



Published in final edited form as:

*Am J Nephrol.* 2019 ; 49(2): 133–142. doi:10.1159/000496484.

## Vancomycin-Associated Acute Kidney Injury in a Large Veteran Population

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### Abstract

**Background:** To determine the association of vancomycin with AKI in relation to its serum concentration value, and to examine the risk of AKI in patients treated with vancomycin when compared with a matched cohort of patients receiving non-glycopeptide antibiotics (linezolid/daptomycin).

**Methods:** From a cohort of >3 million US veterans with baseline eGFR  $\geq 60$  ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>, we identified 33,527 patients who received either intravenous vancomycin (N=22,057) or non-glycopeptide antibiotics (linezolid/daptomycin, N=11,470). We examined the association of the serum trough vancomycin level recorded within the first 48 hours of administration with

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#### DISCLOSURES

G.G., A.N., C.P.K. and K.K.-Z. are employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Opinions expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The results of this paper have not been published previously in whole or in part.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

None of the authors has relevant conflicts of interest.

subsequent AKI in all patients treated with vancomycin, and association of vancomycin vs. non-glycopeptide antibiotics use with the risk of incident AKI.

**Results:** The overall multivariable adjusted ORs of AKI stages 1, 2 and 3 in patients on vancomycin vs. non-glycopeptides were 1.1 (1.1–1.2), 1.2 (1–1.4) and 1.4 (1.1–1.7), respectively. When examined in strata divided by vancomycin trough level, the odds of AKI were similar or lower in patients receiving vancomycin compared to non-glycopeptide antibiotics as long as serum vancomycin levels were  $\leq 20$  mg/L. However, in patients with serum vancomycin levels  $>20$  mg/L, the ORs of AKI stages 1, 2 and 3 in patients on vancomycin vs. non-glycopeptide antibiotics were 1.5 (1.4–1.7), 1.9 (1.5–2.3) and 2.7 (2–3.5), respectively.

**Conclusions:** Vancomycin use is associated with a higher risk of AKI when serum levels exceed  $>20$  mg/L.

## INTRODUCTION

Vancomycin is a commonly used tricyclic glycopeptide antibiotic which is considered the antibiotic of choice primarily for infections involving methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)[1]. In the past, clinicians were reluctant to prescribe vancomycin due to concerns of product purity, with many clinicians referring to it as “Mississippi mud”[2]. These impurities were associated with adverse effects including acute kidney injury (AKI). Although current preparations purified by high performance liquid chromatography are 90–95% pure[3], even today, the generic formulations of vancomycin pose a risk for containing fermentation by-products that could induce AKI[4, 5].

In patients who have invasive MRSA infections, in order to be able to achieve a 24-h ratio of area under the curve to minimum inhibitory concentrations (AUC/MIC)  $>400$ [6], guidelines recommend more intensive dosing and maintenance of trough levels between 15–20 mg/L[7–9]. This recommendation has been widely adopted into clinical practice, and may have resulted in an increase in vancomycin-associated AKI[10–12]. There is significant variability in the reported incidence of vancomycin related AKI, ranging anywhere from 5% to as high as 43% depending on the study population and baseline risk factors[12, 13]. Previous studies examining the association of vancomycin with AKI relied on observations from relatively small cohorts of patients, and thus resulting in uncertainty about the causal role of vancomycin in AKI and about what strategies to use to prevent AKI in patients treated with vancomycin[14, 15].

We conducted a large retrospective study to assess the association between vancomycin administration and the risk of AKI. The purpose of our study was a) to determine the association of vancomycin with AKI in relation to its early trough serum concentration value, and 2) to examine the risk of AKI in patients treated with vancomycin when compared with a matched cohort of patients receiving non-glycopeptide antibiotics.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study Setting and Cohort Definition

The institutional review committees at the Memphis and Long Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Centers approved the study. Data were obtained from the Racial and Cardiovascular Risk Anomalies in CKD (RCAV) study, which examines risk factors of incident CKD, mortality and other outcomes in US veterans, and which was previously described in detail[16, 17]. From an original cohort of 3,582,478 patients with baseline estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR)  $\geq 60$  mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> we included patients who received vancomycin for at least 48 hours during an inpatient hospitalization (considering only the first hospitalization for patients with multiple such events), who had sufficient serum creatinine measurements for AKI diagnosis and who had no AKI events and at least one steady state trough serum vancomycin concentration available in first 48 hours. From the same cohort, we also identified patients who received non-glycopeptide antibiotics (intravenous daptomycin and/or linezolid) without IV vancomycin and who had no AKI events in the first 48 hours (Figure 1).

### Exposures and Covariates

All data (including patient characteristics, laboratory variables and medication exposures) was extracted from various national VA research databases, as previously described[16–19]. Baseline characteristics were identified on the first day of antibiotic administration or up to 7 days before it (using the value closest to the date of antibiotic administration). We identified antibiotic (vancomycin and non-glycopeptides) exposure from VA pharmacy dispensation records, which also included the number of doses and the duration of each dose. The main exposure variable was the highest recorded trough vancomycin level measured within the first 48 hours after initiation of therapy, with the mean of trough levels measured within the first 48 hours after initiation of therapy used in sensitivity analyses. We assessed vancomycin levels measured during the first 48 hours in patients without AKI events during this time period in order to avoid reverse causation, since AKI can result in a subsequent rise in vancomycin levels. Baseline eGFR was calculated from serum creatinine measurements using the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) Equation[20]. Information about comorbidities was collected from the VA Inpatient and Outpatient Medical SAS Datasets using ICD-9-CM diagnostic and procedure codes and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes.

