

Antibacterial activity of apramycin at acidic pH warrants wide therapeutic window in the treatment of complicated urinary tract infections and acute pyelonephritis

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Supplementary Methods

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing in urine

The MIC of apramycin in urine was determined by the same standard procedures described in the Methods section, with the exception of substituting cation-adjusted Mueller-Hinton broth with pH-adjusted urine. Morning urine was collected from healthy donors and pooled. Pooled urine was centrifuged and the pH of the supernatant was adjusted to either pH5.0 with 0.1N HCl or to pH7.4 with 0.2 N NaOH, followed by filter sterilization. Results are presented in Table S5.

Supplementary animal efficacy studies

The mouse UTI studies with the MDR pan-aminoglycoside resistant *E. coli* isolate EN0591 (*rmtB*) and *E. coli* isolate EN0355 with limited apramycin susceptibility (MIC of 8 mg/L) were conducted at the Statens Serum Institute in Denmark. Studies were approved by the National Committee of Animal Ethics, Ministry of Environment and food of Denmark. Female C3H/HeJ mice were infected with 50 µL of 10⁹ CFU/ml *E. coli* EN591 or *E. coli* EN0355 suspension by intraurethral catheter after treatment with Nurofen Junior (NSAID, 30 mg/kg) for pain alleviation approximately 1 h prior to inoculation. Mice had *ad libido* access to 5% glucose drinking water to induce diuresis from 3 days prior to inoculation onwards. Twice daily, subcutaneous treatment with apramycin (lot.nr: 150710301, Exp. 07.2018) at doses of 0.03-30 mg/kg and vehicle control was started one day post-infection and continued for three consecutive days. At day 1 (baseline) and day 4 post-infection after urine sampling mice were sacrificed by cervical dislocation and bladder and kidneys were removed aseptically for bacterial enumeration. CFU counts were transformed to log₁₀ and plotted against the log₁₀ of administered doses (Fig. S2).

The UTI study with diabetic mice was subcontracted to the University of Texas Medical Branch, studies were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the University of Texas Medical Branch. Animals were obtained from Charles River laboratories and housed in the animal facilities under standard conditions. *E. coli* ST131 H30Rx strain MVAST072 (M072) was recovered from a chronic cystitis patient. The bacteria were cultured on LB or 5% blood agar at 35-37°C overnight. *E. coli* M072 was passaged to enhance fimbriae and pili formation by static subculture for 15 h at 37°C prior to inoculum preparation. A cohort of one-hundred female C3H/HeN mice at 4-5 weeks of age was used for the study. After acclimation, animals were randomly assigned to one of two groups, a non-diabetic group and a streptozotocin-induced diabetic group. Animals in the diabetic group were subjected to streptozotocin (STZ) diabetic induction (4 daily doses of 65 mg/kg after a 4 h fast). Blood was collected from a nick in the tail and tested with an animal glucometer over the next 14 days to ensure that random blood sugar levels (RBS) increased to diabetic levels (>250). Mice in both groups were infected with 10⁷ CFU *E. coli* M072 in 50 µL by the transurethral route on day 0 and twice daily subcutaneous treatment with apramycin (0.1-10 mg/kg) and vehicle control was started 2 days (48 h) post-infection ($n = 10$ / dosing group). Urine was collected daily and animals were sacrificed on day 5 post-infection. The bacterial burden in urine was determined by qPCR after DNA extraction (10 genomes/CFU) and bladder and kidneys were harvested for bacterial enumeration by qPCR as well (Fig. S3).

Supplementary Results

In vitro susceptibility

Table S1 Species distribution in European cUTI cohorts and in the NDARO uropathogenic panel.

	The Netherlands (1)		Poland (2)		Switzerland (3)		The Netherlands (4)		NDARO (Gram-neg.)
Total cUTI isolates (n)	462		237		129		27 922		12 956
Isolates	Species distribution (%)	Gentamicin susceptible (%)	Species distribution (%)	Amino-glycoside susceptibility	Species distribution (%)	Gentamicin susceptible (%)	Species distribution (%)	Gentamicin susceptible (%)	Species distribution (n)
<i>E. coli</i>	51,3	93,7	65,8	Enterobacteriaceae: 86% gentamicin susceptible; 93.9% amikacin susceptible	56,2	nd	47,2	94,00	5 049 (39.0%)
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	9,5	90,9	12,6		4,6	nd	6,7	95,3	5 456 (42.1%)
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	6,7	87,1	8,4		2,3	nd	7,6	91,8	nd
Citrobacter spp.	nd	nd	0,4		3,1	nd	nd	nd	141 (1.1%)
<i>Enterobacter</i> spp.	nd	nd	0,4		0,77	nd	2,1	92,1	488 (3.8%)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	5,6	92,3	nd	nd	0,77	nd	5	95	672 (5.2%)
Enterococcus spp.	9,7	nd	nd	nd	9,3	nd	15,1	low level resistance	nd
<i>S. aureus</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	2,32	nd	2,7	98,7	nd
Streptococci group B	2,6	nd	nd	nd	6,2	nd	2,9	nd	nd

- (1) Wijting IEA, Alisma J, Melles DC, Schipper EM, Schuit SCE. Urinary tract infections in a university hospital: pathogens and antibiotic susceptibility. *Neth J Med* 2019; **77**(6): 210-9.
- (2) Stefaniuk E, Suchocka U, Bosacka K, Hryniwicz W. Etiology and antibiotic susceptibility of bacterial pathogens responsible for community-acquired urinary tract infections in Poland. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis* 2016; **35**(8): 1363-9.
- (3) Plate A, Kronenberg A, Risch M, et al. Active surveillance of antibiotic resistance patterns in urinary tract infections in primary care in Switzerland. *Infection* 2019; **47**(6): 1027-35.
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Table S2 List of resistance genes applied in determining the genotypic susceptibility of isolates deposited in the NDARO*

