METABOLISM AND DISPOSITION OF IMATINIB MESYLATE IN HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS

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Running title: ADME of imatinib in healthy volunteers

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Non-standard abbreviations:
Imatinib mesylate (GLEEVEC®, GLIVEC®, formerly STI571) has demonstrated unprecedented efficacy as first line therapy for treatment for all phases of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and metastatic and unresectable malignant gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). Disposition and biotransformation of imatinib were studied in four male healthy volunteers after a single oral dose of 239 mg $^{14}$C-labeled imatinib mesylate. Biological fluids were analyzed for total radioactivity, imatinib and its main metabolite CGP74588. Metabolite patterns were determined by radio-HPLC with off-line micro-plate solid scintillation counting and characterized by LC-MS. Imatinib treatment was well tolerated without serious adverse events. Absorption was rapid ($t_{\text{max}}$ 1-2 h) and complete with imatinib as the major radioactive compound in plasma. Maximum plasma concentrations were $0.921 \pm 0.095 \mu g/mL$ (mean ± S.D., n=4) for imatinib and $0.115 \pm 0.026 \mu g/mL$ for the pharmacologically active N-desmethyl metabolite (CGP74588). Mean plasma terminal elimination half-lives were $13.5 \pm 0.9 \text{ h}$ for imatinib, $20.6 \pm 1.7 \text{ h}$ for CGP74588 and $57.3 \pm 12.5 \text{ h}$ for $^{14}$C-radioactivity. Imatinib was predominantly cleared through oxidative metabolism. About 65% and 9% of total systemic exposure ($\text{AUC}_{0-24h}$ of radioactivity) corresponded to imatinib and CGP74588, respectively. The remaining proportion corresponded mainly to oxidized derivatives of imatinib and of CGP74588. Imatinib and its metabolites were excreted predominantly via the biliary-fecal route. Excretion of radioactivity was slow with a mean radiocarbon recovery of 80% within 7 days (67% in feces, 13% in urine). Approximately 28% and 13% of the dose in the excreta corresponded to imatinib and CGP74588, respectively.
INTRODUCTION

Imatinib (GLEEVEC®, GLIVEC®, imatinib mesylate, formerly STI571; Fig. 6) has demonstrated efficacy in cancer treatment by virtue of its ability to potently and selectively inhibit the BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase as well as the platelet derived growth factor receptors α− and β−PDGFRs and KIT receptor tyrosine kinases (Fabbro et al., 2002) (Buchdunger et al., 2002).

The pathogenesis of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) has been attributed to expression of the BCR-ABL fusion oncogene formed by an aberrant chromosomal translocation that generates the Philadelphia chromosome (Deininger et al., 2003). Gain-of-function mutations of KIT and PDGFRs have been associated with gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) (Hirota et al., 1998) (Rubin et al., 2001) (Dagher et al., 2002).

Imatinib is also indicated for treatment of metastatic and unresectable malignant GIST (Demetri et al., 2002). Imatinib is now the first line therapy for all phases of CML and GIST (O'Brien et al., 2003a).

Expansion of the clinical applications of imatinib is anticipated. Dysregulated PDGFR kinase activity has been linked to a variety of cancers including glioblastoma, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (DFSP), idiopathic hypereosinophilic syndrome (HES) as well as other myeloproliferative diseases (Tuveson and Fletcher, 2001) (le Coutre et al., 2004). In addition, imatinib has also been shown, in animal models, to enhance the antitumor effects of chemotherapeutic agents due to inhibition of PDGFRβ (Pietras et al., 2002) and therefore may have potential efficacy as an adjuvant therapy.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the disposition and biotransformation of imatinib mesylate in healthy volunteers as part of the clinical development of the
compound. While previous studies have reported on pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties as well as the overall tolerability and safety of imatinib in the plasma of CML patients (Peng et al., 2004b) (Schmidli et al., 2005) and healthy volunteers (Nikolova et al., 2004), data presented here include the complete characterization of the absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion (ADME) of a single oral dose of $^{14}$C-imatinib administration to healthy volunteers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Reference compounds and other materials. The following non-radiolabeled reference compounds were synthesized by Oncology Research / Chemistry Department of Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland: **CGP74588**: N-[4-Methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl-pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-phenyl]-4-piperazin-1-ylmethyl-benzamide; **CGP72383**: N-4-Methyl-3-[4-(1-oxy-pyridin-3-yl)-pyrimidin-2-ylamino]-phenyl]-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-benzamide; **CGP71422**: 4-(4-Methyl-4-oxy-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl-pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-phenyl]-benzamide; **AFN911**: N-[4-Hydroxymethyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl-pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-phenyl]-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-benzamide; **APG050**: 4-(4-Methyl-3-oxo-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl-pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-phenyl]-benzamide; **APG049**: N-[4-Methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl-pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-phenyl]-4-(3-oxo-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-benzamide. The purity of the reference compounds was separately examined by LC-MS. Solvents and reagents, all of analytical grade, were purchased from commercial manufacturers.
Subjects. This study enrolled four healthy male Caucasian volunteers, age 41-55 years, with medium body frame and weight (range, 61.8-85.7 kg). The subjects were genotyped with respect to hepatic cytochrome P450 isoenzyme CYP2D6.

Drug administration. After a 10 hour fast, each subject received a single oral dose of nominal 239 mg [14C]imatinib mesylate corresponding to 200 mg imatinib free base. The actual dose (mean ± S.D., n=4) administered was 237.0 ± 3.6 mg [14C]imatinib mesylate (=198.4 ± 3.0 mg free base) given in a hard gelatin capsule. The radioactive dose given per subject was 1.18 MBq (31.9 µCi).

