

# Efficacy and Safety of Moxifloxacin in Hospitalized Patients with Secondary Peritonitis: Pooled Analysis of Four Randomized Phase III Trials

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## Abstract

**Background:** Secondary peritonitis is an advanced form of complicated intra-abdominal infection (cIAI) requiring hospitalization, surgical source control, and empiric antibiotic therapy against causative aerobic and anaerobic bacteria.

**Methods:** This pooled analysis of four prospective, active-controlled randomized clinical trials compared the efficacy and safety of moxifloxacin with that of comparator antibiotics in patients with confirmed secondary peritonitis. The primary efficacy endpoint was clinical success rate at test-of-cure (TOC) between day 10 and 45 post-therapy in the per-protocol (PP) population. Safety and clinical efficacy were assessed also in the intent-to-treat population (ITT). Bacteriological success was assessed at TOC in the microbiologically-valid population as a secondary efficacy endpoint.

**Results:** Overall clinical success rates at TOC were 85.3% (431 of 505 patients) in the moxifloxacin and 88.4% (459 of 519 patients) in the comparator treatment groups (PP population, point estimate for the difference in success rates:  $-3.0\%$ ; 95% CI  $-7.06\%$ ,  $1.05\%$ ), respectively. Similar clinical success rates between moxifloxacin and comparators were observed by anatomical site of infection, and ranged from 80.6% to 100% for moxifloxacin and from 71.4% to 96.6% for comparators, respectively. Bacteriologic success rates were similar with moxifloxacin (82.4%) and comparators (86.8%), respectively. The proportion of patients experiencing any treatment-emergent adverse events was slightly higher with moxifloxacin (67.3%) versus comparators (59.8%). Rates of drug-related adverse events (20.9% versus 20.0%) and deaths (4.3% versus 3.4%) were similar in moxifloxacin and comparator groups; none of the deaths were drug-related.

**Conclusions:** The data suggests that once-daily IV (or IV/PO) moxifloxacin has a comparable efficacy and safety profile to antibiotic regimens approved previously in the subgroup of patients with secondary peritonitis of mild-to-moderate severity.

SECONDARY PERITONITIS can arise from perforation or penetrating injury of the gastrointestinal tract as well as from ischemic necrosis [1]. Complicated intra-abdominal infections (cIAIs) require hospitalization, adequate surgery, antibiotic therapy, and continuous supportive care and monitoring [2,3]. If these interventions are delayed or inad-

equate, secondary peritonitis can spread rapidly throughout the abdominal cavity; up to 40% of patients with secondary peritonitis may progress to sepsis or septic shock with high mortality rates approaching 30–40% [1].

The bacteriologic etiology of secondary peritonitis is frequently polymicrobial due to concurrent infection with gram-

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positive and gram-negative aerobic and anaerobic pathogens [1,3–7]. *Escherichia coli* is usually the major aerobic isolate, although *Bacteroides fragilis* and other *Bacteroides* spp. are also anaerobes isolated frequently [5,6].

Current guidelines recommend empirical broad-spectrum antibiotic therapy as exact information on the responsible bacterial species and susceptibility results are rarely known when the treatment is initiated. Adequate source control and prompt, appropriate empiric treatment is essential to improve outcome [3,4,8] and to reduce mortality [9]. Fluoroquinolones, which are broad-spectrum antibiotics with favorable efficacy and safety profiles for the management of mild-to-moderate cIAIs either as monotherapy (moxifloxacin) or in combination therapy (levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin), are recommended in the latest Surgical Infection Society (SIS)/Infection Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) guidelines for the treatment of mild-to-moderate infections [3,4]. Moxifloxacin has a favorable pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic (PK/PD) profile with an excellent penetration into gastrointestinal tissues, including abdominal abscesses [10] and peritoneal exudates in patients with peritonitis [11]. It is available in intravenous (IV) and oral formulations for once-daily administration [12].

Complicated IAIs encompass a wide spectrum of diseases in terms of peritoneal expansion, systemic response, surgical approach, and mortality rate. Secondary peritonitis represents the most severe forms of cIAIs (as opposed to localized or uncomplicated disease) due to its extent, inoculum size, and systemic response, either acquired in the community or associated with healthcare institutions.

On the basis of pooled data from the four Phase III randomized, active-controlled, prospective clinical trials [13–16] comparing the efficacy and safety of moxifloxacin monotherapy with that of comparator regimens in mild-to-moderate cIAIs, we undertook a retrospective analysis of the efficacy and safety of moxifloxacin in this subgroup of patients with secondary peritonitis, reflecting an advanced form of peritonitis.

