

# Profile of oritavancin and its potential in the treatment of acute bacterial skin structure infections

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**Abstract:** Oritavancin, a semisynthetic derivative of the glycopeptide antibiotic chloroeremomycin, received the US Food and Drug Administration approval for the treatment of acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections caused by susceptible Gram-positive bacteria in adults in August 2014. This novel second-generation semisynthetic lipoglycopeptide antibiotic has activity against a broad spectrum of Gram-positive bacteria, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-intermediate *S. aureus* (VISA), and vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*. Oritavancin inhibits bacterial cell wall synthesis and is rapidly bactericidal against many Gram-positive pathogens. The long half-life of this drug enables a single-dose administration. Oritavancin is not metabolized in the body, and the unchanged drug is slowly excreted by the kidneys. In two large Phase III randomized, double-blind, clinical trials, oritavancin was found to be non-inferior to vancomycin in achieving the primary composite end point in the treatment of acute Gram-positive skin and skin structure infections. Adverse effects noted were mostly mild with nausea, headache, and vomiting being the most common reported side effects. Oritavancin has emerged as another useful antimicrobial agent for treatment of acute Gram-positive skin and skin structure infections, including those caused by MRSA and VISA.

**Keywords:** antibiotic, Gram-positive bacteria, MRSA, VRSA, vancomycin, MIC

## Introduction

The emergence of antibiotic resistance among Gram-positive organisms has been increasing over several decades.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, the antibiotic pipeline has not kept pace with the increasing demand for combating resistant pathogens. Resistance among *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus* spp. particularly to vancomycin has emerged as a major concern. The need for expanding the antibiotic armamentarium for treatment of complicated infections including acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections (ABSSSIs) is desperately increasing. In this regard, the recent US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of a few antibiotics for treatment of ABSSSI is welcome news. Oritavancin, a semisynthetic lipoglycopeptide antibiotic, was approved by the FDA for the treatment of acute Gram-positive skin and skin structure infections in August 2014.<sup>2</sup>

This article reviews our current knowledge of oritavancin including the clinical trials that demonstrate the efficacy and safety of the drug for ABSSSIs.

## Chemistry

Oritavancin is a second-generation lipoglycopeptide (has both hydrophobic and lipophilic groups) and contains a heptapeptide core similar to other members of the glycopeptide group.<sup>3</sup> A synthetic derivative of the naturally occurring glycopeptide

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chloroeremomycin, oritavancin, differs from its parent compound by addition of a 4'-chlorobiphenylmethyl substituent on the disaccharide sugar. The chemical structure of oritavancin also differs from vancomycin by virtue of an additional monosaccharide moiety (4-*epi*-vancosamine) attached to the amino acid residue on ring 6 (Figure 1). These structural alterations confer significantly enhanced activity against vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* and vancomycin-intermediate and vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus*. Oritavancin can also bind to D-alanyl-D-lactate in addition to D-alanyl-D-alanyl (D-Ala-D-Ala), and the affinity is enhanced by its ability to form dimers prior to attachment to bacterial peptidoglycan cell wall. This dimerization is possible due to interactions between the disaccharides attached to residue 4, the chlorine on ring 2, and the 4-*epi*-vancosamine on ring 6.<sup>4-6</sup>

## Mechanism of action

The antibacterial activity of oritavancin occurs by multiple mechanisms, resulting in concentration-dependent killing of susceptible Gram-positive pathogens. The drug not only exhibits rapid bactericidal effect on exponentially growing cells but has also been shown to be active against stationary-phase cells of susceptible Gram-positive bacteria including vancomycin-resistant *S. aureus* (VRSA).<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, oritavancin also demonstrated activity against *S. aureus* biofilms in vitro.<sup>7</sup> Oritavancin may also have some effect on inhibition of RNA synthesis.<sup>6,8</sup>

Like other members of the glycopeptide class, oritavancin inhibits bacterial cell wall synthesis by blocking the transglycosylation step during peptidoglycan synthesis. The stoichiometric complex produced by binding of

oritavancin to carboxyl terminal acyl-D-alanyl-D-alanine residues of the pentapeptide moiety of lipid II prevents incorporation of the disaccharide-pentapeptide monomer into nascent peptidoglycan by the transglycosylase enzyme.<sup>4</sup> The hydrophobic 4'-chlorobiphenylmethyl side chain on the disaccharide sugar also facilitates attachment to bacterial cell membrane, providing additional stability during oritavancin's interaction with lipid II.<sup>6</sup> The binding of the drug to pentapeptides of the peptidoglycan is further enhanced by formation of dimers as mentioned previously.

