Clinical experimentation with aerosol antibiotics: current and future methods of administration

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Abstract: Currently almost all antibiotics are administered by the intravenous route. Since several systems and situations require more efficient methods of administration, investigation and experimentation in drug design has produced local treatment modalities. Administration of antibiotics in aerosol form is one of the treatment methods of increasing interest. As the field of drug nanotechnology grows, new molecules have been produced and combined with aerosol production systems. In the current review, we discuss the efficiency of aerosol antibiotic studies along with aerosol production systems. The different parts of the aerosol antibiotic methodology are presented. Additionally, information regarding the drug molecules used is presented and future applications of this method are discussed.

Keywords: antibiotics, aerosol, nebulizers

Introduction

Currently most antibiotics are administered via the intravenous route. However, it has been observed in clinical practice that there are several situations where the necessary concentration of the administered antibiotic is not reached in the target tissue/system. A clear example of this clinical situation where optimal antibiotic concentrations are necessary is bone infection. Local antibiotic administration using a system able to achieve higher antibiotic concentrations locally increases local disease control. Pulmonary infection is another situation where antibiotics need to reach high concentrations locally. In addition, in most pulmonary diseases, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and cystic fibrosis, the defense mechanisms of the respiratory tract are operating subnormally. These defense mechanisms can be summarized as beating cilia, mucus, the cough reflex, and local macrophages. In the event of malfunction of these defense mechanisms, it is easy for microorganisms that colonize the lung parenchyma to proliferate and cause infection. There are several factors affecting the efficient deposition of an aerosolized pharmaceutical, including: the flow rate produced; design of the residual cup; residual cup loading; residual cup filling at the start of drug administration; tapping of the residual cup during nebulization; charge on the drug molecules; environment of the respiratory tract (humidity >99% and airways temperature 37°C); chemical structure of droplets; droplet size produced (<5 µm); viscosity; surface tension; and concentration of the drug solution. In order for the aerosol to reach the distal airways, the maximum droplet size produced must not exceed 5 µm. It has been observed that, due to the respiratory tract environment (>99% humidity and 37°C), chemical structure, and concentration of salts, the molecules of the aerosol increase in size between 25% to...
50% of the original produced size. The increased flow rate is responsible for reducing the nebulization time. Several authors have also proposed refilling of the residual cup when the solution volume reaches half of the initial value in order to produce droplets <5 μm in size. The number of fillings should not exceed two, because the concentration of the drug solution will drop significantly. Moreover; the lung parenchyma, if extended, measures 100 m², and is actually a huge membrane where oxygen enters the circulation through the small vessels surrounding the alveoli. Underlying respiratory disease or opportunistic infection will negatively affect distribution of the aerosol. However, from our experience with inhaled insulin, the available information indicates that aerosol therapy can still be administered, but the dose should be changed and closer monitoring of the relevant laboratory values is necessary.

New recently published insights regarding aerosol antibiotics in patients with underlying respiratory disease or opportunistic infection indicate that local administration has an immunomodulatory effect and that the inflammatory response to the infection is kept to a minimum. Tracheal and alveolar macrophages remain active, and the inflammation associated with the infection is kept under control at the same time. Another reason why we would like to be able to administer antibiotics locally is that the antibiotic solution undergoes minimal systemic metabolism when administered via this route. In a number of cases, the intravenously administered dose has to be reduced because of impaired renal or liver function. It has been previously observed that aerosol antibiotic treatment is also efficient when lower antibiotic drug concentration is administered.

Several aerosol antibiotics are currently approved, including tobramycin, aztreonam lysine, and colistimethate sodium, and other new formulations are under development, including polymyxins, aminoglycosides, fluoroquinolones, and fosfomycin. Several respiratory diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and cystic fibrosis, show changes in parameters of the respiratory system, eg, sputum viscosity. Novel nanomolecules bypassing these obstacles to distribution have been reported. In the current mini-review, published clinical trials, new information regarding aerosol production systems, and novel nanof ormulations are discussed.

Search methods
We performed an electronic article search using the PubMed, Google Scholar, Medscape, and Scopus databases, using combinations of the following search terms: “aerosol antibiotics”, “aerosol nanoparticles”, “aerosol production”, and “aerosol antibiotic studies”. All types of articles (randomized controlled trials, clinical observational cohort studies, review articles, case reports) were included. Selected references from the articles identified were searched further, with no language restrictions.

Fosfomycin/tobramycin
The study by Trapnell et al screened 162 patients, of whom 121 completed the trial. The mean patient age was 32 years and two different drug combinations were administered, ie, 160/40 mg and 80/20 mg. The administration system was an eFlow nebulizer system (PARI Pharma GmbH, Starnberg, Germany). Safety and efficiency were recorded using spirometry, the Cystic Fibrosis Questionnaire-Revised (CFQ-R), and recording of adverse effects in the respiratory tract. Upon inclusion in the protocol, patients were stratified according to their performance on spirometry, and Pseudomonas aeruginosa was required to be present in expectorated sputum, in previous examinations. Two major points regarding treatment should be noted. First, all patients received bronchodilation before administration of the aerosol antibiotic independently of their regular inhalation therapy. Second, there were 12 hospitalizations due to disease exacerbation after aerosol administration according to the treating physician. Major positive results included a relative increase in forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV₁), lower sputum P. aeruginosa density on the 80/20 mg dose, and fewer adverse effects on this dose. No major therapeutic differences were observed between the two groups (Table 1).

Tobramycin alone
Inhaled tobramycin was administered as 300 mg twice daily in a multicenter, placebo-controlled, 24-week study. Once again, changes in FEV₁ and sputum P. aeruginosa density were recorded, along with adverse effects. Administration of the aerosol was performed using two nebulizers, ie, the LC Plus® jet nebulizer (PARI Pharma GmbH) and the Pulmo-Aide compressor (DeVilbiss, Glendale Heights, IL, USA). The patients were again stratified according to FEV₁ and sputum P. aeruginosa density. In addition, the patients were instructed to wear nose clips and perform normal tidal breathing. The patients needed to have a previous record of P. aeruginosa in their sputum. The results showed a 10% increase in FEV₁ at week 20 and a mean decrease in sputum P. aeruginosa density of 0.8 log₁₀ colony-forming units. The adverse effects recorded were tinnitus and voice alteration, but these were not severe enough to warrant cessation of aerosol administration.
### Table 1 Aerosol studies with tobramycin, amikacin, and gentamicin

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<th>Reference</th>
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<td>Ramsey et al&lt;sup&gt;17&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tobramycin</td>
<td>663 patients, Mean age 21 years</td>
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<td>↑FEV&lt;sub&gt;1&lt;/sub&gt;, decreased sputum PA density, fewer hospitalizations</td>
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<td>300 mg inhaled tobramycin</td>
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<td>Murphy et al&lt;sup&gt;18&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tobramycin</td>
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<td>McCoy et al&lt;sup&gt;17&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tobramycin, Aztreonam lysinate</td>
<td>≥6 years, 115 patients</td>
<td>PARI LC</td>
<td>CFQ-R and FEV&lt;sub&gt;1&lt;/sub&gt;, increase after AZLI and delayed time to inhaled or intravenous antibiotic administration after AZLI</td>
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<td>Hodson et al&lt;sup&gt;19&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>TOBI 300 mg twice daily</td>
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<td>Pharyngitis, 17 patients, ≥10% decrease after aerosol administration</td>
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<td>Geller et al&lt;sup&gt;20&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tobramycin</td>
<td>523 patients, &gt;6 years, Mean age 21 years</td>
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<td>Tobramycin</td>
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<td>Decreased days of hospitalization with more than four cycles of administration</td>
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<td>Geller et al&lt;sup&gt;25&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tobramycin, both aerosol and dry powder</td>
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<td>T-326 DPI</td>
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<td>Four capsules = 112 mg</td>
<td>FEV&lt;sub&gt;1&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
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<td>Konstan et al; EAGER Trial&lt;sup&gt;26&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Aerosol tobramycin versus light-porous particle, dry powder</td>
<td>≥6 years, 553 randomized</td>
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Table 1 (Continued)

