A population pharmacokinetic model of remdesivir and its major metabolites based on published mean values from healthy subjects

Ahmed Abouellil1,2 · Muhammad Bilal1,3 · Max Taubert1 · Uwe Fuhr1

Received: 19 May 2022 / Accepted: 8 September 2022 / Published online: 20 September 2022 © The Author(s) 2022

Abstract
Remdesivir is a direct-acting anti-viral agent. It was originally evaluated against filoviruses. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was investigated due to its anti-viral activities against (SARS-CoV-2) virus. Therefore remdesivir received conditional approval for treatment of patients with severe coronavirus disease. Yet, its pharmacokinetic properties are inadequately understood. This report describes the population pharmacokinetics of remdesivir and its two plasma-detectable metabolites (GS-704277 and GS-441524) in healthy volunteers. The data was extracted from published phase I single escalating and multiple i.v remdesivir dose studies conducted by the manufacturer. The model was developed by standard methods using non-linear mixed effect modeling. Also, a series of simulations were carried out to test suggested clinical doses. The model describes the distribution of remdesivir and each of its metabolites by respective two compartments with sequential metabolism between moieties, and elimination from central compartments. As individual data were not available, only inter-cohort variability could be assessed. The estimated point estimates for central (and peripheral) volumes of distribution for remdesivir, GS-704277, and GS-441524 were 4.89 L (46.5 L), 96.4 L (8.64 L), and 26.2 L (66.2 L), respectively. The estimated elimination clearances of remdesivir, GS704277, and GS-441524 reached 18.1 L/h, 36.9 L/h, and 4.74 L/h, respectively. The developed model described the data well. Simulations of clinically approved doses showed that GS-441524 concentrations in plasma exceeded the reported EC50 values during the complete duration of treatment. Nonetheless, further studies are needed to explore the pharmacokinetics of remdesivir and its relationship to clinical efficacy, and the present model may serve as a useful starting point for additional evaluations.

Keywords Anti-virals · Population pharmacokinetics · COVID-19 · Remdesivir · Pharmacometrics · GS-441524 · GS-704277

Introduction
Current management of patients with severe COVID-19 mainly focuses on immune response modulation and symptomatic therapy. In critically ill patients, management would also include supplemental oxygen and mechanical ventilation, along with the suppression of inadequate immune response. Healthcare providers also attempt to control secondary infections and thrombosis by either prophylaxis or treatment (Sieswerda et al. 2021; Godino et al. 2021). So far, only two anti-viral small-molecule medications have been authorized for the treatment of COVID-19 in 2020/2021, which includes the use of remdesivir under certain conditions (CDC 2021; EMA 2021; Diaz et al. 2021), and molnupiravir which has just been authorized in Great Britain for the use in patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 with risk factors for developing severe illness (UK-MHRA 2021). And recently, the FDA has expanded the use of remdesivir to certain non-hospitalized adults and pediatric patients for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 disease (FDA 2022).
Remdesivir was originally evaluated as a broad-spectrum filovirus inhibitor that can protect against the development of Ebola virus disease (de Wit et al. 2020). During the COVID-19 pandemic, remdesivir showed anti-SARS-CoV-2 activities in vitro and in animal models. These activities were attributed to its triphosphate nucleoside analog, which acts as an inhibitor of the viral RNA-dependent RNA polymerase. However, evidence that supports its efficacy is still under investigation (Wang et al. 2020; de Wit et al. 2020; Alsayed et al. 2021). Remdesivir is also being investigated as a part of drug cocktails that might be used to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients (Kalil et al. 2021; Vitiello and Ferrara 2021).

Remdesivir needs to go through an extensive metabolic process to be active, and from those metabolism products, only GS-704277 and GS-441524 can be quantified in plasma (Figure S1) (Humeniuk et al. 2021a).