Another important mechanism of action, that has been reported, is the ability of oritavancin to inhibit transpeptidation. This is attributed to the 4'-chlorobiphenylmethyl side chain, which allows binding of the drug to a secondary site in peptidoglycan, the pentaglycyl bridge, which likely contributes to oritavancin's activity against vancomycin-intermediate *S. aureus* (VISA) and vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* isolates.

The 4'-chlorobiphenylmethyl side chain of the molecule is also credited for Gram-positive bacterial cell death by membrane depolarization and increased membrane permeability.<sup>9</sup> This mechanism, which leads to disruption of membrane ultrastructure, has been demonstrated in vitro to support both antibacterial activity against stationary-phase inocula of staphylococci and rapid killing of susceptible Gram-positive pathogens.<sup>7,9</sup>

Oritavancin can accumulate within eukaryotic cells, reaching macrophage intracellular concentrations 200 times above extracellular concentrations after 24 hours of in vitro incubation.<sup>10</sup> The accumulation of the drug had no effect on the bactericidal activity of macrophages. These findings suggest that oritavancin possesses high efficacy against intracellular staphylococci and provides reassurance that oritavancin accumulation does not inhibit phagocytic killing of macrophages.<sup>10</sup>

## Antimicrobial activity and resistance

Oritavancin has demonstrated excellent in vitro activity against Gram-positive aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, including staphylococci, streptococci, enterococci, and *Clostridium difficile*.<sup>11</sup> Table 1 summarizes the available data on the susceptibility of Gram-positive organisms to oritavancin, while Table 2 compares other parenteral agents that might be considered for the treatment of Gram-positive infections in different geographic regions.<sup>12,13</sup>

Oritavancin's minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) required to inhibit the growth of 90% of organisms (MIC90) for methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) was 0.06 µg/mL,

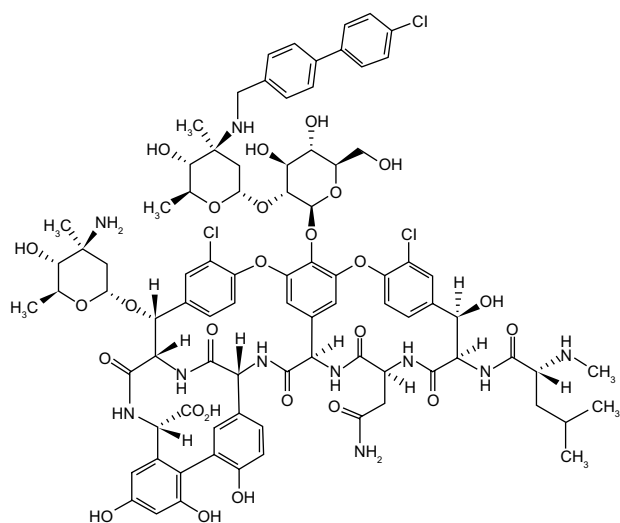


Figure 1 Chemical structure of oritavancin.

**Table 1** Susceptibility of aerobic and anaerobic Gram-positive bacteria to oritavancin

Organism	Number of isolates	MIC range ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	MIC50 ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	MIC90 ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )
Susceptibility of aerobic Gram-positive bacteria to oritavancin <sup>12,13</sup>				
Methicillin-susceptible <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	7,332	$\leq 0.004$ –0.50	0.03	0.06
Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	4,264	$\leq 0.004$ –0.25	0.03	0.06
<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	586	$\leq 0.008$ –0.5	0.03–0.06	0.06–0.12
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	1,017	$\leq 0.004$ –0.5	0.015–0.03	0.06
Vancomycin-susceptible <i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	278	$\leq 0.004$ –0.03	$\leq 0.008$	$\leq 0.008$ –0.015
Vancomycin-resistant <i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	216	$\leq 0.004$ –0.5	0.008–0.06	0.06–0.12
<i>Streptococcus anginosus</i> group	172	$\leq 0.008$ –0.06	$\leq 0.008$	$\leq 0.008$ –0.015
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	868	$\leq 0.0005$ –1.0	0.03	0.03–0.25
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>	546	0.001–0.5	0.03	0.12
<i>Streptococcus dysgalactiae</i>	81	$\leq 0.008$ –0.5	0.06	0.25–0.5
Susceptibility of anaerobic Gram-positive bacteria to oritavancin <sup>11</sup>				
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	28	0.25–1	0.5	1.0
<i>Propionibacterium acnes</i>	11	0.125–0.25	0.125	0.25
<i>Peptostreptococcus anaerobius</i>	15	0.06–0.5	0.125	0.25
<i>Peptoniphilus asaccharolyticus</i>	17	$\leq 0.03$ –0.5	0.25	0.5
<i>Anaerococcus prevotti</i>	16	$\leq 0.03$ –1	$\leq 0.03$	0.25
<i>Micromonas micros</i>	15	$\leq 0.03$ –0.5	0.125	0.25

