

Pharmacokinetic studies on Sulfamonomethoxine in rabbits

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ABSTRACT

The present study was performed to determine the pharmacokinetics of sulfamonomethoxine (20mg/kg) in 5 rabbits after its oral and intravenous administration. Blood samples were collected immediately before (time 0) and at 0.08, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 3, 5 and 8 hours post-dosing to evaluate the pharmacokinetics of sulfamonomethoxine. Plasma sulfamonomethoxine concentrations were quantified with HPLC-UV, and plasma drug concentration versus time data after IV was best fitted to the two-compartment model, characterized with the distribution phase (α) equaled to 2.05 h^{-1} with a distribution half-life [$t_{0.5(\alpha)}$] equaled to 0.61 h. The volume of distribution (V^1_c) was 0.15 ml/kg., whereas the volume of distribution at a steady – state [V_{dis}] was 0.20 ml/kg, and the body clearance was 0.03 ml/ kg / h. After oral administration of SMM, plasma drug concentrations were best fitted to a two-compartment model, of which the mean half-life of absorption ($t_{1/2_{ab}}$) and elimination ($t_{1/2_{\beta}}$) were 0.02 and 1.99 h, respectively. The maximal absorption concentration (C_{max}) was estimated as 114.06 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ at 0.12 h, and the Area under the curve (AUC) was 340.42 $\mu\text{g/ml/h}$.

Keywords: rabbits; sulfamonomethoxine

1. INTRODUCTION

Rabbit production has already attained commercial status in many parts of the world as a source of protein. The users prefer rabbits for their low cholesterol and fat contents. Therefore, rabbit manufacture became one of the important animal resources in Egypt. In addition to this commercial value, these animals are used as very important models for medical research (Okerman, 1994).

Sulfonamides widely used antibacterial agents in the world, chiefly because of their low cost, low toxicity, and excellent activity against common bacterial diseases. Sulfonamides with the antimicrobial activity represent a large group of drugs which can be classified in different groups, according to the duration of action and half-life; absorbable oral sulfonamides can be further divided into Short-acting, Intermediate-acting, and Long-acting sulfonamides. Oral sulfonamides which cannot be absorbed fulfill their role in the gastrointestinal tract, while topical sulfonamides amides can be used in the treatment of skin and mucous membrane infections and burns. (Tačić et al., 2017)

Nowadays, sulfonamides are active against both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. Sulfonamides are most frequently used in treatment of urinary tract infections caused by susceptible strains of bacteria. However, recurrent urinary

tract infections are usually caused by pathogens resistant to sulfonamides (Ronald, 2003).

Sulfamonomethoxine (6-sulfanilamide-4-methoxypyrimidine), a sulfanilamide with long-lasting action in a series of cases exceeds sulfadimethoxine and sulfapyridazine in therapeutic activity. Sulfamonomethoxine, normally administered via food, is widely used for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes for food-producing animal diseases, due to its wide spectrum of antibacterial activity and economic advantage gained from its application. It was relatively rapidly resorbed from the gastrointestinal system and circulated in the blood for a long time. (Connor, 1998)

The pharmacokinetics of Sulfamonomethoxine is necessary: it is essential to know the dependence of plasma drug concentration/ biotransformation on the time elapsed since administration. So, the present study aimed to determine the pharmacokinetic of sulfamonomethoxine in plasma after oral and intravenous injection to rabbits.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Drugs

Sulfamonomethoxine (**Daimeton®**) was obtained as a sodium salt powder from Daiichi Pharmaceutical Company

(Tokyo, Japan). Sodium Acetate Trihydrate, Acetonitrile (CH₃CN), Perchloric acid (HClO₄) 60%, Methanol and glacial Acetic Acid (CH₃COOH) were obtained from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Osaka, Japan). Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) was purchased from Dojindo Molecular Technologies, CO. Japan) in the form

2.2. Experimental Animals:

Five rabbits were maintained in accordance with the recommendations of the 'Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals' approved by the Faculty of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. They were clinically healthy and weighing 2.5~3.5 kg. These rabbits were housed in cages at ambient temperature and with good ventilation. Animals were fed pellets twice a day with water ad libitum.

