

Ribonucleoside 3'-Phosphates as Pro-Moieties for an Orally Administered Drug

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Materials

Uridine phosphoramidite and iodine oxidizing solution were from Glen Research (Sterling, VA). Metronidazole, 3-Å molecular sieves, tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF), methylbenzimidazole, Brucella broth powder, vitamin K, Hemin, and all other commercial reagents were from Sigma–Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). Methylbenzimidazole triflate was prepared from methylbenzimidazole.^[1] Round, 96-well, U-bottom plates and 95-pin inoculator assemblies were from Evergreen Scientific (Los Angeles, CA).

Instrumentation and statistical calculations

¹H NMR spectra were acquired at the National Magnetic Resonance Facility at Madison (NMRFAM) at 298 K with a Bruker DMX-400 Avance spectrometer (Bruker AXS, Madison, WI, ¹H, 400 MHz; ¹³C, 101 MHz; ³¹P, 162 MHz). ¹³C NMR spectra were also acquired on an Avance III 500 MHz spectrometer with a ¹³C/¹⁵N{¹H} 5-mm cryogenic probe from Bruker AXS (Madison, WI, ¹³C, 126 MHz). ¹³C and ³¹P spectra were proton decoupled. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were referenced to TMS. All ³¹P NMR spectra were referenced to an internal insert standard of H₃PO₄. Protein absorbance values were measured with a Varian Cary 50 UV–Vis Spectrometer from Agilent Technologies (Santa Clara, CA). ¹H NMR spectra for the NpMet release kinetics were acquired at the NMRFAM at 310 K on an Avance III 500 MHz spectrometer with a TCI 500 H-C/N-D cryogenic probe from Bruker AXS (Madison, WI, ¹H, 500 MHz). Photos of 96-well plates to determine the MIC values of various compounds were taken with an iPhone 4S from Apple Computer (Cupertino, CA).

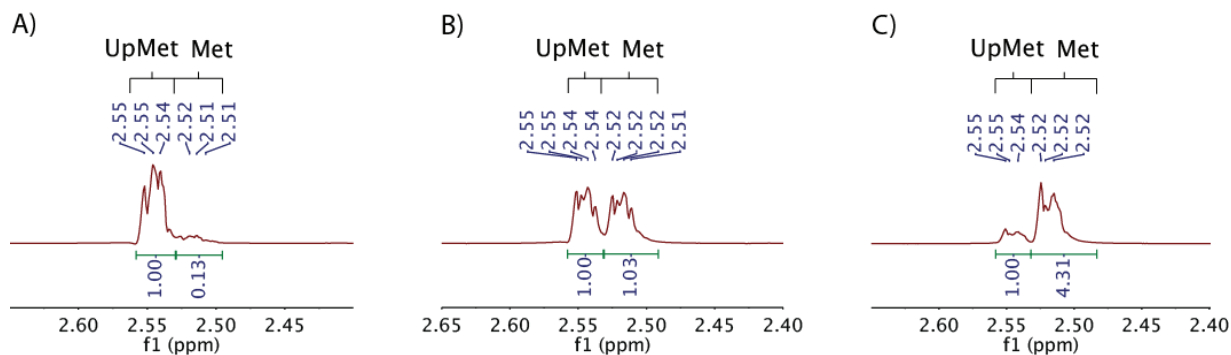


Figure S1. Representative ¹H NMR spectra for assessing the rate of prodrug hydrolysis. Degradation was assessed by monitoring the integration of the peak corresponding to the methyl group of UpMet (2.55) and Met (2.52). The assay solution contained RNase 1 (0.1 mg/mL) in simulated intestinal fluid. (A) 6 min, (B) 64 min, and (C) 193 min.

