

Metalloantibiotics- II

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ABSTRACT

Metal ions after forming complexes with an antibiotics alters the antimicrobial activity of an antibiotics alone.

Key words: Metal ions, antibiotics.

INTRODUCTION

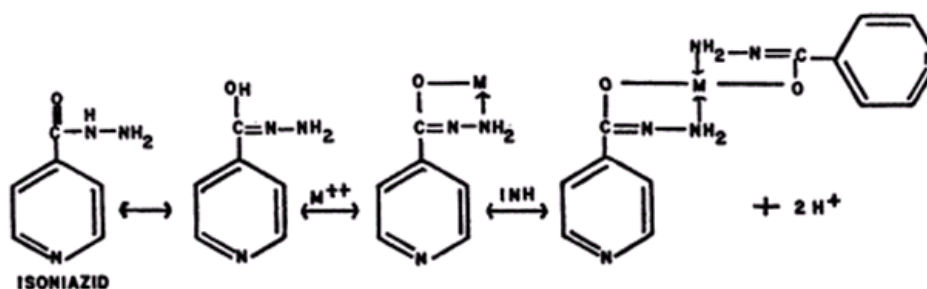
Molecular structure and affinity for metallic cations. Isoniazid (isonicotinic acid hydrazide; INH) chelates metallic ions to form 1:1 and 2:1 INH-metal complexes:

Fallab and Erlenmeyer (35) observed 2:1 isoniazid-Cu²⁺ complexes by spectrophotometric methods, and Albert (4) reported that in alkaline solutions, Cu²⁺, Ni²⁺, Co⁺⁺, and Zn²⁺ form soluble,

and Fe²⁺ and Mn²⁺ form insoluble, 1:1 isoniazid-metal complexes.

Picolinic acid hydrazide is a much better chelating agent than INH but is only one-eighth as effective against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*; and nicotinic acid hydrazide is as good a chelating agent as INH but has no antitubercular activity.

In contrast to observations cations suppress the action of INH, the ability of the drug



Scheme 1

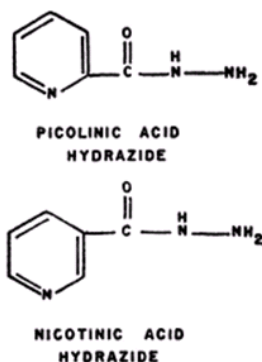
to inhibit respiration of *M. tuberculosis* is enhanced by Cu²⁺ (82) and the development of resistance by bacteria to INH is retarded if excess Cu²⁺ is present in the environment (88). Moreover, the Cu²⁺ complex of INH is a much stronger inhibitor of mammalian or microbial catalase than is the free

drug (66A). Thus, Maher et al. (66A) have proposed that INH might owe its antitubercular activity to the formation of a Cu²⁺ complex that can successfully compete with peroxide for sites on the catalase molecules of the tubercle bacilli. In our laboratory, the toxicity of Ni²⁺, Co²⁺, Zn²⁺, and Cd²⁺ towards

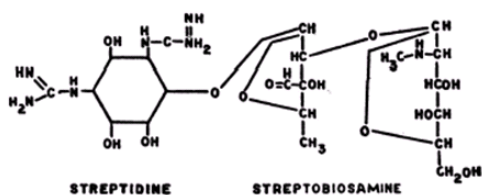
the growth of species of *Bacillus* and *Pseudomonas* was observed to be suppressed by isoniazid.

Streptomycin

The streptomycin molecule possesses



Scheme 2



Scheme 3

numerous centers for chelation and prepared streptomycin chelates of Co^{++} , Cu^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , and Co^{++} . Of the three complexes, only the Cu^{2+} chelate is free of contamination by metal hydroxide; this complex was found to have a 1:3 streptomycin-Cull molar ratio. Several potential sites exist on the streptidine portion of the molecule

The Cu^{++} chelate prepared by Foye et al. (40) possesses approximately thirty-seven per cent of the toxicity of the antibacterial potency of pure streptomycin; Co^{++} chelate, nine per cent; and the Ni^{++} chelate, less than six percent. Previously Donovan et al. (32) had demonstrated that the inhibition of growth of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* by streptomycin is suppressed strongly by Ca^{2+} , Mg^{++} , and Ba^{++} , but not by Na^+ , K^+ , Al^{3+} , or NH_4^+ . Unfortunately, such multivalent ions as Cu^{++} , Ni^{++} , Co^{++} , Zn^{++} , Mn^{2+} , Fe^{+} , and Al^{3+} were not included in the tests with *K. pneumoniae*. Inhibition of growth of *Micrococcus pyogenes* by streptomycin has been reported to be very slightly enhanced by Co^{2+} , (104). Inhibition of respiration of *Escherichia coli* by the drug (16) and uptake of streptomycin by algal cells (83) are suppressed by Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} but not by monovalent cations.

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