Assessment of Vandetanib as an Inhibitor of Various Human Renal Transporters: Inhibition of Multidrug and Toxin Extrusion as a Possible Mechanism Leading to Decreased Cisplatin and Creatinine Clearance

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ABSTRACT

Vandetanib was evaluated as an inhibitor of human organic anion transporter 1 (OAT1), OAT3, organic cation transporter 2 (OCT2), and multidrug and toxin extrusion (MATE1 and MATE2K) transfected (individually) into human embryonic kidney 293 cells (HEK293). Although no inhibition of OAT1 and OAT3 was observed, inhibition of OCT2-mediated uptake of 1-methyl-4-phenylpyridinium (MPP+) and metformin was evident (IC50 of 73.4 ± 14.8 and 8.8 ± 1.9 μM, respectively). However, vandetanib was an even more potent inhibitor of MATE1- and MATE2K-mediated uptake of MPP+ (IC50 of 1.23 ± 0.05 and 1.26 ± 0.06 μM, respectively) and metformin (IC50 of 0.16 ± 0.05 and 0.30 ± 0.09 μM, respectively). Subsequent cytotoxicity studies demonstrated that transport inhibition by vandetanib (2.5 μM) significantly decreased the sensitivity [right shift in concentration of cisplatin giving rise to 50% cell death; IC50(CN)] of MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells to cisplatin [IC50(CN) of 1.12 ± 0.13 versus 2.39 ± 0.44 μM; 0.85 ± 0.09 versus 1.99 ± 0.16 μM; P < 0.05], but not OCT2-HEK cells (1.36 ± 0.19 versus 1.47 ± 0.24 μM) versus vandetanib untreated cells and Mock-HEK cells [IC50(CN) of 2.34 ± 0.31 μM]. In summary, the results show that vandetanib is a potent inhibitor of MATE1 and MATE2K (versus OCT2). Inhibition of the two transporters may explain why there are reports of decreased creatinine clearance, and increased cisplatin nephrotoxicity (reduced cisplatin clearance), in some subjects receiving vandetanib therapy.

Introduction

Vandetanib [N-(4-bromo-2-fluorophenyl)-6-methoxy-7-[(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)methoxy]quinazolin-4-amine], an oral tyrosine kinase inhibitor of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor–, epidermal growth factor receptor–, and rearranged during transfection–dependent signaling, has been approved for the treatment of symptomatic or progressive medullary thyroid cancer (Frampton, 2012; Langmuir and Yver, 2012). Vandetanib is also being developed for the treatment of non–small-cell lung cancer (Stinchcombe and Socinski, 2009; Natale et al., 2011). Recently, Blackhall et al. (2010) investigated the safety of vandetanib in combination with either gemcitabine plus cisplatin (cis-diaminedichloroplatinum II) or vinorelbine plus cisplatin. Although vandetanib in combination with the cisplatin-based doublets had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of vinorelbine and gemcitabine, a 30% increase in the exposure of cisplatin was observed compared with cisplatin alone. In addition, an increase in plasma creatinine was more common in patients (16% versus 1%) who received 300 mg of vandetanib (versus placebo) [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, 2012]. Although the mechanisms underlying the apparent interaction with cisplatin and creatinine are unknown, inhibition of renal transporters is suspected.

In the case of cisplatin, it is known that renal elimination accounts for more than 90% of the dose in human subjects, and that its renal clearance exceeds creatinine clearance and glomerular filtration rate. Therefore, it is likely that cisplatin and other platinum-containing molecules are actively secreted by the kidneys (Jacobs et al., 1980; Go and Adjei, 1999; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2011). Human organic cation transporter 2 (OCT2), multidrug and toxin extrusion 1 (MATE1), and MATE2K are highly expressed in the brush-border membrane of the kidneys (proximal tubule epithelial cells) and are thought to play a role in the clearance of cisplatin (Ciarimboli et al., 2010; Ciarimboli, 2011; Liu et al., 2012; Sprowl et al., 2013). In agreement, the recovery of a cisplatin dose in urine is markedly reduced in mice deficient in both OCT1 and OCT2 (Filipski et al., 2008). Similarly, inhibition by cimetidine and gene deletion decreases OCT2-mediated renal uptake of cisplatin and ameliorates nephrotoxicity (Franke et al., 2010). Furthermore, OCT2 genotype is associated with cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity (Filipski et al., 2009).

