative Pathogens Isolated From Intra-abdominal Infections Collected in the USA during 2013

Organisms (No. Tested)/Antimicrobial Agent	MIC (µg/mL)		%S/%I/%R*	
	50%	90%	CLSI*	EUCAST*
<i>E. coli</i> (185)				
Ceftolozane/tazobactam	0.25	0.5	(98.9)*	-
Ceftriaxone	≤0.06	>8	89.1/0.6/10.3	89.1/10.6/0.3
Ceftazidime	0.25	4	91.9/1.7/0	88.6/3/6.1
Cefepime	≤0.5	≤0.5	92.4/1.7/5.9	91.0/1.6/7.0
Meropenem	≤0.06	≤0.06	100.0/0.0/0.0	100.0/0.0/0.0
Aztreonam	≤0.12	4	90.8/3.3/5.9	88.1/2.7/9.2
Piperacillin/tazobactam	2	8	94.1/1.6/4.3	94.1/0.0/5.9
Levofloxacin	≤0.12	>4	72.3/0.0/27.7	71.2/1.1/27.7
Gentamicin	≤1	>8	85.9/0.0/14.1	84.3/1.6/14.1
Tigecycline†	0.12	0.12	100.0/0.0/0.0	100.0/0.0/0.0
Colistin	0.5	0.5	-/-/‡	100.0/0.0/0.0
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp. (88)				
Ceftolozane/tazobactam	0.25	32	(89.8)*	-
Ceftriaxone	≤0.06	>8	83.0/1.1/15.9	83.0/1.1/15.9
Ceftazidime	0.12	>32	86.4/0.0/13.6	84.1/2.3/13.6
Cefepime	≤0.5	16	87.5/2.3/10.2	85.2/3.4/11.4
Meropenem	≤0.06	2	89.8/1.1/9.1	90.9/3.4/5.7
Aztreonam	≤0.12	>16	84.1/1.1/14.8	83.0/1.1/15.9
Piperacillin/tazobactam	4	>64	83.0/1.1/15.9	79.5/3.5/17.0
Levofloxacin	≤0.12	>4	88.6/0.0/11.4	85.2/3.4/11.4
Gentamicin	≤1	4	92.0/2.3/5.7	89.8/2.2/8.0
Tigecycline†	0.25	1	98.9/1.1/0.0	95.4/3.5/1.1
Colistin	0.5	0.5	-/-/‡	100.0/0.0/0.0
<i>Enterobacter</i> spp. (41)				
Ceftolozane/tazobactam	0.25	4	(95.1)*	-
Ceftriaxone	0.25	>8	68.3/0.0/31.7	68.3/0.0/31.7
Ceftazidime	0.5	>32	73.2/4.8/22.0	70.7/5.2/26.8
Cefepime	≤0.5	2	97.6/0.0/2.4	87.8/9.8/2.4
Meropenem	≤0.06	0.12	100.0/0.0/0.0	100.0/0.0/0.0
Aztreonam	≤0.12	16	73.2/4.8/22.0	73.2/0.0/26.8
Piperacillin/tazobactam	4	>32	75.0/17.5/71.5	70.0/5.0/25.0
Levofloxacin	≤0.12	0.25	95.1/0.0/4.9	95.1/0.0/4.9
Gentamicin	≤1	≤1	100.0/0.0/0.0	100.0/0.0/0.0
Tigecycline†	0.25	0.5	100.0/0.0/0.0	97.6/2.4/0.0
Colistin	0.5	>8	-/-/‡	70.7/0.0/29.3
<i>Citrobacter</i> spp. (19)				
Ceftolozane/tazobactam	0.25	16	(84.2)*	-
Ceftriaxone	0.25	>8	73.7/0.0/26.3	73.7/0.0/26.3
Ceftazidime	0.5	>32	73.7/0.0/26.3	73.7/0.0/26.3
Cefepime	≤0.5	2	100.0/0.0/0.0	89.5/10.5/0.0
Meropenem	≤0.06	≤0.06	100.0/0.0/0.0	100.0/0.0/0.0
Aztreonam	≤0.12	>16	73.7/0.0/26.3	73.7/0.0/26.3
Piperacillin/tazobactam	4	>64	78.9/5.3/15.8	78.9/0.0/21.1
Levofloxacin	≤0.12	4	89.5/5.2/5.3	89.5/0.0/10.5
Gentamicin	≤1	>8	84.2/0.0/15.8	84.2/0.0/15.8
Tigecycline†	0.12	1	100.0/0.0/0.0	94.7/5.3/0.0
Colistin	0.5	1	-/-/‡	100.0/0.0/0.0
<i>P. mirabilis</i> (17)				
Ceftolozane/tazobactam	0.5	0.5	(100.0)*	-
Ceftriaxone	≤0.06	≤0		