

# Activity of Ceftazidime-Avibactam Tested Against Contemporary Pathogens from Hospitalized Pneumonia Patients in the USA (2012)

RK FLAMM, HS SADER, RN JONES  
JMI Laboratories, North Liberty, Iowa, USA

Robert Flamm, PhD  
JMI Laboratories  
North Liberty, IA, USA  
www.jmilabs.com  
ph. 319.665.3370  
fax 319.665.3371  
robert-flamm@jmilabs.com

## Abstract

**Background:** The investigational  $\beta$ -lactam- $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor combination, ceftazidime-avibactam (CAZ-AVI), is in Phase III development including studies in complicated intraabdominal and urinary tract infections. The results of *in vitro* testing of CAZ-AVI and comparators against a contemporary collection of pathogens from patients hospitalized with pneumonia in the USA are reported here.

**Methods:** Unique clinical isolates (one per patient) were collected from hospitalized patients with pneumonia in 163 USA medical centers. Isolates were processed at the medical centers and forwarded to a central laboratory (JMI Laboratories, North Liberty, IA, USA) for confirmatory identification and susceptibility (S) testing using CLSI methods.

**Results:** CAZ-AVI activity against staphylococci, enterococci, and streptococci was similar to that of CAZ. CAZ-AVI was potent against the Enterobacteriaceae (ENT) with MIC<sub>50/90</sub> values at 0.12/0.25  $\mu$ g/mL. For ENT, S was highest for meropenem (MER, 97.4%), while 17.1% were resistant (R) to levofloxacin (LEV). 17.5% of *E. coli* and 19.3% of *Klebsiella* spp. were ESBL-phenotype positive. LEV-R in *Klebsiella* spp. was at 12.9 and 62.6% (ESBL-phenotype), respectively. One *E. coli* isolate from New York and 40 *K. pneumoniae* isolates from various states were refractory to MER (MER-non-S, MIC  $\geq$  2  $\mu$ g/mL). The CAZ-AVI MIC<sub>50</sub> values for ESBL-phenotype *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. were 0.25 and 1  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively. CAZ-AVI also demonstrated potent activity against *P. aeruginosa* with 95.8% of isolates inhibited at an MIC of  $\leq$  8  $\mu$ g/mL compared to 79.5% for CAZ tested alone. Further, 79.6% of CAZ-non-S *P. aeruginosa* and 85.0% of MER-non-S were inhibited by CAZ-AVI at  $\leq$  8  $\mu$ g/mL.

**Conclusions:** CAZ-AVI demonstrated potent activity against contemporary (2012) Gram-negative pathogens from USA patients hospitalized with pneumonia. The spectrum and potency shown by CAZ-AVI indicates that further study in pneumonia patients appears warranted.

Organism (no. tested)	CAZ-AVI <sup>a</sup>			Ceftazidime <sup>a</sup>			Meropenem <sup>a</sup>		
	MIC <sub>50</sub>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	% at $\leq$ 4 <sup>b</sup>	MIC <sub>50</sub>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	%S	MIC <sub>50</sub>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	%S
Enterobacteriaceae (1,738)	0.12	0.25	99.4	0.25	32	85.5	$\leq$ 0.06	$\leq$ 0.06	97.4
<i>E. coli</i> (355)	0.12	0.25	100.0	0.25	16	88.2	$\leq$ 0.06	$\leq$ 0.06	99.7
<i>ESBL-positive</i> (62)	0.12	0.25	100.0	16	>32	32.3	$\leq$ 0.06	$\leq$ 0.06	98.4
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp. (596)	0.12	0.5	99.7	0.12	>32	84.1	$\leq$ 0.06	$\leq$ 0.06	93.3
<i>ESBL-positive</i> (115)	0.25	1	98.3	>32	>32	17.4	$\leq$ 0.06	>8	65.2
Enterobacter cloacae (244)	0.12	0.5	100.0	0.25	>32	75.8	$\leq$ 0.06	$\leq$ 0.06	100.0
CAZ-non-S <i>E. cloacae</i> (59)	0.5	1	100.0	>32	>32	0.0	$\leq$ 0.06	0.12	100.0
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> (881)	2	8	95.8	2	32	79.5	0.5	8	78.8
CAZ-non-S <i>P. aeruginosa</i> (181)	4	16	79.6	32	>32	0.0	4	>8	44.8
MER-non-S <i>P. aeruginosa</i> (187)	4	16	85.0	16	>32	46.5	8	>8	0.0

