

## Susceptibility testing of tulathromycin: interpretative breakpoints and susceptibility of field isolates K.S. Godinho

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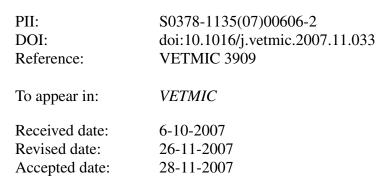
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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

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1	[short communication for Veterinary Microbiology]
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3	Susceptibility testing of tulathromycin: interpretative breakpoints and
4	susceptibility of field isolates.
5	
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14	
15	Abstract
16	In vitro susceptibility tests were conducted on bovine and porcine respiratory
17	pathogens isolated from European countries during 2004-2006 for susceptibility to
18	tulathromycin using the recommended methodologies for broth microdilution. The
19	results were compared with data from a similar survey conducted prior to launch in
20	1998-2001 to monitor for any shift in susceptibility. The importance of maintaining
21	the pH of the culture media within the range 7.2-7.4 was re-affirmed as a key factor in
22	obtaining consistent minimum inhibitory concentration data. The use of recently
23	established interpretative breakpoints would indicate that to date there has been no
24	apparent decrease in susceptibility to tulathromycin since it became widely used

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- 27
- 28 1. Introduction
- 29

30 Following the introduction of tulathromycin for veterinary use in the treatment 31 of respiratory disease in cattle and swine, a post-approval monitoring programme was 32 established in order to monitor any changes in the susceptibility of field isolates of the 33 key bacterial pathogens in countries where the product is approved. At the time of 34 approval, minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) ranges for control organisms used 35 for quality control purposes had not been established, neither had interpretative 36 standards been accepted for in vitro susceptibility testing with tulathromycin. 37 Consequently it is thought probable that many laboratories have used the 38 interpretative breakpoints established for tilmicosin, another macrolide antimicrobial 39 used for the treatment of respiratory disease in cattle, and for which guidelines have 40 been previously established by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI, 41 2002). However, there are important structural differences between tilmicosin, which 42 has a 16-membered ring, and tulathromycin, which has a 15-membered ring with 43 three amine groups (Evans, 2005). These structural differences impart different 44 pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic properties rendering the use of the same 45 interpretative breakpoints inappropriate. Recently, breakpoints have been established 46 for susceptibility testing of bovine respiratory pathogens to tulathromycin (Table 1) 47 and these are expected to be incorporated into the next edition of the CLSI guidelines. 48 Generally, the breakpoints for tulathromycin are one dilution higher than those for 49 tilmicosin (CLSI, 2002). At this time the sponsor has developed similar guidance for 50 porcine respiratory pathogens but these have yet to be accepted by the CLSI

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51	veterinary sub-committee and should be regarded as provisional. In addition, initial
52	investigation of the killing kinetics of tulathromycin indicated that susceptibility
53	testing was subject to error arising from methodological variation in conditions (Reese
54	et al., 2004; Evans, 2005). In order to ensure intra- and inter-laboratory consistency
55	and repeatability of results, it is essential that a common methodology is employed by
56	testing laboratories. This paper reports on a wide-ranging survey of the susceptibility
57	to tulathromycin of bacterial isolates obtained from field outbreaks of bovine and
58	porcine respiratory disease in Europe and reviews appropriate susceptibility testing
59	methodology for tulathromycin.
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62	2. Materials and methods
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64	2.1 Source of isolates
65	
66	Bacterial isolates were obtained from field studies conducted in various
67	countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the
68	Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom) as well as from library
69	collections. All isolates were sourced from animals that had not received treatment
70	with any antimicrobial. Species identification was performed using standard
71	techniques. Prior to susceptibility testing all mycoplasmal isolates were stored at
72	-70°C in vials containing 10% v/v glycerol and 1 mL Mycoplasma Medium™
73	(Mycoplasma Experience Ltd, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 9BY, UK). All other bacterial
74	isolates were stored on cryopreservative beads (Protect Beads <sup>™</sup> , Technical Services
75	Consultants Ltd., Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 1DS, UK) at -75°C to -85°C.

