

Carboplatin dosing in overweight and obese patients with normal renal function, does weight matter?

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Abstract

Purpose The purpose of this study was to determine the potential utility of alternative weight descriptors in the Cockcroft–Gault equation to more accurately predict carboplatin clearance in underweight, normal weight, overweight and obese patients.

Methods Clearance values obtained from individual fits using NONMEM were compared to predicted carboplatin clearances calculated using the modified Calvert formula in which creatinine clearance was calculated with the Cockcroft–Gault equation using diverse weight descriptors.

Results This study indicated that lean body mass was the best weight descriptor in underweight and normal weight patients, while adjusted ideal body weight was the best weight descriptor in overweight and obese patients. However, a flat dose based on the population carboplatin clearance performed better in all weight categories than the use of the Cockcroft–Gault equation with diverse weight descriptors.

Conclusion These results suggest that in overweight and obese patients, with a normal renal function, a flat

carboplatin dose should be administered, based on the population carboplatin clearance ($8.38 \text{ l/h} = 140 \text{ mL/min}$). Thus, in case an AUC of 5 mg min/mL is desired, the appropriate dose for carboplatin would be $5 \times 140 = 700 \text{ mg}$.

Keywords Carboplatin · Dose adaptation · Body weight · Pharmacokinetics

Introduction

Carboplatin is a widely used platinum compound in combination chemotherapy regimens for the treatment of a number of malignancies. Carboplatin is mainly eliminated by the kidneys, as indicated by the fact that about 65% of the administered dose is excreted into the urine within the first 24 h after administration [1]. A small fraction of the drug binds irreversibly to plasma proteins and the free, ultrafilterable platinum fraction is considered pharmacologically active [2]. Carboplatin clearance appears to be directly related to the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) and several dosing formulae have been suggested to calculate an a priori carboplatin dose based upon renal function. The Calvert formula [$\text{dose} = \text{target AUC} \times (\text{GFR} + 25)$] is the most widely used formula. It does, however, have limitations in clinical practice. Clearance of chromium 51-ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid was used for the determination of the GFR [3]. This method is costly, involves a radioactive compound and is not readily available in most treatment centres. Therefore, for clinical purposes, GFR is usually estimated from a single measurement of serum creatinine by renal function equations that include age, weight and sex to account for interindividual differences in muscle mass and the consequent differences in creatinine

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generation. The GFR is often substituted by the creatinine clearance (CL_{cr}) calculated using the Cockcroft–Gault equation [4]:

$$CL_{cr} = 1.23 \times (140 - \text{age}) \times \text{weight} \\ \times 0.85(\text{if female})/\text{serum creatinine.}$$

In a previous study, with approximately the same dataset as this study, no relation between creatinine clearance estimators (using the Cockcroft–Gault, Jelliffe and Wright formulae) and carboplatin clearance was found [5]. However, this study did not take diverse weight measures into account. In the Cockcroft–Gault equation body weight is one of the variables required to calculate the creatinine clearance. This can lead to bias in overweight and obese patients, since in obesity a higher body weight is mainly due to a higher fat mass, whereas the factor body weight in the equation is assumed to reflect muscle mass.

Indeed, it has been shown that creatinine clearance estimates in the obese are inaccurate using either actual body weight (overprediction) or ideal body weight (underprediction) [6]. Clinical evidence showed that using actual body weight in the Cockcroft–Gault equation led to an overprediction of the creatinine clearance and, by applying a modified Calvert formula with creatinine clearance as GFR to calculate the dose, produced a higher than expected carboplatin area under the concentration–time curve [7, 8]. Calculation of carboplatin clearance may be more accurate by using other weight descriptors such as fat-free mass or adjusted ideal body weight [8, 9]. Since the Cockcroft–Gault equation is widely used in clinical practice for creatinine clearance calculation to be applied in the Calvert formula, there is a risk of significant overdosing of carboplatin in overweight and obese patients. The purpose of this study was to determine which weight descriptor could best be used in the Cockcroft–Gault equation to accurately predict the carboplatin clearance in overweight and obese patients.

Patients and methods

Patients

Pharmacokinetic data of ultrafilterable platinum were available of 240 patients (380 courses, in total 4,478 samples). The data were obtained from several previously published studies in which patients received carboplatin both in high-dose as well as in conventional-dose regimens in combination with other chemotherapeutic agents [10–14]. All protocols were approved by the Committee of Medical Ethics of the Netherlands

Cancer Institute and written informed consent was obtained from all patients.