### Outcomes

The primary outcome of interest was incident AKI. AKI was defined as an absolute increase in serum creatinine of  $\geq 0.3$ mg/dl or a  $\geq 50\%$  increase in serum creatinine from baseline. AKI was also staged according to KDIGO creatinine-based criteria from the date of first antibiotic exposure during hospitalization[21]. Baseline creatinine was defined as the mean of outpatient serum creatinine levels 7 to 365 days prior to hospitalization[22]. For our analyses we only considered AKI events occurring after 48 hours following the start of vancomycin administration.

## Statistical Analysis

Data were summarized using proportions, means  $\pm$  SD, or medians (interquartile range (IQR)) as appropriate. We examined the association of the highest trough serum vancomycin level recorded in the first 48 hours of administration with subsequent AKI in all patients treated with vancomycin using multivariable adjusted logistic regression. Patients who received vancomycin were categorized into 4 groups based on their trough vancomycin level (<10 mg/L, 10–15 mg/L, 15.1–20 mg/L and >20mg/L). Variables entered in multivariable-adjusted models were selected based on theoretical considerations; we included variables known to be associated both with vancomycin use and AKI based on scientific evidence, and which were available in our database. Models were adjusted sequentially for the following confounders: model 1: unadjusted; model 2: demographic characteristics; model 3: model 2 variables plus comorbidities; and model 4: model 3 variables plus medications, systolic/diastolic blood pressure and body mass index (BMI). We performed additional adjustments for select Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score components (platelet count, bilirubin and vasopressor/ionotropic medications, with and without the addition of arterial pO<sub>2</sub>; model 5 – pO<sub>2</sub> and + pO<sub>2</sub>) when these were available. Due to the low proportion of patients in whom the SOFA variables were available (76% missing for model 5 + pO<sub>2</sub> and 35% missing for model 5 – pO<sub>2</sub>), these adjustments were considered sensitivity analyses. We also performed subgroup analyses in select subgroups of patients receiving different doses (<4g/day vs 4g /day), duration (<7 days vs 7 days) of vancomycin therapy and number of antibiotics using our model 4.

To attenuate bias by indication, we matched patients who received vancomycin with patients who were treated with non-glycopeptides, which are typically employed for indications that are similar to the ones used for vancomycin therapy. We matched patients in the two groups (vancomycin vs non-glycopeptide) by propensity scores calculated from patient demographics, comorbidities, baseline eGFR, mean arterial pressure, and nephrotoxic medication exposure (analgesics, antibiotics, inotropes/pressors, proton pump inhibitors and diuretics). We used a 1:1 nearest-neighbor matching without replacement first in all antibiotic-treated patients, and then we repeated the matching process for the 4 subgroups of patients with different vancomycin levels (<10 through >20 mg/L as described above). Differences between variables were examined by calculating standardized differences, with values <0.1 deemed acceptable.

We repeated analyses after excluding patients who died during the time period used to evaluate the occurrence of AKI.

Statistical analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA) and Stata version 15 (Stata Corporation, College Station, TX), USA.

## RESULTS

### Baseline Characteristics

Baseline characteristics overall, in patients categorized by their highest trough vancomycin levels, and in propensity-matched patients are shown in Tables 1 and 2. The mean (SD) age of the cohort was 68 (11) years, mean eGFR was 76 (26) mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>, 96% were male,

19% were African-American, 50% were diabetic and 85% were hypertensives. Comorbidities such as congestive heart failure, peripheral vascular disease and ischemic heart disease were present in 24%, 29% and 41% of the patients respectively (Table 1).

### Risk of AKI

Overall crude incidences of AKI stages 1, 2 and 3 were 10.4%, 2.7% and 1.5%, respectively, among the 22,057 patients who received vancomycin therapy. Figure 2 and Supplemental Table 1 shows the association between the highest recorded trough vancomycin levels and incident AKI in unadjusted and adjusted logistic regression models, indicating a linearly higher risk of AKI in patients with higher trough levels. Compared to patients with vancomycin levels <10mg/L, patients with levels >20 mg/L had a nearly four-fold higher multivariable adjusted odds (odds ratio (OR) in model 4: 4.1 (3.6–4.7)) of AKI. The ORs of AKI stages 1, 2 and 3 in patients receiving vancomycin vs. non-glycopeptides were 1.1 (1.1–1.2), 1.2 (1–1.4) and 1.4 (1.1–1.7), respectively (Figure 3 and Supplemental Table 2). In propensity-matched subgroups of patients with plasma vancomycin levels  $\geq 20$  mg/L the odds of various AKI stages were similar or lower in patients who received vancomycin vs. non-glycopeptides (Figure 3 and Supplemental Table 2). However, in patients with vancomycin levels >20 mg/L the risk of all AKI stages was higher in patients who received vancomycin: the ORs (95%CI) of AKI stages 1, 2 and 3 in patients exposed to vancomycin vs. non-glycopeptides were 1.5 (1.4–1.7), 1.9 (1.5–2.3) and 2.7 (2–3.5), respectively (Figure 3 and Supplemental Table 2).

Figure 4 shows the association of vancomycin exposure categorized by highest trough levels with the risk of incident AKI in patients receiving different doses (<4gms/day vs  $\geq 4$ gms / day) and duration (<7 days vs  $\geq 7$  days) of vancomycin therapy, and in patients receiving different numbers of concomitantly administered other antibiotics. There was no significant difference in the risk of AKI in the various subgroups.