14C-Radiolabeled imatinib. The radiolabeled drug [14C]imatinib mesylate was synthesized by the Isotope Laboratory of Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland. It was purified by chromatography, blended by recrystallization with non-radiolabeled drug substance using a non-radiolabeled Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) batch released for human use, and was analyzed for release for human use according to predefined specifications. Radiochemical purity was 100% with a specific radioactivity of 4.99 kBq per mg [14C]imatinib salt (135 nCi/mg).

Radiation protection. Radiation dosimetry calculations and the study protocol were approved by the Swiss National Radiation Protection Authority. Calculations were performed according to the rules of ICRP (International Commission on Radiological Protection). Retrospective examination confirmed that the whole body dose (effective dose) was clearly below 1 mSv. The written informed consent was obtained from the subjects prior to enrolment.

Sample collection. All blood samples were taken by either direct venipuncture or an indwelling cannula inserted into a forearm vein. Plasma was separated by centrifugation.
A blank urine sample (250 mL) was collected the day before dose administration and urine and feces were collected completely after dose administration. The subjects were confined to the clinical premises during the sampling period. They had access only to toilets specially equipped for lossless sample collection.

**Sample storage and shipment conditions.** After sample collection, blood, plasma, urine and feces samples were kept refrigerated at 4-8°C. Later on, the samples were stored frozen at ≤-18°C until and after analysis in the analytical laboratories. Stability of imatinib and its metabolites was ascertained under these conditions (Bakhtiar et al., 2002). Samples were shipped to other analytical laboratories under dry ice.

**Analysis of unchanged imatinib and its main metabolite CGP74588.** Concentrations of imatinib and its major metabolite (CGP74588) in all plasma samples of each individual subject were quantified by a validated specific assay based on liquid-chromatography-mass spectrometry (Bakhtiar et al., 2002).

**Radioactivity analysis of blood, plasma, urine and feces samples.** Determination of $^{14}$C radioactivity in blood, plasma and urine samples (3 replicates per time point) was performed using a Tri-Carb 2000 CA or TR 2500 liquid scintillation counter (LSC) (Packard Instruments, Meridian, CT, USA). Feces samples (4 replicates) were combusted in a Packard A307 oxidizer (Packard) and the $^{14}$CO$_2$ produced was trapped into the alkaline scintillation cocktail (Carbo-Sorb®, Packard) and radioactivity was measured by means of LSC. Urine and plasma samples were measured directly after addition of LSC cocktail using standard counting procedures and quench correction was performed by an external standard method (Botta et al., 1985). Radioactivity determination in pooled feces homogenates as well as residual pellets from extractions for metabolism investigations...
was performed after solubilization with Soluene 350® (Packard) and addition of liquid scintillation cocktail OptiPhase® HiSafe3® (Wallac, Turku, Finland). With a standard sample counting time of 10 min, the LOD was 7 cpm, corresponding to 57 ng-eq/mL in plasma. Late plasma samples were counted for 60 minutes, resulting in an LOD of 2.4 cpm or 9 ng-eq/mL.

**Radioactivity analysis of collected HPLC fractions.** For each HPLC analysis, fractions were collected either directly on solid scintillator-coated microplates (Deepwell LumaPlate™-96 or LumaPlate™-96, Packard BioScience B.V., Groningen, The Netherlands) for off-line radioactivity detection using a microplate scintillation counter (TopCount™ NXT, Packard Instruments, Meriden, CT, USA) or on polypropylene Deep Well Microplates (Porvair Sciences, Shepperton, UK), followed by transfer of aliquots onto LumaPlates™-96 (Boernsen et al., 2000) (Boernsen et al., 2001). The counting time of each fraction was 20 minutes (triplicates to identify false radioactivity due to electrostatic discharge).

The background counting values of the 12 individual detector heads were measured using an empty Deepwell LumaPlate™-96. The measurements of the HPLC fractions, collected on LumaPlates, were corrected by subtracting the background value of the corresponding detector head and adding again the average background value of the 12 detector heads (1.7 ± 0.2 cpm, mean ± SD) by means of Microsoft Excel™.

**Sample preparation of plasma, urine and feces for metabolite investigation.**

Semi-quantitative determination of main and trace metabolites by radio-HPLC with off-line micro-plate solid scintillation counting and structural characterization by LC-MS was performed in plasma, urine and feces pooled over four subjects. Sample pooling over
subjects was time-saving and adequate, as metabolite patterns preliminarily observed in plasma of individual subjects at 2, 8 and 24 h were very similar.

Plasma samples were collected at 2, 4, 8 and 24 hours post-dose and for each time point a pool over four subjects was prepared. Plasma proteins were precipitated with acetonitrile and removed by centrifugation. Recoveries of radioactivity after plasma sample preparation were between 88.2% and 95.4%. Urine pools over four subjects were prepared for the two collection intervals 0 to 24 h and 0 to 72 h. Recoveries of radioactivity after centrifugation of urine samples were 100%. Feces homogenates were pooled (0 to 48 h and 0 to 168 h) over four subjects and extracted with acetonitrile (94% to 95% recovery of radioactivity). The solvent of the feces extracts was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting oil was re-dissolved in mobile phase A and centrifuged. Supernatant 1 was removed and kept for HPLC analysis. The pellet was taken up in acetonitrile/HPLC mobile phase A (40/60; v/v), centrifuged and supernatant 2 was removed. The remaining pellet was finally taken up in acetonitrile/HPLC mobile phase A (60/40; v/v), centrifuged again and supernatant 3 was removed. The supernatants 3, 2 and 1 were injected in this order onto the HPLC column, followed by the start of the gradient elution. Collection of the solvent effluent during the loading process of the dissolutions followed by measurement of radioactivity and re-analysis of the effluent showed a loss of radioactivity of about 23% of the injected radioactivity. The proportion of non-retained components (imatinib, its major metabolite CGP74588 and the minor structurally metabolites) was the same as that retained on the HPLC column.

