



Short Communication

Compatibility of Intravenous Fat Emulsion and Antibiotics in Secondary Piggyback Transfusion

Nina Chen¹, Shuang Xu², Juanjuan Lin^{1*} and Moslem Lari Najafi³

¹Department of Pediatrics, Xiangyang NO.1 People's Hospital, Hubei University of Medicine, Xiangyang, 441000, China

²Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Xiangyang NO.1 People's Hospital, Hubei University of Medicine, Xiangyang, 441000, China

³Pharmaceutical Sciences and Cosmetic Products Research Center, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran

Nina Chen and Shuang Xu contributed equally to this article.

ABSTRACT

According to the change of fat particle size distribution, this study aimed explore the compatibility of fat emulsion and antibiotics in piggyback infusion. In this study 5% glucose solution, fat emulsion and mixture containing 25 kinds of antibiotics were prepared by the proportion suitable for piggyback infusion (33:10:40). The number of fine particles was analyzed by automatic particle counter. According to results, even 24 h after preparation, 12 β -lactam antibiotics, clindamycin phosphate, teicoplanin, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole and micafungin sodium did not change significantly. The particle size of the mixture containing vancomycin hydrochloride, levofloxacin hydrate, metronidazole and fluconazole increased gradually. The particle size of fosfomycin sodium in the mixture containing gentamicin sulfate, abacain sulfate, minocycline hydrochloride, ciprofloxacin and/ or ciprofloxacin also changed significantly after preparation. We concluded the particle size changes of some drugs indicate that these drugs may cause changes in fat particle size during administration. Therefore, these antibiotic preparations should not be administered in conjunction with fat emulsion.

Article Information

Received 13 November 2020

Revised 28 November 2020

Accepted 31 December 2020

Available online 20 May 2022

(early access)

Authors' Contribution

NC and SX collected the samples. NC and SX analysed the data. JL and MLN conducted the experiments and analysed the results. All authors discussed the results and wrote the manuscript.

Key words

Fat emulsion, Injection, Compatibility, Antibiotics, Piggyback infusion

In total parenteral nutrition (TPN), the administration of fat emulsion can not only serve as an energy source, but also play a key role in preventing essential fatty acid deficiency, liver dysfunction and fatty liver (Danko *et al.*, 2019; Mehta *et al.*, 2017). Fat emulsion is made from soybean oil by emulsifying lecithin with egg yolk, while the influence of divalent cation, amino acid or pH will lead to unstable emulsification and particle coarsening (López *et al.*, 2018; Magriet *et al.*, 2018). Therefore, solutions of TPN preparations containing carbohydrates, electrolytes and amino acids as well as fat emulsions cannot be mixed into a single bag (Broadhurst *et al.*, 2017). On the other hand, the Japanese guidelines for parenteral and enteral nutrition (Mehta *et al.*, 2017) indicate that fat emulsion

can be used as a piggyback infusion of central venous catheters to patients receiving TPN solution. In addition, it was found that fat emulsions were usually administered at a rate of 0.1g/kg/h or less (Mehta *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, when using 250mL of 20% fat emulsion, more than 10h of fat emulsion should be administered in patients weighing 50kg. For patients whose venous routes are difficult to determine, an antimicrobial agent may be administered via a pack-back infusion, with multiple times a day. Therefore, it is speculated that the fat emulsion and antibacterial agent can be mixed when administration. In this study, fat emulsion and antimicrobial agents were used together as piggyback infusion for TPN administration. The mixture of preparations was used as samples, and the particle size of each sample was measured successively by the automatic particle measurement device of shading.

Materials and methods

For fat emulsions, 20% fat emulsion was used (20% 100mL for Intralipos®, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc.). For infusion preparations, a 5% glucose solution (Otsuka Glucose injection 5% 500mL, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc.) was used. In this study, a 5% glucose solution that did not affect the size of the

* Corresponding author: linjuliar@163.com
0030-9923/2022/0001-0001 \$ 9.00/0



Copyright 2022 by the authors. Licensee Zoological Society of Pakistan.