Figure S-1B shows the association between highest trough vancomycin categories and odds of AKI in additional clinically relevant subgroups of patients, showing qualitatively similar trends except in patients with infections, pneumonia and cardiovascular and other diseases ( $p < 0.05$  for interaction). Results were similar when using the mean of all trough levels to define vancomycin exposure (data not shown).

1.2%, 1.4%, 2.1% and 2.6% of patients died in the subgroups with serum vancomycin levels of <10, 10–15, 15.1–20 and >20 mg/L, respectively. Results remains unchanged in sensitivity analyses after excluding patients who died (Supplemental table 3 and 4 and Figures S1-D and S1-E).

## DISCUSSION

Our study describes an almost fourfold increased risk of AKI in patients with vancomycin trough levels >20 mg/L. The risk of AKI was not increased in patients receiving vancomycin compared to non-glycopeptides (linezolid/daptomycin) as long as plasma vancomycin levels were  $\geq 20$  mg/L. However, in patients with trough serum vancomycin levels >20mg/L, the risk of all stages of AKI was increased. Clinicians are increasingly concerned about MRSA

as an infectious threat in the hospital and now in the community[23]. For many decades vancomycin has been the drug of choice for treatment of MRSA[24]. While vancomycin has been readily utilized and studied for over 6 decades, the dosing safety margins remain ill-defined.

Consequently recent guidelines recommend to maintain vancomycin trough levels of 15–20 mg/liter in certain high risk infections[25]. Prior smaller studies have suggested that maintaining levels >15 mg/L substantially increases the risk of nephrotoxic events[8, 26–28]. Results of a meta-analysis suggested that a trough-toxicity gradient exists, with the greatest risk observed among individuals with trough levels >20 mg/L[29]. Our results corroborate these findings in a much larger cohort; while we detected a linear association between higher vancomycin levels and increased risk of AKI, our propensity-matched analyses comparing vancomycin to non-glycopeptide antibiotic exposure suggest that the risk of AKI may only be present when vancomycin serum levels exceed 20 mg/L. In a comparison trial evaluating the incidence of nephrotoxicity using vancomycin or linezolid for treatment of nosocomial MRSA pneumonia, there was a 9.6% greater incidence of nephrotoxicity with vancomycin[28].

We did not detect a difference in the risk of AKI in patients exposed to different doses and duration of vancomycin, possibly because we accounted for serum vancomycin levels, which would quantify the deleterious effect of higher doses/longer exposure. In prior studies vancomycin doses of 4 g/day were associated with a higher risk of vancomycin-related nephrotoxicity[30], but the mean vancomycin trough levels were significantly different in patients who received 4g/day. Regarding the duration of exposure, in various studies nephrotoxicity occurred between 4.3 and 17 days after initiation of vancomycin therapy[10, 31, 32], with vancomycin therapy 7 days described as a risk factor for the development of nephrotoxicity in one study[33].

With the growing prevalence of MRSA infections, clinicians need to be alert and recognize the association and the possibility of vancomycin-associated nephrotoxicity[34]. However, it is unclear what component of nephrotoxicity is due to MRSA infection versus vancomycin therapy itself. MRSA is associated with glomerulonephritis and IgA nephropathy. Serious infections like endocarditis, meningitis and osteomyelitis often warrant higher therapeutic troughs, thus increasing the risk for vancomycin-associated nephrotoxicity[35, 36]. A previous study reported that lower respiratory tract infections were independently associated with nephrotoxicity and these effects were independent of initial vancomycin trough levels[37]. In our subgroup analysis also, there was an association between lower respiratory tract infection and vancomycin induced acute kidney injury.

A recent systematic review and meta-analysis found that the risk for renal injury is compounded when there is co-administration of multiple potentially nephrotoxic agents. This perfect storm could happen when loop diuretics, aminoglycosides and/or vasopressors are administered concurrently with vancomycin. The analysis demonstrated a high degree of associative risk with a grouped odds ratio (95% CI) for nephrotoxicity as a whole 3.30 (1.30 – 8.39)[29]. Our study was unable to quantify the role of concomitant nephrotoxins in the

observed results, primarily because the duration and timing of concomitant nephrotoxins were not quantifiable.

The mechanism whereby vancomycin may cause nephrotoxicity is unclear. Animal data suggests that vancomycin is an oxidative stressor in proximal renal tubular cells[38]. In addition the use of antioxidants and cilastatin has been found to protect against vancomycin-induced kidney damage, further supporting the notion that vancomycin is an oxidative stressor in the proximal renal tubular cells[39, 40]. Human data also suggest that vancomycin toxicity involves both the proximal tubules and the medullary region of the kidney[41]. However cases of AKI in humans where a kidney biopsy was performed have mostly shown acute interstitial nephritis[42–44] with acute tubular injury being reported rarely[45, 46].

