

Biopharmaceutic In Vitro In Vivo Extrapolation (IVIV_E) Informed Physiologically-Based Pharmacokinetic Model of Ritonavir Norvir Tablet Absorption in Humans Under Fasted and Fed State Conditions

Sumit Arora Senior Research Scientist

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- Aim, Background and Challenges
- Model (dis)qualification in a stepwise manner
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusions and Limitations

The objective of this research is to develop a mechanistic absorption and disposition model of ritonavir which could link the biopharmaceutic properties of the drug/drug product with its DDI risk potential

Running Theme – Biopharmaceutics *In vitro In vivo* **Extrapolation (IVIVE)**

Biopharmaceutics IVIVE – Many Case Studies

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Challenges with the PBPK model development with Ritonavir

- Complex pharmacokinetic profile mechanism-based inhibitor of CYP3A4/5, inducer of CYP3A4/5, P-gp substrate and also an inhibitor
- Lack of intravenous data (parameter identifiability issues) and information regarding fraction metabolized by CYP3A4
- Commercial formulation is an amorphous solid dispersion (ASD). Dissolution of ASDs under non-sink conditions is complex with the possibility of several phase transitions within the dissolving medium and the ASD matrix
- Being a weak base, parameterization of models which adequately capture interplay between supersaturation and precipitation of ritonavir in gut lumen can be complex

We adopted a Model (dis)qualification approach in a stepwise manner until consistency with clinical data is obtained

Can we simulate ritonavir in amorphous state?

- Norvir® 100 mg tablet amorphous solid dispersion of ritonavir with copovidone (PVP –VA) (15% drug load)
- T_{q} of ritonavir 50°C^a indicative of inherent stability of amorphous ritonavir at room temperature
- Hancock^b classified ritonavir as molecule with low propensity for crystallization (MW -721 Da, 18 rotatable bonds)
- Indulkar et al^c Nucleation induction time (time taken to reduce initial supersaturation concentration by 2.5%) of ritonavir – 700 min in composite SIF and around 300 min in FaSSIF-V1

Hence, it is quite likely that ritonavir remains in amorphous state during its transit in gut

a Zhou D et al, J Pharm Sci, 2007;96(1):71-83, ^b Hancock J Pharm Sci 2017, 106(1):28-30, ^c Indulkar et al Pharm Res (2018) 35:158

Advanced Dissolution Absorption and Metabolism(ADAM) Model

Two Models for Handling Dissolution of Particles

Particle Population Balance (PPB) Model

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• The main idea is to track the number of particles per bin.

Particles

$$
\frac{dN_{i,j}(t)}{dt} = -\frac{\left[G_i(a_{j+1}, t)N_{i,j+1} - G_i(a_j, t)N_{i,j}\right]}{\Delta_j} + M = \begin{cases} -K_{t,1}N_{1,j} & i = 1\\ K_{t_{i-1}}N_{i-1,j} - K_{t_i}N_{i,j} & i = 2 \text{ to } 8 \end{cases}
$$

$$
\Delta_j = a_{j+1} - a_j
$$

$$
N_j = n_j \Delta_j
$$

$$
G(a,t) = \frac{da}{dt} = -\frac{D_{\text{eff}}}{\rho h} \frac{(a+h)(C_s - C_i)}{a}
$$

Different dissolution/growth function?

Main Functionalities - MBO vs PPB

Global Sensitivity Analysis - Introduced in Simcyp V19

• The Morris method was employed which is appropriate for initial screening of parameters influencing model outcomes

GSA Analysis of chosen parameters on (A) C_{max} (B) AUC (C) T_{max} and (D) Fraction Absorbed (Fa) of ritonavir systemic exposure following administration of 100 mg Norvir® Tablet in the fasted state.

