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# Telavancin in the Treatment of Concurrent *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacteremia: A Retrospective Analysis of ATLAS and ATTAIN Studies

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Concurrent *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia (SAB) worsens outcomes and increases mortality in patients with complicated skin and skin structure infections (cSSSI), hospital-acquired bacterial pneumonia, and ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia (HABP/VABP). These challenges highlight the need for alternative treatments. Telavancin (TLV), a bactericidal lipoglycopeptide with high in vitro potency, effectively treats patients with cSSSI and HABP/VABP caused by Gram-positive pathogens, particularly *S. aureus*.

**Methods:** This retrospective analysis evaluated patients from the Assessment of Telavancin in Complicated Skin and Skin Structure Infections and Assessment of Telavancin for Treatment of

Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia studies with baseline, concurrent SAB. Differences in the clinical cure rates at test-of-cure and safety outcomes were compared for TLV vs vancomycin (VAN) treatment groups.

**Results:** A total of 105 patients, 32 cSSSI and 73 HABP/VABP, had baseline, concurrent SAB. The clinical cure rates for all-treated SAB patients in the cSSSI (TLV 57.1% and VAN 54.5%) and HABP/VABP (TLV 54.3% and VAN 47.2%) groups were comparable. For both types of infections, the safety profile of TLV and VAN showed similar incidences of adverse events (AEs), serious AEs, or AEs leading to discontinuation. One VAN-treated patient died in the cSSSI group, and there were 13 deaths in each treatment arm of the HABP/VABP group.

**Conclusion:** This retrospective analysis demonstrated that TLV is clinically comparable in both efficacy and safety to VAN, and, therefore, may be an appropriate therapeutic option for the treatment of patients with HABP/VABP or cSSSI and concurrent SAB. Given the limited sample size in this subgroup, the interpretation of these results is limited.

**Funding:** Theravance Biopharma Antibiotics, Inc.

**Keywords:** Complicated skin and skin structure infection; Concurrent bacteremia; MRSA; Pneumonia; *Staphylococcus aureus*; Telavancin; Vancomycin

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## INTRODUCTION

*Staphylococcus aureus* causes a wide range of infections, including hospital-acquired bacterial pneumonia (HABP), ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia (VABP), complicated skin and skin structure infections (cSSSI), and bacteremia [1]. Primary bacteremia that occurs without a prior bacterial entry portal or associated site of infection accounts for approximately 40%–50% of cases of *S. aureus* bacteremia (SAB) [2]. SAB that occurs with an established portal of entry or associated infection, such as HABP/VABP or cSSSI, is defined as secondary or concurrent bacteremia [2]. Several studies have reported *S. aureus* to be a common pathogen in patients with HABP/VABP or cSSSI and concurrent bacteremia [3–8]. The global incidence rates of concurrent bacteremia in HABP/VABP or cSSSI patients range from 12%–20% [3–7, 9, 10]. Concurrent SAB is associated with complications including infective endocarditis, septic arthritis, and osteomyelitis, and a delay in treatment of the primary infection further increases the risk of developing these complications [2]. Furthermore, patients with HABP/VABP or cSSSI and concurrent bacteremia have poor outcomes and, in some cases, increased mortality compared with patients without bacteremia [3–8]. Given the severity of illness and higher mortality rates observed in patients with concurrent SAB, there is a need to identify alternative treatments.

Telavancin (TLV) is a bactericidal lipoglycopeptide antibiotic with a dual mechanism of action; it inhibits cell wall synthesis and disrupts the functional integrity of the bacterial membrane [11] and has high in vitro potency. It is active against certain clinically relevant Gram-positive pathogens, including methicillin-susceptible and methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MSSA, MRSA) [12]. The Assessment of Telavancin in Complicated Skin and Skin Structure Infections (ATLAS) and Assessment of Telavancin for Treatment of Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia (ATTAIN) trials have demonstrated that TLV is noninferior to vancomycin (VAN) in the treatment of patients with cSSSIs and HABP/VABP caused by Gram-positive pathogens

[12, 13]. Telavancin is currently approved in the US in adults for the treatment of cSSSI due to susceptible Gram-positive pathogens, and for HABP/VABP caused by susceptible isolates of *S. aureus* when other treatments are not suitable. The retrospective efficacy and safety analysis of patients from the ATLAS and ATTAIN trials presented here demonstrates that TLV may be an appropriate therapeutic option in treating patients with either cSSSI or HABP/VABP who have concurrent SAB. In May 2016, the US Food and Drug Administration approved the inclusion of portions of these data in the TLV US product label.