Our study is notable for its large sample size and for being representative of veterans from the entire USA. To the best of our knowledge, this is the largest study to find significant associations between a high vancomycin level and AKI, and one that also includes a control group of patients receiving non-nephrotoxic antibiotics employed for similar indications as vancomycin. Several study limitations also merit discussion. This being an observational study, we can only report associations but not causality. While we adjusted our models for numerous patient characteristics including those quantifying severity of illness, and while we used propensity-matched analyses, we still cannot rule out residual confounding. Our study population consisted of mostly male US veterans, hence the results should be applied with caution to females and to patients in other countries. Additionally, we excluded patients with chronic kidney disease which is a risk factor for vancomycin associated acute kidney injury, which reduces external validity. While the association of higher vancomycin levels with AKI is suggestive of a dose-response effect[27, 31, 47], vancomycin is eliminated predominantly by glomerular filtration, and hence a decrease in renal function in AKI will increase vancomycin plasma concentrations[10] and could result in a spurious association between higher trough levels and AKI. By limiting the assessment of vancomycin exposure to measurements performed during the initial 48 hours and by excluding AKI events detected during this time, we minimized the possibility of such reverse causation, although we cannot rule out the effects of undetected AKI events, since rises in serum creatinine follow AKI events with a slight delay. Deviation from vancomycin measurement protocol (e.g. not obtaining levels at 30 minutes before the next dose) in individual hospitals may have led to misclassification of the vancomycin stratum.

In conclusion, plasma vancomycin levels >20 mg/L are associated with significantly higher risk of all stages of AKI. These results have important clinical implications and suggest that serum trough concentrations can serve as a prognostic indicator for nephrotoxicity, and that AKI may be preventable by careful monitoring of vancomycin levels. For conditions that warrant higher vancomycin targets, non-glycopeptide antibiotics may be a viable option in high risk patients. Clinicians are urged to carefully dose and proactively monitor vancomycin therapy particularly in the most vulnerable patients at greatest risk for developing AKI. Future research directions should focus on early identification of patients at risk for nephrotoxicity and prospective strategies to prevent AKI.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study is supported by grant R01DK096920 from the National Institute of Health to CPK and KKZ, and by resources from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Support for VA/CMS data is provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Office of Research and Development, Health Services Research and Development, VA Information Resource Center (Project Numbers SDR 02-237 and 98-004).

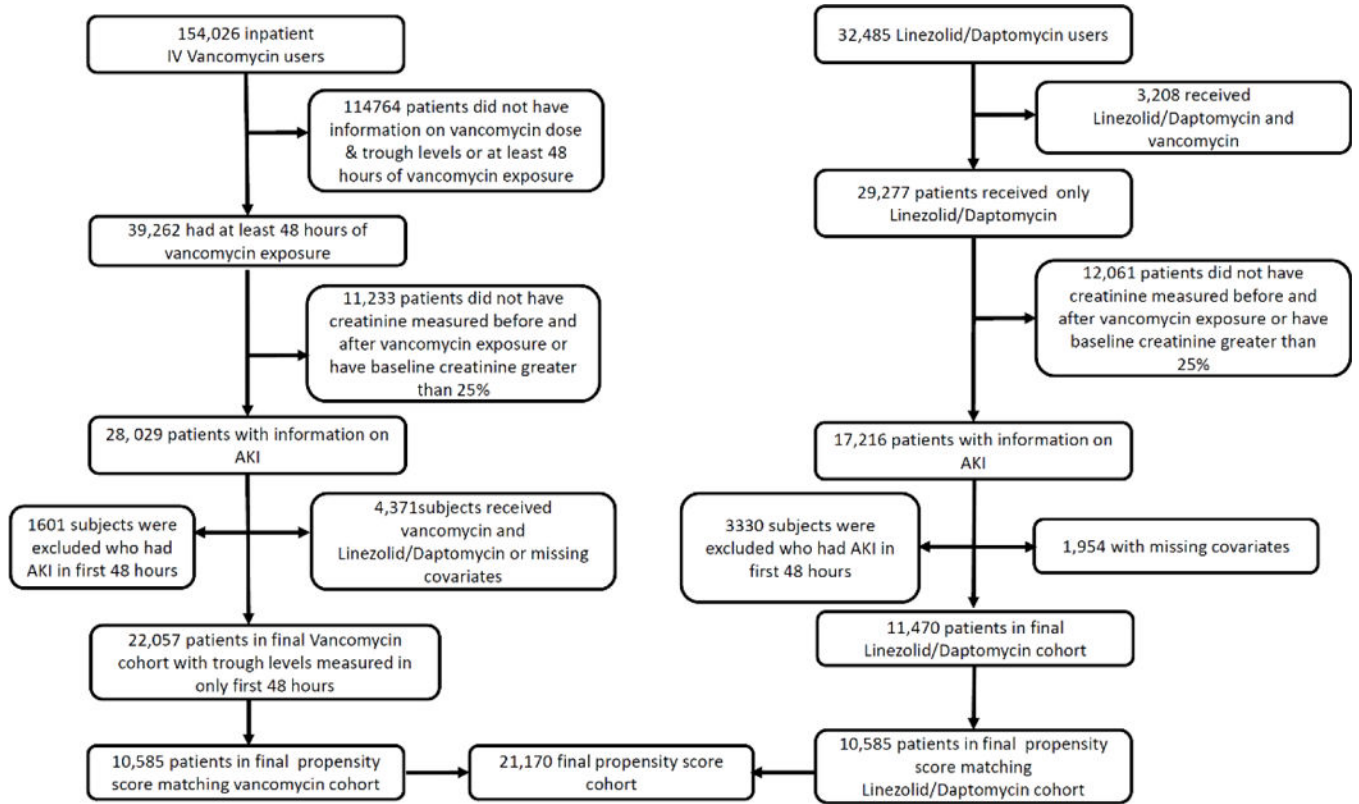
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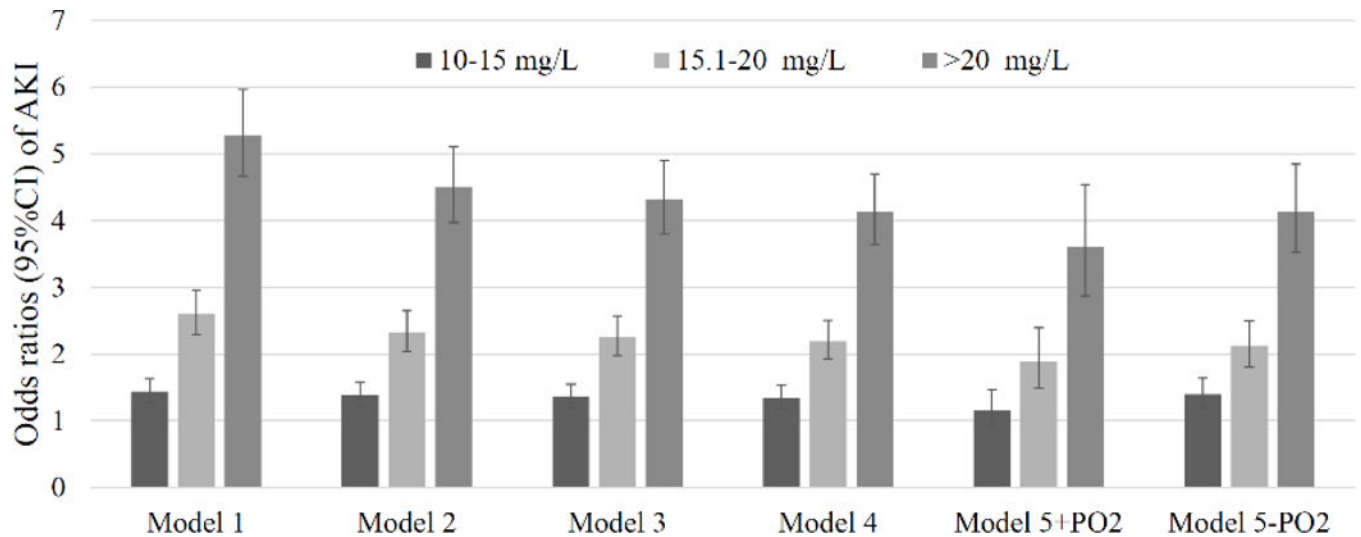