a. MIC in  $\mu$ g/mL; b. % at  $\leq$  8  $\mu$ g/mL for *P. aeruginosa*

## Introduction

Emerging drug resistance in Gram-negative bacteria is limiting the use of current therapies and leading to increased morbidity and mortality in a variety of disease states. In patients hospitalized with bacterial pneumonia, infections may be caused by resistant Gram-negative bacteria including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella* species, *Escherichia coli*, *Acinetobacter* species, and *Enterobacter* species. Other Gram-negative pathogens that occur less frequently include other Enterobacteriaceae (not mentioned above) and *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*. *Staphylococcus aureus* and community-acquired pathogens, such as *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Haemophilus influenzae*, may also occur.

Ceftazidime-avibactam is an experimental combination antimicrobial containing the novel non- $\beta$ -lactam  $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor avibactam and the cephalosporin ceftazidime. Avibactam has been shown to have high affinity for  $\beta$ -lactamases including Class A, C and some Class D enzymes. When in combination with ceftazidime, avibactam protects ceftazidime from hydrolysis by the listed  $\beta$ -lactamases. Currently, ceftazidime-avibactam is undergoing evaluation in Phase III clinical trials for complicated urinary tract, intraabdominal, and nosocomial pneumonia infections.

In this study, isolates were collected from patients hospitalized with pneumonia in the USA during 2012. Ceftazidime-avibactam and comparator agents were evaluated for their *in vitro* antimicrobial activity against the contemporary collection of bacterial isolates. The results of that study are presented herein.

## Methods

**Bacterial Strains.** Unique clinical isolates (one per patient) were collected from patients hospitalized with pneumonia in 163 USA medical centers in the USA during 2012. Isolates were processed at the medical centers and forwarded to a central laboratory (JMI Laboratories, North Liberty, Iowa, USA) for confirmatory identification and susceptibility testing following Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) methods.

**Susceptibility Test Methods.** Susceptibility testing was performed in validated dry-form broth microdilution trays (ThermoFisher Scientific, formerly TREK Diagnostics [Cleveland, Ohio, USA]) following CLSI methods (M07-A9; 2012). Interpretive criteria applied were those of CLSI (M100-S23; 2013). USA-FDA criteria were used for tigecycline as an alternative breakpoint source, as CLSI breakpoints were not available. Quality control (QC) strains were tested concurrently and all values were within established CLSI ranges (M100-S23). Six QC strains were tested: *S. aureus* ATCC 29213; *Enterococcus faecalis* ATCC 29212; *S. pneumoniae* ATCC 49619; *E. coli* ATCC 25922; *Klebsiella pneumoniae* ATCC 700603 and *H. influenzae* ATCC 49247. ESBL screen-positive phenotype for *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* spp., *K. pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca* and *Proteus mirabilis* was defined as a MIC at  $\geq$  2  $\mu$ g/mL for ceftroxone or ceftazidime or aztreonam [CLSI, 2013]. *H. influenzae*  $\beta$ -lactamase detection was performed using Remel Nitrocefim Disk (Remel, Lenexa, Kansas, USA).

