Pharmacokinetics, Tissue Distribution and Bioavailability of Imatinib in Mice after Administration of a Single Oral and an Intravenous Bolus Dose

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SUMMARY. Imatinib inhibits Bcr-Abl, c-KIT and PDGFR kinases involved in chronic myelogenous leukemia and gastrointestinal stromal tumors. Mice were given imatinib PO (50 mg/kg) or IV (12.5 mg/kg) and plasma, liver, brain, spleen, kidney disposition profiles analyzed. Plasma t_{1/2} was 4.5 h. IV plasma AUC_0→∞ was 11.59 μg·h/mL, MRT was 4.87 h, CI was 1.08 l/h/kg and V_{SS} was 5.23 l/kg. PO AUC_0→∞ was 12.82 μg·h/mL, MRT 5.1 h, C_{MAX} was 6.99 ± 2.84 μg/mL, absorption rate constant, K_{a} was 4.348 h⁻¹, bioavailability was 27.7%, V_{SS} was 5.51 l/kg. The hepatic extraction ratio was 0.384 and the minimum dose fraction absorbed was 0.450. IV AUC_0→∞ tissue-to-plasma ratios were 2.59 (spleen, kidney) and 2.91 (liver) but increased after PO administration in spleen (3.68) and kidney (3.49) and decreased in liver (2.75). Liver and kidney correlations with plasma concentrations suggests perfusion-limited uptake. Spleen counter-clockwise profile suggests non-concentration dependent uptake. Brain penetration was minimal.

KEY WORDS: bioavailability, chronic myeloid leukemia, gastrointestinal stromal tumor, imatinib, pharmacokinetics, tissue distribution.

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