

Stability of Novel Siderophore Cephalosporin S-649266 against Clinically Relevant Carbapenemases

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To better understand the antibacterial activity of S-649266 against carbapenemase producers, its stability against clinically relevant carbapenemases was investigated. The catalytic efficiencies (k_{cat}/K_m) of IMP-1, VIM-2, and L1 for S-649266 were 0.0048, 0.0050, and 0.024 $\mu\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$, respectively, which were more than 260-fold lower than that for meropenem. Only slight hydrolysis of S-649266 against KPC-3 was observed. NDM-1 hydrolyzed meropenem 3-fold faster than S-649266 at 200 μM .

In the 2000s, there has been a striking increase of clinically important carbapenemases, including classes A, B, and D, which can hydrolyze both carbapenems and cephalosporins (1). The carbapenemases of the class A β -lactamase KPC and class B metallo- β -lactamases (MBLs) IMP, VIM, and NDM are disseminated interspecies by mobile elements, which has led to the spread of these carbapenemases worldwide (2–4). The carbapenem-hydrolyzing class D β -lactamases (CHDLs) OXA-23, OXA-24, OXA-51, and OXA-58 have been found in *Acinetobacter* species worldwide (5, 6). These CHDLs show weak hydrolysis activity against carbapenems, while increased expression by the IS_{Aba} gene insertion sequence can mediate carbapenem resistance. The frequent occurrence of multidrug-resistant (MDR) phenotypes of these carbapenemase-producing isolates due to other concurrent resistance genes poses global challenges due to the limited number of treatment options (2–4).

S-649266 is a novel parenteral siderophore cephalosporin (Fig. 1) which employs a “Trojan horse” strategy using the active transport of S-649266 into bacterial cells by exploiting the bacterial iron-siderophore uptake system and has demonstrated potent *in vitro* and *in vivo* activity against carbapenemase-producing MDR isolates (7–9). This activity is considered to be due to not only efficient uptake via the active siderophore systems but also the high stability of S-649266 against carbapenemase hydrolysis. To elucidate the contribution of β -lactamase stability of S-649266 to its potent antibacterial activity, the kinetic parameters of clinically relevant carbapenemases for S-649266 were determined in this study.

The antibacterial activity of S-649266 against global clinical isolates carrying various β -lactamases is shown in Table 1 (see also Table S1 in the supplemental material). The MICs were determined using cation-adjusted Mueller-Hinton broth (BBL, Franklin Lakes, NJ) according to the CLSI standard (10) except that the medium was supplemented with 20 μM human apotransferrin (BBI Solutions, Cardiff, United Kingdom) for S-649266 to create a ferric iron-deficient condition (7, 8, 11). S-649266 showed strong activity against all the carbapenemase-producing isolates tested, with MIC values of ≤ 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$, whereas meropenem, ceftazidime, and cefepime MICs ranged from 16 to >256 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$. These results suggest that S-649266 is stable against a wide variety of carbapenemases, including KPC types and NDM-1.

In the kinetic study, the recombinant β -lactamases of IMP-1,

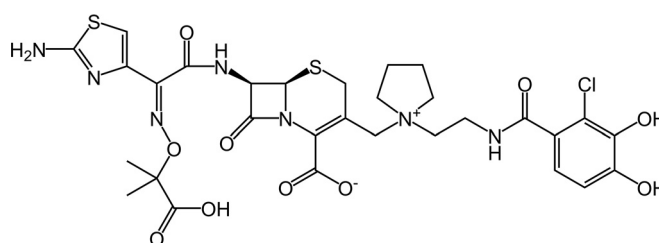


FIG 1 Chemical structure of S-649266.

VIM-2, NDM-1, KPC-3, and OXA-23 without any affinity tags and purified L1 from a clinical isolate were used (see Table S2 in the supplemental material). Hydrolysis of β -lactams was detected by monitoring the changes in the absorbance of β -lactam solution using a UV-2550 (Shimadzu, Japan) or U-3010 (Hitachi, Japan) spectrophotometer. The wavelength and molar extinction coefficient ($\Delta\epsilon$) for S-649266 were 259 nm and $-9,430 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, respectively. The steady-state kinetic parameters (k_{cat} and K_m) were determined by using the Hanes linearization of the Michaelis-Menten equation (12). For poorly hydrolyzing substrates, the competitive inhibition constant (K_i) instead of the K_m value was determined in the presence of 100 μM reporter substrate (nitrocefin for IMP-1, VIM-2, KPC-3, and OXA-23; imipenem for L1). The detailed protocols are described in “Supplemental Materials and Methods” in the supplemental material.