2.3. Experimental Design for drugs:

The experiment was conducted on five rabbits. The drug was dissolved in sterilized distilled water and administered either into the left ear vein or orally by stomach tube to rabbits at dose of 20 mg/kg for each route using a crossover design with at least a 3-week washout period.

2.4. Preparation of stock solutions and standards (calibration curve) for plasma

Standard stock solution of SMM (1 mg/mL) was prepared by dissolving about 10 mg of powder and added distilled water until 10 ml in volumetric flask also, SMM calibration standards were prepared at 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 0.8, 1.5, 3.5, 6.5, 12.5 and 25 µg/ml using blank rabbit plasma as a diluent.

2.5. Preparation of Mobile Phase for SMM:

The mobile phase for plasma was a mixture of 50 mM acetate buffer (pH is 5) and acetonitrile (80:20 v/v) and acetate buffer was prepared by dissolving about 6.08 gm. of sodium acetate trihydrate crystal powder and added distilled water until 1 liter and adjust PH to 5 by adding acetic acid (Elbadawy et al., 2015).

2.6. Blood sample:

Blood samples (1 ml for each sample) were collected from the right ear vein immediately prior to the treatment and at 0.08, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 3, 5 and 8 h post dosing. The samples were placed in tubes containing EDTA and centrifuged at 2,000 g for 10 min and the plasma samples were stored at -20°C until analysis.

2.7. Sample preparation for HPLC:

One hundred microliters of perchloric acid (HClO₄) were added to 100 µl of the plasma sample. The mixture was vortex for 30s and then centrifuged at 20,000 g for 5 min at 5°C. The obtained supernatant was filtered using the 0.45-µm HPLC

filter. Fifty microliters of the filtrate were injected into the HPLC column.

2.8. The condition of liquid chromatography:

Sulfamonomethoxine concentrations were determined in the plasma by the previously described HPLC method with UV-detection (Elbadawy et al., 2015). Analytical separation for SMM was accomplished using a reversed-phase C₈ column (Mightysil RP-8 GP[®], 4.6 µm×250 mm, Kanto Chemical Co., Tokyo, Japan). The flow rate was 1 ml/min and the wavelength of the detector was 270 nm for both drugs. The recovery from plasma samples in SMM was 101.7 ± 4.34% at 1 µg/ml (n = 5).

2.9. Pharmacokinetic analysis:

The plasma concentration-time curves of SMM after the intravenous injection fit well with the two-compartment model, while after oral administration fit well with the one compartment model. Therefore, the curves obtained after the intravenous injection (Cp_{iv} (T)) and those after the oral administration (Cp_{po} (T)) were described by Eq. 1 and 2, respectively. Cp_{iv} (T) = A*EXP (-ALPHA*T) + B*EXP (-BETA*T) Cp_{po} (T) = D*K01/V/ (K01-K10)*(EXP (-K10*T)- EXP(-K01*T))

2.10. Statistical Analysis:

Data were subjected to statistical analysis using Mean ± SE.

3. RESULTS

3.1. A standard curve of Sulfamonomethoxine:

Sulfamonomethoxine standard concentrations of 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 0.8, 1.5, 3.5, 6.5, 12.5 and 25 µg/ml and their corresponding peak response (Area under curve) were illustrated in **Table (1)** and shown in **Figure (1)**. Linearity existed within range of 0.1 and 25 µg/ml with a correlation coefficient (r²=0.999).

Table 1. Concentrations of sulfamonomethoxine standard (µg/ml) and their corresponding response (area under the curve).

