

# Antimicrobial Activity of Ceftaroline/NXL104 (Ceftaroline/Avibactam) Tested Against Contemporary (2010) Clinical Isolates from USA Medical Centers

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## Abstract

**Background:** Ceftaroline (CPT), the active form of CPT fosamil, is a broad-spectrum, bactericidal cephalosporin active against Gram-positive (including MRSA and multidrug-resistant [R] *S. pneumoniae* [SPN]) and common Gram-negative organisms. Avibactam (previously NXL104 [AVI]) is a novel non-β-lactam β-lactamase inhibitor of Ambler class A, C, and some D enzymes. We evaluated the activity and potency of CPT/AVI (CPA) against recent clinical isolates.

**Methods:** Isolates were consecutively collected in 2010 from 65 USA medical centers from all 9 CDC Census Regions (5-10/region). Susceptibility (S) testing for CPA (AVI at fixed 4 µg/mL), CPT and comparators was performed by CLSI broth microdilution on 8434 strains.

**Results:** For MSSA and MRSA, all strains were inhibited at ≤0.5 and ≤2 µg/mL of CPA, respectively (Table 1), and CPT MICs were not impacted by the addition of AVI. Penicillin (PEN)-R ( $MIC_{50/90}$ , 0.25/0.25 µg/mL) and levofloxacin-non-S ( $MIC_{50/90}$ , ≤0.03/0.25 µg/mL) SPN were CPA-S. CPA was 8- to 16-fold more active than ceftriaxone against MSSA and PEN-R SPN; the highest CPA MIC value was only 0.5 µg/mL for both organisms. Against *H. influenzae*, the highest CPA MIC value was 0.06 µg/mL ( $MIC_{50/90}$ , ≤0.03 µg/mL). β-haemolytic and viridans group streptococci were CPA-S with  $MIC_{50/90}$ s of 0.015 and 0.12 µg/mL, respectively. All *E. coli*, including ESBL-producing strains, were inhibited at CPA MIC values of ≤0.5 µg/mL. CPA was also active against *H. influenzae* ( $MIC_{50/90}$ , ≤0.03 µg/mL). *Klebsiella* spp. ( $MIC_{50/90}$ , 0.12 µg/mL), including ESBL-phenotype and meropenem-non-S strains ( $MIC_{50/90}$ , 1 µg/mL for both subsets) and *M. morganii* ( $MIC_{50/90}$  0.12 µg/mL).

**Conclusions:** CPA and CPT were the most potent β-lactam agents tested against staphylococci and streptococci collected from USA hospitals. MRSA and PEN-R-SPN were particularly S to CPA and CPT (data not shown). CPA was also highly active against Enterobacteriaceae producing KPC, various ESBL types, and AmpC (chromosomal or plasmid mediated) enzymes. CPA represents a potential therapeutic option for infections caused by these R organisms.

## Introduction

Ceftaroline fosamil is the prodrug form of ceftaroline, a cephalosporin with broad-spectrum in vitro activity. Ceftaroline has demonstrated bactericidal activity against organisms most frequently responsible for community-acquired bacterial pneumonia (CABP) and acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections (ABSSSI), including multidrug-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, methicillin-(oxacillin)-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and most Enterobacteriaceae species, as well as common Gram-negative pathogens. In 2 phase 3 trials, ceftaroline fosamil was shown to be noninferior to ceftriaxone for the treatment of patients with CABP requiring hospitalization. Similarly, noninferiority of ceftaroline fosamil compared with vancomycin plus aztreonam for the treatment of ABSSSI requiring hospitalization was demonstrated in 2 phase 3 trials. Ceftaroline fosamil was approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USA-FDA) for CABP and ABSSSI.

Avibactam (previously NXL104) is a new non-β-lactam β-lactamase inhibitor currently in clinical development. Avibactam has very limited intrinsic antibacterial activity, but efficiently protects β-lactams from hydrolysis by a variety of strains producing Ambler class A and class C enzymes, including extended-spectrum β-lactamase (ESBL) and KPC enzymes (carbapenemases), as well as some class D β-lactamases.

## Methods

**Organisms collection:** A total of 8434 bacterial isolates were tested. Sixty-five medical centers distributed across all 9 USA Census Regions (5 to 10 medical centers per region) contributed clinical isolates for this surveillance program in 2010. Organisms were consecutively collected from clinical infections and target numbers of strains for each of the requested bacterial species/genus were predetermined in the study protocol. Isolates were sent to the coordinator laboratory (JMI Laboratories, North Liberty, Iowa) for reference susceptibility testing. Only 1 strain per patient-infection episode was included in the surveillance.

