

Plasma concentrations of broad-spectrum beta-lactam antibiotics are significantly lower in critically ill patients with augmented renal clearance.

Frederik Helsen, Thomas De Corte, Sarah Van Vooren, Sofie D’haese, Veronique Stove, Alain Verstraete, Jan De Waele
Dept. of Critical Care Medicine and Laboratory Medicine, UZ Gent, Gent, Belgium



INTRODUCTION:

- Appropriate dosing of beta-lactam antibiotics in critically ill patients is challenging.
- Augmented renal clearance (ARC) is considered an important cause of sub therapeutic plasma concentrations. However, data from large cohorts is lacking.

OBJECTIVES:

Correlate ARC and the steady-state plasma concentration of piperacilline/tazobactam (TZP) or meropenem (MER) in critically ill patients.

METHODS:

- Retrospective analysis of adult critically ill patients receiving continuous infusion of TZP or MER in UZ Gent between March 2016 and April 2019.
- Inclusion criteria: Admission to the intensive care unit (ICU), administration of TZP or MER in continuous infusion after an initial loading dose, age>18y and availability of a plasma concentration of the drugs studied.
- Exclusion criteria: Acute kidney injury, renal replacement therapy, and patients without a measured creatinine clearance (mCrCl) - based on an 8-hour urinary collection - at the moment of plasma sampling.
- Antimicrobial plasma concentrations were determined at steady state (>12 h continuous infusion) by liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry. Measured concentrations were not disclosed to the treating physicians. Only one sample per antibiotic course was considered.
- ARC was defined as a mCrCl >130 mL/min.

RESULTS:

- Five hunderd and ninety-nine samples (72% TZP, 28% MER) from 545 ICU admissions, obtained from 531 individual patients.
- ARC was present in 32% of TZP patients and 27% of MER patients.
- There was a strong, negative correlation between mCrCl and TZP or MER concentration (rs = -0.769 and -0.749 respectively, p<0.001).
- When comparing patients with vs. without ARC, median TZP concentration was 48.6 (IQR 36.7-69.3) vs. 102.0 (IQR 74.5-151.9) mg/L, median MER concentration was 7.6 (IQR 5.7-11.5) vs. 16.7 (IQR 11.1-26.1) mg/L (both p<0.001).

There is a strong negative correlation between steady-state plasma concentrations of broad-spectrum beta-lactam antibiotics and mCrCl in critically ill patients.

Median TZP and MER plasma concentrations in patients with ARC were about half of the concentrations found in non-ARC patients.

	TZP patients N = 429	MER patients N = 170
Age (years)	63 (52-72)	65 (55-72)
Female gender (%)	153 (36)	52 (31)
BMI (kg/m²)	25,0 (22,2-28,4)	25,5 (23,2-28,6)
Baseline serum creatinine (mg/dL)	0,83 (0,67-1,09)	0,78 (0,64-1,10)
ARC	136 (32)	45 (27)
Admission type (no surgery/ planned surgery/ emergency surgery)	191 (45)/ 116 (27)/ 122 (28)	108 (63)/ 27 (16)/ 35 (21)
Site of infection (respiratory tract/ abdomen/ empirical/ other)	166 (39) / 149 (35)/ 70 (16)/ 44 (10)	59 (35)/ 75 (44)/ 15 (9) / 21 (12)
APACHE IV score	105 (79-131)	113 (82-139)
SOFA score	7 (5-10)	9 (5-11)
ICU lenght of stay (days)	13 (4-17)	14 (7-25)