**HPLC Instrumentation for metabolite pattern analysis (radio-HPLC)**

**HPLC Method 1** (used for analysis of plasma and urine)
**Equipment 1:** The HPLC system consisted of two HPLC pumps PU-980 (Jasco, Tokyo, Japan) and an autosampler (AS Jasco AS-950-10). Sample injection was performed via a 2000 µL stainless steel sample loop. The chromatogram was monitored by UV detection at a wavelength of 270 nm using a UV-970M detector (Jasco). Software: Jasco-Borwin Version 1.50 (Omnilab, Mettmenstetten Switzerland). For profiling of metabolite patterns, samples were analyzed on a 4.6 x 150 mm Symmetry C18 column, 3.5-µm particle size (Waters, Milford, MA, USA), protected by a Symmetry C18 pre-column, 5-µm particle size, 3.9 x 20 mm (Waters) and thermostated at 10°C. The components were eluted with a gradient of formic acid (2% (v/v) in water, pH 2.5; mobile phase A) versus acetonitrile (mobile phase B) at a flow rate of 0.8 mL/min. HPLC fractions were collected for off-line radioactivity detection using a Gilson FC 204 fraction collector (Gilson Medical Electronics, Villiers Le Bel, France).

**HPLC Method 2** (used for analysis of feces extracts)

**Equipment 2:** The HPLC system consisted of 2 HPLC pumps Model 420 (Kontron, Switzerland) and an HPLC autosampler Model 465 (Kontron). Samples were injected via a 2000 µL stainless steel sample loop. Chromatography was monitored by UV detection by a UV HPLC detector Model 430 (Kontron) equipped with MT450 software (Kontron). The chromatography conditions were identical for HPLC methods 1 and 2.

**Evaluation of HPLC data.** Plasma, urine or feces extract samples were injected onto the HPLC system and fractions were collected on Deepwell LumaPlates™-96 (fraction volume: 0.16 mL; 12 sec/fraction). For each matrix, the recovery from the HPLC column was determined by collection of the total eluent into one flask. An aliquot of the eluent was taken for 14C measurement by LSC. The amounts of metabolites or parent drug in
plasma or excreta were derived from the radio-chromatograms (metabolite patterns) by dividing the radioactivity eluting from the HPLC column (equal to radioactivity in original sample minus losses during sample preparation and chromatography) in proportion to the relative peak areas. Parent drug or metabolites were expressed as concentrations (µmol/L) in plasma or as percent of dose in excreta. These values are to be considered as semi-quantitative only, as opposed to those determined by the validated quantitative LC-MS assay (Bakhtiar et al., 2002).

**Structural characterization of metabolites by LC-MS.** Metabolites of [14C]imatinib were characterized by LC-MS following their isolation from 2 h plasma, 0-72 h urine and 0-48 h feces (pools of three or four subjects). The isolated metabolites were injected onto a 4 x 3 mm Polar-RP trapping column (Phenomenex, Torrance, CA, USA) which, after rinsing with water, was connected in backflush-mode to a 150 x 1.0 mm Symmetry C18 analytical column (Waters, Milford, MA, USA), packed with 3.5 µm particles and thermostated at 40°C. The components were eluted with a gradient of aqueous 5 mmol/L ammonium acetate / 5 mmol/L acetic acid (mobile phase A) versus acetonitrile (mobile phase B) at a total flow rate of 60 µL/min. For hydrogen-deuterium exchange experiments, the water of the mobile phase A was replaced by D2O (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Andover, MA, USA; 99.9 atom-% D). After the column, the effluent was split in a ratio of approx. 1:5. The smaller part of the effluent (approx. 10 µL/min) was directed into the electrospray LC-MS interface (Z-spray interface with LockSpray option) of a Micromass (Wythenshawe, UK) Q-Tof 2 hybrid quadrupole time-of-flight tandem mass spectrometer. The remaining effluent was used for radioactivity monitoring by off-line solid scintillation counting after fraction collection. The electrospray interface was
operated with nitrogen as nebulizer gas, as desolvation gas (350 L/h) and as cone gas (40 L/h). The desolvation temperature was set to 150°C, the source block was heated to 80°C and the spray capillary was set to 3.0 kV. Positive ion single-stage mass spectra were recorded following mass separation by the time-of-flight analyzer. The mass resolution was set to approx. 8'000 (full width at half maximum definition). The cone voltage was switched repetitively between 30, 40 and 80 V. The M+H⁺ ion of reserpine at m/z 609.2812 was used as lock mass for recalibrating the spectra to obtain exact mass data.

**Pharmacokinetic evaluation.** Descriptive statistics of pharmacokinetic parameters include mean and standard deviation. Pharmacokinetics parameters were determined using non-compartmental method(s) using Microsoft® Excel. A weighted linear regression method was used to calculate the *Slope b* and *Intercept a* of the regression line. A weighting factor of \( w = 1/y \) was chosen. The apparent terminal half-life \( (t_{1/2,z}) \) was determined from the slope of the regression line of \( \ln(C_t) \) versus time \( t \). The \( \text{AUC}_{0-t_n} \) was calculated up to concentration value \( C_n \) at the last time point \( t_n \) by the linear-logarithmic trapezoidal method. The \( \text{AUC} \) was extrapolated to infinite time using the relationship

\[
AUC_{(t_n \rightarrow \infty)} = \frac{C_n \cdot t_{1/2,z}}{\ln(2)}.
\]

The apparent systemic clearance \( CL/f \) and apparent terminal volume of distribution \( V_{z/f} \) were calculated as

\[
\frac{Dose}{\text{AUC} \cdot f} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{CL \cdot t_{1/2,z}}{f \cdot \ln(2)},
\]

respectively. Factor \( f \) means the systemic bioavailability of the drug. The systemic clearance in blood was calculated by

\[
CL_{\text{Blood}} = CL_{\text{Plasma}} \cdot \frac{F_{\text{Plasma}}}{1 - HCT},
\]

where \( HCT \) indicates the hematocrit.
\[ F_{\text{Plasma}} = \frac{C_{\text{Plasma}}}{C_{\text{Blood}}} \cdot (1 - HCT) \]

value, and \( F_{\text{Plasma}} \) means the fraction of imatinib in the plasma compartment obtained from an \textit{in vitro} blood distribution study in human volunteers (Kretz et al., 2004).

