

# Doravirine and Rilpivirine Intra Cellular Accumulation in the Clinical Setting.

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### Abstract

**Background:** The NNRTIs currently used most frequently in clinical settings, in dual and triple medication regimens (2DR and 3DR), are doravirine (DOR) and rilpivirine (RPV). These medicines' intracellular (IC) pharmacokinetics (PK) are not yet well understood. Comparing plasma PK and IC buildup in patients with real-world experience was our goal (pts).

**Methods:** Consideration was given to patients on a DOR- and RPV-including antiretroviral (ARV) regimen. Using UHPLC-MSMS validated techniques, the plasma and IC (PBMCs) concentrations of DOR and RPV were assessed 12 hours (T12) and 24 4 hours (T24) after the last dose. Results: 90 points were included (65% on 3DR and 35% on 2DR); 48% of ARVs contained RPV, and 52% had DOR. The RPV IC/plasma ratio was 6.034, which was much greater than the DOR IC/plasma ratio (4.878-7.186)Independent of timing T12 ( $p=0.003$ ) and T24 ( $p0.00$ ), the difference was 1.479 (1.256-1.702) ( $p=0.001$ ). In comparison to 2DR, RPV in 3DR led to greater buildup of plasma and IC. DOR and RPV plasma and IC concentrations were shown to be linearly and significantly correlated ( $+0.749$ ,  $p0.001$  and  $+0.733$ ,  $p0.001$ ). No statistically significant relationship between the overall DOR and RPV PK and creatinine, BMI, age, or gender differences was discovered.

**Conclusion:** RPV demonstrated more accumulation in PBMCs than DOR: RPV and DOR IC levels were 498% and 50% higher than in plasma.

### Abbreviations

HAART stands for highly active antiretroviral therapy; IC stands for intracellular; ARV stands for antiretroviral; DRV

stands for darunavir; RTV stands for ritanvir; PBMCs stands for peripheral blood mononuclear cells; NNRTIs stands for non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors; DOR stands for doravirine; RPV stands for rilpivirine; 2DR stands for dual drug Tenofovir Disproxil Fumarate/Emtricitabine; Tenofovir Alafenamide/FTC; Plasma; CVF: Cervicovaginal Fluid; T12: 12 hours; T24: 24 hours; CI95%: Confidence Interval 95%; Emtricitabine

### Introduction

It is now generally known that Highly Active Antiretroviral Treatment (HAART), which blocks various stages of the retrovirus life cycle, is effective in treating HIV-infected people. The effectiveness and toxicity of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs must be assessed in intracellular (IC) medication concentrations since HIV is a retrovirus that replicates within immune system cells. Yet, there aren't many clinical research in that field because most of them are small and improperly planned. For instance, the sluggish rate of DRV efflux from cells was found to be the reason for the poor association between IC and plasma darunavir (DRV, an HIV protease inhibitor) levels in patients undergoing HAART combining both DRV and Ritonavir (RTV). Hence, the level of DRV in peripheral blood Mononuclear Cells (PBMCs) may be a good indicator of a drug's clinical effectiveness and average exposure [1]. As opposed to NRTIs, non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs) directly inhibit their enzyme targets to exert their effect. It has been demonstrated that the previously popular NNRTI efavirenz IC concentration is a reliable indicator of CD4 gain during HAART [2].The most popular NNRTIs now utilised in dual and triple Antiretroviral (ARV) medication regimens are rilpivirine (RPV) and doravirine (DOR) (2DR and 3DR). Moreover, RPV has just received recent approval as a long-acting medication for use in combination with Cabotegravir in individuals with prior experience [3]. Cytochrome P-450 3A4 (CYP3A4) is the enzyme that breaks down RPV, and a normal dose given once day results in a favourable Pharmacokinetic (PK) profile.of 25 mg. It should be provided with food because its absorption is dependent on gastric pH [4]. There are no clinically significant effect of RPV PK in adults due to hepatitis B/C coinfection status, age, sex, weight, race, or estimated glomerular filtration rate [5].In a real-world intraclass changeover research from a 3DR regimen nevirapineincluding to RPV-including, RPV pharmacokinetic properties had previously been examined. After the transition, the Geometric

