Development and Evaluation of Antifungal in vivo of Liposomal Amphotericin B

1Hue Pham Thi Minh, 2Hai Nguyen Thanh, 3Quang Nguyen Tuan, 3Anh Tran Le and 2Tung Bui Thanh
1Hanoi University of Pharmacy, 15 Le Thanh Tong, Hoan Kiem, Ha Noi, Vietnam
2School of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Floor 5 Building Y1, 144 Xuan Thuy, Cau Giay, Ha Noi, Vietnam
3Vietnam Military Medical University, 160 Phung Hung, Ha Dong, Ha Noi, Vietnam

Corresponding Author: Tung Bui Thanh, School of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Floor 5 Building Y1, 144 Xuan Thuy, Cau Giay, Ha Noi, Vietnam Tel: +84-4-85876172 Fax: +84-0437450188

ABSTRACT
Amphotericin B is a polyene antifungal drug used intravenously for systemic fungal infections. It has severe and potentially lethal side effects, therefore, it has been limited use in clinical. Liposomes are widely used as vehicles to target organ in pharmaceutical technology due to their ability to improve the delivery of drugs, increasing therapeutic efficacy and decreasing toxicity. The aim of this study is to prepare a liposomal amphotericin B by hydration of a thin lipid film and ethanol-injection methods and evaluate its antifungal activity in vivo. Prepared liposomal amphotericin B by both methods has particle size smaller than 150 nm, quite homogeneous and the entrapment drug was greater than 90%. The antifungal activity of liposomal amphotericin B was studied on three strains Candida albicans, Cryptococcus neoformans and Aspergillus fumigatus fungal infection in mice models. Our results have shown that liposomal amphotericin B prepared by both methods have strong effect to prolong the survival in the infected mice and significantly reduced the Colony Forming Units (CFU) in target organ with similar effect of AmBisome.

Key words: Amphotericin B, Candida albicans, Cryptococcus neoformans, Aspergillus fumigatus, liposome, drug targets

INTRODUCTION
Invasive fungal infection is the leading cause of death and long-term illness in patients with cancer and immunodeficiency. Amphotericin B is a polyene antifungal agent against a wide variety of fungal pathogens. Amphotericin B exerts its antifungal activity by disruption of fungal cell wall synthesis by its ability to bind to ergosterol, which leads to form pores and allow leakage of cellular components (Kaminski, 2014). However, this compound is almost insoluble in water, so it is difficult to prepare for injection dosage. Also amphotericin B has severe and potentially lethal side effects, especially in kidney (Ellis, 2002). Therefore, it is limited use in clinical practice. Some drug delivery system has been applied for amphotericin B, such as a cholesteryl sulfate complex (Amphotec) as a lipid complex (Abelcel) and as a liposomal formulation (Lemke et al., 2005). Liposome is an advanced drug delivery systems. It can increase the amount of drug to the target and simultaneously decrease drug’s toxicity. Furthermore, liposome has high biocompatibility, biodegradability and ability to trap both hydrophilic and lipophilic drugs and simplify site-specific
drug delivery to tumor tissues. Liposomes are microscopic vesicles composed of a bilayer of phospholipids (Akbarzadeh et al., 2013). Liposomal amphotericin B (AmBisome) is a lipid-associated of amphotericin B. It is active against many fungal infections and is approved for the treatment of invasive fungal infections in many countries worldwide. AmBisome is a homogeneous suspension of unilamellar vesicles and after the administration, AmBisome remains intact in the blood and distributes to the tissues where fungal infections may occur (Takemoto et al., 2004). Liposomal amphotericin B was demonstrated more effective than amphotericin B deoxycholate in clinical treatment of invasive Candida spp. or Aspergillus spp. infections (Moen et al., 2009). There are some commercialized amphotericin B-lipid formulations present in vietnam but they vary in pharmacokinetic profiles. In formulating AmBisome, the ratio of amphotericin B: Lipid is value critical and must be carefully controlled to ensure that the decreased toxicity of the amphotericin B. This is important to the therapeutic index of the drug (Olson et al., 2008). The type of phospholipids such as phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylglycerol or variations in the length of the fatty acid chain of the phosphatidylglycerol can significantly influence to efficacy and toxicity of AmBisome (Olson et al., 2008).