RESULTS

**Pharmacokinetics of imatinib, CGP74588 and total radioactivity.** Following a single oral dose of nominal 239 mg \([^{14}\text{C}]\)imatinib mesylate, the mean maximum plasma levels of radioactivity, imatinib and its pharmacologically active N-desmethyl metabolite CGP74588 were reached rapidly between 1 and 2 hours post-dose, suggesting rapid absorption (Fig. 1). The total radioactivity at C\text{max} represented mainly unchanged drug (mean: 92%, range: 86%-99%) and CGP74588 (mean: 12%, range: 9%-14%). The key pharmacokinetic parameters are summarized in Table 1. Inter-individual differences in plasma concentrations and in pharmacokinetic parameters were small. Imatinib accounted for 65% of total radioactivity AUC\text{0-24h} in plasma and the metabolite CGP74588 accounted for 9%. The remaining proportion was due to a number of minor and trace metabolites of imatinib, as detected by off-line microplate solid-scintillation counting (TopCount\textsuperscript{TM}) following HPLC separation. Many of them could be characterized at least partially by LC-MS.

About 23% of the radioactivity in blood was calculated to have been taken up into red blood cells. Thus imatinib and its metabolites are present largely in the plasma (77%). For comparison, the fraction of unchanged imatinib in plasma of healthy volunteers \textit{in vitro} was 74% (Kretz et al., 2004).
Excretion and mass balance in urine and feces. Radioactivity was excreted slowly in all four subjects. After 2 days only about a quarter of the dose was recovered. Radiolabeled material was excreted largely with the feces (range, 60.6% - 71.3%; over 7 days). A minor proportion was excreted in urine with a small inter-individual variability (range, 12.2%-15.6%, up to 7 days). Correspondingly, the mean total recovery in excreta over 7 days was 80.2% (range 72.9% - 83.6%). By 11 days mean total recovery in excreta was 81.1% (range 74.2% - 84.7%). The results are summarized in Table 2.

Metabolite characterization by LC-MS. Metabolite structures were characterized by LC-MS (data in Table 3) and, where possible, confirmed by comparison of mass spectra and retention times with authentic reference compounds (metabolites AFN911, CGP74588, CGP72383, APG049, CGP71422 and APG050). The proposed partial or complete structures are given in Table 4.

The electrospray mass spectrum of imatinib taken at 80 V up-front collision offset (Fig. 2) showed the protonated and sodiated intact molecule (M+H+ and M+Na+, respectively) and a number of fragment ions of which Fragment A, resulting from loss of N-methylpiperazin, was the most abundant one. The interpretation of the fragment ions given in Fig. 2 was in agreement with exact mass data, as specified in the figure legend, and with the spectrum of [14C]imatinib labeled to a degree of 90% in position 2 of the pyrimidine ring, showing a shift by two mass units for all ions containing the labeled carbon atom (data not shown). At cone voltages of 30 and 40 V the electrospray mass spectrum of imatinib showed an additional [M+2H]2+ ion at m/z 247.6. This ion disappeared on increasing the cone voltage to 80 V due to fragmentation.
The metabolites of imatinib underwent predominantly fragmentations analogous to those of the parent drug, allowing to localize metabolic changes in the substructures of the parent drug molecule reflected by its charged or neutral mass spectral fragments. The proposed metabolite structures were further supported by exact mass measurements of their M+H⁺ ions and by hydrogen-deuterium exchange data (Table 3). The mass spectra of some of the metabolites showed special features that provided additional structural information as described below.

Metabolites APG050 and APG049 were identified as the 3-oxopiperazine derivatives of imatinib and CGP74588, respectively, by comparison with the corresponding reference compounds. Their mass spectra showed a characteristic water adduct of Fragment E (Table 3), confirmed by exact mass measurement, with an intensity higher than that of Fragment E. M23.7 is proposed to be a glucuronide of APG050 as it showed the same characteristic intensity ratio of Fragment E + H₂O / Fragment E >1. In contrast to APG050, the mass spectrum of the closely related isomeric metabolite M29.6 showed no Fragment E + H₂O. Instead, Fragment E was of particularly high intensity, similar to Fragment A, while in the mass spectra of most of the other metabolites Fragment A was the major and Fragment E a minor cleavage product. Formation of Fragment E seems to be favored in M29.6 at the expense of Fragment A. This may be explained with the presence of a 4-methyl-2-oxopiperazine substructure in M29.6. The M+H⁺ ion of this metabolite might be protonated preferentially in position 4 of the piperazine ring, as opposed to position 1, necessitating the rearrangement of a hydrogen in order to cleave neutral 4-methylpiperazin-2-one during the formation of Fragment A. In contrast, the M+H⁺ ion of APG050, like that of imatinib and most of its metabolites, can be expected
to be protonated to a significant extent in position 1 of the piperazine ring, allowing the loss of a neutral 4-methylpiperazin-2-one (or methylpiperazine or piperazine, respectively) without hydrogen rearrangement. The characteristic high intensity ratio of Fragment E / Fragment A (and absence of Fragment E + H$_2$O) was found also in the mass spectrum of M28.8, which is proposed to represent N-demethylated M29.6, and in the mass spectra of M27.6 and M25.6, which are proposed to be glucuronides of M29.6 and M28.8, respectively.