Sampling and analyses

The number and time-points of samples withdrawn in each study protocol are depicted in Table 1. In all studies, plasma ultrafiltrate was prepared immediately after blood sampling, using the Amicon micropartition system with an YMT-14 membrane (30 kD, Millipore Corporation, Bedford, MA, USA). A volume of 0.5 mL plasma was transferred in the micropartition system and centrifuged at 2,500g for 20 min. Ultrafiltrate was stored at -20°C until analysis. Analysis of platinum in ultrafiltrate was performed using flameless atomic absorption spectrometry as previously described [15]. Accuracy and day-to-day imprecision of this method were 93.9–103.3 and 1.5–10.2%, respectively.

Pretreatment serum creatinine levels were estimated by the kinetic Jaffé method (Hitachi systems, Roche Diagnostics, The Netherlands) in three studies [12–14] and in the first 32 patients of one study [11], while in the remaining patients [10, 11] the compensated Jaffé method was used. To correct for the different methods used, the serum creatinine values obtained with the kinetic Jaffé method were retrospectively adjusted by subtracting 26 μM from the initial values as proposed and validated by the manufacturer (Roche Diagnostics, The Netherlands).

Pharmacokinetics and data analysis

For the evaluation of the bias and imprecision of the diverse weight descriptors in the Cockcroft–Gault equation in predicting individual carboplatin clearances, individual fits of the observed carboplatin-time data were used. Individual fits were obtained by fitting a two-compartment model to the carboplatin-time data using the non-linear mixed effect modelling program NONMEM (version VI) (GloboMax LLC, Hanover, USA) [16]. Clearance-values obtained from these individual fits were compared to the predicted carboplatin clearances. Predicted carboplatin clearances (CL_{est}) were calculated using the modified Calvert formula ($CL_{carbo} = CL_{cr} + 25$), in which the creatinine clearance was calculated with the Cockcroft–Gault equation using diverse weight descriptors (Table 3). Bias and imprecision of the diverse weight descriptors were evaluated using the percentage mean prediction error (MPE%) and the percentage mean absolute prediction error (MAPE%). The MPE% is a measure of bias and MAPE% is a measure of imprecision and were defined as:

Table 1 Baseline patient characteristics

	Number	Median (range)
Patient characteristics		
Female/male	161/79	
Age (years)		47 (16–75)
BSA (m ²)		1.81 (1.49–2.94)
BMI (kg/m ²)		24 (16–46)
Weight (kg)		70 (46–170)
Height (cm)		171 (153–210)
Protocol		
Non-small cell lung cancer [10] 2–6 × PC ^a (dose carboplatin AUC 6 mg min/mL administered in 30 min)	21 (21 courses) Four plasma samples per patient per course <i>t</i> = 0.5, 4.5, 8.5, 23.5 h	
Non-small cell lung cancer [13, 14] PC (dose carboplatin 300–400 mg/m ² per 30 min)	58 (95 courses) Six to ten plasma samples per patient per course <i>t</i> = 0.5, 0.75, 1, 1.5, 2.5, 4.5, 8.5, 12.5, 24.5, 48.5 h	
Ovarian cancer [12, 14] PC (dose carboplatin 300–600 mg/m ² per 30 min)	25 (25 courses) 8–12 plasma samples per patient per course <i>t</i> = 0.5, 0.75, 1, 1.5, 2.5, 4.5, 8.5, 12.5, 18.5, 24.5, 48.5 h	
High-risk primary breast cancer [11] CTC ^b (dose carboplatin 400 mg/m ² per day or AUC 20 mg min/mL administered in 1 h for 4 days)	44 (44 courses) 15–20 plasma samples per patient per course <i>t</i> = 0.5, 0.75, 1, 1.5, 2.5, 4.5, 8.5, 12.5, 18.5, 24.5, 48.5 h. Days 1 and 3	
Metastatic breast cancer [11] (and additional pat's) tCTC (dose carboplatin 267 mg/m ² per day or AUC 13.3 mg min per mL administered in 1 h for 4 days)	47 (113 courses) 15–20 plasma samples per patient per course <i>t</i> = 0.5, 1, 1.5, 1.75, 2, 2.5, 3.75, 5.5, 10, 24 h. Days 1 and 3	
Refractory germ cell cancer [11] (and additional pat's) CTC (dose carboplatin 400 mg/m ² /day or AUC 20 mg min/mL administered in 1 h for 4 days)	19 (35 courses) 15–20 plasma samples per patient per course <i>t</i> = 0.5, 1, 1.5, 1.75, 2, 2.5, 3.75, 5.5, 10, 24 h days 1 and 3	
Refractory germ cell cancer [11] (and additional pat's) tCTC (dose carboplatin 267 mg/m ² per day or AUC 13.3 mg min/mL administered in 1 h for 4 days)	Five (14 courses) 15–20 plasma samples per patient per course <i>t</i> = 0.5, 1, 1.5, 1.75, 2, 2.5, 3.75, 5.5, 10, 24 h days 1 and 3	
Metastatic ovarian cancer [11] tCTC (dose carboplatin 267 mg/m ² per day or AUC 13.3 mg min/mL administered in 1 h for 4 days)	5 (6 courses) 15–20 plasma samples per patient per course <i>t</i> = 0.5, 1, 1.5, 1.75, 2, 2.5, 3.75, 5.5, 10, 24 h. Days 1 and 3	
Epithelial breast cancer miniCTC ^c (dose carboplatin 400 mg/m ² per day or AUC 10 mg min/mL administered in 1 h for 2 days)	16 (27 courses) 12–16 plasma samples per patient per course <i>t</i> = 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3.75, 5.5, 10 h days 1 and 2	
Biochemical parameters		
Serum creatinine (μM)		57 (18–124)
Creatinine clearance (calculated with the Cockcroft–Gault formula (mL/min) [4])		126 (55–451)
Albumin (g/L)		42 (18–52)

