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RESEARCH ARTICLE

DETERMINATION OF BINDING MODE OF 1, 3, 4- THIADAZOLE ON CYTOCHROME P450 2B4: A VIRTUAL SCREENING AND MOLECULAR DOCKING STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The human genome encodes more than fifty-seven functional Cytochrome P450 proteins and mainly five isomers (CYP1A2, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6 and CYP3A4) account for 90% of drug metabolism. This accounting changes from the liver to intestinal and other extra-hepatic organs. Most are found on the endoplasmic reticulum of eukaryotic cells, but few are localized primarily in mitochondria. The majority of these are involved in metabolism for biotransformation of many drugs, environmental pollutants, steroids, fatty acids, bile acids, fat soluble vitamins as well as in activation of several carcinogens. Cytochrome P450 isomers are a super family of HEME protein enzymes which differ in their substrate specificity. They are influenced by numerous factors including age, sex, nutrition as well as exposure to certain CYP inducers. The HEME iron catalyzes cleavage of O-O bond leaving an iron linked oxygen atom that provides potent oxidant. The special features of CYP family of enzymes are ability to metabolize multiple substrates which differ in size, shape and stereochemistry. 1, 3, 4 Thiadiazole and its derivatives represents one of the most biological active classes of compound possessing a wide spectrum of activities. Literature survey shows that the 1,3,4 Thiadiazole nucleus is associated with diverse pharmacological activities such as antifungal, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, anti-tubercular, antiviral and anti-parkinsonism. We have attempted with the help of Virtual Screening and Molecular Docking approach to study the binding mode of 1,3,4 Thiadiazole on Cytochrome P450. A study of around 3500 derivatives has been conducted and the binding energies were in the range of -9.13 kcal/mol to -2.63 kcal/mol. As of structure analysis 20 molecules showed better binding affinities with the active site Thr³⁰². Our study gives an idea about the interaction between the active site residues and the substrate which is explained on the basis of size & hydrophobicity of the binding pocket. The study provides hints for future design of drugs with higher potency and specificity.

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INTRODUCTION

During recent years, there have been intense investigations on 1, 3, 4 Thiadiazole and its derivatives represents one of the most biological active classes of compound possessing a wide spectrum of activities. Literature survey shows that the 1,3,4 thiadiazole nucleus is associated with diverse pharmacological activities such as antifungal (1), antibacterial (2, 3), anti-inflammatory (4, 5, 6), anticancer (7,8), anti-tubercular (9,10), antiviral (11, 12) and anti-parkinsonism(13, 14). Moreover, much interest has also been focused on the cardiotonic, diuretic and herbicidal activities displayed by compounds incorporating this heterocyclic system. Cytochromes P450 (CYPs) belong to the superfamily of proteins containing a heme cofactor and, therefore, are hemeproteins. CYPs use a variety of small and large molecules as substrates in enzymatic reactions.

Cytochrome P450 is a family of isozymes responsible for the biotransformation of several drugs. Drug metabolism via the Cytochrome P450 system has emerged as an important determinant in the occurrence of several drug interactions that can result in drug toxicities, reduced pharmacological effect, and adverse drug reactions. Recognizing whether the drugs involved act as enzyme substrates, inducers, or inhibitors can prevent clinically significant interactions from occurring. Avoiding co-administration or anticipating potential problems and adjusting a patient's drug regimen early in the course of therapy can provide optimal response with minimal adverse effects. The active site of Cytochrome P450 contains a heme iron center. The iron is tethered to the P450 protein via a thiolate ligand derived from a cysteine residue. Human CYPs are primarily membrane-associated proteins, located either in the inner membrane of mitochondria or in the endoplasmic reticulum of cells. CYPs metabolize thousands of endogenous and exogenous chemicals. Some CYPs metabolize only one