**Abbreviations:** MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; MIC50, MIC required to inhibit the growth of 50% of isolate; MIC90, MIC required to inhibit the growth of 90% of isolate.

while the MIC required to inhibit the growth of 50% of organisms (MIC50) was 0.03  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Oritavancin's MIC against MRSA isolates from the USA and Europe was at least eight times lower compared to other antimicrobial

agents (Table 2).<sup>12</sup> It was also observed that oritavancin MIC appears to mirror vancomycin MIC. The modal oritavancin MIC increased with increasing vancomycin MIC in both geographic regions.<sup>12</sup>

**Table 2** Susceptibility of Gram-positive bacteria to oritavancin and selected antibiotics in different geographic regions

Organism	Antimicrobial agent	MIC90 ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )		
		USA	Europe	Canada
Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Oritavancin	0.06	0.06	0.06
	Vancomycin	1	1	1
	Daptomycin	0.5	0.5	0.5
Coagulase-negative staphylococci	Oritavancin	0.06	0.06	0.12 ( <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> )
	Vancomycin	2	2	2 ( <i>S. epidermidis</i> )
	Daptomycin	0.5	0.5	0.25 ( <i>S. epidermidis</i> )
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	Oritavancin	0.06	0.06	0.06
	Vancomycin	2	2	2
	Daptomycin	2	1	2
Vancomycin-susceptible <i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	Oritavancin	$\leq 0.008$	$\leq 0.008$	0.015
	Vancomycin	2	1	1
	Daptomycin	4	4	2
Vancomycin-resistant <i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	Oritavancin	0.12	0.06	0.12
	Vancomycin	>16	>16	>32
	Daptomycin	2	4	2
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>	Oritavancin	0.12	0.12	0.12
	Vancomycin	0.5	0.5	0.5
	Daptomycin	0.25	0.25	0.25
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	Oritavancin	0.12	0.12	0.25
	Vancomycin	0.5	0.5	0.5
	Daptomycin	$\leq 0.06$	$\leq 0.06$	0.12
<i>Streptococcus anginosus</i> group	Oritavancin	0.015	$\leq 0.008$	NR
	Vancomycin	1	1	NR
	Daptomycin	0.5	0.5	NR

**Notes:** Data from Mendes et al.<sup>12</sup> and Karlowsky et al.<sup>13</sup>

**Abbreviations:** MIC90, minimum inhibitory concentration required to inhibit the growth of 90% of isolate; NR, not reported.

An interesting observation, related to the binding of oritavancin to plastic surfaces, questioned the accuracy of oritavancin susceptibility assays performed by the broth microdilution technique without using the surfactant polysorbate 80.<sup>14</sup> The omission of polysorbate 80 in those experiments likely resulted in loss of the drug to plastic surfaces and may have underestimated the potency of oritavancin. In subsequent studies, the addition of polysorbate 80 at a concentration of 0.002% throughout all steps of the broth microdilution assay resulted in several-fold reductions in oritavancin MICs against *S. aureus* and *Enterococcus faecalis*.<sup>14</sup> The use of polysorbate 80 is now the standard for testing in vitro oritavancin MICs.<sup>12</sup>

Oritavancin demonstrated synergistic and bactericidal effect against VISA and VRSA isolates in combination with gentamicin or linezolid, while synergy with rifampin against VRSA isolate was bacteriostatic.<sup>8</sup>

Resistance to oritavancin among clinical isolates has not been detected so far.<sup>6,15</sup> However, moderate level of resistance (MIC  $\leq$  16  $\mu$ g/mL) to the drug has been observed in the laboratory among *Enterococcus* isolates demonstrating the *VanA* and *VanB* phenotypes and can occur by various mechanisms.<sup>16</sup> Total replacement of the peptidoglycan precursors terminating in D-alanine by isolates capable of producing peptidoglycan precursors terminating in D-lactate can confer resistance to oritavancin. This can be achieved in vitro by either increasing resistance gene expression or reducing production of D-Ala-D-Ala. Resistance to the drug may also occur with expression of the *vanZ* gene. Additionally, mutations in the *vanS<sub>B</sub>* sensor gene of the *vanB* cluster confer cross-resistance to teicoplanin and oritavancin.<sup>16</sup> Thus, it is quite likely that emergence of resistance to oritavancin may occur with widespread clinical use.

