

# Compatibility of carbapenem antibiotics with nafamostat mesilate in arterial infusion therapy for severe acute pancreatitis: Stabilities of carbapenem antibiotics

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The effectiveness of continuous regional arterial infusion therapy using protease inhibitors and antibiotics for severe acute pancreatitis has been previously reported. Carbapenem antibiotics, which have a broad antibacterial spectrum, and nafamostat mesilate are often used for this therapeutic approach. We investigated the compatibility of various carbapenem antibiotics with nafamostat mesilate.

Carbapenem antibiotics were dissolved in 30 mL of saline or 5% glucose and the appearance, pH, and stability of the solutions were determined. The changes in each carbapenem antibiotic solution after mixing with nafamostat mesilate were then investigated.

Biapenem and doripenem showed a residual rate of  $\geq 90\%$  at 8 hours after dissolution in saline or 5% glucose and exhibited an appropriate appearance and residual rate ( $\geq 90\%$ ). After mixing with nafamostat mesilate, biapenem maintained a residual rate of  $\geq 90\%$  for the longest time period (8 hours) and exhibited a slight coloration, followed by doripenem (6 hours) and meropenem dissolved in saline. The other carbapenem antibiotics that were tested exhibited changes in appearance or their residual rate.

Biapenem and doripenem, which exert their effects in a time-dependent manner, can be infused for prolonged periods for the treatment of not only severe acute pancreatitis, but also other severe infections.

## Introduction

In severe acute pancreatitis (SAP), pancreatic infectious complications are a critical factor causing poor prognosis, and preventive antibiotic administration has been reported to reduce the frequency of pancreatic infectious complications and the incidence of infectious pancreatic necrosis, significantly improving mortality<sup>1-4</sup>). As a specific therapy to prevent this, the effectiveness of continuous regional arterial infusion therapy (CRAI) with protease inhibitors and antibiotics has been reported<sup>5-9</sup>).

Generally, the protease inhibitor, nafamostat mesilate is combined with a carbapenem antibiotic when performing CRAI for SAP<sup>6-10</sup>). This procedure results in the distribution of these drugs to the pancreatic tissue at high concentrations<sup>11-13</sup>).

We previously prepared a manual for performing CRAI for SAP<sup>14</sup>) using biapenem, which is physically and chemically more stable against nafamostat mesilate than other carbapenem antibiotics, and favorable treatment results have been obtained using this manual<sup>15</sup>). In the present study, we measured the *in vitro* stability of all the carbapenem antibiotics presently available on the Japanese market that are generally used after mixing with nafamostat mesilate.

## Material and Methods

The test substances were comprised of the protease inhibitor nafamostat mesilate (Futhan 50, for injection; Torii Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.) and all the carbapenem antibiotics presently available on the Japanese market: biapenem (Omegacin, for infusion [0.3 g]; Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd.), imipenem/cilastatin sodium (Tienam, for intravenous infusion [0.25 g]; MSD K.K.), panipenem/betamipron (Carbenin, for infusion [0.5 g]; Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd.), meropenem (Meropen, vial for infusion [0.5 g]; Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma Co., Ltd.) and doripenem (Finibax, for infusion [0.25 g]; Shionogi & Co., Ltd.). Physiological saline (Otsuka normal saline; Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc.) or a 5% glucose injection (Otsuka Glucose Injection 5%; Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc.) was used as the solution.

To prepare the test solutions, 1 vial of each carbapenem antibiotic was dissolved in 30 mL of solution based on the doses used in clinical practice<sup>15</sup>) to yield solutions containing 10 or 20 mg/mL of biapenem, 16.7 mg/mL of imipenem, 16.7 mg/mL of panipenem, 16.7 mg/mL of meropenem, or 8.3 mg/mL of doripenem. Ten milliliters of each solution was used to determine the appearance, pH and residual rate as the control solution, and was compared with test solutions prepared by adding 2 mL of 5 mg/mL nafamostat mesilate to the solutions containing each carbapenem antibiotic. As a dose of 0.6 g of biapenem is sometimes used for the treatment of SAP at our institution, 2 vials of biapenem were dissolved in 30 mL of solution as an additional test. The solutions were kept at 25°C and 1000 lx (in a light-exposed chamber). Samplings were performed

at 0 (immediately after mixing), 1, 3, 6, 8, 12 and 24 hours after mixing.