The kinetic parameters of carbapenemases for S-649266 were determined and compared to those for meropenem, ceftazidime,

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TABLE 1 MICs of S-649266 and other antibacterial agents against clinical strains with various β -lactamases

Species	β -Lactamase	No. of isolates	MIC range ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)			
			S-649266 ^a	Ceftazidime	Cefepime	Meropenem
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	IMP-1	3	0.016 to 0.5	>256	256 to >256	128 to >256
	VIM-2	3	0.25 to 1	128 to 256	64 to 128	32 to 256
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	NDM-1	4	0.5 to 2	>256	32 to >256	64 to 256
	KPC-2 or KPC-3	4	0.06 to 0.5	256 to >256	64 to >256	16 to 256
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	NDM-1	2	0.5 to 1	>256	64 to >256	16 to 32
<i>Stenotrophomonas maltophilia</i>	L1	3	0.125 to 0.5	128 to 256	64 to 128	128 to 256
<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	OXA-23	5	0.03 to 0.5	128 to >256	16 to 128	16 to 32

^a Supplemented with 20 μM human apotransferrin.

and cefepime (Table 2). The k_{cat}/K_m values of MBLs of IMP-1, VIM-2, and L1 for S-649266 were the lowest among the antibacterial agents tested with low k_{cat} values and high K_i or K_m values. These k_{cat}/K_m values for S-649266 were more than 260-fold lower than those for meropenem. In the case of NDM-1, due to the increase in initial hydrolysis velocity with increasing concentrations of chromogenic substrates, such as nitrocefin and chromogenic cephalosporin for β -lactamase substrate (CENTA) (13), no

competitive hydrolysis inhibition of S-649266 was observed, and the K_i value was unable to be determined (data not shown). The relative hydrolysis velocity of S-649266 by NDM-1 was compared with those of other antibacterial agents (Table 3). The relative hydrolysis velocity of S-649266 was approximately 3 to 10 times lower than that of the other antibacterial agents tested. These data indicate that S-649266 is highly stable against the MBLs of IMP-1, VIM-2, L1, and NDM-1.

TABLE 2 Kinetic parameters of carbapenemases for S-649266 and other antibacterial agents

β -Lactamase	Molecular class ^a	Antibacterial agent	k_{cat} (s^{-1}) ^b	K_m or K_i (μM) ^b	k_{cat}/K_m ($\mu\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$)
IMP-1	B	S-649266 ^c	0.92 \pm 0.0089	190 \pm 19	0.0048
		Meropenem	6.5 \pm 0.23	3.3 \pm 1.2	2.0
		Ceftazidime	7.2 \pm 0.24	55 \pm 2.6	0.13
		Cefepime	10 \pm 0.50	29 \pm 2.6	0.34
		Nitrocefin	220 \pm 33	2.6 \pm 1.3	85
VIM-2	B	S-649266 ^c	1.0 \pm 0.019	200 \pm 12	0.0050
		Meropenem	4.4 \pm 0.27	2.4 \pm 0.63	1.8
		Ceftazidime	3.3 \pm 0.13	64 \pm 1.1	0.052
		Cefepime ^c	49 \pm 0.74	100 \pm 9.3	0.49
		Nitrocefin	890 \pm 6.3	4.9 \pm 0.29	182
L1	B	S-649266	12 \pm 0.57	510 \pm 64	0.024
		Meropenem	45 \pm 1.6	7.1 \pm 0.94	6.3
		Ceftazidime	71 \pm 2.8	470 \pm 33	0.15
		Cefepime ^c	ND ^d	>500	NC ^f
		Imipenem	250 \pm 8.5	60 \pm 1.9	4.2
KPC-3	A	S-649266	ND ^e	>1,600	NC
		Meropenem	1.3 \pm 0.035	6.5 \pm 0.37	0.20
		Ceftazidime ^c	ND ^d	3,100 \pm 520	NC
		Cefepime ^c	19 \pm 0.058	350 \pm 19	0.054
		Nitrocefin	47 \pm 19	15 \pm 7.6	3.1
OXA-23	D	S-649266 ^c	NH	4,800 \pm 1,100	NC
		Meropenem ^c	ND ^e	0.028 \pm 0.0023	NC
		Ceftazidime ^c	NH	9,800 \pm 270	NC
		Cefepime ^c	ND ^d	1,500 \pm 170	NC
		Nitrocefin	350 \pm 7.7	34 \pm 4.9	10

^a Classification as described by Ambler (14).