The present study was carried out to develop a liposomal amphotericin B formulation with the purpose of reducing toxicity and improving the antifungal activity of amphotericin B. Liposomal amphotericin B was prepared by the lipid film hydration and ethanol-injection method. Furthermore, in vivo antifungal effect on mice of liposomal amphotericin B prepared was also studied.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Reagents: Amphotericin B (AMB) (China-USP Standards), distearoyl phosphatidylglycerol (Lipoid-manufacturer standard), hydrogenated soybean phosphatidylcholine (lipoid-manufacturer standard), cholesterol (Sigma-aldrich), sucrose (Fisher-bpsucrose), manitol (China-USP standard), N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMA) (Sigma aldrich). All other reagents and solvents used to meet requirements for pharmaceutical and analytical grade. AmBisome (Gilead sciences, USA) was used as reference drugs.

Instruments: The evaporation system Rovapor R-210; Spectra/Per* 4 dialysis Membrane, MWCO: 12,000-14,000 Daltons, Analyzer size system Zetasizer ZS90, Ultrasound machines, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, pH InoLab meter, Tangential Flow MicroKros Filter Modules® (Spectrum Labs) with membrane polysulfone 10 kD, 28 cm² (USP), Centrifuge Hettich Universal 320R (Germany), High Pressure Homogenizers EmulsiFlex-c5 (Avestin-Canada), magnetic stirrer and other common tools.

Strains: Candida albicans (code ATCC 90028), Cryptococcus neoformans (code ATCC 90113) and Aspergillus fumigatus (code ATCC 1022) were bought from the USA, preserved in 10% glycerol solution and stored at -80°C. For each experiment, the fungi were grown at room temperature on Sabouraud dextrose agar or MEA and 3 or 4 days old conidia were harvested with sterile saline. It was then centrifuged at 2000 g for 5 min at room temperature. The conidia obtained were re-suspended in sterile saline. The number of conidia was counted on a haemocytometer and adjusted to get 10⁶ conidia mL⁻¹. For Aspergillus fumigatus, the suspension needed to filter to remove hyphae.
Animals: Swiss white mice, those weighing 18-20 g were provided from Laboratory of Animal, Vietnam Military Medical University. All animal experiments were performed in accordance with the guidelines of Vietnam Military Medical University. Mice were kept under pathogen free conditions, under a 12 h light/dark cycle, controlled temperature (28±0.5°C) and humidity 55±5%. All animals were maintained accordingly to a protocol approved by the Ethical Committee of the Vietnam Military Medical University and following the international rules for animal research. They were fed ad libitum (Zeigler, USA) with a standard diet be sterilized before use. Mice were maintained for 5 days before randomly divided into 4 groups, 10 animals per group. The cage was located in the system with good ventilation and filter membrane to ensure the free of pathogens.

Preparation of liposomal amphotericin B: Liposomal amphotericin B was prepared by two methods: hydration of a thin lipid film and ethanol-injection (Singodia et al., 2012). Phospholipid using for the preparation of liposomes are HSPC and DSPG is the percentage of cholesterol is 40% of lipid total.

Method of hydration of a thin lipid film (LipoB): Dissolve DSPG in a mixture of methanol: chloroform (1:1), adjusted pH to 1.0-1.2 with HCl 2.5 N in methanol at 60°C. Disperse amphotericin B in methanol at 60°C add to above solution, stirring until a clear solution was obtained (solution A).

Dissolve HSPC in a mixture of methanol: chloroform (1:1), add to solution A. Then, the organic solvent was removed by evaporation using the Rovapor R-210 system at 40-45°C, rotational speed 150 rev min⁻¹. Vacuum pressure was regulated to evaporate slowly the solvent. After 30 min, lipidic film is formed, then decrease the rotational speed to 100 rev min⁻¹. Continue rotating 15 h to remove completely organic solvents.

Hydrate the thin lipid film by using a buffer citrate solution pH 5.0-5.5 at 50°C, rotational speed 250 rev min⁻¹ during 15 min.

Homogenize liposome size by using membrane filter 400 nm in High Pressure Homogenizers EmulsiFlex-C5 with nitrogen gases at pressure 500 psi.

Method of ethanol-injection (LipoI) was performed as indicated by Domazou and Luisi (2002).

Prepare water phase: The 10 mM disodium succinate solution, pH 5.0-5.5 (pH adjusted by HCl 2.5 N).

Prepare ethanol phase: Disperse amphotericin B in N,N-Dimethylacetamide (DMA), acidified with 2.5 N HCl and shake for amphotericin B completely dissolved. Dissolve DSPG, HSPC and cholesterol in ethanol at 60-65°C and incorporate to amphotericin B solution.