## METHODS

### Subject Selection

Patients enrolled in the ATLAS and ATTAIN studies (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifiers: NCT00091819, NCT00107978, NCT00107952, NCT00124020) who had concurrent bacteremia were selected for this retrospective analysis [12, 13]. Concurrent bacteremia in cSSSI and HABP/VABP patients was defined as the recovery of *S. aureus* from the baseline blood culture. This article is based on previously conducted studies and does not involve any new studies of human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

### Antimicrobial Treatment Regimen

The ATLAS and ATTAIN trials were double-blinded studies wherein patients were randomized to receive either intravenous TLV (10 mg/kg every 24 h) or VAN (1 g every 12 h) for 7–14 days (cSSSI) or 7–21 days (HABP/VABP) [12, 13]. For both infection types, TLV dose was adjusted as per renal function and VAN dose was administered per institutional protocol [14]. For the ATTAIN and ATLAS trials, initial VAN dosage ranged from 125–4000 mg and 143–3400 mg every 24 h, respectively. There was no sequential oral treatment allowed. The modified all-treated population included all randomized patients who received  $\geq 1$  dose of

study drug with pathogen identified from baseline samples [12, 13].

### Efficacy and Safety Variables and Statistical Analyses

The clinical response of each patient was determined by the investigator at the end of treatment and at the follow-up assessment. For the cSSSI patients, clinical cure was defined as resolution of clinically significant signs and symptoms present at study admission or improvement to the extent that the infectious process had been controlled and no further antimicrobial therapy was needed [13]. For HABP/VABP patients, clinical cure was defined as improvement or lack of progression of baseline radiographic findings at end of therapy and resolution of signs and symptoms of pneumonia at follow-up/test-of-cure [12]. For both infection types, for purposes of analysis, a clinical response of “Not Cured” at end of treatment was carried forward to test-of-cure (TOC). Clinical cure rates at TOC were calculated as the number of patients with concurrent SAB and a clinical response of “cure” divided by the total number of patients with concurrent SAB. Creatinine clearance (CrCl) was estimated using the Cockcroft–Gault equation [15]. Baseline renal function was stratified into 4 categories according to CrCl, <30, 30–50, >50–80, and >80 mL/min.

For both types of infection, 28-day mortality was defined as any death that occurred within 28 days after end of treatment [12, 13]. Post hoc analyses across treatment groups consisted of an estimated treatment difference (stratified by study) with its accompanying 95% confidence interval (CI) adjusted via Agresti–Caffo methods, as appropriate [16]. For each approved indication, the incidence of treatment-emergent adverse events (AEs) and serious AEs (SAEs) were descriptively recorded. Adverse events are reported in terms defined by the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (MedDRA) unless otherwise specified.

### Compliance with Ethics Guidelines

This article is based on previously conducted studies and does not involve any new studies of

human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

## RESULTS

### Patient Disposition, Demographic, and Baseline Characteristics

A total of 105 patients, 32 cSSSI (21 TLV and 11 VAN) and 73 HABP/VABP (35 TLV and 38 VAN) patients from the ATLAS and ATTAIN studies, respectively, had concurrent SAB. Baseline and demographic variables were comparable for both treatment groups within each infection type (Table 1). Patients aged  $\geq 65$  years accounted for approximately 31% of the cSSSI and 55% of the HABP/VABP groups. For both cSSSI and HABP/VABP groups with concurrent bacteremia, common comorbidities included diabetes and hypertension. The baseline pathogens isolated for each infection are also listed in Table 1. Impaired renal function (CrCl levels  $\leq 50$  mL/min) was observed at baseline in 20% and 31% of patients with cSSSI and HABP/VABP, respectively. Approximately equal numbers of patients with HABP/VABP and concurrent SAB were ventilated at baseline in the TLV ( $n = 18$ , 51%) compared with VAN ( $n = 19$ , 50%) groups. In cSSSI patients with concurrent bacteremia, the *S. aureus* (MRSA and MSSA) minimum inhibitory concentration for 50% or 90% of isolates (MIC<sub>50</sub>, MIC<sub>90</sub>) were 0.06  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  for TLV and 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  for VAN, respectively. Among HABP/VABP patients with bacteremia, the MSSA MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> values were 0.03 and 0.06  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  for TLV, respectively, and 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  for VAN; the MRSA MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> values were 0.06 and 0.12  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  for TLV, respectively, and 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  for VAN.

