


Pharmacokinetics of antiretroviral and tuberculosis drugs in children with HIV/TB co-infection: a systematic review

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Introduction: Management of concomitant use of ART and TB drugs is difficult because of the many drug–drug interactions (DDIs) between the medications. This systematic review provides an overview of the current state of knowledge about the pharmacokinetics (PK) of ART and TB treatment in children with HIV/TB co-infection, and identifies knowledge gaps.

Methods: We searched Embase and PubMed, and systematically searched abstract books of relevant conferences, following PRISMA guidelines. Studies not reporting PK parameters, investigating medicines that are not available any longer or not including children with HIV/TB co-infection were excluded. All studies were assessed for quality.

Results: In total, 47 studies met the inclusion criteria. No dose adjustments are necessary for efavirenz during concomitant first-line TB treatment use, but intersubject PK variability was high, especially in children <3 years of age. Super-boosted lopinavir/ritonavir (ratio 1:1) resulted in adequate lopinavir trough concentrations during rifampicin co-administration. Double-dosed raltegravir can be given with rifampicin in children >4 weeks old as well as twice-daily dolutegravir (instead of once daily) in children older than 6 years. Exposure to some TB drugs (ethambutol and rifampicin) was reduced in the setting of HIV infection, regardless of ART use. Only limited PK data of second-line TB drugs with ART in children who are HIV infected have been published.

Conclusions: Whereas integrase inhibitors seem favourable in older children, there are limited options for ART in young children (<3 years) receiving rifampicin-based TB therapy. The PK of TB drugs in HIV-infected children warrants further research.

Introduction

Currently, TB is the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, followed by HIV.^{1,2} In 2018, approximately 1.7 million children <15 years old were living with HIV, of whom 100 000 died.¹ Mortality amongst HIV-infected children has dramatically decreased worldwide with the introduction of combination ART.^{3,4}

However, only half of children aged <15 years needing ART are estimated to be receiving it.⁵ TB is the single largest cause of death among HIV-infected patients.² The WHO estimated that 1.1 million children developed TB in 2018 and 205 000 children died from TB disease, including 32 000 children with HIV.² The incidence of TB has decreased⁶ and TB treatment outcome has improved⁷

amongst HIV-infected children since the introduction of paediatric ART.⁸ About 23% of the global population has latent TB infection (LTBI), of whom about 5%–10% eventually develop TB with increased risk in children and people living with HIV.⁹ Both ART and LTBI treatment reduce TB incidence in adults, but the benefit of LTBI treatment in HIV-infected children is unclear.¹⁰

Children living with HIV are eight times more likely to develop TB in moderate and high endemic areas for TB compared with HIV-uninfected children.¹¹ Even when on successful ART, TB is an important cause of illness in HIV-infected patients.¹² Both infections negatively influence progression and treatment outcome of the other infection.¹³ Therefore, effective treatment strategies and treatment optimization are needed to achieve control of both HIV and TB simultaneously. However, management of concomitant use of ART and TB treatment is challenging because of adherence issues, overlapping toxicities, risk of immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome and drug–drug interactions (DDIs).¹⁴

Dose recommendations for paediatric ART are often based on small studies, but paediatric ART dose optimization is becoming increasingly important in drug development.¹⁵ There are, however, still many knowledge gaps concerning ART in children receiving concomitant TB treatment, and vice versa.¹⁶ First-line treatment of drug-susceptible TB in children consists of isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide and ethambutol for 2 months, followed by isoniazid and rifampicin for 4 months. These medicines have been used in children for more than 40 years, initially at mg/kg doses similar to those in adults. However, exposure to (adult-dosed) TB drugs in paediatric pharmacokinetic (PK) studies was low compared with that in adults.^{17,18} Hence, since 2010, higher mg/kg doses are recommended for children.¹⁹ Rifabutin is also used for treatment of adult TB, but it is rarely used in children due to minimal paediatric clinical data, few paediatric formulations, limited global availability and high prices.²⁰ Rifapentine (RPT) has recently been registered for children down to 2 years old for treatment of LTBI.¹⁰ However, it is also not used frequently in children due to availability issues and high prices.²¹ Paediatric dose recommendations for some drugs used for MDR-TB and HIV have only been established recently.²² Therefore, PK assessments of various MDR-TB drugs and new antiretrovirals (ARVs) have not yet been done in children with HIV-associated TB.²³

HIV and TB drug PK parameters are significant determinants of clinical response to treatment.^{15,24} Efficacy of most ARVs is related to trough plasma concentration (C_{trough}) and to a lesser extent to AUC,¹⁵ whereas for TB treatment efficacy relates mostly to AUC and C_{max} .²⁴ PK targets for children and correlation with efficacy and toxicity are generally extrapolated from adult data.²⁵ For TB treatment in children with HIV, low C_{max} values of rifampicin and pyrazinamide are associated with TB treatment failure.²⁶ There are many DDIs between ART and TB treatment; the most clinically significant is due to induction of many enzyme systems (see Figure 1) responsible for metabolism of ARVs by rifampicin.¹⁶ Frequently, dose adjustments are needed to overcome DDIs, or patients are switched to other ARVs when TB drugs are used concomitantly. On the other hand, PK of TB drugs can be altered in patients with HIV.²⁷ Examples are effects of efavirenz on bedaquiline and moxifloxacin PK through enzyme induction, or lower exposure to TB drugs due to malabsorption that is believed to be caused by malnutrition, diarrhoea or infections in children with HIV.²⁸ Dose recommendations for management of DDIs in

children are often extrapolated from adults. Differences in children's physiology, such as plasma protein binding, maturation of metabolizing enzymes and development of renal function, compared with adults can however affect drug exposure in the body and may also change the magnitude of DDIs.²⁹ Therefore, it is of utmost importance to conduct PK interaction studies in children to evaluate proposed dosing regimens in children who are HIV/TB co-infected.

This systematic review aims to identify all literature about PK of ART and TB treatment with currently available drugs in children with HIV-associated TB, evaluate PK parameters in these studies in comparison with adult data and create an overview of the current state of knowledge. Moreover, we want to identify knowledge gaps and explore future challenges and opportunities in HIV/TB PK research in children.

Methods

This systematic review was carried out in accordance with Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement to ensure systematic data collection and analysis of the literature.³⁰

The literature search was performed in July 2019 (updated in March 2020) in both PubMed and Embase for studies about PK of ARVs or TB treatment in HIV/TB-co-infected children, with no restrictions for languages and dates. In addition, we applied the snowballing method (searching reference lists of similar studies for relevant articles) to find additional scientific papers within the scope of the review. Abstract books of relevant conferences (listed in the [Supplementary data](#), available as [Supplementary data](#) at JAC Online) were screened for additional unpublished data related to the subject. The PubMed search included Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) as well as non-MeSH key terms for TB treatment, ART, children and PK using Boolean operators. The full search strategies for both databases are included in the [Supplementary data](#). All titles and abstracts were exported into Endnote version X9 to remove duplicates and manage references. The selection process of the relevant literature was conducted by two researchers (T.G.J. and A.C.) independently. All discrepancies were discussed until consensus on the final list of included references was reached.

Eligible studies had to report on PK parameters of TB treatment or ART in children with HIV-associated TB. Studies were excluded if no children with HIV/TB co-infection were included, no relevant PK data were reported, all results were previously published in other manuscripts without conducting new analyses or the medicines reported on are not used any longer. Due to heterogeneity of study settings, treatment, PK sampling strategy, management of DDIs and outcomes, we conducted narrative data syntheses. Information about PK parameters relating to efficacy/toxicity of the medications was extracted from the studies: AUC, C_{max} , trough plasma concentration C_{trough} and percentage within therapeutic range. Relative clearance and bioavailability were extracted from PK modelling studies. Quality was assessed by two researchers (T.G.J. and A.C.) using the evidence evaluation and synthesis system of DDIs described by Seden *et al.*³¹ (see [Supplementary data](#)); disagreements were resolved by consensus or referral to a third reviewer (E.S.).

Results

In total, 47 studies met the inclusion criteria (see the PRISMA flow chart in Figure 2): 39 were identified by literature search, 5 by the snowballing method and 3 from conference abstract books. Non-compartmental PK analysis was used in 32 studies, whereas 15 used PK modelling to estimate relevant PK parameters. Three studies assessed PK parameters of integrase strand inhibitors (INSTIs), there was one study of NRTIs, 12 of NNRTIs, 9 of PIs, 13

	CYP1A2	CYP2A6	CYP2B6	CYP2C8	CYP2C9	CYP2C19	CYP2D6	CYP3A4	CYP3A5	NAT	Hepatic *	Albumin	UGT1A1	UGT1A9	UGT2B7	P-gp	Renal
INSTIs																	
Bictegravir																	
Cabotegravir																	
Dolutegravir													X				
Eltigravir/c													X(M)				
Raltegravir													X				
PIs																	
Azidovir																	
Azidovir/c																	
Azidovir																	
Dolutegravir																	
Dolutegravir/c																	
Lopinavir																	
Tenofovir																	
NRTIs																	
Doravirine																	
Efavirenz																	
Etravirine																	
Nevirapine																	
Rilpivirine																	
NRTIs																	
Abacavir																	
Emtricitabine																	
Lamivudine																	
Tenofovir alafenamide																	
Tenofovir disoproxil																	
Zidovudine																	
CCR5 antagonist																	
Maraviroc																	
1st line TB treatment																	
Ethambutol																	
Isoniazid																	
Pyrazinamide																	
Rifampicin																	
Rifabutin																	
Rifapentine																	
2nd line TB treatment																	
Bedaquiline																	
Linezolid																	
Levofloxacin																	
Moxifloxacin																	
Clofazimine																	
Cycloserine																	
Aminoglycosides																	
Carbamapentem																	
Delamanid																	
Ethionamide																	
P-aminio salicylic acid																	

Figure 1. Metabolic pathways and inducing/inhibitory potential of antiretroviral and TB drugs. X(M) = main metabolic pathway; green box = induction; red box = inhibition; yellow box = both induction and inhibition; X(U) = other hepatic metabolic pathway or unknown metabolic pathway. This figure appears in colour in the online version of JAC and in black and white in the print version of JAC.