^a PC Paclitaxel and carboplatin

^b (t)CTC, high-dose cyclophosphamide (1 h infusion), carboplatin (1 h infusion) and thiotepa (2 × 0.5 h infusion) every day during 4 days

^c miniCTC, day 1 cyclophosphamide (1 h infusion) and carboplatin (1 h infusion), day 2 thiotepa (1 h infusion) and carboplatin (1 h infusion)

$$\text{MPE}\% = \sum (\text{pe})/N \times 100\%$$

$$\text{MAPE}\% = \sum |\text{pe}|/N \times 100\%$$

with pe = prediction error defined as:

$$(\text{CL}_{\text{est}} - \text{CL}_{\text{ind}})/\text{CL}_{\text{ind}}$$

In the second part of the analysis, the relation between carboplatin clearance and weight was determined using a population pharmacokinetic model. Pharmacokinetic data of carboplatin (measured as free platinum) were analysed with a population pharmacokinetic model developed using NONMEM (version VI). The first order conditional estimation method (FOCE) with INTERACTION was used after logarithmic data transformation [17]. Pharmacokinetics of carboplatin were described with a two-compartment model with first-order elimination from the central compartment. Interindividual variability (IIV), interoccasion variability (IOV) and residual variability were modelled using a proportional error model.

Correlation of carboplatin clearance with the diverse weight descriptors was investigated by estimating the allometric coefficient for carboplatin clearance, according to the following equation:

$$\text{CL}_i = \text{CL}_{\text{pop}} \times (\text{Wt}_i/\text{Wt})^x$$

where CL_i is the carboplatin clearance in individual i with weight Wt_i , CL_{pop} is the population carboplatin clearance standardized to an individual with median weight Wt and x is the allometric coefficient, which marks the exponential decrease or increase in clearance. In this equation, Wt_i and Wt were substituted by several weight descriptors (Table 3). To correct for possible confounding variables, sex was also incorporated in this equation. Significance of incorporation of an allometric coefficient using diverse weight descriptors was evaluated with the objective function value (OFV), which is proportional to negative twice the log likelihood. A difference in OFV of 6.63 between two nested models (corresponding to a P value of 0.01) was considered statistically significant.