	Apramycin	Amikacin	Gentamicin	Tobramycin
Aminoglycoside-modifying enzymes	<i>aac(1)-Ia</i>	<i>aac(6')-I</i>	<i>aac(6')</i>	<i>aac(6')</i>
	<i>aac(3)-IV</i>	<i>aph(3')-III</i>	<i>aac(3)-I</i>	<i>aac(3)-II</i>
	<i>apmA</i>	<i>aph(3')-VI</i>	<i>aac(3)-II</i>	<i>aac(3)-III</i>
		<i>ant(4')</i>	<i>aac(3)-III</i>	<i>aac(3)-IV</i>
			<i>aac(3)-VII</i>	<i>aac(2')</i>
			<i>aph(2'')</i>	<i>aph(2'')-Ia</i>
			<i>ant(2'')</i>	<i>aph(2'')-Id</i>
			<i>aac(3)-IV</i>	<i>aph(2'')-Ib</i>
			<i>apmA</i>	<i>aph(2'')-II</i>
				<i>ant(2'')</i>
				<i>ant(4')</i>
				<i>apmA</i>
Ribosome methyltransferases	<i>npmA</i>	<i>npmA</i>	<i>npmA</i>	<i>npmA</i>
		<i>armA</i>	<i>armA</i>	<i>armA</i>
		<i>rmtA</i>	<i>rmtA</i>	<i>rmtA</i>
		<i>rmtB</i>	<i>rmtB</i>	<i>rmtB</i>
		<i>rmtC</i>	<i>rmtC</i>	<i>rmtC</i>
		<i>rmtD</i>	<i>rmtD</i>	<i>rmtD</i>
		<i>rmtF</i>	<i>rmtF</i>	<i>rmtF</i>
		<i>rmtG</i>	<i>rmtG</i>	<i>rmtG</i>
		<i>rmtH</i>	<i>rmtH</i>	<i>rmtH</i>
	<i>kamB</i>	<i>kamB</i>	<i>kamB</i>	<i>kamB</i>

*The minimal determinant of each resistance genotype was identified, meaning that a search for *aac(6')* will detect all subtypes of this gene. A search for *aac(3)-I* implies searching for *aac(3)-Ia, b, c etc.*

Table S3 Bacterial and rodent strains used in this study

Species	Strain	Feature	Source
Bacteria			
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	FDA strain Seattle 1946	Reference strain	ATCC 25922
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	J96	UTI model strain	ATCC 700336
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	EN0591	MDR, <i>rmtB</i>	University of Zurich
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	EN0335	MIC = MIC ₉₀ = 8	Uppsala University
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	ST131 H30Rx strain MVAST072 (M072)	MDR, ESBL	University of Texas Medical Branch
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	Various clinical isolates (Table S4)	Uropathogenic, drug resistant	University of Zurich
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp.	Various clinical isolates (Table S4)	Uropathogenic, drug resistant	University of Zurich
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	Various clinical isolates (Table S4)	Uropathogenic, drug resistant	University of Zurich
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Various clinical isolates (Table S4)	Uropathogenic, drug resistant	University of Zurich
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Various clinical isolates (Table S4)	Uropathogenic, drug resistant	University of Zurich
Rodents			
<i>Mus musculus</i>	C3H-HeJ	UTI model	Jackson Laboratory
<i>Mus musculus</i>	C3H/HeN	Diabetic induction by streptozotocin	Charles River Laboratories
<i>Mus musculus</i>	CD-1	Multipurpose	Envigo
<i>Mus musculus</i>	NMRI	Multipurpose	Envigo
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Sprague-Dawley	Multipurpose	Envigo
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Wistar	Multipurpose	Envigo

Table S4: Minimal inhibitory concentrations determined by broth microdilution antimicrobial susceptibility assays.