Means (GM) for RPV plasma through concentration (C<sub>trough</sub>) increased from 29.7 ng/mL (95% CI: 23.8-37.0) on day 3 to 58.2 ng/mL (95% CI: 49.1-69.1) on day 60. Moreover, RPV exposure in protected areas including the vaginal tract and central nervous system has been documented, and the overall exposure was higher than the 90% Effective Concentration (EC<sub>90</sub>) in seminal plasma (SP) and the 50% Effective Concentration (EC<sub>50</sub>) in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) [6]. DOR is a brand-new NNRTI that has shown to be both effective and tolerable. According to two multicenter phase III studies [7,8], there is a strong genetic barrier to resistance both in HIV-positive people who are new to treatment and those who have already had it. Further research on both HIV-positive and HIV-negative healthy volunteers has revealed that DOR has a favourable PK profile for a once-daily dose of 100 mg, with an approximate 15-hour half-life. In contrast to RPV, DOR absorption is guaranteed in the fasting state. Less than 10% of its elimination occurs via the renal route, and it is metabolised by CYP3A4. Therefore, it is unlikely that severe renal impairment will have any clinically significant effects on DOR PK [10]. CSF [11], SP [12], and Cervicovaginal Fluid (CVF) [12] all include protein-unbound DOR PK. been investigated and have, respectively, exceeded the half-maximal effective concentration for wild-type HIV-1 (EC<sub>50</sub>: 5.1 ng/mL). The intracellular PK of RPV and DOR in HIV-positive individuals has not yet been studied.

Our goal was to assess DOR and RPV plasma exposure and IC buildup in patients with real-world experience with triple and dual ARV regimens.

## Discussion

After receiving informed agreement, patients on antiretroviral regimens containing DOR and oral RPV were included. DOR and RPV plasma and PBMC concentrations were assessed 12 hours (T<sub>12</sub>) and 24 4 hours (T<sub>24</sub>) after the last dose (37%) and 63 percent (T<sub>24</sub>), respectively. The University of Turin's Laboratory of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacogenetics' HPLC/MS-MS technique was used to quantify plasma concentrations. Cell numbers and mean cell volumes were determined using an automated cell counter (Z2 Beckman Coulter, Instrumentation Laboratory, Milan, Italy) in order to perform IC quantification on PBMCs, which were isolated using CPT Vacutainers (Becton, Dickinson and Co., Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA), as previously mentioned in the literature [13]. Where necessary, Mann-Whitney analysis and the Spearman's rank test were applied. The geometric mean (CI<sub>95%</sub>) was used to express the non-compartmental PK parameters. The values of IC and plasma were 1121.7 (823.8-1419.6) and 187.4 (152.4-222.5) ng/ml, respectively. Moreover, plasma (p=0.002), IC concentration (p=0.001), and

IC/plasma ratio (p=0.021) all showed a significant difference between RPV as a component of 3DR or 2DR. The plasma, IC, and IC/plasma ratio for 3DR-RPV were found to be 222.7 (174.1-271.2), 1476.9(1010.7-1943.1) ng/mL, and 6.929 (5.143-8.715), respectively, whereas the plasma, IC, and IC/plasma ratio for 2DR-RPV were found to be 141.6 (94.7-188.5), 659.9 (433.8-886.0) ng/ml, and 4. (3.585-6.147). DOR-2DR and 3DR concentrations were not significantly different in plasma (p=0.297), IC (p=0.702), or the ratio of IC to plasma (p=0.335). Overall, the RPV IC/plasma ratio was 6.034 (4.878-7.186) vs. 1.479 (1.256- 1.702) (p=0.001), which was significantly higher than the DOR IC/plasma ratio. The difference between DOR and RPV IC/plasma ratios was found to be even after stratification by time points (T<sub>12</sub> or T<sub>24</sub>).(T<sub>12</sub>: p=0.003 and T<sub>24</sub>: p0.001) Significant. The DOR and RPV plasma and IC concentrations also showed a linear and significant connection (+0.749, p0.001 and +0.733, p0.001, respectively). DOR IC concentration and CD4+T cell count had an inverse relationship (-0.322; p=0.028). There was no discernible relationship between the overall DOR and RPV PK, creatinine, BMI, age, or gender.

## Conclusions

Age, renal function, and gender had no effect on the RPV and DOR PK profile in this initial clinical study, which is consistent with other results [5,9]. In contrast to DOR, RPV was shown to accumulate in PBMCs to a greater extent: RPV and DOR IC levels were 498% and 50% higher than in plasma, respectively. RPV demonstrated a 3-fold greater IC/plasma ratio than DOR, regardless of the time of drug consumption. The increased lipophilicity of RPV in comparison to DOR may be the basis for the difference in IC penetration. Moreover, it was discovered that RPV accumulated in PBMCs 2-fold more in 3DR than 2DR doses. In previous investigations, it was noted that when RPV was dosed in various sanctuaries, the concentration rose over the EC<sub>50</sub> and EC<sub>90</sub> levels. TDF/FTC is the typical triple ARV regimen [6]. In our investigation, the presence of backbone (TAF/FTC) led to an increase in RPV plasma exposure and concurrent IC buildup. It is necessary to further clarify the mechanisms underlying this finding as well as their therapeutic applicability. It is yet unclear how the degree of IC accumulation interacts with the possible impact on the selection of resistance mutations and drug forgiveness.

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