This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

fat emulsion was used as an infusion preparation because the purpose of the study was to elucidate the composition changes of the fat emulsion and the antibiotic agent. A 5% glucose solution was used (Otsuka Glucose injection 5% 100mL, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc.) to dissolve the antibiotic. [Supplementary Table I](#) shows the correspondence between the active ingredients and abbreviations of all the drugs described in this article.

As the dose from the primary line, 25mL/h of fat emulsion and 100mL/h of antibiotic were administered from the backpack mode. For fat emulsion, patients weighing 50kg were administered at a dose rate of 0.1g/kg/h at 20% fat emulsion. The antibiotic agents other than CPFX, MNZ and FLCZ were dissolved in a 5% glucose solution. 33mL of 5% glucose solution, 10mL of fat emulsion, and 40mL of antibiotic in a 100mL glass bottle (Mighty Vials, Maruemu Corporation) and sampled in a 100-grade clean workbench. Mix 5% glucose solution, fat emulsion and antibiotic at a ratio of 33:10:40.

The measurement of insoluble particulate matter was carried out according to the method of “Insoluble particle test for injection, Method 1, Shading particle count Test” in the 16th edition of The Japanese Pharmacopoeia. The optical shield automatic fine particle counter (KL-04A: RION Co., Ltd) was used to count fine particles. Measurements of particle size over a range of 1.3-2, 2-5, 5-10, 10-25, 25-50, 50 μ m or greater were carried out, with quantities recorded. Particle size less than 1.3 μ m was not detectable. The measurement quantity of a sample was set to 5mL and the measurement was made for 4 times. The three measured values after the second measurement were averaged, and the mean value was taken as the finally measured value. Dilute the sample with ultrapure water. After each sample was prepared, 0.5mL was diluted with 80mL of ultra-pure water. The ultrapure water filtered by 0.22 filter was placed for 2 days for degassing, and the insoluble particles were counted by an automatic fine particle counter with light shielding. All instruments used for measuring fine particles were cleaned with ultra-pure water to remove impurities. The solution was measured immediately after preparation and measured at 1, 3, 6, 9, and 24h after preparation. The samples were stored at 25 \pm 1 $^{\circ}$ C under dark conditions. In this study, the number of fine particles was measured for over 24h, and the compatibility also changed when we considered that the number of fine particles changed.

Results and discussion

The measurements of the observed incompatibility samples are shown in [Fig. 1](#). In 12 β -lactam antibacterial agents, no particle size change of 1.3 μ m or greater was observed in CLDM, TEIC, ST and MCFG; in VCM, LVFX,

MNZ and FLCZ, fine particles with diameters of 1.3-2, 2-5 and 5-10 μ m increased after preparation and continued to increase with time; in GM, ABK, MINO, CPFX and FOM, particle size coarsening was observed immediately after sample preparation ([Fig. 1](#)).

Contraindications between fat emulsions and antibiotic drugs do not show any change in the incompatibility with reference to toxicant, PIPC, ABPC/SBT, CEZ, CTM, SBT/CPZ, CTRX, CAZ, CFPM, CMZ, FMOX, IPM/CS, MEPM, GM, CLDM, TEIC, ST and MCFG. There is change in the incompatibility of ABK, MINO, VCM, LVFX, CPFX, FOM, MNZ and FLCZ.