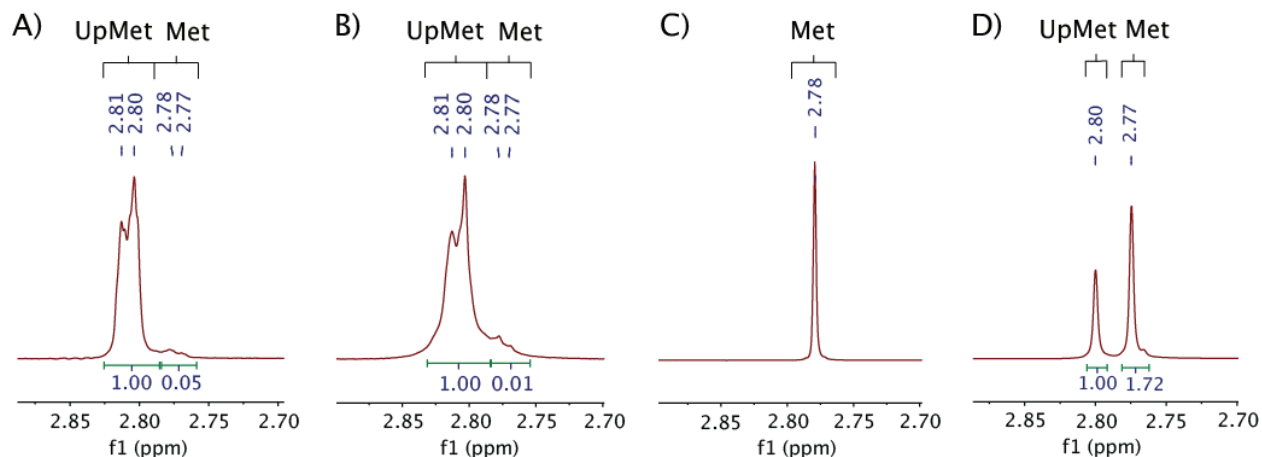


Figure S2. Representative ^1H NMR spectra for 3-h incubations in simulated gastric fluid (0.10 N HCl, 2% v/v D_2O , pH 1.1, United States Pharmacopeia) to assess the stability of these molecules in a stomach. Degradation was assessed by monitoring the integration of the peak corresponding to the methyl group of UpMet (2.80) and Met (2.78). **(A)** Spectrum of UpMet at 0 min. **(B)** Spectrum of UpMet at 3 h. **(C)** Control spectrum of Met. **(D)** Spectrum of UpMet after the 3-h incubation with added Met to confirm that the minor peak at 2.78 ppm was indeed Met. After 3 h, there was no increase in the amount of Met present; hence, UpMet is stable under these conditions. (Note: For spectra in panels C and D, the spectrometer was re-shimmed, which allowed for better resolution of the peaks compared to those in panels A and B.)

Effect of DEPC-treatment on the MIC of metronidazole for *B. fragilis*

Metronidazole is marginally soluble in aqueous solutions (~ 10 mg/mL).^[2] Accordingly, for the initial dissolution of metronidazole, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO, 10% v/v) was added to the medium. For MIC test solutions used in the 96-well plates, $<0.5\%$ of the final volume of liquid was DMSO. For each plate, ~ 10 mg of metronidazole, taking note of the exact mass to make the appropriate dilutions, was added to a 4-mL glass vial, and then 1 mL of culture medium containing DMSO (10% v/v) was added. Serial dilutions (log 2) were made according to guidelines from the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute^[3] in the indicated medium and dispensed in triplicate wells (90 μL per well) into a 96-well, U-bottom plate. DEPC-treatment of the medium had no affect on the MIC of metronidazole for *B. fragilis*.