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<td>Trapnell et al⁹⁴</td>
<td>Tobramycin solution</td>
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<td>Review</td>
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<td>Newman et al¹¹⁶</td>
<td>Gentamicin</td>
<td>Eight nebulizers from each brand</td>
<td>Bird, Micronebuliser, DeVibias 646, Bard Inspiron, Mini-Neb, Medic-Aid Upmist</td>
<td>The higher the flow rate the smaller the MMAD and shorter the nebulization time</td>
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<td>Safdar et al⁹²</td>
<td>Amikacin</td>
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<td>8 of 9 patients were efficiently treated</td>
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<td>Aquino et al⁹⁰</td>
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<td>ASD and tobramycin</td>
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<td>For ASD, MIC remained the same after mucin addition MMAD &lt; 5 µm</td>
<td>Gentamicin (40 mg/mL) Tobramycin (30 mg/5 mL)</td>
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<td>Meers et al⁹³</td>
<td>Liposomal amikacin</td>
<td>Animal</td>
<td>12-port nose-only inhalation chamber, PARI LC, Star</td>
<td>Sustained release of liposomal amikacin based on supernatants</td>
<td>20 mg/mL</td>
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Abbreviations: FEV₁, forced expiratory volume in one second; FVC, forced vital capacity; FEF_{25-75}, forced expiratory flow during middle half of forced vital capacity; SaO₂, oxygen saturation; CFQ-R, Cystic Fibrosis Questionnaire-Revised; TOBI, inhaled tobramycin solution; AZLi, aztreonam lysinate; PA, Pseudomonas aeruginosa; TiP, inhaled tobramycin powder; TiS, inhaled tobramycin solution; TSQM, Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire for Medication; DPi, dry powder; MMAD, mass median aerodynamic diameter; CuFi-1, human airway epithelial (HAE) cell line; SA, Staphylococcus aureus; VAP, ventilation-associated pneumonia; ASD, aminosterol derivative; MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; LFTs, lung function tests.
Pneumothorax was observed in one patient. Most importantly, fewer hospitalizations were observed in the group receiving aerosolized tobramycin.27 Another small uncontrolled study in 12 patients recorded height, weight, chest X-ray (Brasfield score) and FEV₁. After 2 years of administration of inhaled tobramycin 300 mg twice daily (28 days on and 28 days off), the decline in FEV₁ (Δ) decreased, body mass index increased, and radiologic disease progression was again decreased.73

In a study by Murphy et al,38 184 patients were enrolled to receive aerosolized tobramycin 300 mg twice daily administered with the LC Plus jet nebulizer and a Pulmo-Aide compressor for 56 weeks. Again, administration was performed on a 28-day on and 28-day off cycle. Respiratory functions were recorded, and this study presented additional data regarding forced vital capacity (FVC) and forced expiratory flow during the middle half of forced vital capacity (FEF₂₅–₇₅). The most important observation was an 8% increase in FEF₂₅–₇₅ (an index of small airways function) in the aerosolized tobramycin group. Moreover, fewer hospital admissions and fewer days of hospitalization were observed in the group receiving aerosolized tobramycin. Concomitant antibiotics were administered to fewer patients receiving aerosolized antibiotics (102 days versus 124 days in the control group). Further, both groups showed an increase in body weight, and no severe adverse effects were observed. However, two patients were withdrawn from the study because of severe cough, sneezing, and sore throat related to administration of the aerosol. Hoarseness of voice was also observed in almost all patients receiving aerosolized tobramycin.

The pharmacokinetics of tobramycin were assessed in a 24-week study by Geller et al.39 The main observation was that aerosol deposition was not associated with changes in pulmonary function tests, ie, FEV₁, FVC, and FEV₁/FVC, as would be expected. It has always been a point of debate whether underlying respiratory disease influences deposition of the aerosol. However, more information is necessary regarding the site of sample collection, ie, from the central or distal airways. Another major point was the low plasma drug concentration and local increase in sputum concentration. The methodology used in this study provides an excellent example of the pharmacokinetic superiority of a local treatment modality.38

In a study by Moss et al,48 a reduction in sputum *P. aeruginosa* density was associated for the first time with an increase in FEV₁. Again, weight gain, increase in FEV₁, and reduction in sputum *P. aeruginosa* density were observed in this long-term 96-week study. Evaluation of nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity also indicated no adverse effects other than tinnitus; however, neither of the two patients affected had to discontinue administration of the drug. Patient adherence with tobramycin was associated with cost-effectiveness of therapy and days of hospitalization. It was observed that 804 patients receiving more than four cycles of tobramycin per year (2001–2006 data) had a significant reduction in hospitalization and fewer outpatient service costs. However, higher outpatient prescription drug costs were recorded.74 Tobramycin was evaluated as an aerosol versus a dry powder. Pharmacokinetics were assessed, and major observations were made regarding future development of antibiotic formulations. First, the timing of administration was significantly reduced compared with the 15 minutes required for nebulization. For the first time, the plasma concentration of tobramycin was evaluated until 12 hours after administration. The time taken to reach peak plasma concentration was one hour after administration for both the aerosol and the dry powder. In addition, the area under the curve and peak plasma concentration were detected between subjects receiving 4 × 14 mg and 2 × 28 mg capsules. Moreover, systemic exposure was identical for the 300 mg aerosol and the 112 mg dry powder. One patient had to discontinue administration of the dry powder because of severe cough. However, there was a difference in the decrease in FEV₁ of 10%–20% between the aerosol and dry powder formulations. Only one patient had a decrease in FEV₁ of 20% and had to discontinue treatment. This study provides valuable data indicating that this new methodology for antibiotic administration should be pursued at least for cystic fibrosis and in patients with respiratory function appropriate for dry powder usage.49

The safety and efficacy of the dry powder formulation of tobramycin was evaluated in the EVOLVE (Tobramycin Inhalation Powder [TIP] for *P. aeruginosa* Infection in Cystic Fibrosis Subjects) trial. The maximum administration time was 4–6 minutes. The major adverse effects occurring in both the tobramycin and placebo dry powder inhaler groups were cough, sore throat, and pyrexia; however, pyrexia was only related to the dry powder. Again, FEV₁ was increased in the dry powder inhaler group and sputum *P. aeruginosa* density was decreased; this observation was confirmed again when placebo patients were switched to tobramycin by dry powder inhaler.75