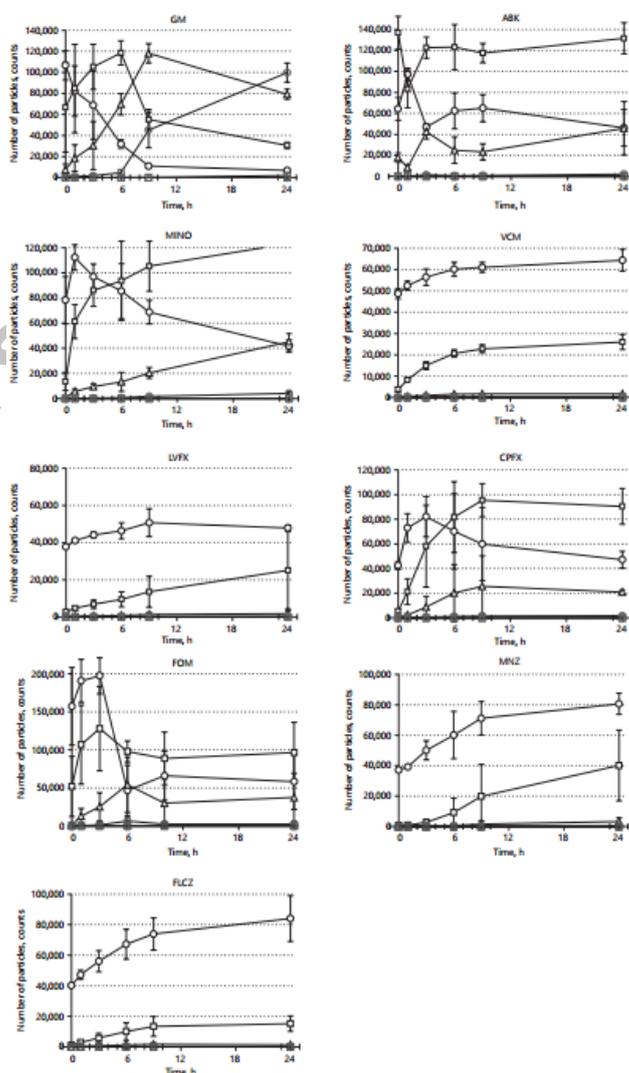


Fig. 1. The number of insoluble fine particles whose particle size varies over time●, 1.3-2 μ m, ■, 2-5 μ m, ▲, 5-10 μ m, ○, 10-25 μ m, □, 25-50 μ m, □, 50 μ m or greater, mean \pm SD, n = 3.

Fat emulsion is a white turbidity preparation. Broadhurst *et al.* (2017) and Yanagisawa (2016) reported that most of the experimental drugs were physically compatible with nine representatives 3 in 1 parenteral nutrient mixture. Drug incompatibility may occur even if it cannot be visually confirmed. The drugs interact with each other. However, it is difficult to be detected with the naked eye due to the coarsening of crude fat particles after mixing with other preparations. However, if the fat particles are large, serious complications may occur, such as pulmonary embolism (Boullata *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, in order to measure the coarsening of fat particles, we adopted the shielded automatic fine particle counter for measurement. During the administration of TPN, 10% to 20% fat emulsion is recommended to meet the total energy requirements (Mehta *et al.*, 2017). Stock *et al.* (2018) and Ramanjaneya *et al.* (2019) reported that fat emulsion should be used at dose of 0.1g/kg/h or lower. During the administration of TPN, the administration of fat emulsion by piggyback infusion mode takes longer time, so antibiotic preparations can also be administered simultaneously.

We investigated compatibility changes between 25 antibiotics and fat emulsions. We found no incompatibility when mixing a 100mL 20% fat emulsion with a 500mL 5% glucose solution (Boullata *et al.*, 2013). As the purpose of the study was to study the composition changes of fat emulsions and antibiotic agents, 5% glucose solution was used as an infusion preparation in the study. Among the 12 β -lactam antimicrobials, no changes in the size of fat emulsions were observed in CLDM, TEIC, ST and MCFG, as was the case with 5% glucose solution alone. Coarsening of particle size can be observed in other antibiotic agents. Factors affecting the accumulation of fat particles include temperature (Watrobska *et al.*, 2019), pH, sugar, electrolytes, amino acids, and plasma increments such as glucan or gelatin preparations (Magriet *et al.*, 2018). The pH of the neutral region does not significantly affect the stability of the fat particles, but in the acidic region, the fat particles become unstable to a certain extent. The pH values of MINO, VCM, LVFX and CPFX are all in the acidic region. In particular, since the pH value of MINO is 2.0-3.5 and the pH value of VCM is 2.5-4.5, both of them are under strong acidic conditions, which will lead to particle coarsening due to their influence on the stability of fat particles. Since lecithin is an amphoteric surfactant, it acts as an emulsifier for fat emulsifiers, and the surface of fat particles is weakly charged. Therefore, especially when there is cation with two or more valence, the electrical repulsion between fat particles will be significantly weakened, and the aggregation of fat particles will be converted into emulsification and oil droplets