## Patients and Methods

### *Design of studies used in the analysis*

Of the four randomized controlled trials (conducted between 2000 and 2009), three were double-blind [13,15–16] and one study was open-label [14]. All studies were designed to demonstrate the non-inferiority of moxifloxacin to comparator antibiotic regimens and used a non-inferiority margin of either 10% [13–14,16] or 15% [15]. All four studies were performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, the rules of International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) Good Clinical Practice and relevant national guidelines. Independent Ethics Committees approved the respective study protocols and written consent prior to enrollment from all patients in each study was obtained. The main regions enrolling patients in these studies were the United States [13], Asia [15], and Europe [14,16]. The clinical diagnoses were described in detail in the clinical study protocol and approved by regulatory authorities prior to the initiation of the studies in each individual study. They were collected on the case report form (CRF) in the four studies, and stored in the respective individual trial database. Finally, they were transferred to the pooled database of the studies. The CRF was not standardized across the four studies that would have

captured specific cIAI diagnosis. If multiple diagnoses were documented in the CRF for the same patient, the primary diagnosis and the site of infection were determined and evaluated for validity of secondary peritonitis. For the purpose of documentation, a statistical analysis plan was prepared prior to performing the pooled subgroup analysis.

### *Inclusion criteria*

Eligible patients were adults ( $\geq 18$  y) with a primary diagnosis of cIAI that was supported by radiologic evidence of gastrointestinal tract perforation and required surgical intervention by laparotomy or laparoscopy [13–16] or percutaneous aspiration [13–15] for source control in addition to IV antibiotic therapy. Patients also had evidence of gross peritoneal inflammation with purulent exudates into the peritoneal cavity. Diagnosis could also be suspected in patients with radiological evidence of gastrointestinal perforation, and the presence of at least one abdominal cavity symptom lasting  $\geq 24$  h, together with evidence of at least one of abdominal tenderness, absent or diminished bowel sounds, or abdominal wall rigidity and at least two systemic signs of infection that included elevated body temperature ( $>38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  rectal or tympanic membrane,  $>37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  oral, or  $>37.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  axillary), heart rate of  $>90$  beats/min, respiratory rate of  $>20$  breaths/min, and a white blood cell count of  $>12,000$  cells/ $\text{mm}^3$  or  $<4,000$  cells/ $\text{mm}^3$ . It had to be confirmed by surgical findings within 24 h of enrollment [13–16]. Severity of the disease was described by the Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) II score in the current analysis.

### *Exclusion criteria*

Main exclusion criteria were: Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, conditions not requiring antibiotic therapy for a minimum of three days (e.g., non-complicated acute appendicitis, acute cholecystitis with infection confined to the gallbladder, transmural necrosis of the intestine due to acute embolic, thrombotic, or obstructive occlusions); the presence of known prolongation of the electrocardiogram (ECG) QT interval, uncorrected hypokalemia, concomitant antiarrhythmic drugs; severe infection requiring high-dose vasopressor drugs; acute kidney injury; and contraindications to study drugs (e.g., pregnancy, breastfeeding, or hypersensitivity) [13–16].

### *Antibiotic regimens*

In all four studies, patients were randomized to receive IV moxifloxacin 400 mg (Avelox<sup>®</sup>, GP) once daily (QD) for up to 14 d [13–16], with the option to switch to per os (PO) moxifloxacin [12] 400 mg after a minimum of three days in two studies [13–14]. The comparator treatments included the following antibiotics: i, Piperacillin-tazobactam [17], 3.0g/0.375g IV, four times daily (QID), followed by amoxicillin/clavulanic acid [18], 800mg/114mg PO, twice daily (BID) [13]; ii, ceftriaxone [19], 2.0g QID plus metronidazole [20], 500mg IV, three times daily (TID), followed by amoxicillin/clavulanic acid [18], 500mg/125mg PO, TID [14]; iii, ceftriaxone [19], 2.0g QD plus metronidazole [20], 500mg IV, BID [15]; and iv ertapenem [21], 1.0 g IV, QID [16], respectively. The minimum length of antibiotic therapy was either five days in studies conducted by Malangoni et al. [13]

and De Waele et al. [16] or three days in studies conducted by Weiss et al. [14] and Solomkin et al. [15].

#### Outcome parameters

The primary efficacy endpoint in all four studies was clinical success at test-of-cure (TOC) that occurred between day 10 and 45 after antibiotic therapy in the per-protocol (PP) population (according to individual studies: 11–45 d [13]; 14–37 d [14]; 10–14 d [15]; and 21–28 d [16]). Clinical success was defined as continued resolution or improvement of clinical signs and symptoms related to the infection not requiring any antibiotic therapy, and without the occurrence of any surgical infection requiring a systemic antibiotic treatment at TOC. Secondary efficacy outcome parameters were clinical success rate at TOC by anatomic site of infection, bacteriologic success (eradication plus presumed eradication) rate at TOC by anatomical site of infection (for overall and by bacteria type) and bacteriologic success rate for main organisms at TOC by the anatomic site of the infection [13–16].