^b Each k_{cat} , K_m , and K_i value is the mean \pm standard deviation (SD) of three different measurements. ND, not determined; NH, no hydrolysis detected.

^c K_i values were obtained using 100 μM nitrocefin for IMP-1, VIM-2, KPC-3, and OXA-23 or 100 μM imipenem for L1 as a reporter substrate.

^d Hydrolysis was observed, but the K_m or K_i value was too high to determine the k_{cat} value.

^e Hydrolysis was too weak to determine the k_{cat} value.

^f NC, not calculated.

TABLE 3 Hydrolysis velocity of S-649266 and other antibacterial agents by NDM-1

Antibacterial agent	Velocity at substrate concn of ^a :			
	100 μ M		200 μ M	
	Hydrolysis velocity (μ M/s)	Relative velocity	Hydrolysis velocity (μ M/s)	Relative velocity
S-649266	0.092 \pm 0.0059	18	0.23 \pm 0.018	32
Meropenem	0.50 \pm 0.014	100	0.72 \pm 0.012	100
Ceftazidime	1.0 \pm 0.015	210	1.5 \pm 0.024	210
Cefepime	0.46 \pm 0.028	91	0.68 \pm 0.0092	94

^a Each hydrolysis velocity is the mean \pm SD of three different measurements. Relative velocity was calculated by assuming the hydrolysis velocity of meropenem to be 100.

Slight hydrolysis of S-649266 by KPC-3 was observed, where all the other tested antibacterial agents except for ceftazidime were efficiently hydrolyzed. The K_m value for S-649266 was extremely high (>1,600 μ M), with the initial hydrolysis velocity of 0.078 μ M/s at 1,600 μ M in the presence of 0.89 μ M enzyme, indicating the low affinity of S-649266 with KPC-3. The K_i value for ceftazidime was also extremely high (3,100 μ M), and the k_{cat} value could not be determined due to the high concentration of ceftazidime required for the evaluation of the k_{cat} value, although hydrolysis of ceftazidime was observed. The K_i values for S-649266 and ceftazidime with OXA-23 were extremely high (4,800 and 9,800 μ M, respectively), and no detectable hydrolysis was observed; the change in absorbance was too small to calculate the initial hydrolysis velocity, that is, the change in absorbance was \leq 0.001 after a 90-s measurement with 100 μ M substrate in the presence of 0.2 μ M enzyme, which corresponded to \leq 0.006 μ M/s. The K_i value for meropenem with OXA-23 was very low, as reported previously (6), and hydrolysis was too weak to determine the k_{cat} value. These results suggest that the higher K_m or K_i value for S-649266 with KPC-3 and OXA-23 than for meropenem may contribute to the antibacterial activity against these carbapenemase-producing isolates. In contrast, significant differences in kinetics against OXA-23 were not observed between S-649266 and ceftazidime, although the antibacterial activities of S-649266 and ceftazidime against OXA-23-producing *Acinetobacter baumannii* isolates were quite different. The penetration efficiency across the outer membrane between S-649266 and ceftazidime may be different due to the unique feature using the iron-siderophore uptake system with S-649266. Currently, dissemination of the OXA-48 group CHDL among *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates in the Middle East, North Africa, and some European countries is of great concern (4–6). We did not assess the stability against OXA-48 in this report, but there is a need to conduct further study on this clinically important carbapenemase.

A novel antimicrobial that is active against a broad range of Gram-negative bacteria and is stable against a broad range of β -lactamases, including MBLs, would represent a significant advance in treatment options. S-649266 shows potent antibacterial activity against bacteria that produce a wide variety of β -lactamases, including class B as well as class A and D carbapenemases, without adding a β -lactamase inhibitor. The stability of S-649266 against a broad range of carbapenemases shown in this study illustrates a dual advantage of this siderophore molecule that has greater outer membrane penetration coupled with intrinsic β -lactamase stability. This dual approach to treating MDR Gram-negative pathogens may provide a new therapeutic option.

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We have no other conflicts of interest to declare.

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