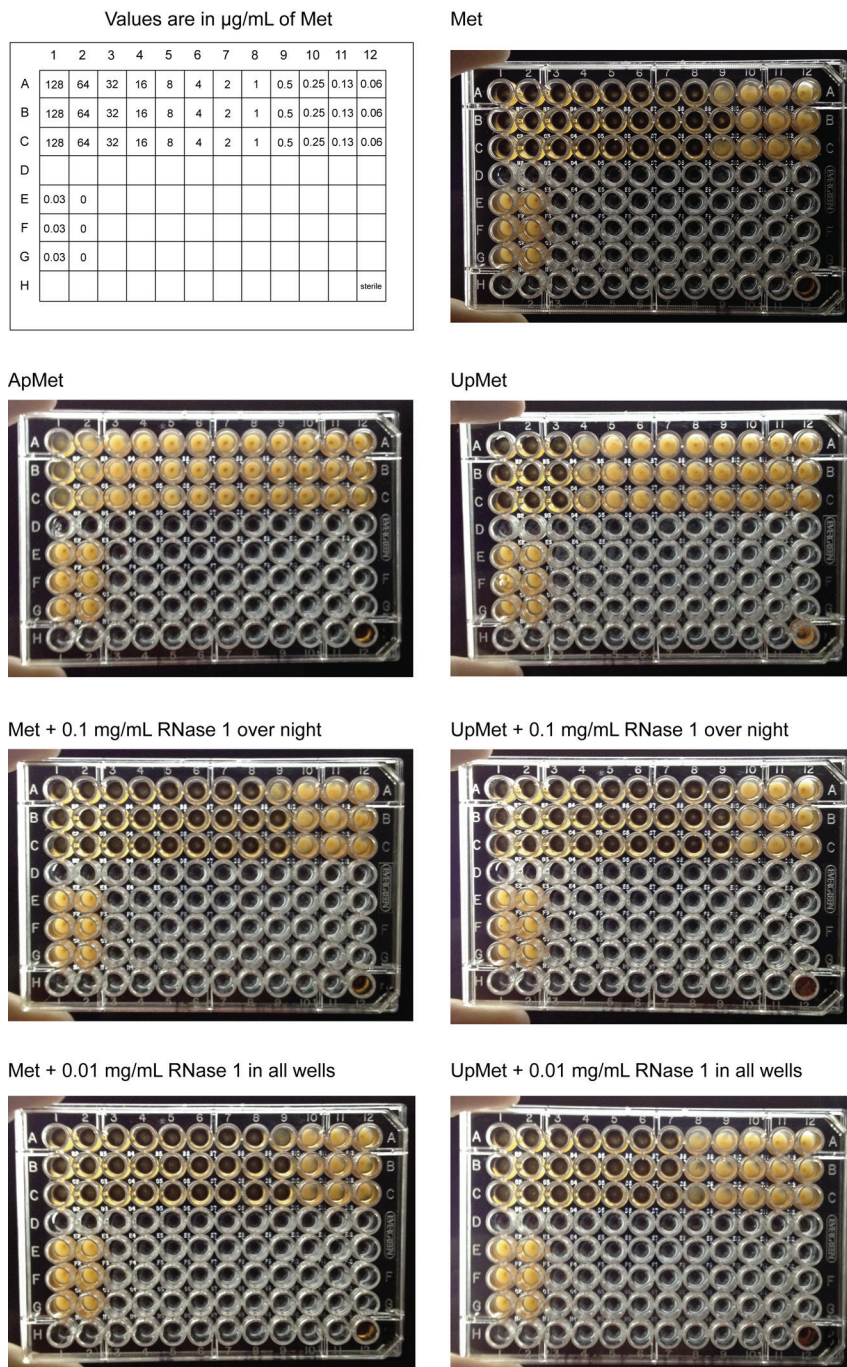


Figure S3. Photographs of the plates used to determine the MICs. Assays followed the protocols of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute.^[3] (Note: These photographs were taken with a different light source than those in Figure S4 and were in an oxygen environment for several hours prior to taking the photograph, causing oxygenation of the media and an ensuing divergence of color.)

