



The
Quinolones
THIRD EDITION

Edited by
VINCENT T. ANDRIOLE

THE QUINOLONES

Third Edition

*To my family
who have supported and
encouraged me always
and in everything.*

*To my colleague, Susan Marino,
who has assisted me in
all professional activities.*

THE QUINOLONES

Third Edition

Edited by


VINCENT T. ANDRIOLE

Yale University School of Medicine



ACADEMIC PRESS

San Diego London Boston New York Sydney Tokyo Toronto

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Academic Press
a Harcourt Science and Technology Company
525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, California 92101-4495

<http://www.academicpress.com>

Academic Press Limited
Harcourt Place, 32 Jamestown Road, London NW1 7BY, UK

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 00-106606

International Standard Book Number: 0-12-059517-6

PRINTED IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

00 01 02 03 04 05 SB 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

CONTENTS

<i>Contributors</i>	<i>xv</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xix</i>

1 The Quinolones: History and Overview

Peter Ball

Introduction	2
Structure–Activity Relationships (SARs)	3
Antibacterial Activity	6
Mode of Action	6
Spectrum of Activity	6
Bacterial Resistance to Fluoroquinolones	8
Clinical Pharmacology	9
Penetration into Respiratory Tissues	10
Elimination Pathways	11
Pharmacodynamics of Quinolones	12
Clinical Uses	12
Urinary Tract Infections	12
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	13
Respiratory Infections	13
Gastrointestinal Infections	14
Skin and Soft Tissue Infections	15
Bone Infections	15
Neutropenic Cancer Patients	16
Prophylaxis	16
Pharmaco-economic Aspects of Fluoroquinolone Usage	16
Use of Fluoroquinolones in Pediatrics	17
Adverse Drug Reactions	19

Interactions with Other Drugs	22
Interactions Reducing Absorption	22
Metabolic and Inhibitory Interactions	23
Conclusion	23
References	24

2 Chemistry and Mechanism of Action of the Quinolone Antibacterials

Katherine E. Brighty and Thomas D. Gootz

Introduction	34
Structural and Historical Background	34
General Structural Features of the Quinolones	35
First-Generation Quinolones	36
Second-Generation Quinolones	38
Third- and Fourth-Generation Quinolones	42
<i>In Vitro</i> Potency	43
<i>In Vivo</i> Activity	51
Selectivity: Activity against Mammalian Topoisomerase II and Genetic Toxicity	53
Chemical Properties	55
Future Directions	57
Compounds Lacking the C-6 Fluorine	57
2-Pyridones	59
Alteration of Primary Enzymatic Target	60
Mechanism of Action	61
Replication of DNA	61
Bacterial Topoisomerases	63
Topoisomerase Sensitivity to Fluoroquinolones	71
Killing of Bacterial Cells by Fluoroquinolones	75
Conclusion	81
References	82

3 Comparative In-Vitro Properties of the Quinolones

Ian Phillips, Anna King, and Kevin Shannon

Introduction	99
Gram-Negative Aerobes	102
Enterobacteriaceae	102
Other Gram-Negative Aerobes	107
Gram-Positive Aerobes	117
Anaerobes	125
Miscellaneous Organisms	130

Conclusion	132
References	132

4 Bacterial Resistance to Quinolones: Mechanisms and Clinical Implications

Thilo Köhler and Jean-Claude Pechère

Introduction	140
Mechanisms of Quinolone Resistance	140
Gram-Negative Bacteria	140
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	140
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	142
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp.	143
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	143
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	145
<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	145
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	145
Miscellaneous	146
Gram-Positive Bacteria	146
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	146
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	147
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	148
<i>Mycobacteria</i>	148
Clinical Impact of Bacterial Resistance to Quinolones	149
Prevalence of Quinolone Resistance	149
Fluoroquinolone Resistance in Hospital Practice	149
Fluoroquinolone Resistance in Community-Acquired Infections	151
Quinolone Use and Emergence of Resistance	155
References	156

5 Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of the Fluoroquinolones

Myo-Kyoung Kim and Charles H. Nightingale

Introduction	170
Basic Concepts of Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics	170
Pharmacokinetics	171
Absorption	172
Distribution	174
Elimination	179
Special Population	181
Drug Interactions	182