Sequential Modeling of *In Vitro* **Biopharmaceutic Experiments**

Sequential Modeling of *In Vitro* **Biopharmaceutic Experiments**

Aqueous Solubility Modelling

Modeling of *In Vitro* **Solubility Experiments**

Monoprotic Acid $S_i(t) = S_o \cdot S_{o_{scalar}}(t) \cdot (10^{pH(t)-pKa})$ $S_i(t) = S_o \cdot S_{o_{scalar}}(t) \cdot \left(10^{pH(t)-pK a 1} + 10^{pH(t)-pK a 2} + 10^{2pH(t)-pK a 1-pK a 2}\right)$ **Diprotic Acid** $S_i(t) = S_o \cdot S_{o_{scalar}}(t) \cdot \left(10^{pH(t)-pKa1} + 10^{pKa2-pH(t)} + 10^{pKa2-pKa1}\right)$ Ampholytes where, for Ampholytes only, pKa1 is acidic and pKa2 is basic

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Aqueous Solubility Modelling

 $S_{Tot}(t) = S_o \cdot S_{o_{scalar}}(t) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{[BS](t)}{C_{H_2 0}} \cdot Km : w, u\right) + S_i(t) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{[BS](t)}{C_{H_2 0}} \cdot Km : w, i\right) + S_{bound, except}(t)$

Confirmed Intrinsic solubility, pKa & Solubility Factors

Free base amorphous solubility, pH 7.4 = 38.5 µg/mL (Xu et al 2017) Solubility in 0.1 N HCL = 4 mg/mL (Law 2001 JPharmSci 90:1015) Solubility Factor = 103.896 (Optimized with SIVA 3)

Biorelevant Solubility Modeling $S_{Tot}(t) =$

$$
= S_o \cdot S_{o_{scalar}}(t) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{[BS](t)}{C_{H_2 o}} \cdot Km : w, u\right) + S_i(t) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{[BS](t)}{C_{H_2 o}} \cdot Km : w, i\right) + S_{bound,excip}(t)
$$

Confirmed Bile Micelle Partition Coefficients

Modeling of *In Vitro* **Solubility Experiments**

Solubility values in aqueous and biorelevant media are nicely captured

USP-2 Dissolution Modelling

Confirmed Delayed Release and DLM Parameters

© Copyright 2020 Certara, L.P. **ADAM Model** and the served of the served of the served. The served of the served of the served. The served of the served of the served of the served. The served of the served of the served.

Mechanistic Dissolution Modelling: Diffusion Layer Models (DLM)

Assumption: Rate limiting step is diffusion across a hydrodynamic boundary layer surrounding the particles of effective thickness *heff*

Spherical surface - non-linear diffusion gradient*

General Form of the Dissolution Rate Equation

$$
DR(t) = \sum_{NBINS}^{i=1} -N_i \frac{D_{eff}(t)}{h_{eff,i}(t)} 4\pi a_i(t) (a_i(t) + h_{eff,i}(t)) (S_{surface}(t) - C_{bulk}(t))
$$

 a – particle radius; C_{bulk} – bulk lumen concentration; $S_{surface}$ – solubility at particle surface; D_{eff} – effective diffusion coefficient; DR – Dissolution rate; h_{eff} – effective diffusion layer thickness; N – number of particles in PS bin *i*; S_{DR} – dissolution DLM scalar; *t* - time

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Understanding release of drug from amorphous solid dispersion

The release of the drug from the amorphous solid dispersion can be either polymer controlled or drug controlled

Han et al. European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences Volume 136, 1 August 2019 Indulkar et al. Mol. Pharmaceutics 2019, 16, 1327−1339

Modeling *In Vitro* **Dissolution Experiments in Simulated Gastric Fluid (pH 1.2)**

- Ritonavir is a weak base showing high solubility in the acidic pH
- Particle size of the API in commercial batches used in *in vitro* or *in vivo* studies are rarely reported in literature

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Static - spiked solutions, media change, pH change solvent shift (two-phase)

Dynamic - continuous transfer experiments

+ more complex models such as TNO TIN-1

Empirical Supersaturation/Precipitation Model

Empirical Model

CSC – Critical Supersaturation Concentration CSR – Critical Supersaturation Ratio PRC – Precipitation Rate Constant (1/h) sPRC – Secondary Precipitation Rate Constant (1/h)

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Modeling *In Vitro* **Drug Supersaturation and Precipitation**

Ritonavir precipitates to its amorphous state and does not crystallize

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Modeling Permeability of Ritonavir in the PBPK Model – Mechanistic Permeability (MechPeff) Model

