

Single-Dose Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacokinetics of the Antibiotic GSK1322322, a Novel Peptide Deformylase Inhibitor

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GSK1322322 is a potent inhibitor of peptide deformylase, an essential bacterial enzyme required for protein maturation. GSK1322322 is active against community-acquired skin and respiratory tract pathogens, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, multidrug-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and atypical pathogens. This phase I, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 2-part, single-dose, dose escalation study (first time in humans) evaluated the safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of GSK1322322 (powder-in-bottle formulation) in healthy volunteers. In part A, dose escalation included GSK1322322 doses of 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1,500 mg under fasting conditions and 800 mg administered with a high-fat meal. In part B, higher doses of GSK1322322 (2,000, 3,000, and 4,000 mg) were evaluated under fasting conditions. Of the 39 volunteers enrolled in the study, 29 and 10 volunteers were treated with GSK1322322 and placebo, respectively. Upon single-dose administration, GSK1322322 was absorbed rapidly, with median times to maximum plasma concentration (T_{max}) ranging from 0.5 to 1.0 h. The maximum observed plasma concentration (C_{max}) and exposure (area under the concentration-time curve [AUC]) of GSK1322322 were greater than dose proportional between 100 and 1,500 mg and less than dose proportional between 1,500 and 4,000 mg. Administration of the drug with a high-fat meal reduced the rate of absorption (reduced C_{max} and delayed T_{max}) without affecting the extent of absorption (no effect on AUC). GSK1322322 was generally well tolerated, with all adverse events being mild to moderate in intensity during both parts of the study. The most frequently reported adverse event was headache. Data from this study support further evaluation of GSK1322322.

The emergence and spread of pathogenic bacteria resistant to many antibiotics have created the need for novel therapeutic agents (1). Epidemic antibiotic resistance has been described for numerous pathogens, including, but not limited to, a global spread of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infection and drug resistance among common respiratory pathogens including *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (2, 3). Most of the antibiotics under development are improved derivatives of the marketed products, which are generally only partially effective against existing resistance mechanisms (4). GSK1322322, first in a new class of antibiotics, is a potent inhibitor of peptide deformylase (PDF) (5). Peptide deformylase, an essential bacterial enzyme required for protein maturation, is a clinically unexploited target (6, 7). GSK1322322 is a member of a novel hydrazinopyrimidine class of PDF inhibitors discovered through a combination of structure-based drug design and iterative medicinal chemistry (8). GSK1322322 protein binding is estimated to be <69% on the basis of *in vitro* study results (data not shown). GSK1322322 shows no cross-resistance with agents in current use and is fully active against pathogens resistant to multiple classes of existing antibiotics, including beta-lactams, macrolides, and quinolones (9).

GSK1322322 is active against community-acquired skin and respiratory tract pathogens, including MRSA, multidrug-resistant *S. pneumoniae*, and atypical pathogens (5, 9, 10). GSK1322322 exhibits a potent sub-MIC effect for most strains of *S. aureus*, inhibiting growth *in vitro* for 6 to 8 h at concentrations well below the MIC (11, 12). The potent *in vivo* activity of GSK1322322 against rodent respiratory tract infection and skin and soft tissue infection models has been demonstrated (5, 9). The favorable MIC and animal data coupled with the safety profile of

GSK1322322 observed to date support further clinical development of GSK1322322 in target patient populations.

In this 2-part, phase I study, GSK1322322 was first administered in humans to evaluate its safety, tolerability, and single-dose pharmacokinetics (PK) with dose escalation from 100 to 1,500 mg in healthy volunteers (10). The safety, tolerability, and PK of higher doses (2,000 to 4,000 mg) were also assessed. Additionally, because GSK1322322 has pH-dependent solubility, the effect of a high-fat meal on the PK of GSK1322322 was evaluated.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design and population. This was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, single-dose, sequential-cohort, dose escalation trial of healthy volunteers (study identifier PDF111341). Adults aged 18 to 65 years who were in generally good health with no clinically relevant abnormalities as determined by medical history, physical examination, laboratory tests, and cardiac monitoring were eligible for the trial. Volunteers had a body mass index of 18 to 30 kg/m², inclusive. Volunteers were excluded from the study if they met one of the following criteria: a positive prestudy drug/alcohol screen; positive hepatitis B virus surface antigen or hepatitis C virus antibody result within 3 months of screening; positive test for HIV antibody; use of any investigational drug within 30 days, 5 half-lives, or twice the duration of the biological effect of the investigational drug (whichever is longer) before the day of dosing; or exposure to

