



**THERAPEUTIC DRUG
MONITORING FOR
INTRAVENOUS BUSULFAN:**
A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

DOSEME

DoseMe is the first company in the world to offer precision dosing software specifically developed for clinical use at the point-of-care.

The DoseMeRx platform significantly improves dosing accuracy and patient outcomes by providing real-time dose-related decision support to enable precision medicine using readily available patient data.

DoseMe Crunch is built on the same algorithms that underpin DoseMeRx, to analyze retrospective and previously under-utilized sources of patient data to empower health services to understand and optimize medication use, benchmark clinical dosing practices and monitor medication management performance.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF BUSULFAN TDM REVIEW

THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Intravenous (IV) Busulfan is an alkylating drug routinely used in conditioning regimens before allogeneic haemopoietic cell transplantation (HCT), the standard treatment for various malignant and non-malignant disorders. However, drug exposure must be maintained within a narrow therapeutic range. If the drug exposure is too high, there is an increased risk of toxicity, such as mucositis, graft vs host disease, veno-occlusive disease, sinusoidal obstructive syndrome, as well as increased risk of transplantation-related mortality. If the dose is too low, there is an increased probability of graft rejection or disease relapse.¹ As a result, therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) - measurement of drug concentrations in the blood at known times - of busulfan is essential to enable appropriate dose individualization.

KEY CHALLENGES OF CONVENTIONAL METHODS

Dose individualization of busulfan is usually performed by taking between 5 and 8 blood samples at fixed time points (relative to dose administration) and estimating area under the curve (AUC) using the trapezoid method. Based on the calculated AUC, the dose is then adjusted, and the process is repeated several doses later, several times during the course of treatment. The conventional method for measuring AUC and adjusting the busulfan dose is associated with a number of practical challenges, including the need to draw between 5 and 8 blood samples every time AUC is measured, and the accuracy of the process used to adjust the dose.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, when compared to the conventional eight-sample method, this study demonstrated that DoseMeRx:

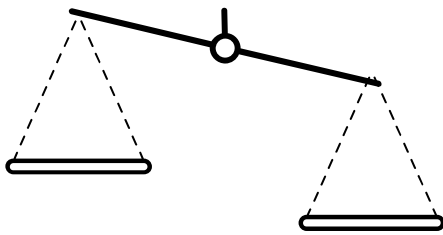
1. **is as accurate at estimating an AUC using only two blood samples,**
2. **provides greater flexibility as to the timing of samples collected,**
3. **is as accurate at predicting blood plasma concentration, and therefore calculating the next dose required to obtain an AUC in the desired therapeutic range.**



CURRENT CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING OF BUSULFAN

THE CHALLENGE

To be effective and well tolerated, busulfan drug exposure must be maintained within a narrow therapeutic range. Achieving this is further complicated by a high degree of inter- and inpatient variability in the PK parameters of busulfan. As a result, therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) of busulfan is essential to enable appropriate dose individualization beyond covariate-based dosing (i.e. using age and/or mg/kg.)^{2,3}



BUSULFAN DOSE TOO HIGH

Increased risk of toxicity and transplantation-related mortality

BUSULFAN DOSE TOO LOW

Increased risk of graft failure or disease relapse^{2,3,4}

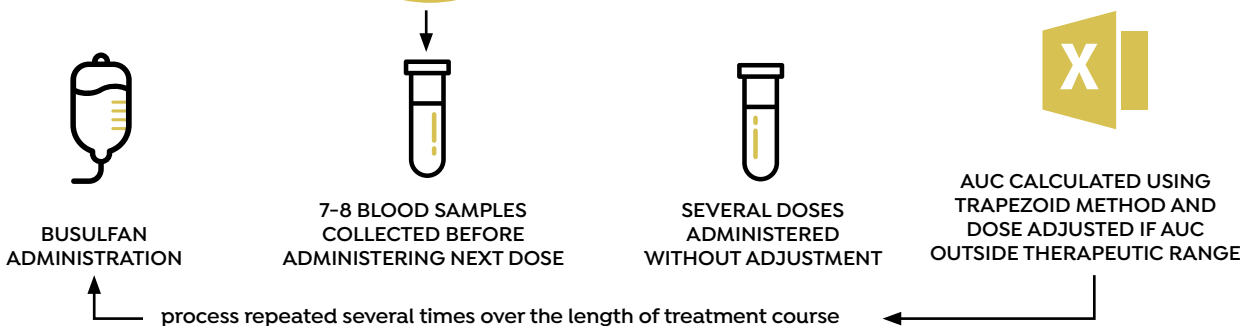
CLINICAL RELEVANCE

Accurate and clinically meaningful drug concentrations are attainable only by collaboration across multiple departments, with most methods relying on multiple blood samples to be taken at specific times.⁷

In a busy and demanding clinical environment, the optimal collection period for TDM samples is short, and unsurprisingly, inaccurately timed blood collections are common. In one study, only 4.3% of blood samples were deemed to have been taken at the correct time.⁸ This increases the potential for misleading clinical decision making on these results, having implications for patient safety, including sub- or supratherapeutic dosing.

