

EFFICACY AND HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY OF LINEZOLID (ZYVOX) Emily Whang, Jennifer Cupo, Pharmacy Practice Residency, USC-School of Pharmacy, Los Angeles, CA (emilywhang@hotmail.com)

Until recently, patients infected with Gram positive pathogens such as methicillin resistant *Staphylococci aureus* (MRSA), and glycopeptide intermediately resistant *Staphylococci aureus* (GISA) had few treatment options. Vancomycin has been effective in treating MRSA and GISA infections. However, vancomycin resistance *Enterococci* (VRE) has emerged from the overuse of vancomycin. Quinupristin/dalfopristin (Synercid) or chloramphenicol therapy has been used to treat systemic VRE infection. Unfortunately, numerous factors, including dosage form, spectrum of activity, side effects and the lack of clear efficacy, have limited the role of these agents. Linezolid is a new class of antibacterial for the treatment of Gram positive infections. The availability of linezolid in both intravenous and oral dosage forms places this antibiotic at the forefront for the treatment of Gram positive

infections, especially those caused by VRE. Although linezolid is generally better tolerated than quinupristin/dalfopristin, it has been associated with reversible bone marrow suppression. The objective of this study is to describe prescribing patterns of linezolid and assess potential risk factors that may precipitate or augment the adverse hematologic effects associated with linezolid via a retrospective chart review. The results will be discussed.