From a number of minor metabolites detected in the radiochromatograms of plasma (M20.0b, M21.4 and M26.8; see Fig. 3A), urine (M20.0b, M21.4, M22.8, M23.6, M25.2 and M26.4; see Fig. 4) or feces (M19.8, M21.6, M22.8, M23.6, M24.0, M25.2, M26.4, M26.8, M27.8a, M27.8b, M29.2, M31.0, M39.4 and M39.8; see Fig. 5) only partial structures could be determined. All of them were oxidation products, some glucuronidated. The amide bond of imatinib was intact (uncleaved) in all of these metabolites (unpublished data, U. Pfaar, M. Zollinger and H.-P. Gschwind, Novartis, March 2003).

**Metabolism.** The metabolite patterns in plasma (Fig. 3), urine (Fig. 4) and feces (Fig. 5) from four healthy male volunteers who were given a single 239 mg oral dose of [14C]imatinib mesylate indicate that unchanged imatinib and its N-desmethyl metabolite CGP74588 were, in all investigated matrices, the most prominent components.

Based on radio-HPLC of plasma samples, 70% of the plasma $^{14}$C-AUC$_{0-24h}$ amounted to unchanged imatinib and 9.5% to its N-desmethyl metabolite. These semi-quantitative values are in good agreement with those obtained by the validated LC-MS assays (Table 1). Another 11% consisted of at least 11 different metabolites of imatinib, the
structures of which could be partially characterized by LC-MS (eight of them in Table 4). They individually ranged between 0.2% and 4% of total $^{14}$C-AUC$_{0-24h}$.

In the excreta, about 5% and 1.8%, and 23% and 11% of the dose accounted for imatinib and its N-desmethyl metabolite CGP74588, in 0-72 h urine and 0-168 h feces, respectively. Metabolites in urine and feces were identified by radio-HPLC combined with micro-plate solid-scintillation counting and structurally characterized by LC-MS as well as by comparison with authentic reference compounds. A representative metabolite pattern in a 0-72 h pool of urine is shown in Fig. 4 and a representative metabolite pattern in a 0-168 h pool of feces is shown in Fig. 5.

**DISCUSSION**

**Tolerability.** Single oral doses of nominal 239 mg [^{14}C]imatinib mesylate administered to four healthy male subjects under fasting conditions were well tolerated, without any serious adverse event or discontinuation due to an adverse event.

**Absorption.** The gastro-intestinal absorption of imatinib, under fasting conditions, was rapid, as concluded from the early $C_{\text{max}}$ values of radioactivity, of imatinib, and of the main metabolite CGP74588, typically at 1.5 hours post-dose. The extent of absorption could not be assessed in this study. However, in a previous study, the absolute oral bioavailability was determined as $>97\%$ (Peng et al., 2004a), indicating complete absorption.

**Pharmacokinetics.** The mean plasma half-life of imatinib was 13.5 hours, confirming previously published data ($13.9 \pm 5.0$ h) (Peng et al., 2004a). Total radioactivity (sum of
imatinib and/or metabolites) decreased in plasma in a multi-exponential manner with a terminal half-life longer than two days. Thus, the terminal half-life of plasma radioactivity suggests some accumulation of metabolites. However, this will occur at low concentration levels and will be due to several minor metabolites, not to any single major metabolite. The pharmacokinetics of unchanged imatinib in repeated dose studies, did not change significantly and steady-state was reached in about 1 week (Peng et al 2004b). The accumulation factor was 1.5 to 3.0, as predicted from single dose pharmacokinetics. Inter-individual differences in pharmacokinetics and metabolism were low. Imatinib was the predominant radioactive component in plasma, particularly during the first 24 hours, representing about 70% of the radioactivity AUC. The pharmacologically active N-desmethyl metabolite (CGP74588) accounted for another 9%. The systemic exposure to numerous minor and trace metabolites was small. With CL/f of 4.18 (mL/min)/kg (18.9 ± 2.0 L/h) and f ~ 1, the plasma clearance of imatinib was approx. 4.2 (mL/min)/kg. From this value and a fraction in plasma of 74% at a hematocrit of 46% (Kretz et al., 2004), a moderate blood clearance of 5.8 (mL/min)/kg corresponding to 28% of the hepatic blood flow in humans (21 (mL/min)/kg; Davies and Morris, 1993) can be calculated. The apparent volume of distribution Vz/f of imatinib found in the present study (366 ± 19 L, mean ± SD) is in good agreement with Vz/f data published for oral solution (385 ± 167 L) and capsule (382 ± 194 L), and is consistent with the volume of distribution Vz (435 ± 154 L) obtained after i.v. infusion of 100 mg imatinib (Peng et al., 2004a).

**Metabolism.** In the excreta (urine 0-72 h and feces 0-168 h), dose fractions of 28% and <13% were recovered in the form of imatinib and the N-desmethyl metabolite,
respectively. The remaining proportion represented further oxidized metabolites. Thus oxidative metabolism is the main clearance mechanism. The metabolic processes are summarized in Fig. 6.

Phase I metabolism pathways included N-demethylation (e.g. main metabolite CGP74588), piperazine ring oxidation with lactam formation (APG049, APG050, M29.6 and M28.8), piperazine-N-4 oxidation (CGP71422), pyridine N-oxidation (CGP72383), and benzylic hydroxylation (AFN911). Further, loss of the piperazine moiety by oxidative deamination and rapid further oxidation of the intermediate aldehyde (not observed) to a carboxylic acid metabolite M42.2 was observed. In vitro metabolism studies with human hepatic microsomes showed that the oxidative metabolism of imatinib was mainly catalyzed by the cytochrome P450 3A isoenzyme subfamily (CYP3A) (O’Brien et al., 2003b) and, thus, the metabolic clearance of imatinib in human is concluded to depend largely on hepatic CYP3A. Phase II metabolic pathways included direct conjugation of imatinib and the N-desmethyl metabolite (CGP74588) with glucuronic acid (M21.0 and M20.0a, respectively), most likely at nitrogen, and glucuronidation of oxidative metabolites.