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#### 77 2.2 Determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations

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79 Susceptibility testing of the bacterial isolates to tulathromycin was performed 80 in accordance with CLSI guidelines (CLSI, 2002) using a broth microdilution 81 technique. For non-fastidious species the medium used was cation-adjusted Mueller-82 Hinton broth (CAMHB) with N-Tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl-2-aminoethanesulfonic 83 acid (TES) buffer (Sensititre<sup>®</sup>, Trek Diagnostic Systems, Cleveland, OH, USA) in 84 standard round-bottomed 96-well microdilution plates (Alpha Laboratories Sterile 85 Microtitre plates, Hampshire, UK). Each well contained 50  $\mu$ L and the dilution range 86 for determination of MICs for tulathromycin was 0.06 to 64 µg/mL. Each plate 87 contained three untreated wells for growth control purposes. MIC determinations for 88 fastidious species (Histophilus somni and Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae) were 89 made using Veterinary Fastidious Medium (VFM) in a carbon dioxide enriched 90 atmosphere (5% CO<sub>2</sub>). The test system was validated and routinely monitored by 91 concurrently determining the MICs of Escherichia coli American Type Culture 92 Collection (ATCC) 25922 (MIC 2-8 µg/mL), H. somni ATCC 700025 (MIC 4-32 93 µg/mL), A. pleuropneumoniae ATCC 27090 (MIC 16-64 µg/mL) and Staphylococcus 94 aureus ATCC 29213 (MIC 2-8 µg/mL) as quality control organisms. Immediately 95 prior to each test the pH of the media was checked using a calibrated pH meter, to 96 ensure it was within the pH range 7.2-7.4, and media found to be outside this range 97 were discarded.

Bacterial isolates were retrieved from storage and sub-cultured onto Columbia
 sheep blood agar, incubated overnight at 35±1°C and checked visually for
 morphology and purity. Fastidious species, retrieved from storage, were sub-cultured

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101 onto chocolate agar and incubated overnight at  $35\pm1$  °C in a carbon dioxide enriched 102 atmosphere (5-7% CO<sub>2</sub>), prior to visual checking for morphology and purity. 0.5 103 McFarland suspensions of test bacteria in saline were prepared by suspending 3-5 104 bacterial colonies in 5 mL of physiological saline and the optical density adjusted to 105 0.08-0.1 at 625 nm to give approximately  $5\times10^5$  cfu/mL (as per CLSI guidelines).

106 An equilibrated stock solution of tulathromycin was prepared (Trek Diagnostic 107 Systems, Cleveland, OH, USA) and used for all susceptibility testing. Standardised 108 cell suspensions were inoculated into the test plates within 30 minutes of preparation 109 to give a final inoculum in each well of approximately  $5 \times 10^5$  cfu/mL. A number of 110 randomly selected inocula were titrated for confirmation of the approximate levels of cfu/mL. The colony counts obtained ranged from  $4.3 \times 10^5$  to  $8.8 \times 10^5$  cfu/mL and 111 112 were regarded as acceptable. Diluted inoculum was kept at -4°C or on ice until 113 microtitre plates were inoculated. Each well was inoculated with 50  $\mu$ L of bacterial 114 suspension. Plates were sealed to prevent desiccation and incubated for 16-20 hours 115 (20-24 hours for fastidious species) at 35°C to ensure adequate growth in the drug-116 free control wells. Tests with poor growth in the drug-free wells were invalid and 117 were repeated.

118 Mycoplasma isolates (stored at -70°C) were used to initiate further cultures which were vortexed after a one in ten dilution, and then further diluted to  $10^{-5}$  and 119 120 inoculated onto plates to allow estimation of the number of colony forming units (cfu) 121 in the broth culture. Mycoplasma suspensions for MIC determination in the range  $10^3$ -10<sup>5</sup> cfu/mL were prepared in fresh media at pH 7.5. Titres were determined by adding 122 123 0.1 mL of suspension to 0.1 mL volumes of medium, and inoculating the mixture onto 124 agar media. After 7 days incubation to allow for development of all colonies present, 125 the number of colonies were counted.