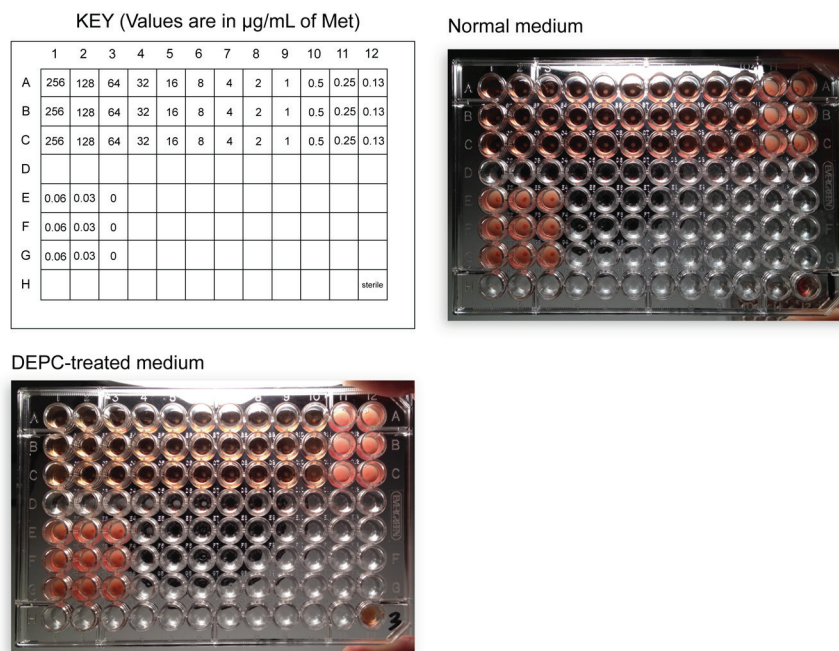


Figure S4. Effect of DEPC-treatment on the MIC of metronidazole for *B. fragilis*. The MIC for normal medium and DEPC-treated medium was $0.5 \mu\text{g/mL}$, indicating that treatment with DEPC did not interfere with MIC determination. For quality control purposes, the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute^[3] defines the acceptable MIC of this strain of *B. fragilis* to be $2.00\text{--}0.25 \mu\text{g/mL}$.

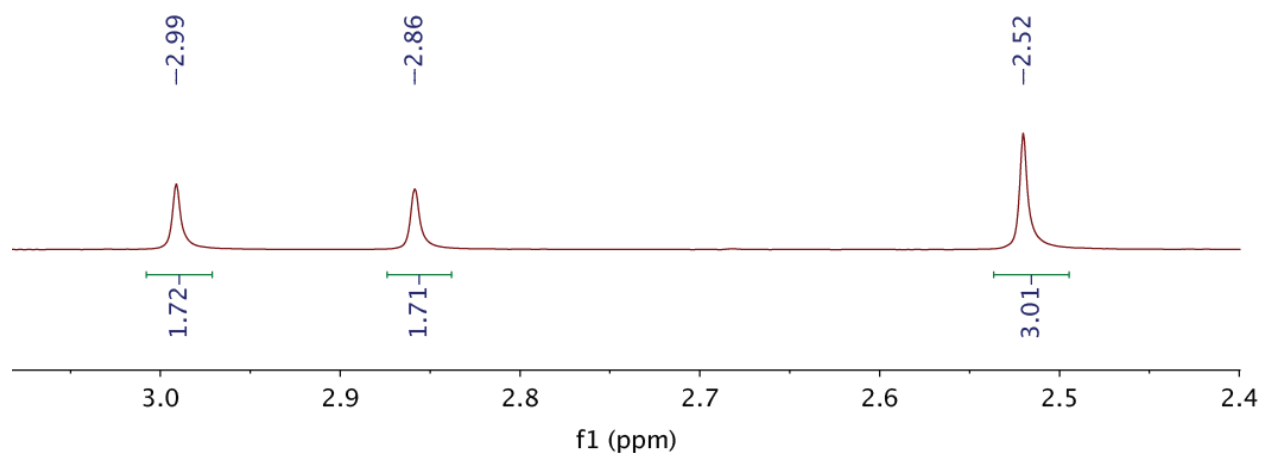
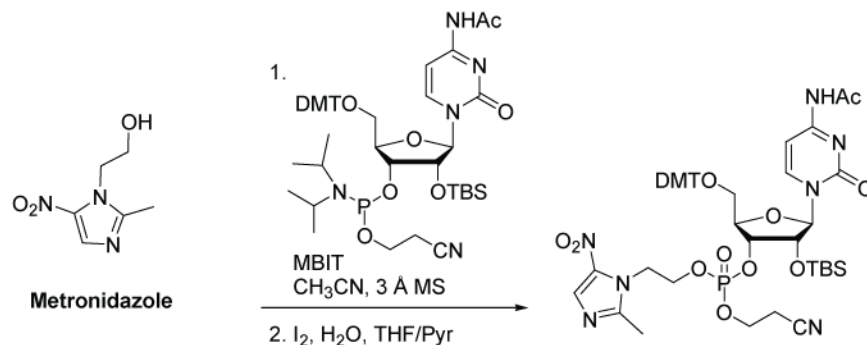