**Excretion.** In the observation period of 7 days, the total recovery of radioactivity in feces and urine was incomplete (mean 80.2%). Individual recoveries ranged from 72.9% to 83.6%. Otherwise, the inter-individual pharmacokinetic differences were small. Beyond the planned sample collection period of 7 days, additional feces samples were collected from three subjects from day 9 to 11, to follow the continuing excretion process. An apparent terminal elimination half-life of radioactivity in feces was estimated to approximately 3 weeks. The radioactivity was excreted largely with the feces (67.8% of
dose in 11 days). A minor dose proportion was excreted in urine (13.2% in 7 days). Imatinib was the main fecal component (23% of dose). The major proportion of fecal imatinib (about 16% of dose) was recovered in the late excretion phase. This amount of imatinib in feces could not represent non-absorbed drug since absorption and absolute oral bioavailability of imatinib were shown to be nearly complete (Peng et al., 2004a). The substantial fecal recovery of imatinib may be related either (i) to biliary excretion of imatinib, and/or (ii) to unstable metabolites which were reconverted back to imatinib in the gut, e.g. N-oxides and/or glucuronides, and/or (iii) to imatinib-related components secreted via the gastro-intestinal walls by-passing the biliary route. There is evidence or strong indications for all of these processes: Ramalingam and coworkers (Ramalingam et al., 2004) reported that a patient receiving daily oral doses of 300 mg imatinib excreted 17.7% and 2.1% of the dose as unchanged imatinib and CGP74588, respectively, in 0-24-hour bile. In addition to biliary elimination, direct secretion of imatinib and/or its metabolites from blood through the gastro-intestinal walls was observed in bile duct-cannulated rats after a single intravenous dose of 10 mg/kg (H. Wiegand and U. Pfaar, Novartis, unpublished data, April 2001). In these animals, a substantial proportion of drug-related components was excreted with feces, by-passing the biliary route (about 18% of dose). In the feces, only traces of the piperazine 4-N-oxide (CGP71422) were detected. The pyridine N-oxide metabolite (CGP72383), which was found in plasma and urine, was absent in feces. These observations are in agreement with the reductive potential of human intestinal bacteria towards N-oxides as reported (el-Mekkawy et al., 1993). Further, microbial deconjugation of O- or N-glucuronides of imatinib and of CGP74588 to parent drug and to the N-desmethyl metabolite, respectively, may have
taken place in the intestine (Chourasia and Jain, 2003) since conjugates present in plasma and urine were not detected in feces. The available data from this study do not allow to assess the extent of the biliary excretion of the glucuronic acid conjugates of imatinib and its metabolites. To investigate this, analysis of human bile from subjects treated with imatinib would be required. Further, it should be noted, that elimination of imatinib and intestinal reconversion of metabolites back to imatinib may all contribute to enterohepatic recirculation and to the slow terminal elimination process.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to thank Daniel Pierroz, Margrit Riera, Agnes Holler, Serge Delaborde (Novartis Pharma AG, Preclinical Safety Europe, Biotransformation) for their excellent technical work, Dr. Andras Kalman and Rene Lehmann (Isotope Laboratory) for the preparation of the radiolabeled drug, and Dr. Bertrand Sutter (Pharmaceutical Analytical Development) for the analytical and pharmaceutical support. Thanks to Dr. Jürg Zimmermann and Dr. Paul W. Manley (Novartis Pharma AG, Oncology Research) for synthesis of reference compounds.
REFERENCES


*Drug Metab Rev* **33** (Suppl 1):1-274.


in the treatment of metastatic and/or unresectable malignant gastrointestinal stromal


Figure Legends

FIG. 1. Plasma concentrations of total $^{14}$C radioactivity, imatinib and CGP74588 as indicated, (A) a linear scale, (B) semi-logarithmic scale. Error bars represent ± SD, n=4.

FIG. 2: Mass spectrum of imatinib. Electrospray ionization, positive ion mode, up-front collision offset (cone voltage) 80 V, single-stage mass separation, background subtracted. Proposed interpretation of the spectrum in agreement with exact mass measurements: differences between measured and calculated masses $\leq$ 2.0 mDa for all interpreted signals.

FIG. 3: Representative metabolite patterns in plasma at (A) 2 hours and (B) 24 hours after dosing. Plasma samples of four subjects were pooled and extracted prior to HPLC analysis (Method 1). Chemical structures of metabolites are listed in Table 4.

FIG. 4: Metabolite pattern in urine collected between 0 and 72 hours after dosing. Urine from four subjects was pooled and centrifuged prior to HPLC analysis (Method 1). Chemical structures of metabolites are listed in Table 4.
FIG. 5: Metabolite pattern in an extract of feces collected between 0 and 168 hours after dosing. Feces from four subjects was pooled and extracted prior to HPLC analysis (Method 2). Chemical structures of metabolites are listed in Table 4.

FIG. 6: Chemical structure of imatinib and identified metabolic processes in human. The main metabolic pathway was the N-demethylation to CGP74588. For details of chemical structures see Table 4.
Table 1  Pharmacokinetic parameters for $^{14}$C radioactivity in blood and plasma, and of imatinib and CGP74588 in plasma

Pharmacokinetic parameters of $^{14}$C radioactivity in blood and plasma, and of imatinib and its N-desmethyl metabolite CGP74588 in plasma of healthy male subjects after a single oral dose of 239 mg $^{14}$C-labeled imatinib mesylate.