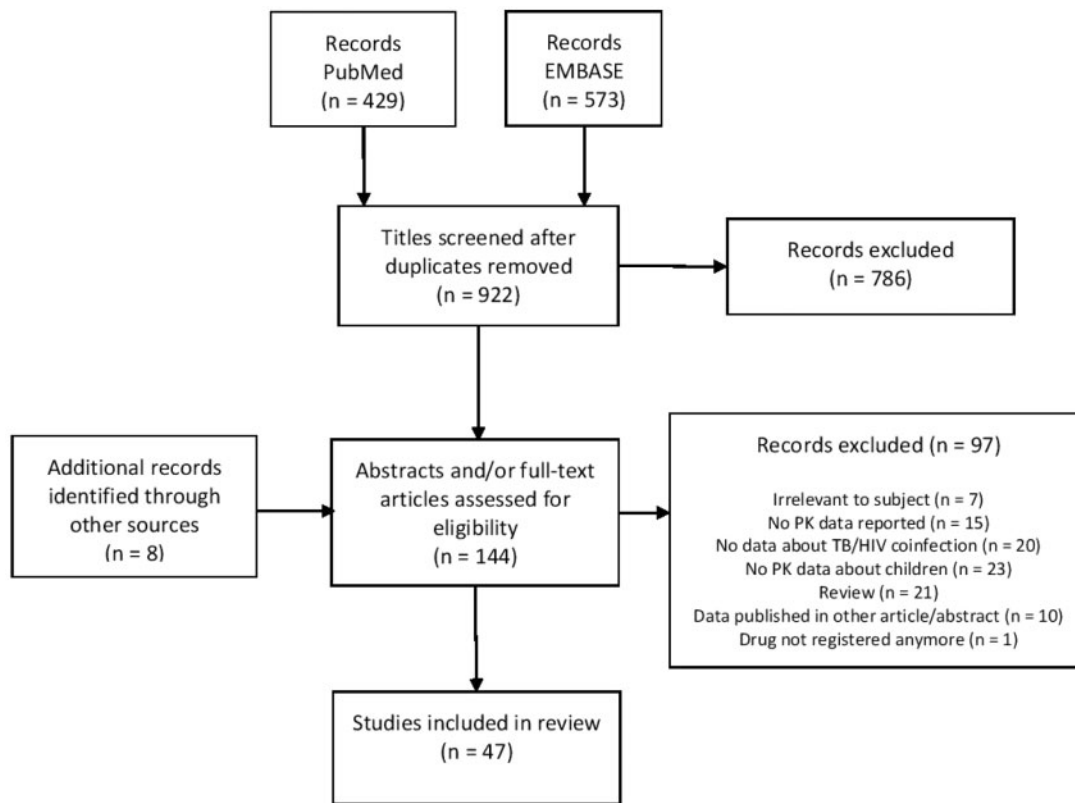


Figure 2. PRISMA flow chart.

assessed the PK of TB treatment, 8 of MDR-TB treatment and one assessed the PK of a first-line TB drug used for LTBI treatment. All study characteristics as well as quality assessments of the studies are reported in Table 1 (DDIs) and Table 2 (PK of first-line TB drugs in children with HIV/TB co-infection). Information about the mechanism of interaction and PK data in adults is shown to compare the DDI effect size in children with that in adults.

Effects of TB drugs on ART

Drugs used for TB treatment affect PK parameters of many ARVs. Rifampicin is a strong inducer of cytochrome P450 (CYP)2B6, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6, CYP3A4, UDP-glucuronosyltransferase (UGT) and P-glycoprotein (P-gp).³² The induction potential of rifapentine is slightly less than or comparable to that of rifampicin. Very few studies have directly assessed differences in DDI magnitude between ART and rifapentine or rifampicin.^{33,34} Rifabutin is known to be a less potent CYP inducer compared with rifampicin and rifapentine.³⁵ Isoniazid is known to inhibit CYP2C9, CYP2C19, and CYP2E1 and CYP3A4 to some extent,³⁶ but the inhibiting effect of isoniazid is outweighed by the strong inducing effect of rifampicin when both are used in combination. Rifampicin and rifabutin are mainly used for treatment of TB, whereas rifapentine is predominantly used for LTBI treatment, and isoniazid is used for both treatments. The effects of TB treatment (perpetrator drugs) on ARVs (victim drugs) in children are described below.

Integrase strand transfer inhibitors

A dolutegravir-based ART regimen has recently been included in the WHO guidelines as the preferred first-line regimen in children weighing >20 kg.³⁷ Dolutegravir is primarily metabolized by UGT1A1 and to some extent by CYP3A, while rifampicin strongly induces those enzymes,³² leading to lower dolutegravir exposure in adults (AUC_{0-tau} -54%; C_{trough} -72%).³⁸ It has been shown in adults receiving rifampicin that increasing dolutegravir dose to 50 mg twice daily (q12h) is safe and results in a similar exposure compared with dolutegravir 50 mg once daily (q24h) without rifampicin (AUC_{0-24h} +33%; C_{trough} +22%).^{38,39} Co-administration of dolutegravir q12h and rifampicin has been investigated in 13 children 6–18 years old with HIV and TB, receiving either 25 mg or 50 mg dolutegravir q12h. An intrasubject comparison of dolutegravir PK parameters on TB treatment (q12h dolutegravir dosing) with dolutegravir PK parameters after stopping TB treatment (with rifampicin) showed that the AUC_{0-24h} was similar for both situations. Moreover, while on dolutegravir q12h with rifampicin, all children had therapeutic C_{trough} , and no safety issues in this study were related to dolutegravir.⁴⁰ Twice-daily dolutegravir dosing in children >6 years old, following the 2019 WHO dose recommendation for children, is assumed to be safe and sufficient to attenuate the interaction with rifampicin. More research is needed to strengthen these results and evaluate the strategy in younger children and when the adult dose of 50 mg dolutegravir is given to children of 20–25 kg.

Raltegravir is predominantly metabolized by UGT1A1. PK data of raltegravir seem different in HIV/TB-co-infected adults

Table 1. Characteristics of studies investigating DDIs between ARVs and TB drugs

Reference	Study design	No. of subjects (co-infected)	Age of subjects (IQR/range/SD as reported)	PK drug; dose	PK parameters	Without perpetrator (IQR/range/SD as reported)	With perpetrator (IQR/range/SD as reported)	Effect (P value)	Conclusion	Quality of evidence
Protease inhibitors Archary, M, et al. (2018) ⁹⁹	PopPK evaluating LPV PK in malnourished children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on super-boosted LPV/r + RIF-ATT	62 [20 (10 early start, 10 late)]	Mean (SD): Early: 15.5 months (16.3) Delayed: 14.59 months (10.8)	LPV/r; WHO weight band dosage	ATT as covariate in LPV PK model	NR	NR	NS	Super-boosted LPV/r in HIV/TB-infected malnourished children resulted in similar LPV exposure compared with children without ATT	Low
Elsheibiny, D. et al. (2010) ⁹⁷	PopPK evaluating LPV PK in children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on super-boosted LPV/r + RIF-ATT	30 (15) + intrasubject	0.57–4.23 years No TB 9–47 months; TB 7–34 months	LPV/r; WHO weight band dosage q12h or 4x higher RTV	Relative clearance (L/h)	0.9	1.26	+40%	Super-boosted LPV/r with RIF resulted in a slight increase in clearance, but with adequate predicted C _{trough} values	Moderate
McIlleron H. et al. (2011) ¹⁰⁰	NCA PK evaluating LPV PK in children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on double-dosed LPV/r + RIF-ATT	44 (20)	Median (IQR): HIV/TB: 1.25 years (0.98–1.93) HIV: 1.59 years (1.15–2.23)	LPV/r q12h 230/57.5 (no TB) LPV q12h 460/115 mg/m ² (double dose)	AUC _{0–8h} (mg·h/L) C _{max} (mg/L) C _{trough} (mg/L) C _{trough} <1.0 mg/L (%)	49.2 (40.7–86.6) 7.9 (6.9–13.4) 4.2 (4.3–8.1) 8%	23.9 (13.8–49.6) 4.5 (2.5–8.2) 0.7 (0.1–2.0) 60%	-51.4% (0.008) -43.0% (0.008) -83.3% (<0.001) <0.001	Double-dosed LPV/r resulted in inadequate lopinavir concentrations in young children treated concurrently with rifampicin	High
Rabie, H. et al. (2019) ⁹⁸	PopPK evaluating LPV PK in children with HIV/TB on super-boosted LPV/r + RIF-ATT and off ATT	96 (96) (intrasubject)	Median (IQR): 18.2 months (9.6–26.8)	LPV/r; WHO weight band dosage q12h or 4x higher RTV	C _{trough} <1.0 mg/L (%)	8.8% (95% CI 0.6–19.8)	7.6% (0.4–16.2)	NS	Super-boosted LPV/r during RIF-based ATT was non-inferior to the exposure LPV/r without rifampicin	High
Rabie, H. et al. (2019) ¹⁰²	NCA PK evaluating LPV PK in children with HIV/TB on 8-hourly LPV/r + RIF-ATT	11 (11)	Median (IQR): 15 months (12.6–28.8)	LPV/r; WHO weight band dosage q12h or TDS	Median (IQR): AUC _{2–10h} LPV AUC _{2–10h} RTV (mg·h/L) C _{max} LPV C _{max} RTV (mg/L) C _{trough} LPV C _{trough} RTV (% <1.0 mg/L) (% <0.1 mg/L)	- -	48.7 (4.6–72.7) 2.09 (0.41–3.34)	- -	These PK parameters do not support the use of an 8-hourly dosing regimen for LPV/r in children using RIF-based ATT	Low
Ren, Y. et al. (2008) ⁹⁶	NCA PK evaluating LPV PK in children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on super-boosted LPV/r + RIF-ATT	30 (15)	Median (IQR): HIV/TB: 16 months (14–24) HIV: 29 months (22–34)	LPV/r; WHO weight band dosage q12h or 4x higher RTV	Median (IQR): AUC _{0–12h} (mg·h/L) C _{max} (mg/L) C _{trough} (mg/L) C _{trough} <1.0 mg/L (%)	117.8 (80.4–176.1) 14.2 (11.9–23.5) 4.64 (2.32–10.40) 0%	80.9 (50.9–121.7) 10.5 (7.1–14.3) 3.94 (2.26–7.66) 13%	-31.3% (0.036) -26.1% (0.018) NS (0.468)	Super-boosted LPV/r was sufficient to overcome the effect of RIF-based ATT	High

Continued

Table 1. Continued

Reference	Study design	No. of subjects (co-infected)	Age of subjects (IQR/range/SD as reported)	PK drug; dose	PK parameters	Without perpetrator (IQR/range/SD as reported)	With perpetrator (IQR/range/SD as reported)	Effect (P-value)	Conclusion	Quality of evidence
van der Laan, L. E. et al. (2018) ¹⁰³	PopPK assessing effects of INH/PZA/EMB/ETH/TRD/FQ/AMK on LPV/r PK in children with HIV/MDR-TB, including 2 children on super-boosted LPV/r and RIF	32 (16)	Median (IQR): HIV/TB: 1.9 years (1.0–2.7) HIV: 2.2 years (0.7–5.3)	LPV/ 300/75 mg/m ² or LPV 300/300 mg/m ² + RIF (n=2)	Predicted median LPV C _{trough} (mg/L) C _{trough} <1.0 mg/L (%)	6.5 12%	5.7 19%	NS NS	Co-administration of LPV/r with MDR-TB drugs did not significantly affect key PK parameters of LPV/r	Low
Zhang, C. et al. (2012) ¹⁰¹	PopPK to predict LPV/r dose to achieve target LPV exposure in children on LPV/r+RIF	74 (24) + 11 intrasubject	Median (range): 21 months (6 months–4.5 years)	LPV control: 11.6 mg/kg (9.4–16.0) LPV super-boosted: 14.0 mg/kg (10.7–18.0) LPV double dose: 23.0 mg/kg (13.8–29.5)	Predicted LPV/r dose to have C _{trough} >1 mg/l in >95% of children weighing 3–5.9 kg	–	Super-boosted (SB): 22/22 mg/kg Double dosed (DD): 52/13 mg/kg 8-hourly dose (8-h): 27/6.75 mg/kg SB: 16/16 mg/kg DD: 40/10 mg/kg 8-h: 21/ 5.25 mg/kg SB: 14/14 mg/kg DD: 35/ 8.75 mg/kg 8-h: 20/5 mg/kg SB: 12/12 mg/kg DD: 30/ 7.5 mg/kg 8-h: 18/ 4.5 mg/kg	–	Smaller children need higher LPV/r doses when receiving RIF-ATT. 8-hourly dosing of LPV/r could be beneficial in HIV/TB-co-infected children.	Low
Zhang, C. et al. (2013) ⁹⁵	PopPK to evaluate differences in children versus adults in LPV/r exposure in patients on LPV/r + RIF-ATT	74 (24) + 11 intrasubject + 21 adults HIV monoinfected	Median: 21 months (6 months–4.5 years)	Median LPV/r 12.0/ 2.9 mg/kg (range 9.2–16.0/2.3–4.0) In absence of RIF	Predicted LPV/r for children weighing 6–9.9 kg Predicted LPV/r for children weighing 10–13.9 kg Predicted LPV/r for children weighing 14–19.9 kg	NR NR	NR NR	Child: +48% Adult: +58% Child: –59% Adult: –25% Child: +22% Adult: +34% Child: –92% Adult: –52%	This model characterized differences between adults and children in the effect of RIF on the PK of LPV/r of lopinavir and ritonavir.	Low
Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor Robie, H. et al. (2020) ⁶⁴	PopPK to evaluate differences in ABC PK in children with HIV/TB on ABC versus ABC + RIF-ATT	87 (87; intrasubject)	Median (range): 2.8 years (0.25–6)	ABC; q12h South African weight band dosing recommendations LPV/r super-boosted in case of RIF	Decrease bioavailability and AUC (%)	NR	NR	–36%	ABC exposure was decreased by concomitant administration of RIF and super-boosted LPV/r.	Moderate