Results

Patients

A total of 240 cancer patients were studied of whom 7 (3%) were defined as underweight [body mass index (BMI) < 18.5 kg/m²], 146 (61%) were defined as normal weight (BMI ≥ 18.5 to <25 kg/m²), 72 (30%) were defined as overweight (BMI ≥ 25 to <30 kg/m²) and 15 (6%) were defined as obese (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²). Of all patients in the dataset baseline patient characteristics and biochemical

Table 2 Detailed information of the subpopulations

Subpopulation	Female/ male	Age	Serum creatinine (μM)
		Median (range)	Median (range)
Underweight BMI < 18.5 kg/m ²	4/3	38 (16–58)	46 (32–62)
Normal weight BMI ≥ 18.5 to <25 kg/m ²	97/49	46 (17–75)	57 (18–124)
Overweight BMI ≥ 25 to <30 kg/m ²	49/23	49 (18–74)	62 (31–118)
Obese BMI ≥ 30 kg/m ²	11/4	52 (28–68)	55 (38–87)

Table 3 Weight descriptors used in the Cockcroft–Gault equation

Weight descriptor	
ABW	
IBW	49.9 + 0.89 × (height (cm) – 152.4) for men 45.4 + 0.89 × (height (cm) – 152.4) for women
AIBW	IBW + 0.4 × (ABW – IBW)
Benezet [30]	(IBW + ABW)/2
FFM	ABW × (1–0.715) + 12.1 × height (m) ² for men ABW × (1–0.713) + 9.74 × height (m) ² for women
LBM	1.1 × ABW – 0.0128 × BMI × ABW for men 1.07 × ABW – 0.0148 × BMI × ABW for women

ABW actual body weight; IBW ideal body weight; AIBW adjusted ideal body weight; FFM fat-free mass according to Salazar and Corcoran [9]; LBM lean body mass; BMI body mass index

parameters were available as summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

Pharmacokinetics and data analysis

Bias and imprecision of estimates of carboplatin clearance based on diverse weight descriptors (Table 3) are listed in Table 4. In underweight patients the use of lean body mass (LBM) in the Cockcroft–Gault equation was the predictor with the lowest bias and imprecision for carboplatin clearance calculated using the modified Calvert formula. The other weight descriptors resulted in overprediction of the carboplatin clearance. In normal weight patients, actual body weight (ABW), ideal body weight (IBW), adjusted ideal body weight (AIBW) and the Benezet equation resulted in overprediction of the carboplatin clearance, while fat-free mass (FFM) and LBM resulted in slight underprediction of the carboplatin clearance. LBM was the weight descriptor that resulted in the lowest bias and imprecision in normal weight patients. In overweight and obese patients, AIBW, the Benezet equation and ABW

Table 4 Bias and imprecision of estimates of carboplatin clearance based on diverse weight descriptors or using a flat dose as assessed by percentage mean errors

Weight descriptor	Underweight (n = 7)		Normal weight (n = 146)		Overweight (n = 72)		Obese (n = 15)	
	MPE % (95%CI)	MAPE % (95%CI)	MPE % (95%CI)	MAPE % (95%CI)	MPE % (95%CI)	MAPE % (95%CI)	MPE % (95%CI)	MAPE % (95%CI)
ABW	13.9 (-7.06–34.8)	27.5 (18.6–36.4)	15.4 (9.41–21.3)	26.6 (21.8–31.4)	13.9 (6.97–20.7)	23.7 (18.5–29.0)	35.4 (15.0–55.8)	36.8 (17.1–56.5)
IBW	40.2 (7.82–72.6)	45.7 (18.5–73.0)	12.9 (6.60–19.3)	26.9 (21.8–31.9)	-5.22 (-10.6–0.21)	20.1 (17.0–23.1)	-11.4 (-21.9–0.93)	20.4 (14.8–26.0)
AIBW	29.7 (1.92–57.4)	38.1 (17.9–58.2)	13.9 (7.76–20.1)	26.5 (21.6–31.5)	2.41 (-3.55–8.37)	20.0 (16.2–23.8)	7.34 (-6.77–21.4)	21.0 (11.4–30.6)
Benezet [30]	27.0 (0.43–53.6)	36.3 (18.1–54.5)	14.2 (8.04–20.3)	26.5 (21.6–31.4)	4.32 (-1.78–10.4)	20.4 (16.4–24.3)	12.0 (-3.09–27.1)	22.6 (11.3–33.9)
FFM	6.14 (-18.0–30.3)	30.1 (25.1–35.2)	-7.61 (-12.6–2.63)	25.2 (22.1–28.3)	-17.3 (-21.9–12.8)	22.6 (19.5–25.7)	-14.0 (-24.7–3.40)	22.1 (16.3–27.8)
LBM	-0.90 (-21.0–19.2)	24.3 (19.3–29.3)	-7.26 (-12.1–2.41)	24.6 (21.7–27.6)	-15.4 (-20.0–10.7)	21.9 (19.0–24.9)	-15.9 (-25.3–6.45)	21.0 (15.0–27.1)
Flat dose	-2.06 (-12.3–8.13)	8.96 (1.52–16.4)	3.96 (-0.86–8.77)	18.1 (14.2–22.0)	0.91 (-3.99–5.81)	16.4 (13.3–19.5)	-0.59 (-13.1–11.9)	19.1 (11.6–26.7)