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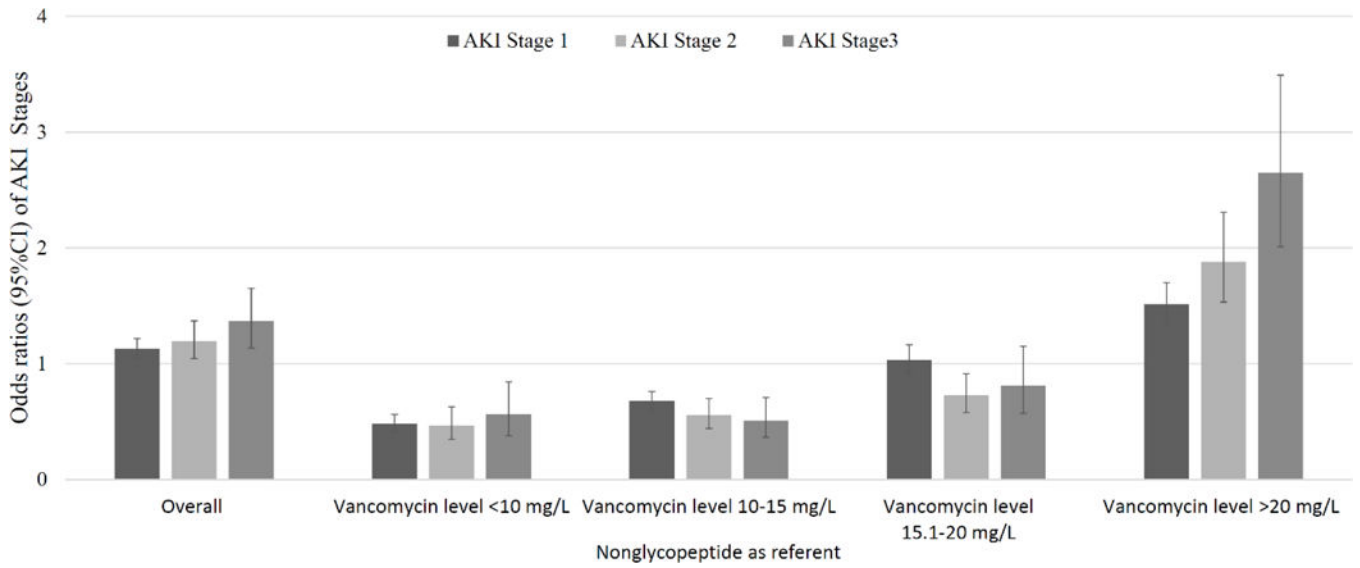
**Figure 1:**  
Flow chart of patient selection.