## Pharmacokinetics/ pharmacodynamics

Oritavancin is available as a sterile white-to-off-white lyophilized powder, and each 50 mL capacity glass vial contains 400 mg of oritavancin base, mannitol, and phosphoric acid (The Medicines Company, Parsippany, NJ, USA). The drug is poorly absorbed across an intact gastrointestinal tract due to its high molecular weight and needs to be administered intravenously, after each vial is reconstituted with sterile water for injection and subsequently diluted with 5% dextrose in sterile water. The use of normal saline for dilution may cause precipitation of the drug.<sup>3</sup>

Pharmacokinetic parameters of oritavancin are summarized in Table 3.<sup>17</sup> After an intravenous (IV) dose, oritavancin

**Table 3** Pharmacokinetic parameters of oritavancin in Phase II/III studies (n=360)

Pharmacokinetic parameter	Mean value (SD)
$C_{max}$ ( $\mu$ g/mL)	28.5 (12.2)
$C_{min}$ ( $\mu$ g/mL)	1.99 (1.10)
AUC <sub>0-24</sub> ( $\mu$ g h/mL)	146 (63.7)
$T_{1/2\beta}$ (hours)	31.2 (11.4)
$T_{1/2\gamma}$ (hours)	393 (73.5)
CL (L/h)	0.601 (0.204)
$V_c$ (L)	7.10 (2.46)

**Notes:** Data from Rubino et al.<sup>17</sup>

**Abbreviations:** SD, standard deviation;  $C_{max}$ , maximum plasma concentration;  $C_{min}$ , minimum plasma concentration; AUC<sub>0-24</sub>, area under the plasma concentration–time curve from time 0 hours to 24 hours;  $T_{1/2\beta}$ , plasma elimination-phase half-life;  $T_{1/2\gamma}$ , plasma terminal elimination half-life; CL, total clearance;  $V_c$ , volume of distribution of the central compartment.

achieves a plasma concentration that is best illustrated using a three-compartment model. The initial rapid distribution phase is followed by a slightly slower and longer second elimination phase of 12–24 hours. The final phase has a very long terminal half-life of 393 hours in humans due to slow release of the drug from tissue accumulation sites. The FDA-approved dose of 1,200 mg given as a single IV dose over 3 hours for treatment of ABSSSIs is predicted to start at terminal half-life concentration of 5–20  $\mu$ g/mL.<sup>18</sup> However, the free-drug concentration is expected to be significantly less as 85%–90% of oritavancin is protein bound. The drug displayed linear kinetics when administered as single or multiple IV doses ranging from 100 mg to 800 mg or weight-based doses ranging from 0.02 mg/kg to 10 mg/kg of body weight.<sup>19</sup>

Oritavancin has extensive tissue distribution with a volume of distribution of about 1 L/kg and accumulates in macrophages, reaching intracellular concentrations 200 times above extracellular concentrations after 24 hours of in vitro incubation.<sup>10</sup> Using a cantharide-induced blister fluid model, the mean blister fluid/plasma ratio was calculated to be 0.19 (19%), and the mean drug concentrations in blister fluid exceeded the oritavancin MIC<sub>90</sub> for *S. aureus* by approximately 2–5.5 times.<sup>20</sup> The maximal concentration of the drug was achieved in blister fluid about 10 hours after dosing and was undetectable at 100–150 hours after the last dose.<sup>20</sup>

Oritavancin demonstrates concentration-dependent killing against susceptible Gram-positive bacteria. The long plasma half-life of oritavancin makes it difficult to conclusively identify the best pharmacodynamic parameter, though the observation that the lowest colony count was observed with a single large dose of the drug suggests that the ratio between the maximum serum concentrations and MIC of the organism ( $C_{max}/MIC$ ) best predicts the drug's bactericidal efficacy.<sup>21</sup> However, other pharmacodynamic

parameters, the time during which the concentration of drug in plasma exceeds the MIC ( $T > \text{MIC}$ ) and area under the concentration–time curve to MIC ratio (AUC/MIC), may also correlate with efficacy.<sup>21</sup>

Oritavancin is not metabolized, and metabolites have not been detected in either urine or feces. The drug is slowly eliminated from tissue sites with approximately 6% of the dose eliminated from the body over 7 days after a single-dose IV infusion, mostly excreted unchanged in urine with less than 1% eliminated in the feces.

## Animal models

The efficacy of oritavancin against drug-resistant bacterial pathogens has been demonstrated in various animal models. A single dose of the drug was able to clear bacteremia in a rat central venous catheter (CVC) model of infection caused by a strain of *Enterococcus faecium* with the *VanA* phenotype.<sup>22</sup> None of the animals in the oritavancin group showed evidence of metastatic disease compared to 100% of the controls. The organism was recovered from the explanted CVCs in only 12.5%, compared to 87.5% of untreated animals.<sup>22</sup> Oritavancin was found to be as effective as vancomycin in clearing bacteremia and reducing bacterial counts in vegetations and tissues in a rabbit model of experimental left-sided MRSA endocarditis.<sup>23</sup> The drug was found to be active against *VanA* and *VanB* strains of *E. faecalis* in a rabbit aortic endocarditis model, while vancomycin did not show activity against the *VanB*-type strain, and teicoplanin was not active against the *VanA*-type strain.<sup>24</sup> The addition of gentamicin in this endocarditis model enhanced the bactericidal activity of oritavancin against vancomycin-resistant *E. faecalis* and prevented the emergence of resistant strains.<sup>25</sup>