#### Statistical analyses

Clinical efficacy assessments were based primarily on the PP population, which included all patients who met study specific criteria that were common to all four studies. These criteria included: 1, cIAI requiring surgery and supportive management; 2, no other systemic antimicrobial agent administered concomitantly with the study drug unless the subject was a treatment failure; 3, documented compliance with  $\geq 80\%$  of the study medication administered; 4, no protocol violations influencing the treatment efficacy; and 5, successful completion of an assessment at the test-of-cure (TOC) visit. Safety parameters were assessed in the intent-to-treat (ITT) population that included all randomized patients who had received at least one dose of study medication and had at least one observation after study drug intake. This pooled analysis also compared the clinical efficacy of moxifloxacin treatment with that of pooled comparator treatment in the ITT population. Secondary efficacy assessments included bacteriologic outcome parameters in the microbiologically-valid (MBV) population that included all patients who met the inclusion criteria in the PP population and had a causative organism at baseline as well as a bacteriological evaluation at the TOC visit. For the primary efficacy analysis, differences in clinical success rates for moxifloxacin versus pooled active comparator treatment in the PP population were calculated using a Mantel-Haenszel type analysis stratified by study, with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the difference in success rates computed according to Rothman et al. [22]. To assess possible heterogeneity of clinical success rates across the four studies, the Q test was applied where significance at the 10% level indicated statistical heterogeneity [23]. Forest plots were created to visualize the variability of the difference in success rates across trials. All analyses were exploratory in nature; confirmatory statistics were not carried out.

## Results

#### Patients' demographic characteristics

Across the four studies, 1,229 patients had a confirmed diagnosis of secondary peritonitis in the ITT population, of

whom 1,024 met the inclusion criteria in the PP population. A large proportion of patients (52.2%, 642 of 1,229 patients) included in these pooled analyses originated from the PROMISE study [16]. Baseline demographic and disease characteristics were similar for moxifloxacin-treated patients and those in the comparator arms in both the ITT and PP populations (Table 1). The whole pooled study population was predominantly under 50 y of age, approximately 71% of the patients had a comorbid illness and 37% of the patients were treated previously with a different antibiotic agent prior to study drugs. Most patients had community-acquired ( $>95\%$ ) cIAIs of polymicrobial etiology ( $>60\%$ ) that were of mild-to-moderate severity on the basis of APACHE II scores (mean  $\pm$  SD,  $7.0 \pm 5.0$ ). Approximately 3% of the patients had bacteremia. Consistent with a diagnosis of secondary peritonitis, patients showed signs of infection such as fever (median  $38.5^\circ\text{C}$ ), raised white blood cell count, and high concentrations of C-reactive protein (Table 1).

#### Efficacy analyses

**Clinical efficacy.** The primary endpoint, namely that moxifloxacin was non-inferior with regards to clinical efficacy versus comparator regimens in the cIAI patient populations as defined in the individual study protocols, was achieved in all four clinical studies. In the subgroup of patients with secondary peritonitis, the clinical success rates at TOC were 85.3% and 88.4% in the moxifloxacin and comparator treatment arms of the PP population, respectively, (point estimate for the difference in success rates:  $-3.01\%$ ; 95% CI:  $-7.06\%$ ,  $1.05\%$ ) (Table 2, Fig. 1). Corresponding clinical success rates for the ITT population were 73.7% and 77.7%, respectively (point estimate  $-3.96\%$ ; 95% CI:  $-8.54\%$ ,  $0.61\%$ ) (Table 2, Fig. 1). The point estimates for the difference in clinical success rates in the PP population ranged from  $-18.33\%$  [15] to  $1.4\%$  [13], but the test of heterogeneity showed no significance at the 10% level indicating that the point estimates were consistent across the four studies included in the analysis (Table 2).

When analyzed by anatomical site of infection across the studies, moxifloxacin monotherapy achieved similar clinical success rates to comparators in infections localized in the gallbladder and biliary tract, stomach or duodenum, appendix, large bowel, small bowel, or in other locations (Table 3).

**Bacteriologic efficacy.** *Escherichia coli* and *Bacteroides fragilis* were the pathogens isolated most commonly from patients with secondary peritonitis which is in accordance with previous studies [5,24]. This pooled analysis revealed that in the MBV population, *E. coli* was isolated in 67.6% (269/398) of moxifloxacin- and 68.5% (270/394) of comparator-treated patients across the four clinical trials. The second species cultured most frequently was *B. fragilis* in 26.9% (107/398) of moxifloxacin- and 28.9% (114/394) of comparator-treated patients. Other *Bacteroides* species such as *B. thetaiotaomicron* (14.1% vs. 14.2%), *B. distasonis* (4.5% vs. 4.1%), *B. ovatus* (6.0% vs. 3.8%), *B. uniformis* (4.3% vs. 5.8%), and *B. vulgatus* (5.0% vs. 2.3%) were isolated less frequently. *P. aeruginosa* was isolated from 13.1% (52/398) and 9.1% (36/394) of moxifloxacin- and comparator-treated patients, respectively. *Enterococcus avium* (6.3% vs. 5.8%), *E. faecalis* (9.0% vs. 10.7%), *E. faecium* (5.8% vs.