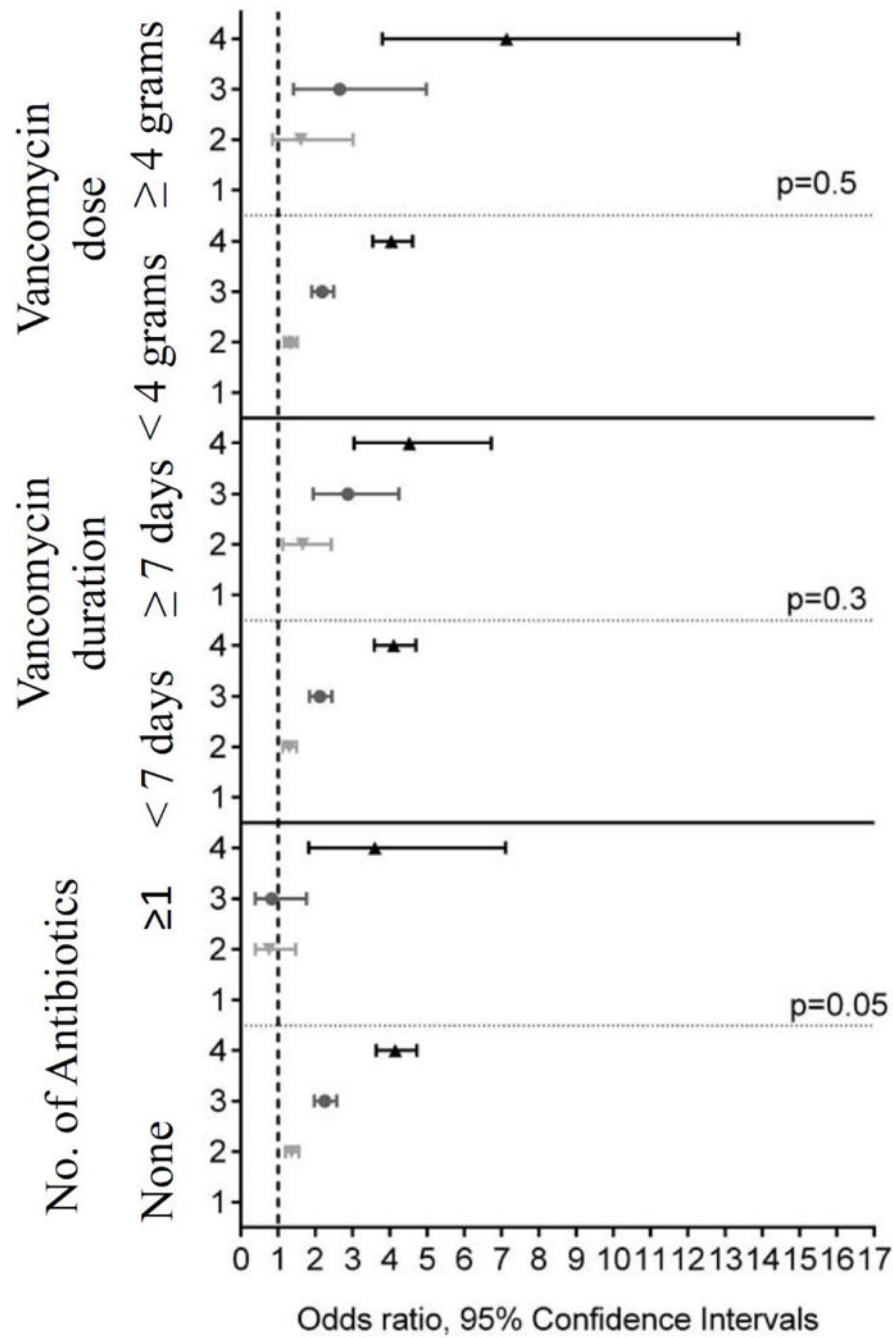
**Figure 2:**

Association of maximum trough serum vancomycin levels with risk of incident AKI in adjusted and unadjusted logistic regression models in 22,057 US veteran patients.

Model 1: unadjusted; model 2: demographic characteristics; model 3: model 2 variables plus comorbidities; model 4: model 3 variables plus medications, systolic/diastolic blood pressure and body mass index (BMI); model 5: model 4 variables and SOFA score components (platelet count, bilirubin and vasopressor/ionotropic medications, with and without the addition of arterial pO<sub>2</sub>; model 5 – pO<sub>2</sub> and + pO<sub>2</sub>).



**Figure 3:** Odds ratios of various stages of AKI (vs. no AKI) associated with vancomycin vs. nonglycopeptide use, in propensity score-matched patients overall and in groups categorized by maximum trough serum vancomycin level.



**Figure 4:** Association of maximum trough serum vancomycin levels with risk of incident AKI in multivariable adjusted Cox regression models in patients with different doses (< 4gms/day vs ≥ 4gms/day), duration (< 7 days vs ≥ 7 days), and number of antibiotics. Models were adjusted for patient demographics, body mass index (BMI), comorbidities, baseline eGFR, mean arterial pressure, and nephrotoxic medication exposure.

Patients divided into 4 groups based on the highest recorded serum vancomycin trough level  
1: < 10mg/L, 2: 10-15 mg/L, 3: 15.1-20 mg/L and 4: >20mg/L

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**Table 1:**

Baseline characteristics all the patients who received vancomycin divided into various groups categorized by maximum trough vancomycin levels

