



Synthesis and Evaluation of Various N-substituted Ciprofloxacin Derivatives for Preparation of Specific ^{18}F -Radiolabel Compound for PET

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Abstract:

A series of new N-substituted Ciprofloxacin derivatives were designed and synthesized. Their antibacterial activities were determined against Gram-negative microorganism. Specifically, N-substituted in a fluoroquinolone moiety (FQ) connected by various linker was synthesized according to their structure activity relationship studies. Selected N-substituted Ciprofloxacin derivatives showed DNA gyrase inhibition compared to that Ciprofloxacin. We described a new ^{18}F -labeled N-substituted Ciprofloxacin derivative (^{18}F 6) which gives a specific activity compared to Ciprofloxacin and it was produced easily with high radiochemical yield using tertiary alcohol as a reaction media for nucleophilic fluorination. (^{18}F 6) is applicable properties for future imaging of bacterial infection with PET.

Keywords: Ciprofloxacin, bacterial infection, bacterial infection in radiopharmaceutical, Positron emission tomography (PET), Radiofluorination, fluorine-18.

Introduction:

Compounds Ciprofloxacin is one of the most potent fluoroquinolone antibiotics agents and it has been show their broad antibacterial spectrum both to Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria. Thus, recent development of a new fluoroquinolone that can provide improved Gram-positive Gram negative antibacterial activity is clinically used for the treatment of various infection diseases 4. Fluoroquinolone bactericidal activity is caused by the inhibition of two bacterial enzymes; DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV. While the interaction of the C7-substituent fluoroquinolone with the enzyme plays a supporting role 3. A number of fluoroquinolone are synthesized according to their structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies. N-substituted Fluoroquinolone plays important role in the antibacterial activity of the Fluoroquinolone and alkyl group such as ethyl, propyl and butyl have been regard as suitable N-substituent 1. The nature of substituent at C-7 or N- position has a great impact of potency, spectrum, solubility and pharmacokinetics. From these data the C-7 or N position in lead structure offers a potential site for structural modifications 2, thereby providing an excellent not only in generating a library of potential fluoroquinolones molecule but also in targeting the potential precursor for radiolabeling. We synthesized a number of molecules with modification at the C-7 or N- position of the Ciprofloxacin compound and evaluated their antibacterial activity in vitro. However, our idea was to concentrate on the synthesis of fluorinated analogues and compare their specific activity against radiolabeled Ciprofloxacin compound.

PET is being used more frequently in clinical and research studies because of its high sensitivity, good spatial resolution, and ease in accurate quantification. Additionally, PET possesses sensitivity in the lower picomolar range but requires the drug of interest to be radiolabeled with appropriate positron-emitting radioisotope, such as carbon-11 (^{11}C ; half-life, 20.4min.) or fluorine-18 (^{18}F ; half-life, 110min.). Owing to its longer physical half-life, ^{18}F



preferred for imaging for bacterial infection analysis since it allow longer durations 6. A number of these compounds after radiolabeled, we succeeded in the synthesis of a first in this series fluorine-18 labeled N-substituted Ciprofloxacin derivatives model compound ($[^{18}\text{F}]$ 6) with high radiochemical yield which gives good specific activity than $[^{18}\text{F}]$ ciprofloxacin for applicable to imaging of bacterial infection for PET study.

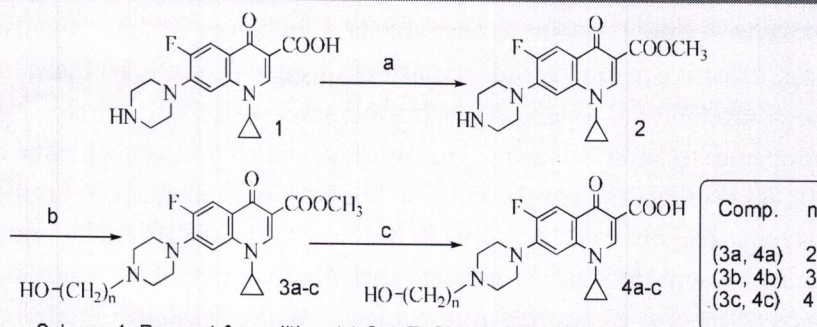
Experiments Procedure:

General: Reagent and solvent were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Korea and used without further purification. Flash column chromatography was carried out over silica gel (60 (0.040-0.063 mm) Merck KGaA). Measurement of mass spectra (MS) and high resolution MS (HRMS) were performed with JEOL JMS SX-102A mass spectrometer. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were measured DEAL (600MHz) spectrometer. The chemical shift are expressed in part per million (δ value) relative to residual solvent such as chloroform ($\delta = 7.26$) as an internal standard.