To date, publicly available information on the pharmacokinetics of remdesivir and its metabolites is limited. A non-compartmental description of data in healthy volunteers has been published and serves as the basis for the present evaluation (Humeniuk et al. 2020). Several bottom-up approaches using physiologically based pharmacokinetic models have recently been reported (Deb and Reeves 2021; Fan et al. 2021; Humeniuk et al. 2021b; Gallo 2021), of which the most recent one was generated by scientists of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (Fan et al. 2021). Such models are very useful but in part are based on assumptions that remain to be verified, and occasionally use “optimization” of some of their predefined parameters, with no other reason than that simulations should match the observed data. As an empirical compartmental approach, the manufacturers of remdesivir developed a population pharmacokinetic model of which only parts are publicly available (LHartman et al. 2020). Unfortunately, the information provided there is not sufficient to retrace and assess the performance of the model in detail. Finally, a population pharmacokinetic model has been reported for the GS-441524 metabolite only in Japanese patients with renal impairment (Sukeishi et al. 2021). Overall, the available information reflects only a first step to support more precise dosing strategies for remdesivir. Such information is needed to integrate intrinsic and extrinsic factors for a better understanding of the pharmacokinetics and dynamics of remdesivir. The main objective of the present report was therefore to develop an independent compartmental population pharmacokinetic model that can fit the observed data obtained from literature and empirically describe the pharmacokinetic parameters of remdesivir, GS-704277 and GS-441524. This model may be further used in determining suitable dosing strategies in patients, with a perspective to be expanded for patients with chronic conditions.

**Methods**

Arithmetic-concentration data were obtained from published randomized, blinded, placebo-controlled, phase I program that evaluated the safety and pharmacokinetics of single and multiple ascending intravenous doses of remdesivir (Humeniuk et al. 2020). Data points were extracted using GetData Graph Digitizer software (get-data-graph-digitizer.com) and R.

In this trial, remdesivir was administrated as a single 2-h intravenous infusion at doses of 3 mg, 10 mg, 30 mg, 75 mg, 150 mg, and 225 mg. Or as a once-daily 1-h intravenous infusion for 7 and 14 days. This program was carried out in healthy male and non-pregnant, non-lactating female volunteers with an age range of 18 to 55 years and a body mass index of 18 to 30 kg/m². No detailed information regarding individual parameters for each cohort was given, and the study was conducted by the manufacturing company, Gilead Sciences, Inc., USA (Humeniuk et al. 2020).

Population pharmacokinetic (PK) parameters were estimated by standard methods using non-linear mixed effect modeling software (Monolix 2019R2 - Antony, France). The model was developed by testing different distribution patterns and different compartment numbers for remdesivir, GS-774277, and GS-441524, in addition to different elimination and metabolic models that describe the conversion of remdesivir to GS-704277, and GS-704277 to GS-441524. For this purpose, metabolism was assumed to occur solely in the central compartment or in the central and peripheral compartments simultaneously.

Estimated PK parameters included total body clearance (CL), the volume of distribution for central and peripheral compartments (Vdc and Vdp), inter-compartmental clearance (Q), and formation clearance of metabolites (CLm). Terminal elimination half-life using regression (t1/2) was also calculated using GraphPad Prism 8 (GraphPad Softwares, 2019, CA, USA). Microsoft Excel (Microsoft, 2021, Redmond, USA) and RStudio (PBC, 2021, Boston, USA) were used for dataset construction, analysis, and graph generation.

The published concentration–time profile of remdesivir showed a sharp increase in plasma concentration immediately following the end of the 2-h intravenous infusion. This could be explained by intravenous line saline washing following the 2-h infusion (Rita Humeniuk, personal communication). To incorporate this sudden increase of remdesivir concentrations into the model, 4% of the total administered dose was subtracted from the continuous infusion dose and given instantaneously at the end of the infusion. The choice of this method and
Table 1 Ordinary differential equations that best describe the pharmacokinetic model for remdesivir and its two metabolites GS-774277 and GS-441524

\[ C_{CLm} = \frac{A_{RDV}}{Vd_{RDV}} \]
\[ C_{CLp} = \frac{A_{GS-774277}}{Vd_{GS-774277}} \]
\[ C_{CLp} = \frac{A_{GS-774277}}{Vd_{GS-774277}} \]
\[ C_{CLp} = \frac{A_{GS-441524}}{Vd_{GS-441524}} \]