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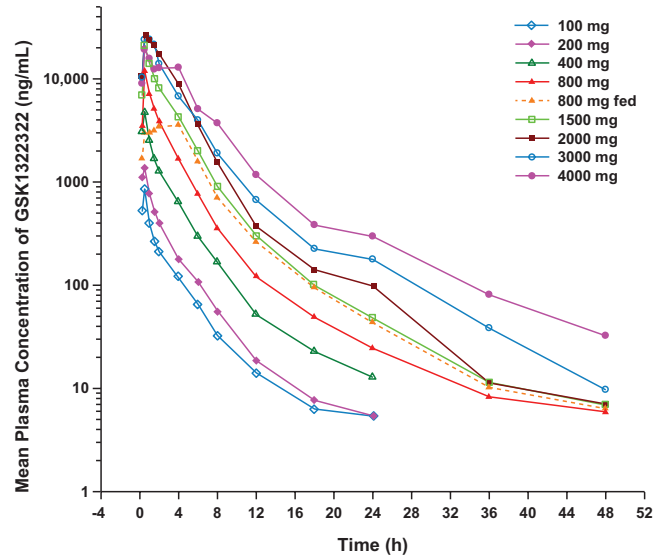


FIG 1 Mean concentration-time profile of GSK1322322.

TABLE 1 Plasma pharmacokinetic parameters of GSK1322322

Parameter ^a	Value									
	Part A					Part B				
	Cohort A, 100 mg (n = 2)	Cohort B, 200 mg (n = 2)	Cohort C, 400 mg (n = 2)	Cohort D, 800 mg (n = 6)	Cohort E, 1,500 mg (n = 6)	Cohort G, 800 mg (n = 6)	Cohort F1, 2,000 mg (n = 3)	Cohort F2, 3,000 mg (n = 3)	Cohort F3, 4,000 mg (n = 3)	
Mean AUC ₀₋₂₄ (μg · h/ml) (CVb [%])	1.6 (25)	2.7 (12)	8.7 (7)	22.2 (17)	47.4 (17)	22.4 (11)	75.4 (65)	81.1 (15)	88.7 (34)	
Mean AUC _{0-∞} (μg · h/ml) (CVb [%])	1.6 (26)	2.8 (11)	8.9 (6)	22.5 (17)	47.9 (17)	22.8 (11)	76.2 (64)	82.5 (15)	92.0 (32)	
Mean AUC _{0-t} (μg · h/ml) (CVb [%])	1.5 (26)	2.7 (12)	8.7 (7)	22.4 (17)	47.8 (17)	22.8 (11)	76.1 (64)	82.4 (15)	91.6 (32)	
Mean C _{max} (μg/ml) (CVb [%])	0.9 (3)	1.4 (39)	4.7 (26)	11.6 (25)	20.1 (36)	4.1 (14)	24.8 (46)	29.6 (14)	22.2 (24)	
Median T _{max} (h) (range)	0.5 (0.5-0.5)	0.4 (0.25-0.5)	0.4 (0.25-0.5)	0.5 (0.5-0.5)	0.5 (0.5-0.5)	3.0 (0.5-4.0)	0.5 (0.5-1.5)	1.0 (0.5-1.5)	0.5 (0.5-1.0)	
Mean t _{1/2} (h) (CVb [%])	6.1 (11)	6.9 (25)	6.1 (18)	9.3 (36)	6.3 (45)	6.8 (18)	5.6 (25)	6.2 (21)	7.3 (32)	

^a CVb, between-volunteer coefficient of variation.
^b Cohort was fed a high-fat meal.

the dose proportionality assessment indicated that after a single oral dose of GSK1322322, C_{max} and AUC of GSK1322322 were greater than dose proportional between 100 and 1,500 mg and less than dose proportional between 1,500 and 4,000 mg (Table 2). However, because of the small number of volunteers, especially for doses from 100 to 400 mg (n = 2 per cohort) and from 2,000 to 4,000 mg (n = 3 per cohort), these data need to be interpreted with caution. At the projected clinically relevant dose range (800 to 1,500 mg, where n = 6 per cohort), when the dose approximately doubled from 800 to 1,500 mg, C_{max} and AUC approximately doubled. The predicted bioavailabilities of the oral 100-, 400-, 800-, and 1,500-mg doses of GSK1322322 based on the ACAT model were 64%, 77%, 80%, and 82%, respectively, suggesting an increase in oral bioavailability with increasing dose.