The high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was carried out using WinScan instrument with Chemquiest software. The radio HPLC system was a BioScan instrument equipped with a γ detector (BioScan flow count). A semipreparative column Phenomenex Luna C18 column (50 X 4.6 mm, 3 μm ; flow rate 4mL/min.) was used for the final purification of the compound $[^{18}\text{F}]$ 6. The following mobile phase system were used both for analytical and preparative HPLC. Solvent A, 10mmol phosphoric acid (88%); Solvent B Ethanol (12%) at 4mL/min. The desired peak was elevated at 16 min. $[^{18}\text{F}]$ Fluoride was produced by cyclotron (Scanditronix MC40) using the ^{18}O (p,n) ^{18}F nuclear reaction with 19 MeV proton irradiation of an enriched $[^{18}\text{O}]\text{H}_2\text{O}$ target.

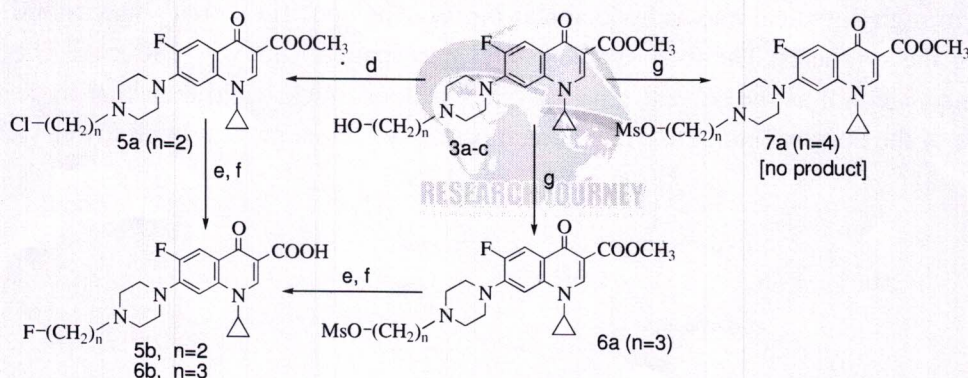
Biochemical studies: DNA supercoiling activity was assayed with relaxed pHOT-1 DNA as a substrate (TopoGEN, Inc., FL, and USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The standard reaction mixture (20 μL) contained 35 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.5, 24 mM KCl, 4 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM dithiothreitol, 1.8 mM spermidine, 1 mM ATP, 6.5% glycerol, 0.1 mg/mL BSA, 167 mg/ μL relaxed pHOT-1, and E. coli DNA gyrase. The reaction mixture was incubated at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 hr and then was terminated by addition of a stop buffer (5% Sarkosyl, 0.125% bromophenol blue, 25% glycerol) and chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (24:1) mixture. After a brief vortex, the blue aqua phase was analyzed by electrophoresis in 0.8% agarose. The IC_{50} was defined as the drug concentration that reduced the enzymatic activity observed with drug-free controls by 50%.

Results and Discussion: In order to coupling via amidation of the piperazinyl ring, ciprofloxacin was esterified using Cat. TsOH mediated for methylation to give the methyl ester of ciprofloxacin (comp.2) in good yield. Several SAR studies of fluoroquinolones have demonstrated a high tolerance for structure variations at the 7-position of the phenyl ring, including alkylation at the terminal nitrogen of the piperazine moiety. On the basis of this information, we chose to modify Ciprofloxacin at the terminal nitrogen of the piperazine moiety with various linkers connecting an alkyl groups.



Scheme 1: Reagent & condition. (a) Cat. TsOH, MeOH, reflux 24h, 81%
 (b) ACN, K₂CO₃, Br-(CH₂)_n-OH, 100 °C, 16 h, (c) LiOH, MeOH:H₂O (4:1), AcOH, RT, 16 h.

The derivatives 4a-c were prepared by direct coupling of the commercial available bromohydroxyalkyl group with compound 2 under reflux and base conditions (K₂CO₃, CH₃CN), followed by purification of intimate ester and hydrolysis by LiOH is described in Scheme 1. In the case of fluoroalkyne derivatives of ciprofloxacin, it was prepared by the conversion of alcohol (compounds 3a and 3b) to chloroethyl and methanesulfonylpropyl derivatives, which was nucleophilic fluorinated using protic solvent, followed by hydrolysis using LiOH to give compounds 5a and 5b as shown in scheme 2.