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126 The susceptibility of mycoplasmal isolates was determined using a modification of the method described by Tanner and Wu (1992) using Cellstar<sup>®</sup> plates 127 128 (Greiner) with a single reading to determine end-points. Susceptibility testing was 129 carried out using pre-counted, actively growing cultures. Proprietary media 130 (Mycoplasma Media<sup>™</sup>, Mycoplasma Experience Ltd, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 9BY, 131 UK) were composed of a broth base supplemented with bovine or porcine serum and 132 yeast extract, and contained phenol red as a pH indicator and ampicillin as a bacterial 133 inhibitor. Dilutions of mycoplasma broth culture were prepared in fresh media, prior 134 to incubation at 36±1°C. Stock drug solutions were prepared fresh as described above. 135 Each microtitre plate contained wells with uninoculated medium, medium at pH 6.8 136 (to provide an end-point control) and inoculated medium alone as challenge controls. 137 Plates were sealed with Falcon<sup>®</sup> (Becton Dickinson, 1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, 138 New Jersey 07417, USA) sealing strips, prior to incubation at 36±1°C. Growth was 139 apparent as a pH dependent colour change in wells where growth was evident, caused 140 by a growth-induced pH shift in the medium (changing from red to orange/yellow for 141 glucose fermenters). Plates were inspected at the start, middle and end of each day 142 until a colour change in the drug-free challenge control well was equal to or exceeded 143 that for the end-point control well (pH 6.8) at which time the tests were then read. 144 When end-points were not achieved or if the mycoplasma inocula fell outside the 145 range  $10^3$ - $10^5$  cfu/mL the tests were repeated. The test system was validated and 146 routinely monitored by concurrently testing *M. bovis* reference strain NC10131 and 147 *M. hyopneumoniae* reference strain NC10110 with each set of susceptibility tests. 148 The MIC for any particular isolate was defined as the lowest concentration of 149 tulathromycin to completely inhibit visible growth. The MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> values were

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- defined as the lowest concentrations capable of inhibiting the growth of 50% and 90%of isolates, respectively.
- 152
- 153 **3.** Results
- 154

155 A total of 170 isolates were of bovine origin (Mannheimia haemolytica 33, 156 Pasteurella multocida 44; H. somni 30; and 63 M. bovis) and 133 isolates were of 157 porcine origin (A. pleuropneumoniae 53; P. multocida 53; and 27 158 *M. hyopneumoniae*). The MIC results for each species are summarised in Table 1 and 159 the interpretative breakpoints would indicate that at these MIC<sub>90</sub> values, the bacterial 160 species tested were susceptible to tulathromycin. However, no adequate interpretation 161 of breakpoints has, as yet, been determined for *M. bovis* or *M. hyopneumoniae*, 162 although the low MIC data obtained for *M. hyopneumoniae* would suggest general 163 susceptibility. The results for *M. bovis* would indicate an MIC<sub>90</sub> of >64  $\mu$ g/mL, but 164 this is not necessarily predictive of a lack of clinical efficacy. Data has been 165 previously presented to demonstrate that under controlled conditions, tulathromycin 166 was clinically efficacious in treatment of respiratory disease in calves inoculated with 167 a strain of *M. bovis* known to have an MIC for tulathromycin of  $>64 \mu g/mL$  (Godinho 168 et al., 2005b). The MIC<sub>90</sub> values (and MIC range) for tulathromycin across all 169 countries for bovine isolates determined in the current survey conducted with isolates 170 collected during 2004-2006 were compared with those determined in the period 1998-171 2001 (Godinho et al., 2005a,b; McKelvie et al., 2005; Nanjiani et al., 2005) prior to 172 the European product launch (Table 2).

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#### 174 **4. Discussion**

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176 This is the first report to include interpretation of the antimicrobial 177 susceptibility of respiratory pathogens to tulathromycin following its introduction 178 onto the veterinary market. These data would indicate that despite the usage of the 179 antimicrobial, in cattle and pigs there has as yet been no shift in susceptibility 180 amongst the key pathogenic target species. Nevertheless, it is important that the 181 situation continues to be monitored regularly. In recently published work comparing 182 the MICs of porcine isolates of *P. multocida* collected over a two year period for a 183 battery of antimicrobials by Kaspar and others (2007), the  $MIC_{90}$  for tulathromycin 184 was 2  $\mu$ g/mL in 2004-5 and 1  $\mu$ g/mL in 2005-6. Using the proposed new 185 interpretative guidelines, with the exception of one resistant isolate from 2004-5 186 (MIC = 64  $\mu$ g/mL), all other isolates (639 isolates in 2004-5 and 471 in 2005-6) from 187 both years were susceptible to tulathromycin (MIC range 0.03-4  $\mu$ g/mL) (Kaspar et 188 al., 2007).