Mean ± SD, n=4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Radioactivity</th>
<th>Imatinib</th>
<th>CGP74588</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blood</td>
<td>Plasma</td>
<td>Plasma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_{\text{max}}$ (µmol/L)</td>
<td>1.57 ± 0.07</td>
<td>2.02 ± 0.09</td>
<td>1.87 ± 0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_{\text{max}}$ (µg/mL)</td>
<td>0.775 ± 0.03$^f$</td>
<td>0.999 ± 0.043$^f$</td>
<td>0.921 ± 0.095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_{\text{max}}$ (% of $^{14}$C in plasma)</td>
<td>78 ± 5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>92 ± 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t_{\text{max}}$ (h)</td>
<td>range: 1-2</td>
<td>range: 1-2</td>
<td>range: 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>median: 1.75</td>
<td>median: 1.5</td>
<td>median: 1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-24h}$ (µmol·h/L)</td>
<td>18.5 ± 0.6</td>
<td>24.9 ± 0.9</td>
<td>16.2 ± 1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-24h}$ (µg·h/mL)</td>
<td>9.1 ± 0.3$^f$</td>
<td>12.3 ± 0.4$^f$</td>
<td>8.01 ± 0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-24h}$ (% of $^{14}$C in plasma)</td>
<td>74 ± 3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>65 ± 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-48h}$ (µmol·h/L)</td>
<td>25.7 ± 0.99</td>
<td>34.6 ± 1.7</td>
<td>20.0 ± 1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-48h}$ (µg·h/mL)</td>
<td>12.7 ± 0.49$^{a,f}$</td>
<td>17.1 ± 0.82$^{f}$</td>
<td>9.89 ± 0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-48h}$ (% of $^{14}$C in plasma)</td>
<td>75 ± 2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>58 ± 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-168h}$ (µmol·h/L)</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>48.5 ± 2.6</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-168h}$ (µg·h/mL)</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>23.9 ± 1.3$^f$</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-\infty}$ (µmol·h/L)</td>
<td>31.9 ± 1.5</td>
<td>53.1 ± 2.0</td>
<td>21.6 ± 2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$AUC_{0-\infty}$ ($\mu g \cdot h/mL$)</td>
<td>15.8 ± 0.76$^f$</td>
<td>26.2 ± 1.0$^f$</td>
<td>10.7 ± 1.1</td>
<td>1.66 ± 0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUC extrapolated (%)</td>
<td>25.3 ± 14</td>
<td>8.7 ± 2.0</td>
<td>7.3 ± 1.3</td>
<td>17.9 ± 2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUC ($%$ of $^{14}C$ in plasma)</td>
<td>60 ± 0.9</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>41 ± 4</td>
<td>6.5 ± 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t_{1/2}$ terminal ($h$)</td>
<td>21.2 ± 1.13</td>
<td>57.3 ± 12.5</td>
<td>13.5 ± 0.9</td>
<td>20.6 ± 1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(time period)</td>
<td>(12-48h)$^b$</td>
<td>(72-168h)$^c$</td>
<td>(12-48h)</td>
<td>(12-48h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematocrit (%)</td>
<td>43 ± 1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binding to RBC (%)</td>
<td>23 ± 5$^d$</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL/$f$ ((mL/min)/kg)$^e$</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.18 ± 0.29</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(L/h)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18.9 ± 2.0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_z/f$ (L/kg)$^e$</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.90 ± 0.55</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(L)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>366 ± 19</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- : Not calculated or not meaningful.

n.a.: Not available.

RBC: Red blood cells.

$^a$: Mean ± SD, n=3 of subjects.

$^b$: 2 out of 4 subjects, for the other two subjects the period 48-72 and 8-24 h were considered.

$^c$: 2 out of 4 subjects, for the other two subjects the period 48-168 h or 1.5-168 h were considered.

$^d$: Calculated from the blood and plasma $^{14}C$ concentrations at time points in the period 0-48 h.

$^e$: Factor $f$ means the systemic bioavailability of the drug.
Radioactivity concentrations are expressed as µg equivalents of imatinib free base per mL (=µg-eq/mL).
Table 2  Cumulative excretion of radioactivity in urine and feces

Cumulative excretion of $^{14}$C radioactivity in urine and feces following a single oral dose of 239 mg $^{14}$C-labeled imatinib mesylate administered to four healthy male subjects.

Mean ± S.D.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Urine</th>
<th></th>
<th>Feces</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(% dose)</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>(% dose)</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>(% dose)</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-48</td>
<td>10.6 ± 1.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16.1 ± 12.4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26.7 ± 12.5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-168 $^a$</td>
<td>13.2 ± 1.6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>66.9 ± 4.5 $^a$</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>80.2 ± 5.0 $^a$</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-264 $^b$</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>67.8 ± 5.4 $^b$</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>81.1 ± 4.9 $^b$</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^a$: Excreta were collected completely from n=4 subjects, and were measured over the period 0–168 h. The last feces sample within the planned study was collected at 154 h.

$^b$: To follow the excretion beyond 168 h, additional feces samples were collected in three subjects in the period 208–264 h. No feces were collected in the period 154-208 h. Thus, the tabulated observation period 0–264 h was not covered completely.

n.d.: Not determined.
Table 3  Mass spectral data on imatinib and its metabolites in plasma, urine and feces

Data from LC-MS runs of isolated imatinib and metabolites. Components listed in the order of elution. Proposed chemical structures are shown in Table 4. Electrospray ionization, positive ion mode, up-front collision offset (cone voltage) 30, 40 and 80 V (combined data), single-stage mass separation. Some of the expected fragment ions may be missing due to low intensities and/or high background of co-eluting endogenous components.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Matrix</th>
<th>Observed ions (m/z)</th>
<th>Shift of M+H+ ion upon H/D exchange (m/z)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M20.0a</td>
<td>U (P)</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>328.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M21.0</td>
<td>P (U)</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>335.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFN911</td>
<td>F (P, U)</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGP74588</td>
<td>F (P, U)</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>240.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M23.7</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>706'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imatinib</td>
<td>F (P, U)</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>247.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M25.6</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M27.6</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGP72383</td>
<td>U (P)</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>255.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APG049</td>
<td>F (P, U)</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M28.8</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M29.6</td>
<td>F (P, U)</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGP71422</td>
<td>U (P, F)</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>255.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APG050</td>
<td>F (P, U)</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M42.2</td>
<td>F (U)</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend overleaf
n.d.: not determined