SPECIES	STRAIN	GENOTYPE	APR	AMI	TOB	GEN	MER	PIP-TAZ	CTA
<i>E. coli</i>	ATCC 25922	WT	4	2	0.5-1	0.5-1	0.03	2	0.13
<i>E. coli</i>	ATCC 700336	nd	4	2	0.5-1	0.5-1	0.03	2	≤0.06
<i>E. coli</i>	EN0591	RmtB	4	>256	>256	>256	0.06	16	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	EN0335	nd	8	4	1-2	1-2	0.016	2	0.06
<i>E. coli</i>	252 720	ESBL	8	8	32	128	0.03	32	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	254 525	nd	2	4	16	32	≤0.016	64	1-2
<i>E. coli</i>	257 782	ESBL	4	4	32	64	0.03	8	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	260 097	AmpC	2-4	1	0.5	0.25-0.5	0.06	128	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	261 917	ESBL, OXA-48	2-4	1	0.5	0.25-0.5	0.06	>128	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	250 697	ESBL, AmpC	4	2	16	8	0.03	8	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	257 384	ESBL	4	4	32	64	≤0.016	16	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	260 930	nd	8	32	64	128	≤0.016	8	0.5
<i>E. coli</i>	263 311	AmpC	4	4	≤0.25	≤0.25	0.125	128	4-8
<i>E. coli</i>	265 199	ESBL, OXA-48	4	1-2	4	64	0.5	128	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	269 430	ESBL	2-4	4-8	8	0.5	0.03	8	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	259 296	ESBL, NDM-1, RmtB	4	128	256	>256	4	>128	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	263 943	ESBL	4	4	8	16	≤0.016	4	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	264 675	nd	2	1	32	8	≤0.016	64	0.5-1
<i>E. coli</i>	268 263	ESBL	16	32	64	256	0.06	16	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	250 958	ESBL	4	4	32	16	0.06	16	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	252 115	ESBL	4	4	8	32	0.03	16	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	252 467	ESBL, VIM	2-4	8	16	8	0.25-0.5	128	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	259 714	ESBL	8-16	4	1	1	0.125	>128	>64
<i>E. coli</i>	260 063	ESBL	2	1	0.5	0.5	0.06	2	>64
<i>E. cloacae</i>	250 027	cAmpC, ESBL, VIM	1-2	0.5-1	8	8	>16	>128	>64
<i>E. cloacae</i>	259 086	cAmpC, ESBL, VIM	1-2	8	32	16	4	>128	>64
<i>E. cloacae</i>	255 527	cAmpC, OXA-48	1-2	8	16	16	1	>128	>64
<i>E. cloacae</i>	260 779	cAmpC	1-2	8	16	32	0.06	128	>64
<i>E. cloacae</i>	264 713	cAmpC, ESBL	1	1	2	8	0.03	2	>64
<i>K. oxytoca</i>	266 250	ESBL, AmpC	2-4	8	64	256	0.03	>128	32
<i>K. oxytoca</i>	258 351	ESBL	2-4	8	16	64	0.03	32	>64
<i>K. oxytoca</i>	260 643	ESBL	2-4	4	8	64	0.06	32	>64
<i>K. oxytoca</i>	268 204	ESBL	2	1	0.5	0.25-0.5	0.06	>128	8
<i>K. oxytoca</i>	274 763	nd	2	1	≤0.25	0.5	0.06	>128	8
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	255 915	ESBL	2	1	0.5	0.5	8	>128	>64
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	263 106	ESBL	2	2	16	32	0.03	128	>64
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	252 084	ESBL	1	0.5	≤0.25	≤0.25	0.06	8	64
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	252 695	AmpC	2	2	0.5	0.5	0.06	128	64
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	268 507	ESBL	2	1-2	4	32	0.03	4	>64
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	272 212	ESBL	2	0.5	2	32	0.03	1	>64
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	256 216	ESBL, OXA-48	1-2	4	64	64	>16	>128	>64
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	251 672	ESBL, RmtB	2-4	>256	>256	>256	0.125	>128	>64
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	263 115	ESBL	1-2	0.5-1	0.25-0.5	≤0.25	0.25	128	>64
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	256 706	nd	2	1	≤0.25	≤0.25	0.06	4	0
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	264 373	ESBL	2	1	0.5	0.5	0.03-0.06	0.5	32
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	253 814	AmpC	4-8	2-4	0.5	1	0.06-0.13	0.5	4
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	263 150	NDM-1, RmtB	4	>256	>256	>256	1	16	64
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	255 417	ESBL	256	32	8	8	0.06	0.25	>64
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	270 786	VIM	4	4	4	2	1	128	64
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	254 365	ESBL	8	8	1	1	0.125	0.5	>64
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	266 037	AmpC	8	8	64	128	0.125	64	>64
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	267 794	nd	128	8	32	32	0.06	16	0.5
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	250 062	MDR	8	32	32	32	16	16	64
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	265 995	MDR	4-8	2	0.5	2	16	128	>64
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	257 264	MDR	16	32	64	16	16	8-16	64
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	257 277	MDR	16-32	16	1	4	2-4	32	>64
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	257 530	MDR	8	4	0.5	2	16	32	>64
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	257 892	MDR	16	8	2	8	2-4	2-4	8-16
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	269 616	MDR	8	64	64	4	>16	32	>64
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	256 257	MDR	16	32	256	>256	16	128	>64
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	261 728	MDR	2	2	16	16	16	128	>64