Coordinate two phases: Inject rapid ethanol phase into water phase at 60-65°C with ratio 1:10 through the needle 27 G, homogenize with rotational speed 3900 rev min⁻¹ for 10 min.

Use tangential flow filtration to concentrate liposome, remove DMA and ethanol.

Lyophilized liposome: Sucrose is added to liposome suspension with ratio of sucrose:lipid (4:1), move into glass bottle with a content of 50 mg/vial, cover loosely. Lyophilized as following:
**Freezing:** Temperature was reduced to -50°C and maintained for 8 h

**Primary drying:** Increased temperatures from -50 to -35°C with the heating rate is 0.25°C min⁻¹ and maintained for 20 h

**Secondary drying:** Increased temperatures from -35 to 25°C with the heating rate is 0.25°C min⁻¹ and maintained for 8 h

Sealed caps of the vials, stored at 2-8°C, protected from light

**When testing:** Shake lyophilized powder with 10 mL of water to form liposome suspension

**Evaluation of liposomal amphotericin B:** Quantification of AMB: using a HPLC method:

- **Column:** Phenomenex-Gemini 5 μm C18-110A column, 250×4,60 mm, 5 μm particle size
- **Detector:** PDA, 407 nm
- **Flow rate:** 1.0 mL min⁻¹
- **Injection volume:** 10 μL

**Mobil phase:** Mixture of acetonitrile with 10 mM sodium acetate buffer solution, pH 4.0 with gradient elution as shown in Table 1.

**Entrapment efficiency:** To evaluate the amount of AMB bounded into lipids, firstly needed to remove free-AMB. Free-AMB is not water insoluble and precipitate in water and can be removed by filter the suspension through membranes 100 nm. Quantify the AMB after filter to calculate the entrapment efficiency.

**Morphology and structure of liposome:** Using the method of negative staining Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM).

**Liposome size and their distribution of particles:** Using the method of Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS) with instrument Zetasizer ZS90. Dilute suspension of liposome 200 times with deionized water.

**Evaluation in vivo antifungal effects of liposomal amphotericin B**

**Find LD10 and LD90 of strains in mice:**

- **First find the minimum lethal dose mice infected by infect 2 mice/group**
- **With strain Candida albicans, Aspergillus fumigatus:** Infected mice by tail vein injection with dose 0.2 mL/mouse, with strain Cryptococcus neoformans: Infected mice by brain injection with dose 0.2 mL/mouse
- **Infected mice with different doses to find the LD10 and LD90:** The lowest dose is the minimum lethal dose, then increasing doses. Infecting at least 5 groups, each group has 12 mice, tracking mouse dead in 14 days
- **Calculate LD10 and LD90**

| Table 1: Gradient elution of mobile phase | Sodium acetate buffer (%) | Acetonitrile (%) |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 0.00                                     | 70.0                       | 30.0            |
| 4.00                                     | 40.0                       | 60.0            |
| 8.00                                     | 20.0                       | 80.0            |
| 9.00                                     | 60.0                       | 40.0            |
Evaluate the survival rate of liposomal amphotericin B:

- Infect 60 mice with LD90 dose
- After 24 h infection, starts the treatment: Divide animals into four groups: Control, REF, LipoB and LipoI, each group has 15 mice. Control group received 5% glucose solution, REF group received AmBisome, LipoB and LipoI received liposome B and liposome I, respectively. The freeze-drying powder of the products was reconstituted and dispersed in 5% glucose to get concentration 0.1 mg mL$^{-1}$ and was injected intraperitoneally in mice with 10 mL g$^{-1}$ b.wt., during 7 days
- After finish the treatment (7 days), record the number of mice died everyday
- Calculate the survival rate in each group by using Kaplan and Meier log rank analysis

Evaluate the effect on target organs of liposomal amphotericin B:

- Infect 40 mice with LD 10 dose
- After 24 h infection, starts the treatment: Divide animals into four groups: Control, REF, LipoB and LipoI, each group has 15 mice. Control group received 5% glucose solution, REF group received AmBisome, LipoB and LipoI received liposome B and liposome I, respectively. The amphotericin B liposomes was dispersed in 5% glucose to get concentration 0.1 mg mL$^{-1}$ and was injected intraperitoneally in mice with 10 mL g$^{-1}$ b.wt., during 5 days
- After one day of treatment, sacrifice the mice, weight brain and kidney
- Homogenize brain and kidney in 2 mL physiological saline. Dilute the suspension to 1/10 and 1/100
- The strains were inoculated (100 μL suspension 1/1, 1/10 and 1/100) on Sabouraud's dextrose agar plate
- After 24 h, count the colonies
- Calculate colony forming unit CFU/g of tissue, evaluated by nonparametric test (Mann-Whitney U test)