From the standpoint of MATE1- and MATE2K-mediated cisplatin renal clearance, it has been shown that cisplatin plasma concentrations are increased, and renal accumulation is higher, in MATE1 (−/−) mice (versus wild-type animals) (Nakamura et al., 2010). Unlike mice, however, genotype-phenotype associations in humans are more complex because of the expression of two forms of MATE [MATE1 (Solute carrier family 47A1 (SLC47A1)] and MATE2K (SLC47A2)] (Yonezawa et al., 2010).
and Inui, 2011). Therefore, although a number of nonsynonymous single-nucleotide polymorphisms have been identified for MATE1, Iwata et al. (2012) determined that a single point mutation (rs2289669 G>A) had no effect on either cisplatin plasma concentrations or toxicity. Unfortunately, the authors did not consider MATE2K and that it might compensate for the loss of function of MATE1. In addition, no clinical information is available describing the effect of a dual (MATE1 and MATE2K) inhibitor such as pyrimethamine (PYR) on cisplatin systemic exposure (Kusuhara et al., 2011; Ito et al., 2012).

Given the clinical observations described, and to garner additional mechanistic information regarding the interaction with cisplatin, an attempt was made to study vandetanib as an inhibitor of five renal transporters in vitro [OCT2, MATE1, MATE2K, and organic anion transporters 1 and 3 (OAT1 and OAT3)]. Similar to cisplatin, creatinine serves as an OCT2, MATE1, and MATE2K substrate (Urakami et al., 2004; Tanihara et al., 2007; Imamura et al., 2011; Ciarimboli et al., 2012); therefore, the possibility that vandetanib impacts creatinine clearance by inhibiting one or more of these transporters was also considered. Inhibition of transporters by vandetanib may influence the renal elimination and systemic exposure of certain transporter substrates, leading to drug-drug interactions (DDIs) and increased toxicity. It should be noted that the vandetanib (Caprelsa) product label does contain information regarding the inhibition of OCT2-mediated uptake of creatinine into human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK293) cells (IC_{50} = 4.4 \mu M; 2.1 \mu g/ml) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012). However, inhibition of MATE1 and MATE2K has not been reported to date.

![Fig. 1. Effects of vandetanib and probenecid on the uptake of PAH by OAT1-HEK cells and uptake of E3S by OAT3-HEK cells. Time-dependent uptake of 1 \mu M \[^{3}\text{H}\]PAH (A) and 1 \mu M \[^{3}\text{H}\]E3S (D) in HEK293 cells stably transfected with human OAT1 or OAT3 (closed triangle) and vector only (open triangle). The OAT1- and OAT3-mediated uptake labeled probe substrate (closed circle) was examined by subtracting uptake in mock cells from that observed with OAT1- and OAT3-transfected cells. Experiments were conducted with a labeled probe substrate alone or in the presence of 0.08–100 \mu M vandetanib (B and E) or 0.14–100 \mu M probenecid (C and F). Values shown are the mean ± S.D. for experiments performed in triplicate.](image-url)
Materials and Methods

HEK293 cells containing the Flp (Flippase) recombination target site, Lipofectamine 2000, hygromycin B, Zeocin, Flippase-in (Flp-in) system, and water-soluble probenecid were purchased from Invitrogen Corporation (Carlsbad, CA). [3H]para-aminohippuric acid (PAH; 4.3 Ci/mmol), [3H]sulfate-3-sulfate (E3S; 45.6 Ci/mmol), and [3H]-methyl-4-phenylpyridinium (MPP+; 83.9 Ci/mmol) were purchased from PerkinElmer Life and Analytical Sciences (Boston, MA). [3H]Metformin hydrochloride (92.7 mCi/mmol) was purchased from Moravek Biochemicals, Inc. (Brea, CA). Vandetanib, cisplatin, and pyr were supplied by Toronto Research Chemicals Inc. (North York, Ontario, Canada). Cell culture reagents including Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium, fetal calf serum, trypsin, Hank’s balanced salt solution (HBSS), nonessential amino acids, and t-glutamine were purchased from Mediatech (Herndon, VA). Biocat poly-ø-lysine-coated 24-well plates were purchased from Becton Dickenson (Bedford, MA). A BCA protein assay kit was purchased from Pierce Chemical (Rockford, IL). All other chemicals and reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO).