**Susceptibility testing:** Isolates were tested for susceptibility to ceftaroline/avibactam and comparator agents by reference broth microdilution methods as described by Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) M07-A8 (2009) and CLSI interpretations were based on M100-S21 and M45-A breakpoints. Ceftaroline was combined with avibactam at a fixed concentration of 4 µg/mL. *S. pneumoniae* isolates were tested in Mueller-Hinton broth supplemented with 3-5% lysed horse blood, and *Haemophilus influenzae* isolates were tested in Haemophilus Test Media, whereas *S. aureus* isolates were tested in cation-adjusted Mueller-Hinton broth. Concurrent testing of quality control (QC) strains assured proper test conditions.

## Results

• Ceftaroline/avibactam ( $MIC_{50}$  and  $MIC_{90}$ , 0.25 µg/mL) was 16-fold more active than ceftriaxone ( $MIC_{50}$  and  $MIC_{90}$ , 4 µg/mL) and 4-fold more active than linezolid ( $MIC_{50}$  and  $MIC_{90}$ , 1 µg/mL) when tested against methicillin-(oxacillin)-susceptible *S. aureus* (MSSA). The highest ceftaroline/avibactam MIC value among MSSA strains was 0.5 µg/mL and 94.3% of strains were inhibited at a ceftaroline/avibactam MIC of ≤0.25 µg/mL (Tables 1 and 2).

• Against MRSA, ceftaroline/avibactam MIC values ranged from 0.25 to 2 µg/mL ( $MIC_{50}$ , 0.5 µg/mL and  $MIC_{90}$ , 1 µg/mL). 95.2% and 100.0% of MRSA strains were inhibited at ceftaroline/avibactam MIC values of ≤1 µg/mL and ≤2 µg/mL, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). Ceftaroline and ceftaroline/avibactam exhibited similar activities against MRSA strains (data not shown).

• Ceftaroline/avibactam was potent against β-haemolytic streptococci, with the  $MIC_{50}$  at ≤0.03 µg/mL for all subsets (MRSA), and most Enterobacteriaceae species, as well as common Gram-negative pathogens. In 2 phase 3 trials, ceftaroline fosamil was shown to be noninferior to ceftriaxone for the treatment of patients with CABP requiring hospitalization. Similarly, noninferiority of ceftaroline fosamil compared with vancomycin plus aztreonam for the treatment of ABSSSI requiring hospitalization was demonstrated in 2 phase 3 trials. Ceftaroline fosamil was approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USA-FDA) for CABP and ABSSSI.

• Against penicillin-resistant ( $MIC$ , ≥2 µg/mL) pneumococci, ceftaroline/avibactam ( $MIC_{50}$  and  $MIC_{90}$ , 0.25 µg/mL) was 4- to 8-fold more active than ceftriaxone ( $MIC_{50}$ , 1 µg/mL and  $MIC_{90}$ , 2 µg/mL) and 32-fold more potent than amoxicillin/clavulanic acid ( $MIC_{50}$  and  $MIC_{90}$ , 8 µg/mL; Table 2).

We report the in vitro activity of ceftaroline combined with avibactam (CPA; fixed concentration of 4 µg/mL) against bacterial organisms isolated in USA medical centers in 2010 as part of a worldwide surveillance program.

• Ceftaroline/avibactam was also active against *S. pneumoniae* strains with penicillin MIC of ≥8 µg/mL (12 isolates tested; MIC range, 0.06 - 0.5 µg/mL). These isolates were categorized as nonsusceptible for other β-lactam agents tested, except for 1 isolate (8.3%) that was susceptible only to ceftriaxone (Table 2).

• Ceftaroline/avibactam was active against *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Haemophilus parainfluenzae*, and *Moraxella catarrhalis* ( $MIC_{50}$  and  $MIC_{90}$ , ≤0.03 µg/mL for all 3 organisms; Tables 1 and 2)

• Using the USA-FDA breakpoint for ceftaroline susceptibility (≤0.5 µg/mL), ceftaroline/avibactam was among the most active agents tested against Enterobacteriaceae (Table 2)

• All *Escherichia coli* isolates were susceptible to ceftaroline/avibactam ( $MIC_{50}$ , ≤0.03 and  $MIC_{90}$ , 0.06 µg/mL) when breakpoints established by the USA-FDA for ceftaroline were applied. Furthermore, ceftaroline/avibactam exhibited potent activity against *E. coli* strains with an ESBL phenotype ( $MIC_{50}$ , 0.06 and  $MIC_{90}$ , 0.12 µg/mL; Tables 1 and 2)