TABLE 1. DEMOGRAPHICS AND BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH SECONDARY PERITONITIS IN THE POOLED ANALYSIS OF cIAIs

Characteristic	PP population			ITT population		
	All patients (N=1,024)	Moxifloxacin (N=505)	Comparators (N=519)	All patients (N=1,229)	Moxifloxacin (N=609)	Comparators (N=620)
Gender, male, n (%)	673 (65.7)	330 (65.3)	343 (66.1)	807 (65.7)	396 (65.0)	411 (66.3)
Mean age $\pm$ SD, y	46.7 $\pm$ 18.4	46.3 $\pm$ 18.3	47.0 $\pm$ 18.6	47.6 $\pm$ 18.7	47.6 $\pm$ 18.7	47.7 $\pm$ 18.6
Age $\geq$ 65 y, n (%)	208 (20.3)	94 (18.6)	114 (22.0)	269 (21.9)	128 (21.0)	141 (22.7)
Mean BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup> (SD)	25.7 $\pm$ 4.9	25.9 $\pm$ 4.8	25.5 $\pm$ 5.0	25.9 $\pm$ 5.1	26.2 $\pm$ 5.1	25.7 $\pm$ 5.1
Coexisting illnesses, n (%)	700 (68.4)	353 (69.9)	347 (66.9)	872 (71.0)	443 (72.7)	429 (69.2)
Origin of infection, community-acquired, n (%)	983 (96.0)	486 (96.2)	497 (95.8)	1,174 (95.5)	584 (95.9)	590 (95.2)
Mean duration of symptoms, d (SD)	4.2 $\pm$ 2.5	4.2 $\pm$ 2.7	4.1 $\pm$ 2.3	4.2 $\pm$ 2.6	4.3 $\pm$ 2.6	4.2 $\pm$ 2.5
>2 d, n (%)	881 (86.0)	433 (85.7)	448 (86.3)	1,057 (86.0)	521 (85.6)	536 (86.5)
Previous antibiotic therapy*, n (%)	348 (34.0)	167 (33.1)	181 (34.9)	463 (37.7)	223 (36.6)	240 (38.7)
Mean core temperature, °C (SD)	38.5 $\pm$ 0.92	38.5 $\pm$ 0.90	38.5 $\pm$ 0.94	38.5 $\pm$ 0.93	38.5 $\pm$ 0.92	38.5 $\pm$ 0.94
Mean WBC, ( $\times 10^9$ /L (SD))	13.4 $\pm$ 5.2	13.4 $\pm$ 5.1	13.4 $\pm$ 5.4	13.4 $\pm$ 5.5	13.5 $\pm$ 5.7	13.4 $\pm$ 5.4
Mean C-reactive protein, mg/dL (SD)	19.8 $\pm$ 18.3	20.2 $\pm$ 17.7	19.5 $\pm$ 18.8	20.2 $\pm$ 18.7	20.9 $\pm$ 19.2	19.4 $\pm$ 18.2
Mean APACHE II score (SD)	6.9 $\pm$ 5.0	6.9 $\pm$ 4.7	6.9 $\pm$ 5.2	7.0 $\pm$ 5.0	7.1 $\pm$ 4.8	6.9 $\pm$ 5.2
Anatomic site of infection, n (%)						
Gallbladder and biliary tract	55 (5.4)	26 (5.1)	29 (5.6)	63 (5.1)	29 (4.8)	34 (5.5)
Stomach or duodenum	189 (18.5)	91 (18.0)	98 (18.9)	228 (18.6)	116 (19.0)	112 (18.1)
Appendix	534 (52.1)	269 (53.3)	265 (51.1)	621 (50.5)	308 (50.6)	313 (50.5)
Large bowel	166 (16.2)	86 (17.0)	80 (15.4)	213 (17.3)	107 (17.6)	106 (17.1)
Small bowel	71 (6.9)	31 (6.1)	40 (7.7)	90 (7.3)	43 (7.1)	47 (7.6)
Others	5 (0.5)	1 (0.2)	4 (0.8)	8 (0.7)	4 (0.7)	4 (0.6)
Unknown	4 (0.4)	1 (0.2)	3 (0.6)	6 (0.5)	2 (0.3)	4 (0.6)
Polymicrobial infection, n (%)	629 (61.4)	319 (63.2)	310 (59.7)	741 (60.3)	381 (62.6)	360 (58.1)
Bacteremia, n (%)	29 (2.8)	15 (3.0)	14 (2.7)	37 (3.0)	22 (3.6)	15 (2.4)

APACHE=Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation; BMI=body mass index; cIAI=complicated intra-abdominal infections; ITT=intent-to-treat; PP=per-protocol; SD=standard deviation; WBC=white blood cell count. \*Antibiotic administered within the week preceding the start of study therapy.

5.1%) were also isolated but in lower frequency from patients with secondary peritonitis.

The majority of infections in patients with secondary peritonitis were due to either aerobic bacteria (40.2% and 46.0% of moxifloxacin- and comparator-treated patients, respectively) or to a mix of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria (56.8% and 51.8% of moxifloxacin- and comparator-treated patients, respectively). In the MBV population, 11 moxifloxacin- and eight comparator-treated patients had only anaerobic bacteria isolated.

Consistent with the clinical success rates, pooled bacteriologic success rates suggested that moxifloxacin was as effective as comparators (82.4% vs. 86.8%, Table 4). Treatment of patients with only anaerobic bacteria resulted in lower but comparable eradication rates (Table 4). Moxifloxacin was as effective as comparator antibiotics against *E. coli* (84.4% vs. 87.4%, respectively) and *B. fragilis* (84.1% vs. 88.6%, respectively) (Table 5).