ABW Actual body weight; IBW ideal body weight; AIBW adjusted ideal body weight; FFM fat-free mass according to Salazar and Corcoran [9]; LBM lean body mass; underweight, BMI < 18.5 kg/m²; normal weight, BMI ≥ 18.5 to <25 kg/m²; overweight, BMI ≥ 25 to <30 kg/m²; obese, BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²

resulted in overprediction of the carboplatin clearance, more so in obese patients compared to overweight patients. IBW resulted in underprediction of the carboplatin clearance also to a greater extent in obese patients compared to overweight patients. LBM and FFM resulted in comparable underpredictions of the carboplatin clearance in overweight and obese patients. The weight descriptor that resulted in the lowest bias and imprecision in overweight and obese patients is AIBW.

Flat dosing based on the population carboplatin clearance resulted in the lowest bias and imprecision in all the weight categories (Table 4), indicating that the relation between carboplatin clearance and weight is much weaker in this patient population than the Cockcroft–Gault equation would imply. This is also shown in Fig. 1 in which the relation between carboplatin clearance and weight of the patients included in this analysis is depicted. Neither actual body weight nor lean body mass showed a strong relation with carboplatin clearance.

Table 5 summarizes the population pharmacokinetic parameters of carboplatin of the basic model, together with the IIV, IOV and residual variability. IIV was estimated for clearance (CL), volume of distribution (V) and the distribution parameters k₁₂ and k₂₁, whereas IOV was estimated for CL and V. All parameters were estimated with an acceptable precision (coefficient of variation 1.41–30.8%).

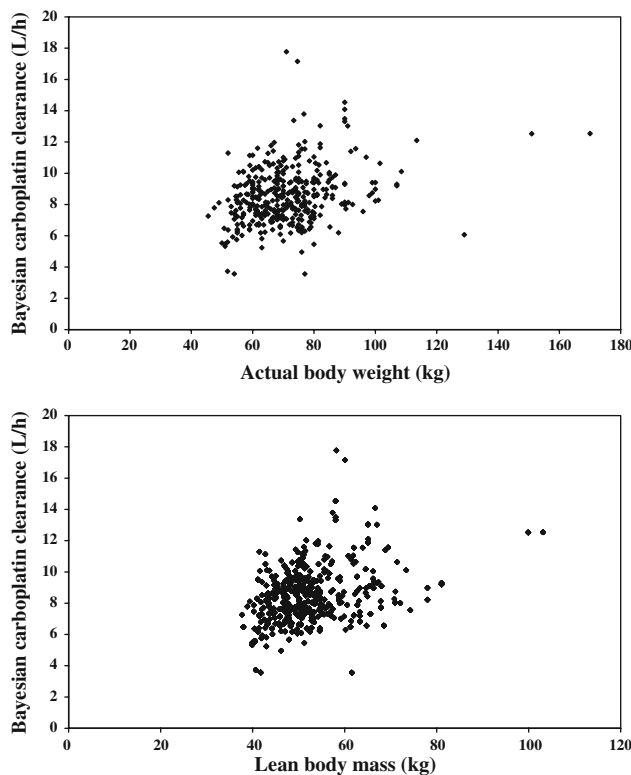


Fig. 1 Relation between carboplatin clearance and weight

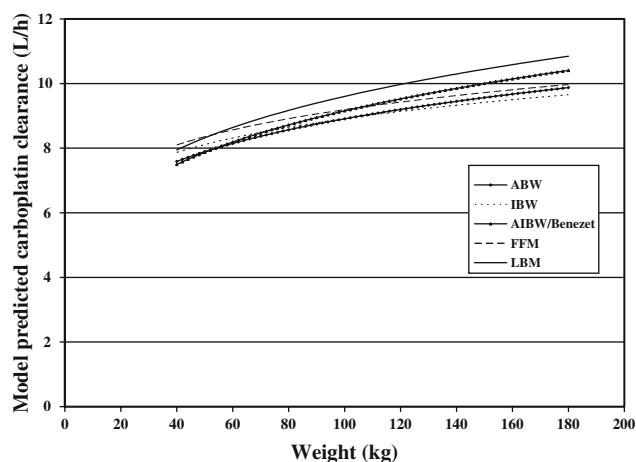


Fig. 2 Model predicted carboplatin clearance versus weight calculated using diverse weight descriptors