• Ceftaroline/avibactam was active against *Klebsiella* spp., including strains with an ESBL phenotype ( $MIC_{50}$ , 0.12 µg/mL and  $MIC_{90}$ , 1 µg/mL) and those with reduced susceptibility to carbapenems

**Table 1. Summary of Ceftaroline/Avibactam (previously ceftaroline/NXL104) Activity Tested Against the Main Pathogen Groups Isolated in USA Hospitals in 2010**

Organism/subgroup (n)	≤0.03	0.06	0.12	0.25	0.5	1	2	4	8	16	MIC <sub>50</sub>	MIC <sub>90</sub>
<i>S. aureus</i> (2146)	1 (0)	5 (0.3)	59 (6.1)	962 (47.9)	703 (80.6)	365 (97.6)	51 (100.0)	-	-	-	0.5	1
MSSA (1074)	1 (0.1)	5 (0.6)	59 (6.1)	948 (94.3)	61 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	0.25	0.25
MRSA (1072)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	14 (1.3)	642 (61.2)	51 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	0.5	1
CoNS (486)	12 (2.5)	79 (18.7)	100 (39.3)	144 (68.9)	135 (96.7)	11 (99.0)	-	-	-	-	0.25	0.5
MRCoNS (298)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.3)	19 (6.7)	127 (49.3)	135 (94.6)	11 (98.3)	5 (100.0)	-	-	-	0.12	0.12
<i>E. faecalis</i> (576)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.5)	25 (4.9)	110 (71.3)	27 (85.1)	20 (95.4)	9 (100.0)	-	-	0.5	0.5
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> (1200)	810 (67.5)	102 (76.0)	139 (87.6)	135 (98.8)	14 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.25
PEN-S (678)	668 (98.5)	9 (99.9)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
PEN-I (266)	142 (54.3)	91 (87.6)	32 (69.6)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.12	0.12
Viridans g. streptococc. (492)	38 (7.8)	7 (7.0)	2 (0.8)	106 (42.2)	134 (94.5)	14 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	0.06	0.12
β-haemolytic strep. (1201)	1181 (93.9)	19 (69.9)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
Group A (422)	418 (93.1)	3 (69.8)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
Group B (576)	572 (93.3)	4 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
<i>E. coli</i> (657)	446 (67.9)	179 (95.0)	25 (98.8)	7 (99.8)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	0.06
non ESBL (579)	419 (72.4)	140 (96.5)	17 (99.5)	3 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	0.06
ESBL phenotype <sup>a</sup> (78)	27 (34.6)	38 (83.3)	8 (93.6)	4 (98.7)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	0.12	0.12
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp. (903)	220 (24.0)	446 (73.8)	160 (91.5)	49 (96.9)	16 (98.7)	10 (99.8)	1 (99.9)	1 (100.0)	-	-	0.06	0.12
non ESBL (791)	208 (26.3)	227 (80.3)	125 (96.1)	27 (99.5)	4 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	0.12
ESBL phenotype <sup>b</sup> (112)	12 (10.7)	19 (27.7)	35 (58.9)	12 (89.3)	10 (98.2)	1 (99.1)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	0.12	1
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (653)	127 (19.4)	337 (71.1)	131 (91.1)	35 (96.5)	9 (99.8)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	0.06	0.12
<i>K. oxytoca</i> (250)	93 (37.2)	109 (80.8)	29 (92.4)	14 (98.0)	3 (99.2)	1 (99.6)	0 (99.6)	1 (100.0)	-	-	0.06	0.12
<i>M. morganii</i> (116)	49 (42.2)	43 (79.3)	17 (94.0)	5 (98.3)	2 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	0.12
<i>H. influenzae</i> (770)	768 (99.7)	2 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
β-haemolytic strep. (556)	555 (99.8)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
β-haemolytic positive (214)	213 (99.5)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
<i>H. parainfluenzae</i> (68)	68 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
<i>M. catarrhalis</i> (200)	198 (99.0)	1 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03

a. ESBL phenotype indicates isolates with an MIC value of ≥2 µg/mL for ceftazidime or ceftriaxone or aztreonam (CLSI, 2011).

b. Meropenem-non-S = meropenem-non-susceptible strains ( $MIC$  > 2 µg/mL).