Area under curve (mAu*min)	Concentration (µg/ml)
0.1	17265
0.2	32804
0.5	62327
0.8	118421
1.5	225000
3.5	427500
6.5	812250
12.5	1543275
25	2932223

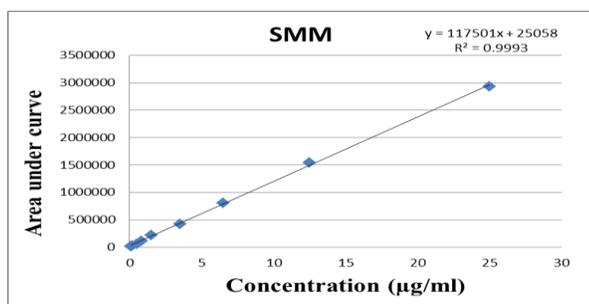


Figure 1. Standard curve of Sulfamonomethoxine in rabbit plasma

B.2. Pharmacokinetic studies of sulfamonomethoxine after a single IV injection

The mean plasma concentrations of sulfamonomethoxine following a single IV injection at dose of 20mg/kg in rabbits were recorded in Table (2) and in Figure (2).

The recorded results showed that the plasma concentration of Sulfamonomethoxine was 123.96 ± 1.71 at 0.08 h post injection then decreased gradually till reach 9.02 ± 0.78 at 8 h post administration.

The pharmacokinetic parameters of Sulfamonomethoxine after IV administration were recorded in Table (3). The distribution phase (α) equaled to $2.27 \pm 0.41 \text{ h}^{-1}$ with a distribution half-life [$t_{0.5(\alpha)}$] equaled to $0.33 \pm 0.05 \text{ h}$. The volume of distribution of Sulfamonomethoxine to the central compartment (V_c^1) was $0.15 \pm 0.003 \text{ ml/kg}$, whereas the volume of distribution at a steady-state [V_{dss}] was $0.18 \pm 0.002 \text{ ml/kg}$.

Sulfamonomethoxine was transferred from central to peripheral compartment (K_{12}) at $0.44 \pm 0.11 \text{ h}^{-1}$ while its passage from the peripheral to the central compartment (K_{21}) equal to $1.80 \pm 0.27 \text{ h}^{-1}$. Sulfamonomethoxine was eliminated after intravenous injection with half-life [$t_{0.5(\beta)}$] value of $2.54 \pm 0.15 \text{ h}$ and cleared from the body (CL) at a rate of $0.05 \pm 0.003 \text{ ml/kg/h}$. The peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) was $132.72 \pm 2.82 \text{ µg/ml}$.

The area under curve (AUC) was $376.60 \pm 17.75 \text{ µg/ml/h}$, the area under first moment curve (AUMC) was $1303.07 \pm 113.30 \text{ µg/ml/h}^2$ and the mean residence time (MRT) was $3.43 \pm 0.16 \text{ h}$.

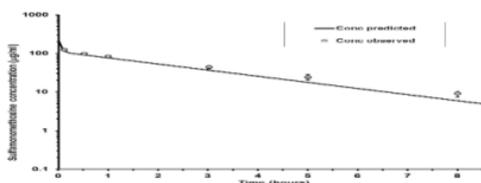


Figure 2. plasma concentration-time profile of Sulfamonomethoxine following a single IV injection of 20mg/kg in rabbits. (Mean \pm S.E). (n=5).

Table 3. Pharmacokinetic parameters of Sulfamonomethoxine (µg/ml) following a single IV injection (20mg/kg) in rabbits. (Mean \pm S.E). (n=5).

Parameter	Unit	Rabbit (1)	Rabbit (2)	Rabbit (3)	Rabbit (4)	Rabbit (5)	Mean \pm S.E.
AUC	µg/ml/h	391.5	401.3	399.50	384.0	306.65	376.60 ± 17.75
K10-HL	h	2.163	2.13	2.12	1.97	1.49	1.98 ± 0.13
Alpha-HL	h	0.43	0.31	0.31	0.43	0.18	0.33 ± 0.05
Beta-HL	h	2.928	2.65	2.64	2.48	2.03	2.54 ± 0.15
K10	h^{-1}	0.32	0.33	0.33	0.35	0.46	0.36 ± 0.03
K12	h^{-1}	0.343	0.37	0.37	0.26	0.88	0.44 ± 0.11
K21	h^{-1}	1.357	1.78	1.78	1.30	2.80	1.80 ± 0.27
Volume	ml/kg	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.15 ± 0.003
C_{max}	µg/ml	125.4	130.6	130.39	134.8	142.32	132.72 ± 2.82
CL	ml/kg/h	0.051	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.05 ± 0.003
AUMC	µg/ml/h^2	1367.683	1488.71	1475.92	1313.68	869.37	1303.07 ± 113.30
MRT	h	3.493	3.71	3.69	3.42	2.84	3.43 ± 0.16
V_{ss}	ml/kg	0.178	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.18 ± 0.002
A	µg/ml	34.15	29.03	28.78	33.22	41.36	33.31 ± 2.28
B	µg/ml		91.28	101.6	101.6	100.	99.41 ± 2.04
Alpha	h^{-1}		1.484	2.21	2.21	3.80	2.27 ± 0.41
Beta	h^{-1}		0.237	0.26	0.26	0.34	0.28 ± 0.02