Ordinary differential equation pharmacokinetic behavior model was developed based on mean concentration data obtained from phase I clinical trials, where remdesivir was administered in different doses as single-dose 2-h intravenous infusion in healthy subjects. DA/DT represents the change rate of drug amount in the respective compartment. \( C_c \) concentration in the central compartment; \( C_p \) concentration in the peripheral compartment; \( A \) the amount of a substance at a time; \( CL \) total body clearance; \( Vd_c \) and \( Vd_p \) the volume of distribution for central and peripheral compartments, respectively; \( Q \) inter-compartmental clearance; \( CLm \) formation clearance of metabolites the selected percentage were based on other published methodology (Anh et al. 2006).

The final model was chosen based on goodness-of-fit plots, visual predictive checks, metabolic plausibility, parameter shrinkage, and the \(-2 \times \log \) of likelihood (Figure S2).

The most suitable model was developed using ordinary differential equations (ODE) in non-linear mixed-effect modeling software (Table 1). The probable post

![Overview of the final population pharmacokinetic model for remdesivir (RDV) and its metabolites: GS-704277 and GS-441524](image_url)
hoc values of each dose’s fixed parameters were calculated using empirical Bayes method in Monolix software.

As no individual values were available, the obtained variability of fixed parameters reflects inter-cohort variabilities rather than inter-individual variability. And they lump the variability due to differences between volunteers in the different cohorts and they were defined with a log-normal distribution as.

\[
\log (\theta_i) = \log (\theta_{\text{population}}) + \eta_i
\]

where \(\theta_i\) is the estimated parameter for the mean concentration of the \(i\)th dose, \(\theta_{\text{population}}\) is the mean across doses, and \(\eta_i\) is a random effect describing the deviation of the PK parameter for the \(i\)th dose level from the typical PK parameter estimated for all doses. Parameter \(\eta_i\) is assumed
Fig. 3  Goodness-of-fit plots describing remdesivir model-predicted plasma concentration value agreement with the observed values.
to follow a normal distribution with a mean of zero and a variance of $\omega^2$.

Additive, proportional, and combined error models were tested:

- **Additive**: $C_{ij} = Y_{ij} + \alpha$
- **Proportional**: $C_{ij} = Y_{ij} + (b \times Y_{ij})$
- **Mixed**: $C_{ij} = Y_{ij} + \sqrt{(\alpha^2 + ((b) \times Y_{ij})^2)}$

Here, $C_{ij}$ is the observed value for the mean concentration of the dose $i$ at time point $j$, $Y_{ij}$ is the predicted concentration value of the dose $i$ at time point $j$ estimated by the model. Parameters $\alpha$ and $b$ are additive and proportional residual errors, respectively.

Simulations were run using R (R Core Team 2021), Simulx 2020R1, and Simulx R package bootstrapping and simulation function (Lixoft, Antony, France), with 256 simulated subjects. To simulate a real-life clinically relevant dosing regimen, the simulation also included a 200 mg, 30-min intravenous infusion of remdesivir on day 1, with subsequent 100 mg, 30-min intravenous infusions for the following 4 days. The choice of this regimen was based on what is recommended by internal hospital physicians, the FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) fact sheet for healthcare providers, and the EMA (European Medicines Agency) Summary of Product Characteristics (CHMP 2020; FDA 2020). The fraction of censored observations for remdesivir, GS-774277, and GS-441524 were calculated by determining the ratio of numbers of observations with values below the reported lower limit of quantification to the total number of observations at a time point.