Cell Culture and Transfection

HEK293 cells were cultured in Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium, containing 10% fetal calf serum, nonessential amino acids (0.1 mM), and t-glutamine (2 mM), in an atmosphere of CO2 (5%) and air (95%) at 37°C, and used as host cells for transfection. The stable transfected HEK293 cell lines expressing human OAT1, OCT2, and MATE1 were established as previously described (Han et al., 2010). For generation of stable human OAT1- and MATE2K-transfected cell lines, the cDNAs including the open reading frame of OAT1 (SLC22A6) and MATE2K (SLC47A2, transcript variant 2) were subcloned into the Gateway entry vector pDONR221 (Invitrogen) using standard methods, and the sequence was confirmed in both cases. The Gateway entry clones were recombined into a Gateway-adapted version of the expression vector pcDNAs/FIp recombination target/TO (Invitrogen) using LR clonase II (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA). The sequences of the expression constructs were confirmed by DNA sequencing. HEK293 cells stably expressing OAT1 (or MATE2K) were established using the Flp-In expression system (Invitrogen) as described previously (Shen et al., 2011). In brief, the recombinant pcDNAs/FIp recombination target construct containing OAT1 (or MATE2K) was cotransfected with pOG44, an Flp recombinase expression plasmid, into a HEK293 cell line using Lipofectamine 2000. The cells stably expressing the transporter were then selected with HEK293 cell medium (Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 0.1 mM nonessential amino acids, 2 mM t-glutamate) supplemented with the antibiotic hygromycin B (100 µg/ml). Single hygromycin-resistant colony cells were sorted into 24-well plates containing HEK293-conditioned medium. After expansion, clones were screened for expression of functional OAT1 and MATE2K activity on the basis of increased accumulation of probe substrates (i.e., [3H]PAH for OAT1; [3H]MPP+ and [14C]metformin for MATE2K). The expression of OAT1 and MATE2K was verified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis. Real-time PCR results showed significant overexpression of OAT1 and MATE2K mRNA in the cells, compared with mock cells (data not shown).

To support the transport inhibition experiments, cells were seeded in 24-well poly-ø-lysine-coated plates (500,000 cells per well) 2–3 days prior to performing the transport experiments. For the assessment of cytotoxicity, cells were seeded (5000 cells per well) on 96-well culture plates and incubated overnight before assaying.

Assessment of Transporter Inhibition

All transport experiments were performed manually in a 24-well plate on a thermostatic VWR symphony incubating microplate shaker (VWR, Thorofare, NJ) calibrated at 37°C following the protocol described previously with minor modifications (Shen et al., 2013). In brief, cells grown in 24-well plates were rinsed twice with 1.5 ml of prewarmed HBSS. The transport experiment was initiated by adding prewarmed HBSS containing the radiolabeled probe substrate (buffered with 10 mM HEPES to pH 7.4 for OAT1, OAT3, and OCT2, and to pH 8.4 for MATE1 and MATE2K) to enable inhibition curves to be derived for vandetanib. A low concentration (<IC50) of radiolabeled PAH and E3S (1 µM) was used for the measurement of OAT1 and OAT3 activity, respectively (Takeda et al., 2001). Both MPP+ and metformin (1 µM) were used as probe substrates for OCT2, MATE1, and MATE2K. In each case, the substrate concentration chosen was well below the Kp reported in the literature (Kimura et al., 2005; Tanihara et al., 2007). Probenecid was used as a control inhibitor of OAT1 and OAT3, and to confirm the functional activities of each transporter in the test system (Takeda et al., 2001). Pyr was used as a positive control inhibitor of OCT2, MATE1, and MATE2K (Kusuhara et al., 2011). Subsequently, the transport experiments were stopped at the designated time by removing the buffer and immediately washing the cells three times with 1 ml of ice-cold HBSS. The cells were lysed with 0.3 ml of 0.1% Triton X-100 (Sigma-Aldrich). The cell lysate samples obtained in the study were analyzed by liquid scintillation counting (LS 6500; Beckman Coulter, Inc., Fullerton, CA). Accumulation was normalized to the protein content of the HEK293 cells in each well measured using the BCA protein assay kit.