### Efficacy Outcomes

Telavancin-treated patients with cSSSI and concurrent SAB received their study drug for a mean of 10 days (median of 8 days, range of 1–15 days), and VAN-treated patients received their study drug for a mean of 9 days (median of 10 days, range of 2–15 days). Overall, 21 (66%)

**Table 1** Baseline and demographic characteristics

Characteristic	ATLAS-cSSSI [13]		ATTAIN-HABP/VABP [12]	
	TLV <i>n</i> = 21	VAN <i>n</i> = 11	TLV <i>n</i> = 35	VAN <i>n</i> = 38
Age				
Mean years $\pm$ SD	52 $\pm$ 16.9	52 $\pm$ 19.4	65 $\pm$ 20.1	61 $\pm$ 17.6
<65 years, <i>n</i> (%)	15 (71)	7 (64)	13 (37)	20 (53)
$\geq$ 65 years, <i>n</i> (%)	6 (29)	4 (36)	22 (63)	18 (47)
Race, <i>n</i> (%)				
White	16 (76)	8 (73)	25 (71)	26 (68)
African American	3 (14)	3 (27)	2 (6)	2 (5)
Asian	2 (10)	0 (0)	8 (23)	7 (18)
American Indian or Alaskan native	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (8)
Weight, mean kg $\pm$ SD				
	75 $\pm$ 15.7	73 $\pm$ 15.6	73 $\pm$ 16.3	72 $\pm$ 18.6
Body mass index, mean kg/m <sup>2</sup> $\pm$ SD				
	26 $\pm$ 4.4	26 $\pm$ 5.0	26 $\pm$ 5.4	25 $\pm$ 5.7
<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>n</i> (%)				
Infection site, MSSA	6 (29)	4 (36)	12 (34)	10 (26)
Infection site, MRSA	11 (52)	5 (4)	17 (49)	24 (63)
Blood, MSSA	8 (38)	7 (64)	14 (40)	14 (37)
Blood, MRSA	13 (62)	4 (36)	21 (60)	24 (63)
Baseline renal function (CrCl mL/min), <i>n</i> (%)				
>80	11 (55)	4 (40)	15 (43)	14 (42)
>50–80	6 (30)	3 (30)	11 (31)	7 (21)
30–50	3 (15)	2 (20)	6 (17)	7 (21)
<30	0 (0)	1 (10)	3 (9)	5 (15)
Diabetes, <i>n</i> (%)				
	6 (29)	3 (27)	6 (17)	10 (26)
Hypertension, <i>n</i> (%)				
	9 (43)	5 (45)	20 (57)	18 (47)

ATLAS Assessment of Telavancin in Complicated Skin and Skin Structure Infections, ATTAIN Assessment of Telavancin for Treatment of Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia, CrCl creatinine clearance, cSSSI complicated skin and skin structure infections, HABP/VABP hospital-acquired and ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia, MRSA methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, MSSA methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus*, SD standard deviation, TLV telavancin, VAN vancomycin

cSSSI bacteremic patients (13 TLV and 8 VAN) completed the course of study drug therapy and had resolution of signs and symptoms in  $\leq$ 14 days. A total of 11 (8 TLV and 3 VAN) patients discontinued treatment, with

unsatisfactory therapeutic response being the most common reason for drug discontinuation. Overall clinical cure rates were similar between TLV-treated patients (12/21, 57.1%) and VAN-treated patients (6/11, 54.5%) [difference:

**Table 2** Clinical cure rates at test-of-cure in patients with bacteremia in ATLAS and ATTAIN trials

Pathogen identified in the blood	ATLAS-cSSSI [13]			ATTAIN-HABP/VABP [12]		
	TLV <i>n</i> = 21	VAN <i>n</i> = 11	Difference <sup>a</sup> (95% CI)	TLV <i>n</i> = 35	VAN <i>n</i> = 38	Difference <sup>a</sup> (95% CI)
<i>S. aureus</i>	12/21 (57.1)	6/11 (54.5)	−0.8 (−34.4, 35.5) <sup>b</sup>	19/35 (54.3)	18/38 (47.4)	9.9 (−13.9, 33.6)
MSSA	4/8 (50.0)	4/7 (57.1)	−6.0 (−48.4, 40.4) <sup>b</sup>	8/14 (57.1)	9/14 (64.3)	−6.5 (−39.7, 29.8) <sup>b</sup>
MRSA	8/13 (61.5)	2/4 (50.0)	−0.5 (−44.3, 52.2) <sup>b</sup>	11/21 (52.4)	9/24 (37.5)	17.7 (−12.8, 42.3) <sup>b</sup>