### Safety

Adverse events (AEs) occurred in 67.3% and 59.8% of the moxifloxacin and comparator treatment regimens in the ITT population, respectively (Table 6). The most common adverse events in moxifloxacin-treated patients (MXF) versus com-

parator-treated patients were nausea and diarrhea. Furthermore, as a consequence of open abdominal surgery, surgical infections (or these could be considered as surgical site infections) occurred in 10.7% (65/609) and 8.2% (51/620) of moxifloxacin- and comparator-treated patients, respectively. Approximately 20% of patients had drug-related AEs in each group (MXF: 20.9% vs. COMP: 20.0%), of which 19 (3.1%) and six (1.0%) experienced serious drug-related AEs in the moxifloxacin and comparator treatment arms, respectively. The difference in the frequency of serious drug-related AEs between moxifloxacin and comparators was driven mainly by gastrointestinal disorders, surgical infections, asymptomatic prolongation of the QT interval on the ECG, and increased liver enzymes. One patient (0.16%) in the MXF group and three patients (0.5%) in the COMP group had *Clostridium difficile* colitis as adverse event; and there was one patient with clostridial infection in the COMP group as reported adverse event in this subset of patients. The *C. difficile* colitis case was related to the study drug in the MXF-treated patient; however, this was not a serious AE. In the COMP group two cases of *C. difficile* colitis were serious AEs and these were both related to the study drug. Treatment was discontinued prematurely in 5.1% of MXF and in 4.0% of those in the comparator treatment arm (Table 6). Deaths, none of which were attributed to study medication, occurred with a similar frequency in both

TABLE 2. CLINICAL SUCCESS RATES AT TOC (10 TO 45 DAYS POST-THERAPY) IN PATIENTS WITH SECONDARY PERITONITIS IN THE POOLED ANALYSIS OF cIAIs

Study	Moxifloxacin n/N (%)	Comparators n/N (%)	95% CI (%, %)	Point estimate (%)	Relative weight	Heterogeneity
<b>PP populations</b>						
Malangoni (2000–2003, USA) <sup>13</sup>	66 /89 (74.2)	57/73 (78.1)	-17.07–9.22	-3.92	15.74%	0.02 ( 0.58%)
Weiss (2001–2002, Europe) <sup>14</sup>	92/111 (82.9)	110/135 (81.5)	-8.19–10.99	1.40	23.90%	0.81 (25.25%)
Solomkin (2005–2007, Asia) <sup>15</sup>	18 /24 (75.0)	28/30 (93.3)	-37.82–1.15	-18.33	5.23%	2.38 (73.93%)
De Waele (2006–2009, Europe) <sup>16</sup>	255/281 (90.7)	264/281 (94.0)	-7.59–1.18	-3.20	55.13%	< 0.01 ( 0.24%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>431/505 (85.3)</b>	<b>459/519 (88.4)</b>	<b>-7.06–1.05</b>	<b>-3.01</b>		Chi <sup>2</sup> = 3.21 p value = 0.360*
<b>ITT populations</b>						
Malangoni (2000–2003, USA) <sup>13</sup>	69/129 (53.5)	63/122 (51.6)	-10.51–14.21	1.85	20.46%	0.85 (20.94%)
Weiss (2001–2002, Europe) <sup>14</sup>	93/127 (73.2)	114/152 (75.0)	-12.10–8.56	-1.77	22.58%	0.17 ( 4.27%)
Solomkin (2005–2007, Asia) <sup>15</sup>	18 /26 (69.2)	28 /31 (90.3)	-41.66–-0.52	-21.09	4.61%	2.66 (65.61%)
De Waele (2006–2009, Europe) <sup>16</sup>	269/327 (82.3)	277/315 (87.9)	-11.16–-0.19	-5.67	52.35%	0.37 ( 9.18%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>449/609 (73.7)</b>	<b>482/620 (77.7)</b>	<b>-8.54–0.61</b>	<b>-3.96</b>		Chi <sup>2</sup> = 4.06 p value = 0.255*

CI=confidence interval; cIAI=complicated intra-abdominal infections; ITT=intent-to-treat; PP, per-protocol; TOC=test-of-cure. \*P value refers to heterogeneity test and not to comparison of clinical efficacy between treatment groups.

treatment arms (4.3% vs. 3.4% of the moxifloxacin- and comparator-treated patients, respectively) (Table 6) and were not attributed to study medication. All of these fatalities were treatment failures or indeterminate cases (patients in whom clinical evaluation was not possible to determine) prior to their deaths, and their infections developed into sepsis or septic shock and resulted in further complications such as acute respiratory distress syndrome, hemodynamic shock, multiple organ dysfunction syndrome, embolism, hemorrhage, respiratory or cardiac failure, or pneumonia.