When GSK1322322 was administered with a high-fat meal at a dose of 800 mg, C_{max} was reduced by 65% (4.1 versus 11.6 μg/ml), and T_{max} was delayed by 2.5 h (3.0 versus 0.5 h); however, AUC was unchanged (i.e., AUC_{0-∞} of 22.8 versus 22.5 μg · h/ml) compared with the fasted state. When comparing AUC values (i.e., AUC₀₋₂₄, AUC_{0-∞}, and AUC_{0-t}) of GSK1322322 at 800 mg in the fed versus fasted state, the point estimates were close to 1, and the 90% CI included 1, indicating that a high-fat meal had no effect on the systemic exposure of GSK1322322 (Table 3). A similar t_{1/2} was observed between the fasted state and the fed state. Low and moderate within-volunteer variabilities were associated with these PK parameters.

TABLE 2 Dose proportionality assessment of GSK1322322 pharmacokinetic parameters

Parameter	Adjusted mean slope value (90% CI) for GSK1322322 dose		
	100–1,500 mg	1,500–4,000 mg	All doses
AUC ₀₋₂₄ (μg · h/ml)	1.31 (1.23, 1.40)	0.64 (0.27, 1.01)	1.22 (1.09, 1.35)
AUC _{0-∞} (μg · h/ml)	1.31 (1.23, 1.39)	0.66 (0.30, 1.02)	1.22 (1.10, 1.35)
AUC _{0-t} (μg · h/ml)	1.32 (1.24, 1.40)	0.66 (0.30, 1.02)	1.23 (1.10, 1.36)
C _{max} (μg/ml)	1.23 (1.09, 1.37)	0.16 (–1.29, 1.62)	1.04 (0.87, 1.22)

TABLE 3 Food effect assessed by comparing GSK1322322 pharmacokinetic parameters for cohort G^a versus cohort D^b

Parameter	Value		
	Point estimate	90% CI	CVw (%) ^c
AUC ₀₋₂₄ (μg · h/ml)	1.01	0.88, 1.17	13.23
AUC _{0-∞} (μg · h/ml)	1.01	0.87, 1.17	13.25
AUC _{0-t} (μg · h/ml)	1.01	0.88, 1.17	13.23
C _{max} (μg/ml)	0.35	0.29, 0.43	18.73
T _{max} (h)	2.5 ^d	1.0, 3.5	
t _{1/2} (h)	0.73	0.55, 0.98	26.19

^a An 800-mg dose under the fed condition.^b An 800-mg dose under the fasted condition.^c CVw, within-volunteer coefficient of variation.^d Estimated median difference for T_{max} only.

Urine PK was assessed at 100-, 400-, 1,500-, and 4,000-mg dose levels only. The amount of GSK1322322 excreted in the urine within 24 h postdose (Ae₀₋₂₄) increased as the dose increased (Table 4). On the basis of the mean Ae₀₋₂₄, the fraction of intact GSK1322322 recovered in the urine 24 h postdose ranged from 14% to 18% of the total administered dose. The mean renal clearance of GSK1322322 ranged from 5.4 to 11.5 liters/h for doses of 100, 400, 1,500, and 4,000 mg. Between-volunteer variability in urine PK parameters was low to moderate after single-dose administration of GSK1322322.

Safety. The most frequently reported AEs in the study (both parts A and B) included headache (*n* = 14), musculoskeletal pain (*n* = 3), dizziness (*n* = 2), diarrhea (*n* = 2), and oropharyngeal pain (*n* = 2). All other AEs were reported for only 1 volunteer each. All AEs were mild or moderate in intensity. The most frequently reported AEs in part B of the study were headache (*n* = 2) and musculoskeletal pain (*n* = 2). No serious AEs were reported in both parts of the study; however, 1 volunteer in part B (GSK1322322 2,000-mg group) withdrew from the study because of an AE that met protocol-defined volunteer stopping criteria. This volunteer was withdrawn from the study 9 days after dose administration because of elevated ALT levels (i.e., ≥3 times the upper limit of normal; value, 102 IU/liter) that resolved in 49 days and was considered by the investigator to be mild and related to the study drug.

No significant trends or changes from baseline in vital signs, chemistry, and hematology data were observed. In part A, no effect on cardiac repolarization as measured by QTc interval duration (>450 ms) for doses of 100 to 1,500 mg was observed. Although most volunteers in part B did not have QTcB values that were increased by >30 ms from baseline, 1 volunteer (GSK1322322 2,000-mg group) had a maximum change from the baseline QTcB value of 31 ms. However, this volunteer had high QTcB values at screening and on the day of dosing. There was no change in marginal zone B cells over time in parts A and B of the study.