Pharmacodynamics	185
Bactericidal Activity: Time–Kill Curves	185
Pharmacodynamic Surrogate Markers and Clinical Outcome	186
Post-Antibiotic Effects	188
Conclusion	191
References	191

6 Use of Quinolones in Urinary Tract Infection and Prostatitis

Lindsay E. Nicolle

Introduction	203
Urinary Tract Infection	204
Pharmacology	207
Microbiology	207
Clinical Studies	209
Limitations of Available Studies	209
Acute Uncomplicated Urinary Infection	209
Acute Nonobstructive Pyelonephritis	213
Complicated Urinary Infection	214
Bacterial Prostatitis	215
Conclusion	218
References	218

7 Use of the Quinolones in Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Richard P. DiCarlo and David H. Martin

Introduction	228
Gonococcal Infections	229
Background	229
<i>In-Vitro</i> Activity of Quinolones against <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	230
Clinical Studies	230
Resistance of <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> to the Quinolones	233
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	235
Background	235
<i>In-Vitro</i> Activity of Quinolones against <i>C. trachomatis</i>	235
Clinical Studies	235
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	238
Chancroid	239
Background	239
<i>In-Vitro</i> Activity of Quinolones against <i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	239
Clinical Studies	240
Donovanosis	241
Bacterial Vaginosis	241

Special Toxicity Considerations When Quinolones Are Used for Treating Sexually Transmitted Diseases	242
Conclusion	243
References	243

8 Treatment of Respiratory Infections with Quinolones

Paul B. Iannini, Michael S. Niederman, and Vincent T. Andriole

Introduction	255
Clinical Issues in the Therapy of Respiratory Infection	257
Community-Acquired Pneumonia	257
Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia	260
Acute Exacerbations of Chronic Bronchitis	261
Pharmacological Advantages for the Use of Quinolones in Respiratory Infection	262
Penetration into Lung Tissue	262
Mechanism of Killing	265
Microbiologic Advantages of Quinolones for Respiratory Infection	267
Activity against Common Respiratory Pathogens	268
Clinical Efficacy of Quinolones for the Therapy of	
Respiratory Tract Infections	271
Community-Acquired Pneumonia	271
Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia	274
Acute Exacerbations of Chronic Bronchitis	275
Conclusion	276
References	277

9 Use of Quinolones in Surgery and Obstetrics and Gynecology

John Weigelt, Karen Brasel, and Sebastian Faro

Introduction	285
Surgical Wound Prophylaxis	286
Soft Tissue Infection	288
Intraabdominal Infection	289
Gynecologic Infections	291
Postoperative Pelvic Infections	293
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	294
Upper Genital Tract Infection	295
Pregnancy	296
Conclusion	297
References	297

10 Use of the Quinolones for Treatment and Prophylaxis of Bacterial Gastrointestinal Infections

Davidson H. Hamer and Sherwood L. Gorbach

Introduction	304
Pharmacology	304
Microbiology	304
Effects on Human Intestinal Microflora	305
Clinical Studies	305
Empirical Therapy of Acute Diarrhea	305
Traveler's Diarrhea	308
Nontyphoidal Salmonellosis	309
Typhoid Fever	310
Shigellosis	312
Cholera and Other Vibrios	314
Campylobacter	315
Antimicrobial Resistance to Quinolones	316
Conclusion	317
References	318

11 Use of the Quinolones in Treatment of Bacterial Meningitis

Rodrigo Hasbun and Vincent J. Quagliarello

Introduction	325
Pharmacology	326
<i>In-Vitro</i> Activity of Quinolones against Meningeal Pathogens	326
CSF Penetration of the Quinolones <i>in Vivo</i>	328
Microbiology	335
Studies of Clinical Efficacy	336
Case Reports	336
Chemoprophylaxis of Meningococcal Meningitis	336
Clinical Trial of Trovafloxacin	338
Conclusion	339
References	339