Integrase strand transfer inhibitor	Study	Population	Median (range)	DTG; 25 mg or 50 mg q12h on ATT and q24h off ATT	GM (CV%) AUC _{0-8h} 25 mg AUC _{0-8h} 50 mg (mg·h/L) C _{max} 25 mg C _{max} 50 mg (mg/L) C _{trough} 25 mg C _{trough} 50 mg (mg/L) C _{trough} <EC ₅₀ 25 and 50 mg (%)	NR	3.62 (24) 4.50 (47)	-	Very low
Wadewijjn, H. et al. (2020) ⁴⁰	NCA PK evaluating DTG PK in children with HIV/TB on DTG q12h + RIF-ATT versus DTG q24h after completing ATT	13 (13); intrasubject	Median (range): 12.3 years (6.8–16.1)						DTG q12h was found to be safe and sufficient to overcome RIF–DTG interaction in children with HIV/TB >6 years old.
Meyers, T. et al. (2019) ⁴⁵	NCA PK evaluating RAL PK in children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on double-dosed RAL + RIF-ATT	14 (14)	Median (range): 8 years (7–9)	RAL; 12 mg/kg q12h	GM (CV%) AUC _{0-12h} (µmol·h/L) C _{trough} (nmol/l) AUC _{0-12h} (µmol·h/L) C _{trough} (nmol/l) AUC _{0-12h} (µmol·h/L) C _{trough} (nmol/l)	-	17.2 (38%) 228 (78.4%) 28.8 (50.2%) 229 (76.3%) 32.7 (49%) 106 (57%)	-	Moderate Doubling the dose of RAL resulted in adequate PK parameters in children (2 to 12 years old) receiving RIF-ATT
Krogstad, P. et al. (2020) ⁴⁶	NCA PK evaluating RAL PK in infants (4 weeks–2 years) with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on double-dosed RAL + RIF-ATT	13 (13)	Median (range): 3 years (2–5) Median: 12.4 months	RAL; 12 mg/kg q12h	C _{trough} (nmol/l) AUC _{0-12h} (µmol·h/L) C _{trough} (nmol/l)	-		-	Moderate Doubling RAL dose for TB-HIV-co-infected infants (4 weeks–2 years) receiving RIF-ATT resulted in adequate PK parameters and was safe
Alghamdi, W.A. et al. (2019) ⁸²	Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor PopPK evaluating impact of genotype on EFV PK in children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on normal-dosed EFV + RIF/INH-TB	105 (46)	Median (range): 7.1 years (3.0–14.2)	EFV; 2006 WHO-recommended dose	Relative clearance (L/h)	7.2	5.7	+26%	Low The model showed that RIF/INH-TB treatment did not influence EFV PK parameters
Bwakura Dangarembizi, M. et al. (2019) ⁸⁶	PopPK evaluating EFV PK in children with HIV/TB <3 years on RIF/INH-TB and 30% increased EFV dose	14 (14)	Median (IQR): 14.5 months (11–23)	EFV; 2006 WHO-recommended dose for HIV/TB 25%–33% higher	C _{trough} (%) <1 mg/L 1–4 mg/L >4 mg/L AUC _{0-24h} (%) <35 mg·h/L 35–180 mg·h/L >180 mg·h/L	-	31% 23% 46% 8% 62% 31%	-	Very low EFV PK variability was high. EFV dose did not need to be increased in children receiving ATT, except from extensive metabolizing children weighing >10 kg.
Ren, Y. et al. (2009) ⁸⁰	NCA evaluating EFV PK in children with HIV/TB on normal-dosed EFV + RIF/INH-TB versus after TB treatment	15 (15) + intrasubject	Median: HIV/TB: 6.3 years (4.3–9.0) HIV: 7.1 years (5.7–9.2)	EFV; 2006 WHO-recommended dose	C _{trough} (mg/L) Subtherapeutic (<1 mg/L) (%)	0.86 (0.61–3.56) 60%	0.83 (0.59–6.57) 53%	-	Very low C _{trough} seemed to be comparable whilst on RIF/INH-TB versus after treatment discontinuation
Kwara, A. et al. (2019) ⁸³	NCA PK evaluating EFV PK in children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on normal-dosed EFV + RIF/INH-TB	105 (43) + intrasubject	Median (IQR): 7.0 years (5.0–10.0)	EFV; 15.0 mg/kg (13.7–16.9)	GM (95% CI): AUC _{0-24h} (mg·h/L) C _{max} (mg/L)	Control: 60.9 (51.8–71.5) TB IP: 47.54 (36.44–62.02) Control: 4.2 (3.6–4.8) TB IP: 3.37 (2.65–4.27)	On ATT: 56.47 (45.3–70.5) TB IP: 59.19 (44.29–79.11) On ATT: 3.9 (3.2–4.6) TB IP: 4.01 (3.18–5.08)	NS (0.575) +26% (0.019) NS (0.532) +19% (0.048)	Moderate These findings support that EFV dose should not be adjusted for children receiving TB treatment

Continued

Table 1. Continued

Reference	Study design	No. of subjects (co-infected)	Age of subjects (IQR/range/SD as reported)	PK drug; dose	PK parameters	Without perpetrator (IQR/range/SD as reported)	With perpetrator (IQR/range/SD as reported)	Effect (P value)	Conclusion	Quality of evidence
McClerron, H. M. et al. (2013) ⁸⁴	PopPK evaluating impact of genotype on differences in EFV PK in children with HIV/TB on RIF/INH-ATT versus after completing ATT	81 (40) + 23 intrasubject	Median (IQR): TB: 7.5 years (4.6–10.9) After TB: 8.5 years (5.0–11.3) Control: 8.1 years (6.4–9.6) Median: 2.2 years (0.2–7.1)	EFV; 2006 WHO-recommended dose	C_{trough} (mg/L) Increase EFV mid-dose concentration -Slow metabolizers -Intermediate -Fast	Control: 1.9 (1.6–2.3) TB IP: 1.19 (0.76–1.84) NR	On ATT: 1.5 (1.0–2.1) TB IP: 1.50 (0.93–2.41) NR	NS (0.230) NS (0.332) 1.49-fold (95% CI 1.10–2.01) NS NS	Children with CYP2B6 slow metabolizer genotypes had increased EFV plasma concentrations when during RIF/INH-TB treatment	Moderate
von Bibra, M. et al. (2014) ⁸¹	TDM study evaluating LPV and EFV plasma concentrations of HIV and children with HIV/TB	29 (3)	Median: 9.3 years (3.7–15.9) Mean (SD): 8.1 (3.3) years	LPV; WHO weight band dosage EFV; WHO weight band dosage	C_{trough} outside therapeutic range (1.0–4.0 mg/L; %) C_{trough} outside therapeutic range (%)	17%	NR	-	RIF-ATT regimen is a potential risk factor for suboptimal EFV exposure.	Very low
Shah, I. et al. (2011) ⁷¹	NCA PK evaluating NVP and EFV PK in children while increasing NVP dose by 20–30% or normal dosed EFV when on RIF-ATT versus after TB treatment.	20 (5) 10 (2)	Median (IQR): 9.3 years (3.7–15.9) Mean (SD): 8.1 (3.3) years	NVP 350.9 ± 59.8 mg/m ² /day + RIF; or NVP 309.2 ± 54.6 mg/m ² /day EFV 17.4 ± 10.2 mg/kg/day	Normal C_{trough} (%) Normal C_{max} (%) Normal drug levels (%)	81% (7% low, 15% high) 80% (15% low, 5% high) 70% (10% low, 20% high)	100% 100% 100%	- - -	NVP PK was not found to be different in children using RIF when they received a 20%–30% higher NVP dose.	Very low
Enimil A. et al. (2019) ⁶⁸	NCA PK evaluating NVP PK in children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on normal-dosed NVP + RIF/INH-TB	53 (23) + 16 intrasubject	Median (IQR): 1.6 years (1.1–2.0)	NVP; according to WHO guidelines	GM (95% CI) AUC_{0-12h} (mg·h/L) C_{max} (mg/L) C_{trough} (mg/L) C_{trough} <3.0 mg/L (%)	Control: 64.1 (52.8–77.7) TB IP: 79.5 (65.1–97.0) Control: 6.4 (5.3–7.7) TB IP: 8.1 (6.7–9.7) Control: 3.3 (2.2–5.0) TB IP: 5.2 (4.0–6.6) Control: 30.0%	On ATT: 47.0 (36.0–61.4) TB IP: 52.4 (37.8–72.6) On ATT: 4.8 (3.8–6.2) TB IP: 5.2 (3.8–7.1) On ATT: 2.8 (2.0–3.9) TB IP: 3.4 (2.4–4.8) On ATT: 60.9%	NS (0.053) –34% (0.006) NS (0.066) –36% (0.003) NS (0.579) –34% (0.012) (0.030)	Significant decrease in number of children with subtherapeutic NVP C_{trough} and non-significant decrease in NVP AUC and C_{trough} in HIV/TB-infected children versus HIV-infected controls. NVP PK parameters significantly decreased in TB-infected patients on versus off ATT. These data do not support NVP according to WHO weight bands.	Moderate
McClerron, H. et al. (2017) ⁶⁹	PopPK evaluating NVP PK in children with HIV versus HIV/TB on normal-	164 (46 ^b)	Range: 2–83 days	NVP; various (depending on birth weight)	Median (IQR) C_{trough} (mg/L) <28 days after birth	2.11 (1.48, 3.27)	1.66 (1.32, 2.37)	-	NVP C_{trough} was significantly reduced by RIF in newborns. Physicians should	Low