Unless otherwise noted, all data are presented as the number of cured patients/total number of patients in the specific group, and the percentage is in parentheses

*ATLAS* Assessment of Telavancin in Complicated Skin and Skin Structure Infections, *ATTAIN* Assessment of Telavancin for Treatment of Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia, *CI* confidence interval, *cSSSI* complicated skin and skin structure infections, *HABP/VABP* hospital-acquired and ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia, *MRSA* methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, *MSSA* methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus*, *TLV* telavancin, *VAN* vancomycin

<sup>a</sup> Pooled analysis stratified by study. Cure rate is calculated as the number of patients with the given pathogen and a clinical response of “cure” divided by the number of patients with the given pathogen

<sup>b</sup> 95% CI for the treatment difference (TLV–VAN) in cure rate using Agresti–Caffo adjustment for sparse data

−0.8% (95% CI −34.4%, 35.5%)] (Table 2). Eight patients (7 TLV, 1 VAN) had a clinical response “not cured,” 2 patients (1 TLV, 1 VAN) had an indeterminate response, and 4 (1 TLV, 3 VAN) had a missing response at TOC. Treatment failure was most commonly attributed to drug discontinuation due to unsatisfactory therapeutic response. One VAN-treated patient with concurrent bacteremia died in the cSSSI studies. The patient presented with cellulitis at the peripheral intravenous infusion site at baseline, developed hypoxemia due to pulmonary edema, and ultimately died of septic shock.

Three cSSSI patients had concurrent bacteremia (2 MSSA and 1 MRSA) that persisted for 3, 4, and 6 days past the baseline blood culture, respectively. Two were treated with VAN, and 1 was treated with TLV. The TLV-treated patient was also diagnosed with infective endocarditis and vertebral osteomyelitis. All 3 patients with persistent bacteremia were considered treatment failures.

Telavancin-treated patients with HABP/VABP and concurrent SAB received the study drug for a mean of 11 days (median of 11, range of 2–22 days), and VAN-treated patients received the study drug for a mean of 9 days (median of 9, range of 1–23 days). Overall, 38 (52%) HABP/VABP patients with SAB (19 TLV and 19 VAN) completed the course of study

drug therapy and had resolution of signs and symptoms in  $\leq 21$  days. A total of 35 (16 TLV and 19 VAN) patients discontinued treatment with unsatisfactory therapeutic response being the most common reason for drug discontinuation. The overall clinical cure rates for the TLV (54.3%) and VAN (47.4%) groups were comparable (difference of 9.9% [95% CI −13.9%, 33.6%]) (Table 2). Twelve patients (4 TLV, 8 VAN) had a clinical response “failure,” 5 patients (2 TLV, 3 VAN) had an indeterminate response, and 19 (10 TLV, 9 VAN) had a missing response at TOC. Treatment failure was most commonly attributed to progression of pneumonia. In total, 29 deaths were reported in the HABP/VABP bacteremic patients; the 28-day, all-cause mortality rate was comparable in the 2 treatment groups (TLV 14/35 [40.0%] and VAN 15/38 [39.5%]).

In the HABP/VABP studies, 4 patients had bacteremia that persisted beyond baseline in the TLV group (1 MSSA and 3 MRSA). Two of the 4 patients were cured after 3 and 4 days of positive blood cultures, respectively. The other 2 patients died; 1 due to septic shock after 7 days of persistent positive blood cultures for MRSA, and the other patient had care withdrawn after 5 days of persistent positive blood cultures. Eight VAN-treated patients had persistent bacteremia (2 MSSA and 6 MRSA). One of these patients, with 3 days of blood cultures

positive for MRSA, was cured. Five of the other 7 patients died, all following 3–4 days of persistent positive blood cultures. The remaining 2 patients, who were bacteremic for 6 and 7 days, respectively, were successfully treated with linezolid or a combination of cloxacillin and clindamycin, respectively.