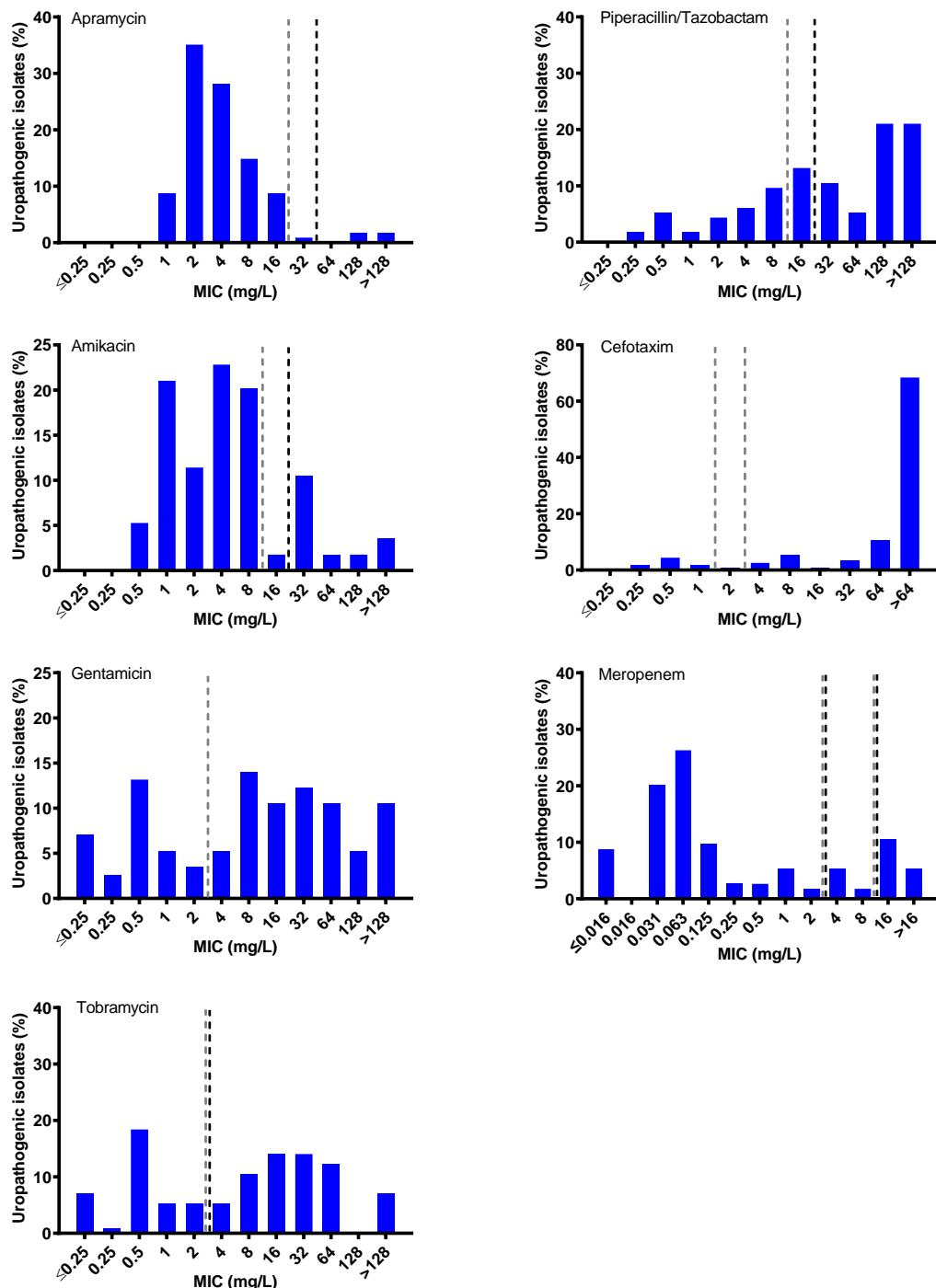


Fig. S1 MIC distribution of apramycin in comparison to other drugs for a panel of uropathogenic bacterial isolates. The MICs of apramycin, amikacin, gentamicin, and tobramycin in comparison to piperacillin/tazobactam, cefotaxime, and meropenem for 57 drug-resistant uropathogenic isolates were determined by broth microdilution assays according to CLSI standard procedures. The vertical dashed line indicate the EUCAST breakpoints 2021 for Enterobacteriales (grey) and *Pseudomonas* spp. (black), respectively. In the case of apramycin, the vertical dashed lines indicate the ECOFF values of 16 and 32 µg/mL, respectively.

In-vivo efficacy studies

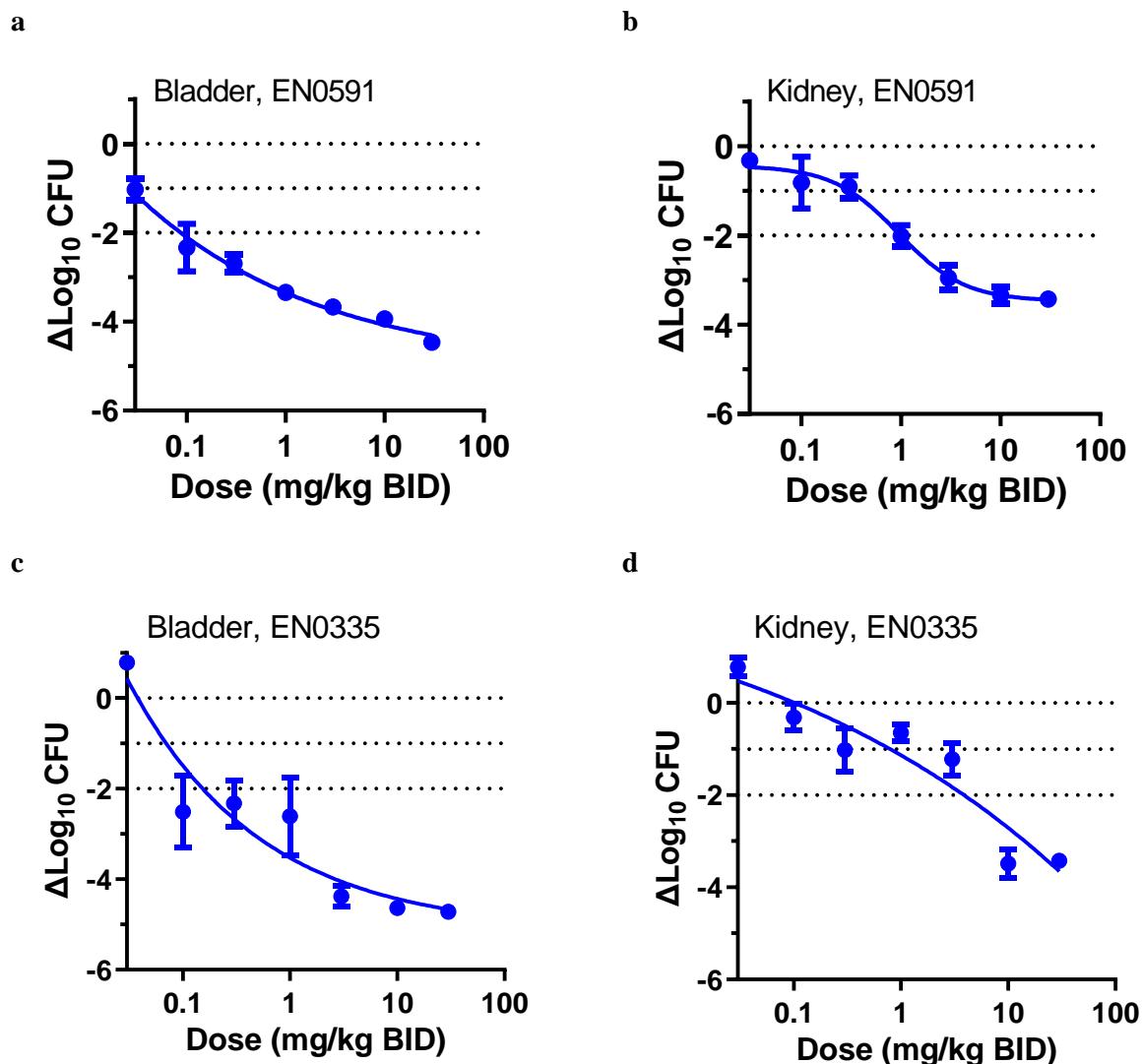
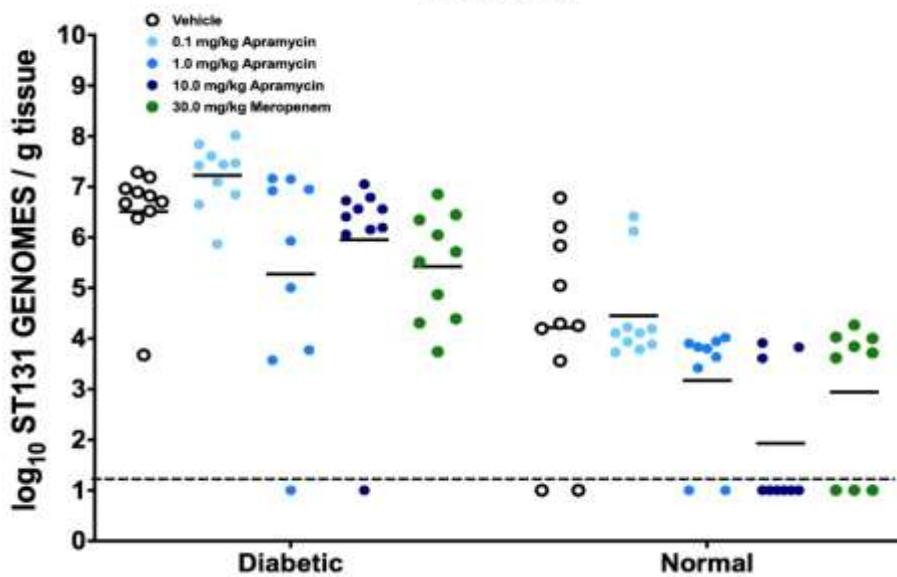