MechPeff model predicts regional Peff depending on different morphology in each gut segment

$$
P_{eff,n} = \left(\left(\frac{P_{Trans,0} \cdot f_{neutral, UBL, pH,n} + P_{para,n}\right) \cdot ACC_n \cdot WVE_n \cdot f_{UBL,n}\right)^{-1}}{\left(\frac{P_{UBL,n}}{P_{UBL,n}}\right)^{-1}}\right)^{-1} \cdot FEp,n
$$
\nMechanistic modelling of *in vitro* \n loinisation effects - pH of the UBL \n **expectation effects** linked to bile and/or excipient solubilisation \n

\n**Input Parame** \n In the present model, logP of Ritonavit was used to predict regional P_{Trans,0} \n **resultlar** \n

\nCompound type and pKa \n **INVE** – maximum villous surface area expansion \n **ACC** – additional surface area scalar \n **automatically calculated (Olive, Rowland et al 1998)**\n

\n $P_{trans,0}$ – predicted, calibrated from predicted Papp, MechP (SIVA 4) \n **Permitically calculated (Olive, Rowland et al 1998)** \n

\n $P_{trans,0}$ – practical error of the OBL \n

\n**Plu** \n

\n**Permitically calculated (Olive, Rowland et al 1998)** \n **REp** – pilica circulares surface area expansion \n **Permitically calculated (Olive, Rowland et al 1998)** \n

\n**Plu** \n

Why MechPeff ?

Two factors were postulated to explain the food effects – a. Effect of gastric pH on drug dissolution

Why gastric pH may not be the cause of observed negative food effect?

Time (h)

Mean (+ S.D., n = 5) dissolved drug content time profiles in the duodenum after oral intake of one tablet of Norvir® (100 mg ritonavir) under fasted state (bullets) and fasted + PPI conditions (squares).

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Abeele et al. Eur J Pharm Sci. 2020 May25; 151:105377

Why MechPeff ?

Mechanistic Permeability (MechPeff) Model in Simcyp takes into account effect of free fraction of drug available on drug permeation

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Xu et al, Mol. Pharmaceutics, 2017, 14 (11), pp 3801–3814

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- In most of our models, compartments are considered as well-mixed
- Viscosity of the medium affects the diffusion coefficient of the drug, thus influencing drug dissolution and diffusion
- Viscosity of GI lumen changes drastically depending upon the prandial state

Gastrointestinal compartment viscosity values used in Simcyp for fasted and fed state simulations (based on meta-analysis)

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Distribution and Metabolism Related Parameters

- Ritonavir exhibits complex pharmacokinetic profile
- It is mainly metabolized by CYP3A4/5 with minor metabolism from CYP2D6

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Interaction Related Parameters

- Ritonavir exhibits competitive and mechanism based inhibition of CYP3A4/5
- Ritonavir also is competitive inhibitor of CYP2D6 and Pgp
- Ritonavir is also an inducer CYP3A4/5

Initial Bottom Up Predictions – Ng et al 2008 Fasted State

Simulations were carried out using 10 trials of 27 individuals per the clinical study design reported by Ng et al. in fasted state

Absorption phase to 4 h was relatively well captured, giving confidence in the absorption-related parameters

Two plausible reason for over-prediction of the terminal elimination phase:

- a. Over-prediction of drug absorption in the colon
- *b. In vivo* clearance of the compound is not captured correctly by metabolic IVIVE (Please note intravenous data for this compound are not available in literature).

First Modification - Adjustment of Colon Absorption Scalar

- Norvir is an immediate release tablet, majority of absorption should take place in the small intestine
- Understanding of drug absorption in the colon is poor, binding to faeces etc.
- Colon absorption scalar was reduced to 0.1

- Predictions are slightly better, C_{max} and T_{max} are relatively well captured
- Terminal phase is still overpredicted, AUC >two-fold over prediction suggesting that clearance is not captured correctly

Second Modification – Parameter Estimation of Additional Hepatic Intrinsic Clearance

• Ritonavir is a strong mechanism-based inhibitor of CYP3A4

Simulated time dependent changes in hepatic (A) and gut (B) CYP3A4 abundance levels following administration of 100 mg QD oral administration of ritonavir for four days

- Maximal inhibition of hepatic (4.77% activity remaining) and gut (7.59% activity remaining) CYP3A4 abundance on day 1 could be observed following administration of 100 mg of ritonavir.
- The fact that we cannot capture clearance of ritonavir suggests that there is additional clearance mechanism *in vivo*, which takes over in clearing the ritonavir from the systemic circulation once hepatic CYP3A4 is inhibited by ritonavir.

