

Drug Interactions with Proton Pump Inhibitors

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Contents

Summary	171
1. Interactions with Proton Pump Inhibitors at the Absorption Level	172
2. Interactions with Proton Pump Inhibitors at the Metabolism Level	172
2.1 Metabolism in General	172
2.2 Metabolism of Proton Pump Inhibitors	173
2.3 Cytochrome P450 (CYP)	173
2.4 N-Acetyl Transferase	175
2.5 Unknown Mechanisms	176
3. Clinical Relevance	176
4. Conclusion	176

Summary

Omeprazole, lansoprazole and pantoprazole are all mainly metabolised by the polymorphically expressed cytochrome P450 (CYP) isoform CYP2C19 (*S*-mephenytoin hydroxylase). All 3 proton pump inhibitors have a very limited potential for drug interactions at the CYP level. Small effects on CYP reported for these compounds are usually of no clinical relevance. No dose related adverse effects have been identified, suggesting that the small proportion of slow metabolisers is at no additional risk for clinically important drug interactions.

The absorption of some compounds, e.g. benzylpenicillin (penicillin G), are altered during treatment with proton pump inhibitors as a result of the increased intragastric pH. A synergy has been confirmed between omeprazole and amoxicillin or clarithromycin in the antibacterial effect against *Helicobacter pylori*.

Proton pump inhibitors are substituted benzimidazoles which suppress gastric acid secretion by inhibition of the H⁺,K⁺-ATPase in the parietal cell.^[1-3] The degree of acid inhibition correlates well with the area under the plasma concentration versus time curve (AUC) for omeprazole and is not directly related to the plasma concentration of the drug.^[4] A similar correlation is expected for lansoprazole and pantoprazole. The long duration of

acid inhibition (48 to 72 hours) depends on the prolonged irreversible binding of the active form of the drug (sulphenamide), which is formed and trapped in the acidic compartment of the parietal cell, to the enzyme H⁺,K⁺-ATPase in the parietal cells.^[5]

With the increasing use of proton pump inhibitors in the community it is important to be aware of any potentially clinically relevant drug-drug

interactions. The interactions of omeprazole, lansoprazole and pantoprazole have been extensively reviewed by Andersson^[6] and the present review aims to put emphasis on the potential clinical significance of metabolic drug interactions with these drugs.

1. Interactions with Proton Pump Inhibitors at the Absorption Level

Proton pump inhibitors are rapidly degraded in an acidic milieu and are therefore administered in formulations that aim to avoid contact with acid. Food does not seem to influence the amount of omeprazole that is absorbed,^[7,8] while lansoprazole absorption is both delayed and decreased by food and pantoprazole absorption is delayed by food intake.^[9-11] A plausible explanation might be differences in the acid protective layer of the oral formulation of these drugs, and is not dependent on the drug *per se*. The significance of these findings would probably be less at steady state, i.e. at repeated administration. In addition, there is no effect of antacids on the absorption of omeprazole and pantoprazole, but a slight reduction in bioavailability has been reported for lansoprazole.^[10,12,13]

Following therapeutic doses of proton pump inhibitors, intragastric pH will be elevated from untreated values of pH 1 to 2 to values to around pH 3 to 5 or above.^[14] To overcome the hydrolysis within the normally acidic stomach, a number of antibacterials, such as penicillins and tetracyclines, are formulated as enteric coated tablets or esters.^[15] The rate and/or extent of absorption of such drugs might be altered according to the degree of inhibition of gastric acid secretion, and, thus elevation of pH.