In the EAGER (Safety, efficacy and convenience of tobramycin inhalation powder in cystic fibrosis patients) trial,50 inhalation dry powder was evaluated versus inhalation solution. The increase in FEV₁ was equal for the two groups at all times of spirometric evaluation. The sputum
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P. aeruginosa density was observed to be lower in the inhalation dry powder group during the 28 days of cycle 3. Adverse effects and in particular cough were observed to be more severe in the inhalation dry powder group. This finding is attributable to the fact that the dry powder fibers have the one axis increased, so the particles have a linear shape which irritates the respiratory tract epithelium and provokes cough. Information on this issue is not available for this study. Cough was diminished after several administrations of treatment; however, 4% of patients (12/308) in the inhalation dry powder group discontinued treatment in comparison with 1% of patients (2/209) in the inhalation solution group. Bronchospasm (defined as a >20% reduction in FEV₁) after administration was observed to be the same in both groups (5.2% for the inhalation dry powder versus 5.3% for the inhalation solution). Hearing complaints tended to be intermittent and transient in both groups (0.97% for the inhalation dry powder versus 0.96% for the inhalation solution). The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of tobramycin in the dry powder group was increased on day 28 of cycle 3 in both groups. Finally, it should be mentioned that there were significantly more patients requiring new antipseudomonal antibiotics in the inhalation dry powder group than in the inhalation solution group.62 Greater adherence and satisfaction with treatment were recorded on the Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire for Medication in the inhalation dry powder group, with a mean administration time of 5.6 minutes versus 19.7 minutes for the inhalation solution group (ie, higher than previously observed35).

In an effort to investigate possible enhancement of tobramycin aerosol administration, human lysozyme was coadministered with tobramycin. It was observed by measuring bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, neutrophils, and lung histopathology samples that human lysozyme had anti-inflammatory properties and enhanced the antibacterial effect of tobramycin.76 Four different antibiotics were administered in the trial by Ghannam et al;77 three of these were prepared from intravenous solutions and were administered in cancer patients with ventilation-associated pneumonia. It was observed that, in comparison with intravenous administration, aerosol administration did not induce renal toxicity and that the ventilation-associated pneumonia resolution rate was 81% in comparison with 31% for intravenous administration (Table 1).

**Azetronam lysinate**

The efficiency of an aztreonam lysinate aerosol antibiotic formulation was evaluated in a dose-escalation study. Forty patients were enrolled, including 21 adults and 19 adolescents. The drug formulation was administered using an eFlow nebulizer system; the mass median diameter of the droplets was 3.6 ± 0.1 µm and the geometric standard deviation was 1.6 ± 0.1 µm. The patients were divided into a dose-escalation group (75 mg–150 mg–225 mg) and a placebo group. Pulmonary function tests, ie, FVC, FEV₁, and FEF_{25-75}, were evaluated by spirometry. The total study period was 13 days and the administration was performed in a 3-day manner. Only one adolescent patient showed a >20% decrease in FEV₁, and the maximum tolerated dose was established at 75 mg. However, for adults, no decrease ≥20% FEV₁ was observed in order for the maximum tolerated dose to be determined. The spirometry examination was performed three times, once before aerosol administration, and then 30 minutes and 2 hours after aerosol administration in order to cover all scenarios from early to late airway hyperresponsiveness. Adverse events were recorded using the MedDRA (Medra (S) Pte Ltd, Singapore) 5.0 classification system. The usual adverse effects were observed, ie, chest tightness, nasal congestion, aggravated cough, and increased sputum, which is expected to be increased when a saline solution is administered. There was a trend towards a numeric increase in adverse effects with an increase in dosage for the adults but not for the adolescents. Again, only one patient had to stop the treatment when the maximum tolerated dose was reached at 75 mg. A very important aspect of this study was the plasma concentration of the drug, which was measurable at one hour and still detectable after 8 hours, indicating sustained drug absorption from the lung parenchyma into the circulation, as previously observed in other studies.25 Additionally, drug concentrations were measurable in the sputum of patients after 10 minutes, and were still detectable 2 and 4 hours after aerosol administration. This study provides excellent information regarding the pharmacokinetics of the aztreonam lysinate aerosol and a methodology via which to evaluate aerosol antibiotics.

The pharmacokinetics of aztreonam lysinate 75 mg and 225 mg were evaluated further in a study of 105 patients by Retsch-Bogart et al.35 Positive results regarding pulmonary function tests were observed after 7 days, and sputum P. aeruginosa density also decreased significantly. The plasma drug levels reached were dose-dependent, as was the sputum aztreonam lysinate concentration. There were no severe adverse effects in any of the patients. This study provides importance evidence regarding a bronchoconstrictive effect that has not been observed before. Specifically, there were patients who had their FEV₁ decreased more than 30%
after the aerosol administration and a careful follow-up of 2 hours with spirometry indicating that the pulmonary function returned for these patients to 15% of pretreatment values. However, a similar effect was observed for a patient in the placebo group. Similar adverse effects have been observed with other inhaled therapies, and it is not yet clear whether this is due to the concentration of the drug, its chemical structure, or a background of hyperresponsiveness.\textsuperscript{,3,4} In any case, all these factors play an important role in bronchoconstriction. In addition, patients administered short-acting bronchodilators before treatment had a lower decrease in FE\textsubscript{V\textsubscript{1}}. Administration of aztreonam lysinate 75 mg was again evaluated in a 28-day trial. The CFQ-R score was the primary endpoint and the FE\textsubscript{V\textsubscript{1}} increase was the second endpoint. Indeed, an increase in both values was observed, and although decreased after discontinuation of aztreonam lysinate, still remained increased compared with baseline values. Sputum and plasma drug concentrations were again dose-related. A decrease ≥15% was again observed after each inhalation of aztreonam lysinate, with a short-acting bronchodilator administered 15 minutes beforehand.\textsuperscript{,15} Similar results were also observed in a study by Wainwright et al.,\textsuperscript{36} who clearly stated for the first time that aerosol therapy is contraindicated when atelectasis and pleural effusion are present. This has also been shown for other aerosol treatment modalities.\textsuperscript{,19,24}

In a study by Oermann et al.,\textsuperscript{28} the 75 mg aztreonam lysinate formulation was administered for 18 months either twice daily or three times daily. Pulmonary function tests, CFQ-R scores, and weight were increased in the three times daily group; however, adverse respiratory effects were observed in 50 patients, and adherence was observed to be slightly lower (4%) in the three times daily group. In any case, better results were observed in the three times daily group. There were fewer hospitalizations and a lower \textit{P. aeruginosa} density in sputum samples. This was an excellent long-term study presenting the different aspects of administration methodology that can be used and how these influence different aspects of the patient’s clinical situation.

A combination of tobramycin and aztreonam lysinate was administered in a multicenter study in which patients first received tobramycin for 28 days followed by aztreonam lysinate for 28 days. The major positive outcome other than increased FE\textsubscript{V\textsubscript{1}}, improvement on CFQ-R, and reduced sputum \textit{P. aeruginosa} density, was that patients receiving aztreonam lysinate had a delayed time to receiving inhaled or intravenous antibiotics.\textsuperscript{,37} Moreover, a ≥15% reduction in FE\textsubscript{V\textsubscript{1}} was observed in six patients. In a publication following this study, the susceptibility of \textit{P. aeruginosa} was investigated. Sputum samples were obtained from all patients, and a 30% increase in MIC, a few decreases in \textit{P. aeruginosa} susceptibility to other antibiotics, and an increase in tobramycin susceptibility was observed\textsuperscript{,10} (Table 2).