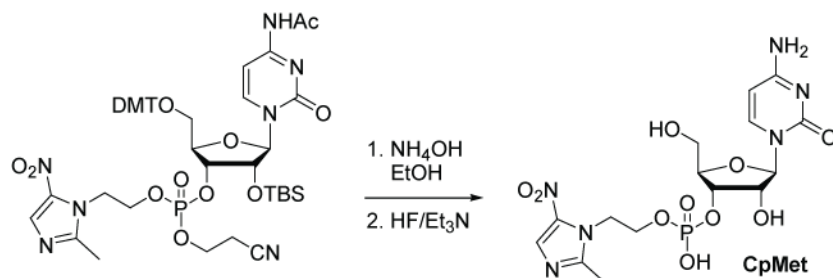
Figure S5. Representative NMR spectrum for determination of Met (or NpMet) concentration. DMF methyl peaks corresponded to the peaks at 2.99 and 2.86 ppm, and the methyl imidazole peak of metronidazole corresponded to the peak at 2.52 ppm.

Synthesis of cytidine 3'-(4-metronidazole phosphate)



Metronidazole (0.173 g, 1.010 mmol) and phosphoramidite (1.000 g, 1.110 mmol) were added to a round-bottom flask that had been charged with 3-Å molecular sieves (approximately 20 beads) under Ar(g), and that contained 11 mL of CH₃CN. After 10 min, methylbenzimidazole triflate (MBIT) (0.285 g, 1.010 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h. The CH₃CN was removed by vacuum, and the reaction mixture was filtered through a plug of silica (100% v/v ethyl acetate). Ethyl acetate was removed by vacuum, and 55.0 mL of I₂ (0.02 M) in THF/H₂O/pyridine was added. The reaction mixture turned from brown to clear yellow after 1 h. The solvent was removed by vacuum, and the resulting solid was purified with silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate and then 10% methanol/90% dichloromethane) to yield pure product (1.026 g, 93% over 2 steps).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ (Mixture of isomers) 8.46–8.39 (m, 1H), 7.95 (s, 0.39H), 7.90 (s, 0.61H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.6, 2H), 7.38–7.25 (m, 7H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.6, 0.39H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.5, 0.61H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.7, 4H), 5.91–5.86 (m, 1H), 4.95–4.90 (m, 1H), 4.69–4.52 (m, 3H), 4.45–4.26 (m, 3H), 4.2–4.05 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 6H), 3.71 (t, *J* = 11.2, 1H), 3.51 (t, *J* = 10.4, 1H), 2.79 (t, *J* = 5.8, 1.22H), 2.66 (s, 0.78H), 2.49 (s, 1.17H), 2.46 (s, 1.83H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 0.92–0.87 (m, 9H), 0.18–0.07 (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CD₃OD)** (Mixture of isomers. When the diastereomer peaks resolve, the peaks are listed in parentheses) δ 173.0, 164.5, (160.6 & 160.6), (158.1 & 158.0), (153.1 & 153.0), (146.0 & 145.9), (145.7 & 145.7), 140.3, (136.5 & 136.4), (133.1 & 133.1), 131.7, (129.8 & 129.7), 129.3, 128.6, (118.5 & 118.5), 114.5, 98.5, (92.2 & 92.0), (89.0 & 88.9), (82.8 & 82.6), (76.7 & 76.4), (68.5 & 68.4), (68.2 & 68.2), (64.8 & 64.7), 62.4, 55.9, (47.2 & 47.1), 26.4, 24.7, (20.3 & 20.3), 19.2, (14.5 & 14.5), (–4.3 & –4.7); **³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CD₃OD)** (Mixture of isomers) δ = –3.10, –3.76; **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* 988.3672 [calc'd for C₄₇H₅₉N₇O₁₃PSi (M+H) 988.3673].

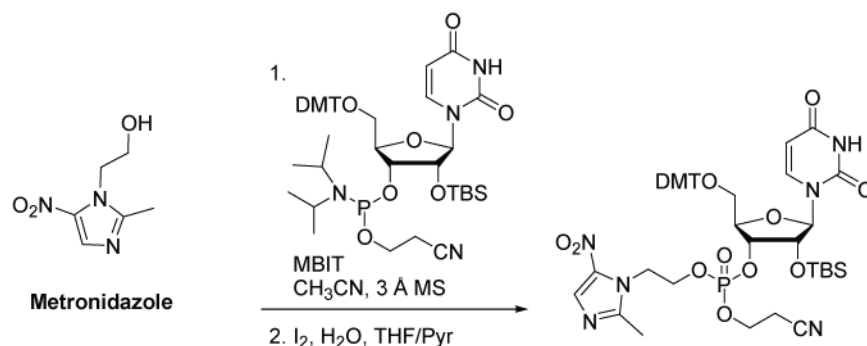


The oxidized metronidazole adduct (1.026 g, 1.035 mmol) was added to NH₄OH (72.5 μL, 2.071 mmol) in ethanol (20.7 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h. Solvent was