Estimation of the allometric coefficient for carboplatin clearance resulted in values ranging from 0.136 to 0.220 for the diverse weight descriptors used (Table 6), indicating that the relation between carboplatin clearance and weight is much weaker than the theoretical allometric coefficient of 0.75. This is also shown graphically in Fig. 2, which shows the relation between weight and carboplatin clearance.

Incorporation of an allometric coefficient did not significantly improve the fit of the model (differences in OFV were less than 6.63) compared to the basic model in which no relation between weight and carboplatin clearance was assumed (Table 6). Nor did it explain a significant part of the interindividual variability in carboplatin clearance. Interindividual variability values of the models incorporating an allometric coefficient (18.5–18.8%) were all in the same range as the basic model (19.4%, Table 6).

Discussion

The proper dosage in overweight and obese individuals is an important subject in clinical practice. With chemotherapeutic agents being dosed by equations incorporating weight, there are concerns about the safety and efficacy in overweight and obese patients [18]. Unfortunately, there is

Table 6 Allometric coefficients for carboplatin clearance using diverse weight descriptors

Weight descriptor	Allometric coefficient (RSE %)	% IIV (RSE %)	Δ OFV (RSE %)
Basic model		19.4 (8.34)	
ABW	0.175 (46.2)	18.7 (8.52)	-6.06
IBW	0.136 (72.9)	18.8 (8.91)	-2.22
AIBW	0.218 (48.6)	18.5 (8.84)	-5.03
Benezet [30]	0.220 (46.8)	18.5 (8.79)	-5.49
FFM	0.138 (72.4)	18.7 (8.73)	-2.57
LBM	0.207 (46.7)	18.5 (8.71)	-5.71

ABW Actual body weight; IBW ideal body weight; AIBW adjusted ideal body weight; FFM fat-free mass according to Salazar and Corcoran [9]; LBM lean body mass; IIV interindividual variability; RSE relative standard error of estimate; Δ OFV difference in objective function value of the model incorporating an allometric coefficient compared to the basic model

a lack of data that addresses this issue. In the current study, we sought to identify which weight descriptor should be used in the Cockcroft–Gault equation to accurately predict the carboplatin clearance in overweight and obese patients. For the proper evaluation of this, we included patients who were treated with a variety of chemotherapeutic regimens all including carboplatin. We have demonstrated that adjusted ideal body weight was the best weight descriptor to be used in the Cockcroft–Gault equation in overweight and obese patients, however, the use of weight descriptors in carboplatin dosing did not improve the dosing accuracy compared to flat dosing.

Carboplatin is eliminated through the kidney by glomerular filtration and tubular secretion. There are several discrepancies regarding the influence of obesity on these functions. While some studies have shown an increase in glomerular filtration, measured using creatinine clearance, in obese women as compared to normal weight women [19–21], others have shown decreased glomerular filtration [22] or no significant difference between creatinine clearance in obese versus non-obese individuals [23, 24]. These discrepancies might be due to the difference in extent of obesity and/or associated renal pathology. Tubular secretion is difficult to ascertain, therefore, conclusions regarding tubular secretion are often indirect. An increase

Table 5 Population pharmacokinetic parameters of carboplatin of the basic model

RSE Relative standard error of estimate; IIV interindividual variability; IOV interoccasion variability; Nd not determined

Parameter	Estimate (RSE %)	% IIV (RSE %)	% IOV (RSE %)
Clearance (L/h)	8.38 (1.41)	19.4 (8.34)	9.14 (9.15)
Volume of distribution (L)	15.4 (1.79)	14.5 (11.7)	10.8 (14.9)
Distribution microconstant k_{12} (h^{-1})	0.135 (7.85)	48.2 (18.9)	Nd
Distribution microconstant k_{21} (h^{-1})	0.215 (5.91)	43.6 (30.8)	Nd
Proportional residual error (%)	19.7 (5.69)		

in renal clearance of ciprofloxacin [23], cimetidine [25] and procainamide [26] accompanied by a disproportionate increase in glomerular filtration was seen in obese individuals. Since the renal excretion of these compounds primarily involves glomerular filtration and tubular secretion, these findings support increased tubular secretion in obese individuals.