12 Use of the Quinolones in Immunocompromised Patients

Kenneth V. I. Rolston

Introduction	343
Risk Factors and Associated Infections	344

Rationale for Fluoroquinolone Use	346
Effect of Fluoroquinolones on Endogenous Microflora	347
Infection Prevention in Afebrile Neutropenic Patients	348
Empiric Therapy in Febrile Neutropenic Patients	350
Risk-Based Therapy for Febrile Neutropenia	352
Treatment of Specific Infections	354
<i>Legionellosis</i>	354
Mycobacterial Infections	356
Miscellaneous Infections	358
Conclusion	359
References	360

13 Use of the Quinolones in Skin and Skin Structure (Osteomyelitis) and Other Infections

Adolf W. Karchmer

Introduction	371
Skin and Soft Tissue Infection	372
Pharmacology	373
Microbiology	373
Clinical Studies	374
Bone and Joint Infection	378
Osteomyelitis	378
Pharmacology	379
Microbiology	380
Clinical Studies	382
Septic Arthritis	388
Conclusion	389
References	390

14 Safety Overview: Toxicity, Adverse Effects, and Drug Interactions

Ralf Stahlmann and Hartmut Lode

Introduction	398
Toxicity of Quinolones (Studies in Animals)	399
General Remarks	399
Effects on Connective Tissue Structures (Cartilage, Tendon)	400
Neurotoxicity	404
Phototoxicity, Photomutagenicity, and Photocarcinogenicity	405

Nephrotoxicity	406
Ocular Toxicity	407
Cardiotoxicity	408
Reproductive and Developmental Toxicity	408
Mutagenicity and Carcinogenicity	411
Adverse Effects of Fluoroquinolones in Clinical Studies	413
Adverse Effects of Fluoroquinolones	413
Adverse Effects Observed in Preregistration Clinical Trials	420
Adverse Effects Observed in Comparative Double-Blind Studies	429
Drug Interactions	433
Influence of pH and Magnesium on Antibacterial Activity of Quinolones <i>in Vitro</i>	434
Interactions between Quinolones and Antacids	434
Influence of Breakfast or Dairy Products on the Bioavailability of Quinolones	436
Interactions in Renal Elimination	438
Interactions between Quinolones and Theophylline	438
Interactions between Quinolones and Caffeine	440
Interactions with Digoxin	440
Interactions between Quinolones and Other Drugs	441
References	442

15 Use of the Quinolones in Pediatrics

Urs B. Schaad

Introduction	455
Animal Data	456
Quinolone Arthropathy	456
Histopathology	457
Possible Mechanisms	458
Tendopathy	458
Pharmacokinetics	460
Clinical Experiences	460
Tolerability	460
Development of Resistance	461
Quinolone-Associated Arthralgia	462
Studied Indications	463
Newest Compounds	467
Recommendations	468
Conclusion	468
References	469

16 The Quinolones: Prospects*Vincent T. Andriole*

Introduction	477
Molecular Mechanisms of the Quinolones: Key Discoveries	478
Microbiology	480
Pharmacokinetics	481
Clinical Uses	482
Adverse Events	483
Quinolones: Future Developments	486
Current Quinolone Status and Classification	487
Conclusion	490
References	491

<i>Index</i>	497
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PREFACE

Substantial progress has been made in the development of newer quinolones since the last edition of *The Quinolones* was published. This progress occurred because the quinolone class of antibacterial agents has captured the interest of chemists, microbiologists, pharmacologists, and clinicians. Recent progress in molecular biology has provided new information and a better understanding of structure–activity relationships of the quinolone nucleus and its radicals. This progress has resulted in the approval of a few new compounds with improved mechanism of action and the potential for delaying the development of resistance by specific bacterial pathogens. A few of the newest quinolones developed recently—moxifloxacin, gatifloxacin, and gemifloxacin—provide a more potent spectrum of activity that includes penicillin-resistant pneumococci as well as good activity against anaerobes and decreased susceptibility to the development of resistance by some bacterial species. Trovafloxacin was the first quinolone that demonstrated improved penetration into the central nervous system and cerebrospinal fluid, and early clinical studies demonstrated excellent efficacy in pediatric patients with bacterial meningitis. The newest quinolones—moxifloxacin, gatifloxacin, and gemifloxacin—broaden the clinical utility of this class of antimicrobial agents as we enter an era of increasing bacterial resistance to the previously recommended “standard therapy.” During this same period, we have learned much about quinolone toxicity as it relates to quinolone chemical structure and pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics in treated patients. Hopefully this knowledge will provide safer molecules for use in patients.