removed by vacuum, Et₃N·HF (3.37 mL, 20.7 mmol) was added in CH₃CN (20.7 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 65 °C for an additional 8 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature and quenched with aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution, and the solvent was removed by vacuum. The resulting solid was purified by flash chromatography (10% methanol/90% dichloromethane to 100% methanol) to yield product (0.083 g, 17% over 2 steps).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.5, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 5.90–5.85 (m, 2H), 4.61 (t, *J* = 4.7, 2H), 4.45–4.38 (m, 1H), 4.27–4.18 (m, 3H), 4.14–4.10 (m, 1H), 3.82 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 2.5, 1H), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 2.5, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CD₃OD)** δ 166.3, 157.0, 152.0, 141.5, 138.6, 131.2, 94.5, 90.2, 83.3, 74.2, 73.0, 64.1, 60.2, 29.4, 13.1; **³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CD₃OD)** δ = -1.10; **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* 475.0968 [calc'd for C₁₅H₂₀N₆O₁₀P (M-H) 475.0984].

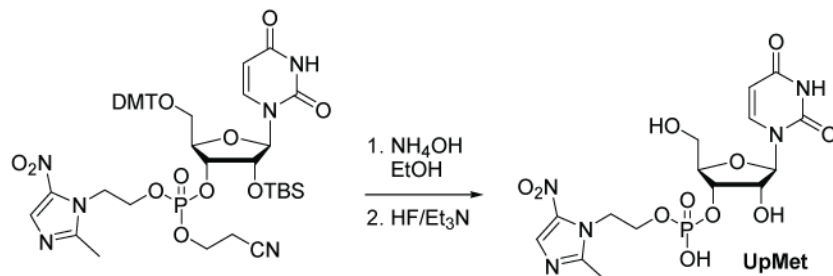
Synthesis of uridine 3'-(4-metronidazole phosphate)



Metronidazole (0.100 g, 0.585 mmol) and phosphoramidite (0.554 g, 0.643 mmol) were added to a round-bottom flask that had been charged with 3-Å molecular sieves (approximately 20 beads) under Ar(g), and that contained 5 mL of CH₃CN. After 10 min, methylbenzimidazole triflate (MBIT) (0.165 g, 0.585 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h. The CH₃CN was removed by vacuum, and the reaction mixture was filtered through a plug of silica (100% ethyl acetate). Ethyl acetate was removed by vacuum, and 29.0 mL of I₂ in THF/H₂O/pyridine (0.02M) was added. The reaction mixture turned from brown to clear yellow after 1 h. The solvent was removed by vacuum and the resulting solid was purified with silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate and then 10% methanol/90% dichloromethane) to yield pure product (0.542 g, 98% over 2 steps).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) (Mixture of isomers) δ = 7.95 (s, 0.38H), 7.91–7.84 (m, 1.62H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.6, 2H), 7.34–7.06 (m, 7H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.8, 4H), 5.91 (t, *J* = 4.9, 1H), 5.33–5.27 (m, 1H), 4.68–4.56 (m, 2H), 4.53 (t, *J* = 4.8, 1H), 4.50–4.28 (m, 3H), 4.26–4.12 (m, 2H), 4.11–3.99 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 3.61–3.52 (m, 1H), 3.49–3.40 (m, 1H), 2.80 (t, *J* = 5.8, 1.25H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 5.8, 10.2, 0.75H), 2.50 (s, 1.1H), 2.47 (s, 1.9H), 0.88 (s, 5.6H), 0.86 (s, 3.4H), 0.12 (s, 1.9H), 0.10–0.07 (m, 4.1H); **¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃OD)** (Mixture of isomers. When the diastereomer peaks resolve, the peaks are listed in parentheses) δ = 165.7, 160.4, (153.0 & 152.9), 152.0, 145.7, 141.7, 140.1, (136.2 & 136.2), (133.1 & 133.0), 131.5, 129.4, 129.1, 128.3, 118.3, 114.4, 103.1, (89.3 & 89.2), 88.8, (83.4 & 83.2), 78.4, 75.7, (68.2 & 68.0), (64.6 & 64.4), 63.4, 55.8, (47.1 & 47.0), 26.2, 20.1, 19.0, 14.4, (-4.6 & -4.7); **³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CD₃OD)**

