

Abstract

Background: In vitro and animal studies have shown that moxifloxacin-containing combinations may improve the bactericidal efficacy of antituberculosis regimens. **Patients and methods:** We measured the decline in the sputum viable count of 13 patients who were given a combination of moxifloxacin 400 mg daily and isoniazid 300 mg daily. **Results:** The time required to reduce the viable count by 50% (vt50) was 0.38 days (95% CI -0.03–0.78 days, SEM 0.13) and the mean early bactericidal activity (EBA) was 0.60 log₁₀ cfu/day (95% CI 0.23–0.97, SEM 0.14). This compares with the vt50 calculated for isoniazid and moxifloxacin alone in the same population of 0.48 and 0.88 days, respectively. The EBA values for isoniazid and moxifloxacin alone were 0.77 and 0.53 log₁₀ cfu/day, respectively. **Conclusions:** The combination of moxifloxacin and isoniazid is not antagonistic, but the combination does not significantly enhance bactericidal activity above that of isoniazid alone.