Fig. S2 In-vivo efficacy of EBL-1003 in murine infection models with uropathogenic *E. coli* isolates.
(a-b) CFU count reduction in bladder and kidney of C3H/HeJ mice indicate EBL-1003 efficacy against the pan-aminoglycoside resistant *E. coli rmtB* isolate EN0591 (apramycin MIC of 4 mg/L). Doses of 0.1 and 1 mg/kg and higher significantly reduced mean bacterial load in bladder and kidneys, respectively (study 165-17-05-07; data plotted as mean \pm SD, $n = 8$ mice per dose group; ANOVA, Dunnett's multiple comparison test, $P \leq 0.0001$ vs. vehicle controls). **(c-d)** CFU count reduction in kidney and bladder indicate EBL-1003 efficacy against an *E. coli* isolate EN0335 (elevated apramycin MIC of 8 mg/kg). Doses as low as 0.1 and 0.3 mg/kg significantly reduced mean bacterial load in bladder and kidneys, respectively (study 165-17-05-11; data plotted as mean \pm SD, $n = 5$ mice per dose group; ANOVA, Dunnett's multiple comparison test, $P = 0.03$ and 0.01 , respectively, vs. vehicle controls).

a

Bladder



b

Kidney

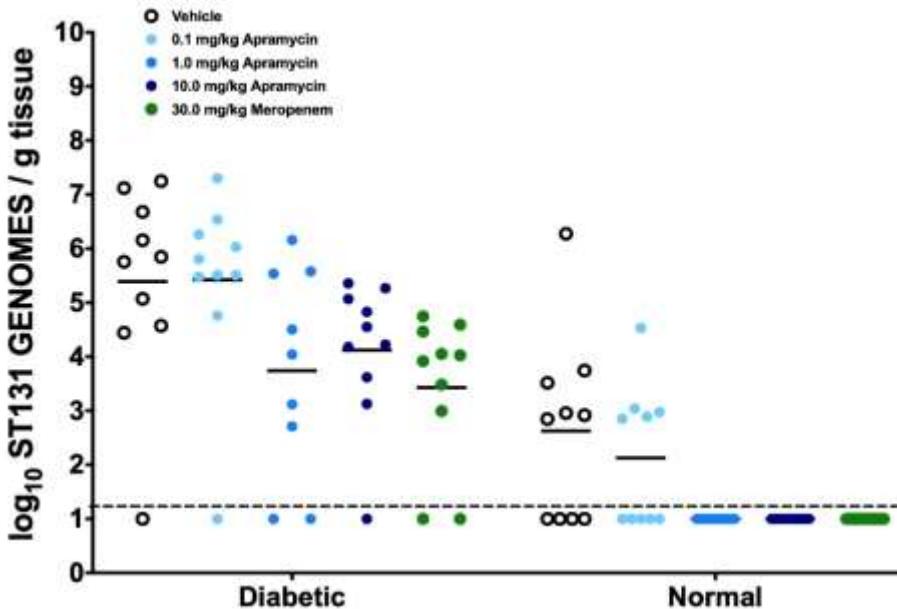


Fig. S3 In-vivo potency of apramycin in diabetic murine infection model with the multidrug resistant *E. coli* M072 isolate. Subcutaneous injection of 0.1, 1 and 10 mg/kg BID of EBL-1003 (apramycin) or 30 mg/kg of meropenem BID for three days in streptozotocin-induced diabetic or non-diabetic C3H/HeN mice at 4-5 weeks of age after infection with the uropathogenic, multidrug-resistant ESBL *E. coli* ST131 H30Rx strain MVAST072 (M072). The bacterial burden in (a) bladder and (b) kidney after three days of treatment was assessed by RT-qPCR specific for ST131 genomes (study A02-4).