## Results

Selected Gram-negative bacteria:

- Enterobacteriaceae.** The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> for ceftazidime-avibactam for 1,738 isolates were 0.12 and 0.25  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). A total of 99.0% and 99.4% of isolates were at  $\leq$  1 and  $\leq$  4  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively, for ceftazidime-avibactam (Table 1). For ceftazidime, the MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> values were 0.25 and 32  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2); 83.0% and 85.5% of isolates were at  $\leq$  1 and  $\leq$  4  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Table 1). Only 80.1% of isolates were susceptible to levofloxacin and 63.9% were susceptible to tetracycline (Table 2). The highest degree of susceptibility observed was for meropenem (97.4%) and tigecycline (98.7%; Table 2).
- E. coli.** The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> of ceftazidime-avibactam for 355 isolates were 0.12 and 0.25  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). All MIC values were  $\leq$  1  $\mu$ g/mL for ceftazidime-avibactam. The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> of ceftazidime were 0.25 and 16  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). There was one meropenem-non-susceptible isolate from New York with a KPC-phenotype; its ceftazidime-avibactam MIC was 0.25  $\mu$ g/mL.
- K. pneumoniae.** The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> of ceftazidime-avibactam for 479 isolates were 0.12 and 0.5  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). A total of 98.7% and 99.6% of isolates were at  $\leq$  1 and  $\leq$  4  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively, for ceftazidime-avibactam (Table 1). For ceftazidime, the MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> values were 0.12 and  $>$ 32  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). 79.5% and 81.0% of isolates MIC values were at  $\leq$  1 and  $\leq$  4  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Table 1). A high degree of susceptibility was observed for meropenem (91.6%) and tigecycline (99.6%; Table 2). 19.3% of *Klebsiella* spp. and 20.5% of *K. pneumoniae* exhibited an ESBL-phenotype (Tables 1 and 2). The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> for ceftazidime-avibactam for ESBL-phenotype *K. pneumoniae* were 0.5 and 1  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). There were 40 meropenem-non-susceptible *K. pneumoniae* encountered in various states which were likely KPC-producing organisms.
- Enterobacter spp.** There were 244 *E. cloacae* which exhibited a MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> for ceftazidime-avibactam of 0.12 and 0.5  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> of ceftazidime were 0.25 and  $>$ 32  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). For *E. aerogenes* (n=121), the MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> of ceftazidime-avibactam were 0.12 and 0.25  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Table 1).

- Serratia marcescens.** The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> for ceftazidime-avibactam and ceftazidime for 200 isolates were both at 0.12 and 0.5  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). A total of 98.5% and 99.0% of isolates MIC values for ceftazidime-avibactam were at  $\leq$  1 and  $\leq$  4  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Table 1).
- P. mirabilis.** The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> for ceftazidime-avibactam for 96 isolates was at 0.03 and 0.06  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). The highest MIC value for ceftazidime-avibactam was only 0.25  $\mu$ g/mL (Tables 1 and 2).
- P. aeruginosa.** The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> for ceftazidime-avibactam for 881 isolates was 2 and 8  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). For ceftazidime, the MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> values were 2 and 32  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). A total of 89.4% and 95.8% of MIC values for ceftazidime-avibactam were at  $\leq$  4 and  $\leq$  8  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Table 1). 79.6% of ceftazidime-non-susceptible isolates exhibited a ceftazidime-avibactam MIC value at  $\leq$  8  $\mu$ g/mL, and 85.0% of meropenem-non-susceptible isolates exhibited a ceftazidime-avibactam MIC value at  $\leq$  8  $\mu$ g/mL (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of ceftazidime-avibactam (CAZ-AVI) and ceftazidime activity tested against select organisms and resistant subsets of isolates from patients with hospitalized pneumonia in the USA (2012)