Oudijk, J. M. <i>et al.</i> (2012) ⁶⁷	prophylactic dosed NVP+RIF-ATT	21 (21) +16 external controls	Median (range): 1.6 years (0.7–3.2)	NVP; 18 mg/kg/day (15–23)	C_{trough} (mg/L) ≥ 28 days after birth	1.39 (1.01, 1.98)	0.89 (0.60, 1.57)	–	be cautious in prescribing RIF in newborns receiving prophylactic NVP
	NCA PK evaluating NVP in children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB on normal-dosed NVP + RIF-ATT				Overall C_{trough} difference (%)	NR	NR	–33% (<0.01)	Substantial reductions in NVP concentrations were found in young children receiving rifampicin
					Median (range) AUC_{0-12h} (mg·h/L)	90.9 (40.4–232.1)	52.0 (22.6–159.7)	–43% (<0.001)	
					C_{max} (mg/L)	9.59 (5.28–21.04)	6.33 (2.61–14.5)	–34% (<0.001)	
					C_{trough} (mg/L)	5.93 (3.28–18.13)	2.93 (1.06–11.4)	–50.6% (0.001)	
					$C_{\text{trough}} < 3.0$ mg/L (%)	0%	52%	(0.001)	
Prasitsuetsai, W. <i>et al.</i> (2012) ⁷²	NCA PK evaluating NVP in children with HIV/TB on 12% higher dosed NVP + RIF-ATT versus after TB treatment	8 (8) + 6 intrasubject	Median (range): 9.7 years (4.4–11.7)	NVP; median (range) 149.6 mg/m ² (125.0–187.2) no RIF; and NVP 169.9 mg/m ² (148.4–252.9) with RIF	AUC_{0-12h} (mg·h/L)	70.8 (range: 56.1–95.5)	85.3 (range: 40.5–170.7)	–	Children were receiving a significantly higher nevirapine dose while receiving rifampicin. The results support WHO dosing recommendations.
					C_{trough} (mg/L)	5.20 (range: 3.78–7.32)	6.40 (range: 3.00–13.27)	–	
					$C_{\text{trough}} < 3.0$ mg/L (%)	0%	0%	–	
Barlow-Mosha, L. <i>et al.</i> (2009) ⁷⁰	NCA PK evaluating NVP in children with HIV versus peers with HIV/TB using NVP + RIF-ATT	20 (7)	Median (range): 5.0 years (1.2–11.3)	NVP; 11 mg/kg q24h (8.0–16)	C_{trough} (mg/L)	4.2 (0.83–16.0)	2.9 (1.7–10.0)	–31% (?)	Low NVP exposure was found in HIV/TB-co-infected children.
					$C_{\text{trough}} < 3.0$ mg/L (%)	NR	57%	NR	
TB treatment									
Moultrie, H. <i>et al.</i> (2015) ¹¹⁹	NCA PK evaluating RFB in HIV+TB children using LPV/r	6 (6)	Range: 10–41 months	RFB 5 mg/kg 3× week	Median AUC_{0-48h} ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h}/\text{mL}$)	–	6.91 (3.52–8.67)	–	Study discontinued early due to high rates of severe transient neutropenia.
					Median C_{max} (mg/L)	–	0.385 (0.19–0.46)	–	RFB and 25-O-desacetylyl RFB exposure and C_{max} were low compared with adult data
Rawizza, H. E. <i>et al.</i> (2018) ¹²²	NCA PK evaluating RFB and 25-O-desacetylyl RFB PK in HIV/TB co-infected children using LPV/r	8 (8)	Median: 13.5 (12.8–14.3)	RFB 1 DD 2.5 mg/kg	RFB AUC_{0-24h} ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h}/\text{mL}$)	–	4.77	–	RFB 2.5 mg/kg daily achieved AUC_{0-24h} comparable to adults in children receiving both LPV/r and RFB.
					RFB C_{max} (mg/L)	–	0.4	–	
					25-O AUC_{0-24h} ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h}/\text{mL}$)	–	2.24	–	
					25-O C_{max} (mg/L)	–	0.14	–	

ABC, abacavir; AMK, amikacin; ATT, antituberculosis treatment; DTG, dolutegravir; EMB, ethambutol; ETH, ethionamide; EFV, efavirenz; FQ, fluoroquinolone; INH, isoniazid; LVX, levofloxacin; LZD, linezolid; LPV, lopinavir; LPV/r, lopinavir/ritonavir; MXF, moxifloxacin; NCA, non-compartmental analysis; NR, not reported; NVP, nevirapine; PK, pharmacokinetic; PK-PD, pharmacokinetics-pharmacodynamics; popPK, population pharmacokinetics; PZA, pyrazinamide; RAL, raltegravir; RIF, rifampicin; RIF-ATT, rifampicin-containing tuberculosis treatment; RIF-INH-TB, rifampicin + isoniazid-containing tuberculosis treatment; RTV, ritonavir; TDS, thrice daily; TIW, thrice weekly; TRD, terizidone.

^aConference abstract.

^bInfants born to mothers with TB.

Table 2. Characteristics of studies investigating differences in the PK of TB drugs in children with HIV

Reference	Study design	No. of subjects (co-infected; on ART at enrolment)	Age of subjects (IQR/range/SD as reported)	PK drug; dose(IQR/ range/SD as reported)	PK parameters	TB mono-infection (IQR/range/SD as reported)	HIV/TB co-infection (IQR/range/SD as reported)	Effect (P value)	Conclusion	Quality of evidence
First-line TB treatment										
Antwi, S. et al. (2017) ¹⁴⁵	NCA PK evaluating INH/RIF/PRZ/EMB PK in children with HIV versus without HIV	113 (59; 0)	Median (IQR): 5.0 (2.2–8.3) years	INH q24h median (IQR): 11.2 mg/kg (9.1–12.8) RIF q24h 15.8 mg/kg (13.6–18.8)	Median (IQR): AUC _{0-8h} (µg-h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L) AUC _{0-8h} (µg-h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L) AUC _{0-8h} (µg-h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L)	21.15 (16.48–25.92) 5.85 (4.27–7.47) 30.49 (21.93–38.44) 7.65 (5.20–9.10) 151.04 (124.64–188.81) 26.90 (23.15–34.60)	18.37 (12.20–26.90) 5.32 (4.03–7.61) 24.88 (15.95–35.27) 5.83 (3.71–8.26) 126.53 (105.41–182.34) 24.60 (20.60–36.50)	NS (0.231) NS (0.794) –18.4% (0.030) –23.8% (0.025) –16.2% (0.034) NS (0.259)	PK parameters of RIF, PZA and EMB were adversely affected by HIV co-infection.	Moderate
Bekker, A. et al. (2016) ¹⁴⁴	NCA PK evaluating INH/RIF/PRZ/EMB PK in children with HIV versus without HIV	39 (5; 5)	Mean (SD): 6.6 months (3.0)	INH mean (range) q24h 13.8 mg/kg (9.0–19.7) RIF q24h 13.8 mg/kg (9.0–19.7)	Mean (SD) AUC _{0-8h} (µg-h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L) AUC _{0-8h} (GMR) C _{max} (GMR) AUC _{0-8h} (µg-h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L)	NR NR 11.48 (8.66) 2.79 (2.00) NR NR 5.5 1.4	NR NR 16.46 (15.0) 3.67 (3.31) 0.79 (0.69–0.90) 0.85 (0.75–0.96) 2.0 0.4	NS NS NS (0.283) NS (0.404) (0.001) (0.013) –64% (0.008) –71% (0.004)	Lower PZA and EMB exposures in HIV-infected infants were observed; however, only 5 HIV-coinfected infants were studied.	Low
Graham, S. M. et al. (2006) ¹⁵¹	NCA PK evaluating PRZ/EMB PK in children without HIV versus with HIV on thrice-weekly TB regimen	PZA 27 (18; 0) EMB 18 (6; 0)	Mean (range): 5.7 years (0.9–14) Mean (range): 5.5 years (1–12)	PZA 33 mg/kg (25–48) TIW EMB 33 mg/kg (24–44) TIW	Mean (SD) AUC _{0-24h} (µg-h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L) AUC _{0-24h} (µg-h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L)	322 (240) 41.9 (22.9) NR NR 1.8 (1.1)	411 (382) 34.0 (18.1) NR NR 1.8 (1.3)	NS NS NR NR NS	No significant differences on PZA and EMB exposure in HIV-infected children were found. Overall low PK parameters suggest need for dose increase.	Very low
Guiastrennec, B. et al. (2018) ¹⁵⁰	PK-PD analysis assessing impact of HIV infection on INH/RIF/PRZ PK and TB treatment outcome	161 (77; 45)	8 years (6–11)	INH 7.5–13.6 mg/kg TIW RIF 7.5–13.6 mg/kg TIW	Difference in bioavailability (%) Difference in clearance (%) Difference in bioavailability	– – –	– – –	–19.5% +31.6% –41.5%	HIV/TB co-infection was related to lower INH and RIF levels rather than usage of ART.	Low
Kwara, A. et al. (2016) ¹⁴⁶	NCA PK evaluating INH/RIF/PRZ/EMB PK in children with HIV versus without HIV	62 (28; NR)	Median (IQR): 5.0 years (2.8–8.9)	INH q24h 11.1 mg/kg (9.0–13.2) RIF q24h 16.3 mg/kg (13.8–19.8) PZA q24h 26.6 mg/kg (23.7–32.0)	Median (IQR) AUC _{0-8h} (µg-h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L) AUC _{0-8h} (µg-h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L) AUC _{0-8h} (µg-h/mL)	19.4 (13.4–25.9) 5.4 (4.2–6.4) 32.3 (21.1–42.3) 7.4 (4.9–9.3) 165.9 (129.7–206.4)	14.3 (9.1–20.0) 4.2 (3.5–6.0) 20.3 (11.2–32.3) 5.5 (3.0–8.2) 128.6 (94.6–194.2)	NS (0.060) NS (0.102) –37.2% (0.008) –25.7% (0.021) –22.5% (0.048)	High prevalence of low RIF and EMB concentrations was shown in Ghanaian children with TB despite receiving revised WHO doses. Moreover, HIV infection was an	Moderate

Table 2. Continued

Reference	Study design	No. of subjects (co-infected; on ART at enrolment)	Age of subjects (IQR/range/SD as reported)	PK drug; dose(IQR/range/SD as reported)	PK parameters	TB mono-infection (IQR/range/SD as reported)	HIV/TB co-infection (IQR/range/SD as reported)	Effect (P value)	Conclusion	Quality of evidence
Yang, H. et al. (2018) ¹⁴⁹	NCA PK evaluating INH/RIF/PRZ/EMB PK in children with HIV versus without HIV	100 (50; NR)	49.0% <5 years and 23.0% <2 years	PZA q24h 25 mg/kg (20–30) LD25/HD35	C_{max} (LD) C_{max} (HD) (mg/L) AUC _{0–5h} (LD) AUC _{0–5h} (HD) (µg·h/mL) C_{max} (LD) C_{max} (HD) (mg/L) C_{max} <3 mg/L (%)	36.12 (22.67–49.57) 6.85 (4.43–9.27) 12.52 (7.65–27.39) 122.9 (101.6–144.3) 180.1 (154.0–206.3) 30.91 (26.15–25.67) 49.20 (43.62–54.77) 10.0%	38.40 (15.21–61.59) 5.49 (0.06–10.92) 10.24 (6.46–14.01) 103.2 (75.80–130.6) 160.5 (139.9–181.1) 27.05 (19.34–34.76) 40.84 (36.22–45.46) 8.0%	NS (0.520) (0.350) NS (0.183) NS (0.186) NS (0.304) –1.7% (0.015) NS (1.000)	HIV co-infection status was associated with low C_{max} of RIF and EMB.	Very low
Bekker, A. et al. (2014) ¹⁴³	NCA PK evaluating INH PK in HIV-exposed versus unexposed newborns	20 (16; 1)	Median (IQR): 14 days (9–31)	INH q24h 10 mg/kg	Median (IQR) AUC _{2–5} (µg·h/mL) C_{max} (mg/L)	17.60 (13.27–25.08) Median: 7.34 (IQR 6.14–9.39) NR	70.0% (OR 2.45; 95% CI 1.01–5.95) 24.5% 77.1% (OR 5.37; 95% CI 1.87–15.37) 13.49 (10.19–16.91) Median: 5.45 (IQR 4.45–6.97) NR	NS (0.108) (0.003) NS (0.1306) –25.7% (0.0472) NS (>0.2)	INH C_{max} was found to be slightly lower in HIV-exposed infants. HIV infection was not associated with differences in INH C_{max} .	Very low Low
McIlleron, H. et al. (2009) ¹⁷	NCA PK evaluating INH PK in children with HIV versus without HIV	56 (22; NR)	Median (IQR): 3.22 years (1.58–5.38)	INH q24h; median (IQR) 5.01 mg/kg (4.35–9.24)	C_{max} (mg/L)	NR	NR	NS (>0.2)	HIV infection was not associated with differences in INH C_{max} .	Low
Second-line TB treatment Denti, P. et al. (2018) ¹⁵⁸	PopPK evaluating LVX PK in children with HIV versus without HIV having MDR-TB	109 (16; 13 LPV/r, 3 EFV)	Median (range): 2.1 years (0.3–8.7)	LVX q24h 15 or 20 mg/kg	Typical value (95% CI) CL (L/h or %)	4.70 (4.37, 5.00)	NR	–15.9% (–26.6 to –5.93)	HIV infection was associated with a lower LVX clearance, although unlikely to be clinically significant.	Very low
García-Prats, A. J. et al. (2015) ¹⁵⁴	NCA PK evaluating OFX PK in children with HIV versus without HIV having MDR-TB	85 (11; NR)	Median (IQR): 3.4 years (1.9–5.2)	OFX q24h 20 mg/kg	Mean (SD) AUC _{0–8h} (µg·h/mL) C_{max} (mg/L) Difference in clearance (%)	44.4 (10.6) 9.05 (2.44)	42.5 (9.0) 8.42 (1.51)	NS (0.560) NS (0.404)	No effect of HIV infection on OFX PK was observed.	Low
García-Prats, A. J. et al. (2019) ¹⁵⁹	PopPK evaluating LZD PK in children with HIV versus without HIV having MDR-TB	48 (3; NR)	Median (range): 4.6 (0.6–15.3) years	LZD q12h 10 mg/kg (<10 year) LZD q24h 10 mg/kg (>10 year)	–	–	–	NS	Study was underpowered to show a clinically relevant effect of HIV on LZD PK.	Very low