**Results**

The best model describing PK data of all moieties included two compartments for remdesivir and each metabolite. The model suggested metabolism to occur mainly in the central compartment from one moiety to the next one. Additional metabolism was assumed to take place from the peripheral remdesivir compartment to the peripheral GS-704277 compartment, and elimination was assumed to occur from the central compartments of remdesivir and both metabolites (Fig. 1).

The final model predicted PK profiles for remdesivir, GS-704277, and GS-441524 at individual dose levels. The predicted concentration values were in good agreement with the observed concentrations at each time point (Figs. 2 and 3).

Population parameter estimates for the mean of the published plasma concentration-vs.-time profiles of remdesivir, GS-704277, and GS-441524 following remdesivir 2-h single-dose intravenous administration in healthy volunteers are described in detail in Table 2. Exposure values were similar to previously published remdesivir PK non-compartmental analysis (Table S1). The terminal elimination half-lives in the central compartment for remdesivir, GS-704277, and GS-441524 were 1 h, 1.1 h, and 20 h, respectively.

The final model had exponential inter-cohort variabilities for the following PK parameters: $V_{d_c}^{G}$ GS-441524, $V_{d_p}^{G}$ GS-441524, $CL_{RDV}^{*}$, $CL_m^{G}$ GS-774277, $CL_m^{G}$ GS-774277, $CL_{GS-774277}$, and $CL_m^{G}$ GS-441524 (Table 2). Also, the error models which matched the data best were proportional for remdesivir, combined for GS-704277, and proportional for GS-441524.

We found by simulating remdesivir administration at the recommended dosage that the $C_{max}$ (between-dose SD) of remdesivir, GS-704277, and GS-441524 were 13.7 µM (2.39), 807 nM (173), and 726 nM (240), respectively, following the initial loading dose. GS-704277 $t_{max}$ was reached immediately after the end of the infusion, while GS-441524 reached its $t_{max}$ 1 h after the end of the infusion. The fraction of censored observations for remdesivir reached the value of 1 after 20 h following the initial 200-mg infusion, and 17 h for each sequential 100-mg infusion. In contrast, GS-774277 and GS-441524 did not reach the values of their reported LLOQ during the whole duration of therapy (Fig. 4).

**Table 2** Pharmacokinetic population parameter estimates of remdesivir, GS-441524, and GS-704277 following remdesivir single-dose administration (2-h infusion) in healthy subjects

| PK parameters                  | Remdesivir | GS-704277 | GS-441524 |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Central compartment volume of distribution (L) | 4.89       | 96.4      | 26.2 (0.71)|
| Peripheral compartment volume of distribution (L) | 46.5       | 8.64      | 66.2 (0.24)|
| Inter-compartmental clearance (L/h)               | 13.2       | 0.12      | 55        |
| Total body clearance (L/h)                        | 18.1 (0.39)| 36.9 (0.31)| 4.74     |
| Central formation clearance (L/h)                 | -          | 16.9 (0.25)| 50.5 (0.27)|
| Peripheral formation clearance (L/h)              | -          | 18.9 (0.53)| -        |
Fig. 4 Simulated plasma concentration-vs.-time profiles of remdesivir, GS-704277, and GS-441524 following a simulated 30-min intravenous infusion of 200 mg of remdesivir on day 1, with 100 mg, 30-min intravenous infusion for the following 4 days. The bottom part of the remdesivir panel shows the fraction of censored observation numbers to the total observations at a given time. There were no censored observations for the metabolites. Dotted lines reflect standard deviation values.
Subsequent $C_{\text{max}}$ value for GS-441524, following the administration of multiple 100-mg remdesivir doses, was 645.5 nM (17.57) and the half-life reached 29.36 h both estimated by simulation.

The simulation used the previously generated population parameters of fixed effects, the standard deviation of the random effects, and error model estimates (Figure S3).

**Discussion**

In this report, we were able to develop a compartmental non-linear mixed effect model that can describe the mean concentration vs. time course of remdesivir and its two detectable metabolites reasonably well, while also adapting for and describing inter-dose variability.

