

# Pharmacokinetics-pharmacodynamics (PK-PD) of VNRX-5133, a broad-spectrum novel $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor (BS-BLI), in combination with cefepime in a one-compartment *in vitro* infection model

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## Background

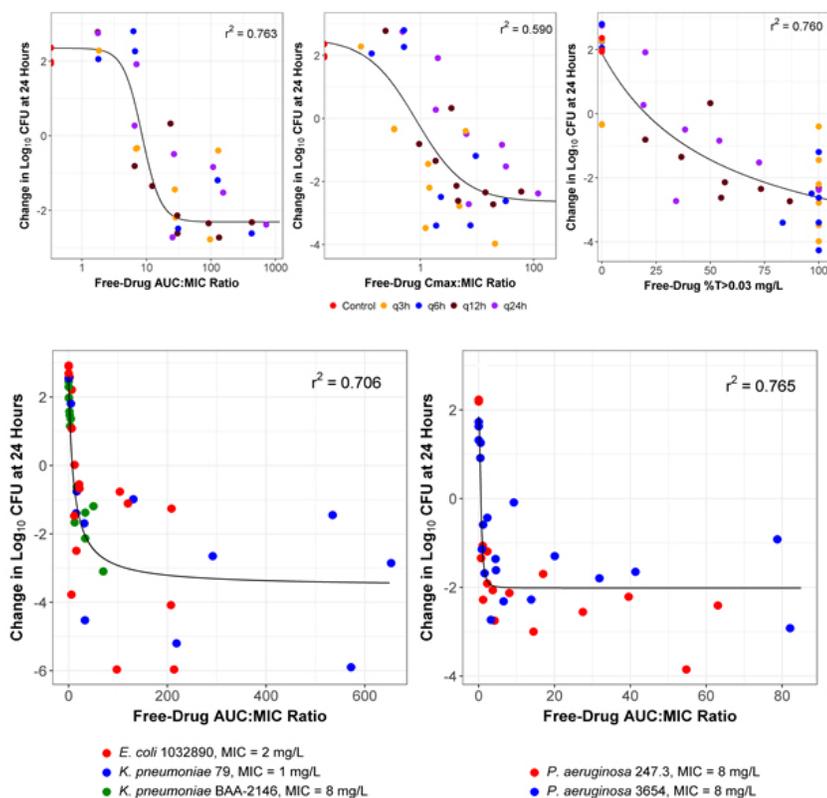
VNRX-5133 is a broad-spectrum, selective, non- $\beta$ -lactam, BS-BLI with *in vitro* activity against all four Ambler class enzymes, including Class B metallo- $\beta$ -lactamases. VNRX-5133 is being developed in combination with cefepime for the treatment of serious infections associated with  $\beta$ -lactamase producing bacteria. In order to optimize VNRX-5133 dosing, it is important to understand the PK-PD index associated with efficacy. To this end, a series of *in vitro* studies for VNRX-5133 in combination with cefepime were completed with the following objectives: 1) to identify the PK-PD index associated with VNRX-5133 efficacy; and 2) to determine the magnitude of the VNRX-5133 PK-PD index required for efficacy against cephalosporin and carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (ENT) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (PSA).

## Methods

A 24 h one-compartment *in vitro* infection model was utilized in all studies. To identify the PK-PD index associated with VNRX-5133 efficacy, dose-fractionation studies were conducted using one isolate exposed to five VNRX-5133 exposures fractionated into regimens administered every 3, 6, 12, or 24 hours, in combination with a sub-clinical dose of cefepime administered q8h. In order to evaluate the inter-isolate variability in VNRX-5133 efficacy, dose-ranging studies were completed for five isolates (3 ENT and 2 PSA) producing a variety of serine- and/or metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase enzymes (NDM-1, VIM-2, CTX-M-15, KPC-3, TEM-1, and SHV-11) in combination with cefepime 2 g q8h. Hill-type models were used to describe relationships between change in  $\log_{10}$  CFU from baseline at 24 hours and each of VNRX-5133 AUC:MIC ratio,  $C_{max}$ :MIC ratio and %T>threshold concentration, where the cefepime MIC was determined in the presence of 4 mg/L of VNRX-5133.

## Results

AUC:MIC ratio and %T>0.03 mg/L described the efficacy of VNRX-5133 well ( $r^2$  of 0.763 and 0.760, respectively). The magnitudes of AUC:MIC ratio associated with net bacterial stasis and 1- and 2- $\log_{10}$  CFU reductions from baseline were 7.42, 14.7, and 31.9 for ENT and 0.57, 0.93, and 6.41 for PSA, respectively.



## Conclusions

These data, which demonstrated similar *in vitro* activity of VNRX-5133 against serine- and metallo- $\beta$ -lactamases for both ENT and PSA, provide initial PK-PD targets for VNRX-5133 efficacy in combination with cefepime for the treatment of infections arising from carbapenem-resistant isolates.

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