**Statistical analysis:** All data are shown as the Mean±Standard Error (SD). One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to determine significance among groups. Statistical significance was set at p<0.05.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Preparation and characterization of liposome amphotericin B:** Amphotericin B liposomes were prepared with different ratio of HSPC: amphotericin B (mol:mol) as 1:1 (Lipo B1/Lipo I1), 1, 5:1 (Lipo B2/Lipo I2), 2:1 (Lipo B3/Lipo I3), 2.5:1 (Lipo B4/Lipo I4) to find out which is the best the ratio of HSPC: amphotericin B (mol:mol). After the liposomal amphotericin B were obtained, we analyzed some properties including mean particle size, polydispersity index (PDI) and drug entrapment efficiency. The results were shown in Table 2, 3 and Fig. 1.

The results showed that the liposomal amphotericin B have size smaller than 150 nm. This is one index important for evaluation quality of the liposomes because the size of particles plays important role due to their interaction with the biological environment. Liposomes with PDI value between 0.1 and 0.25 show high uniformity and physical stability. Our liposomes have PDI values smaller than 0.25, which indicated they are uniform and homogeneous. Also obtained liposomes have high entrapment efficiency, over than 80%.
Fig. 1(a-b): Liposomal amphotericin B was taken by TEM, (a) By film hydration method and (b) By ethanol-injection method

Table 2: Characterization of liposomal amphotericin B by film hydration method

| Samples  | Mean particle size (nm) | PDI       | Drug entrapment efficiency (%) |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| LipoB1   | 128.50±3.46             | 0.215±0.014 | 92.37±2.31                    |
| LipoB2   | 135.40±2.84             | 0.197±0.007 | 96.78±1.05                    |
| LipoB3   | 132.90±3.71             | 0.255±0.009 | 94.63±2.18                    |
| LipoB4   | 121.78±3.34             | 0.252±0.017 | 90.61±2.57                    |

Table 3: Characterization of liposomal amphotericin B by ethanol-injection method

| Samples  | Mean particle size (nm) | PDI       | Drug entrapment efficiency (%) |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| LipoI1   | 92.90±4.34              | 0.237±0.0126 | 80.51±0.67                    |
| LipoI2   | 84.40±11.24             | 0.247±0.0136 | 93.68±0.71                    |
| LipoI3   | 84.94±3.96              | 0.228±0.0071 | 96.61±2.89                    |
| LipoI4   | 92.53±4.34              | 0.225±0.0137 | 90.97±1.66                    |
Table 4: LD10 and LD90 of three strains used in this study

| Strain (cell/mouse)       | LD10  | LD90  |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| Aspergillus fumigatus     | 50,000| 500,000|
| Candida albicans          | 40,000| 750,000|
| Cryptococcus neoformans   | 1,602 | 4,500 |

The ratio of HSPC/amphotericin B do not influenced significantly to the liposome’s size in the both methods. However, the ratio of HSPC/amphotericin B as 1.5:1 results the highest entrapment efficiency in film hydration method, while in the ethanol-injection method, the ratio is needed to give the best entrapment efficiency is 2:1. Each method has advantages and disadvantages. The film hydration method creates large-sized liposome, so it is necessary to reduce the size. In this method we had to apply combination of two techniques: Homogeneous particles by high-pressure and pressed through membranes to produce liposome-size less than 150 nm. Ethanol-injection method has advantage that it can produce small liposome-size and homogeneous liposomes. However, ethanol-injection method produce diluted suspension liposome, then it is necessary apply tangential filtration process to remove the solvent and it is difficult to remove all residual solvent.

**LD10 and LD90 of strains in infected mice:** Low dose represents the dose at which no individuals are expected to die. The LD10 and LD90 refer to the dose at which 10 and 90%, respectively, of the individuals will die. We used the LD10 dose to determine the effect on target organs of liposomal amphotericin B in mice and LD90 dose to determine the effect of liposomal amphotericin B related to survival rate of mice. The results were shown on Table 4.