### Safety Analysis

For the cSSSI patients, no notable difference was observed between the treatment groups in the incidences of AEs, SAEs, or AEs leading to discontinuation of study drug. A total of 2 (6%) cSSSI patients with concurrent SAB (TLV 1/21 and VAN 1/11) discontinued study medication due to AEs. Common AEs, such as dysgeusia, headache, vomiting, and foamy urine, were reported more often in the TLV group (Table 3). There was a single report each of renal impairment and renal insufficiency. These MedDRA-defined AEs were reported by the investigators based on their clinical judgment. No renal AEs were reported in the VAN treatment group.

The frequencies and types of AEs, SAEs, and AEs leading to discontinuation of the study drug were comparable between treatment groups for HABP/VABP patients with concurrent SAB. A total of 7 (10%) bacteremic patients (TLV 2/35 and VAN 5/38) discontinued the study drug due to AEs. Anemia, septic shock, and hypokalemia were the most commonly reported AEs by the HABP/VABP bacteremic patients in both treatment groups (Table 3). The incidence of renal AEs was less than 10% across both treatments in HABP/VABP patients with concurrent SAB (TLV, 2 renal impairment and 1 renal insufficiency; VAN, 2 acute renal failure, 1 renal insufficiency, and 1 nephrotic syndrome).

## DISCUSSION

HABP/VABP or cSSSI with concurrent bacteremia is a significant issue often caused by *S. aureus* [3–10]. However, data for the treatment of bacteremia, concurrent with HABP/VABP or cSSSI, are limited and warrant further study. While ceftaroline demonstrated efficacy in

treating 48 patients with SAB concurrent with acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections or community-acquired bacterial pneumonia [17], its efficacy in treating concurrent SAB in HABP/VABP patients has not been evaluated. Alternative therapies are needed for SAB, especially for patients with bacteremia secondary to infections that tend to have worse clinical outcomes, including HABP/VABP or cSSSI [3–8].

In considering evidence for the potential efficacy of TLV in SAB, outcomes for patients with concurrent bacteremia in the phase 3 ATLAS (cSSSI) and ATTAIN (HABP/VABP) studies were retrospectively examined [12, 13]. Thirty-two of 1867 (1.7%) and 73 of 1503 (4.9%) patients had concurrent bacteremia from the overall ATLAS and ATTAIN populations, respectively (Table 1) [12, 13]. The difference in bacteremia incidence between cSSSI and HABP/VABP infections could relate to the varying vascularity of the infected tissues and organs. For example, subcutaneous fat has less blood flow than lung parenchyma. As noted in other studies, *S. aureus* was the most common Gram-positive pathogen isolated from blood and primary infection site samples (Table 1) [3–10]. For both infection types, the clinical cure rates at TOC for patients with concurrent SAB were comparable for VAN and TLV treatments (Table 2).

As bacteremic patients tend to be sicker and are associated with poorer outcomes, safety outcomes were examined in this patient subset. The safety data for this population were similar to the overall ATLAS and ATTAIN population. Among patients with concurrent SAB, the safety profile of TLV was similar to that of VAN, with comparable incidences of AEs, SAEs, or AEs leading to discontinuation, and were comparable between the treatment groups. Renal AEs were uncommon ( $\leq 10\%$ ) for both treatment groups in the cSSSI (2 TLV and 0 VAN) and HABP/VABP (3 TLV and 4 VAN) studies. Cases of persistent bacteremia were noted in both the cSSSI (1 TLV and 1 VAN) and HABP/VABP (4 TLV and 12 VAN) patients. However, as the ATLAS and ATTAIN studies were not designed to capture persistent bacteremia as an endpoint, these cases cannot be further evaluated. One VAN-treated patient died in the cSSSI group,