Author	Study Design	Population	Intervention	Comparator	Duration	Outcome	Effect Size	Significance	Notes
Bjurgard Nyberg, H. et al. (2018) ¹⁶² Liwa, A.C. et al. (2013) ¹⁶⁰	PopPK evaluating ETH PK in children with HIV versus without HIV having MDR-TB NCA PK evaluating PAS PK in children with HIV versus without HIV having MDR-TB	119 (24; 14 LPV/r, 6 EFV) 10 (4; 4 EFV)	ETH q24h 20 mg/kg PAS q12h 75 mg/kg or PAS q24h 150 mg/kg	Median (range): 2.6 years (0.25-15) Median: 4 years (1-12)	Difference in bio-availability (%) AUC _{0-2h} (µg·h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L)	-	-22% (<0.001)	Very low	ETH bioavailability was reduced in HIV-infected children. The mean concentrations (not reported) at all timepoints were lower in HIV-infected patients, without significant differences.
Thee, S. et al. (2014) ¹⁵³	NCA PK evaluating OFX and LVX PK children with HIV versus without HIV having MDR-TB	22 (4; NR)	LVX q24h 15 mg/kg OFX q24h 20 mg/kg	Median (IQR): 3.14 years (1.3-4.0)	Median (IQR) AUC _{0-8h} (µg·h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L) AUC _{0-8h} (µg·h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L)	31.38 (24.41-36.39)	NS (0.67)	Very low	No significant differences in LVX and OFX were seen due to HIV infection in children, possibly because of the small sample size.
Thee, S. et al. (2015) ¹⁵²	NCA PK evaluating MXF PK in children with HIV versus without HIV having MDR-TB	23 (6; 2 LPV/r, 4 EFV)	MXF q24h 10 mg/kg	Median (IQR): 11.1 (9.2-12.0)	AUC _{0-8h} (µg·h/mL) C _{max} (mg/L)	19.98 (16.71-25.21)	NS (0.080)	Very low	HIV-infected children were found to have lower MXF exposure compared with HIV-uninfected children.
Thee, S. et al. (2011) ¹⁶¹	NCA PK evaluating ETH PK in children with HIV versus without HIV having MDR-TB	31 (7; 7)	ETH q24h 15-20 mg/kg	Range: 3 months-13 years	AUC _{0-6h} (after 4 months) C _{max} (after 4 months)	NR	NS (0.523) (0.047)	Very low	ETH exposure was found to be lower in HIV-infected children compared with uninfected children.

AMK, amikacin; ATT, antituberculosis treatment; q12h, twice daily; EMB, ethambutol; ETH, ethionamide EFV, efavirenz; FQ, fluoroquinolone; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; INH, isoniazid; LVX, levofloxacin; LZD, linezolid; LPV, lopinavir; LPV/r, lopinavir/ritonavir; MXF, moxifloxacin; NCA, non-compartmental analysis; NR, not reported; OFX, ofloxacin; PAS, para-aminosalicylic acid; PK, pharmacokinetic; PK-PD, pharmacokinetics-pharmacodynamics; popPK, population pharmacokinetics; PZA, pyrazinamide; q24h, once daily; RIF, rifampicin; RIF-ATT, rifampicin-containing tuberculosis treatment; RTV, ritonavir; TIW, thrice weekly; TRD, terizidone.

compared with healthy adults. One study with healthy volunteers reported a 61% decrease in C_{trough} due to rifampicin, and C_{trough} remained 53% lower when double the dose of raltegravir (800 mg q12h) was given with rifampicin, compared with raltegravir (400 mg q12h) only.⁴¹ In contrast, a study in patients with HIV/TB co-infection suggested that doubling the dose of raltegravir overcompensates for rifampicin induction (C_{trough} +68%), whereas the standard raltegravir dose with rifampicin resulted in only a 31% decrease in trough concentration of raltegravir.^{42,43} However, non-inferiority after 48 weeks of treatment could not be statistically demonstrated for raltegravir 400 mg q12h compared with efavirenz 600 mg q24h in adults with HIV-associated TB using rifampicin-based TB treatment simultaneously, and thus is not recommended as first-line therapy.⁴⁴ PK parameters of adjusted doses of raltegravir have been studied in children 2–12 years old receiving 12 mg/kg q12h during concomitant rifampicin, instead of 6 mg/kg q12h.⁴⁵ Geometric means of raltegravir AUC_{0-12h} and C_{trough} were within the predefined target range.⁴⁵ In addition, raltegravir data in infants (4 weeks to 2 years old) have been published recently; doubling the dose of raltegravir chewable tablets (12 mg/kg; crushed and dispersed in water) while taking rifampicin achieved adequate PK levels and was found to be safe.⁴⁶ Given the observed PK data in children with HIV/TB receiving double-dose raltegravir, this approach seems to be suitable for children receiving rifampicin concomitantly.

The use of bictegravir is not recommended in combination with rifampicin. Bictegravir exposure in healthy adults without HIV or TB was found to be 80% lower when dosed once daily with rifampicin, and doubling the dose by giving it twice daily did not mitigate the drug interaction, as exposures were still reduced by 60% in contrast to raltegravir and dolutegravir. This might be due to differences in metabolism; CYP3A4 and UGT1A1 equally contribute to bictegravir metabolism, whereas dolutegravir and raltegravir are mainly metabolized by UGT1A1.⁴⁷ The clinical consequences of the bictegravir–rifampicin drug interaction have not been explored in patients. There have been no DDI studies in children receiving bictegravir together with TB drugs. Elvitegravir needs boosting by cobicistat to achieve therapeutic plasma concentrations and its metabolism is similar to that of bictegravir. There is no paediatric formulation of elvitegravir/cobicistat, hence it is only available for older children. Co-administration of elvitegravir/cobicistat and rifampicin has not yet been studied, but it is contraindicated because large decreases in elvitegravir/cobicistat exposure are expected.⁴⁸

There is no clinically meaningful effect of rifabutin on raltegravir and dolutegravir exposure in adults,^{38,49} but this has not yet been investigated in children. In adult patients with HIV, use of dolutegravir q24h together with rifapentine once weekly appeared to be well tolerated and led to a reduction of dolutegravir exposure that was probably not clinically significant.⁵⁰ Raltegravir exposure was also found to be sufficient in healthy adults receiving concomitant rifapentine.⁵¹

Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors

Limited studies have been reported that assess NRTI PK in combination with rifampicin-based TB treatment in adults. Both abacavir and zidovudine are metabolized by UGT, and rifampicin is known to induce UGT.⁵² Two studies reported decreases of zidovudine

exposure (close to –50%) due to concomitant use of rifampicin in HIV-infected adults,^{53,54} whereas no studies reported on abacavir PK in adults with TB treatment. Only one study reported on PK of NRTIs in children using rifampicin; the authors found an average decrease in abacavir exposure of 36% due to rifampicin-based TB treatment in children <6 years old also receiving super-boosted lopinavir/ritonavir.⁵⁵ It is uncertain whether or not this is clinically relevant, since its antiviral effect is due to the intracellular anabolite, carbovir triphosphate, which was not measured⁵⁶ and NRTI plasma concentrations do not necessarily correlate with antiviral activity of the drug.⁵⁷ Also, ART always consists of multiple ARVs that might compensate for loss in efficacy of the other ARV. Of all children, 82% were virologically suppressed by the end of the study when receiving rifampicin-based TB treatment, which is in line with children without TB treatment.⁵⁵

Tenofovir alafenamide is a substrate of drug transporters such as P-gp and breast cancer resistance protein.⁵⁸ Rifampicin affects tenofovir alafenamide metabolism by inducing expression of these drug transporters.⁵⁹ Plasma concentrations of tenofovir and tenofovir alafenamide and intracellular tenofovir diphosphate were reduced by concomitant use of rifampicin in adults. However, intracellular tenofovir diphosphate concentrations were still 4-fold higher compared with patients using tenofovir disoproxil, indicating that this might not be clinically relevant.⁶⁰ No research has been done in children yet. Tenofovir disoproxil absorption is less P-gp dependent compared with tenofovir alafenamide. Therefore, tenofovir concentrations after tenofovir disoproxil treatment do not significantly change due to concomitant rifampicin either in healthy volunteers or in adults who are HIV/TB co-infected.^{61,62} Co-administered ritonavir-boosted ARVs can also potentially modify this interaction by ritonavir-related induction of P-gp and UGT.⁶³ Super-boosted ritonavir seemed to contribute minimally to reducing abacavir exposure compared with rifampicin,⁶⁴ but tenofovir alafenamide and tenofovir disoproxil PK has not yet been studied with co-administration of both rifampicin and ritonavir. Emtricitabine plasma concentrations and intracellular emtricitabine triphosphate concentrations were also found to be unaffected by rifampicin-based TB treatment in adults.⁶⁰ Lamivudine PK has not been investigated at all in patients receiving rifampicin. Paediatric studies are needed to confirm the results of adult studies of NRTI PK and rifampicin, especially for tenofovir alafenamide and tenofovir disoproxil.

Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors

Metabolism of nevirapine is primarily through CYP3A4 and to a lesser extent CYP2B6, and therefore it is affected by rifampicin.⁶⁵ Decreases of AUC_{0-12h} (–58%) and C_{trough} (–68%) have been reported in adults.⁶⁶ In total, six studies reported on nevirapine PK parameters when co-administered with rifampicin in children. Two studies reported decreased nevirapine exposure (about 40%) due to rifampicin-based TB treatment given at 10 mg/kg⁶⁷ and 15 mg/kg⁶⁸ in children under 3 years old. Moreover, significantly more children on rifampicin compared with peers without rifampicin had nevirapine trough levels <3.0 mg/L (51% versus 0%⁶⁷ and 61% versus 30%⁶⁸), which is considered subtherapeutic. Both in newborns using rifampicin for TB prevention (10 mg/kg) and in children between 1 and 11 years old using rifampicin-based TB treatment, nevirapine trough concentrations were found to be reduced

by about 30%.^{69,70} Shah *et al.*⁷¹ found that increasing the nevirapine dose by 20%–30% in older children [mean (SD): 8.1 (3.3) years] receiving rifampicin-based TB treatment resulted in a similar exposure compared with children receiving nevirapine without rifampicin. Another study from Thailand, including eight children >3 years old with HIV-associated TB, found no children with inadequate nevirapine C_{trough} during rifampicin co-administration.⁷² This might be due to genetic differences in Thai children or the low number of children included in the study. Overall, most studies report reduction of nevirapine exposure in children receiving rifampicin-based TB treatment. The WHO recommends the use of nevirapine at the maximum weight/age-appropriate dose (200 mg/m²) only in children with HIV/TB under 3 years old, but not for older children because of other available options with more robust ARVs.⁷³

Efavirenz is metabolized to an inactive metabolite mainly by CYP2B6 and to a lesser extent by CYP2A6 and UGT2B7.⁷⁴ The prevalence of CYP2B6 polymorphisms is high in TB- and HIV-endemic areas such as Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (range: 10%–28% slow metabolizers and 34%–50% extensive metabolizers), resulting in wide efavirenz PK variability.⁷⁵ Rifampicin is known to induce CYP2B6,³² leading to a decrease of efavirenz AUC by 26% when used with efavirenz in healthy adults.⁷⁶ In contrast, isoniazid might contribute to an increase in efavirenz exposure by inhibiting CYP2A6 activity.⁷⁷ No clinically significant alterations in efavirenz PK were found in adults with HIV-associated TB using efavirenz 600 mg q24h and rifampicin/isoniazid-based TB treatment; genetic CYP2B6 polymorphisms had a larger impact on efavirenz exposure.⁷⁵ Recent PK data suggest that efavirenz 400 mg q24h can also be considered in adults and adolescents.⁷⁸ The efavirenz PK profile is favourable when administered with rifampicin and isoniazid in adults, but has not been investigated in children.⁷⁹ The potential interaction between efavirenz- and rifampicin-based TB treatment in children was investigated in seven studies. No substantial differences in efavirenz PK were seen in children >3 years old using low-dose first-line TB treatment.^{71,80–82} More recently, a PK study including 144 children between 3 and 14 years old confirmed these findings with higher isoniazid (10 mg/kg) and rifampicin (15 mg/kg) dosages being given.⁸³ Efavirenz PK parameters were slightly higher in patients on rifampicin/isoniazid-based TB treatment, but these findings were not considered to be clinically relevant.⁸³

McIlleron *et al.*⁸⁴ showed that average efavirenz mid-dose interval concentrations increased by 1.49-fold in children with CYP2B6 slow metabolizer genotypes when receiving concomitant rifampicin/isoniazid-based TB treatment compared with efavirenz without TB drugs. No differences were found in children with genotypes for intermediate and fast CYP2B6 metabolism.⁸⁴ This finding is explained by the assumption that the inhibitory effect of isoniazid on CYP2A6 becomes more relevant in slow CYP2B6 metabolizers.⁸⁵ Another study assessed efavirenz PK in HIV/TB-co-infected children <3 years old with a genotype-based dosing approach.⁸⁶ Poor metabolizers were given 25% of the efavirenz dose, and the efavirenz dose was increased by ~30% for all children who received rifampicin-based TB treatment, regardless of CYP2B6 genotype. Increasing the dose was not necessary, since 46% of all included children had supratherapeutic C_{trough} (>4.0 mg/L). PK variability was high in this study despite genotype-based dosing.⁸⁶ Due to highly variable efavirenz PK, efavirenz is not generally

recommended in children aged <3 years.⁷³ Although efavirenz exposure is largely dependent on CYP2B6 and CYP2A6 genotype, genotype testing is expensive and genotype-based efavirenz dosing is not practical, and therefore it is not recommended.⁷³ No efavirenz dose adjustments are necessary for children and adults during rifampicin-based TB treatment.

Use of doravirine, etravirine or rilpivirine together with rifampicin-based TB treatment is contraindicated. All these NNRTIs are mainly metabolized through CYP3A4.⁸⁷ Enzyme induction by rifampicin leads to large decreases in doravirine, etravirine and rilpivirine exposure in adults: AUC_{0–tau} –88%,⁸⁸ AUC_{0–12h} about –55%,⁸⁹ and AUC_{0–24h} –80%, respectively.⁹⁰ No studies have been done in children.

Protease inhibitors

PK parameters are an important indicator for lopinavir efficacy; Moholisa *et al.*⁹¹ found that virological failure correlates with lopinavir trough concentrations below 1.0 mg/L. Lopinavir is co-administered with ritonavir, a potent inhibitor of CYP3A, in a 4:1 ratio to achieve higher (effective) lopinavir exposure. Rifampicin is a strong inducer of CYP3A,³² leading to large decreases in plasma concentrations of lopinavir (AUC –75%) in healthy adults.⁹² The interaction can be overcome by doubling the lopinavir/ritonavir dose^{92,93} but, due to an increased risk of hepatotoxicity, this is not recommended.⁹⁴ Replacement of rifampicin by rifabutin (150 mg q24h due to bidirectional DDI) is preferred for first-line TB treatment in adults, because rifabutin has little effect on lopinavir/ritonavir exposure.⁷⁶ Lopinavir/ritonavir currently is the preferred anchor drug in ART for children younger than 3 years old.⁷³ Bioavailability of lopinavir is reduced by 25% in adults due to co-administration of rifampicin-based TB treatment, whereas bioavailability decreases by 59% in children.⁹⁵ To compensate for this DDI, three strategies have been studied in children; double-dose lopinavir/ritonavir (ratio 8:2), 8 hourly lopinavir/ritonavir dosing (ratio 4:1) and super-boosting by increasing the ritonavir dose to 1:1 ratio with lopinavir.

A PK proof-of-concept study found that the lopinavir/ritonavir super-boosting strategy (ratio 1:1) was effective in attenuating enzyme induction by rifampicin in children.⁹⁶ Although lopinavir AUC was 31% lower⁹⁶ and clearance 30% higher⁹⁷ in children while on rifampicin-based TB treatment compared with off TB treatment, lopinavir C_{trough} was similar and 13/15 patients had therapeutic trough levels (>1.0 mg/L). The efficacy of this strategy was later confirmed in a larger modelling study in children of 3–15 kg (including infants <1 year) by showing non-inferiority of lopinavir C_{trough} during rifampicin co-treatment.⁹⁸ The researchers predicted that 92% of all patients receiving super-boosted lopinavir/ritonavir with rifampicin would reach trough concentrations above 1.0 mg/L. Overall, super-boosted lopinavir/ritonavir was well tolerated, even though caregivers reported difficulties administering extra ritonavir because of low acceptability of the drug formulation.⁹⁸ Super-boosted lopinavir/ritonavir also resulted in similar lopinavir exposure in malnourished children with HIV/TB co-infection compared with children without TB treatment.⁹⁹

Double-dosed lopinavir/ritonavir (ratio 8:2) in children younger than 3 years old ($n=17$; median age 1.25 years) receiving rifampicin-based TB treatment resulted in inadequate lopinavir trough concentrations compared with children receiving

lopinavir/ritonavir without TB treatment.¹⁰⁰ Only 40% of children receiving lopinavir/ritonavir double dose had C_{trough} greater than 1.0 mg/L, whereas 92% of the control group achieved therapeutic trough concentrations. The differences between children and adults were explained by a lower bioavailability of lopinavir due to low ritonavir concentrations.⁹⁵ Double-dosed lopinavir/ritonavir given with rifampicin has not been studied in children >3 years old.

Based on simulations from a population PK model, it was expected that at least 95% of children would have lopinavir trough concentrations of at least 1.0 mg/L when using lopinavir/ritonavir thrice daily in combination with rifampicin-containing TB treatment.¹⁰¹ However, a study in children with HIV-associated TB reported that 36% of 11 children did not achieve lopinavir C_{trough} >1.0 mg/L when using this treatment strategy.¹⁰²

The effect of MDR-TB drugs on lopinavir/ritonavir PK was assessed in one small study which included 16 children receiving combinations of high-dose isoniazid, pyrazinamide, ethambutol, ethionamide, terizidone, a fluoroquinolone and amikacin, and 16 controls without MDR-TB.¹⁰³ No significant differences were found between the two groups; 81% of children with MDR-TB versus 88% of controls had therapeutic C_{trough} .¹⁰³

Atazanavir, darunavir and saquinavir are contraindicated in adults when co-administered with rifampicin due to safety and efficacy concerns. Ritonavir-boosted atazanavir co-administered with rifampicin resulted in very large decreases in exposure of atazanavir ($AUC_{0-\text{tau}}$ –72%; C_{trough} –98%).¹⁰⁴ For darunavir, doubling the dose when used twice daily resulted in similar C_{trough} compared with normal doses without rifampicin in adults with HIV.¹⁰⁵ However, this study was discontinued early due to severe hepatotoxicity, as were studies with co-administration of rifampicin and ritonavir-boosted atazanavir or saquinavir.^{105–107} No studies have been conducted with boosted PIs other than lopinavir/ritonavir in HIV/TB-co-infected children. The effect of rifampicin-based TB treatment on cobicistat-boosted PIs has not been determined yet. Concomitant use of rifabutin slightly increased darunavir exposure and had very little effect on atazanavir PK in healthy volunteers.^{108,109} Co-administration of rifapentine and PIs has not been studied, but is expected to result in large decreases of PI plasma concentrations.

Effects of ART on TB drugs

First-line TB drugs

Metabolism of rifampicin and rifapentine is through esterases in liver microsomes and to some extent by renal excretion.¹¹⁰ The major metabolism pathways of isoniazid are by acetylation through *N*-acetyltransferase 2 (NAT2) and hydrolysis through amidase.¹¹¹ Pyrazinamide is converted into pyrazinoic acid by microsomal deamidase and further metabolized by xanthine oxidase enzymes.¹¹² Approximately 80% of ethambutol is excreted renally and 20% is metabolized by alcohol dehydrogenase.¹¹³ None of these metabolic pathways is expected to be affected by ARVs.

Rifabutin is both an inducer and a substrate of CYP3A, so DDIs with ARVs are potentially bidirectional. It is predominantly metabolized into its equally active metabolite 25-*O*-desacetyl-rifabutin by CYP3A4.¹¹⁴ This metabolite accounts for up to 10% of the total

antimicrobial activity of rifabutin in adults without interacting medication.¹¹⁵ Efavirenz is known to decrease rifabutin plasma concentrations through induction of CYP3A4,¹¹⁶ but this interaction has not been studied in children.