During treatment with omeprazole 20 mg/day the absorption of digoxin and nifedipine was increased by 10% and 26%, respectively, increases considered as unlikely to be of any clinical significance.^[16,17] The urinary excretion of unchanged digoxin was also shown to increase during omeprazole treatment,^[18] which may indicate a corresponding increase in absorption. The absorption of amoxicillin and bacampicillin was not influenced

by omeprazole treatment,^[19] while the absorption of benzylpenicillin was increased by 10-fold.^[20] Any influence of lansoprazole treatment on the absorption of other drugs has not been published. Treatment with pantoprazole 40 mg/day resulted in an increased absorption of digoxin by 10%,^[21] i.e. similar to that reported for omeprazole. A slight increase in the absorption of nifedipine by 7% did not reach statistical significance.^[22] The influence on ketoconazole absorption has not been studied with any of the proton pump inhibitors, but a decreased absorption of this drug is expected.^[23]

In summary, an effect of proton pump inhibitors on the absorption of other drugs that, for various reasons, have a pH dependent absorption process is expected.

2. Interactions with Proton Pump Inhibitors at the Metabolism Level

2.1 Metabolism in General

Metabolism is the overall name for oxidation, hydroxylation, and hydrolysis, mainly associated with the cytochrome P450 (CYP) system of enzymes. It also covers phase II reactions, i.e. conjugation reactions, where the molecule is conjugated to endogenous inactive compounds. CYP includes 13 different families and 22 subfamilies.^[24] Each subfamily contains one or more specific CYP isoforms (>60 in total). The similarity in amino acid sequence of the proteins determines to which family or subfamily they belong. Six different CYP isoforms are of particular importance in drug metabolism in general; CYP1A2, 2C9, 2C19, 2D6, 2E1, and 3A4. Based on which CYP isoform is mainly responsible for the metabolism of the drugs, the relative contribution of this CYP isoform to the total metabolism of the drugs, the relative affinities of the drugs for this CYP isoform, and the relative concentrations of the drugs in the hepatocytes as judged from plasma concentrations, it is possible to predict whether the compounds are likely or not likely to interact with each other on the CYP level.^[6] If 2 drugs are metabolised by the same CYP isoform, a competitive inhibition can be predicted,

and the metabolism of the drug with least affinity to the enzyme will probably be inhibited to varying extent. Most CYP isoforms can be induced, resulting in an increased metabolic rate for substrates of this enzyme.

A couple of the CYP isoforms (CYP2C19 and CYP2D6) are polymorphically expressed, which means that a few individuals, i.e. the poor metabolisers, among the population lack activity of the enzyme.^[25] Metabolism may still occur in such poor metabolisers, although at a slower rate and by other CYP isoforms. Metabolism of a compound via one CYP isoform does not exclude potential for inhibition or induction of other CYP isoforms not being involved in its own metabolism.^[26]

2.2 Metabolism of Proton Pump Inhibitors

The primary and secondary metabolism of omeprazole has been thoroughly investigated, and the major enzyme involved in omeprazole metabolism is CYP2C19 (fig. 1).^[27-34] However, a few individuals lack activity of CYP2C19 (Caucasians $\approx 3\%$, Japanese, Chinese, and Koreans $\approx 15\%$) and metabolise omeprazole more slowly compared to the majority of people.^[27,29-31] These individuals have omeprazole AUCs that are approximately 5 times higher than those seen in an average individual^[6] and plasma elimination half-lives that are approximately 3 times longer (2.1 versus 0.7 hours). CYP3A is to a lesser extent involved in the metabolism of omeprazole, but, since its affinity for CYP2C19 is several fold higher than for CYP3A, omeprazole has a potential to inhibit the metabolism of substrates for CYP2C19 but not substrates for CYP3A. No involvement of the other major CYP isoforms has been demonstrated for omeprazole.