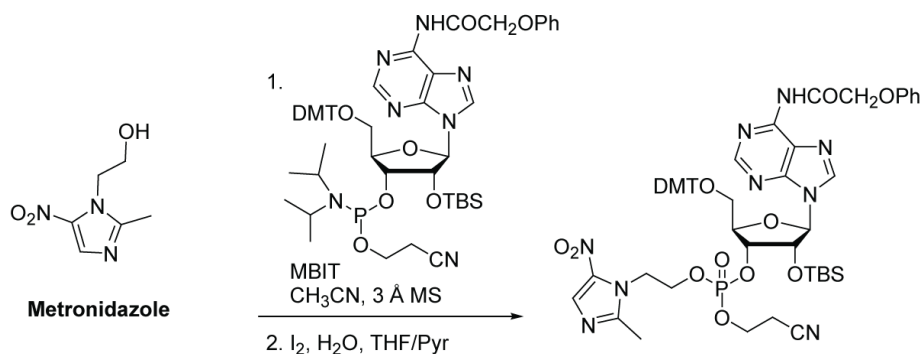
(Mixture of isomers) $\delta = -3.32, -3.73$; **HRMS** (ESI) m/z 969.3218 [calc'd for $C_{45}H_{55}N_6O_{13}PSiNa$ (M+Na) 969.3227].



The oxidized metronidazole adduct (0.180 g, 0.190 mmol) was added to NH_4OH (0.13 mL, 3.800 mmol) in ethanol (3.8 mL). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The solvent was removed by vacuum. $Et_3N \cdot HF$ (0.310 mL, 1.900 mmol) was added in CH_3CN (3.8 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 65 °C for an additional 8 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature and quenched with aqueous bicarbonate solution, and the solvent was removed by vacuum. The resulting solid was purified by flash chromatography (10% methanol/90% dichloromethane to 100% methanol) to yield product (0.075 g, 82% over 2 steps).

1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) $\delta = 8.02$ (d, $J = 8.1$, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 5.90 (d, $J = 5.4$, 1H), 5.69 (d, $J = 8.1$, 1H), 4.62 (t, $J = 4.7$, 2H), 4.45–4.37 (m, 1H), 4.24 (dt, $J = 4.3, 8.4$, 2H), 4.20 (t, $J = 5.2$, 1H), 4.12 (dd, $J = 2.5, 3.6$, 1H), 3.81–3.67 (m, 2H), 2.57 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CD_3OD)** δ 152.0, 141.0, 138.6, 131.3, 129.1, 127.8, 127.2, 112.4, 101.5, 88.6, 84.1, 74.0, 64.1, 60.7, 13.1; **^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CD_3OD)** $\delta = -1.14$; **HRMS** (ESI) m/z 476.0845 [calc'd for $C_{15}H_{19}N_5O_{11}P$ (M-H) 476.0824].

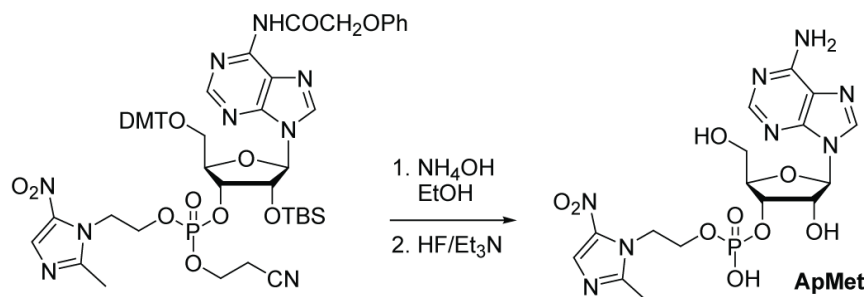
Synthesis of adenosine 3'-(4-metronidazole phosphate)