The efficacy of oritavancin against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* was evaluated in a neutropenic mouse pneumonia model.<sup>18</sup> Pulmonary infection in mice resulted from aspiration or inhalation of the inoculum from the nasopharynx. Single IV oritavancin dose of  $\geq 10$  mg/kg was active against *S. pneumoniae*, achieving  $\geq 3$  logs of killing at 72 hours. The addition of 5% surfactant resulted in eight times increase in MIC against *S. pneumoniae* to 0.008  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  and 16 times increase in MIC against *S. aureus* to 1  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , despite the use of 0.002% polysorbate 80. This implies that some binding of oritavancin to surfactant occurs, though this is significantly less than the 256 times increase in MIC against *S. aureus* observed for daptomycin after addition of surfactant.<sup>18</sup>

The activity of oritavancin was studied in a rabbit model of pneumococcal meningitis.<sup>26</sup> Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) penetration of the drug was estimated to be

1%–5% of the serum concentration, and the maximum CSF concentration was achieved several hours after a single IV dose. Overall, a single IV dose of oritavancin was slightly less efficacious compared to a 12-hour continuous infusion of ceftriaxone, though this was statistically not significant. However, the culture samples obtained from oritavancin-treated animals were sterile after 1 hour.<sup>26</sup> In a similar rabbit model of cephalosporin-resistant pneumococcal meningitis, oritavancin was found to be highly effective either alone or in combination with ceftriaxone, though no synergistic effect was observed.<sup>27</sup> A decrease in CSF inflammatory markers was noted with the combination of oritavancin, ceftriaxone, and dexamethasone achieving the greatest magnitude reduction. Two therapeutic failures were observed with the oritavancin and dexamethasone combination, though the combination was found to be rapidly bactericidal. CSF oritavancin level was lower in the groups treated with dexamethasone, though this was statistically not significant.<sup>27</sup>

Oritavancin has been shown to prevent *C. difficile* infection in hamsters.<sup>28</sup> All the animals treated with oritavancin prior to *C. difficile* spore exposure survived for 20 days (duration of the trial), with no evidence of spore germination or toxin production in their ceca. In contrast, none of the hamsters pretreated with clindamycin or vancomycin survived beyond 6 days after *C. difficile* inoculation. Additionally, in an in vitro human gut model of *C. difficile* infection, oritavancin installation rapidly decreased the number of viable *C. difficile* and spore counts.<sup>28</sup>

In a mouse aerosol-anthrax model, a single-dose oritavancin was highly efficacious for both preexposure prophylaxis and postexposure treatment after challenge with *Bacillus anthracis* spores.<sup>29</sup>

## Clinical experience

The clinical development of oritavancin has been delayed due to several transfers of drug ownership. Though the drug was originally developed by Eli Lilly Research Laboratories in the mid-1990s, the Phase III trials that led to the recent FDA approval of the drug were conducted by The Medicines Company.<sup>30</sup>

The two Phase III trials referred to as SOLO I and SOLO II compared the efficacy of single-dose IV oritavancin with IV vancomycin (twice daily for 7–10 days) for treatment of adults with ABSSSI.<sup>31,32</sup> Both studies were designed as multicenter, randomized, double-blind trials and enrolled 1,959 patients. Enrolled patients were at least 18 years old with ABSSSI that included wound infection (either traumatic or surgical in origin), cellulitis, erysipelas, or a major skin abscess, suspected or proven to be due to a Gram-positive

organism, that required treatment with at least 7 days of parenteral antibiotics. A surrounding erythema, edema, or an induration of at least 75 cm<sup>2</sup> was required for the skin lesions to be eligible for both the studies. Patients were excluded for several reasons including necrotizing infections, severe sepsis, known or suspected bacteremia, animal bites, aquatic exposures, infected burns, diabetic foot infection, immunosuppression, and pregnancy. Patient characteristics including age, sex, race, type of infection, diabetes, hepatic impairment, and renal function were similar in both oritavancin and vancomycin groups. Patients were evaluated at 48–72 hours after starting drug (early clinical evaluation [ECE]), at the end of treatment (EOT), and at a post-therapy evaluation (7–14 days after EOT visit). The trials were designed to assess three efficacy end points for a non-inferiority margin of 10%. The primary end point was assessed at ECE and was achieved if the investigators observed a reduction or halting of spread of the lesion size from baseline, patients remained afebrile, and additional rescue antibiotics were not required. Secondary end points evaluated were clinical cure at post-therapy evaluation and a 20% or more reduction in lesion size at ECE.<sup>31,32</sup>