Both lansoprazole^[35] and pantoprazole^[9,36,37] seem to be dependent on these same CYP isoforms for their major metabolism (fig.1). The difference in AUC between CYP2C19 deficient people and average individuals for lansoprazole and pantoprazole is similar to that reported for omeprazole, indicating that an equal proportion of the total metabolism of all 3 compounds is dependent on CYP2C19.^[6] The elimination half-lives in

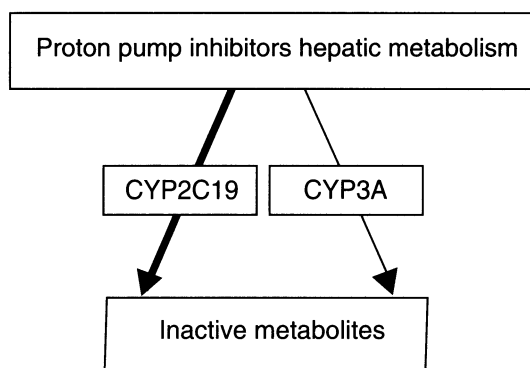


Fig. 1. Metabolism of proton pump inhibitors. Abbreviation: CYP = cytochrome P450.

CYP2C19 deficient individuals were approximately 4 and 6 hours for lansoprazole and pantoprazole, respectively. Corresponding values in normal, rapid metabolisers are approximately 1.5 and 1.3 hours, respectively.^[9,35,37] However, since the elimination half-lives in poor metabolisers in relation to the dosing interval (24 hours) of these compounds still is short, this will probably be of minor clinical relevance.

A summary of the results of interaction studies for omeprazole, lansoprazole and pantoprazole with specific CYP substrates is given in tables I, II and III.

2.3 Cytochrome P450 (CYP)

2.3.1 CYP1A2

CYP1A2 is induced in cigarette smokers and by ingestion of charcoal broiled beef as well as by high intake of cruciferous vegetables.^[38-40] Substrates for this enzyme are, for instance, caffeine, phenacetin and theophylline.^[41-45]

Omeprazole 20 to 40mg given to 'normal' rapid metabolisers does not influence the metabolism of CYP1A2 substrates, but, in slow metabolisers, omeprazole 40mg seems to increase the metabolism of caffeine by 30%.^[46-51] Lansoprazole decreased the theophylline AUC by 13%, indicative of a small induction of CYP1A2.^[52] Intravenous administration of pantoprazole 30mg had no effect on the plasma concentration of theophylline.^[37]

Table I. Interaction studies with omeprazole and cytochrome P450 (CYP) specific substrates

CYP1A2 ^[46-51]	CYP2C9 ^[59-62,65,66]	CYP2C19 ^[59-62,65,66]	CYP2D6 ^[81,82]	CYP2E1 ^[87-90]	CYP3A4 ^[17,99-103]
Caffeine	Phenytoin	Diazepam	Metoprolol	Ethanol	Cyclosporin
Phenacetin	S-Warfarin	Phenytoin ^a	Propranolol ^a		Erythromycin
Theophylline		R-Warfarin ^a			Estradiol
					Lidocaine (lignocaine)
					Nifedipine
					Quinidine

a Partly substrate.

However, since intravenous administration leads to lower exposure of the liver to pantoprazole than oral administration it can be questioned whether oral administration of therapeutic doses (40mg) of pantoprazole would present the same results.

2.3.2 CYP2C9

CYP2C9 is mainly responsible for the metabolism of phenytoin, tolbutamide, and *S*-warfarin, the most potent of the 2 warfarin enantiomers.^[53-58]

Omeprazole 40 mg/day given for 1 week increased plasma phenytoin concentrations by 15 to 20% in 2 independent studies,^[59,60] while a third study showed no effect.^[61] This is probably a result of an inhibition of a minor pathway of phenytoin metabolism mediated via CYP2C19.^[54] Omeprazole 20 mg/day administered for 3 weeks had no effect on the plasma concentration of phenytoin in patients with epilepsy receiving continuous treatment with this agent.^[62] Pantoprazole 40 mg/day and lansoprazole 60 mg/day did not show any significant interaction with phenytoin.^[63,64]

Omeprazole, lansoprazole and pantoprazole had either no effect or only minor effects on the plasma concentrations of *S*-warfarin.^[65-68] In 1 of these studies omeprazole was given to anticoagulated patients receiving continuous treatment with warfarin.^[66]

Omeprazole 40 mg/day has been shown to increase the AUC of tolbutamide by 10%,^[69] but, as for phenytoin, this probably reflects inhibition of a minor metabolic pathway for tolbutamide via CYP2C19.^[56,70] This interaction is of no clinical relevance. Data on lansoprazole and pantoprazole with respect to tolbutamide are lacking.