**Table 3** Common adverse events ( $\geq 10\%$ )

Adverse event (system organ class preferred term), <i>n</i> (%)	ATLAS-cSSSI [13]		ATTAIN-HABP/VABP [12]	
	TLV <i>n</i> = 21	VAN <i>n</i> = 11	TLV <i>n</i> = 35	VAN <i>n</i> = 38
Blood and lymphatic system disorders				
Anemia	2 (10)	0 (0)	5 (14)	4 (11)
Cardiac disorders				
Atrial fibrillation	2 (10)	0 (0)	1 (3)	2 (5)
Gastrointestinal disorders				
Abdominal pain	2 (10)	1 (9)	1 (3)	0 (0)
Constipation	3 (14)	1 (9)	4 (11)	3 (8)
Diarrhea	4 (19)	1 (9)	3 (9)	3 (8)
Nausea	7 (33)	4 (36)	6 (17)	1 (3)
Vomiting	4 (19)	1 (9)	5 (14)	0 (0)
General disorders and administration site conditions				
Edema peripheral	1 (5)	1 (9)	4 (11)	3 (8)
Infections and infestations				
Pneumonia	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (3)	4 (11)
Septic shock	0 (0)	1 (9)	4 (11)	5 (13)
Metabolism and nutrition disorders				
Hypokalemia	1 (5)	0 (0)	5 (14)	4 (11)
Hypomagnesemia	1 (5)	2 (18)	1 (3)	2 (5)
Nervous system disorders				
Dysgeusia	7 (33)	1 (9)	–	–
Headache	6 (29)	3 (27)	0 (0)	1 (3)
Psychiatric disorders				
Agitation	2 (10)	0 (0)	2 (6)	2 (5)
Anxiety	2 (10)	0 (0)	1 (3)	1 (3)
Insomnia	4 (19)	1 (9)	–	–
Renal and urinary disorders				
Foamy urine <sup>a</sup>	4 (19)	0 (0)	–	–
Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders				
Dyspnea	2 (10)	0 (0)	–	–
Pulmonary edema	0 (0)	2 (18)	–	–



**Table 3** continued

Adverse event (system organ class preferred term), <i>n</i> (%)	ATLAS-cSSSI [13]		ATTAIN-HABP/VABP [12]	
	TLV <i>n</i> = 21	VAN <i>n</i> = 11	TLV <i>n</i> = 35	VAN <i>n</i> = 38
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders				
Pruritus	1 (5)	2 (18)	0 (0)	1 (3)
Pruritus generalized	1 (5)	2 (18)	–	–
Vascular disorders				
Hypotension	0 (0)	2 (18)	2 (6)	4 (11)

*AE* adverse event, *ATLAS* Assessment of Telavancin in Complicated Skin and Skin Structure Infections, *ATTAIN* Assessment of Telavancin for Treatment of Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia, *cSSSI* complicated skin and skin structure infections, *HABP/VABP* hospital-acquired and ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia, *MedDRA* Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities, *TLV* telavancin, *VAN* vancomycin

– The AE was not reported in either trial of the respective study

<sup>a</sup> Three patients reported ‘foamy urine’ and 1 patient reported ‘frothy urine’; the MedDRA term for these reports is ‘urine abnormality’

whereas the 26 deaths in the HABP/VABP group were equally distributed among both treatments. The high mortality rate (approximately 40%) experienced by HABP/VABP patients with concurrent bacteremia [12] is consistent with other pneumonia studies that observed greater mortality in bacteremic HABP/VABP patients than in patients without bacteremia [3, 8].

This post hoc analysis has several limitations. First, it is retrospective. Second, it has a small subset of patients with concurrent bacteremia [12, 13] compared with other reports [3, 5, 7, 10]. Third, in the ATLAS and ATTAIN studies, the patients were not stratified by the presence of bacteremia; therefore, prognostic factors, such as persistence of infection, time to defervescence, and metastatic foci, were not evaluated. Fourth, this analysis was limited to patients who had positive blood cultures and infection site samples at baseline, and, therefore, excluded patients who may have developed bacteremia during the course of these trials. Finally, only 7–14 or 7–21 days of therapy was given to patients in the ATLAS and ATTAIN studies, respectively, which precludes a comparison of the effectiveness of a longer duration of therapy. Duration of therapy is an area of SAB management that lacks robust evidence [18].

## CONCLUSION

Telavancin is a bactericidal antimicrobial agent with high in vitro potency that effectively treats cSSSI and HABP/VABP infections caused by Gram-positive pathogens [12, 13]. This retrospective analysis of the cSSSI and HABP/VABP bacteremic patients from the ATLAS and ATTAIN studies, respectively, demonstrates that TLV is comparable to VAN and may be a viable alternative to VAN for treatment of cSSSI or HABP/VABP with concurrent SAB.

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**Disclosures.** Dr. Castaneda is an employee of Theravance Biopharma US, Inc. Dr. Wang is an employee of Theravance Biopharma US, Inc. Dr. Bruss is a former employee of Theravance Biopharma US, Inc. His current affiliation is Alarus Development International. Dr. Wilson reports advisory board and lecture fees from BrioMed outside the submitted work. Dr. Graham reports grants from Theravance during the conduct of the study.

**Compliance with Ethics Guidelines.** This article is based on previously conducted studies and does not involve any new studies of human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

**Data Availability.** The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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