### Gentamicin

Gentamicin solution was nebulized by 32 nebulizers representing four different brands (Bird Micronebulizer\textsuperscript{®}, Bird Corporation, Palm Springs, CA, USA; DeVilbiss 646; Inspiron Mini-Neb\textsuperscript{®}, CR Bard Inc, Covington GA, USA; and Upmist\textsuperscript{®}, Medic-Aid Limited, Bognor Regis, UK). It was observed that the higher the flow rate, the smaller the droplet mass median aerodynamic diameter (MMAD) produced and the shorter the nebulization time. Moreover, the higher the loading in the residual cup, the smaller the MMAD. In addition, the methodology of adding NaCl 0.9% to the residual cup when the concentration was reduced to half of the initial dosage was proposed in order to produce further small droplets <5 µm during aerosol administration. Using this method more than once does not have any additional benefit because the concentration of drug is reduced. Gentamicin has also been investigated as a dry powder formulation with leucine. Leucine was observed to improve the properties of the dry powder formulation of gentamicin. The safety of the formulation was evaluated in CuFi-1 cells, and no adverse effects were observed 24 hours after administration. Leucine improved the dispersibility of the aerosol and modified the surface of the particles. The formulation was stable after 6 months of storage. A new gentamicin alginate microparticle has recently been developed, but needs to be investigated further as an aerosol formulation\textsuperscript{,79} (Table 1).

### Colistin

Aerosolized colistin and tobramycin were administered in a randomized clinical study including 115 patients for one month, with an additional 4 weeks of follow-up to compare the safety and effectiveness of the two drugs.\textsuperscript{,43} Fewer adverse airway reactivity effects were observed in the tobramycin solution group (n = 6) than in the colistin group (n = 11). There was also an increase in FE\textsubscript{V\textsubscript{1}} in the tobramycin group, especially in younger patients. However, both groups showed a decrease in sputum \textit{P. aeruginosa} density, with no difference observed between groups in this regard. FVC was also recorded, but no data regarding changes in FVC were reported because this was not a primary endpoint. The medical condition of the patients was also evaluated using the Global Rating of Change questionnaire.\textsuperscript{,43} and it was observed that patients receiving tobramycin benefited more. In another study by Jensen et al.,\textsuperscript{42} colistin was administered for 3 months versus placebo. A different aerosol
Table 2: Aerosol studies with aztreonam lysinate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Production system</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>LFTs</th>
<th>Major adverse effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gibson et al</td>
<td>Aztreonam lysinate</td>
<td>21 adults and 19 adolescents</td>
<td>eFLOW nebulizer system (PARI)</td>
<td>Efficient drug evaluation, increased sputum and plasma drug levels after inhalation</td>
<td>75 mg/150 mg</td>
<td>FEV₁, FVC, FEF₂₅–₇₅, SaO₂</td>
<td>Chest tightness, increased sputum, nasal congestion, aggragated cough, 1 patient &gt;20% FEV₁ reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retsch et al</td>
<td>Aztreonam lysinate</td>
<td>105 randomized</td>
<td>eFLOW nebulizer system (PARI)</td>
<td>Decrease in sputum PA density, increase in FEV₁ for AZLI patients in 7 days</td>
<td>75 mg/225 mg/twice daily placebo</td>
<td>FEV₁, FVC, FEF₂₅–₇₅, SaO₂</td>
<td>Cough, transient decrease in FEV₁, decreased appetite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oermann et al</td>
<td>Aztreonam lysinate</td>
<td>≥6 years, 195 completed</td>
<td>eFLOW nebulizer system (PARI)</td>
<td>CFQ-R-respiratory scores improved and FEV₁ improved, weight gain</td>
<td>75 mg/28 days</td>
<td>FEV₁</td>
<td>Pulmonary exacerbation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oermann et al</td>
<td>Aztreonam lysinate</td>
<td>Mean age 28.5 years</td>
<td>eFLOW nebulizer system (PARI)</td>
<td>CFQ-R and FEV₁, increase, reduction of sputum PA density</td>
<td>75 mg twice or three times daily, 18 months</td>
<td>FEV₁, FVC, FEF₂₅–₇₅</td>
<td>Pyrexia, fatigue, headache, cough, decreased appetite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wainwright et al</td>
<td>Aztreonam lysinate</td>
<td>≥6 years, 157 patients</td>
<td>eFLOW nebulizer system (PARI)</td>
<td>CFQ-R and FEV₁, increase, reduction of sputum PA density</td>
<td>75 mg three times daily, 28 days</td>
<td>FEV₁</td>
<td>3 patients discontinued due to pulmonary exacerbation, one patient &gt;20% FEV₁ reduction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: FEV₁, forced expiratory volume in one second; FVC, forced vital capacity; FEF₂₅–₇₅, forced expiratory flow during middle half of forced vital capacity; SaO₂, oxygen saturation; CFQ-R, Cystic Fibrosis Questionnaire-Revised; TOBI, inhaled tobramycin solution; AZLI, aztreonam lysinate; PA, Pseudomonas aeruginosa; MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; LFTs, lung function tests.

Amikacin

The pharmacokinetics of aerosolized liposomal amikacin were evaluated in a randomized controlled trial in patients with cystic fibrosis. Plasma samples were collected at baseline and at various time points after aerosolization, and concentrations were measured using high-performance liquid chromatography. The MIC of amikacin was determined using broth microdilution. Amikacin was found to be well tolerated, with no significant adverse effects reported. The drug was effective in reducing sputum burden and improving respiratory function, with a significant improvement in the CFQ-R score compared to baseline. The study was conducted in 30 patients with cystic fibrosis, and the results were compared with a placebo group. The finding suggests that aerosolized amikacin could be a potential therapy for the treatment of airway exacerbations in cystic fibrosis patients.