Table S5: MIC determination for *E. coli* J96 at pH5 and pH7.4 in urine

MIC (mg/L) in urine			
EBL-1003		GEN	AMI
pH7.4	4	1-2	2-4
pH5.0	64-128	32-64	64-128

Table S6: pK_a values by ¹⁵N NMR spectroscopy and protonation of individual amino groups

	N-1	N-3	N-2'	N-6'	N-7'	N-3''	N-4''	N-4'''	Net charge	Reference
Apramycin										
pK _a	8.2	6.6	7.7	--	7.5	--	6.7	--		(5)
pK _a	8.1	6.6	7.6	--	7.4	--	6.6	--		(6)
HA ⁺										
pH7.4	83%	14%	61%	--	50%	--	14%	--	+2.22	
pH6.5	98%	56%	93%	--	89%	--	56%	--	+3.90	
pH6.0	99%	80%	98%	--	96%	--	80%	--	+4.53	
pH5.0	100%	98%	100%	--	100%	--	98%	--	+4.94	
Gentamicin										
pK _a	8.9	7.2	8.2	10.0	--	9.3	--	--		(7)
HA ⁺										
pH7.4	97%	39%	86%	100%	--	99%	--	--	+4.20	
pH6.5	100%	83%	98%	100%	--	100%	--	--	+4.81	
pH6.0	100%	94%	99%	100%	--	100%	--	--	+4.93	
pH5.0	100%	99%	100%	100%	--	100%	--	--	+4.99	
Amikacin										
pK _a	>10	7.6	--	8.9	--	8.1	--	9.7		(8)
pK _a	>10	7.6	--	8.8	--	8.1	--	9.9		(9)
HA ⁺										
pH7.4	100%	61%	--	96%	--	83%	--	100%	+4.41	
pH6.5	100%	93%	--	100%	--	98%	--	100%	+4.90	
pH6.0	100%	98%	--	100%	--	99%	--	100%	+4.97	
pH5.0	100%	100%	--	100%	--	100%	--	100%	+5.00	

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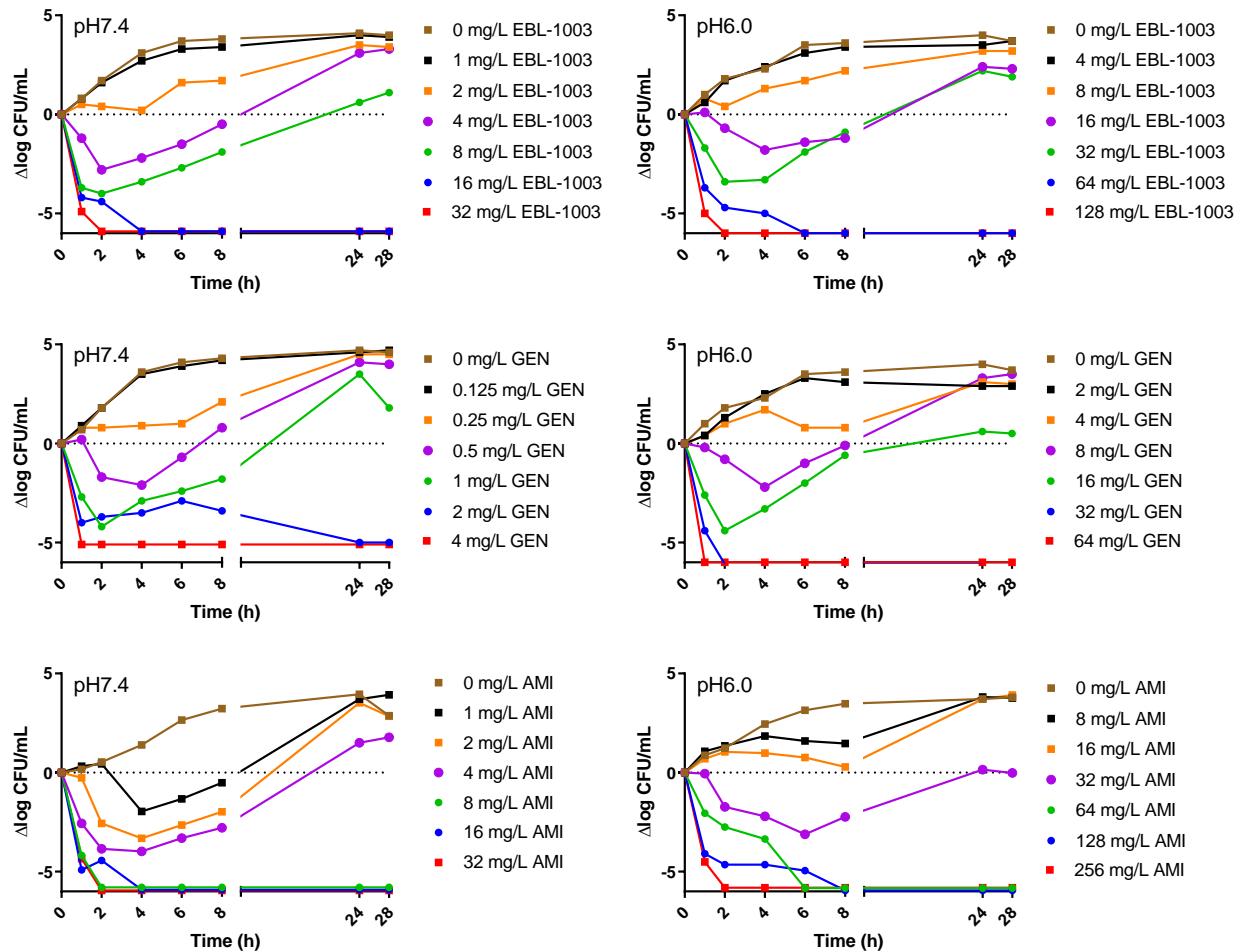


Fig. S4 Time-kill analysis of EBL-1003 (aprampicin), in comparison to gentamicin (GEN) and amikacin (AMI) with *E. coli* strain J96 at neutral and acidic pH.