Variables	Vancomycin Maximum Trough Levels				
	All (N=22,057)	<10 mg/L (N=5301)	10.0–15.0 mg/L (N=7490)	15.1–20 mg/L (N=4968)	>20 mg/L (N=4298)
Mean age (SD), y	67.6 (10.8)	66.3 (11.7)	67.9 (10.6)	68.2 (10.4)	67.7 (10.3)
Gender, n (%) Males	21378 (96.9)	5110 (96.4)	7292 (97.4)	4832 (97.3)	4144 (96.4)
Race, n (%)					
Whites	16724 (75.8)	3997 (75.4)	5798 (77.4)	3773 (75.9)	3156 (73.4)
African Americans	4136 (18.8)	975 (18.4)	1305 (17.4)	929 (18.7)	927 (21.6)
Other	1197 (5.4)	329 (6.2)	387 (5.2)	266 (5.4)	215 (5)
Mean eGFR (SD), mL/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	76.01 (26)	81.25 (25.7)	77.42 (24.7)	73.13 (25.7)	70.43 (27.3)
SBP (SD), mmHg	139.5 (22.1)	140.2 (21.5)	139.9 (21.6)	139.1 (22.3)	138.8 (23.4)
DBP (SD), mmHg	75.91 (13.3)	76.86 (13.3)	75.98 (12.9)	75.39 (13.5)	75.24 (13.8)
BMI (sd), kg/m <sup>2</sup>	27.97 (7.6)	27.56 (7.4)	27.85 (7.3)	28.26 (7.8)	28.34 (8.1)
Comorbidities, n (%)					
Myocardial Infarction	2356 (10.7)	453 (8.6)	755 (10.1)	597 (12)	551 (12.8)
Congestive Heart Failure	5310 (24.1)	865 (16.3)	1630 (21.8)	1395 (28.1)	1420 (33)
Peripheral Vascular Disease	6424 (29.1)	1215 (22.9)	2132 (28.5)	1620 (32.6)	1457 (33.9)
Cerebrovascular Disease	5408 (24.5)	1084 (20.4)	1810 (24.2)	1290 (26)	1224 (28.5)
Dementia	898 (4.1)	197 (3.7)	294 (3.9)	214 (4.3)	193 (4.5)
Chronic Pulmonary Disease	11685 (53)	2625 (49.5)	3906 (52.1)	2723 (54.8)	2431 (56.6)
Liver Disease	3241 (14.7)	685 (12.9)	1066 (14.2)	747 (15)	743 (17.3)
Diabetes	10942 (49.6)	2385 (45)	3626 (48.4)	2603 (52.4)	2328 (54.2)
Cancer	6926 (31.4)	1550 (29.2)	2397 (32)	1574 (31.7)	1405 (32.7)
Hypertension	18756 (85)	4287 (80.9)	6356 (84.9)	4311 (86.8)	3802 (88.5)
Ischemic Heart Disease	8950 (40.6)	1813 (34.2)	2998 (40)	2179 (43.9)	1960 (45.6)
CCI (IQR)	3 (2–5)	3 (1–4)	3 (2–5)	3 (2–5)	4 (2–6)
Primary diagnosis, n (%)					
Infectious	1980 (9)	515 (9.7)	594 (7.9)	460 (9.3)	411 (9.6)
Pneumonia	1806 (8.2)	438 (8.3)	627 (8.4)	394 (7.9)	347 (8.1)
Cardiovascular	1962 (8.9)	419 (7.9)	606 (8.1)	478 (9.6)	459 (10.7)
Other	16309 (73.9)	3929 (74.1)	5663 (75.6)	3636 (73.2)	3081 (71.7)
Medications, n (%)					
Analgesics	12528 (56.8)	2910 (54.9)	4252 (56.8)	2854 (57.4)	2512 (58.4)
Other Antibiotics	737 (3.3)	187 (3.5)	273 (3.6)	149 (3)	128 (3)
Cardiovascular drugs use	6720 (30.5)	1426 (26.9)	2257 (30.1)	1612 (32.4)	1425 (33.2)
Contrast dye	368 (1.7)	92 (1.7)	127 (1.7)	76 (1.5)	73 (1.7)
Diuretics	7502 (34)	1358 (25.6)	2374 (31.7)	1903 (38.3)	1867 (43.4)
Proton pump inhibitors	10245 (46.4)	2270 (42.8)	3431 (45.8)	2356 (47.4)	2188 (50.9)
Dobutamine/Norepinephrine	1219 (5.5)	230 (4.3)	367 (4.9)	289 (5.8)	333 (7.8)



Variables	Vancomycin Maximum Trough Levels				
	All (N=22,057)	<10 mg/L (N=5301)	10.0–15.0 mg/L (N=7490)	15.1–20 mg/L (N=4968)	>20 mg/L (N=4298)
<b>No of other antibiotics</b>					
<b>0</b>	21320 (96.7)	5114 (96.5)	7217 (96.4)	4819 (97)	4170 (97)
<b>1</b>	662 (3)	165 (3.1)	246 (3.3)	135 (2.7)	116 (2.7)
<b>2</b>	67 (0.3)	19 (0.4)	24 (0.3)	13 (0.3)	11 (0.3)
<b>3</b>	8 (0)	3 (0.1)	3 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
<b>SOFA/Labs</b>					
<b>Bilirubin, Mean (SD)</b>	1.02 (1.6)	0.97 (1.2)	0.98 (1.3)	1.02 (1.5)	1.15 (2.2)
<b>PO<sub>2</sub>, Mean (SD)</b>	84.71 (49.9)	84.33 (50)	84.59 (49.3)	84.77 (48.7)	85.18 (51.8)
<b>Sodium, Mean (SD)</b>	136.8 (4.4)	136.5 (4.2)	136.7 (4.3)	136.9 (4.3)	137.1 (4.7)
<b>Potassium, Mean (SD)</b>	4 (0.5)	3.96 (0.5)	3.99 (0.5)	4.01 (0.5)	4.03 (0.6)
<b>Albumin, Mean (SD)</b>	3 (0.7)	3.12 (0.7)	3.05 (0.7)	2.95 (0.7)	2.84 (0.7)
<b>AST, Mean (SD)</b>	45.34 (128.9)	44.55 (101.5)	47.03 (169.1)	42.31 (87.8)	46.92 (119.4)
<b>ALT, Mean (SD)</b>	41.14 (125.3)	41.78 (102.8)	41.52 (134.6)	39.82 (121.1)	41.23 (138.1)
<b>Hemoglobin, Mean (SD)</b>	11.28 (2.2)	11.71 (2.2)	11.42 (2.2)	11.08 (2.1)	10.75 (2.1)
<b>WBC, Mean (SD)</b>	13.53 (289.3)	11.75 (7)	12 (59.9)	19.79 (605.3)	11.2 (7.9)
<b>Bicarbonate, Mean (SD)</b>	25.89 (4.3)	25.78 (4)	25.92 (4.2)	25.96 (4.4)	25.91 (4.7)
<b>Platelets, Mean (SD)</b>	230.7 (119.1)	228.1 (114.3)	230.3 (116.8)	234.9 (127.3)	229.5 (118.8)