Lu et al. was one of the first to evaluate aerosol efficacy using computed tomography. Efficiency was observed for both sensitive and resistant strains. The MIC was increased in only two patients (Table 3).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Production system</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>LFTs</th>
<th>Major adverse effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jensen et al.</td>
<td>Colistin</td>
<td>14.2 mean years</td>
<td>Raindrop</td>
<td>Less decrease in FEV₁, FVC with colistin</td>
<td>One million units twice daily; 3 months/placebo</td>
<td>FEV₁, FVC</td>
<td>Coughing, expectoration, rhonchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander et al.</td>
<td>Liposomal amphotericin B</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>Hudson Updraft, LC Star; Aerocclipse II, Small Volume nebulizer</td>
<td>PARI LC and Aerocclipse II</td>
<td>50 mg vials diluted in 12 mL</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilani et al.</td>
<td>DC-SA nanomicelles + amphotericin B</td>
<td>Candida albicans, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus flavus Cryptococcus neoformans</td>
<td>Hudson, London, UK</td>
<td>DC-SA more effective against Cryptococcus neoformans</td>
<td>Amphotericin B alone in water, Fungizone, DC-SA amphotericin B</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasr et al.</td>
<td>Liposomal amphotericin B</td>
<td>In vitro evaluation</td>
<td>PARI LC</td>
<td>Efficient drug loading and the Clonulic displayed higher deposition of Amphotericin B in the lower impinge stage or Clonulic nanoemulsions</td>
<td>25 mg added in 10 mL of Intralipid</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lu et al.</td>
<td>Amphotericin B</td>
<td>Using a twin impinger</td>
<td>Boy S compressor</td>
<td>Clinical cure rate 66% in sensitive strain and 67% in multidrug-resistant strain</td>
<td>400 mg every 8 hours</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood et al.</td>
<td>VAP</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdulla et al.</td>
<td>Rifampicin nanoparticles</td>
<td>Formulation evaluation</td>
<td>PARI LC Plus</td>
<td>MMAD &lt;5 µm in any polymer weight ratio, sustained drug release</td>
<td>mPEG2000-DSPE and mPEG5000-DSPE</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pourshahab et al.</td>
<td>Isoniazid nanoparticles</td>
<td>PA, SA, and MI</td>
<td>DPI inhalation device</td>
<td>MMAD 10 µm, Sustained drug release</td>
<td>Isoniazid-loaded chitosan/tripolysphosphate</td>
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<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son et al.</td>
<td>Rifampicin microparticles</td>
<td>Membrane holder method</td>
<td>DPI inhalation device, Aerolizer</td>
<td>MMAD 3.5–4.5 µm RFDH microcrystals coated PLGA or PLA</td>
<td>RFDH</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son et al.</td>
<td>Rifampicin microparticles</td>
<td>Membrane holder method</td>
<td>DPI inhalation device, Aerolizer</td>
<td>RFDH</td>
<td>RFAM</td>
<td>–</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzalez-Juarrero et al.</td>
<td>Isoniazid, capreomycin, and amikacin</td>
<td>M ycobacterium tuberculosis</td>
<td>Intrapulmonary Microsprayer</td>
<td>Efficient for INH in both groups, additionally in spleen for aerosol 3 times weekly</td>
<td>Isoniazid, capreomycin and amikacin 500 µg/dose</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chan et al.</td>
<td>Isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide</td>
<td>Microparticle dissolution profile</td>
<td>Aerolizer</td>
<td>Efficient, excipient-free triple antibiotic DPI powder</td>
<td>Isoniazid 1.5 mg/mL rifampicin 3 mg/mL pyrazinamide 8 mg/mL</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hraieh et al.</td>
<td>Squalamine, colistin</td>
<td>PA, rats</td>
<td>Nose-only jet nebulizer (cage)</td>
<td>3 µm MMAD Squalamine and 2.8 µm colistin</td>
<td>160 mg colistin and 3 mg squalamine 6 days</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Chitosan-stearic acid conjugate.

**Abbreviations:** FEV₁, forced expiratory volume in one second; FVC, forced vital capacity; AB, Acinetobacter baumannii; VAP, ventilation-associated pneumonia; MMAD, mass median aerodynamic diameter; PA, Pseudomonas aeruginosa; DPI, dry powder inhaler; RFDH, rifampicin dehydrate; PLGA, poly (DL-lactide-co-glycolide); PLA, poly (DL-lactide); RFAM, amorphous rifampicin; MI, Mycobacterium intracellulare; LFTs, lung function tests.
needed to reach the target tissue; however, during metabolism of the same concentration in another tissue, such as the liver or kidney, the same concentration may be toxic. In several situations where administering a drug intravenously unnecessarily exposes healthy cells and organs to toxicity, by the time the drug reaches its target tissue, a large concentration of toxic metabolites has already caused damage to normal tissue. The sustained-release effect is associated with the concentration of rhamnolipids, ie, the monorhamnolipid and dirhamnolipid found in P. aeruginosa biofilm which are responsible for release of the amikacin contained in the liposomes. One rhamnolipid molecule is enough for extraction of 100 liposomal amikacin molecules. Additional observations were made regarding penetration of the formulation into sputum from patients with cystic fibrosis. The formulation efficiently penetrated the mucus independent of the size of the liposomes, and it was observed that the liposomes had the ability to modify while penetrating the mucus. Thick mucus is a major problem in patients with cystic fibrosis, and the liposomal formulation demonstrated superiority in comparison with aerosolized tobramycin with regard to penetration of this thick mucus. Reduction of sputum P. aeruginosa density was greater in comparison with that achieved using aerosol tobramycin in this study, and bacteria were undetectable after administration of liposomal amikacin in several animals. Penetration of liposomal amikacin was also observed to be higher at the site of infection and subsequently at the site where the P. aeruginosa population was highest within sputum. Finally, it was observed that alternate day dosing of the formulation is an efficient method of administration for this type of formulation. This is an excellent study showing all aspects of the pharmacokinetics of liposomal carriers, and this method of encapsulation and drug release has been pursued in other experimental studies. However, the local trigger for drug release in the respiratory epithelium has not been identified. An intravenous solution of amikacin (50 mg per 3 mL) was administered twice daily as an aerosol to nine patients with nontuberculous immunosuppression. Adverse effects were self-limiting and not severe enough to warrant withdrawal from the study. Of the nine study participants, eight responded to the treatment and one died from underlying disease. This study shows favorable data indicating this intravenous solution can be aerosolized efficiently as an effective treatment for patients who are otherwise difficult to treat.\(^{32}\)

**Levofloxacin**

Aerosolized levofloxacin (300 mg) is being investigated under the name MP-376. This novel formulation, apart from demonstrating efficient control of bacteria, has been shown to have additional immunomodulatory and anti-inflammatory properties. In a study by Tsivkovskii et al using human BE135 bronchial epithelial cells,\(^{53}\) MP-376 decreased production of interleukin-6 and interleukin-8, whereas tobramycin aerosol solution increased production of interleukin-6. Aerosolized levofloxacin needs to offer additional benefits, as do the macrolides.\(^{34}\) Further investigation of this agent was performed in comparison with amikacin, ciprofloxacin, tobramycin, and aztreonam against P. aeruginosa, Burkholderia cepacia complex, Stenotrophomonas maltophilia, Alcaligenes xylosoxidans, and Staphylococcus aureus. The two quinolones demonstrated the highest activity against the Gram-negative pathogens seen in cystic fibrosis. Levofloxacin demonstrated higher potency against methicillin-sensitive S. aureus and methicillin-resistant S. aureus, while aztreonam was not active against methicillin-sensitive S. aureus or methicillin-resistant S. aureus. The bacterial activity of levofloxacin was observed to be more rapid and complete when compared with that of tobramycin and aztreonam (30 minutes for 11/12 isolates tested). Tobramycin killed 58% of isolates in 30 minutes and aztreonam was the slowest of the three agents. The antibacterial activity of levofloxacin was the same for mucoid and nonmucoid P. aeruginosa isolates. In conclusion, levofloxacin was the most potent antibiotic against cystic fibrosis isolates, with an MIC\(_{90}\) in the range of 8–32 µg/mL. The quinolones, ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin, had a protective effect against inhaled Bacillus anthracis, Yersinia pestis, and Francisella tularensis when administered subcutaneously or intraperitoneally at a dose of 90–120 mg/kg/day.\(^{85}\) Liposomal nanoparticles containing ciprofloxacin were investigated as an aerosol. The aerosol formulation was produced with a LC Sprint\(^{86}\) and Turbo Boy S compressor\(^{8}\) (PARI Pharma GmbH), and was administered to Calu-3 bronchial epithelial cells, with observation of efficiency against P. aeruginosa and S. aureus. The MMAD was 3.6 µm and the geometric standard deviation was 2.3. The aerosol nanoformulation was stable during storage and nebulization, and showed sustained-release properties. However, drug release was slower in comparison with the previously discussed studies due to the fact that several parameters were absent in the in vitro evaluation model (eg, macrophages, mucociliary clearance, and virulence factors).\(^{53}\) Moreover, the formulation was not effective against S. aureus, which was attributed to the thick peptidoglycan cell wall. However, as previously observed, these liposomes tend to modify their properties while interacting with mucus,\(^{53}\) so further investigation of this formulation is warranted in an in vivo model and sputum solution. Superiority of levofloxacin was observed in comparison with tobramycin, amikacin, and...
aztreonam when administered to 114 P. aeruginosa isolates in an hypoxia-induced model. All antibiotics except levofloxacin showed an increase in geometric mean values for MIC (tobramycin seven-fold, amikacin four-fold, and aztreonam six-fold), whereas the MIC for levofloxacin was increased by only two-fold in an anaerobic environment. The MIC\textsubscript{90} was increased four-fold for tobramycin and 16-fold for aztreonam. Forty percent of the isolates showed an MIC increase of more than four-fold for tobramycin, amikacin, and aztreonam, but of only 4% for levofloxacin\textsuperscript{65} (Table 4).