Both the developed model and the simulations gave similar values for the derived PK parameters (AUC, elimination half-life, $C_{\text{max}}$) compared to other published non-compartmental analyses of remdesivir, GS-441524, and GS-704277 (Tables 2 and S2) (Humeniuk et al. 2020; Tempestilli et al. 2020). The model itself is empirical but physiologically and metabolically plausible. The model incorporates a sequential metabolism from remdesivir to GS-704277 followed by GS-704277 metabolism to GS-441524, which is in agreement with the known metabolic fate of remdesivir (Humeniuk et al. 2021a; Wen et al. 2021). As a peculiarity, the developed model incorporated a peripheral metabolism to GS-704277, and this does not contradict physiological considerations. A comparison of the parameters to those reported by Sukeishi et al. (2021) is difficult because their evaluation could not consider that a remdesivir dose is not metabolized completely to GS-441524, and therefore, any values reported indeed are values relative to the fraction metabolized (fm) to GS-441524. Assuming a fraction of about 0.5 (Humeniuk et al. 2021a, b), the basic clearance value reported of about 12 L/h (= CL/fm) corresponds to a true clearance of 6 L/h, which is close to our result of about 5 L/h and also not far from 5.71 L/h value, which was reported by Gilead (Hartman et al. 2020).

We found by the simulation of the clinically approved regimen that plasma concentrations of GS-441524 after 20 min from the beginning of the 200-mg infusion would reach the reported EC$_{50}$ value (180 nM) in SARS-CoV primary human airway epithelial cells (Yan and Muller 2020). The concentration stayed above EC$_{50}$ values throughout the whole simulated 6 days (Fig. 4). Here we assume that lung epithelial cell exposure is close to plasma exposure. However, PBPK modeling predicts that lung concentrations of GS-441524 are several-fold lower than plasma concentration and that GS-441524 plasma concentrations would not be useful to predict lung exposure of the active metabolite GS-443902 (Fan et al. 2021).

At the end, clinical data are required to assess any relationship between plasma pharmacokinetics of remdesivir and its metabolites and efficacy in patients.

A recent study showed that early administration of remdesivir among non-hospitalized patients with at least one risk factor for disease progression could in fact lower the risk of hospitalization or death compared to placebo groups (Gottlieb et al. 2021). However, this study did not associate efficacy with the level of exposure to remdesivir or its metabolite. And so far, the relevance of EC50 level interpretation for remdesivir or its metabolite levels is still unclear.

We attempted to apply our model to the data we reported for a patient with renal impairment (Sörgel et al. 2021) — but we failed. The concentrations in this patient were much higher than those observed by Humeniuk et al. (2020) already at the end of the infusion, which cannot be readily explained by a decreased elimination only. A reason for this could be that the model here is estimating the variability in mean concentrations across cohorts, which might be magnitudes lower than the variability at the level of individual patients.

Thus, further testing by independent datasets including data obtained from various patient populations is required to assess the external validity of this model. Also taking into account that this model was developed from data including only healthy volunteers with a focus on a Hispanic population, and no detailed information regarding age, BMI, or renal and hepatic function was available.

The model lacks variabilities on individual levels and does not consider reported standard errors in the clinical trials, which are considered to be some limitations associated with the model. Further investigations on drug efficacy, target tissues and/or intracellular concentrations, and protein binding are needed for a better understanding of the overall pharmacokinetics of remdesivir. Ideally, a comprehensive population model of remdesivir would also integrate pharmacodynamic data. The present model however may serve as a good starting point for such additional evaluations.

**Supplementary Information** The online version contains supplementary material available at https://doi.org/10.1007/s00210-022-02292-6.

**Acknowledgements** The authors would like to thank Dr. Rita Humeniuk for providing some general information that was helpful for the development of the model.