The excellent and very recent progress that has occurred warranted an update on the quinolones. This edition is intended to provide the newest and most cogent information on the quinolones—all of it readily available in one volume.

Once again, I am much indebted to my colleagues, each of whom contributed thorough reviews on the history, chemistry, and mechanism of action, *in-vitro* properties, mechanisms of bacterial resistance, pharmacokinetics, clinical overview (described in nine separate chapters, including pediatrics), toxicity, adverse effects and drug interactions, and the future prospects of the newer quinolones.

Clearly, our hope is that this work will serve as a ready resource for new and helpful information, and, in so doing, the efforts of my colleagues most certainly will have been worthwhile.

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The Quinolones

History and Overview

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Introduction

Structure–Activity Relationships (SARs)

Antibacterial Activity

Mode of Action

Spectrum of Activity

Bacterial Resistance to Fluoroquinolones

Clinical Pharmacology

Penetration into Respiratory Tissues

Elimination Pathways

Pharmacodynamics of Quinolones

Clinical Uses

Urinary Tract Infections

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Respiratory Infections

Gastrointestinal Infections

Skin and Soft Tissue Infections

Bone Infections

Neutropenic Cancer Patients

Prophylaxis

Pharmacoeconomic Aspects of Fluoroquinolone Usage

Use of Fluoroquinolones in Pediatrics

Adverse Drug Reactions

Interactions with Other Drugs

Interactions Reducing Absorption

Metabolic and Inhibitory Interactions

Conclusion

References

INTRODUCTION

The development of quinolone antibacterials, since the discovery of the naphthyridine agent nalidixic acid some 40 years ago [1], has progressed with periods of great clinical innovation, alternating with periods of apparent inactivity following unexpected recognition of rare, but severe, adverse reactions associated with specific agents. Initially, within a decade, the 4-quinolones oxolinic acid and cinoxacin, which had improved activity against a limited range of Gram-negative bacteria, had been synthesized. Parallel developments in Japan had yielded 7-piperazine-substituted compounds, such as pipemidic acid, which had limited activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. However, the breakthrough to broad-spectrum activity waited a further 10 years before fluorination, primarily at the 6-position, resulted in the fluoroquinolones. It is difficult to overestimate the clinical impact of the development of these agents.

Since the mid-1980s, the fluoroquinolones have become a major group of synthetic antibiotics with activity that ranges from the Enterobacteriaceae and opportunists such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, to Gram-positive pathogens, including streptococci and staphylococci. These changes resulted in agents—for example, ciprofloxacin and ofloxacin (later the levo-isomer levofloxacin)—that are applicable across a broad range of indications, including those involving the genitourinary, respiratory, and gastrointestinal tracts, skin and soft tissues, and other structures. In most bodily tissues and fluids, the fluoroquinolones are characterized by excellent penetration and therapeutic ratios. Ciprofloxacin and ofloxacin revolutionized the management of many conditions previously amenable only to intravenous therapy or in which management has been compromised by bacterial resistance to standard agents, such as the β -lactams. Important examples include pyelonephritis, enteric fevers, prostatic infections, pulmonary exacerbations of cystic fibrosis, and nosocomial pneumonias.

The next significant advance occurred in the early 1990s with the synthesis of temafloxacin, which had four- to eightfold greater activity against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and good activity against anaerobes, such as the *Bacteroides* and *Prevotella* spp. However, unexpected toxicity, in the form of hemolytic uraemic syndrome [2], resulted in its withdrawal only months after launch. In addition, the development of several other compounds with even greater anti-Gram-positive potency, notably sparfloxacin, sitafloxacin, and Bay 3118, has been either delayed or discontinued due to an unacceptable incidence of phototoxicity (and other adverse effects). By the mid-1990s, clinical development appeared to have halted, although molecules with differing sidechains and laboratory activity continued to be synthesized.