A.3. Pharmacokinetic studies of sulfamonomethoxine after a single oral dose administration:

The mean plasma concentrations of sulfamonomethoxine following a single (PO) administration of 20mg/kg in rabbits were recorded in Table (4) and in Figure (3).

The recorded results revealed that the plasma concentration of sulfamonomethoxine was 120.67 ± 1.75 at 0.08 h post injection then decreased gradually till reach 9.95 ± 0.81 at 8 h post administration.

The pharmacokinetic parameters of sulfamonomethoxine after PO administration were recorded in Table (5). The obtained results showed that the absorption rate constant (K_{ab}) was $56.04 \pm 13.90 \text{ h}^{-1}$, while absorption half-life [$t_{0.5(ab)}$] was $(0.02 \pm 0.006 \text{ h})$.

Table 2. Plasma concentrations of Sulfamonomethoxine ($\mu\text{g/ml}$) following a single IV injection (20mg/kg) in rabbits. (Mean \pm S.E) (n=5).

Rabbits	Plasma concentration ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)					Mean $\bar{X} \pm$ S.E.
	Rabbit (1)	Rabbit (2)	Rabbit (3)	Rabbit (4)	Rabbit (5)	
Time post dosing (h)						
0.08 (5min)	118.02	123.70	123.57	128.19	126.30	123.96 ± 1.71
0.5 (30min)	105.78	95.99	95.86	101.63	87.76	97.41 ± 2.14
1	87.60	85.46	85.33	85.12	75.423	83.79 ± 3.05
3	42.02	47.57	47.44	47.19	36.18	44.08 ± 2.23
5	25.80	27.10	26.96	23.19	17.64	24.14 ± 1.77
8	10.57	9.91	9.79	8.74	6.12	9.02 ± 0.78

Sulfamonomethoxine was eliminated at a rate (K_{el}) equal to $0.35 \pm 0.02 \text{ h}^{-1}$, with elimination half-life ($[t_{0.5el}]$) of $1.99 \pm 0.10 \text{ h}$ and the volume of distribution (V/F) was $0.17 \pm 0.003 \text{ ml/kg}$. Sulfamonomethoxine was cleared from the the body at a rate of $0.06 \pm 0.003 \text{ ml/kg/h}$. The peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) was $114.06 \pm 1.17 \mu\text{g/ml}$ and obtained at (T_{max}) of $0.12 \pm 0.03 \text{ h}$ post injection. (AUC) was $340.42 \pm 14.54 \mu\text{g/ml/h}$.

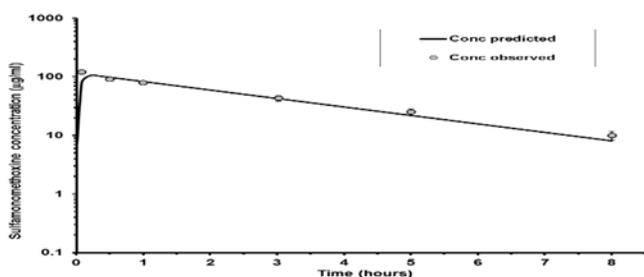


Figure 3. Plasma concentration-time profile of sulfamonomethoxine following a single PO administration of 20mg/kg in rabbits. (Mean \pm S.E). (n=5)