189 In the work presented here, the sampling methodology utilised was broadly in 190 agreement with that suggested by Wallmann (2006) for the monitoring of 191 antimicrobial resistance in pathogenic bacteria from farm animals. As with any survey 192 of susceptibility data it is accepted that there are a small number of shortcomings in 193 the methodology employed. It was not possible, for example, to identify isolates from 194 premises known to have been exposed to tulathromycin in the intervening period 195 between the two periods surveyed. Neither was it possible to obtain isolates from the 196 same farms or indeed in many instances the same countries. However, bias was 197 reduced by not using data solely from herds where the product was known to either 198 have been used or not to have been used. The only stipulation was that the isolate had

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199 to be collected prior to administration of any antimicrobials during the current 200 outbreak of respiratory disease. Surveys of antimicrobial susceptibility based upon 201 isolates received by laboratories from practitioners are likely to be biased if the data 202 include isolates from samples collected from problem animals/herds that have not 203 responded to treatment and such data automatically selects in favour of a reduced 204 susceptibility. It is not unknown for data biased in this manner to be used to support 205 arguments in favour of restricting the veterinary usage of antimicrobials, especially in 206 food producing species. While antimicrobials can provide valuable benefits in terms 207 of animal welfare and control of clinical disease, it is important in relation to the 208 development of resistance to monitor the field susceptibility of key pathogens to 209 specific antimicrobials particularly if their use is widespread.

210 In order to ensure comparability of results, it is also important that a common 211 methodology is employed during the conduct of susceptibility testing. Previous 212 reports have indicated that alterations in the pH and variability between batches of 213 media during susceptibility tests for tulathromycin against fastidious species 214 (H. somni and A. pleuropneumoniae), could result in MIC values that differed by up 215 to 4-fold (Reese et al., 2004; Evans, 2005; Godinho et al., 2005a). In addition, it was 216 found that the results could be influenced by the presence of serum, with the range of 217 MIC and MIC<sub>90</sub> considerably reduced in the presence of serum by a factor of at least 218 4-fold for the aerobic species and 6 to 10-fold for the fastidious species, which was 219 thought to be related to the increased buffering capacity provided by the serum 220 (Godinho et al., 2005a). At this time it is not known whether the presence of serum 221 could also affect susceptibility testing of mycoplasma species. Similar changes in 222 MIC due to reduction of pH have been reported for erythromycin, azithromycin and 223 clarithromycin (Pruul and McDonald 1992; Edney et al., 1998). The recently

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224	established CLSI methodology for control organisms and interpretative guidelines for
225	bovine isolates and the suggested guidance for porcine pathogens should provide
226	improved repeatability of susceptibility testing for tulathromycin.
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235	
236	
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	Bovine isolates				Porcine isolates		
MIC	Mannheimia	Pasteurella	Histophilus	Mycoplasma	Actinobacillus	Pasteurella	Mycoplasma
(µg/mL)	haemolytica	multocida	somni	bovis	pleuropneumoniae	multocida	hyopneumoniae
.0.004							1 (40/)
≤0.004	-	-	-	-	- ( )	-	1 (4%)
0.008	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 (19%)
0.015	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 (26%)
0.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 (22%)
0.06	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 (15%)
0.125	-	-	-	1 (2%)	-	-	4 (15%)
0.25	2 (6%)	2 (5%)	-	3 (5%)	-	2 (4%)	-
0.5	2 (6%)	8 (41%)	-	11 (17%)	-	19 (36%)	-
1	13 (39%)	20 (45%)	1 (3%)	8 (13%)	-	28 (53%)	-
2	15 (45%)	4 (9%)	18 (60%)	6 (10%)	-	4 (8%)	-
4	1 (3%)	-	11 (37%)	2 (3%)	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	· · ·	8 (15%)	-	-
16	-	-	-	2 (3%)	44 (83%)	-	-
32	-	-	_	-	1 (2%)	-	-
64	-	-		-	-	-	-
>64	-	-	$\langle \cdot \rangle$	30 (48%)	-	-	-
otal No.							
f Isolates	33 <sup>a</sup>	44	30	63	53	53 <sup>a</sup>	27
		Interpre	tative breakpo	oints for broth mi	crodilution (µg/mL)		
S	≤16 <sup>†</sup>	$\leq 16^{\dagger}$	$\leq 16^{\dagger}$	-	≤32 <sup>‡</sup>	$\leq 16^{\ddagger}$	-
Ι		32†	32†	-	-	32‡	-
R	$\geq 64^{\dagger}$	≥64 <sup>†</sup>	$\geq 64^{\dagger}$	-	$\geq 64^{\ddagger}$	$\geq 64^{\ddagger}$	-