Lopinavir/ritonavir is known to interact with rifabutin through inhibition of CYP3A enzymes by ritonavir, leading to high exposure of rifabutin and its active metabolite, and an increased risk of dose-dependent toxicities such as uveitis and bone marrow depression.⁷⁶ Recently, the dose recommendation of rifabutin was increased from 150 mg thrice weekly to 150 mg q24h when co-administered with lopinavir/ritonavir instead of 300 mg q24h without interacting medications.^{117,118} This DDI was studied in children under 5 years old that were already cured of TB receiving 5 mg/kg rifabutin thrice weekly instead of the recommended 10–20 mg/kg q24h without lopinavir/ritonavir. The study was discontinued because the neutrophil count declined in all six children receiving both rifabutin and lopinavir/ritonavir; two of them experienced grade 4 neutropenia.¹¹⁹ Surprisingly, rifabutin C_{max} was below the target range for therapeutic drug monitoring (0.45–0.9 mg/L) in four out of six children.¹¹⁹ The median rifabutin and 25-*O*-desacetyl-rifabutin exposures were higher compared with most studies in adults using thrice-weekly 150 mg rifabutin co-administered with lopinavir/ritonavir, but lower compared with adults receiving 150 mg rifabutin q24h with lopinavir/ritonavir. Rawizza *et al.*¹²⁰ rarely found neutropenia in 48 young children with HIV-associated TB [median (IQR) age: 1.7 years (0.9–5.0)] receiving a 6 month course of 2.5 mg/kg/day rifabutin and lopinavir/ritonavir, although the absolute neutrophil count declined slightly. The rifabutin course was completed with no TB symptoms in 79% of participants after 12 months of follow-up. The different safety findings were suggested to be caused by differences in patient characteristics, i.e. children who were HIV infected versus HIV/TB co-infected. Rifabutin-associated neutropenia has also been observed more frequently in healthy adults compared with adults with HIV-associated TB.¹²¹ Rawizza *et al.*¹²² also presented an interim analysis of eight older children [median (IQR) age: 13.5 years (12.8–14.3)] receiving 2.5 mg/kg/day rifabutin with lopinavir/ritonavir. Rifabutin and 25-*O*-desacetyl-rifabutin exposure in these children was slightly lower compared with the findings of Moultrie *et al.*¹¹⁹ (see Table 1), whereas C_{max} of both substances was comparable.¹²² Exposure of 25-*O*-desacetyl rifabutin was 4-fold higher compared with adults receiving rifabutin 300 mg q24h without lopinavir/ritonavir, which is consistent with data from Moultrie *et al.*¹¹⁹ and adults receiving rifabutin with lopinavir/ritonavir, and is not expected to be harmful.^{117,122} These preliminary PK results suggest that rifabutin can be used safely in children >5 years old using rifabutin at 2.5 mg/kg/day with lopinavir/ritonavir, but regular laboratory and clinical monitoring is essential. Younger children are to be investigated in this study to confirm this dosing strategy among all children.

Second-line TB drugs

In children, no research has been conducted to investigate the effect of ART on exposure of medications used for MDR-TB. Potential interaction mechanisms and data from adult studies are described below and grouped by class defined by the WHO MDR-TB treatment guideline.²³

Group A. Moxifloxacin undergoes glucuronidation mainly through UGT1A1¹²³ and sulphate conjugation by sulphotransferase, and is a substrate of P-gp. Efavirenz is known to induce UGT, leading to decreased exposure of moxifloxacin in HIV/TB-co-infected adults ($AUC_{0-\tau}$ –30%).¹²⁴ Levofloxacin and ofloxacin are eliminated primarily through glomerular filtration¹²⁵ and therefore are not expected to interact with ART. Linezolid metabolism is complex, resulting in high interpatient PK variability;¹²⁶ it undergoes non-CYP-mediated hepatic metabolism into inactive metabolites and is also excreted unchanged in the urine.¹²⁷ Therefore, DDIs with ARVs are not expected. Linezolid has potential overlapping mitochondrial toxicities, especially with NRTIs, and has a potential increased risk of bone marrow suppression when used with zidovudine.¹²⁸

Bedaquiline is primarily metabolized by CYP3A4 into the less active *N*-monodesmethyl metabolite (M2),¹²⁹ and thus is expected to interact with various ARVs via its metabolic pathway. Bedaquiline exposure is significantly decreased when co-administered with efavirenz in healthy and HIV-infected adults,^{130,131} but no differences in exposure were found in HIV-infected adults receiving nevirapine.^{132,133} Dose modifications to mitigate the efavirenz–bedaquiline interaction have been simulated; once-daily instead of thrice-weekly administration of bedaquiline or doubling the bedaquiline dose might result in adequate bedaquiline exposure.¹³¹ Bedaquiline exposure increased by 22% and that of M2 decreased by 51% when co-administered with lopinavir/ritonavir in HIV/TB-negative adults,¹²⁹ but this is likely to be an underestimation because the non-compartmental analysis (NCA) did not cover the full AUC of bedaquiline.¹³⁴ Pandie *et al.*¹³² reported increased bedaquiline exposure (+62%) in HIV/TB-co-infected patients receiving lopinavir/ritonavir without concurrent differences in M2 exposure. These DDIs require further investigation in children. Lopinavir/ritonavir might also have an additive or synergistic effect on QT prolongation due to bedaquiline.¹³² The clinical significance of this DDI is unclear.

Group B. Metabolism of clofazimine has not yet been fully elucidated. Although three clofazimine metabolites have been found in urine after repeated drug administration, it is believed to be mainly excreted unchanged in faeces.¹³⁵ Terizidone/cycloserine is predominantly excreted renally via glomerular filtration, so few clinically relevant DDIs are expected. Clofazimine and cycloserine can cause neuropsychiatric adverse events, which overlaps with the efavirenz and dolutegravir toxicity profile. Also efavirenz and lopinavir/ritonavir might have an additive effect on clofazimine-induced QT prolongation.¹²⁸

Group C. Aminoglycosides and carbapenems are not expected to interact with ARVs, since they are renally excreted.^{136,137} *p*-Aminosalicylic acid is also mainly excreted renally and to a lesser extent by metabolism through NAT1 and NAT2. Surprisingly, *p*-aminosalicylic acid clearance was increased by 52% in 19 HIV/TB-co-infected adults using concurrent efavirenz compared with TB-mono-infected or HIV/TB-co-infected patients without efavirenz.¹³⁸ This potential DDI requires further investigation to determine its mechanism and clinical relevance.

Delamanid is metabolized by albumin into its primary metabolite (DM-6705). Subsequently, CYP3A4 is the main metabolic

pathway for DM-6705.¹³⁹ Co-administration of tenofovir disoproxil and efavirenz did not change delamanid exposure in healthy adults, and giving lopinavir/ritonavir resulted in a 25% increase of delamanid $AUC_{0-\tau}$, but this increase was not considered to be clinically relevant.¹⁴⁰ Delamanid causes QT prolongation and requires monitoring when used with QT-prolonging ARVs. Ethionamide and prothionamide are interchangeable in MDR-TB treatment regimens and follow a similar metabolic pathway through flavin-containing monooxygenase.¹⁴¹ No DDIs with ART are expected for ethionamide and prothionamide.

Effects of HIV infection on PK of TB drugs

First-line TB drugs

The effect of HIV infection on the PK of TB drugs in children has been examined in multiple studies, but most were inconclusive. It is believed that malabsorption or malnutrition due to HIV infection might cause low exposure to TB treatment in HIV patients.²⁸ Strict mg/kg dosing also contributes greatly to these inconclusive results, since it assumes a linear relationship between body weight and clearance despite the fact that the relationship is more likely to be allometric; not taking a patient's age into account can result in severe under-dosing, especially in underweight children.¹⁴² None of the included studies reported on the impact of ART use or certain antiretroviral agents, because of small sample sizes, heterogeneity in ART or absence of ART, and lack of mechanistic explanations for potential interactions. Hence, it is uncertain whether the observed results are because of HIV infection, ART or differences in the populations. A systematic review was published about the influence of HIV infection on the PK of TB treatment.²⁷ It mainly focused on adults without reporting a comprehensive analysis in children. The authors were unable to generate recommendations with respect to dosing of TB treatment in patients with HIV-associated TB due to heterogeneity and inconsistency of data.²⁷

Results of all studies in children are summarized in Table 2. Apart from two studies reporting a slight decrease of isoniazid C_{max} ,^{26,143} most did not find lower isoniazid exposure in children with HIV infection compared with TB-mono-infected children.^{17,144–149} The overall effect of HIV infection on isoniazid PK seems not to be clinically relevant in children.

Various studies reported lower rifampicin C_{max} (range: –17% to –49%) and AUC (range: –24% to –56%) values in children who are HIV/TB co-infected (children both on and off ART) compared with TB-mono-infected children.^{26,145–147} Rifampicin clearance increased and bioavailability decreased in children with HIV.¹⁵⁰ This effect was associated with HIV/TB co-infection rather than the use of ART.¹⁵⁰ Other studies did not find statistical differences, probably because of small sample size and limited power. The large decreases in rifampicin exposure can be clinically relevant.

PK data of pyrazinamide in children with HIV and TB compared with HIV-uninfected children was heterogeneous. Some showed a slight decrease in AUC or C_{max} ^{144–146} in co-infected children, but most reported varying non-significant results.^{26,147–149,151} The impact of HIV infection on pyrazinamide PK in children seems relatively small and variable.

Almost all studies investigating ethambutol PK reported lower ethambutol AUC (range: –40% to –60%) and lower ethambutol C_{max} (range: –40% to –70%) in children that were HIV infected

compared with uninfected children.^{144–146,148,149} One small study ($n = 18$) found low ethambutol C_{\max} values regardless of HIV status.¹⁵¹ Nevertheless, ethambutol exposures generally are substantially lower in HIV-infected children compared with uninfected children. It is unclear whether usage of ART affected PK of ethambutol.

In most studies, children with HIV/TB co-infection had significantly lower weight for age Z-scores due to disease severity or malnutrition. These differences aggravate the assessment of the relationship of lower exposure with HIV/TB co-infection, since lower exposure can partly be explained by relatively higher clearance/kg because of low weight and high fat-free mass. Dosing of TB drugs based on lean body weight might take these issues into account and lead to better exposure in children who are underweight.

Second-line TB drugs

The effect of HIV infection and ART on PK of drugs used for MDR-TB has been investigated in a few studies in children. Only second-line TB drugs that have been studied in children are described here, split by MDR-TB treatment class.

Group A. Exposure of moxifloxacin was found to be significantly lower ($AUC_{0-8h} - 34\%$) in children living with HIV using ART [lopinavir/ritonavir- (2/6) or efavirenz-based (4/6) regimen] compared with 17 HIV-uninfected children.¹⁵² For levofloxacin and ofloxacin, no significant differences in PK parameters were seen in children with HIV/TB co-infection (both on and off ARVs) compared with children without HIV,^{153,154} which is consistent with findings in adults.^{155–157} A population PK study reported a 15.9% reduction in levofloxacin clearance in 16 children with HIV between 0.3 and 8.7 years old receiving ART (lopinavir/ritonavir- or efavirenz-based regimen), but this was not considered clinically relevant.¹⁵⁸ One study assessed linezolid PK in children with HIV, but could not detect any effect of HIV infection owing to the small dataset ($n = 3$).¹⁵⁹

Group B. No PK studies have been done for clofazimine and terizidone/cycloserine in children with HIV.

Group C. A non-significant trend towards lower *p*-aminosalicylic acid exposure was reported in children who were HIV infected ($n = 4$; all on efavirenz).¹⁶⁰ Ethionamide concentrations were found to be significantly lower in children with HIV ($n = 7$) at both 1 and 4 months after initiation of therapy compared with uninfected peers.¹⁶¹ Bjugard Nyberg *et al.*¹⁶² suggested that ethionamide concentrations were lower because of decreased bioavailability (-21%) in HIV-infected children, of whom most were on ART (efavirenz or lopinavir-based regimen). No significant differences were seen between children receiving lopinavir/ritonavir-based ART, efavirenz-based ART or no ART.¹⁶²

Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first review on the PK of (MDR-)TB drugs and ART in children with HIV-associated TB using a comprehensive systematic and scoping approach. Information from adult studies was also included to identify knowledge gaps and differences between DDIs in children versus adults. This systematic review

shows that the number of treatment options is increasing for children with HIV/TB co-infection, but there are still many knowledge gaps when it comes to DDIs between TB drugs and ART. We identified 47 eligible studies; most of them focused on lopinavir/ritonavir, efavirenz, nevirapine and first-line TB treatment.