Organism/resistant subset	Antimicrobial	No. of Isolates	No. of isolates (cumulative %) inhibited at MIC ( $\mu$ g/mL) of:											MIC <sub>50</sub>	MIC <sub>90</sub>		
			$\leq$ 0.015	0.03	0.06	0.12	0.25	0.5	1	2	4	8	16			32	$>$ 32
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	CAZ-AVI	1652	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7 (0.4)	58 (3.9)	719 (47.5)	141 (56.0)	209 (68.6)	518 (100.0)	16	>32
	Ceftazidime	1652	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3 (0.2)	46 (3.0)	719 (46.5)	156 (55.9)	208 (68.5)	520 (100.0)	16	>32
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	CAZ-AVI	878	2 (0.2)	3 (0.6)	10 (1.7)	213 (26.0)	183 (46.8)	67 (54.4)	78 (63.3)	35 (67.3)	41 (72.0)	129 (86.7)	83 (96.1)	28 (99.3)	6 (100.0)	0.5	16
	Ceftazidime	878	2 (0.2)	3 (0.6)	10 (1.7)	213 (26.0)	183 (46.8)	67 (54.4)	78 (63.3)	35 (67.3)	41 (72.0)	129 (86.7)	83 (96.1)	28 (99.3)	6 (100.0)	0.5	16
$\beta$ -haemolytic streptococci	CAZ-AVI	73	--	--	2 (2.7)	24 (35.6)	3 (39.7)	41 (95.9)	1 (97.3)	1 (98.6)	1 (100.0)	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.5
	Ceftazidime	73	--	--	3 (4.1)	23 (35.6)	1 (37.0)	43 (95.9)	1 (97.3)	1 (98.6)	1 (100.0)	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.5
Enterobacteriaceae	CAZ-AVI	1738	29 (1.7)	125 (8.9)	460 (35.3)	682 (74.6)	280 (90.7)	100 (96.4)	44 (99.0)	6 (99.3)	1 (99.4)	6 (99.7)	3 (99.9)	2 (100.0)	0.12	0.25	
	Ceftazidime	1738	1 (0.1)	47 (2.8)	241 (16.6)	514 (46.2)	409 (69.7)	185 (90.4)	45 (83.0)	27 (84.5)	17 (85.5)	24 (86.9)	33 (88.8)	56 (92.0)	139 (100.0)	0.25	32
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	CAZ-AVI	355	16 (4.5)	19 (9.3)	131 (46.8)	147 (88.2)	37 (98.6)	3 (99.4)	2 (100.0)	9 (98.5)	6 (88.2)	7 (91.5)	17 (96.3)	13 (100.0)	0.25	16	
	Ceftazidime	355	1 (0.3)	0 (0.3)	25 (7.3)	113 (39.2)	102 (67.9)	47 (81.1)	10 (83.9)	9 (86.5)	6 (88.2)	7 (91.5)	17 (96.3)	13 (100.0)	0.25	16	
ESBL-phenotype	CAZ-AVI	62	1 (1.6)	0 (1.6)	7 (12.9)	32 (64.5)	17 (91.9)	3 (96.8)	2 (100.0)	--	--	--	--	--	0.12	0.25	
	Ceftazidime	62	--	--	2 (4.7)	19 (38.1)	1 (1.6)	4 (8.1)	9 (22.6)	6 (32.3)	5 (40.3)	7 (51.6)	17 (99.0)	13 (100.0)	16	>32	
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp.	CAZ-AVI	596	6 (1.0)	22 (4.7)	199 (38.1)	234 (77.3)	67 (88.6)	42 (95.6)	20 (99.0)	3 (99.5)	1 (99.7)	0 (99.7)	0 (99.7)	2 (100.0)	0.12	0.5	
	Ceftazidime	596	--	8 (1.3)	128 (22.8)	196 (55.7)	102 (72.8)	46 (80.5)	11 (82.4)	8 (83.7)	2 (84.1)	8 (85.4)	10 (87.1)	10 (88.6)	67 (100.0)	0.12	>32