In SOLO I trial, a total of 954 patients were included in the modified intention-to-treat (mITT) population and underwent randomization with 475 patients assigned to receive oritavancin and 479 patients assigned to the vancomycin arm.<sup>31</sup> Approximately 83% of patients in both arms completed treatment and were included in the clinical evaluation (CE). The type of infections was well matched in both arms with approximately 50% of patients having cellulitis,

30% having abscess, and 20% having wound infection. Approximately 20% of patients in both oritavancin and vancomycin arms had diabetes mellitus, and about 34% of patients in both groups had a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more. In approximately 60% of the patients in both treatment groups, a pathogen was isolated. Majority (96%) of the identified pathogens were Gram-positive known to cause ABSSSI. Most common isolated pathogen was *S. aureus*, of which 48% was MRSA. Response to therapy for the mITT and CE population is summarized in Table 4. Similar efficacy was observed for primary and secondary end points in patients infected with MRSA in the intention-to-treat population with microbiologic evaluation. No significant difference with regard to the primary and secondary end points was noted both in the oritavancin and vancomycin arms for patients with a BMI of 30 or more compared with patients with a BMI of 30 or less. Likewise, patients with diabetes mellitus demonstrated similar response rate between the two treatment groups.<sup>31</sup>

In SOLO II trial, a total of 1,005 patients were included in the mITT population, of which 503 patients were randomized to the oritavancin arm, while 502 patients received IV vancomycin.<sup>32</sup> Among the 835 patients who completed treatment, 85% (427/503) of patients were in the oritavancin arm, and 81% (408/502) belonged to the vancomycin arm. Approximately 9% of patients in both oritavancin and vancomycin arms were diabetic, and about 24% of patients in both groups had a BMI of 30 or more. Infection types in both the oritavancin and vancomycin arms were quite similar with approximately 30.9% cellulitis, 32.5% abscess, and 36.5% wound infection. The median baseline lesion size

**Table 4** Oritavancin Phase III clinical trials

	SOLO I <sup>31</sup>			SOLO II <sup>32</sup>		
	Oritavancin	Vancomycin	Difference [95% CI]	Oritavancin	Vancomycin	Difference [95% CI]
Primary and secondary end points for mITT population						
Primary composite end point	82.3% (391/475)	78.9% (378/479)	3.4 [−1.6, 8.4]	80.1% (403/503)	82.9% (416/502)	−2.7% [−7.5, 2.0]
≥20% reduction in lesion size	86.9% (413/475)	82.9% (397/479)	4.1 [−0.5, 8.6]	85.9% (432/503)	85.3% (428/502)	0.6 [−3.7, 5.0]
Clinical cure	79.6% (378/475)	80.0% (383/479)	−0.4 [−5.5, 4.7]	82.7% (416/503)	80.5% (404/502)	2.2 [−2.6, 7.0]
Primary and secondary end points for CE population						
Primary composite end point	87.3% (344/394)	86.1% (342/397)	1.2 [−3.6, 5.9]	83.6% (357/427)	87.7% (358/408)	−4.1 [−8.9, 6]
≥20% reduction in lesion size	91.9% (362/394)	93.2% (370/397)	−1.3 [−5.0, 2.3]	88.5% (378/427)	89.2% (364/408)	−0.7 [−5.0, 3.6]
Clinical cure	90.6% (357/394)	88.7% (352/397)	1.9 [−2.3, 6.2]	93.2% (398/427)	94.9% (387/408)	−1.6 [−4.9, 1.6]
Primary efficacy outcome at early clinical evaluation according to pathogen detected at baseline						
Detection of at least one pathogen	82.4% (201/244)	81.0% (196/242)	1.4 [−5.5, 8.3]	82.1% (234/285)	85.1% (252/296)	−3.0 [−9.0, 3.0]
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	81.8% (180/220)	81.9% (172/210)	−0.1 [−7.4, 7.2]	83.2% (208/250)	84.9% (219/258)	−1.7 [−8.1, 4.7]
MRSA	80.8% (84/104)	80.0% (80/100)	0.8 [−10.1, 11.7]	82.0% (82/100)	81.2% (82/101)	0.8 [−9.9, 11.5]
MSSA	82.8% (96/116)	83.6% (92/110)	−0.9 [−10.6, 8.9]	84.0% (126/150)	87.3% (137/157)	−3.3 [−11.1, 4.6]
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	85.7% (6/7)	80.0% (4/5)	NA	83.3% (5/6)	85.7% (6/7)	NA

**Abbreviations:** CI, confidence interval; mITT, modified intention to treat; CE, clinical evaluation; MRSA, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; MSSA, methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus*; NA, not available.