PK differences between adults and children are common. Differences in membrane permeability, gastric pH and emptying time, plasma protein binding, total body water and fat, organ size, maturation and abundance of metabolizing enzymes and drug transporters, and development of renal function can cause differences in absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion (ADME) of medications, which changes with age and can affect the severity of DDIs.^{29,163} The paediatric population itself also consists of multiple subpopulations that have different PK profiles. The FDA distinguishes newborn infants (0–28 days), infants and toddlers (28 days to 2 years), children (2–12 years) and adolescents (12–16 or 18 years). Younger children mainly differ from adults due to immaturity of hepatic enzymes, whereas older children often have increased drug clearance.¹⁶³ This can result in different recommendations for DDI management. For example, the interaction between rifampicin and lopinavir/ritonavir was found to be different in young children (<3 years old) from that in adults; double-dosing of lopinavir/ritonavir resulted in adequate lopinavir concentrations in adults, but led to subtherapeutic concentrations in children.¹⁰⁰ There were no data to confirm these differences in older children. Another example is the interaction between rifampicin and raltegravir. Doubling the dose of raltegravir q12h was needed to overcome the interaction with rifampicin in children,⁴⁵ whereas exposure in adults seemed therapeutic when using normally dosed raltegravir q12h.⁴² These examples illustrate that DDIs and strategies to overcome DDIs should preferably be tested in children from all different paediatric subpopulations before adult recommendations can be extrapolated. Different formulations given to children can also influence PK of drugs; for example, sorbitol (as excipient) affects absorption of lamivudine.^{164,165} In addition, data on pharmacodynamic differences in the paediatric population compared with adults and their impact on DDI management are scarce, and this requires further investigation.

Extrapolation of adult PK data by means of population PK modelling offers a great opportunity to identify new treatment strategies to avoid toxicity or suboptimal therapy due to DDIs in children. However, conducting confirmatory PK studies remains essential in assessing the magnitude of DDIs in children. Extrapolating double-dosed lopinavir/ritonavir with concomitant rifampicin-based TB treatment from adults on solid formulation to young children on liquid formulation could not be confirmed in clinical studies. Physiologically based PK models can help to better characterize these complicated interactions and improve predictions of dosing regimens appropriate to overcome DDIs in children.¹⁶⁶

Current treatment guidelines recommend using super-boosted lopinavir/ritonavir-based ART during rifampicin-based TB treatment for children <3 years old.⁷³ Nonetheless, double-dosed lopinavir/ritonavir is still given frequently in resource-limited settings to children who are HIV/TB co-infected.^{98,167} Super-boosted lopinavir/ritonavir is hard to prescribe and administer, because the separate ritonavir oral solution has a bitter taste, a short shelf-life, requires refrigeration and stock-outs occur regularly. A new lopinavir/ritonavir super-boosted formulation is needed to ensure proper

therapy for children with HIV and TB who need to be treated with this drug combination.¹⁶⁷ This interaction can be bypassed by using rifabutin instead of rifampicin. However, lopinavir/ritonavir increases rifabutin exposure,^{119,122} the dose in young children with HIV has not yet been established and global access to rifabutin is limited.²⁰ Efavirenz is registered for children aged 3 months and older weighing more than 3.5 kg, but only recommended for use in children >3 years old, because of high PK variability.⁷³ Slow CYP2B6 or CYP2A6 metabolizers are at high risk of having high efavirenz exposure and toxicity.¹⁶⁸⁻¹⁷⁰ Polymorphisms resulting in slow CYP2B6 or CYP2A6 metabolism commonly occur, regardless of ethnic group.¹⁷¹ Efavirenz plasma concentrations are even more increased in slow CYP2B6-metabolizing children receiving rifampicin/isoniazid-based TB treatment due to the inhibitory effect of isoniazid on CYP2A6, whereas efavirenz PK did not alter in fast and intermediate metabolizers.⁸⁴ Slow CYP2B6-metabolizing children receiving efavirenz and rifampicin/isoniazid-based TB treatment thus are at an extra high risk of having toxic efavirenz plasma concentrations. It is therefore of utmost importance to be cautious when administering efavirenz to children with TB who are under 3 years of age. A triple NRTI regimen is also advised by the WHO guidelines for children with HIV/TB co-infection using rifampicin-based TB treatment.⁷³ This recommendation is based on a large trial done in HIV-infected children who were switched to triple NRTIs after a treatment initiation phase with NNRTI-based ART. These children, however, did not receive rifampicin-based TB treatment, which may reduce exposures to key NRTIs such as zidovudine and abacavir.⁷³ This study reported similar short-term maintenance of viral suppression for a triple NRTI (including abacavir) regimen compared with an NNRTI-based regimen, but the triple NRTI regimen was inferior at 12 months.¹⁷² Using a triple NRTI regimen has also been shown to be inferior to ART that contains an anchor drug, such as an NNRTI, PI or INSTI in adults without TB.¹⁷³ Moreover, NRTI levels in children using TB treatment has only been investigated in one study, which found reduced abacavir levels.⁵⁵ Hence, using a triple NRTI regimen should be considered as a last resort option in the treatment of paediatric HIV/TB co-infection when no other options are available. Seemingly fewer issues are expected with interactions between INSTIs and rifampicin-based TB treatment, since the paediatric formulations will be taste-masked and available in solid formulations, they are relatively safe, can easily mitigate rifampicin induction by giving it q12h (dolutegravir) or double dosed (raltegravir) and exhibit a predictable PK profile (dolutegravir). Therefore, worldwide access to paediatric INSTIs should be prioritized to improve ART in children with HIV-associated TB.

In general, target exposures of TB treatment are often not met in HIV-uninfected children.^{174,175} Higher TB treatment dosing schedules should be considered and are currently being investigated in children with and without HIV.^{176,177} Data about the effect of HIV infection on PK of first-line TB drugs in adults and children are still inconclusive.²⁷ In children who are HIV co-infected, significant decreases in exposure of rifampicin and ethambutol were seen, regardless of ART use. However, these studies were very heterogenous and usually not powered to assess this comparison. These reduced serum levels might be attributed to malabsorption caused by malnutrition, diarrhoea, DDIs or concurrent gastrointestinal infections. The WHO guideline for treatment of paediatric TB does not distinguish between children with or

without HIV regarding the required dose of first-line TB drugs.¹⁹ A more thorough investigation of the association of HIV with low TB drug exposures is warranted to tease out the impact of lower weight for age Z-scores and explore strategies to optimize dosing for treatment of TB as well as LTBI and MDR-TB (e.g. based on ideal body weight).

Little is known about DDIs of drugs for treating MDR-TB and ARVs in children. Most studies included in this review were not powered to assess PK differences between HIV-infected and uninfected children with or without ART. Studies in adults have shown that there are DDIs between ARVs and MDR-TB drugs that might be clinically relevant.^{124,129} No relevant paediatric PK data on new MDR-TB drugs (bedaquiline and delamanid) for HIV/TB co-infection are expected in the upcoming years. However, IMPAACT has started studies with these drugs, including children with and without HIV. A table of ongoing research is included in the [Supplementary data](#).

The overall quality of evidence of paediatric studies assessing PK of ART and TB treatment in HIV/TB-co-infected children was low for many medications. In clinical practice, therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) helps clinicians to make informed dosing decisions in case of DDIs.^{15,24} TDM offers a good opportunity for real-life monitoring of the magnitude of a DDI in an individual. However, this option is not widely available in countries that have a high burden of paediatric HIV and TB.

There are still many knowledge gaps in PK research in children who are HIV/TB co-infected. The main gaps that warrant further research are listed in Table 3.

Some new medications, drug formulations and treatment strategies for the treatment of HIV and TB that are currently only used for adults are promising for future paediatric HIV/TB care. These drugs and treatment strategies come with some implications regarding DDIs in children. For HIV treatment, a long-acting injectable intramuscular formulation of cabotegravir (INSTI) and rilpivirine (NNRTI) is expected to be marketed in the near future. The use of cabotegravir/rilpivirine is currently also being investigated in children and adolescents in the MOCHA trial.¹⁷⁸ However, no clinical studies have yet been done to assess the interaction of TB treatment with long-acting cabotegravir/rilpivirine. Rifampicin decreases orally administered cabotegravir AUC_{0-inf} by 59%¹⁷⁹ and rilpivirine AUC_{0-24h} by 80% in adults.¹⁸⁰ A physiologically based PK modelling study suggests that cabotegravir AUC_{0-28d} and C_{trough} will decrease by 41% and 46%, respectively, while rilpivirine AUC and C_{trough} will both decrease by 82% when given with rifampicin.¹⁸¹

With regards to TB treatment, there is increasing interest in the use of high-dose rifampicin to shorten the duration of TB treatment.¹⁸² Since rifampicin follows non-linear PK, a higher dose generally results in a disproportionate increase of rifampicin exposure.¹⁸³ Little is known about the impact of high-dose rifampicin on its induction potential and PK parameters of ARVs.¹⁸⁴ This is especially interesting for children in the lowest weight bands who often have very low rifampicin exposure following current paediatric dose recommendations. A recent study showed that efavirenz concentrations remained therapeutic in adult patients receiving double-dosed rifampicin as part of their TB treatment, despite a slight trend towards lower efavirenz concentrations.¹⁸⁵ However, these findings cannot be extrapolated to children or other ARVs due to differences in enzyme activity and different metabolic

Table 3. Current PK knowledge gaps regarding pharmacokinetics of antiretroviral and tuberculosis drugs in paediatric HIV/TB co-infection

Theme	PK knowledge gap	Planned/ongoing studies
ART and TB drugs	Dolutegravir with rifampicin in children <6 years old	EMPIRICAL CHAPAS-4 ODYSSEY
	Lopinavir/ritonavir with rifampicin in children >3 years old	SHINE
	Tenofovir alafenamide with rifampicin	CHAPAS-4
	PIs (other than lopinavir) with rifampicin	CHAPAS-4 VirTUAL
	ARVs with high-dose rifampicin	SURE
	ARV FDCs for HIV/TB co-infection	-
TB drugs and ART	ARVs with RPT	-
	Bedaquiline with lopinavir/ritonavir and efavirenz	-
	Moxifloxacin with lopinavir/ritonavir	-
	Rifabutin with lopinavir/ritonavir in children <5 years old	P30 AI060354
	Rifabutin with efavirenz	-
TB drugs in HIV-infected children	Weekly and daily RPT with different ARVs	-
	PK of delamanid, bedaquiline and moxifloxacin in HIV-infected children	IMPAACT P2005 IMPAACT P1108 IMPAACT P2020
	Large PK study assessing impact of HIV and TB drug dosing optimization	SURE SHINE
		IMPAACT P1106

FDC, fixed dose combination; RPT, rifapentine.

pathways. A 12 week treatment course with rifapentine and isoniazid once weekly is now recommended for children >2 years old and is recommended for all children >2 years old with HIV living in areas with high TB prevalence. However, little is known about the interaction potential of rifapentine in children. Recently, a new drug for MDR-TB has been approved by the FDA—pretomanid. About 20% of its metabolism is through CYP3A, resulting in significant decreases in PK due to concomitant efavirenz in healthy volunteers, but not when used with lopinavir/ritonavir.¹⁸⁶ Paediatric pretomanid trials are being planned by IMPAACT and TB alliance together.

Our review has limitations. First, many PK studies are included in this review that have small sample sizes and/or are underpowered. We took this into account for the final conclusions by scoring the quality of evidence for all studies. Second, this study focuses mainly on PK of the specific drugs, but not necessarily on efficacy and overlapping toxicity because these are usually not investigated in children with HIV/TB co-infection.

In conclusion, our review provides a comprehensive overview of all PK research done to assess DDIs between ARVs and TB treatment in HIV/TB-co-infected children. Only a few HIV treatment options are currently available and acceptable in children in the youngest age groups receiving rifampicin-based TB treatment; new treatment strategies are urgently needed. Future research should focus on evaluating dosing regimens for integrase inhibitors in all age groups and assessment of DDIs between ART and second-line TB drugs. Other dosing strategies of TB treatment should be considered for HIV-infected children because of low drug exposures and survival in this population.

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Supplementary data

Further information on searches and the search strategy is available as [Supplementary data](#) at JAC Online.

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