

# Comparison of tolerance and microbiological efficacy of cefepim and piperacillin/tazobactam in combination with vancomycin as empirical antimicrobial therapy of prosthetic joint infection: a propensity-matched cohort study

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## Aim

The use of piperacillin/tazobactam with vancomycin as empirical antimicrobial therapy (EAT) for prosthetic joint infection (PJI) has been associated with an increased risk of acute kidney injury (AKI), leading to propose cefepim as an alternative since 2017 in our reference center. The present study compared microbiological efficacy and tolerance of these two EAT strategies.

## Method

All adult patients with PJI empirically treated by vancomycin-cefepim (n=89) were enrolled in a prospective observational study, and matched with historical controls treated by vancomycin-piperacillin/tazobactam (n=89) according to a propensity score including age, baseline renal function and concomitant use of other nephrotoxics. The two groups were compared using Kaplan-Meier curve analysis and non-parametric tests (Fisher exact test and Mann-Whitney U-test) regarding:

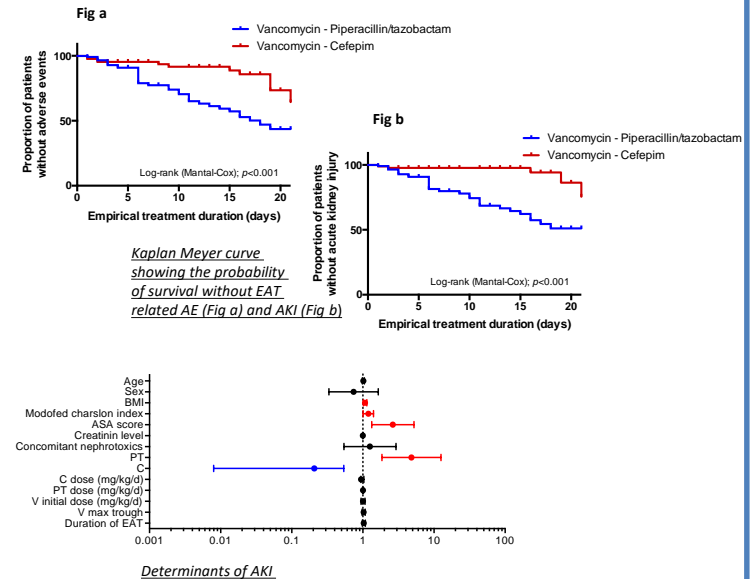
- the proportion efficacious empirical regimen (i.e., at least one of the two molecules active against the identified organism(s) based on *in vitro* susceptibility testing);
- the incidence of empirical therapy-related adverse events (AE), classified according to the Common terminology criteria for AE (CTCAE).

## Results

Among the 146 (82.0%) documented infections, the EAT was considered as efficacious in 77 (98.7%) and 65 (98.5%) of the piperacillin-tazobactam and cefepim-treated patients, respectively ( $p=1.000$ ). The rate of AE, and in particular AKI, was significantly higher in the vancomycin-piperacillin/tazobactam (n=27 [30.3%] and 23 [25.8%]) compared to the vancomycin-cefepim (n=13 [14.6%] and 6 [6.7%]) group ( $p=0.019$  and  $<0.001$ , respectively), leading to a premature EAT discontinuation in 20 (22.5%) and 5 (5.6%) patients ( $p=0.002$ ). Of note, no significant differences were observed between the two groups regarding sex (91 males; 51.1%), median age (68-year-old; IQR, 59.3-75), main comorbidities, and vancomycin plasmatic overload.

	Piperacillin/tazobactam + vancomycin (n=89)	Cefepim + vancomycin (n=89)	p-value
<b>Demographics</b>			
Sex (male)	49 (55.1%)	42 (47.2%)	0.294
Age (years)	69 (61-77)	67 (58-75)	0.250
<b>Comorbidities</b>			
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	29.4 (24.0-33.2)	28.4 (24.0-33.2)	0.800
ASA score	2 (2-3)	2 (2-3)	0.783
Modified Charlson comorbidity index	3 (2-4)	2 (2-4)	0.291
<b>Baseline renal function</b>			
Creatinine level (μmol/L)	60 (51-70)	60 (52-71)	0.955
Chronic kidney injury	32 (36.0%)	34 (38.2%)	0.877
Other nephrotoxics	21 (23.6%)	33 (37.1%)	0.072
<b>EAT</b>			
Betactam dose (mg/kg/d)	162.2 (133.3-176.5)	76.2 (63.2-89.6)	NA
Vancomycin initial dose (mg/kg/d)	29.4 (25.0-33.3)	29.4 (25.0-33.3)	0.880
Vancomycin trough concentration (mg/L)	17.4 (13.0-21.0)	14.4 (10.9-20.8)	0.032
Duration of EAT (days)	6 (4-14)	13 (5-17)	0.079
Appropriate EAT	77 (98.7%)	65 (98.5%)	1.000
EAT-related adverse events	27 (30.3%)	13 (14.6%)	0.019
Delay (days)	8 (6-13.5)	8 (1-16)	0.568
<b>Grade of CTCAE</b>			
1	11 (40.7%)	8 (61.5%)	0.314
2	9 (33.3%)	4 (30.8%)	1.000
3	7 (25.9%)	1 (7.7%)	0.236
Acute kidney injury	23 (25.8%)	6 (6.7%)	<0.001

Patient characteristics



## Conclusions

The empirical use of vancomycin-cefepim in PJI was microbiologically as efficient as vancomycin-piperacillin/tazobactam, and was associated with a significantly lower incidence of AKI. Adding metronidazole could be discussed in order to fill the anaerobes gap from cefepim spectrum.

## \* Lyon BJI study group

Lyon Bone and Joint Infection Study Group:

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