**Discussion**

The results of these pooled analyses suggest that, for the treatment of secondary peritonitis, moxifloxacin has similar

clinical and bacteriologic efficacy and a similar safety profile compared with other antibiotic agents currently approved for this indication in patients with infections of mild-to-moderate severity. This comparable efficacy was found across different sites of infection as well as causative bacteria. From all enrolled (N=2,444) patients with cIAIs in these four randomized clinical trials, secondary peritonitis occurred in 1,229 (50%) patients, reflecting the high prevalence of this more severe disease among patients with mild-to-moderate, community-acquired cIAI origin.

Broad spectrum antibiotic therapy is an important part of the management of secondary peritonitis. In accordance with previous reports [5,24–26] and consistent with a patient population with community-acquired mild-to-moderately severe cIAIs, *E. coli*, *B. fragilis* and other *Bacteroides* spp.

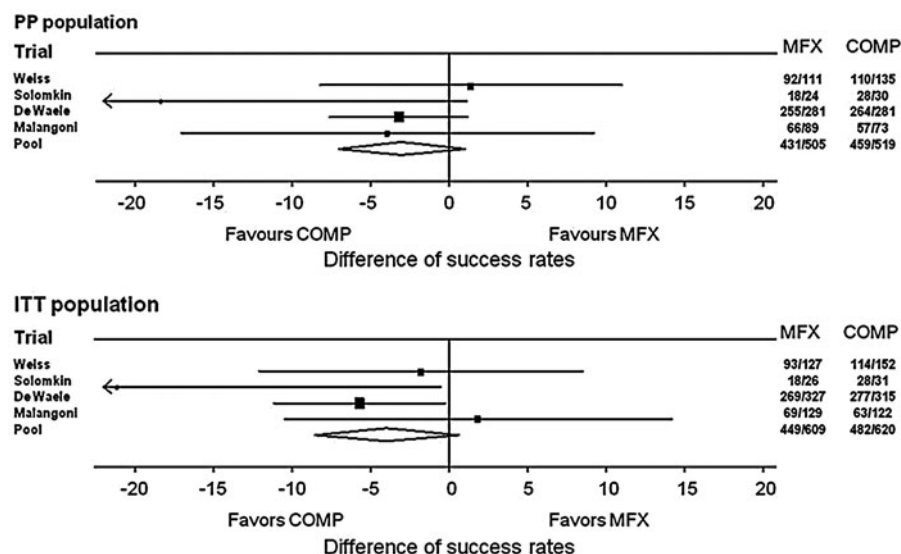


FIG. 1. Forest plots for clinical efficacy in individual studies and overall (PP and ITT populations).

TABLE 3. CLINICAL SUCCESS AT TOC (10–45 DAYS POST-THERAPY) BY ANATOMICAL SITE OF INFECTION IN PATIENTS WITH SECONDARY PERITONITIS IN THE POOLED ANALYSIS OF cIAIs (PP POPULATION)

Site of infection	Moxifloxacin n/N (%)	Comparator n/N (%)
Gallbladder and biliary tract	26/ 26 ( 100)	28/ 29 (96.6)
Stomach or duodenum	79/ 91 ( 86.8)	91/ 98 (92.9)
Appendix	229/269 ( 85.1)	244/265 (92.1)
Large bowel	70/ 86 ( 81.4)	59/ 80 (73.8)
Small bowel	25/ 31 ( 80.6)	32/ 40 (80.0)
Others/Unknown	2/ 2 (100)	5/ 7 (71.4)

cIAI=complicated intra-abdominal infections; PP=per-protocol; TOC=test-of-cure.

were the most frequently isolated pathogens. Moxifloxacin achieved similar bacteriological eradication rates to comparator regimens against these (and other causative) bacteria. The anti-anaerobic activity of moxifloxacin observed in this subset of patients was similar to that reported in a recent review by Goldstein et al. [27] on a broader population. Against susceptible anaerobic pathogens (MIC  $\leq$  2 mg/L), moxifloxacin achieved high bacteriologic eradication and clinical success rates of 84.5% and 83.1%, respectively [27]. Importantly, the clinical success rate was maintained at more than 80% beyond the susceptibility breakpoint of 4 mg/L, and declining to 67.7% only at an MIC of 32 mg/L [27]. Antibiotic resistance among bacteria implicated in the pathogenesis of polymicrobial peritonitis is considered as a critical issue in empiric therapy, as patients treated with antibiotics to which the pathogens are resistant are more likely to experience treatment failure and worse outcome [28]. However, as observed in a previous analysis of cIAI patients [27], the rates of clinical and bacteriological success achieved with moxifloxacin appear to be maintained well beyond the susceptibility breakpoint for key pathogenic species; this was observed during the long interval between 2000 and 2009 including each Phase III study period. Thus, despite recent warnings about the occurrence of resistant bacteria to major classes of antibiotics used to treat cIAIs that include not only fluoroquinolones but also carbapenems and piperacillin-tazobactam [29–38], our results may support the empiric use

TABLE 4. BACTERIOLOGICAL SUCCESS (ERADICATION/PRESUMED ERADICATION) RATES AT TOC (10–45 D POST-THERAPY) IN PATIENTS WITH SECONDARY PERITONITIS IN THE POOLED ANALYSIS OF cIAIs (MBV POPULATION)

Bacteria type	Moxifloxacin n/N (%)	Comparator n/N (%)
Aerobic only	133/160 (83.1)	162/181 (89.5)
Anaerobic only	8/ 11 (72.7)	6/ 8 (75.0)
Mixed (aerobic and anaerobic)	186/226 (82.3)	173/204 (84.8)
<b>Overall*</b>	<b>328/398 (82.4)</b>	<b>342/394 (86.8)</b>

MBV = microbiologically valid; TOC = test-of-cure. \*One isolate in each treatment group of other type of organism was successfully eradicated.