Second Modification – Parameter Estimation of Additional Hepatic Intrinsic Clearance

A value of 75 µL/min/mg additional hepatic clearance was found to capture well the observed fasted state Ng et al 2008 data (Initially analyzed by Sensitivity Analysis)

Simulated Ritonavir Concentration Time Profile of Ng et al 2008 study with additional hepatic clearance and colon absorption scalar.

Time variant changes in percentage fraction metabolized (fm) and fraction excreted following oral administration of ritonavir (100 mg) in fasted state (A) without inclusion of additional intrinsic hepatic clearance and (B) with inclusion of additional intrinsic hepatic clearance.

Verification of the Model – Multiple Dose Studies

Greenblatt et al., 2009 Kasserra et al., 2010 Sim Mean Profile Sim Mean Profile 95th Percentile 1.6 \mathbf{N} Systemic Concentration (mg/L) **Systemic Concentration (mg/L) Systemic Concentration (mg/L)** Concentration (mg/L) **95th Percentile 5th Percentile 1.6 1.4 Obs Mean Profile 5th Percentile 1.4 1.2 Obs Mean Profile 1.2 1.0 1.0 0.8 0.8 0.6 0.6 0.4** Systemic **0.4 0.2 0.2 0.0 0.0 0 20 40 60 80 0 12 24 36 48 60 72 84 96 Time (h) Time (h)**

The fact that the model is able to recover multiple dose exposure following optimization of additional clearance from a single dose study also suggests that the model is able to capture the fraction metabolized by CYP3A4/5 relatively well.

Verification of the Model – Luminal Concentration Profiles

The model was able to capture both stomach and duodenal luminal profiles of ritonavir

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$$

Prediction of Negative Food Effects

Simulated and Observed pharmacokinetic parameters (arithmetic means ± S.D.) of ritonavir following administration of 100 mg Norvir® Tablet under fasted and high-fat fed state.

Ng *et al,* Journal of the International AIDS Society 2008, 11(Suppl 1):P247**CERTARA^O**

Two factors were found to explain the observed negative food effect for ritonavir Norvir tablet –

- A. Increased bile salt concentrations in fed state resulted in decrease in the free fraction of drug available as more drug is partitioned into bile salt micelles resulting in decreased Peff particularly in the duodenum and Jejunum I.
- B. Decrease in effective diffusion coefficient of the drug in the fed state owing to increase in luminal viscosity – effect of dissolution rate

5 models were evaluated across 32 studies resulting in 160 workspaces

- **Model 1** SV-Ritonavir 17 Simcyp File First Order File
- **Model 2** SV-Ritonavir 17 Simcyp File Two First Order File with modified fa for fasted and fed state and Competitive Ki inhibition parameters of CYP3A4/5
- **Model 3** ADAM Model with BD Sup ISEF Correction of V_{max} for CYP3A4/5
- **Model 4** First order file with Fa = 0.5 (ADAM calculated) with BD Sup ISEF Correction of V_{max} for CYP3A4/5
- **Model 5** ADAM Model with Competitive Ki inhibition parameters of CYP3A4/5

AAFE – Absolute Average Fold Error Model marked in green is the final model

Verification of systemic exposure of ritonavir following per oral administration of Norvir formulations

Norvir Capsule and Solution Formulation were simulated with 'Solution with Precipitation' Option