Assessment of Cell Growth and Cytotoxicity

Cytotoxicity of cisplatin in OCT2, MATE1, MATE2K, and mock cells was measured using the XTT colorimetric assay (Roche Applied Science, Mannheim, Germany) performed in 96-well plates. Cells were harvested from culture flasks by trypsinization and seeded in 50-µl aliquots (in Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum, 0.1 mM nonessential amino acids, and 2 mM t-glutamate) into 96-well microculture plates at a density of 5000 viable cells per well. Cells were allowed to settle and resume exponential growth in drug-free complete culture medium for 24 hours, followed by the addition of diluted vandetanib (50 µl per well) of the same medium. Following the addition of vandetanib, incubations were continued for

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inhibitor</th>
<th>OAT1</th>
<th>OAT3</th>
<th>OCT2</th>
<th>MATE1</th>
<th>MATE2K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preclinical</td>
<td>IC50</td>
<td>IC50</td>
<td>IC50</td>
<td>IC50</td>
<td>IC50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAH</td>
<td>74.3 ± 14.8</td>
<td>8.8 ± 1.9</td>
<td>1.23 ± 0.05</td>
<td>0.16 ± 0.05</td>
<td>1.26 ± 0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPP+</td>
<td>18.7 ± 5.3</td>
<td>4.8 ± 1.0</td>
<td>0.63 ± 0.07</td>
<td>0.11 ± 0.02</td>
<td>0.52 ± 0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFFormin</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
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</table>

ND, not determined.

a IC50 value obtained at a final substrate concentration of 1 µM (see Materials and Methods). Data are reported as the mean ± S.D. (n = 3 determinations).

b Substrate used to generate IC50.

c Statistically significant difference compared with IC50 of MPP+ uptake in same cell line (P < 0.0001).

d Statistically significant difference compared with IC50 of MPP+ uptake in OCT2-HEK cells (P < 0.0001).

e Statistically significant difference compared with IC50 of MPP+ uptake in OCT2-HEK cells (P < 0.0001).

TABLE 1

Inhibition of substrate uptake into transporter-transfected HEK293 cells
72 hours, at which time XTT labeling mixture (50 μl per well) was added. After incubation for 16 hours, the resulting orange formazan product formed by viable cells was spectrophotometrically quantified with a microplate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA), using a reference wavelength of 690 nm to correct for nonspecific absorption.

Data Analysis Methods

Determination of IC50 Values for Inhibition of Transporter-Mediated Uptake. The transporter-mediated net uptake rate (v) of radiolabeled probe substrate was obtained by subtracting the uptake in mock cells from the uptake in transporter stably transfected cells (measured as total radioactivity). The results were reported as the mean ± S.D. (n = 3 determinations). The decrease in net uptake rate of probe substrate in the presence of increasing concentrations of the putative inhibitors (probenecid, PYR, and vandetanib) was determined to assess their relative potency and to calculate IC50 values (concentration of inhibitor giving rise to 50% inhibition of activity). The IC50 values were determined using eq. 1 (WinNonlin 5.0.1; Pharsight Inc., Mountain View, CA):

\[ v = v_0 \left( 1 - \frac{I}{IC_{50} + I} \right) \]  

where \( v_0 \) is the net uptake without inhibitor, \( I \) is the inhibitor concentration, and \( n \) is a sigmoidicity factor that determines the slope of the relationship.