Pharmacokinetics and nephrotoxicity

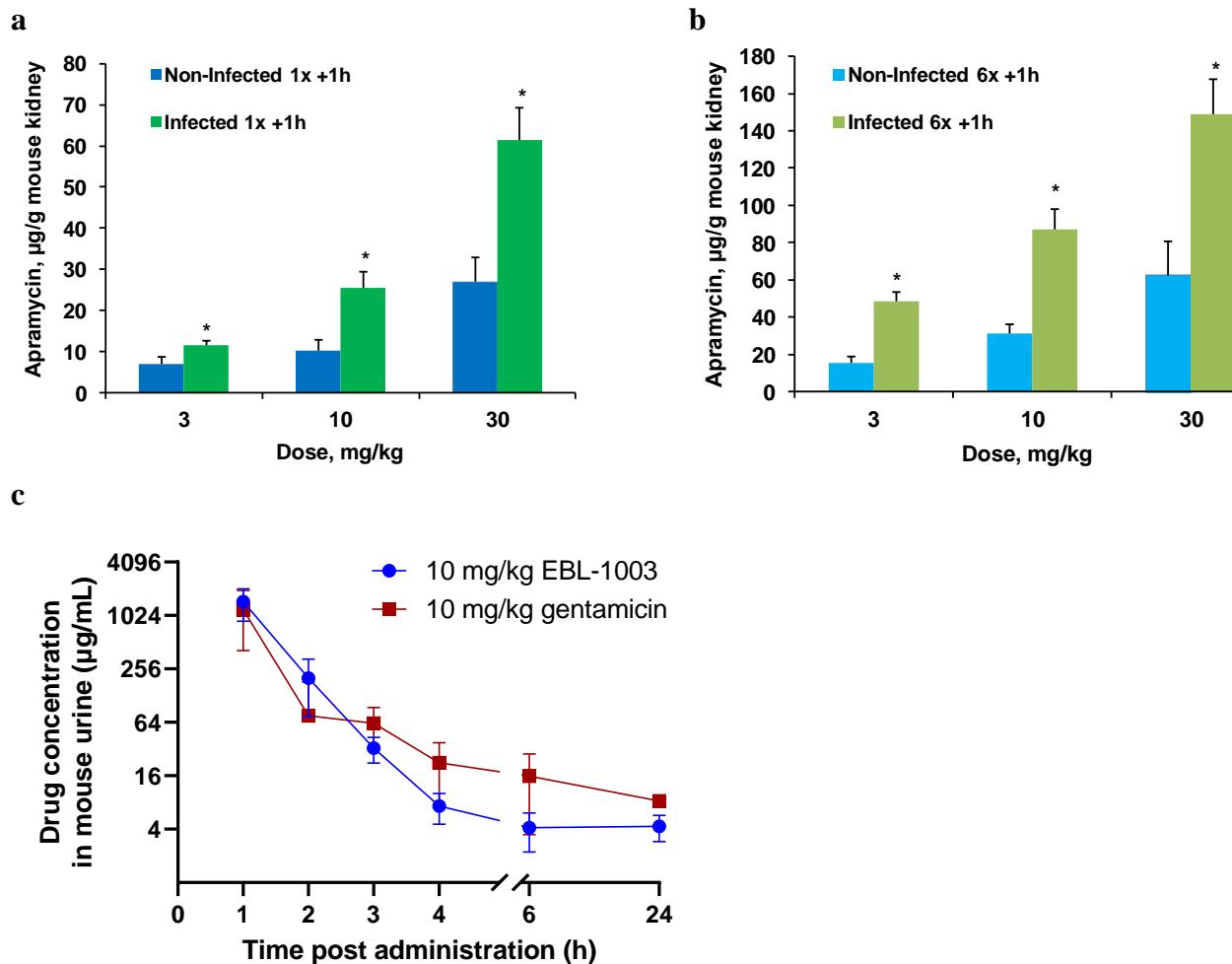


Fig. S5 Apramycin exposure in non-infected and infected murine kidney tissue and in urine after subcutaneous administration of EBL-1003. (a) Apramycin concentration in kidneys one hour after a single dose of EBL-1003 in healthy and infected mice. Healthy NMRI mice (study EXP-18-BN9099) and C3H/HeJ mice infected by intraurethral inoculation of 5×10^7 CFU of *E. coli* isolate EN591 one day prior to start of treatment (study 165-17-05-07 and EXP-18-BN9096) were treated subcutaneously with 3, 10, or 30 mg/kg BID of EBL-1003 (data plotted as mean \pm SD of $n = 4$ healthy animals or $n = 8$ infected animals per dose group). (b) Apramycin concentration in the kidneys of healthy and infected animals after three days of repeated BID dosing (total of six doses). Kidneys were harvested one hour after administration of the final dose. Apramycin concentrations in the kidneys of infected mice were compared to those in non-infected mice using Student's t-tests. $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant (*). (c) Apramycin concentration in mouse urine in comparison to gentamicin after a single subcutaneous dose of 10 mg/kg (data plotted as mean of $n = 4$ animals per time point; study EXP-17-BN9069).