The Cockcroft–Gault equation has been shown to be biased and inaccurate in some specific patient groups, such as the obese [6, 27]. Van de Ree et al. compared creatinine clearance as calculated by Cockcroft–Gault to creatinine clearance as determined by 24-h urine collection in obese patients and stated that in view of the influence of body weight on the Cockcroft–Gault equation, this equation should not be used to estimate the GFR in patients with extreme obesity [28]. Spinler et al. showed that the Cockcroft–Gault equation using actual body weight tended to overpredict the creatinine clearance in obese patients, while the modified Cockcroft–Gault equation using ideal body weight tended to underpredict creatinine clearance. The use of adjusted ideal body weight may be more accurate [6].

Several studies have evaluated the performance of different weight descriptors in dosing formulae to predict carboplatin exposure. Herrington et al. showed in 19 patients with a BMI ≥ 27 kg/m² that the use of the adjusted ideal body weight in the Cockcroft–Gault equation led to less bias and more precision than using actual weight [8]. The use of actual weight in obese patients led to an overestimation of the carboplatin clearance and thus carboplatin exposure. Furthermore, Sparreboom et al. showed that when calculating carboplatin doses on the basis of body surface area, either predicted normal weight or the mean of ideal and actual weight, resulted in the best prediction of systemic carboplatin exposure in both obese men and women [29]. Benezet et al. studied the accuracy of the Chatelut formula to predict the carboplatin clearance in a subpopulation of obese patients. They showed that the average of actual body weight and ideal body weight was the best predictor of carboplatin clearance within the formula, integrating body weight, plasma creatinine level, age and sex [30].

In conclusion, these studies showed that neither actual body weight, nor ideal body weight, but an average of both, results in the best prediction of carboplatin clearance in obese patients. These results are in accordance with our study.

In our patient population no strong relation between weight and carboplatin clearance could be demonstrated. This was also seen in a covariate analysis determining the effect of patient-specific factors on carboplatin clearance [31]. It was shown that creatinine clearance determined by the 24 h urine collection method explained almost two-

thirds of the interindividual variability of carboplatin clearance. Height was identified as the second significant covariate of clearance, but accounted for only approximately 10%, while weight was not selected at all.

The extent to which compounds are affected by obesity depends on the lipophilicity of the drug. In general, more lipophilic compounds are affected to a greater extent by obesity than hydrophilic compounds [18]. The excess of adipose tissue in obese patients, has a smaller proportion of water compared to muscle tissue. Carboplatin is hydrophilic in nature and would, therefore, not distribute well through adipose tissue. Thus, carboplatin would not be expected to be influenced by obesity to a great extent. In addition, only lean mass is responsible for production of creatinine. Therefore, weight descriptors that correct for the excess of adipose tissue would be expected to be better predictors of carboplatin clearance than actual body weight.

In a previous study, using approximately the same dataset as this study, we have demonstrated that modification of the Calvert formula by estimating GFR from serum creatinine to calculate an a priori carboplatin dose is not justified in adult patients with normal renal function. No relation between creatinine clearance estimators and carboplatin clearance could be demonstrated in that study [5].

The predominant determinant of carboplatin clearance is the GFR. Although creatinine clearance is widely accepted as a simple measurement of the GFR, it systematically overestimates GFR, owing to creatinine not being solely filtered by the glomerulus but also actively secreted by the proximal tubule. This overestimation of the GFR can also be seen in this study. In normal weight patients ABW, IBW, AIBW or weight calculated with the Benezet equation are all roughly the same. Table 4 shows that the use of the Cockcroft–Gault equation incorporating the aforementioned weight descriptors systematically overestimates carboplatin clearance by around 14% in normal weight patients, due to the active secretion of creatinine.

The current study showed that when using the Cockcroft–Gault equation to calculate an a priori dose of carboplatin, the use of adjusted ideal body weight results in the best prediction in overweight and obese patients. However, without a clear correlation of weight with carboplatin clearance, the use of the Cockcroft–Gault equation to estimate an a priori dose of carboplatin in overweight or obese patients with adequate renal function should be questioned. Our results suggest that a flat dose (carboplatin dose = target AUC \times carboplatin clearance), based on the population carboplatin clearance (8.38 l/h = 140 mL/min), will result in less bias in overweight and obese patients with adequate renal function.

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