Determination of IC50 Values for Inhibition of Cell Growth. The quantity of viable cells was expressed as a percentage of the number of cells in the untreated controls (taken as 100%) according to eq. 2. The results were expressed as the mean ± S.D. (n = 4 determinations):

\[ \% \text{ Control} = \left( \frac{N_I}{N_0} \right) \times 100 \]  

where \( N_I \) represents the number of viable cells measured in the presence of inhibitor and various concentrations of cisplatin, and \( N_0 \) represents the number of viable cells in the absence of inhibitor. The concentration of cisplatin that decreases the number of cells by 50% [IC50(CN)] was determined by fitting the cytotoxicity data to eq. 3:

\[ \% \text{ Control} = \left( \frac{N_I}{N_0} \right) \times 100 \]  

\[ \% \text{ Control} = \left( \frac{N_I}{N_0} \right) \times 100 \]

Fig. 2. Effects of vandetanib and PYR on the uptake of MPP+ and metformin by OCT2-HEK cells. Time-dependent uptake of 1 μM [3H]MPP+ (A) and 1 μM [14C]metformin (D) in HEK293 cells stably transfected with human OCT2 (closed triangle), and vector only (open triangle). The OCT2-mediated uptake of probe substrate (closed circle) was examined by subtracting the uptake in mock cells from that in OCT2-transfected cells. Experiments were conducted with a labeled probe substrate alone or in the presence of 0.08–100 μM vandetanib (B and E) or 0.14–100 μM PYR (C and F). Values shown are the mean ± S.D. for experiments performed in triplicate.
where \( I \) is cisplatin concentration, and \( n \) is a sigmoidicity factor. The nonlinear regression analysis was performed with WinNonlin 5.0.1 software (Pharsight Inc.).

**Statistical Analysis.** Data are reported as the mean ± S.D. To test for statistically significant differences among different cell lines and substrates for IC_{50}, two-way analysis of variance was performed. When the F ratio showed that there were significant differences among groups, the Bonferroni post-test was used to determine which groups differ. To test for statistically significant differences in cytotoxicity among different cell lines treated with cisplatin alone or among multiple treatments for a given cell line, one-way analysis of variance was performed. When the F ratio showed that there were significant differences among treatments, the Dunnett method of multiple comparisons was used to determine which treatments differ. All statistical analyses were performed using Prism version 5 (GraphPad Software, Inc., San Diego, CA).

**Results**

**Vandetanib Does Not Inhibit Transport Mediated by Human OAT1 and OAT3.** Human OAT1- and OAT3-HEK cells in this study exhibited transport characteristics similar to those reported previously (Han et al., 2010). Intracellular uptake of [³H]PAH (1 \( \mu \)M) and [³H]E3S (1 \( \mu \)M), prototypical substrates for human OAT1 and OAT3, respectively (Lee and Kim, 2004; Han et al., 2010), was time-dependent and significantly greater than in mock cells (Fig. 1, A and D), demonstrating the functional activity of each transporter. As shown in Fig. 1 (B and E), vandetanib (0.08–100 \( \mu \)M) did not inhibit human OAT1-mediated [³H]PAH uptake (Fig. 1B) or OAT3-mediated [³H]E3S uptake (Fig. 1E), which was calculated after subtracting the uptake by the mock cells from the uptake by OAT1 or OAT3 cDNA-transfected cells. In contrast, probenecid inhibited...
OAT1-mediated [3H]PAH uptake (Fig. 1C) and OAT3-mediated [3H]E3S uptake (Fig. 1E), with IC50 values of 27.4 ± 5.6 and 18.7 ± 5.3 µM, respectively (Table 1). These results suggested that vandetanib is not an inhibitor of OAT1 and OAT3.

**Vandetanib as an Inhibitor of MATE1, MATE2K, and OCT2.**
Vandetanib was assessed as an inhibitor of OCT2, MATE1, and MATE2K using MPP+ and metformin as substrates (Tanihara et al., 2007; Han et al., 2010; Kusuhara et al., 2011).

The uptake of [3H]MPP+ (1 µM) and [14C]metformin (1 µM) by OCT2-HEK cells was time-dependent and significantly greater than in mock vector–transfected cells (Fig. 2, A and D). As shown in Fig. 2 (B and E), vandetanib was able to reduce the intracellular accumulation of both [3H]MPP+ and [14C]metformin in OCT2-HEK cells at concentrations higher than those observed in plasma (approximately 1.7 µM) following multiple (300 mg) doses. However, the inhibitory effect of vandetanib appeared to be substrate-dependent (MPP+ versus metformin, \( P < 0.0001 \); Table 1). Specifically, [3H]MPP+ transport was only weakly inhibited by vandetanib (IC50 value of 73.4 ± 14.8 µM) (Fig. 2B), whereas [14C]metformin transport was more sensitive to vandetanib (IC50 value of 8.8 ± 1.9 µM; Fig. 2E). PYR, a known inhibitor of human OCT2, exhibited similar substrate-dependent inhibition of OCT2-mediated MPP+ and metformin uptake (IC50 values of 23.6 ± 3.7 and 4.8 ± 1.0 µM, respectively; Fig. 2, C and F; Table 1).