Data were summarized using proportions, means  $\pm$  SD, or medians (interquartile range (IQR)) as appropriate

AKI: Acute Kidney Injury; SD: Standard Deviation; CHF: Congestive Heart Failure; PVD: Peripheral Vascular Disease; CVA: Cerebrovascular Accident; MI: Myocardial Infarction; eGFR: Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate; BMI: Body Mass Index; CCI: Charlson Comorbidity Index; SBP: Systolic Blood Pressure; DBP: Diastolic Blood Pressure SOFA: Sequential Organ Failure Assessment, ALT: Alanine aminotransferase; AST: aspartate aminotransferase

**Table 2:**

Characteristics of the propensity matched cohort

	<b>Non-glycopeptide N=10585</b>	<b>Vancomycin N=10585</b>	<b>Standardized Difference</b>
<b>Mean age (SD), years</b>	66.1 (10.7)	66.1 (10.7)	0.0054
<b>Gender, n (%) Males</b>	10239 (96.7)	10233 (96.7)	-0.0032
<b>Race, n (%)</b>			
<b>Whites</b>	7927 (74.9)	7918 (74.8)	0
<b>African Americans</b>	2198 (20.8)	2208 (20.9)	
<b>Other</b>	460 (4.4)	459 (4.3)	
<b>Mean eGFR (SD), mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup></b>	70.94 (32.2)	71.17 (28)	0.0079
<b>SBP (SD), mmHg</b>	137.3 (22.2)	137.3 (22.3)	-0.0003
<b>DBP (SD), mmHg</b>	74.65 (13.5)	74.65 (13.4)	0.0049
<b>BMI (SD), kg/m<sup>2</sup></b>	27.6 (7.8)	28.37 (7.9)	0.0017
<b>Comorbidities, n (%)</b>			
<b>MI</b>	1154 (10.9)	1159 (10.9)	0.0015
<b>CHF</b>	2822 (26.7)	2861 (27)	0.0083
<b>PVD</b>	3406 (32.2)	3379 (31.9)	-0.0055
<b>CVA</b>	2521 (23.8)	2573 (24.3)	0.0115
<b>Dementia</b>	388 (3.7)	384 (3.6)	-0.002
<b>Chronic Pulmonary Disease</b>	5280 (49.9)	5278 (49.9)	-0.0004
<b>Liver Disease</b>	1681 (15.9)	1671 (15.8)	-0.0026
<b>Diabetes</b>	5473 (51.7)	5502 (52)	0.0055
<b>Cancer</b>	3235 (30.6)	3214 (30.4)	-0.0043
<b>Hypertension</b>	8779 (82.9)	8789 (83)	0.0025
<b>Ischemic Heart Disease</b>	4471 (42.2)	4525 (42.7)	0.0103
<b>CCI (IQR)</b>	3(2-5)	3(2-5)	-0.0006
<b>Medications, n (%)</b>			
<b>Analgesics</b>	5694 (53.8)	5739 (54.2)	0.0085
<b>Other Antibiotics</b>	556 (5.3)	583 (5.5)	0.0113
<b>Cardiovascular drugs use</b>	3137 (29.6)	3186 (30.1)	0.0101
<b>Contrast dye</b>	239 (2.3)	246 (2.3)	0.0044
<b>Diuretics</b>	4282 (40.5)	4341 (41)	0.0113
<b>Proton pump inhibitors</b>	5603 (52.9)	5622 (53.1)	0.0036
<b>Dobutamine/Norepinephrine</b>	861 (8.1)	864 (8.2)	0.001
<b>No of other antibiotics</b>			
<b>0</b>	10029 (94.7)	10002 (94.5)	0.0113
<b>1</b>	491 (4.6)	515 (4.9)	
<b>2</b>	59 (0.6)	60 (0.6)	
<b>3</b>	6 (0.1)	8 (0.1)	

Data were summarized using proportions, means  $\pm$  SD, or medians (interquartile range (IQR)) as appropriate

Abbreviations: SD: Standard Deviation; AKI: Acute Kidney Injury; CHF: Congestive Heart Failure; PVD: Peripheral Vascular Disease; CVA: Cerebrovascular Accident; MI: Myocardial Infarction; eGFR: Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate; BMI: Body Mass Index; CCI: Charlson Comorbidity Index; SBP: Systolic Blood Pressure; DBP: Diastolic Blood Pressure SOFA: Sequential Organ Failure Assessment, ALT: Alanine aminotransferase; AST: aspartate aminotransferase

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