**Author contribution** A. A. developed the population pharmacokinetic model and performed simulations with the assistance of M. T. and M. B. U. F. supervised the population pharmacokinetic analysis and communication with trial authors. A. A. wrote the initial draft of the manuscript. All authors contributed in and agreed upon the final version of the manuscript. The authors declare that all data were generated in-house and that no paper mill was used.
Funding Open Access funding enabled and organized by Projekt DEAL. This study was carried out as part of our routine work.

Data availability Further data are available from the corresponding author, A. A., upon reasonable request.

Declarations

Ethics approval Not applicable.

Consent to participate Not applicable.

Consent for publication Not applicable.

Conflict of interest The authors declare no competing interests.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article’s Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article’s Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

References

Alsayed HAH, Sharif-Askari FS, Sharif-Askari NS et al (2021) Early administration of remdesivir to COVID-19 patients associates with higher recovery rate and lower need for ICU admission: a retrospective cohort study. PLoS ONE 16:e0258643. https://doi.org/10.1371/JOURNAL.PONE.0258643
Anh AVQ, Norris RLG, Charles BG (2006) Modelling drug loss during intravenous infusion to premature neonates. J Pharm Pract Res 36:262–265. https://doi.org/10.1002/j.2055-2335.2006.tb00626.x
CHMP (2020) Annex I Summary of product characteristics for Veklury. https://www.emea.europa.eu/en/documents/other/vekul-ry-product-information-approved-chmp-25-june-2020-pending-endorsement-european-commission_en.pdf
COVID-19 treatments: authorised | European Medicines Agency (2021) https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/treatments-vaccines/treatments-covid-19/covid-19-treatments-authorised. Accessed 11 May 2021
De Wit E, Feldmann F, Cronin J et al (2020) Prophylactic and therapeu- tic remdesivir (GS-5734) treatment in the rhesus macaque model of MERS-CoV infection. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 117:6771–6776. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1922083117
Deb S, Reeves AA (2021) Simulation of remdesivir pharmacokinetics and its drug interactions. J Pharm Pharm Sci 24:277–291. https://doi.org/10.18433/IPPS32011
Diaz JV, Appiah J, Askie L, Baller A, Banerjee A, Barkley S, Bertagnolio S, Hemingsen B, Mercedes Bonet JC (2021) Clinical management: living guidance COVID-19. World Heal Organ