In addition to OCT2-HEK cells, MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells exhibited efficient intracellular accumulation of MPP+ and metformin. As shown in Figs. 3A and 4A, MATE1- and MATE2K-mediated uptake of MPP+ was significantly greater than in mock vector–transfected cells, and was linear during the initial 10 minutes. After 10 minutes of incubation, [3H]MPP+ accumulated in MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells to levels that were 10- and 11-fold...
higher, respectively, than those observed with mock-HEK cells under the same conditions. Uptake of [14C]metformin into MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells at 10 minutes was approximately 20- to 40-fold higher than with mock-HEK cells (Figs. 3D and 4D).

Unlike OCT2-mediated uptake, vandetanib inhibited both MATE1- and MATE2K-mediated uptake of [3H]MPP⁺ and [14C]metformin at clinically relevant concentrations. Vandetanib was a potent inhibitor of transport of MPP⁺ and metformin by MATE1-HEK cells with IC50 values of 1.23 ± 0.05 and 0.16 ± 0.05 μM, respectively (Fig. 3, B and E; Table 1). Similar IC50 values were obtained with MATE2K-HEK cells for both MPP⁺ (1.26 ± 0.06 μM) and metformin (0.30 ± 0.09 μM) (Fig. 4, B and E; Table 1). Therefore, vandetanib demonstrates 29- to 60-fold higher inhibitory potency for MATE1 and MATE2K versus OCT2 (P < 0.0001; Table 1). Substrate-dependent inhibition by vandetanib was also observed with both MATE1 and MATE2K (MPP⁺ versus metformin, P < 0.0001; Table 1).

Vandetanib Significantly Decreases the Sensitivity of MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK Cells to Cisplatin-Dependent Cytotoxicity. To evaluate the potential role of OCT2, MATE1, and MATE2K in governing the cytotoxicity of cisplatin, and to determine whether vandetanib inhibition contributes to differences in activities and renal excretion of cisplatin, an attempt was made to determine the sensitivities [IC50(CN)] of the variously transfected (OCT2, MATE1, or MATE2K) HEK cells to cisplatin in the presence and absence of vandetanib (2.5 μM) and PYR (2.5 or 50 μM). In the absence of an inhibitor, the IC50(CN) values of cisplatin in OCT2-HEK, MATE1-HEK, and MATE2K-HEK cells after 3 days of drug exposure were all significantly lower than those in mock-HEK cells (Fig. 5; Table 2). The resistance factor values, defined as the ratio of the IC50(CN) value in mock-HEK cells to that in the corresponding transporter-transfected cells, were 1.7, 2.1, and 2.8 for OCT2-HEK, MATE1-HEK, and MATE2K-HEK cells, respectively (P < 0.05; Table 2). Coincubation with vandetanib (2.5 μM) significantly increased the IC50(CN) values of cisplatin in MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells (P < 0.05), but had little effect in OCT2-HEK and mock-HEK cells tested in parallel (Fig. 5; Table 2). The resistance factor values in the presence of vandetanib [defined as the ratio of the IC50(CN) value in the presence of vandetanib to that in mock-HEK cells incubated under identical test conditions] were 1.6, 1.0, and 1.2 for OCT2-HEK, MATE1-HEK, and MATE2K-HEK cells, respectively (Table 2). Vandetanib itself did not manifest any cytotoxicity up to a concentration of 10 μM under the same test conditions (data not shown). These results indicate that vandetanib (2.5 μM) inhibits the transport of cisplatin by MATE1 and MATE2K, but not OCT2, and thus ameliorates the cytotoxicity of cisplatin in the cells expressing either MATE1 or MATE2K. Similarly, coincubation with PYR (2.5 μM) significantly increased the cisplatin IC50(CN) in MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells (control versus vandetanib-treated, 1.12 ± 0.13 versus 2.28 ± 0.19 μM and 0.85 ± 0.09 versus 2.23 ± 0.28 μM, respectively). In the presence of a higher concentration of PYR (i.e., 50 μM), as shown in Table 2 and Fig. 5A, sensitivity of OCT2-HEK cells was reduced also, resulting in an IC50(CN) value comparable with that in mock-HEK cells (2.38 ± 0.31 versus 2.39 ± 0.42 μM). PYR (50 μM) itself did not exhibit cytotoxicity under the same experiment conditions.