The data are in line with previous reports. *Aspergillus fumigatus* is a fungus of the genus Aspergillus, is the most common cause of invasive fungal infections in severely immunocompromised patients. The virulence of *Aspergillus fumigatus* in *vivo* is very different, depending on the strains and animals. Mavridou et al. (2010) reports that LD90 of *Aspergillus fumigatus* is $2.4 \times 10^7$ in outbred CD-1 female mice. Mirkov et al. (2012) have found the dose from $6.2 \times 10^5$ to $3-5 \times 10^7$ CFU/mouse caused almost 100% mice died.

*Candida albicans* has high virulence, infected mice at a dose of $5-6.8 \times 10^5$ CFU results to 7 days of the median survival time (Wiederhold et al., 2011). Gondal et al. (1989) showed that at dose $3.5 \times 10^5$ CFU/mouse of *Candida albicans* induced 100% of mice died after 7 days.

*Cryptococcus neoformans* is an opportunistic fungal pathogen that may cause meningitis in immunocompromised individuals. Velez et al. (1993) have studied twenty clinical isolated cryptococcal meningitis in mouse model. Eight high-virulence isolates had an LD$_{50}$ of < or = 252 CFU of *Cryptococcus neoformans* and twelve low-virulence isolates had an LD$_{50}$ of >252 CFU, in which 7 low-virulence isolates, the LD$_{50}$ was $>20,000$ CFU. Other author have shown the lethal dose of *Cryptococcus neoformans* are in range from 300-20,000 CFU/mouse (Graybill, 2000).

**Evaluate the survival rate of liposomal amphotericin B:** We used Kaplan-Meyer analysis and log-rank test to compare the effect of different treatment.

**Study with Aspergillus fumigatus:** The efficacy of liposomal amphotericin B in infected mice with strain *Aspergillus fumigatus* was showed in Table 5.

The results of Kaplan-Meyer analysis and Log-rank test were showed in Table 6 and Fig. 2a.
Table 5: Results of the survival rate in infected mice with strain *Aspergillus fumigatus*

| Days | Treatments | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|      | LipoB      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|      | Death      | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 |
|      | Live       | 12| 12| 11| 10| 10| 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
|      | Total      | 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12 |
|      | LipoI      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|      | Death      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 |
|      | Live       | 12| 12| 12| 10| 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
|      | Total      | 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12 |
|      | Ambisome   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|      | Death      | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11| 13| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14 |
|      | Live       | 14| 14| 13| 11| 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|      | Total      | 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14 |
|      | Control    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|      | Death      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11| 13| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14 |
|      | Live       | 14| 14| 13| 11| 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|      | Total      | 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14 |

Table 6: Analysis by Log-rank test of different treatment in infected mice with *Aspergillus fumigatus*

| Log rank (Mantel-Cox) | LipoB | Lipol | Ambisome | Control |
|------------------------|-------|-------|----------|---------|
|                        |Chi-Square | Sign | Chi-Square | Sign | Chi-Square | Sign | Chi-Square | Sign |
| LipoB                  | 0.576  | 0.448 | 0.092     | 0.762  | 15.895     | 0.000|
| Lipol                  | 0.576  | 0.448 | 1.144     | 0.285  | 10.235     | 0.001|
| Ambisome               | 0.092  | 0.762 | 1.144     | 0.285  | 18.786     | 0.000|
| Control                | 15.895 | 0.000 | 10.235    | 0.001  | 18.786     | 0.000|

Table 7: Results of the survival rate in infected mice with strain *Candida albicans*

| Days | Treatments | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|      | LipoB      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|      | Death      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
|      | Live       | 14| 14| 14| 13| 12| 11| 11| 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
|      | Total      | 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14 |
|      | LipoI      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|      | Death      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
|      | Live       | 14| 14| 14| 13| 12| 11| 10| 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
|      | Total      | 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14| 14 |
|      | Ambisome   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|      | Death      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
|      | Live       | 14| 14| 14| 13| 12| 11| 10| 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
|      | Total      | 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12 |
|      | Control    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|      | Death      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10| 10| 10| 10 |
|      | Live       | 10| 10| 10| 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|      | Total      | 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10 |

Present data have shown that there is no different significantly among the treatment with the LipoB, Lipol and AmBisome related to survival rate. The median survival time in infected mice with *Aspergillus fumigatus* of treatment with LipoB, Lipol and AmBisome have been significantly increased as compared with the control group using 5% of glucose (p<0.05).