TABLE 5. BACTERIOLOGICAL SUCCESS (ERADICATION/PRESUMED ERADICATION) RATES BY BASELINE PATHOGEN AT TOC (10–45 D POST-THERAPY) (MBV POPULATION)

Organism	Moxifloxacin n/N (%)	Comparator n/N (%)
<b>Gram-positive aerobic</b>	<b>155/197 (78.7)</b>	<b>161/195 (82.6)</b>
<i>Enterococcus avium</i>	21/ 25 (84.0)	18/ 23 (78.3)
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	28/ 36 (77.8)	30/ 42 (71.4)
<i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	17/ 23 (73.9)	15/ 20 (75.0)
<i>Streptococcus anginosus</i>	47/ 59 (79.7)	56/ 65 (86.2)
<i>Streptococcus constellatus</i>	42/ 54 (77.8)	42/ 45 (93.3)
<b>Gram-negative aerobic</b>	<b>351/420 (83.6)</b>	<b>335/387 (86.6)</b>
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	9/ 11 (81.8)	12/ 13 (92.3)
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	10/ 13 (76.9)	8/ 9 (88.9)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	227/269 (84.4)	236/270 (87.4)
<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	21/ 24 (87.5)	15/ 18 (83.3)
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	27/ 32 (84.4)	25/ 31 (80.6)
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	43/ 52 (82.7)	30/ 36 (83.3)
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	14/ 19 (73.7)	9/ 10 (90.0)
<b>Gram-positive anaerobic</b>	<b>22/ 31 (71.0)</b>	<b>33/ 39 (84.6)</b>
<i>Clostridium</i> species	18/ 23 (78.3)	24/ 28 (85.7)
<i>Peptostreptococcus</i> species	4/ 8 (50.0)	9/ 11 (81.8)
<b>Gram-negative anaerobic</b>	<b>237/279 (85.0)</b>	<b>222/254 (87.4)</b>
<i>Bacteroides distasonis</i>	16/ 18 (88.9)	14/ 16 (87.5)
<i>Bacteroides fragilis</i>	90/107 (84.1)	101/114 (88.6)
<i>Bacteroides ovatus</i>	19/ 24 (79.2)	14/ 15 (93.3)
<i>Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron</i>	48/ 56 (85.7)	49/ 56 (87.5)
<i>Bacteroides uniformis</i>	16/ 17 (94.1)	19/ 23 (82.6)
<i>Bacteroides vulgatus</i>	17/ 20 (85.0)	7/ 9 (77.8)
Other <i>Bacteroides</i> species	31/ 37 (83.8)	18/ 21 (85.7)

MBV = microbiologically valid; TOC = test-of-cure.

of antibiotics with a spectrum of activity covering the main causative organisms in cIAI patients with mild-to-moderate disease.

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was isolated as a potential pathogen in a small number of patients. Although moxifloxacin has weak activity against *P. aeruginosa*, patients from whom this species was isolated responded well to therapy. This suggests that *P. aeruginosa* might have been present either as a colonizer or as a co-pathogen, which is consistent with the view that the prevalence of strains tends to be low in community-acquired IAIs [7].

Enterococci were also isolated in a small number of patients. Although the use of antibiotic therapy in patients with cIAIs harboring enterococci has proved controversial, it is now accepted that for patients with community-acquired infections, coverage against enterococci is not necessary as these bacteria are found mainly in nosocomial cIAIs and after previous exposure to antibiotics [3,39].

Fluoroquinolones possess potent in vitro activity against aerobic gram-negative bacteria; however, ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin lack anti-anaerobic activity, therefore, they need to be used in combination with metronidazole to provide coverage against *Bacteroides* spp. and other anaerobes [3,4]. Moxifloxacin has the advantage that it is active against both aerobic and anaerobic bacteria [5,40–41] and can be administered once daily as monotherapy [3,4]. As secondary

TABLE 6. INCIDENCE OF TREATMENT-EMERGENT AEs IN PATIENTS WITH SECONDARY PERITONITIS (ITT POPULATION)

MedDRA PT Event	Moxifloxacin (N=609) n (%)	Comparator (N=620) n (%)
Any AEs	410 (67.3)	371 (59.8)
Nausea	49 ( 8.0)	28 ( 4.5)
Diarrhea	39 ( 6.4)	49 ( 7.9)
Abdominal pain	26 ( 4.3)	19 ( 3.1)
Constipation	21 ( 3.4)	19 ( 3.1)
Surgical site infection	65 (10.7)	51 ( 8.2)
Post-operative	10 ( 1.6)	6 ( 1.0)
Surgical site infection		
Drug-related AEs	127 (20.9)	124 (20.0)
occurring in >5 patients		
in either treatment		
group Any		
Serious AEs	110 (18.1)	88 (14.2)
Drug-related serious AEs	19 ( 3.1)	6 ( 1.0)
Premature discontinuations	31 ( 5.1)	25 ( 4.0)
due to AEs		
Deaths	26 ( 4.3)	21 ( 3.4)

AE=adverse event; ITT=intent-to-treat; MedDRA PT=Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities Preferred Term.

peritonitis is frequently polymicrobial [9], in accordance with data of the current analysis showing the presence of two or more pathogens in approximately 60% of patients, a broad-spectrum, single-agent therapy, such as moxifloxacin, offers practical advantages over multi-dose combination regimens.