Discussion

As described herein, vandetanib is able to inhibit the activity of various human renal transporters in vitro. The results indicate that vandetanib is a significantly more potent inhibitor of [3H]MPP⁺ and [14C]metformin uptake by MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells than by OCT2-HEK cells under the same conditions. Vandetanib can also modulate cisplatin-induced cytotoxicity in vitro by inhibiting MATE1 and MATE2K (Table 2). Moreover, vandetanib exhibits substrate-dependent inhibition (Table 1).

First, we examined the selectivity and inhibition potency of vandetanib in HEK293 cells stably transfected with five different renal transporters. Vandetanib did not affect the uptake by OAT1 and OAT3 up to a concentration of 100 μM (Fig. 1). In contrast, marked inhibition of uptake in MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells was observed (Table 1). Given that vandetanib had no effect on either MPP⁺ or metformin uptake by OCT2-HEK cells at a clinically relevant concentration (i.e., 1.7 μM), and that vandetanib inhibited the

Fig. 5. Effects of vandetanib and PYR on cisplatin-induced cytotoxicity in OCT2- (A), MATE1- (B), and MATE2K-transfected cells (C). The HEK293 cells stably transfected with transporter cDNA (or vector only cells) were cultured for 3 days at 37°C in the absence and presence of vandetanib (2.5 μM), or PYR (50 or 2.5 μM), with increasing amounts of cisplatin. Cell density was then evaluated by the XTT method (see Materials and Methods). Values shown are the mean ± S.D. for experiments performed in quadruplicate.
TABLE 2

Effect of vandetanib and PYR on the cytotoxicity of cisplatin when added to variously transfected HEK293 cells

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Mock-HEK IC50 (mM)</th>
<th>OCT2-HEK IC50 (mM)</th>
<th>MATE1-HEK IC50 (mM)</th>
<th>MATE2K-HEK IC50 (mM)</th>
<th>RF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cisplatin only</td>
<td>2.34 ± 0.31</td>
<td>1.36 ± 0.19</td>
<td>1.12 ± 0.13</td>
<td>0.85 ± 0.09</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cisplatin + vandetanib (2.5 μM)</td>
<td>2.31 ± 0.31</td>
<td>1.47 ± 0.24</td>
<td>2.39 ± 0.44</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cisplatin + PYR (2.5 μM)</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cisplatin + PYR (50 μM)</td>
<td>2.39 ± 0.42</td>
<td>2.38 ± 0.31</td>
<td>2.28 ± 0.19</td>
<td>2.23 ± 0.28</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ND, not determined; RF, resistance factor. Bold indicates Cisplatin + vandetanib (2.5 μM) versus cisplatin alone. *Statistically significant left shift in IC50-CN versus cisplatin alone in mock-HEK cells. ** Statistically significant right shift in IC50-CN versus cisplatin alone in MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells.

1. The lower concentration of vandetanib tested was well tolerated with only minor effects on cell viability, which may be due to the low concentration of vandetanib tested.

2. Vandetanib was found to be a more potent inhibitor of MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells compared with OCT2-HEK cells. The results complement those of Minematsu and Giacomini (2011), who evaluated eight kinase inhibitors as OCT2, MATE1, and MATE2K inhibitors using metformin as substrate (HEK293 cells). Three of the kinase inhibitors (gefitinib, erlotinib, and lapatinib) are variously substituted quinazolines, similar to vandetanib.