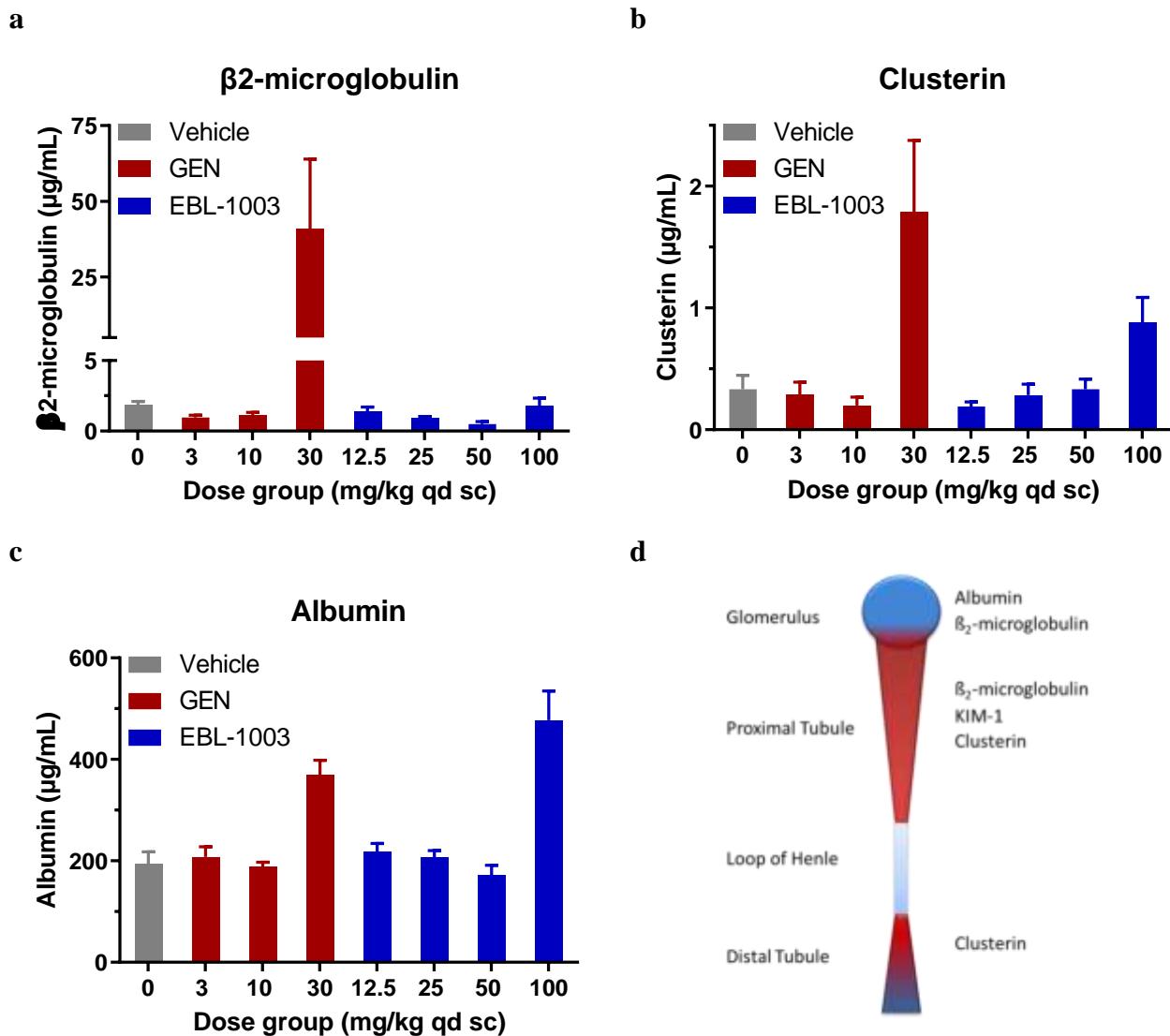


Fig. S6 Quantification of nephrotoxic biomarkers in adult rats treated with gentamicin or apramycin. (a) β₂-microglobulin concentration in the urine of adult Sprague-Dawley rats (≥ 14 weeks old at first dose) after 14 days of once-daily subcutaneous treatment with gentamicin (GEN) or apramycin (EBL-1003), respectively. (b) Clusterin, and (c) albumin concentrations in the same urine samples. All values are plotted as mean±SEM ($n = 5$ animals per dose group; study EXP-17-BM8077). (d) Renal schematic indicating the likely site of cellular damage based on the biomarker profile. Aminoglycoside toxicity is known for primarily targeting the proximal tubular cells.

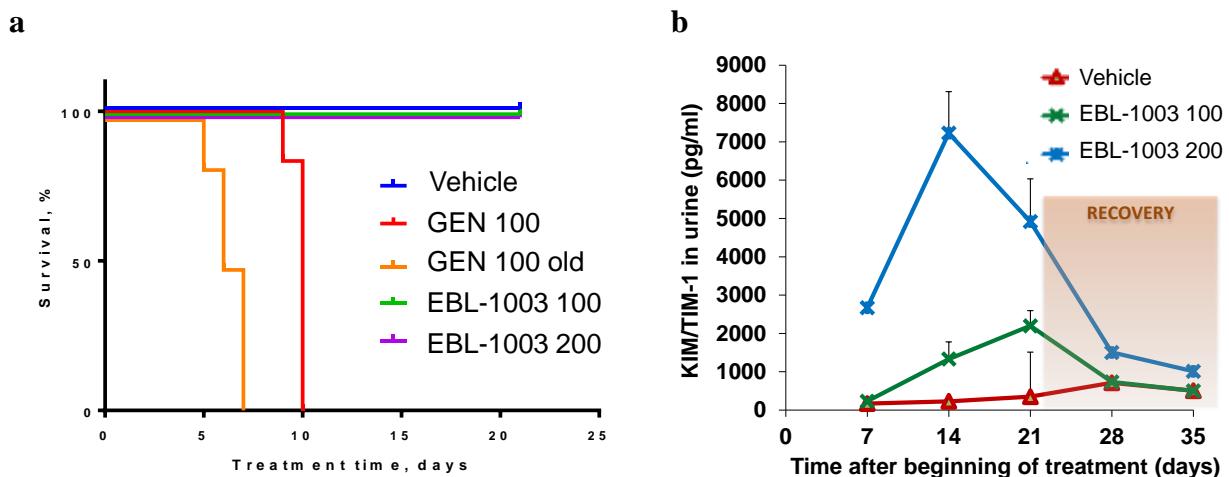


Fig. S7 Survival and recovery of rats dosed with 100 and 200 mg/kg of apramycin (EBL-1003) or gentamicin (GEN) for up to 21 days. (a) Survival curves of rats treated with 100 mg/kg q.d. of gentamicin (GEN), 100 or 200 mg/kg q.d. of apramycin (EBL-1003), or vehicle control (physiologic saline) for 21 days ($n = 5$ animals per dose group). For the gentamicin dosing group, we included a control group that was 18 weeks old at start of treatment (GEN 100 old) to determine a possible effect of age on nephrotoxic vulnerability (study EXP-17-BM8056). (b) Renal recovery of rats after 21 days of treatment with 100 or 200 mg/kg of EBL-1003 was monitored for another two weeks after the last dose (35 days after start of treatment; study EXP-17-BM8056).

Supplementary References

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