Metronidazole (0.076 g, 0.447 mmol) and phosphoramidite (0.500 g, 0.491 mmol) were added to a round-bottom flask that had been charged with 3-Å molecular sieves (approximately 20 beads) under $Ar(g)$, and that contained 5 mL of CH_3CN . After 10 min, methylbenzimidazole triflate (MBIT) (0.126 g, 0.447 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h. The CH_3CN was removed by vacuum, and the reaction mixture was filtered through a plug of silica (100% v/v ethyl acetate). Ethyl acetate was removed by vacuum, and 22.4 mL of I_2 (0.02 M) in THF/H_2O /pyridine was added. The reaction mixture turned from brown to clear yellow after 1 h.

The solvent was removed by vacuum and the resulting solid was purified with silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate) to yield pure product (0.407 g, 75% over 2 steps).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) (Mixture of isomers) δ 8.57–8.51 (m, 2H), 7.99 (s, 0.39H), 7.88 (s, 0.61H), 7.46 (d, J = 6.3, 2H), 7.36–7.20 (m, 9H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.3, 2H), 7.00 (t, J = 7.4, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 6.7, 4H), 6.07 (d, J = 6.2, 0.61H), 6.02 (d, J = 6.2, 0.39H), 5.21 (t, J = 4.9, 1H), 4.99 (s, 2H), 4.73–4.66 (m, 1H), 4.63 (t, J = 5.2, 0.78H), 4.58 (t, J = 5.2, 1.22H), 4.33–4.15 (m, 3H), 4.03–3.80 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.62–3.55 (m, 1H), 3.42 (td, J = 10.0, 3.8, 1H), 2.70 (t, J = 5.9, 1.22H), 2.60 (t, J = 5.8, 0.78H), 2.54 (s, 1.17H), 2.48 (s, 1.83H), 0.75 (s, 5.49H), 0.72 (s, 3.51H), –0.06 to –0.10 (m, 3H), –0.25 (s, 1.83H), –0.30 (s, 1.17H); **¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃OD)** (Mixture of isomers. When the diastereomer peaks resolve, the peaks are listed in parentheses) δ 170.1, 160.4, 159.3, (153.4 & 153.2), (150.4 & 150.2), 146.3, (145.5 & 145.3), 140.3, 138.6, (137.0 & 136.9), 133.2, (131.6 & 131.5), 130.8, 129.5, 129.1, 128.2, 125.7, 124.7, 123.1, 118.5, 116.1, 114.4, 89.8, 88.3, 84.6, 79.7, 74.3, 69.2, 68.4, (64.8 & 64.6), 61.7, 55.9, 47.3, 21.0, 20.3, 18.9, 14.6, (–4.4 & –5.0); **³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CD₃OD)** (Mixture of isomers) δ = –3.42, –3.58; **HRMS (ESI) m/z** 1126.3859 [calc'd for C₅₄H₆₂N₉O₁₃PSiNa (M+Na) 1126.3867].



The oxidized metronidazole adduct (0.468 g, 0.424 mmol) was added to NH₄OH (29.72 μ L, 0.848 mmol) in ethanol (8.5 mL). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The solvent was removed by vacuum and Et₃N·HF (1.38 mL, 8.480 mmol) was added in CH₃CN (7.36 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 65 °C for an additional 8 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature and quenched with aqueous bicarbonate solution, and the solvent was removed by vacuum. The resulting solid was purified by flash chromatography (10% methanol/90% dichloromethane to 100% methanol) to yield product (0.180 g, 85% over 2 steps).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.31 (s, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 5.93 (d, J = 6.9, 1H), 4.79–4.75 (m, 1H), 4.66–4.61 (m, 3H), 4.32–4.24 (m, 3H), 3.83 (d, J = 12.7, 1H), 3.75 (d, J = 12.7, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CD₃OD)** δ 156.2, 152.1, 152.0, 148.6, 140.7, 138.6, 131.3, 119.7, 89.6, 85.9, 75.4, 73.5, 64.1, 61.8, 21.6, 13.1; **³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CD₃OD)** δ = –1.08; **HRMS (ESI) m/z** 501.1259 [calc'd for C₁₆H₂₂N₈O₉P (M+H) 501.1242].

References

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