**Study with Candida albicans:** The efficacy of liposomal amphotericin B in infected mice with strain *Candida albicans* was showed in Table 7 and 8.
Fig. 2(a-c): Kaplan-Meier survival curve of different treatment in infected mice with (a) *Aspergillus fumigatus*, (b) *Candida albicans* and (c) *Cryptococcus neoformans*
Table 8: Analysis by log-rank test of different treatment in infected mice with *Candida albicans*

|                | LipoB | LipoI | Ambisome | Control |
|----------------|-------|-------|----------|---------|
| Chi-Square     | 0.269 | 0.604 | 0.011    | 0.918   |
| Significant    | 0.600 | 0.000 | 0.000    | 0.000   |

Table 9: Results of the survival rate in infected mice with strain *Cryptococcus neoformans*

| Treatments    | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| LipoB Death   | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2  | 2  | 2  | 2  | 2  |
| LipoB Live    | 12| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10| 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| LipoB Total   | 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| LipoI Death   | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6  | 7  | 7  | 8  | 8  |
| LipoI Live    | 12| 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6  | 5  | 5  | 4  | 4  |
| LipoI Total   | 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| AmBisome Death| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2  | 2  | 2  | 2  | 2  |
| AmBisome Live | 12| 12| 11| 11| 11| 11| 11| 11| 11| 11| 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| AmBisome Total| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12| 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Control Death | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6  | 6  | 6  | 6  | 6  |
| Control Live  | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2  | 2  | 2  | 2  | 2  |
| Control Total | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8  | 8  | 8  | 8  | 8  |

The data have shown that there is no different significantly among the treatment with the LipoB, LipoI and AmBisome related to survival rate. The median survival time in infected mice with *Candida albicans* of treatment with LipoB, LipoI and AmBisome have been significantly increased as compared with the control group using 5% of glucose (p<0.05) (Fig. 2b).

Study with *Cryptococcus neoformans*: The efficacy of liposomal amphotericin B in infected mice with strain *Cryptococcus neoformans* was showed in Table 9 and 10.

The data have shown that there is no different significantly among the treatment with the LipoB and AmBisome related to survival rate (p>0.05), while effect of the liposome I on survival rate is less and significantly difference than other treatment (p<0.05). The median survival time in infected mice with *Aspergillus fumigatus* of treatment with liposome B and AmBisome have been significantly increased as compared with the control group using 5% of glucose (p<0.05). However, this is not happen with the LipoI (p>0.05) (Fig. 2c).
Table 11: Colony forming unit in target organ in mice treated with liposomal amphotericin B after infected with fungal strains

| Treatments | Aspergillus fumigatus/kidney | Candida albicans/kidney | Cryptococcus neoformans/brain |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| LipoB      | 3.8525±0.2859 *             | 3.1280±0.4701 *         | 4.1625±0.5519 *            |
| LipoI      | 3.876±0.27153b              | 3.5700±0.4681 *         | 4.6320±0.5649 *            |
| Ambisome   | 3.7100±0.3395c              | 3.5360±0.32455*         | 4.2180±0.36455*            |
| Control    | 4.4060±0.1080               | 4.5220±0.35337          | 5.0380±0.2058              |

Data expression as Average±SD (log 10 CFU/gram protein) and *Significantly different between LipoB vs. Control, bLipoI vs. Control, cAmBisome vs. Control

Effect on target organs of liposomal amphotericin B: The results of liposomal amphotericin B reducing CFU strains the on target organs were shown on Table 11.

The results showed that the LipoB, LipoI and Ambisome are equivalent effective to reduce the CFU fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Candida albicans* density in kidney (p>0.05). The effect of LipoB, LipoI are significantly different as compared with control group (p<0.05). Also LipoB and LipoI have effect to reduce the CFU fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans* in brain similar Ambisome's effect (p>0.05) and significantly different compared to control group (p<0.05). Ambisome is a lipid-associated formulation of amphotericin B, a broad-spectrum polynene antifungal agent. It has been approved for the treatment of invasive fungal infections (Moen *et al.*, 2009). Our prepared liposomal LipoB and LipoI have equivalent antifungal activity *in vivo* of Ambisome. Present data are in line with report of Zarif *et al.* (2000) which the author have shown Ambisome is highly effective in treating murine candidiasis in kidney.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, liposomal amphotericin B (LipoB and LipoI) was prepared successfully by hydration of a thin lipid film and ethanol-injection method. Prepared liposomal amphotericin B has size smaller than 150 nm, PDI values smaller than 0.25 and the entrapment drug greater than 90%. Antifungal activity assay showed that both LipoB and LipoI have strong effect to prolong the survival in the infected mice with three fungal strains and significantly reduced the CFU in target organ with similar effect of Ambisome.

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