was 287.8 cm<sup>2</sup> for the oritavancin group and 308.8 cm<sup>2</sup> for the vancomycin group. A baseline pathogen was identified from approximately 70% of the treatment groups, and 97% of the isolated pathogens were Gram-positive organisms known to cause ABSSSIs. As expected, *S. aureus* was the most common pathogen. Response to therapy for the mITT and CE population is summarized in Table 4. There was no difference in efficacy outcomes between the oritavancin and vancomycin treatment groups in patients with a BMI of 30 or more. However, in the subgroup of patients with diabetes mellitus, a difference in response rate was observed between the two treatment arms. In patients with diabetes mellitus, the primary efficacy outcome at ECE was 73.9% (34/46) for the oritavancin arm versus 84.4% (38/45) for the vancomycin arm, and the secondary efficacy outcome at posttreatment evaluation was 69.6% (32/46) for the oritavancin arm versus 88.9% (40/45) for the vancomycin arm.<sup>32</sup> Considering the relatively small number of diabetic patients in the subgroup analysis, the authors highlight the need for some caution in interpreting the results, especially since the larger diabetic cohort in the SOLO I trial showed similar response rate between the two treatment groups.

In conclusion, both SOLO I and SOLO II trials demonstrated that a single dose of IV oritavancin was clinically and microbiologically non-inferior to twice-daily vancomycin administered 7–10 days for treatment of ABSSSIs cause by Gram-positive pathogens and the response rates were similar when analyzed by age, MRSA, sex, BMI, and race.<sup>31,32</sup>

## Safety profile

In both SOLO I and SOLO II trials, safety profile was evaluated for up to 60 days considering the prolonged half-life of oritavancin.<sup>31,32</sup> Study drug-related adverse event was encountered in 22.2% (217/976) of patients in the oritavancin arm versus 28.4% (279/983) of patients in the vancomycin arm. Adverse events leading to discontinuation of drug occurred in 3.7% (36/976) of patients in the oritavancin group compared to 4.2% (41/983) of patients in the vancomycin group. Serious adverse events (5.8% and 5.9% in the oritavancin and vancomycin arm, respectively) were almost identical. Most of the serious side effects were not related to the study medications.

The most common adverse effect encountered in either arm was nausea, with 9.9% (97/976) of patients in the oritavancin group and 10.5% (103/983) of patients in the vancomycin group overall reporting the symptom. Headache was the next most common adverse effect reported by 7.1% (69/976) of patients in the oritavancin arm and 6.7% (66/983) of patients in the vancomycin arm. Other

observed adverse reactions were mild and fairly similar in both the oritavancin and vancomycin arms and are summarized in Table 5. Laboratory abnormalities were also similar, and no clinically relevant difference was noted in both treatment arms. Transient elevation of liver enzymes observed in both treatment groups did not result in discontinuation of either oritavancin or vancomycin.

## Formulary considerations

The emergence of MRSA as the leading cause of complicated ABSSSIs in the USA and other countries has resulted in a significant shift in empiric antibiotic-prescribing patterns among clinicians.<sup>33,34</sup> This is particularly true for purulent wound infections and cellulitis, where a distinct shift in choice of empirical therapy from  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics to those with activity against MRSA has occurred.<sup>35</sup> Most of these infections do not require IV antibiotics and can usually be treated with oral antibiotics in the ambulatory setting. However, patients who do not fulfill criteria for hospital admission and fail or cannot tolerate oral therapy pose a unique challenge. These select groups of patients may be candidates for outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT).<sup>36</sup>

The recent approval of oritavancin by the FDA has expanded the therapeutic armamentarium for clinicians for

**Table 5** Adverse events attributed to oritavancin compared to vancomycin in Phase III trials

Frequently reported adverse events	Oritavancin	Vancomycin
	SOLO I + SOLO II (n=976)	SOLO I + SOLO II (n=983)
Nausea	9.9% (97/976)	10.5% (103/983)
Headache	7.1% (69/976)	6.7% (66/983)
Pruritus	3% (29/976)	7.4% (73/983)
Vomiting	4.6% (45/976)	4.7% (46/983)
Constipation	3.4% (33/976)	3.9% (38/983)
Diarrhea	3.7% (36/976)	3.3% (32/983)
Cellulitis	3.8% (37/976)	3.3% (32/983)
Infusion-site extravasation	3.4% (33/976)	3.4% (33/983)
Pyrexia	3.1% (30/976)	3.2% (31/983)
Abscess on limb	2.8% (27/976)	1.3% (13/983)
Dizziness	2.7% (26/976)	2.6% (26/983)
Infusion-site phlebitis	2.5% (24/976)	1.5% (15/983)
Infusion-site reaction	1.9% (19/976)	3.5% (34/983)
Insomnia	1.4% (14/976)	1.3% (13/983)
Chills	1% (10/976)	1.2% (12/983)
Fatigue	1% (10/976)	0.6% (6/983)
Urticaria	0.7% (7/976)	1.5% (15/983)
Alanine aminotransferase elevation	2.8% (27/976)	1.5% (15/983)
Aspartate aminotransferase elevation	1.1% (11/976)	1.1% (11/983)