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(or a very few) substrates, such as *CYP19* (aromatase), while others may metabolize multiple substrates. Both of these characteristics account for their central importance in medicine. Cytochrome P450 enzymes are present in most tissues of the body, and play important roles in hormone synthesis and breakdown (including estrogen and testosterone synthesis and metabolism), cholesterol synthesis, and vitamin D metabolism. Cytochrome P450 enzymes also function to metabolize potentially toxic compounds, including drugs and products of endogenous metabolism such as bilirubin, principally in the liver. The apparent pharmacokinetic effect of a mechanism-based inhibitor of Cytochrome p450 would be a function of its $K(I)$, $k(\text{inact})$ and partition ratio and the zero-order synthesis rate of new or replacement enzyme. The inactivators for Cytochrome p450 can be inducers and P-gp substrates/inhibitors, confounding in vitro-in vivo extrapolation. The clinical significance of Cytochrome p450 inhibition for drug safety and efficacy warrants closer understanding of the mechanisms for each inhibitor. Furthermore, such inactivation may be exploited for therapeutic gain in certain circumstances. The special features of CYP family of enzymes are ability to metabolize multiple Substrates which differ in size, shape and stereochemistry (Bathelt *et al.*, 2002; Poulos *et al.*, 2003; Olaviet *et al.*, 2008; Meunier *et al.*, 2004)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In silico screening

3500 compounds from different chemical database were screened, including the PubChem&ChemBank. They were docked into the active-site Thr^{302} of cytochrome P450 2B (pdb ID 2BDM (12)) using the program AutoDock4 (13).

Substrate selection

Firstly top 3500 drug structures most 2D-similar to 1, 3, 4-Thiadiazole (Fig 1) were chosen based on screening from the ChemBank (14). The chosen ligands have conformational stability and structural diversity in relation to the bound ligands of the Thiadiazole crystal structure. The ligand structures used in docking were obtained from ChemBank compound database. Ligands were identified as per the pharmacokinetic parameter and solubility. The active site i.e. Thr^{302} in the protein interacts with ligand of the substrate and gives rise to the catalytic activity to test ligands that helps in determining the binding pattern of the ligands to the active site of CYP 450 2B(PDB; 2BDM).

Synonyms: 1, 3, 4-Thiadiazole N-(5-(2-methylphenyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl)cyclopropanecarboxamide

Docking setup

Docking was performed using AutoDock 4, which combines energy evaluation through grids of affinity potential employing various search algorithms to find the suitable binding position for a ligand on a given protein (Morris *et al.*, 1998). While docking, polar hydrogen's were added to ligands using the hydrogen's module in AutoDock tool and thereafter, Kollman united atom partial charges were assigned (La Motta *et al.*, 2007). Docking of HIV-PR to ligands was carried out using LGA with standard docking protocol on the basis a population size of 150 randomly placed individuals; a