Table 1. Distribution and frequency of minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) for tulathromycin against bovine and porcine respiratory pathogens isolated from Europe during 2004-2006.

<sup>a</sup>Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. <sup>†</sup>Standards approved by the CLSI subcommittee on veterinary antimicrobial susceptibility testing 2006. <sup>‡</sup>Recommended standards, not currently approved by the CLSI. S = Susceptible, I = Intermediate, R = Resistant.

Table 2. Comparison of sensitivity results for tulathromycin determined for European bovine and porcine isolates collected during 1998-2001 with those collected during 2004-2006.

				<b>Bovine isolates</b>				
	Mannheimia	haemolytica	Pasteurella multocida		Histophilus somni		Mycoplasma bovis	
	2004-2006	Pre-2002 <sup>†</sup>	2004-2006	Pre-2002 <sup>†</sup>	2004-2006	Pre-2002 <sup>†</sup>	2004-2006	Pre-2002 <sup>‡</sup>
	<i>n</i> =33	n=79	<i>n</i> =44	<i>n</i> =88	<i>n</i> =30	<i>n</i> =53	<i>n</i> =63	<i>n</i> =53
MIC <sub>50</sub>	1 μg/mL	1 μg/mL	1 μg/mL	0.5 μg/mL	2 μg/mL	2 μg/mL	4 μg/mL	0.25 μg/mL
MIC <sub>90</sub>	2 μg/mL	$2 \ \mu g/mL$	1 μg/mL	1 μg/mL	4 μg/mL	4 μg/mL	>64 µg/mL	>64 µg/mL
MIC	0.25 - 4	0.25 - 4	0.25 – 2 μg/mL	0.25 - 2 μg/mL	1-4	1-4	0.125 ->64	≤0.063 - >6
range	μg/mL	μg/mL	1.5	10	μg/mL	μg/mL	μg/mL	μg/mL

	Actinobacillus pl	leuropneumoniae	Porcine is Pasteurella		Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae		
	2004-2006	Pre-2002 <sup>†</sup>	2004-2006	Pre-2002 <sup>†</sup>	2004-2006	Pre-2002 <sup>§</sup>	
	<i>n</i> =53	<i>n</i> =54	n=53	<i>n</i> =65	<i>n</i> =27	<i>n</i> =58	
MIC <sub>50</sub> MIC <sub>90</sub>	16 μg/mL 16 μg/mL	8 μg/mL 16 μg/mL	1 μg/mL 1 μg/mL	0.5 μg/mL 2 μg/mL	0.03 μg/mL 0.06 μg/mL	0.05 μg/mL 0.05 μg/mL	
MIC range	8-32 μg/mL	4 – 16 μg/mL	0.25 - 2 μg/mL	0.25 - 2 µg/mL	$\leq 0.004 - 0.125 \ \mu g/mL$	$0.05-0.4\ \mu g/mL$	

<sup>†</sup>Godinho et al., 2005a. <sup>‡</sup>Godinho et al., 2005b. <sup>§</sup>McKelvie et al., 2005; Nanjiani et al., 2005.