**Clarithromycin**

Clarithromycin was investigated as an aerosol versus an oral agent in a rat model. Safety was also evaluated. Blood samples and bronchoalveolar lavage were used to determine these parameters. The blood clarithromycin concentration was lower in the aerosol group, and drug concentration was observed in epithelial lung fluid and alveolar macrophages. The structure of the alveoli and mechanisms of transportation from the alveoli to the blood circulation and vice versa are well known, ie, the capillary lumen, connective tissue, and alveolar epithelial cells.\textsuperscript{86} The capillary lumen acts as a filter via which the solution enters the systemic circulation. In addition, local transporters, ie, the MDR1/P-glycoprotein substrate, play a major role in transporting drug molecules from the alveolar region to the blood circulation, and the inverse.\textsuperscript{87-91} It has been observed that it is easier for a molecule to be transported from the alveolus to the circulation than the inverse.\textsuperscript{91} Therefore, at least for the clarithromycin aerosol formulation, it has been demonstrated that systemic side effects are fewer because less drug is introduced into the systemic circulation. In the current study, the safety of the formulation was demonstrated, given that no release of lactate dehydrogenase from lung tissue was observed. Further, the concentration of the aerosol clarithromycin formulation was observed to be 29-fold higher in alveolar macrophages than in epithelial lung fluid. Finally, the clarithromycin aerosol was observed to be stable in alveolar macrophages and epithelial lung fluid for 48 hours after administration, regardless of biodegradable molecules existing within epithelial lung fluid and alveolar macrophages\textsuperscript{92-96} (Table 4).

**Amphotericin B**

Four different nebulizers were evaluated as to whether they could produce droplets with an MMAD size <5 μm, which is necessary in order for the aerosol to be deposited in the distal airways. The Hudson Updraft\textsuperscript{69} (Hudson Respiratory Care, Temecula, CA, USA), LC Star\textsuperscript{87} (PARI Respiratory Equipment, Midlothian, VA, USA), Small Volume Nebulizer\textsuperscript{86} (eValueMed, Mexico), and Aeroeclipse II\textsuperscript{65} (Monaghan Medical Corporation, Plattsburgh, NY, USA) were driven by compressed air at a flow rate of 8 L per minute. The PARI LC and Aeroeclipse II were the best nebulizers for producing an optimal droplet size for efficient lung deposition.\textsuperscript{72}

Amphotericin B was compared after modification involving encapsulation in chitosan-stearic acid conjugate nanomicelles with a commercially available formulation of amphotericin B. These formulations were tested against five different fungal organisms, ie, Candida albicans, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus flavus, and Cryptococcus neoformans. It was observed that amphotericin B encapsulated in chitosan-stearic acid conjugate micelles was more effective than the commercially available formulation of amphotericin B for inhibition of the growth of C. neoformans. Further investigation of this method of encapsulation is warranted in an in vivo model for reasons as previously explained.\textsuperscript{66} Moreover, in another study, amphotericin B was incorporated into three different cholesteryl carbonate esters, ie, sodium cholesteryl carbonate, dicholesteryl carbonate, and cholesteryl palmitate. The dry powders produced were observed to be stable after 3 months of storage, and the MMAD was measured to be 6.8–8 μm. The powder was effective against C. neoformans and C. albicans, and further investigation of this form of encapsulation is warranted.\textsuperscript{65} In a study by Nasr et al,\textsuperscript{66} a lipid nanoemulsion containing amphotericin B aerosol was evaluated. The amphotericin B (25 mg) was prepared either with Intralipid\textsuperscript{86} (Fresenius Kabi AB Uppsala, Sweden) or Clinoleic\textsuperscript{86} (10 mL, Clincet Parenteral, Maurepas, France) and aerosolized with a PARI Sprint jet nebulizer. An in vitro evaluation was performed using a twin impinger. The nanoemulsion prepared with Clinoleic showed deposition at the lower impinging stage (80% versus 57% for Intralipid) and therefore would be theoretically more efficient in an in vivo evaluation model (Table 3).