Reference	RTV Formulation	Simulation Option	Cmax (µg/mL)		$\overline{\mathsf{AUC}_{(0\text{-}t)/(0\text{-}\infty)}}$ (µg.h/mL)	
			Observed	Predicted	Observed	Predicted
Ng et al 2008	IR Tablet 100 mg	Immediate Release	0.6 ± 0.31	0.49 ± 0.30	4.6 ± 2.0	4.46 ± 3.27
Ng et al 2008	IR Tablet 100 mg	Immediate Release	0.44 ± 0.21	0.34 ± 0.25	3.5 ± 1.6	3.30 ± 2.86
NDA Application 20- 945 - Capsule	Soft Elastic Capsule 6x100mg	Solution	11.98 ± 3.33	10.99 ± 3.73	108.1 ± 33	96.56 ± 44.60
Liu 2007	Capsule 400 mg BID	Solution	10.7 ± 3.19	9.57 ± 3.51	68 ± 21	67.09 ± 31.57
Liu 2007	Capsule 100 mg BID	Solution with Precipitation	$\overline{1.41}$ ± 0.72	1.39 ± 0.63	7.81 ± 3.87	10.79 ± 5.86
Teng 2013	Soft Elastic Capsule 100 mg SD	Solution with Precipitation	0.51 ± 0.27	0.76 ± 0.42	4.29 ± 3.07	7.51 ± 4.85
Mathias 2009	Solution 100 mg SD	Solution with Precipitation	0.81 ± 0.27	0.88 ± 0.39	6.53 ± 1.76	7.70 ± 4.23
Mathias 2009	Solution 200 mg SD	Solution with Precipitation	2.46 ± 0.27	1.05 ± 0.5	16 ± 7	9.8 ± 5.53
Brennan 2013	IR 100mg SD	Immediate Release	0.69 ± 0.31	0.45 ± 0.29	4.55 ± 1.72	4.48 ± 3.61
Brennan 2015	IR 100mg SD	Immediate Release	0.44	0.45 ± 0.29	4.74	4.22 ± 3.54
Morris 2012	Capsule 100 mg SD	Solution with Precipitation	0.49 ± 0.39	0.59 ± 0.35	4.63 ± 2.89	5.98 ± 4.58
Morcosa 2014	IR 100 mg SD	Immediate Release	0.62	0.47 ± 0.31	4.74	4.13 ± 3.30
Aarnouste 2005	Capsule 100mg BID	Solution with Precipitation	0.89	1.38 ± 0.64	6.2	9.21
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Arora *et al, Manuscript in Preparation*

DDI Verification of Ritonavir file as perpetrator of CYP3A4/5 and CYP2D6 substrate

Model Performance Summary and Conclusions

- Mechanism-based modelling of *in vitro* biopharmaceutics experiments helped to build confidence in the quality of the key input parameters which improved the predictivity of the developed PBPK model.
- The present study highlights the importance of inclusion of formulation properties within PBPK framework which significantly improved the prediction ability of the developed model both for ritonavir systemic exposure as well as DDI risk assessment.

• The compound file is available in Simcyp V19

Predicted and Observed Cmax (A) and AUC (B) of systemic exposure of ritonavir reported for different formulations following oral administration. Predicted and Observed Cmax ratios (C) and AUC ratios (D) of CYP3A4 (Midazolam, Alprazolam) and CYP2D6 (Desipramine, Clarithromycin) substrates with and without ritonavir administration. All data expressed as mean (in case of systemic exposure parameters) and mean ratios (DDI liability) plotted in logarithmic x and y-axis. Black dash line represents the line of unity. Orange and Green Dashed lines represent two –fold prediction space. Solid blue and red lines represent the bioequivalence (0.8-1.25) limits.

- 1. Disintegration rate of the Norvir Tablet in the fasted state is assumed to be the same in the fed state due to lack of in vitro data.
- 2. Use of static viscosity model more research is needed in this area to parameterize and verify the dynamic viscosity model particularly timedependent viscosity changes following administration of food in the small intestine.
- 3. Further experimental exploration of additional metabolic pathways which could enable bottom up predictions of ritonavir clearance *in vivo.*

Team

Sumit Arora sumit.arora@certara.com

Amita Pansari [amita.pansari@certara.com](mailto:Amita.Pansari@certara.com)

Peter Kilford peter.kilford@certara.com

Iain Gardner

[iain.gardner@certara.com](mailto:Iain.Gardner@certara.com)

David B. Turner

david.turner@certara.com

Masoud Jamei [masoud.jamei@certara.com](mailto:Masoud.Jamei@certara.com)

Thank you for listening \odot

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