FDA (2022) FDA takes actions to expand use of treatment for out-patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 | FDA. https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-takes-actions-expand-use-treatment-outpatients-mild-moderate-covid-19. Accessed 24 Jan 2022
Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers Emergency Use Authorization (EU) of Veklury® (2020) (remdesivir). https://www.fda.gov/media/143189/download
Fan J, Yang Y, Grimstein M et al (2021) Whole body PBPK modeling of remdesivir and its metabolites to aid in estimating active metabolite exposure in the lung and liver in patients with organ dysfunction. Clin Pharmacol Ther. https://doi.org/10.1002/CPT.2445
Gallo JM (2021) Hybrid physiologically-based pharmacokinetic model for remdesivir: application to SARS-CoV-2. Clin Transl Sci 14:1082–1091. https://doi.org/10.1111/CTS.12975
GetData Graph Digitizer - graph digitizing software. http://www.getdata-graph-digitizer.com/. Accessed 14 Nov 2021c
Godino C, Scotti A, Maugeri N et al (2021) Antiinfluenzal treatment in patients with COVID-19 — Rationale and evidence. Int J Cardiol 324:261–266. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijcard.2020.09.064
Gottlieb RL, Vaca CE, Paredes R et al (2021) Early remdesivir to prevent progression to severe COVID-19 in outpatients. N Engl J Med. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMOA2116846/SUPPL_FILE/NEJMOA2116846_DATA-SHARING.PDF
Hartman N, Kim M, Kruhlak N, et al. (2020) Center for Drug Evaluation and Research application number: 214787/Orig1s000 Clinical Pharmacology Review(s)
Humeniuk R, Mathias A, Cao H et al (2020) Safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of remdesivir, an antiviral for treatment of COVID-19, in healthy subjects. Clin Transl Sci 13:896–906. https://doi.org/10.1111/cts.12840
Humeniuk R, Mathias A, Kirby BJ et al (2021b) Pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and drug-interaction profile of remdesivi- r, a SARS-CoV-2 replication inhibitor. Clin Pharmacokin 60(5):569–583. https://doi.org/10.1007/S40262-021-00984-5
Humeniuk R, Mathias A, Kirby BJ, et al. (2021a) Pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and drug-interaction profile of remdesivi- r, a SARS-CoV-2 replication inhibitor. Clin Pharmacokin. 1–15
Juan HuW, Chang L, Yang Y et al (2021) Pharmacokinetics and tissue distribution of remdesivir and its metabolites nucleotide monophosphate, nucleotide triphosphate, and nucleoside in mice. Acta Pharmacol Sin 42:1195–1200. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41401-020-00577-9
Kalil AC, Mehta AK, Patterson TF et al (2021) Efficacy of interferon beta-1a plus remdesivir compared with remdesivir alone in hospitalised adults with COVID-19: a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. Lancet Respir Med. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600(21)00384-2
LHartman N, Kim M, Kruhlak N, Kruhlak N (2020) In silico analy- ses on the potential association of remdesivir with renal and hepatic events (NDA 21487). https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2020/214787Orig1s000ClinPharmR.pdf. Accessed 15 Dec 2021
Monolix (2019R2) Antony, France. https://monolix.lixoft.com/. Accessed 14 Nov 2021
R Core Team (2021) R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. https://www.R-project.org/
Siewerda E, de Boer MGI, Bonten MMJ et al (2021) Recommendations for antibacterial therapy in adults with COVID-19 — an evidence based guideline. Clin Microbiol Infect 27:61–66
Sörgel F, Malin JJ, Hagmann H et al (2021) Pharmacokinetics of remdesivir in a COVID-19 patient with end-stage renal
Sukeishi A, Itohara K, Yonezawa A et al (2021) Population pharmacokinetic modeling of GS-441524, the active metabolite of remdesivir, in Japanese COVID-19 patients with renal dysfunction. CPT Pharmacometrics Syst Pharmacol. https://doi.org/10.1002/PSP4.12736

Tempestilli M, Caputi P, Avataneo V et al (2020) Pharmacokinetics of remdesivir and GS-441524 in two critically ill patients who recovered from COVID-19. J Antimicrob Chemother 75:2977–2980. https://doi.org/10.1093/jac/dkaa239

Therapeutic options for COVID-19 patients | CDC (2021) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/therapeutic-options.html. Accessed 11 May 2021

UK-MHRA (2021) First oral antiviral for COVID-19, Lagevrio (molnupiravir), approved by MHRA - GOV.UK. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-oral-antiviral-for-covid-19-lagevrio-molnupiravir-approved-by-mhra. Accessed 6 Nov 2021

Vitiello A, Ferrara F (2021) Association and pharmacological synergism of the triple drug therapy baricitinib/remdesivir/rhACE2 for the management of COVID-19 infection.

Wang M, Cao R, Zhang L et al (2020) Remdesivir and chloroquine effectively inhibit the recently emerged novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in vitro. Cell Res 30:269–271

Wen-juan, Hu Lu, Chang Ying, Yang Xin, Wang Yuan-chao, Xie Jing-shan, Shen Bo, Tan Jia, Liu (2021) Pharmacokinetics and tissue distribution of remdesivir and its metabolites nucleotide monophosphate nucleotide triphosphate and nucleoside in mice. Acta Pharmacol Sin 42(7):1195–1200. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41401-020-00537-9

Yan VC, Muller FL (2020) Advantages of the parent nucleoside GS-441524 over remdesivir for COVID-19 treatment. ACS Med Chem Lett 11:1361–1366

Publisher's note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.