**Notes:** Data from Corey et al<sup>31</sup> and Corey et al.<sup>32</sup>

treatment of ABSSSIs. A single IV injection over 3 hours, without the need for a peripherally inserted central catheter, makes oritavancin an ideal candidate for use in an ambulatory clinic or urgent care setting. There are no significant interactions with other drugs, and dose adjustments for renal and hepatic impairments are not required. Unlike vancomycin, drug-level monitoring is not required after administration of oritavancin. Overall, this can improve quality of life and patient satisfaction and enable patients to return to work faster.<sup>37</sup> The long half-life of the drug has the potential to reduce relapse rates, and the multifaceted mechanism of action will possibly prevent and likely delay development of resistance. Finally, a single-dose regimen eliminates problems associated with patient compliance which may be encountered with daily or even multiple intermittent doses.

However, the benefits of a single dose do pose some unique challenges with oritavancin that clinicians need to consider. The long half-life of the drug does put patients at risk of prolonged injury if a delayed hypersensitivity reaction or other adverse reactions occur. Fortunately, side effects due to oritavancin in clinical trials were mostly mild, and serious adverse events attributable to the drug were extremely rare. One potential disadvantage of a single-dose drug administered in an ambulatory setting might be the lack of rigorous clinical monitoring that is required in treating a complicated wound infection. This model thus relies on patients to care for them and makes patients and their caregivers more responsible to seek help if the clinical situation worsens. Though this strategy may work for majority of patients, the authors do anticipate some problems in certain subgroups (elderly patients, morbidly obese patients, patients with vascular insufficiency). Additionally, complicated wound

infections can progress to bacteremia and bone and joint infections, where the efficacy of oritavancin has not been fully assessed.

The use of oritavancin in ABSSSIs is sure to reignite the debate over cost of therapy. Table 6 highlights the cost of therapy for the traditionally used and recently approved IV antibiotics in ABSSSIs. A single-dose treatment in an ambulatory setting does have the advantage of reducing the cost of OPAT and ongoing home care needs. However, since the offending organisms for majority of ABSSSIs are Gram-positive pathogens other than MRSA, one could argue about using a  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotic after a short empiric course of a cheaper IV antibiotic and thus reduce cost. Thus, there is a need for carefully conducted cost-benefit analysis of oritavancin compared to other antibiotics used for OPAT in ABSSSIs. Furthermore, additional clinical experience with other serious infections that warrant a longer course of therapy is needed before oritavancin use in the outpatient arena becomes widely accepted.

## Conclusion

Outpatient therapy with single-dose oritavancin offers a new paradigm in treatment of ABSSSI with the potential to reduce cost of care and improve patient satisfaction. The drug has a similar safety profile as vancomycin with comparable cure rates for complicated skin infections. The high acquisition cost of the drug has to be considered in conjunction with several potential advantages over other drugs. Oritavancin would likely be a useful armamentarium in the physician toolkit for treatment of complicated ABSSSI caused by Gram-positive pathogens including MRSA once the reimbursement and co-pay issues have been resolved.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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**Table 6** Some intravenous antibiotics for acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections in adults

Drug	Usual adult dose	Cost of 7-day therapy <sup>a</sup>
Vancomycin	15–20 mg/kg (max 2 g) q 12 hours ×7–14 days <sup>b</sup>	\$115.50
Dalbavancin	1,000 mg ×1, then 500 mg 1 week later	\$2,980.00 <sup>c</sup>
Oritavancin	1,200 mg once	\$2,900.00 <sup>d</sup>
Televancin	10 mg/kg q 24 hours ×7–14 days <sup>b</sup>	\$2,166.50
Linezolid	600 mg q 12 hours ×10–14 days	\$1,952.30
Tedizolid	200 mg q 24 hours ×6 days	\$1,410.00
Ceftaroline	600 mg q 12 hours ×5–14 days <sup>b</sup>	\$1,768.90
Daptomycin	4 mg/kg q 24 hours ×7–14 days <sup>b</sup>	\$2,482.90 <sup>e</sup>

**Notes:** <sup>a</sup>Approximate wholesale acquisition cost for 7-day treatment of a 70 kg patient with the lowest usual dosage; <sup>b</sup>dosage adjustment may be needed for renal or hepatic impairment; <sup>c</sup>cost for two 500 mg vials; <sup>d</sup>cost for three 400 mg vials; <sup>e</sup>cost for one 500 mg vial. Data from The Medical Letter, Inc.<sup>2</sup>



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