Regarding the compatibility tests and the evaluation methods, the test and control solutions were visually observed and their pH levels were measured. Then, the solutions were filtered with a 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$  pore-size membrane filter and purified water was added to the filtrates for dilution, so as to prepare the sample solutions for high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). Referring to the measurement method of KURIHARA *et al.*,<sup>16)</sup> these sample solutions were then used for HPLC under the following conditions to measure the peak area of each carbapenem antibiotic and to calculate the peak area ratio for the solution immediately after mixing, enabling the residual titer rate to be obtained: detector, ultraviolet absorption photometer; measurement wavelength, 300 nm; column, Luna 5u C18(2) 100A (250  $\times$  4.6 mm; Phenomenex); column temperature, constant temperature around 30°C; sample cooler temperature, 5°C; mobile phase (0.1 M phosphate buffer [pH 7.8]: methanol), 92:8 for biapenem and imipenem, 87:13 for panipenem, and 78:22 for meropenem and doripenem; mobile phase flow rate, 1 mL/min; and analysis times, 6 min. for biapenem and imipenem test and control solutions, 10 min. for panipenem test solution, 6 min. for panipenem control solution, 25 min. for meropenem and doripenem test solutions, 11 min. for meropenem control solution, and 7 min. for doripenem control solution.

## Results

Table 1-1 shows the sequential residual rates of each carbapenem antibiotic dissolved in saline in the control solutions. Panipenem and meropenem were reduced to less than 90% at 8 hours. When dissolved in 5% glucose, meropenem was reduced to less than 90% at 6 hours, and imipenem and panipenem were reduced to less than 90% at 8 hours, as shown in Table 1-2.

In the compatibility test of each carbapenem antibiotic dissolved in saline with nafamostat mesilate, panipenem precipitated immediately after mixing and imipenem also precipitated 3 hours after mixing. Regarding the residual rates, panipenem was reduced to less than 90% at 3 hours after mixing, and meropenem and doripenem were reduced to less than 90% at 8 hours after mixing, as shown in Table 2-1. Likewise, when dissolved in 5% glucose, panipenem precipitated immediately after mixing and imipenem also precipitated 1 hour after mixing (Table 2-2). As for the residual rate, panipenem was reduced to less than 90% at 3 hours after mixing, meropenem was reduced to less than 90% at 6 hours after mixing, and doripenem was reduced to less than 90% at 8 hours after mixing, as shown in Table 2-2. Biapenem (10 and 20 mg/mL) showed a residual rate of 90% or more, with slight coloration, at 8 hours after mixing (Table 2-2).

Table 1. Compatibility tests of each carapenem antibiotic in solution.  
 1-1. Sequential changes in control solutions using saline (25°C, 1000 lx).

		Immediately after mixing						
		1 hour	3 hours	6 hours	8 hours	12 hours	24 hours	
Biapenem (10) control solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	No change	No change	No change	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent
	pH	5.07	4.91	4.82	4.73	4.79	4.71	4.68
	Residual rate (%)	100	99.6	99.0	97.4	95.7	93.5	[87.4]
Biapenem (20) control solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	No change	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, yellow transparent
	pH	5.03	4.94	4.89	4.83	4.83	4.81	4.73
	Residual rate (%)	100	99.4	98.5	96.7	94.9	92.0	[86.0]
Imipenem control solution	Appearance	Slightly yellow transparent	No change	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, coloration	Slight progress of coloration, coloration	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent
	pH	7.30	7.28	7.21	7.06	6.95	6.83	6.35
	Residual rate (%)	100	99.1	97.9	95.3	93.5	[89.6]	[78.3]

[ ]: Residual rate indicates less than 90%.

Table 1. Compatibility tests of each carapenem antibiotic in solution. (Continued)  
 1-1. Sequential changes in control solutions using saline (25°C, 1000 lx). (Continued)

		Immediately after mixing						
		1 hour	3 hours	6 hours	8 hours	12 hours	24 hours	
Panipenem control solution	Appearance	Slightly yellow	No change	No change	Slight progress of coloration,	Slight progress of coloration,	Obvious coloration, yellow	Marked coloration,
		transparent		pale yellow	transparent	transparent	transparent	yellowish brown
	pH	6.64	6.49	6.37	6.22	6.11	6.00	5.77
Residual rate (%)		100	99.0	96.2	91.0	[87.2]	[77.7]	[45.7]
Meropenem control solution	Appearance	Slightly yellow	No change	Slight progress of coloration,	Slight progress of coloration,	Slight progress of coloration,	Slight progress of coloration,	Slight progress of coloration, slightly
		transparent		slightly yellow	transparent	transparent	transparent	yellow transparent
	pH	7.78	7.79	7.80	7.76	7.76	7.73	7.67
Residual rate (%)		100	97.8	95.7	93.3	[88.5]	[85.8]	[81.4]
Doripenem control solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	No change	No change	No change	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly	Slight progress of coloration, slightly
							yellow transparent	yellow transparent
	pH	5.09	4.94	4.96	4.91	4.87	4.78	4.70
Residual rate (%)		100	98.4	97.6	93.5	91.2	[88.5]	[85.8]

[ ]: Residual rate indicates less than 90%.