However, optimism again increased with the discovery of trovafloxacin, clinafloxacin, and grepafloxacin, only to be dampened at the end of the decade

by their abrupt withdrawal or suspension due to rare but severe adverse effects, including hepatotoxicity (trovafloxacin), significant QT prolongation and associated cardiac deaths (grepafloxacin), and serious phototoxicity and hypoglycemia (clinafloxacin). All of these agents had significantly greater potency against Gram-positive species, notably *S. pneumoniae*, and in the case of trovafloxacin at least proved highly clinically effective in pneumococcal infections. At a time when burgeoning global multidrug resistance among pneumococci had begun to compromise traditional therapy, this left a considerable hiatus in the range of potential alternatives to penicillin and macrolides.

Fortunately, the 8-methoxyquinolones moxifloxacin and gatifloxacin, which are highly potent against *S. pneumoniae* (10-fold greater than the earlier second-generation agents), clinically effective, and appear free from either significant or unexpected toxicity, have filled this therapeutic vacuum. Their proven activity against *S. pneumoniae*, coupled with maintained high potency against *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Moraxella catarrhalis*, and excellent penetration into respiratory tissues, including the intracellular habitat of *Chlamydia* and *Legionella* spp., suggests that, where ciprofloxacin was considered by many to be inappropriate for respiratory infections, 8-methoxyquinolone derivatives will now become agents of choice. They appear to limit emergence of resistance in Gram-positive species, which could prove a major advantage, compared with levofloxacin, which has also proven surprisingly clinically effective in respiratory infections despite a pneumococcal MIC typical of earlier second-generation agents. Further progress includes continued development of the naphthyridone subclass, notably gemifloxacin, which is characterized by a further 10-fold increase in anti-pneumococcal potency. Clinical trial results are awaited with interest.

The fluoroquinolones and their precursors have a number of predictable structure–activity and structure–adverse effect relationships relating to nuclear and sidechain configurations. Thus, design of new molecules can avoid many of the problems that have characterized previous members of the group. It may be anticipated that further modifications to the molecular structure will improve spectrum and activity while reducing the incidence of adverse effects.

STRUCTURE–ACTIVITY RELATIONSHIPS (SARs)

The 1,8 naphthyridines, 4-quinolones, cinnolines, fluoroquinolones, and fluorinated naphthyridones, together with their important sidechain substituent modifications and resultant structure–activity relationships are summarized in Table I. Modifications to the nucleus converting the naphthyridine nitrogen in the 8-position to a carbon reduced adverse reactions and increased activity against Gram-positive cocci, including both streptococci and *Staphylococcus aureus*, whereas either piperazine or other *N*-cyclic substitutions at the 7-position significantly increased potency against Gram-negative bacteria, including *P.*

TABLE I A Chemical and Functional Classification of Quinolones and Fluoroquinolones

Structure	Name		Antibacterial activity	Pharmacokinetics	Indications/comments
First-generation compounds (often all included as 4-quinolones)					
1,8 naphthyridine (carboxylic acid) 7-methyl 7-pyrrole	Nalidixic acid Pirimidic acid		Enterobacteria only, no significant anti-Gram-positive activity	Orally absorbed, poor to moderate tissue penetration	UTI, shigellosis
1,2-cinnoline (carboxylic acid)	Cinoxacin				
4-quinolone (carboxylic acid)	Oxolinic acid				
7-piperazine (pyrido-pyrimidine)	Pipemidic acid		<i>P. aeruginosa</i> added		
6,7,8 sidechain substituents	Name	N-1 sidechain	Antibacterial activity	Pharmacokinetics	Indications/comments
Second-generation compounds (IIA)					
A. Fluoroquinolones with enhanced but predominantly Gram-negative activity					
6-Fluoro	Flumequine	–	Gram-negative: less active than piperazinyl derivatives	Improved absorption	Limited to UTI
6-Fluoro-7-piperazinyl	Ciprofloxacin Pefloxacin Norfloxacin Ofloxacin (Levofloxacin: Rufloxacin	Cyclopropyl Ethyl Ethyl 1-8 (O) cyclic ring L-isomer) 1-8 (S) cyclic ring	Enhanced anti-Gram negative potency, including <i>P. aeruginosa</i> plus some limited anti-Gram-positive activity	High absorption, ++ tissue penetration, variable elimination (renal/metabolic) with moderate to long T/2	UTI, STD, enteric infections, RTI (not 1° pneumococcal), invasive Gram-negative infections: osteomyelitis, skin and soft tissue, etc.