DISCUSSION

In this study, we evaluated the safety, tolerability, and PK of GSK1322322, an antibacterial with a novel mechanism of action, at doses of 100 to 4,000 mg. GSK1322322 was generally well tolerated, with no serious AEs leading to withdrawal during the study. One volunteer in part B experienced a reversible elevation in ALT levels, which was considered by the investigator to be mild

TABLE 4 GSK1322322 urine pharmacokinetic parameters

Parameter	Mean value (% CVb) ^a for GSK1322322 dose			
	100 mg (<i>n</i> = 2)	400 mg (<i>n</i> = 2)	1,500 mg (<i>n</i> = 6)	4,000 mg (<i>n</i> = 3)
Ae ₀₋₁₂ (μg)	17,191 (10)	66,241 (13)	242,639 (68)	506,163 (32)
Ae ₁₂₋₂₄ (μg)	692 (22)	3,128 (18)	12,750 (46)	40,528 (21)
Ae ₀₋₂₄ (μg)	17,900 (9)	69,371 (13)	257,779 (63)	549,774 (28)
CL _R (liters/h)	11.5 (16)	7.9 (20)	5.4 (68)	6.2 (8)

^a CVb, between-volunteer coefficient of variation.

and study drug related, and was withdrawn from the study. Because polymorphisms in genes that encode drug-metabolizing enzymes have been associated with elevated levels of liver enzymes after treatment with antibacterial agents (13, 14), an exploratory pharmacogenetic experiment was conducted to determine if this volunteer carried any functional variants in genes involved in the metabolism and disposition of GSK1322322 (data not shown). While this volunteer did not carry any known variants implicated in GSK1322322 exposure, additional pharmacogenetic investigation may be warranted if elevations in ALT levels are observed in future patients treated with GSK1322322.

In this study, GSK1322322 PK characteristics were favorable, with sufficient systemic exposure (AUC) projected to have clinical efficacy (15) and minimal between-volunteer variability. The initial GSK1322322 dose selection (100 to 1,500 mg) for part A of this study was based on animal models simulating the human serum concentrations necessary for potent antibacterial activity (data not shown). Results from a study evaluating the *in vivo* efficacy of GSK1322322 against MRSA in a subcutaneous abscess model using a computer-controlled infusion system to re-create the phase I human exposure profiles in rats demonstrated that GSK1322322 at both 1,000- and 1,500-mg doses was highly efficacious against all 3 *S. aureus* isolates tested. As a result of the favorable safety data from part A of the study and additional preclinical safety assessments, higher doses of GSK1322322 (2,000 to 4,000 mg) were selected for evaluation in part B of this study.

After a single, oral dose of GSK1322322 in the powder-in-bottle formulation at 100 to 4,000 mg, the drug was readily absorbed, with median T_{max} ranging from 0.5 to 1.0 h, and was readily eliminated, with mean t_{1/2} ranging from 5.6 to 9.3 h. Values for C_{max} and AUC were greater than dose proportional for doses from 100 to 1,500 mg and less than dose proportional for doses from 2,000 to 4,000 mg. In the clinically relevant dose range of 800 to 1,500 mg (*n* = 6 for GSK1322322 treatment per cohort), when the dose approximately doubled, C_{max} and AUC approximately doubled. GSK1322322 is a substrate of Pgp *in vitro* and has moderate to high passive permeability (data not shown). A potential for saturation of this efflux transporter with increasing doses may have contributed to a somewhat greater-than-proportional increase in GSK1322322 exposure between 100- and 1,500-mg doses.

At doses of 2,000 to 4,000 mg, the absorption appeared to have reached a plateau, and GSK1322322 PK appeared to be less than dose proportional between 1,500 and 4,000 mg. The decrease in bioavailability (less-than-dose-proportional increase in C_{max} and AUC when dose increased) at these higher doses may be due to the limitation in solubility of the powder-in-bottle formulation at such large doses. Coadministration of GSK1322322 with food delayed the T_{max} by 2.5 h and reduced the C_{max} by approximately

65% without affecting the extent of absorption. This food effect needs to be interpreted cautiously, as it was a cross-volunteer comparison (different cohorts of volunteers received 800 mg GSK1322322 in fasted versus fed states) and not statistically powered to detect the effect and thus will require further evaluation as the GSK1322322 formulation is finalized.

In this phase I study, GSK1322322 was safe and well tolerated in this healthy volunteer study population. Pharmacokinetic results demonstrated that GSK1322322 has relatively favorable oral absorption and moderate variabilities around most PK parameters and is appropriate to be given twice daily or once daily based on its $t_{1/2}$. Results from this single-dose, first-time-in-humans study demonstrate the potential of GSK1322322 to become the first-in-class PDF inhibitor for clinical use and support its further evaluation in clinical studies.

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