Table 1. Compatibility tests of each carapenem antibiotic in solution. (Continued)  
 1-2. Sequential changes in control solutions using 5% glucose injection (25°C, 1000 lx).

		Immediately after						
		1 hour	3 hours	6 hours	8 hours	12 hours	24 hours	
		mixing						
Biapenem (10) control solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	No change	No change	No change	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent
	pH	5.11	4.90	4.89	4.78	4.74	4.77	4.79
Residual rate (%)		100	99.4	99.1	97.1	96.1	93.4	[87.7]
Biapenem (20) control solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, pale yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, yellow transparent
	pH	5.07	4.98	4.96	4.89	4.91	4.87	4.83
Residual rate (%)		100	99.8	98.0	96.4	94.7	92.5	[86.0]
Imipenem control solution	Appearance	Slightly yellow transparent	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	Marked coloration, yellow transparent
	pH	7.39	7.28	7.25	7.13	7.04	6.94	6.59
Residual rate (%)		100	97.2	94.2	90.5	[87.2]	[81.8]	[69.3]

[ ]: Residual rate indicates less than 90%.

Table 1. Compatibility tests of each carbapenem antibiotic in solution. (Continued)  
 1-2. Sequential changes in control solutions using 5% glucose injection (25°C, 1000 lx). (Continued)

		Immediately after mixing						
		1 hour	3 hours	6 hours	8 hours	12 hours	24 hours	
Panipenem control solution	Appearance	Slightly yellow transparent	No change	Slight progress of coloration, pale yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, of coloration	Obvious coloration, yellow transparent	Marked coloration, yellowish brown transparent	
	pH	6.73	6.43	6.30	6.22	6.11	5.83	
Residual rate (%)		100	94.9	90.6	[87.1]	[79.1]	[50.3]	
Meropenem control solution	Appearance	Slightly yellow transparent	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, of coloration	Slight progress of coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	
	pH	7.75	7.82	7.80	7.81	7.79	7.75	
Residual rate (%)		100	92.0	[84.1]	[77.7]	[72.4]	[57.0]	
Doripenem control solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	No change	No change	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	
	pH	4.99	4.97	4.85	4.90	4.88	4.80	
Residual rate (%)		100	97.6	93.8	90.9	[88.7]	[86.4]	

[ ]: Residual rate indicates less than 90%.

Table 2. Compatibility tests of each carbapenem antibiotic mixed with nafamostat mesilate.  
2-1. Sequential changes in mixed solutions using saline (25°C, 1000 lx).

		Immediately after mixing						
		1 hour	3 hours	6 hours	8 hours	12 hours	24 hours	
Biapenem (10) mixed solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration	Slight progress of coloration	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent
	pH	4.30	4.33	4.34	4.36	4.39	4.40	4.48
Residual rate (%)		100	98.0	96.1	93.0	92.0	[87.6]	[78.9]
Biapenem (20) mixed solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, yellow transparent
	pH	4.45	4.48	4.51	4.54	4.54	4.60	4.59
Residual rate (%)		100	98.5	97.3	94.5	92.3	[88.5]	[80.6]
Imipenem mixed solution	Appearance	Slightly yellow transparent	No change	No change in color tone, slightly yellow	Precipitation	Precipitation	Precipitation	Precipitation
	pH	6.60	6.65	6.66*	6.50*	6.45*	6.32*	5.84*
Residual rate (%)		100	99.4	97.9*	95.3*	92.7*	[87.3*]	[68.3*]

\*Tentative values due to precipitation. [ ]: Residual rate indicates less than 90%.