Table 4. Plasma concentration of sulfamonomethoxine ($\mu\text{g/ml}$) following a single PO administration (20mg/kg) in rabbits. (Mean \pm S.E). (n=5)

Rabbits	Plasma concentration ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)					Mean $\bar{X} \pm$ S.E.
	Rabbit (1)	Rabbit (2)	Rabbit (3)	Rabbit (4)	Rabbit (5)	
Time after dosing (h)						
0.08(5min)	114.31	122.69	119.66	122.50	124.18	120.67 ± 1.75
0.5(30min)	92.27	83.13	99.58	89.90	89.83	90.94 ± 2.64
1	80.10	75.56	88.98	76.68	74.860	79.41 ± 2.62
3	45.34	49.82	43.66	38.42	38.171	43.08 ± 2.20
5	24.53	26.70	27.29	27.86	19.811	25.24 ± 1.47
8	9.96	10.32	11.29	11.29	6.884	9.95 ± 0.81

Table 5. Pharmacokinetic parameters of sulfamonomethoxine ($\mu\text{g/ml}$) following a single PO administration (20mg/kg) in rabbits. (Mean \pm S.E). (n=5).

Parameter	Unit	Rabbit (1)	Rabbit (2)	Rabbit (3)	Rabbit (4)	Rabbit (5)	Mean \pm S.E.
AUC	$\mu\text{g/ml/h}$	361.79	333.10	380.95	330.27	296.01	340.42 ± 14.54
$t_{0.5(ab)}$	h	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02 ± 0.006
$t_{0.5el}$	h	2.23	1.84	2.20	1.96	1.71	1.99 ± 0.10
CL/F	ml/kg/h	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.06 ± 0.003
T_{max}	h	0.06	0.23	0.07	0.10	0.12	0.12 ± 0.03
C_{max}	$\mu\text{g/ml}$	110.56	114.86	117.63	112.79	114.47	114.06 ± 1.17
Volume/F	ml/kg	0.18	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17 ± 0.003
K_{ab}	h^{-1}	92.17	16.53	82.15	50.11	39.24	56.04 ± 13.90
K_{el}	h^{-1}	0.31	0.38	0.32	0.35	0.41	0.35 ± 0.02

4. DISCUSSION

Sulfamonomethoxine (6-sulfanilamide-4-methoxypyrimidine), a sulfanilamide with long-lasting action in a series of cases exceeds sulfadimethoxine and sulfapyridazine in therapeutic activity. Sulfamonomethoxine, normally administered via food, is widely used for therapeutic or

prophylactic proposes for food-producing animal diseases, due to its wide spectrum of antibacterial activity and economic advantage gained from its application. It was relatively rapidly resorbed from the gastrointestinal system and circulated in the blood for a long time. (Connor, 1998)

Pharmacokinetic studies of sulfamonomethoxine after a single IV injection:

In the present study, plasma concentrations of SMM in rabbits after i.v. administration (20mg/kg) were best described by two compartment model. The elimination half-life ($t_{0.5(\beta)}$) was estimated to be (2.54 h), which was similar to the $t_{0.5(\beta)}$ of 2.5h in rabbits after IV injection of 50mg/kg reported by Bobrov et al. (1978). While Elbadawy et al. (2015) reported a shorter half-life (1h) in goat after IV administration of 10mg/kg. In contrast, Ryuji (1988) reported longer value (86.6 h) in Eel, horse (3.6h) Card et al. (1993), pig (3.11h) (Shimoda et al., 1983), tongue sole (80.4h) (Chang et al., 2014) and rainbow trout (30.9 h) or yellowtail (5.8 h) (Uno et al., 1997).