**Rifampicin**

The antituberculosis drug, rifampicin, was investigated when encapsulated in poly-(ethylene oxide)-block-distearoyl phosphatidyl-ethanolamine polymers of two different molecular weights (mPEG2000-DSPE and mPEG5000-DSPE). The two formulations were nebulized efficiently using a jet nebulizer and the particle size range was 162–395 nm. The MMAD was identified as being 2.6 μm, and the aerodynamic characteristics were not influenced by the molecular weight of the copolymers. Encapsulation efficiency was also unaffected by the molecular weight of the copolymer and the
### Table 4 Aerosol studies with macrolides, quinolones, and tetracyclines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Production system</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>LFTs</th>
<th>Major adverse effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tsivkovskii et al</td>
<td>Aerosol levofloxacin</td>
<td>HBE135 cells</td>
<td>Under clinical evaluation</td>
<td>Reduction in IL-6 and IL-8</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King et al</td>
<td>Levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin</td>
<td>PA, BC, SM, AX, SA</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>Levofloxacin most potent MIC range from 8–32 µg/mL</td>
<td>Dosage as instructed in package</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peterson et al</td>
<td>Levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin</td>
<td>BA, YP, FT</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>Effective dosage 90–120 mg/kg/day for both quinolones</td>
<td>5% levofloxacin 2% ciprofloxacin in 5% dextrose</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ong et al</td>
<td>Liposomal ciprofloxacin</td>
<td>Calu-3</td>
<td>PARI LC, Sprint and PARI Turbo Boy S compressor</td>
<td>Slower drug release from liposomes due to absence of in vivo trigger mechanisms</td>
<td>Ciprofloxacin 50 mg/mL, pH 6.0, HSPC 70.6 mg/mL, cholesterol 29.4 mg/mL</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Togami et al</td>
<td>Clarithromycin</td>
<td>Rat model</td>
<td>Liquid microsprayer</td>
<td>Aerosol more efficient delivery to ELF and AMs</td>
<td>Aerosol 0.2 mg/kg, Oral 50 mg/kg</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ren et al</td>
<td>Doxycycline</td>
<td>Rats</td>
<td>Electric nebulizer</td>
<td>Prophylactic effect against treatment of smoking-induced mucus hypersecretion</td>
<td>Aerosol doxycycline 20 mg/kg</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhang et al</td>
<td>Azithromycin dry powder</td>
<td>In vitro</td>
<td>Microsprayer</td>
<td>High encapsulation 59.2% 3.82 µm</td>
<td>AZi, raw material purity 95.5%</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nemec et al</td>
<td>Clindamycin</td>
<td>Mice, TNF-α, sTNFR1-sTNFR2, IL-1β, IL-6, PG</td>
<td>Microsprayer</td>
<td>Clindamycin alone better than clindamycin plus dexamethasone normalized TNF-α, sTNFRs</td>
<td>Clindamycin 40 mg/kg</td>
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<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Togami et al</td>
<td>Telithromycin</td>
<td>Rats, Hemophilus influenzae, Streptococcus pneumoniae, Chlamydia pneumoniae, Legionella pneumophila, and Mycobacterium avium S pneumoniae resistant to Penicillin G, erythromycin A, and levofloxacin</td>
<td>Microsprayer</td>
<td>Aerosol distribution more efficient in AMs and ELF</td>
<td>Aerosol 0.2 mg/kg, Oral 50 mg/kg</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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**Abbreviations:** AMs, alveolar macrophages; ELF, epithelial lung fluid; TNF-α, tumor necrosis factor-α; MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; SA, Staphylococcus aureus; PA, Pseudomonas aeruginosa; BC, Burkholderia cepacia complex; SM, Stenotrophomonas maltophilia; AX, Alcaligenes xylosoxidans; IL-1β, interleukin 1β; IL-6, interleukin 6; BA, Bacillus anthracis; YP, Yersinia pestis; FT, Francisella tularensis; Calu-3, sub-bronchial epithelial cell line; HBE135 cells, human bronchial epithelial cells; LFTs, lung function tests.
highest encapsulation efficiency was observed when the drug/copolymer ratio was 1:5. Sustained release was observed for up to 3 days, and the mPEG2000-DSPE formulation were observed to be larger in size than the mPEG5000-DSPE. The size decreased when the PEG content in the formulation was increased. It should be mentioned that the PEG molecule adds a “stealth” ability, which enables the formulation to go unrecognized by the defense mechanisms of the respiratory tract, such as tracheal and alveolar macrophages. The PEG molecule has also been observed to be safe on aerosol administration. Finally, these formulations are excellent carriers, and further evaluation in an in vivo model is warranted. Microencapsulation of rifampicin was investigated when rifampicin dehydrate was coated with poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide) or poly(DL-lactide). The MMAD range produced for all the formulations was 3.6–4.5 µm. The uncoated formulation showed immediate drug release followed by sustained release for 8 hours. The slowest drug release was observed from the poly(DL-lactide) formulation. The major observation was the effect of low pH as a drug release trigger for the poly (DL-lactide) carriers in comparison with the uncoated formulation. The pH of the environment has been previously identified as a trigger for release of drug in several formulations. In conclusion, based on the target tissue and organ (eg, gastric route), this formulation can be modulated to be an efficient treatment.

Rifampicin dehydrate was further investigated by recrystallization of rifampicin in anhydrous ethanol (rifampicin dehydrate) versus amorphous rifampicin with two dry powder inhalers, ie, the Aerolizer® (Merck, Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA) and Handihaler® (Boehringer Ingelheim, Ingelheim, Germany). The Aerolizer was found to be superior to the Handihaler, producing a MMAD of 2.2 µm. Stable storage was observed for 9 months, along with reduced agglomeration in the rifampicin dehydrate formulation in contrast with the amorphous rifampicin formulation. Maximum potency delivery was observed with the rifampicin dehydrate formulation. In another study investigating dry powders, an excipient-free triple antibiotic (isoniazid, pyrazinamide and rifampicin) dry powder was produced with a MMAD of 3.5 ± 0.1 µm. This formulation has to be further tested in an in vivo model

Isoniazid
Further investigation of antituberculous drugs produced the isoniazid-loaded chitosan/tripolyphosphate (TPP) formulation in different chitosan/TPP ratios. The dry powder was produced with a Cyclohaler® (Teva Pharmachemie, Haarlem, The Netherlands) and in vitro evaluation showed sustained release from the formulation for up to 6 days. Release was 50% at the first 4 hours, with 80% of the total encapsulated drug released by day 6. The effect was directly related to the chitosan/TPP ratio. Two formulations were investigated, ie, a 6:1 chitosan/TPP ratio and a 3:1 chitosan/TPP ratio, with a better long-term effect observed for the 6:1 ratio. Three types of bacteria, ie, P. aeruginosa, S. aureus, and Mycobacterium intracellulare, were included in the in vitro evaluation, and a decrease in MIC was observed for M. intracellulare. The efficiency of the antiproliferative effect was again associated with the chitosan/TPP ratio of 6:1. Different molecules were included in the construction of the dry powder formulation, with each one conferring different properties (in terms of shape and surface) to the dry powder molecule.

The formulation contained large-sized particles, and further investigation toward creating smaller-sized dry powder, is necessary since we have positive antibacterial results in vitro. Another method of aerosol production was used for aerosolized intrapulmonary delivery of isoniazid, capreomycin, and amikacin versus subcutaneous administration of the same drugs. The Mycobacterium tuberculosis density (colony-forming units) was efficiently reduced using the aerosol and subcutaneous administration routes; however, this effect occurred one week earlier using the aerosol modality. Further evaluation of the aerosol showed positive results at lower and fewer doses, with reduction of bacteria load seen in the spleen (Table 3).

**Doxycycline**
Doxycycline, a tetracycline antibiotic, was administered as an aerosol using an electric nebulizer in order to evaluate its effect on mucus production in acrolein-exposed rats. Acrolein is a compound found in tobacco smoke and is known to induce chronic inflammation in the airways. Acrolein was used to induce inflammation of the airways and mucus hypersecretion in rats. Mucus hypersecretion is known to impair mucociliary clearance, so doxycycline was administered and efficiently downregulated MUC5 AC mRNA and mucus production. Doxycycline could be used in patients with severe airways inflammation, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cystic fibrosis, either as a standard anti-inflammatory treatment for mucus production or as a method for enhancing aerosol deposition.

**Azithromycin**
Azithromycin dry powder was evaluated in a rat model. The MMAD was measured at 3.82 µm and administration was
done with a microsprayer. Azithromycin is known to achieve high concentrations in phagocytic cells (monocytes and polymorphonuclear cells). Macrophages are also known to take up this dry powder when deposited in the respiratory tract as early as one hour post administration. The dry powder produced from raw azithromycin materials in the study by Zhang et al offers an alternative formulation for delivering this antibiotic (Table 4).

**Clindamycin**

Clindamycin was administered intratracheally either alone or in combination with dexamethasone. Animals were inoculated with *Porphyromonas gingivalis*. Inflammatory markers such as tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α), TNF-α receptors (sTNFR1 and sTNFR2), interleukin 1β, and interleukin 6, were measured at different time points. It was observed that clindamycin alone is more potent in reducing the density of the bacterial population and normalizes TNF-α and sTNFR1 after resolution of aspiration pneumonia (Table 4).