Table 2. Compatibility tests of each carbapenem antibiotic mixed with nafamostat mesilate. (Continued)  
 2-1. Sequential changes in mixed solutions using saline (25°C, 1000 lx). (Continued)

		Immediately after mixing						
		1 hour	3 hours	6 hours	8 hours	12 hours	24 hours	
Panipenem mixed solution	Appearance	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	
		Slightly yellow	Slightly yellow	Slight progress of coloration pale yellow	Obvious coloration, yellow	Obvious coloration	Marked coloration, yellowish brown	
	pH	5.98*	5.96*	5.89*	5.81*	5.76*	5.66*	5.59*
	Residual rate (%)	100*	96.3*	[89.7]	[78.9]	[71.8]	[56.9]	[22.2]
Meropenem mixed solution	Appearance	Slightly yellow transparent	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration	Slight progress of coloration	Slight progress of coloration, pale yellow transparent	
	pH	7.68	7.68	7.69	7.68	7.67	7.65	7.61
	Residual rate (%)	100	97.5	95.8	93.1	[88.6]	[85.6]	[80.6]
Doripenem mixed solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration	Slight progress of coloration	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	
	pH	4.31	4.36	4.34	4.35	4.38	4.39	4.45
	Residual rate (%)	100	97.1	95.0	91.2	[86.1]	[81.5]	[73.3]

\* Tentative values due to precipitation. [ ]: Residual rate indicates less than 90%.

Table 2. Compatibility tests of each carbapenem antibiotic mixed with nafamostat mesilate. (Continued)  
 2-2. Sequential changes in mixed solutions using 5% glucose injection (25°C, 1000 Ix).

	Immediately after mixing					
	1 hour	3 hours	6 hours	8 hours	12 hours	24 hours
Biapenem (10) mixed solution	Colorless and transparent	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration, pale yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent
pH	4.29	4.31	4.40	4.37	4.41	4.50
Residual rate (%)	100	97.5	95.2	93.6	[89.2]	[81.8]
Biapenem (20) mixed solution	Colorless and transparent	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration	Obvious coloration	Obvious coloration, yellow transparent
pH	4.54	4.55	4.59	4.62	4.63	4.67
Residual rate (%)	100	97.1	94.6	92.8	[89.4]	[81.6]
Imipenem mixed solution	Slightly yellow transparent	No change in color tone	No change in color tone, slightly yellow	Slight progress of coloration	Obvious coloration, pale yellow	Marked coloration, yellow
pH	6.78	6.88*	6.69*	6.62*	6.53*	6.07*
Residual rate (%)	100	98.0*	93.7*	90.0*	[85.7]	[68.9*]

\*Tentative values due to precipitation. [ ]: Residual rate indicates less than 90%.

Table 2. Compatibility tests of each carbapenem antibiotic mixed with nafamostat mesilate. (Continued)  
 2-2. Sequential changes in mixed solutions using 5% glucose injection (25°C, 1000 lx). (Continued)

		Immediately after mixing	1 hour	3 hours	6 hours	8 hours	12 hours	24 hours
Panipenem mixed solution	Appearance	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)	Precipitation (white turbid)
		Slightly yellow	Slightly yellow	Slight progress of coloration, pale yellow	Obvious coloration, yellow	Obvious coloration	Obvious coloration	Marked coloration, yellowish brown
	pH	6.10*	6.05*	5.99*	5.89*	5.83*	5.74*	5.58*
	Residual rate (%)	100*	96.9*	[89.6]	[79.9]	[73.7]	[58.9]	[24.7]
Meropenem mixed solution	Appearance	Slightly yellow transparent	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, yellow transparent	Marked coloration, yellowish brown transparent
	pH	7.71	7.75	7.75	7.73	7.78	7.69	7.67
	Residual rate (%)	100	95.8	92.2	[85.8]	[79.7]	[73.5]	[58.9]
Doripenem mixed solution	Appearance	Colorless and transparent	No change	Slight progress of coloration, slightly yellow transparent	Slight progress of coloration	Slight progress of coloration	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent	Obvious coloration, pale yellow transparent
	pH	4.32	4.38	4.38	4.36	4.35	4.39	4.53
	Residual rate (%)	100	97.5	95.4	90.6	[86.9]	[82.4]	[74.8]

\*Tentative values due to precipitation. [ ]: Residual rate indicates less than 90%.