The effects of omeprazole, lansoprazole, and pantoprazole on the metabolism of CYP2C9 substrates seem to be without clinical significance, both in terms of plasma concentrations and clinical effect on patients.

2.3.3 CYP2C19 (*S*-Mephenytoin hydroxylase)

CYP2C19 (*S*-mephenytoin hydroxylase) is polymorphically expressed and mediates the major metabolic transformations of all 3 proton pump inhibitors referred to in this review. Examples of substrates for CYP2C19 are diazepam and cycloguanil, as well as partly phenytoin, *R*-warfarin, and tolbutamide as indicated in section 2.3.2.^[54,56,58,70-74]

Omeprazole partly inhibits the metabolism of diazepam.^[59,75,76] The clearance of diazepam was decreased by approximately 25% during treatment with omeprazole 20 mg/day. No effect was seen in slow metabolisers, since these individuals lack CYP2C19.^[75] Oral lansoprazole 60 mg/day, and intravenous pantoprazole 240 mg/day, did not inhibit

Table II. Interaction studies with lansoprazole and cytochrome P450 (CYP) specific substrates

CYP1A2 ^[52]	CYP2C9 ^[63,67]	CYP2C19 ^[63,67]	CYP2D6 ^[84]	CYP2E1 ^[91]	CYP3A4
Theophylline	Phenytoin	Diazepam	Propranolol ^a	Ethanol	
	S-Warfarin?	Phenytoin ^a			
		R-Warfarin ^a			

a Partly substrate.

Table III. Interaction studies with pantoprazole and cytochrome P450 (CYP) specific substrates

CYP1A2 ^[37]	CYP2C9 ^[64,68]	CYP2C19 ^[64,68]	CYP2D6 ^[85]	CYP2E1 ^[92]	CYP3A4 ^[22]
Theophylline ^a	Phenytoin S-Warfarin	Diazepam ^a Phenytoin ^b R-Warfarin ^b	Metoprolol	Ethanol	Nifedipine

a Pantoprazole administered intravenously.
b Partly substrate.

the metabolism of diazepam.^[77,78] A 10% increase in the plasma concentrations of *R*-warfarin was demonstrated in 2 studies with omeprazole, one of which was performed in anti-coagulated patients.^[65,66] Omeprazole had no effect on coagulation time in these patients.^[66] Pantoprazole and lansoprazole have not been seen to significantly increase the plasma concentration of *R*-warfarin.^[67,68] The documentation for lansoprazole, though, is scarce.

Omeprazole inhibits the metabolism of substrates for CYP2C19, as indicated by its influence on diazepam, an interaction which probably has no clinical significance. Lansoprazole appears to be a less potent CYP2C19 inhibitor. It is not possible to make an adequate comparison for pantoprazole, since it was administered intravenously.

2.3.4 CYP2C6 (Debrisoquine hydroxylase)

CYP2D6 (debrisoquine hydroxylase) is polymorphically expressed and the frequency of slow/poor metabolisers is approximately 7% among Caucasians, and as low as 1% in Asians.^[79] Various β -blockers, antiarrhythmics, and antidepressants are the most common substrates of CYP2D6.^[6] Omeprazole does not interact with propranolol and metoprolol, lansoprazole does not interact with propranolol and pantoprazole does not interact with metoprolol.^[80-85]

2.3.5 CYP2E1

CYP2E1 metabolises low weight chemicals and a common substrate is ethanol.^[86] None of the proton pump inhibitors reviewed here appear to interfere with the metabolism of ethanol.^[87-92]