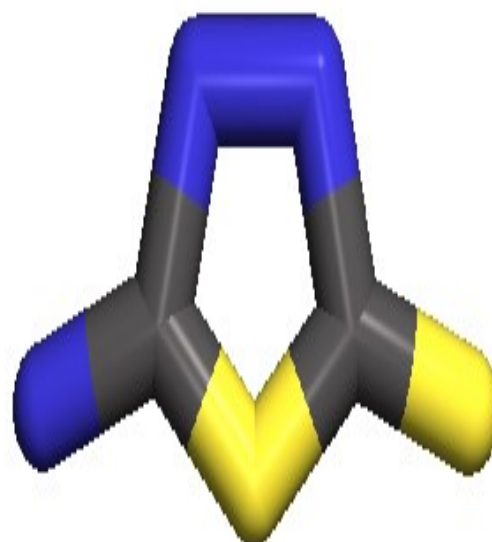


Fig.1 Structure of 1,3,4-thiadiazole

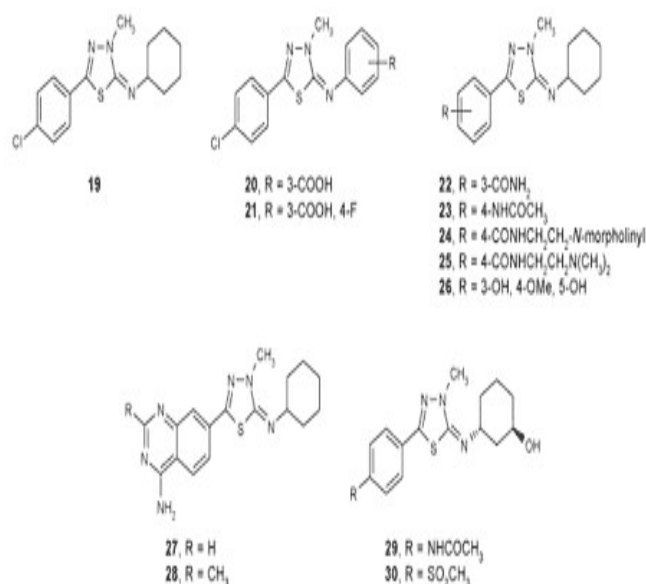


Fig. 2. Derivatives of 1,3,4-thiadiazole

maximum number of 2.5×10^7 energy evaluations, a mutation rate of 0.02, a crossover rate of 0.80 and an elitism value of 1. Fifteen independent docking runs were carried out for each ligand and results were clustered according to the 1.0 Å rmsd criteria. The grid maps representing the proteins were calculated using auto grid and grid size was set to $60 \times 60 \times 60$ points with grid spacing of 0.375 Å. The coordinate of the docked protein along with the ligand was visualized using UCSF chimera (15) (<http://www.cgl.ucsf.edu/chimera>) within 6.5 Å region.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Docking was carried out for 1, 3, 4-Thiadiazole with Cytochrome P450 2B showed a minimum binding energy in the range of -9.13 kcal/mol to -2.63 kcal/mol. On docking of 3500 molecules with Thr^{302} (as an active site) residue according to the minimum binding energy generated by autodock4 the best results were shown by following compounds.

demonstrate better binding patterns with protein in terms of hydrogen bonds with the various residues of the protein.

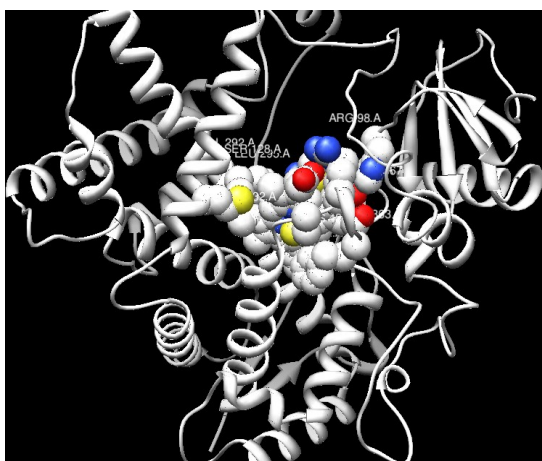


Fig: 2c-H-Bond with active site residue

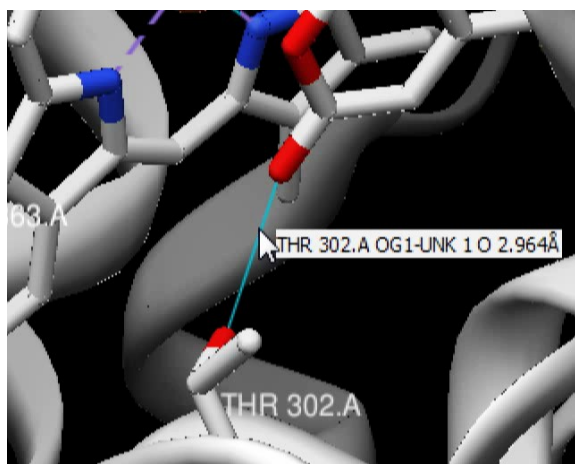


Fig: 2d-H-Bond with active site residue

In summary, based on the molecular docking we found that 9 molecules as of structure similarity from ChemBank showed better binding affinities with the active site pocket (Thr³⁰²) of the Cytochrome P450 2B (Fig- 2a, b, c, d). Our study gives an idea about the interaction between the active site residues and the substrate which is explained on the basis of size & hydrophobicity of the binding pocket. The molecules from ChemBank that showed less binding energy and showed better interactions with protein are not yet tested in the laboratory and the autofluorescence data for these molecules is not available. The extent of the work stretches to the Insilico approach for determining the binding mode. Further there is need to generate in vitro and in-vivo activity of the generated data to synthesize and test so to design drug with better specificity and metabolism.

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