**Squalamine and colistin**

Squalamine, a steroid extracted from sharks, was evaluated versus colistin in a rat model. The colistin formulation was 160 mg (2.8 μm MMAD) and squalamine 3 mg (3 μm MMAD), with administration for 6 days. The aerosol was administered in a sealed cage with a nose-only inlet. The rats were inoculated with *P. aeruginosa* and both treatments were found to be efficient; however, pathologic examination was in favor of the squalamine group since the diffuse and confluent bronchopneumonia lesions were markedly reduced (Table 3).

**Telithromycin**

Telithromycin was administered as aerosol with a microsprayer in a rat model and the pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics was evaluated. The aerosol administered as 0.2 mg/mL was more efficiently distributed in alveolar macrophages and epithelial lung fluid than when administered orally. Both modalities were evaluated using the following bacteria: *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Chlamydia pneumonia*, *Legionella pneumophila*, *Mycobacterium avium*, and *S. pneumoniae* resistant to Penicillin G, erythromycin A, and levofloxacin. It was observed that the concentration of telithromycin in the alveolar macrophages and epithelial lung fluid time curve/minimum concentration of telithromycin ratio was higher than the effective values. As previously stated in the amikacin section, there are specific structural properties and local transportation mechanisms which enhance the ability of a formulation to be moved more easily from the alveoli to the systemic blood circulation as inverse (Table 4).

**Antimicrobial aminosterol formulation**

The novel aminosterol derivative (ASD) was compared with tobramycin in a *P. aeruginosa* and *S. aureus* evaluation model. The MICs for *P. aeruginosa* for ASD and tobramycin were 4 mg/L, and 1 mg/L, respectively. The MICs for *S. aureus* for ASD and tobramycin were 1 mg/L and 0.5 mg/L. The aerosol was produced using two production systems, ie, the LC Plus and eFlow, and the MMAD produced was <5 μm. The effectiveness of the two aerosol formulations was further evaluated when mucin 1 mg/mL and 10 mg/mL was added. In the tobramycin group, it was observed that the MIC was increased by four-fold and 16-fold for *P. aeruginosa* and *S. aureus*, respectively. Further evaluation of this novel antimicrobial formulation is warranted in an in vivo model (Table 1).

**Production systems and evaluation models**

The two basic types of production systems are the jet nebulizer and the ultrasonic nebulizer. Jet nebulizer production is by the Bernoulli principle, and uses gas to produce an aerosol mist. The ultrasonic nebulizers use a piezoelectric crystal vibrating at a high frequency (1–3 MHz) and generate aerosol mist. The higher the frequency, the “finer” the aerosol produced. Aerogen’s aerosol generator is portable, quiet, and has a shorter duration of aerosol production and ability to control particle size and flow rate. It efficiently aerolizes proteins and peptides, but is expensive. The Aeroneb hand-held inhaler has the ability to produce 3–5-fold smaller droplets when compared with the jet and ultrasonic nebulizers, and the remaining volume concentration in the residual cup is negligible, but the devices are expensive. Omron’s technology is a piezoelectric crystal, with a negligible volume of the drug remaining in the residual cup and the ability to control particle size and flow rate, but is again an expensive device. TouchSpray™ technology (Odem Scientific Applications Ltd, Rehovot, Israel) also has the ability to control particle size and flow rate. It can be used to aerosolize any compound, but is expensive. The Soft Mist® inhaler (Boehringer Ingelheim, Ingelheim, Germany) is cheap and easy to use. The dose delivered is independent of the patient’s respiratory capacity and lower doses are needed in comparison with the Handihaler device. Metered dose inhalers are outpatient inhalation devices, and are designed...
for single dose and multiple dose inhalation. Lung deposition varies between 12%–40%, 20%–25% of the cloud produced is retained within the device, lack of hand-mouth coordination is observed, and 50%–80% of the dose may be deposited in the oropharynx due to the high velocity of the particles produced. Patient technique is still a major factor.115 Dry powder inhalers are breath-actuated and need more rapid and larger inhalation efforts (>60 L per minute), and their efficiency depends on the nature of the powder.116

Durand et al19 investigated deposition of aerosol produced with an Atomisor NL11SN jet nebulizer connected to an AOLH® air source compressor (Diffusion Technique Française, Saint-Etienne, France). The experiment was conducted with either gentamicin solution 80 mg/mL (4 mL) or 2.5% NaF solution (4 mL), with the nebulization system operating as a classic nebulizer or with addition of a 100 Hz acoustic frequency (producing sonic aerosol). This is the first time that intransinus aerosol deposition has been evaluated in a human plastinated nasal cast. It was observed that the MMAD increased as the concentration of gentamicin increased, indifferent to the additional usage of 100 Hz acoustic flow and the local anatomic features influence the deposition. Local deposition was increased two-fold with addition of 100 Hz acoustic airflow, but did not overcome the local “anatomy” deposition factor. In the study by Wee et al., an aerosol was investigated using a method incorporating mathematical model derivation, in vitro testing, and in vivo testing.

In another study by McCormack et al., two different breathing modes were evaluated, ie, the tidal breathing mode and the target inhalation mode. It was observed that the target inhalation mode reduced the time of aerosol administration and increased patient adherence. The same group modified their administration apparatus to record patient adherence with aerosol administration.119 Addition of 5%–7% CO₂ during nebulization demonstrated an increase in tidal volume of 180% and a decrease in respiratory rate.119,120 Additional oxygen delivery through a nasal device during air-driven jet nebulization increased the fraction of inspired oxygen and decreased the droplet size produced.121

In another survey investigating the method of aerosol administration preferred by clinical physicians for tracheostomized children reported a preference for the tracheostomy aerosol mask.60 However, this was only a survey study on which device is usually preferable by pediatric pulmonologists probably due to the easy access to the airways and method of administration. Moreover, disposable versus reusable nebulizers were investigated as to whether they would have an impact on aerosol deposition. More than 20 nebulization systems were evaluated, and it was observed that there was no difference between the compressed air source and nebulizer performance; however, different interfaces produced different results.122 New nebulization systems such as the eFlow when compared with the PARI LC Star produce the aerosol in half the amount of time, but there is

**Table 5** Methods and models of aerosol deposition evaluation

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<td>Omron NE U22 was evaluated in comparison to PARI LC Plus® and Sidestream®.129</td>
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<td>Metered dose inhaler mouthpieces were modified in order reduce the inertial impaction in order to reduce aerosol deposition to the oral airway.130</td>
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antibiotic administration has not been properly evaluated in the treatment of respiratory diseases. Apart from the obvious issue of pharmacokinetics, the timing of administration as prophylactic treatment has to be further evaluated in comparison with intravenous administration in head-to-head trials. In any case, we are interested in creating a local antibiotic concentration gradient that will not induce antibiotic resistance. Administration of aerosol antibiotic or antiviral therapy in acute infection was previously administered without toxicity. Future direction towards an efficient aerosol antibiotic treatment comes from a group of patients in need of daily treatment. Studies in children and young adults with cystic fibrosis indicate that the next generation of aerosol antibiotic treatments should be delivered in less time and less dose frequency during the day. Moreover, a patient-friendly device that increases adherence and possibly enables monitoring of treatment should be investigated further. These parameters have been partially achieved with carriers (eg, liposomes, PEG, chitosan) encapsulating the antibiotic drug and with new aerosol production systems (eg, eFlow) and mouthpiece modifications. Three directions of investigation should summarized to (i) production system, (ii) efficient interface of production to deposition, and (iii) efficient local concentration (MICmax) (Table 5).

**Disclosure**

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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