separation, and emulsion collapse will occur (López *et al.*, 2018; Magriet *et al.*, 2018). Our study found that when saline was mixed with 20% fat emulsion in a ratio of 5:1, the fat particles became coarse (Broadhurst *et al.*, 2017). Although not shown in this data, no change in the number of fine particles was observed in sodium chloride solutions with a sodium concentration of 77.0mEq/L or lower. It can be seen from the above results that coarsening occurs not only in divalent or more valence cations, but also in univalent cations containing sodium ions. NaCl, as a component of normal saline, has strong polarity. Therefore, in the solution mixed with fat emulsion, it is believed that fat emulsion will destroy the charge balance, resulting in instability and roughness. Sodium ions are present in many antibiotic agents (Supplementary Table I). FOM contains 28.98mEq sodium ions. When it is dissolved in 100mL 5% glucose solution, the sodium concentration is 289.8mEq/L, which is almost twice the concentration of normal saline sodium. As normal saline is used as diluents for CPFX, MNZ and FLCZ, it can be seen that the sodium concentration is very high, as shown in Supplementary Table I. Therefore, the high concentration of sodium in the sample may be the factor leading to the coarsening of fat emulsion particle size. Sodium ions are also included in other antimicrobials. However, the sodium concentration in these antibiotics is within the range of 0.2-50.2mEq/L, and if the sodium concentration is low, there is no effect on the fat emulsion. GM and ABK are both basic substances with high polarity. Due to the charge deviation caused by the influence of multiple amino groups and reducing sugars, it is believed that the size coarsening of fat emulsions occurred in the samples.

In this study, to investigate the effect of antibiotic agents on fat emulsions, 5% glucose solution that did not affect the size of fat emulsions was used as an infusion preparation from the primary line, and the TPN solution containing glucose, electrolyte and amino acid was used as the infusion preparation from the primary production line. Since the electrolyte composition of the TPN solution was the maintenance solution, its sodium concentration was about 50mEq/L. In this study, of the 12 β -lactam antibiotics dissolved in 5% glucose solution, the content of sodium ABPC/SBT was the highest, which was 50.2mEq/L. The concentration of sodium in the solution prepared by mixing TPN solution with ABPC/SBT at a ratio of 33:40 was about 50mEq/L. By mixing, the amount of divalent cations and amino acids contained in the TPN solution was approximately half that which caused the coarsening of fat emulsion. In the study of the piggyback administration of fat emulsion using TPN solution, the average particle size and the proportion of coarse particles with diameter of 5 μ m or greater as defined in USP32/NF27 general test

method 729 were significantly less than the reference value (Gallegos *et al.*, 2012), which is consistent with the results of (Jonckers *et al.*, 2014). In a mixture of 5% glucose and TPN solutions containing β -lactam antibiotic preparation, the sodium concentration was approximately the same as that of the TPN solution, and the amount of divalent cations and amino acids was approximately half. The effect of fat emulsion on particle size in mixed solution was estimated to be smaller than that of single dose of TPN solution.

In this study, we investigated the effect of antibiotic preparations on the particle size of fat emulsion. Moreover, we must also consider incompatibility of fat emulsion with other drugs. As the TPN solution contains calcium ions, ceftriaxone sodium becomes ceftriaxone calcium salt and causes crystal precipitation when the CTRX of the antibiotic agent is administered in conjunction with the infusion preparation containing calcium. Death case has been reported due to the formation of ceftriaxone calcium salt crystals in the lungs and kidneys (Lacroix *et al.*, 2019; Gessese *et al.*, 2017; Yao *et al.*, 2012). When the infusion agent from the mainline and the infusion agent from the saddle line come into contact with each other, a change in composition of precipitation will be resulted. In this case, drugs that may cause changes in compatibility with TPN infusion need to be avoided in the piggyback administration. If necessary, another drug must be considered (Duan *et al.*, 2020). Antibiotics are not only dissolved in 5% glucose solution, but also in normal saline solution. Based on these results, we conclude that the sodium content of the drug is an important factor leading to the coarsening of fat emulsions, and that saline solution should therefore be avoided in the application of antibiotics from backpack lines (Jia *et al.*, 2020).