The appendix is the most common source of infection in community-acquired cIAIs, followed by the colon and stomach [42]; similar findings were observed in our analysis showing that these sites accounted for more than 80% of all peritonitis cases reported across the four studies. Treatment with moxifloxacin resulted in similar clinical success rates to comparator regimens in secondary peritonitis originating from these and other less common anatomic sites. Most patients in this study had community-acquired cIAIs of mild-to-moderate severity on the basis of the APACHE II scoring system. Across the four trials there were relatively few patients at higher risk of clinical failure such as those with higher APACHE II scores ( $\geq 15$ ; 7.7%), hospital-acquired infection (4.0%), renal dysfunction or disorders (4.8%), and the presence of other risk factors such as diabetes mellitus (10.4%), older age (20.3%), and previous antibiotic therapy (34%) were observed in a small proportion of patients. Thus, the population in this pooled analysis best reflects the moderately ill cIAI patients as described in recent SIS/IDSA guidelines and our clinical data support the use of moxifloxacin in patients with mild-to-moderate cIAIs as recommended in these guidelines [3,4].

Pooled safety and tolerability data indicated that moxifloxacin was generally well tolerated in cIAI patients with secondary peritonitis. Although the overall incidence of AEs was higher in the moxifloxacin treatment arm, the incidence of study drug-related AEs, serious AEs, and deaths were similar between treatment groups in the ITT/safety population. The most frequent treatment-emergent AEs were

gastrointestinal disorders including diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. *Clostridium difficile* infections may be associated with moxifloxacin or other FQ treatment [43]. However, in this pooled dataset *C. difficile* infection was rare and it was not reported with higher frequency in MXF-treated patients than in COMP-treated patients. Surgical infections are not infrequent complications following open surgery but there was no clinically meaningful difference in rates of surgical infections between the two treatment groups in this pooled analysis. Of note, cardiac adverse events that are included in the warning labeling of moxifloxacin (such as QT interval prolongation, [12]) occurred in low frequency (<1%) among patients. Most AEs were not attributable directly to study medications, which suggests that many were related to the fact that patients were hospitalized for surgery in addition to their need for IV antibiotic therapy.

Patients with secondary peritonitis constitute an important sub-group within the cIAI patient population and for whom there is an increased risk of mortality from severe sepsis and septic shock if adequate antibiotic therapy is not administered promptly. Initiation of surgical source control in addition to the broad-spectrum antibiotic therapy, as performed in controlled clinical trials and in dedicated hospitals, prevented multiple organ dysfunction syndrome or sepsis in our patients which may count for the relatively low mortality rate (<5%). The strength of the data presented here is that the four studies included a large number of patients with secondary peritonitis who had an advanced disease but were not critically ill and thus representative of the moderately ill cIAI patient category as described in recent SIS/IDSA guidelines [3,4]. The APACHE II scoring system was used to describe the severity of the disease in this analysis, as it was in most other studies in this field. Originally devised as a score to predict mortality upon ICU admission and generally considered a good marker of severity in these patients, its value in peritonitis has recently been questioned because it does not take into account the effect of interventions that may alter physiologic parameters [8]. Patients with mild-to-moderate cIAIs generally have APACHE II scores of <10 that are not associated with high mortality risk [25,44]. However, this evaluation is often performed before patients are operated on and remains stable hemodynamically. The APACHE II score may not be the most reliable way to assess the severity of surgical patients and a more specific scoring system—such as the Mannheim peritonitis index (MPI), which includes the description of peri-operative findings—may have been a more appropriate choice [8]. Another weakness of this pooled analysis was the heterogeneity of follow up periods after the end of antibiotic therapy. In the study by Solomkin et al., the TOC visit was carried out within 10–14 d of end-of-therapy, possibly precluding the identification of late clinical failures, recurrences or super-infections, resulting in the highest response rate for the comparator group [15]. Late clinical failures were captured in the other three larger studies where patients were monitored for longer periods post-therapy [13–14,16].

In conclusion, in this pooled analysis it has been observed that moxifloxacin has similar clinical and bacteriologic efficacy and a good safety profile compared with those of other previously approved antibiotic regimens in the treatment of mild-to-moderate secondary peritonitis. Despite certain limitations, the data from this pooled analysis provides support for

the use of moxifloxacin as a valuable therapeutic option in the group of patients with advanced cIAIs, which is consistent with current treatment guidelines [3,4].

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