2.3.6 CYP3A4

CYP3A4 is probably the most important CYP isoform for drug metabolism in general, because

the majority of drugs tested so far are metabolised via this isoform. Induction can be seen with some commonly used drugs.^[24] Substrates of CYP3A4 are cyclosporin, erythromycin, estradiol, lidocaine (lignocaine), nifedipine, quinidine.^[93-98]

Omeprazole 20 to 40 mg/day did not influence the metabolism of cyclosporin,^[99] erythromycin,^[100] estradiol,^[101] lidocaine,^[102] nifedipine,^[17] or quinidine.^[103] None of the proton pump inhibitors reviewed interact with oral contraceptive pills containing levonorgestrel and ethinylestradiol, which are both potential substrates for CYP3A4.^[104-107] The biotransformation of prednisone to prednisolone and subsequent disposition of prednisolone are not affected by omeprazole or lansoprazole.^[108] A recent study in healthy volunteers suggests that omeprazole treatment increases the AUC of carbamazepine,^[109] a potential substrate for CYP3A4,^[110] but these results contradict a retrospective study in patients receiving continuous carbamazepine treatment.^[111] Omeprazole 120 mg/day, and pantoprazole 40 mg/day, did not change the urinary excretion of 6 β -hydroxycortisol,^[112,113] indicating that these drugs do not induce CYP3A4.

Omeprazole does not interact with the metabolism of CYP3A4 substrates. Data on lansoprazole and pantoprazole are limited but do not suggest any clinically important interactions via CYP3A4.

2.4 N-Acetyl Transferase

N-Acetyl transferase is polymorphically expressed and approximately half of the Caucasian population exhibits slow metabolism of *N*-acetyl transferase substrates, such as isoniazid, procainamide, hydralazine, sulfasalazine, sulfadimidine, dapsone, nitrazepam, and clonazepam.^[114] Om-

omeprazole does not influence the metabolic activity of *N*-acetyl transferase.^[146] Data on lansoprazole and pantoprazole are lacking.

2.5 Unknown Mechanisms

A placebo controlled study of omeprazole 40 mg/day given together with clarithromycin showed a significantly increased AUC for omeprazole but did not alter the intragastric pH.^[115] Also the AUC of clarithromycin was increased significantly. Whether these effects are due to altered absorption or inhibition of metabolism or both is not clear. However, this phenomenon might partly explain the synergism in the anti-bacterial efficacy against *Helicobacter pylori* of concomitant therapy with omeprazole and clarithromycin. Similar interactions might be true also between clarithromycin and lansoprazole or pantoprazole, but corresponding data are lacking.

3. Clinical Relevance

The 3 proton pump inhibitors reviewed seem to have a very limited potential for drug interactions at the CYP level and thus for influencing the metabolism of other drugs, but data on lansoprazole and pantoprazole are limited in this respect.

Slow metabolisers of all 3 proton pump inhibitors exhibit higher than average plasma concentrations of these drugs, as a consequence of the genetic constitution of these individuals; they lack activity of the enzyme (CYP2C19) which is responsible for the major metabolism of omeprazole, lansoprazole, and pantoprazole. Since all 3 compounds are considered well tolerated, and no dose related adverse effects have been identified, this finding is of no clinical relevance.

The absorption of some compounds, e.g. digoxin, might be altered as a result of the increased gastric pH obtained during treatment with proton pump inhibitors. Similar effects are expected irrespective of which proton pump inhibitor is given. Potentially, this type of interaction could have some clinical relevance, but no data are so far available to indicate this. This alteration of absorption might be exploited as an option to allow oral ad-

ministration of acid labile drugs during pronounced acid inhibition replacing the need for intravenous administration.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, omeprazole, lansoprazole, and pantoprazole are structurally very similar, and an evaluation of available data indicate that they demonstrate generally very similar properties with respect to metabolism and interactions. No clinically important interactions have so far been confirmed with these compounds.

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