## Discussion

The prevention of pancreatic infectious complications is important in patients with SAP, and infectious pancreatic necrosis caused by the translocation of enteric bacteria, which are often the causes of such infections, has an extremely poor prognosis<sup>17,18</sup>). In recent years, the usefulness of CRAI for SAP has been reported<sup>9,10,19,20</sup>), and the indication for CRAI is generally considered to be necrotizing pancreatitis. However, pancreatic infection and pancreatic necrosis are difficult to predict, and CRAI may be applicable to patients diagnosed as having SAP. By starting CRAI early, we think that pancreatic necrosis may be preventable.

Enteric Gram-negative bacilli, such as *Escherichia coli*<sup>21,22</sup>) and *Enterobacter*<sup>22</sup>), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and MRSA have been separately identified in lesions of infectious pancreatic necrosis<sup>16-23</sup>). Carbapenem antibiotics, which have a broad antibacterial spectrum, show excellent antimicrobial activity against these causative bacteria, with the exception of MRSA, and are considered to be bacteriologically useful. When using carbapenem antibiotics, it is important to prolong the duration of the drug concentration above the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) from the standpoint of the pharmacokinetics-pharmacodynamics (PK-PD)<sup>24,25</sup>), and excellent effects can be expected by prolonging the administration time and increasing the number of doses. In CRAI, a syringe pump is used to infuse carbapenem antibiotics at higher concentrations than usual. Therefore, when considering which antibiotics should be used, the selection of an antibiotic that is stable against nafamostat mesilate for a long period of time and that can be infused in combination with nafamostat mesilate is desirable. Regarding biapenem, higher residual rates at concentrations of both 10 and 20 mg/mL were observed, compared with the residual rates for other carbapenem antibiotics (Tables 2-1, 2-2), supporting our choice of this drug for CRAI. The reason for the lower residual rates in this study, compared with those in previous reports<sup>15</sup>), was thought to be that higher concentrations of each carbapenem antibiotic were used. For general CRAI, the combination of nafamostat mesilate and imipenem/cilastatin or meropenem has often been used<sup>5,6,9,10,20</sup>). However, when the number of infusion routes is limited, the infusion of nafamostat mesilate is often temporarily discontinued; instead, only imipenem/cilastatin or meropenem is infused. With the use of biapenem and doripenem, the techniques required for the infusion of imipenem/cilastatin, such as catheter irrigation and catheter air removal, become unnecessary, reducing catheter difficulties. We have experienced crystal precipitation when using panipenem/betamipron and imipenem/cilastatin in clinical practice, and crystal precipitation was also seen in the present study immediately or at 1 hour after mixing. Therefore, these drugs should be used with caution. The usefulness of biapenem and doripenem was also suggested from the viewpoint of risk management.

As biapenem has been reported to be more effectively distributed to the pancreas than imipenem/cilastatin in an animal model for SAP<sup>26</sup>), these results suggest that biapenem may have a

beneficial effect on CRAI for SAP. It may be needed to evaluate the bacteriological efficacy in the future.

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# 重症急性膵炎 (SAP) 動注療法におけるカルバペネム系抗菌薬と nafamostat mesilate (NM) の配合変化試験 —カルバペネム系抗菌薬の安定性—

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近年、重症急性膵炎 (SAP) に対する蛋白分解酵素阻害薬・抗菌薬持続動注療法 (以下、動注療法) の有効性を示す報告が散見される。その動注療法では広域抗菌スペクトルを有するカルバペネム系抗菌薬と nafamostat mesilate (NM) が用いられることが多い。我々は、日本の臨床で上市されている全カルバペネム系抗菌薬と NM との配合後のカルバペネム系抗菌薬の配合変化について検討した。カルバペネム系抗菌薬を生理食塩液または 5% ブドウ糖 30 mL で溶解し、外観、pH および安定性について観察または測定した。また、各カルバペネム系抗菌薬溶液と NM 溶液との配合後の変化について検討した。各カルバペネム系抗菌薬の生理食塩液および 5% ブドウ糖液で溶解後 8 時間まで残存率が 90% 以上を示したのは、Biapenem (BIPM) と Doripenem (DRPM) であり、外観および残存率 (90% 以上) とともに問題ないと判断された。NM と各カルバペネム系抗菌薬を配合後の変化については、僅かな着色と 90% 以上の残存率を示したのは BIPM の 8 時間が最も長く、次いで、DRPM の 6 時間、生理食塩液で溶解した MEPM であった。他のカルバペネム系抗菌薬では外観および残存率の変化を認めず。時間依存的に効果を発揮するカルバペネム系抗菌薬では SAP のみに限らず他の重症感染症においても BIPM および DRPM は点滴時間を延長した投与が可能と考えられた。