\( a \): P: plasma, U: urine, F: feces; spectrum in the table obtained after isolation from the matrix in bold; essentially same spectrum obtained after isolation from matrix/matrices in parentheses

\( b \): equal to number of heteroatom-bound hydrogens in the neutral molecule plus one

\( c \): measured exact mass in agreement with proposed structure

\( d \): in case of glucuronides, Fragments A-E refer to the aglycone, formed in the mass spectrometer by loss of anhydroglucuronic acid

\( e \): Na-adduct

\( f \): aglycone of M+H\(^+\)

\( g \): incomplete H/D exchange, same observation for authentic reference compound

Nomenclature of fragment ions of imatinib and its metabolites, imatinib as example:

\[
\begin{align*}
262 & \text{ (Fragment C)} & 394 & \text{ (Fragment A)} \\
276 & \text{ (Fragment B)} & 217 & \text{ (Fragment E)} \\
222 & \text{ (Fragment D)}
\end{align*}
\]
Table 4  List of metabolites and their proposed chemical structures

Structures of imatinib metabolites partially or completely characterized by LC-MS (labeled as Mxx.x) and/or by comparison with authentic reference compounds (labeled with corresponding compound codes) are given below. The components are listed according to the site and type of metabolic reaction (from changes in the non-piperazine moiety to changes in the piperazine substructure).

Systemic exposure to imatinib and its metabolites in plasma (P) is expressed as AUC\(0\text{-}24h\) in µmol·h/L, and percentage of total \(^{14}\text{C}\)-AUC\(0\text{-}24h\) (given in parentheses).

Radiolabeled components detected in urine and feces are indicated with U and F.

Amounts of imatinib and its metabolites in urine (0-72 h) and feces (0-168 h) are given in percent of administered dose. Proportions of co-eluting components could only be roughly estimated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site and type of metabolic reaction</th>
<th>Chemical structure</th>
<th>Compound name and presence in matrix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imatinib (parent drug)</td>
<td>(\text{R=CH}_3)</td>
<td>(\text{R=H})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: 17.7 (70)</td>
<td>(\text{P: 1.0 (4.0)})</td>
<td>(\text{U: } \leq 0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(\text{U: } \leq 0.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imatinib glucuronide</td>
<td>(\text{R=CH}_3)</td>
<td>(\text{R=H})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M21.0</td>
<td>(\text{M20.0a})</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: 1.0 (4.0)</td>
<td>(\text{P: } &lt; 0.4) (1.6)</td>
<td>(\text{U: } \leq 0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U: (\leq 0.4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CGP72383

- 

P: 0.29 (1.1)

U: ≤ 0.3

AFN911

- 

P: < 0.22 (< 0.9)

U: ≤ 0.4; F: ≤ 2

CGP71422

- 

P: < 0.21 (< 0.8)

U: < 0.3; F: ≤ 0.3

APG050

APG049

P: 0.32 (1.2) 
P: 0.11 (0.4)

U: ≤ 1.5, F: < 0.3 
U: 0.1; F: 1.6

**glucuronide**

M23.7

- 

U: ≤ 0.3

M29.6

M28.8

P: < 0.21 (< 0.8) 

U: < 0.1

U: < 0.3; F: ≤ 1

**glucuronides**

M27.6 

M25.6

U: ≤ 0.3 

U: ≤ 0.5

M42.2

- 

U: 0.1; F: 1.3
For metabolites M19.8, M20.0b, M21.4, M21.6, M22.8, M23.6, M24.0, M25.2, M26.4, M26.8, M27.8a, M27.8b, M29.2, M31.0, M39.4 and M39.8 in plasma, urine and/or feces (Fig. 3-5) only partial structures could be determined (unpublished data, U. Pfaar, M. Zollinger and H.-P. Gschwind, Novartis, March 2003).
Fig. 1-A 

![Graph showing concentration of drugs over time]

- Radioactivity
- Imatinib + CGP74588
- Imatinib
- CGP74588
Fig. 1-B

Concentration (nmol/L) vs. Time after dose (h)

- Concentration decreases over time after dose.
- The concentration is measured in nmol/L.
- The time is measured in hours after the dose.

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Fig. 2

262 (Fragment C) 394 (Fragment A)  
276 (Fragment B) 217 (Fragment E)

222 (Fragment D)

- H

+H

M+H+
M+Na+
-H2O

C23H17N5O


394.1657 Frag. A

476.2559 M+H+
516.2508 M+Na+

m/z

Relative intensity (%)
Fig. 4

Radioactivity (cpm)

Retention time (min)

M20.0a/b
M21.0 + M21.4 + AFN911
CGP74588 + M22.8
M23.6 + M23.7
M25.2
APG049
M26.4
M25.6
M27.6 + CGP72383
M28.8
M29.6 + CGP71422 + APG050
M42.2

Imatinib

Imatinib
Radioactivity (cpm)

Retention time (min)

M19.8  M21.6 + AFN911  CGP74588

M24.0  M23.6  M25.2

M22.8

M26.4

M27.8a/b  M26.8  M29.2

APG049  CGP714;  APG050

M31.0

M39.4  M39.8  M42.2

HPLC artifact

Radioactivity (cpm)

Fig. 5

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Imatinib

N-oxidation

Hydroxylation

N-demethylation

N- and/or O-glucuronidations

N-oxidation

Deamination + oxidation to carboxylic acid

Lactam formation

N-oxidation

* asterisk indicates the position of ¹⁴C radiolabel

(CGP72383)

(M42.2)

(M23.7, M25.6, M27.6, M28.8, M29.6)

(AGP049, AGP050)

(M20.0a, M25.6, M28.8, AGP049)

(CGP74588, M20.0a, M25.6, M28.8, AGP049)

(CGP71422)

(M20.0a, M21.0, M23.7, M25.5, M27.6)

(AFN911)