Of the 12 β -lactam antibiotics, for CLDM, TEIC, ST, and MCFG, no coarsening of fat emulsion particle was observed in the mixture of fat emulsions and antibiotic compositions even after 24h. The fat emulsion became coarser in the mixture of aminoglycosides, quinolones, MINO, VCM, FOM, MNZ and FLCZ antibiotics. In view of these results, these drugs should be administered by other routes instead of being applied with TPN solution. If it is difficult to ensure alternative routes, the lines must be flushed with saline before and after the administration of these drugs.

Supplementary material

There is supplementary material associated with this article. Access the material online at: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17582/journal.pjz/20201113161154>

Statement of conflict of interest

The authors have declared no conflict of interest.

References

- Boullata, J.I., Guenter, P. and Mirtallo, J.M., 2013. *J. Parenter. Enteral Nutr.*, **37**: 212-222. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0148607112464781>
- Broadhurst, D., Moureau, N. and Ullman, A.J., 2017. *J. Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs.*, **44**: 211-220. <https://doi.org/10.1097/WON.0000000000000322>
- Danko, M., Żyła-Pawlak, A. and Książyk, J., 2019. *Nutrients*, **11**: 2495. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu11102495>
- Duan, F., Hu, M. and Guo, C., 2020. *Chem. Eng. J.*, **398**: 125452. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2020.125452>
- Gallegos, C., Valencia, C. and Partal, P., 2012. *Am. J. Hlth. Syst. Pharm.*, **69**: 1332-1335. <https://doi.org/10.2146/ajhp110520>
- Gessese, Y.A., Damessa, D.L. and Amare M.M., 2017. *Antimicrob. Resist. Infect. Contr.*, **6**: 132. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-017-0289-6>
- Jia, Q., Li, Z. and Guo, C., 2020. *Chem. Eng. J.*, **389**: 124468. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2020.124468>
- Jonckers, T., Berger, I. and Kuijten, T., 2014. *Neonatal Netw.*, **33**: 133-137. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0730-0832.33.3.133>
- Lacroix, C., Kheloufi, F. and Montastruc, F., 2019. *J. Neurol. Sci.*, **398**: 196-201. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jns.2019.01.018>
- López-Jaramillo, P., Otero, J. and Camacho, P.A., 2018. *Colomb. Med. (Cali)*, **49**: 175-181. <https://doi.org/10.25100/cm.v49i2.3840>
- Magriet, M., Tredoux, A.G.J. and Villiers, A.D., 2018. *J. Chromatogr. A.*, **1571**: 107-120. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chroma.2018.08.004>
- Mehta, N.M., Skillman, H.E. and Irving, S.Y., 2017. *J. Parenter. Enteral Nutr.*, **41**: 706-742. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0148607117711387>
- Ramanjaneya, M., Jerobin, J. and Bettahi, I., 2019. *Clin. Endocrinol. (Oxf)*, **91**: 278-287. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cen.14007>
- Stock, E.O., Ferrara, C.T. and O'Connor, P.M., 2018. *J. Clin. Fatol.*, **12**: 99-109. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacl.2017.11.001>
- Watrobska-Swietlikowska, D., 2019. *PLoS One*, **14**: e0214451. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0214451>
- Yanagisawa, K., 2016. *Yakushigaku Zasshi*, **51**: 40-57.
- Yao, Y., Zhou, R. and Wang, Y., 2012. *Pharmacoepidemiol. Drug Saf.*, **21**: 1197-1201. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pds.3232>



Supplementary Material

Compatibility of Intravenous Fat Emulsion and Antibiotics in Secondary Piggyback Transfusion

Nina Chen¹, Shuang Xu², Juanjuan Lin^{1*} and Moslem Lari Najafi³

¹Department of Pediatrics, Xiangyang NO.1 People's Hospital, Hubei University of Medicine, Xiangyang, 441000, China

²Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Xiangyang NO.1 People's Hospital, Hubei University of Medicine, Xiangyang, 441000, China

³Pharmaceutical Sciences and Cosmetic Products Research Center, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran

Nina Chen and Shuang Xu contributed equally to this article.