The obtained data showed that the AUC of SMM following a single IV injection of SMM (20mg/kg) in healthy rabbits was 376.60 μ g/ml/h, which higher than the data reported by Kokue et al. (1988), Shimoda et al. (1983) and Tsuboi et al. (1984) (131,81.5 and 186.2 μ g/ml/h) in pig, goat (49.9 μ g/ml/h) (Elbadawy et al., 2015) and horse (0.27 μ g/ml/h) (Card et al., 1993), while this data was lower than data reported in tongue sole by Chang et al. (2014) (1930*10³ μ g/ml/h) and Eel (59.1 μ g/ml/h) (Ryuji, 1988)

The present study showed that the total body clearance (CL) of SMM in rabbits (0.05 ml/kg/h) was higher than that in horse (0.02) (Card et al., 1993). In contrast, the (CL) of SMM in this study was lower than that reported in Eel by Ryuji (1988) (3.38 ml/kg/h), tongue sole (30 ml/kg/h) (Chang et al., 2014), goat (212 ml/kg/h) (Elbadawy et al., 2015) and rabbits (Bobrov et al., 1978) (0.06 ml/kg/h). These variations could be attributed to the use of a different rabbit breed and/or a different assay method. Toutain and Bousquet (2004a) reported that the pharmacokinetic profile of drugs may be substantially different between breeds of the same species.

In current study, the volume of distribution of SMM in healthy rabbits following IV injection was 0.15 \pm 0.003 ml/kg, which was lower than that obtained in tongue sole by Chang et al. (2014) (100 ml/kg), Eel (140 ml/kg) (Ryuji, 1988) and horse (390 ml/kg) (Card et al., 1993), while Bobrov et al. (1978) investigated a higher value (0.23) in rabbits after IV injection of 10mg/kg. These variations could be attributed to the use of a different rabbit breed and/or a different assay method. Differences in kinetic parameters are relatively common and are frequently related to interspecies variation, age, breed, and assay used (Toutain and Bousquet, 2004b).

Pharmacokinetic studies of sulfamonomethoxine after a single oral dose administration:

In the present study, plasma concentrations of SMM in rabbits after oral administration (20mg/kg) were best described by one compartment model. Sulfamonomethoxine was rapidly absorbed (T_{max} = 0.12h) in healthy rabbits after PO administration which was lower than that in pig (1.55h) (Kokue et al., 1988), horse (1.58h) (Card et al., 1993), broiler (4.39h) (Li et al., 1995), goat (5.6h) (Elbadawy et al., 2015) and tongue sole (2.5h) (Chang et al., 2014).

In current study the peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) in rabbits following PO administration was 114.06 μ g/ml, which was higher than that recorded by Elbadawy et al., (2015) (2.15), pig (6.68 μ g/ml) (Kokue et al., 1988) and horse (32.3 μ g/ml) (Card et al., 1993). However, the smaller C_{max} value at 206.7 μ g/ml has been reported in broiler (Li et al., 1995) and tongue sole (58000 μ g/ml) (Chang et al., 2014).

A shorter elimination half-life of SMM was observed in rabbits ($t_{0.5el}$ 1.99 h) than that in pig (5.9h) (Kokue et al., 1988), horse (4.3h) (Card et al., 1993), tongue sole (95.7h) (Chang et al., 2014) and Eel (139h) (Ryuji, 1988). The area under the concentration-time curve represents the extent of drug absorption. In the present study, PO administration of SMM (20mg/kg) to healthy rabbits showed an AUC of 340.42 μ g/ml/h, which was higher values than data reported by Kokue et al., (1988), Card et al., (1993) and Elbadawy et al., (2015) (137,0.26 and 37.5 μ g/ml/h) in pig and horse. In contrast, the AUC of SMM in present study was lower than data reported in broiler by Li et al., (1995) (3818 μ g/ml/h), tongue sole (3815*10³ μ g/ml/h) (Chang et al., 2014) and Eel (28400 μ g/ml/h) (Ryuji, 1988).

The obtained data showed that the volume of distribution of SMM in healthy rabbits following PO administration was 0.17 \pm 0.003 ml/kg, which was lower than that obtained in horse by Card et al., (1993) (460 ml/kg). The total body clearance (CL) of SMM in rabbits (0.06 \pm 0.003 ml/kg/h) was higher than that in horse (0.02) (Card et al., 1993).

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