ESBL-phenotype	CAZ-AVI	115	2 (1.7)	0 (1.7)	5 (6.1)	27 (29.6)	24 (50.4)	32 (78.3)	19 (94.8)	3 (97.4)	1 (98.3)	0 (98.3)	0 (98.3)	2 (100.0)	0.25	1	
	Ceftazidime	115	--	--	1 (0.9)	4 (4.3)	3 (7.0)	1 (7.8)	1 (8.7)	2 (17.4)	8 (24.3)	10 (33.0)	10 (41.7)	67 (100.0)	>32	>32	
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	CAZ-AVI	479	6 (1.3)	14 (4.2)	154 (36.3)	188 (75.6)	55 (87.1)	39 (95.2)	17 (98.7)	3 (99.4)	0 (99.6)	0 (99.6)	0 (99.6)	2 (100.0)	0.12	0.5	
	Ceftazidime	479	--	7 (1.5)	80 (18.2)	156 (50.7)	88 (69.1)	40 (77.5)	10 (79.5)	5 (80.6)	2 (81.0)	7 (82.5)	9 (84.3)	9 (86.2)	66 (100.0)	0.12	>32
ESBL-phenotype	CAZ-AVI	98	2 (2.0)	0 (2.0)	5 (7.1)	19 (26.5)	19 (45.9)	30 (76.5)	17 (93.9)	3 (96.9)	1 (98.0)	0 (98.0)	0 (98.0)	2 (100.0)	0.5	1	
	Ceftazidime	98	--	--	1 (1.0)	1 (1.0)	1 (1.0)	1 (1.0)	1 (1.0)	5 (5.1)	2 (7.1)	7 (14.3)	9 (23.5)	9 (32.7)	66 (100.0)	>32	>32
meropenem-non-susceptible (MIC, $\geq$ 2 $\mu$ g/mL)	CAZ-AVI	40	--	--	2 (5.0)	6 (20.0)	1 (22.5)	12 (62.5)	13 (85.0)	3 (92.5)	1 (95.0)	0 (95.0)	0 (95.0)	2 (100.0)	0.5	2	
	Ceftazidime	40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	>32	>32	
<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	CAZ-AVI	117	--	8 (6.8)	45 (45.3)	46 (84.6)	12 (94.9)	3 (97.4)	3 (100.0)	0 (100.0)	0 (100.0)	0 (100.0)	0 (100.0)	0 (100.0)	0.12	0.25	
	Ceftazidime	117	--	1 (0.9)	48 (41.9)	40 (76.1)	14 (88.0)	6 (93.2)	1 (94.0)	3 (96.6)	0 (96.6)	1 (97.4)	1 (98.3)	1 (99.1)	1 (100.0)	0.12	0.5
ESBL-phenotype	CAZ-AVI	17	--	--	8 (47.1)	5 (76.5)	2 (88.2)	2 (100.0)	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.25	1	
	Ceftazidime	17	--	--	1 (5.9)	3 (47.1)	1 (52.9)	1 (58.8)	3 (76.5)	0 (76.5)	1 (82.4)	1 (82.4)	1 (94.1)	1 (100.0)	0.5	32	
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	CAZ-AVI	96	2 (2.1)	64 (68.8)	25 (94.8)	4 (99.0)	1 (100.0)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.03	0.06	
	Ceftazidime	96	--	32 (33.3)	51 (86.5)	7 (93.8)	3 (96.9)	1 (97.9)	0 (97.9)	0 (97.9)	1 (99.0)	1 (100.0)	--	--	0.06	0.12	
ESBL-phenotype	CAZ-AVI	7	--	1 (14.3)	6 (100.0)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.06	--	
	Ceftazidime	7	--	--	4 (57.1)	1 (71.4)	0 (71.4)	0 (71.4)	0 (71.4)	1 (85.7)	1 (100.0)	--	--	--	0.12	--	
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	CAZ-AVI	244	3 (1.2)	2 (2.0)	16 (8.6)	105 (51.6)	74 (82.0)	33 (95.5)	10 (99.6)	1 (100.0)	--	--	--	--	0.12	0.5	
	Ceftazidime	244	--	--	8 (3.3)	36 (18.0)	85 (52.9)	42 (70.1)	10 (74.2)	3 (75.4)	1 (75.8)	2 (76.6)	9 (80.3)	7 (83.2)	41 (100.0)	0.25	>32
ceftazidime-non-susceptible (MIC, $\geq$ 8 $\mu$ g/mL)																	