Online First Article

* Corresponding author: linjuliar@163.com
0030-9923/2022/0001-0001 \$ 9.00/0



Copyright 2022 by the authors. Licensee Zoological Society of Pakistan.

This article is an open access  article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Supplementary Table I. Antibiotic agents used in the experiment.

Active component	Abbreviation	Name of drug	Company	Concentration *, mg / mL	Batch No.	The concentration of sodium mEq/L	
Penicillin	- Piperacillin sodium 管	Penicillin®	Fushan Chemical	10	UE4371	19.30	
Cephalosporin	- Sulbactam sodium/ampicillin sodium	Uhasyn®-S	Pfizer Japan	15	M06441	50.20	
	- Cefazolin sodium hydrate	Cefamezin®α	Astellas Pharma	10	L033F01	22.00	
	- Cefotiam hydrochloride	Pansporin®	Teva Takeda Pharmaceutical	10	HL024	15.30	
Carbapenems	- Sulbactam sodium/cefoperazone sodium	sulperazone®	Pfizer Japan	10	1637109	29.30	
	- Ceftriaxone sodium hydrate	Ceftriaxone®	Chugai Pharma China	10	14030A	36.10	
	- Cefazidime hydrate	Modacin®	GlaxoSmithKline KK	10	6351B	22.00	
	- Cefepime Dihydrochloride hydrate	Maxipime®	Bristol-Myers Squibb	10	MXH2500	-	
	- Cefmetazole	CMZ	Daiichi Sankyo Company	10	JPA1045	21.60	
	- Flomoxef sodium	Flomoxef	Shionogi & Co.	10	5049	29.00	
	- Imipenem hydrate / cilastatin sodium	IPM/CS	MSD KK	5	6BS03P	16.30	
	- Meropenem hydrate	耳目	Meropen®	Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma	5	2354C	19.60
	Aminoglyco-sides	- Gentamycin sulfate	Gentacin®	MSD KK	0.40	CG1123	0.24
	Tetracycline	- Abeckacin sulfate	Habekacin®	Meiji Seika Pharma	0.98	HKAMN1102	2.30
- Clindamycin phosphate		Dalacin®s	Pfizer Japan	5.77	R42345	-	
- Minocycline hydrochloride		Mino	Pfizer Japan	1	Q05042	-	
Glycopeptide	- Vancomycin hydrochloride	Vancomycin	Shionogi & Co.	5	0164	-	
	- Teicoplanin	Targocid®	Sano K K	2	6181A	4.50	
Quinolones	- Levofloxacin hydrate	Ofloxacin®	Daiichi Sankyo Company	4.17	ZGA0085	-	
	- Ciprofloxacin	CPFX	Bayer Yakuhin	2**	JP10125	154.00	
Other	- Fosfomycin sodium	Fosmicin®-S	Meiji Seika Pharma	20	FOLDN1202	290.00	
	- Trimethoprim / sulfamethoxazole	Bactrimin®	Chugai Pharma China Co.	methoxybenzyl amino-pyrimidine 0.76	14G011A	-	
Fluconazole	- Metronidazole	Anemetro®	Pfizer Japan	sulfamethoxazole 3.815**	590301	135.00	
	- Anti-fungal	Micafen sodium net MCFG	Astellas Pharma	0.25	025860	0.20	
		FLCZ	FIDluconazole®	1**	1592202	154.00	

Test in 5% 100mL glucose solution unless otherwise stat.