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4. Although the protein expression levels of MATE1-HEK, MATE2K-HEK, and OCT2-HEK cells have not been measured due to lack of specific antibodies, quantitative real-time PCR analysis indicated that the expression of MATE1 and MATE2K was comparable to that of OCT2 in the HEK293 cells (data not shown). To some extent, this permits a comparison across transporters in vitro (inhibition of OCT2 versus MATE1 and MATE2K). Consideration of OCT2 as well as MATE1 and MATE2K is important when attempting to understand DDIs and their consequences for drugs that are cleared renally. Both OCT2 at the basolateral membrane and MATE1 and MATE2K at the apical membrane of proximal tubule cells play an important role in vectorial transport and govern intracellular and circulating concentrations of organic cation compounds such as metformin and cisplatin (Morrissey et al., 2013; Motohashi et al., 2013). In some cases, the inhibition of MATE1 and MATE2K at the apical membrane likely increases drug concentrations within the renal cells, resulting in enhanced renal toxicity. Similar to vandetanib, cimetidine is a more potent inhibitor of MATE1 and MATE2K than OCT2, and cimetidine at a low concentration inhibits apical MATE1 rather than basolateral OCT2 (Tsuda et al., 2009). Likewise, in vitro inhibition potency values against cell lines indicate that PYR is a more potent inhibitor of MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells (P < 0.0001; Table 1), which is consistent with recent reports suggesting that both serve as the loci of the PYR-metformin and PYR–N-methyl nicotinamide DDI (Kusuhara et al., 2011; Ito et al., 2012).

5. We observed that vandetanib was a more potent inhibitor of metformin transport by OCT2-HEK, MATE1-HEK, and MATE2K-HEK cells compared with MPP+/metformin IC50 ratio 4.2–8.3; P < 0.0001; Table 1). This significant substrate dependence was also observed with PYR (P < 0.0001; Table 1). For OCT2 (metformin Km of 990 μM; MPP+/metformin IC50 ratio 2.7–24.5 μM), MATE1 (metformin Km of 780 μM; MPP+/metformin Km of 100 μM), and MATE2K (metformin Km of 1980 μM; MPP+/metformin Km of 110 μM), the
result cannot be explained solely in terms of the reported differences in Km values (Kimura et al., 2005; Tanahara et al., 2007). In all cases, IC50 values were generated at a low concentration of substrate (1 μM; <1 μM). In agreement, substrate-dependent inhibition (MPP+ versus metformin) of OCT2 has been observed. For example, Zolk et al. (2009) compared the potency of seven OCT2 inhibitors by plotting IC50 values for the inhibition of MPP+ uptake versus metformin uptake, and revealed a significant linear correlation (r = 0.92) with a mean MPP+/metformin IC50 ratio of ~4 (ranging from 2 to 14). To further explore OCT2 substrate dependence, an attempt was made to interrogate the University of Washington Metabolism and Transport Drug Interaction Database. It was possible to download IC50 data for 16 different inhibitors with the two substrates. As shown in Supplemental Fig. 2, despite the IC50 values being generated by various laboratories under different experiment conditions, a good correlation was observed, with IC50 values for MPP+ trending higher (mean MPP+/metformin IC50 ratio ~3; r = 0.88; MPP+/metformin IC50 ratios ranging from 1 to 35). More recently, substrate-dependent inhibition has also been reported for MATE1 (Martinez-Guerrero and Wright, 2013).

In summary, we have shown that vandetanib is a relatively potent inhibitor of substrate transport by MATE1-HEK and MATE2K-HEK cells (versus OCT2-HEK cells) in vitro. Inhibition of the two transporters may explain why there are reports of decreased creatinine clearance, and increased cystatin nephrotoxicity, in some patients receiving vandetanib (Blackhall et al., 2010; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012). In agreement with numerous reports, the results also indicate that the potency of OCT2, MATE1, and MATE2K inhibition in vitro is substrate-dependent. Although such a finding needs to be confirmed clinically, it implies that one has to be judicious when choosing a renal transporter probe to support a clinical IDI study, when attempting in vitro–in vivo extrapolations and modeling DDI involving renal transporters, and when interpreting renal transporter (biomarker) data.

Authorship Contributions


References