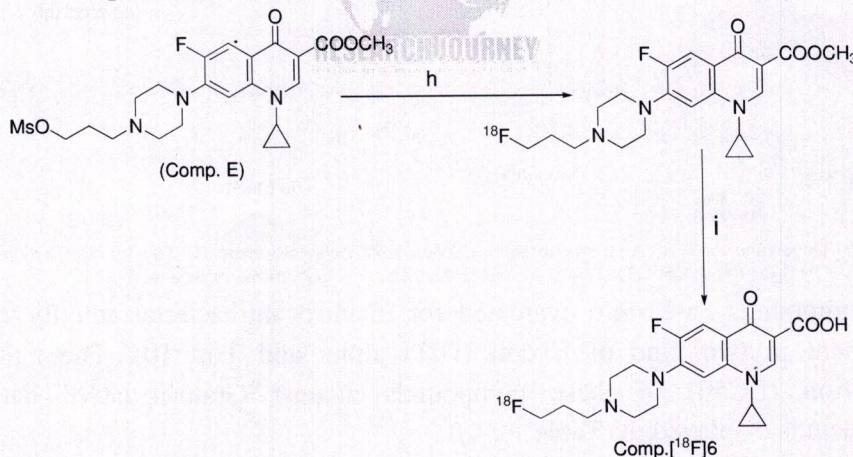
Scheme 2: Reagen and condition. (d) p-toluenesulfonylchloride, Et₃N, dichloromethane, RT, 20 h (e) TBAF hydride,t-amyl alcohol 80 °C, 6 h, (f) LiOH, MeOH:H₂O (4:1), AcOH, RT, 16 h, (g) methanesulfonylchloride, Et₃N, dichloromethane, RT, 2 h.

Compounds 3a-e were evaluated for in vitro antibacterial activity using optical density measurement in two kind of E coli (DH5 alpha and Top 10). The half maximal effective concentration (EC₅₀) of these compounds against Gram-negative bacteria compared to ciprofloxacin is displayed in (Table 1).

TABLE 1	LOG EC ₅₀ ng/mL		TABLE 2	Compound	LOG EC ₅₀ ng/mL)
Compound	DH5 alpha	Top 10		Ciprofloxacin	3.009e-006
Ciprofloxacin	-7.346	-8.594		4a	1.21e-005
4a	-6.780	-9.189		4b	1.655e-005
4b	-6.637	-8.830		4c	9.163e-006
4c	-6.408	8.692			
5b	-6.273	-7.301			
6b	-6.607	-8.936			

The data in Table 1 illustrate that the LOGEC50 values of N-substituted ciprofloxacin derivatives less effective antibacterial activity than ciprofloxacin in the case of the Ecoli DH5 alpha. But the compound 4a, 4b and 6b displayed similar (Ecoli DH5 alpha) antibacterial activity efficiency compared to ciprofloxacin. The most prominent improvement was observed against Ecoli TOP 10. On average, the compounds 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d displayed significantly better potency than ciprofloxacin. The observed LOGEC50 values of Ecoli DH5 alpha and Ecoli TOP 10 of N-substituted ciprofloxacin derivatives indicate that the majority of the compounds are more active than ciprofloxacin against Gram-negative bacteria. While retaining moderate DNA supercoiling activity promoted us to further investigate the inhibition activity of DNA gyrase. For this purpose, we tested selected N-substituted ciprofloxacin compounds (4a, 5b and 6b) for inhibition of the enzymes that are targeted by the ciprofloxacin. (Table 2). The observed data show that N-substituted ciprofloxacin compounds should be weaker DNA gyrase compare to ciprofloxacin. The measured EC50 values of 6b displayed far greater activities than compound 4a and 5b. It is of the note that the LOGEC50 values of compound 6b determined to be similar to ciprofloxacin for the inhibition of DNA gyrase. These data clearly confirm our designing principle of N-substituted ciprofloxacin derivatives is applicable for the radiosynthesis.

Radiosynthesis of [¹⁸F]6. [¹⁸F]6 was synthesized via a nucleophilic substitution of the mesylate precursor (4b) with [¹⁸F]fluoride using tertiary alcohol as a reaction media, followed by protonation with LiOH (Scheme 3). However, after reversed phase HPLC purification, [¹⁸F]6 was obtained in high chemical and radiochemical purity. The specific activity was > 300 uCi/umol at the end of the synthesis. The total synthesis and purification time was 180 min. The radiolabeling using t-amyl alcohol as the solvent gave a higher radiochemical yield than that in acetonitrile and DMF, use of the corresponding tosylate and chlorate precursors gave a much lower yield.



Reagent and condition. (h) [¹⁸F] fluoride, TBABA, t-amyl alcohol, 100 °C, (i) LiOH, MeOH/H₂O (4:1), AcOH, 100 °C.

The overall decay-corrected radiochemical yield was approximately 40%. Specific activity at the end of synthesis was calculated by relating radioactivity to the mass associated with the UV absorbance (215 nm) peak of cold compound. Specific radioactivity of [¹⁸F]6 (149 GBq/μmol) was obtained on an HPLC column.

Conclusion:

We successfully synthesized N-substituted Ciprofloxacin compound and identified their antibiotic activity with Ciprofloxacin and we developed a sensitive ¹⁸F- radiolabelled compound



[¹⁸F]6 with high radiochemical yield and a specific activity, which suitable as a bacterial-specific infection imaging tracer for future PET imaging study.

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