AUC CALCULATION USING MULTIPLE PLASMA CONCENTRATION ASSAYS IS COSTLY, ERROR PRONE, AND CAUSES DISTRESS TO PATIENTS

Standard practice of TDM for Busulfan is to estimate area under the curve (AUC) as follows:



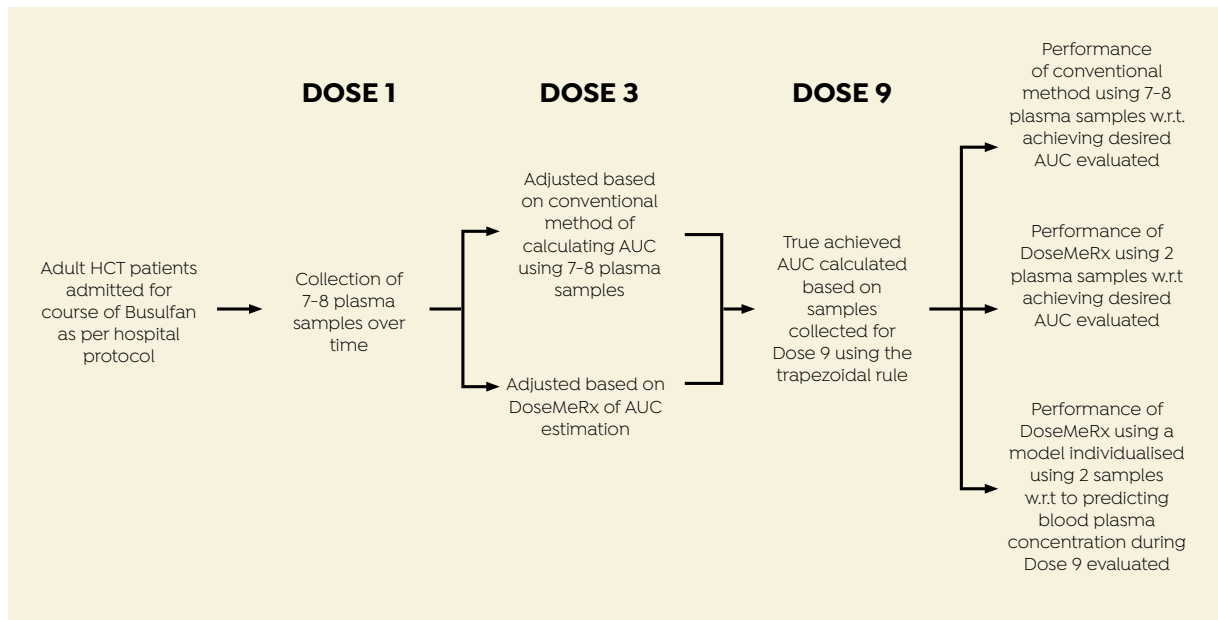
BUSULFAN STUDY OVERVIEW

AIM

To compare the conventional multi-sample AUC estimation model with a two-sample protocol using DoseMeRx, and compare these methods with respect to achieving the AUC in the desired therapeutic range.

STUDY DESIGN

Data were collected from adult HCT patients given four times daily intravenous busulfan.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Data were collected from 24 patients admitted for HCT (Table 1).

Table 1. Patient Demographics

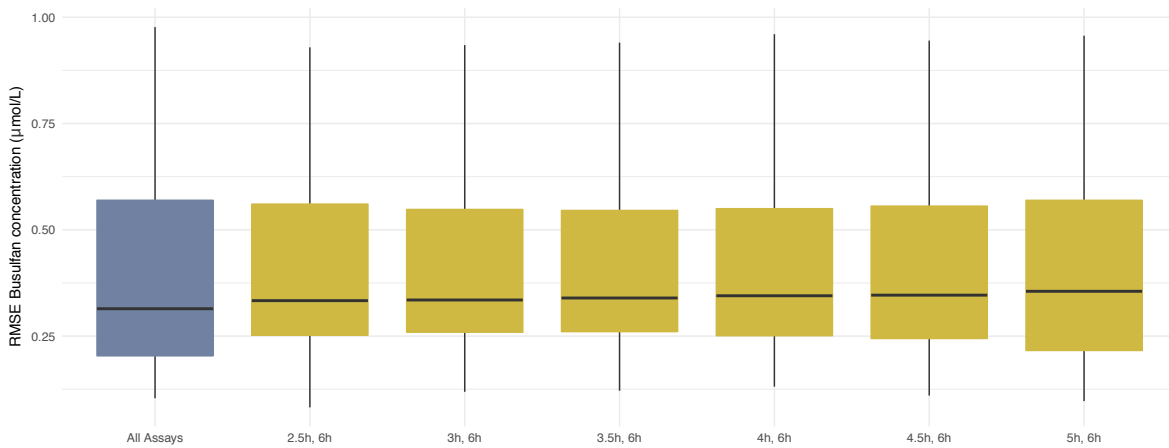
Demographics (N = 24)	No. or median (range)
Age (years)	49.52 (19.75 - 59.62)
Sex	11 (F) 13 (M)
Height (cm)	172.72 (152.40 - 187.96)
Weight (kg)	82 (55 - 108)
Initial Dose (mg)	54.50 (36.40 - 65.50)
Adjusted Dose (mg)	51.00 (25.00 - 65.50)
N. Assays on Dose 1	7 assays (n = 16)
	8 assays (n = 8)
No. assays on Dose 9	8 assays

*Dose individualization decision support systems provide pharmacokinetic model-based clinical decision support. Bayesian methods such as DoseMeRx integrate patient data and laboratory results with a prior population pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic model to estimate a patient's ability to absorb, process and clear a drug from their system. DoseMeRx adjusts the parameters so that a patient-specific, individualized drug model is created. This individual model is then used to provide a patient-specific dosing recommendation to reach a specified target exposure.

RESULTS

Assays taken at 2h (peak) post beginning of administration were excluded. Any combination of two assays that included a trough (assay taken 6h post administration and just prior to administration of the next dose) resulted in very low discrepancies between concentrations predicted using DoseMeRx and those measured by assays performed on Dose 9. The best combination of assays (lowest median RMSE) was that taken 2.5 and 6 hours after administration.

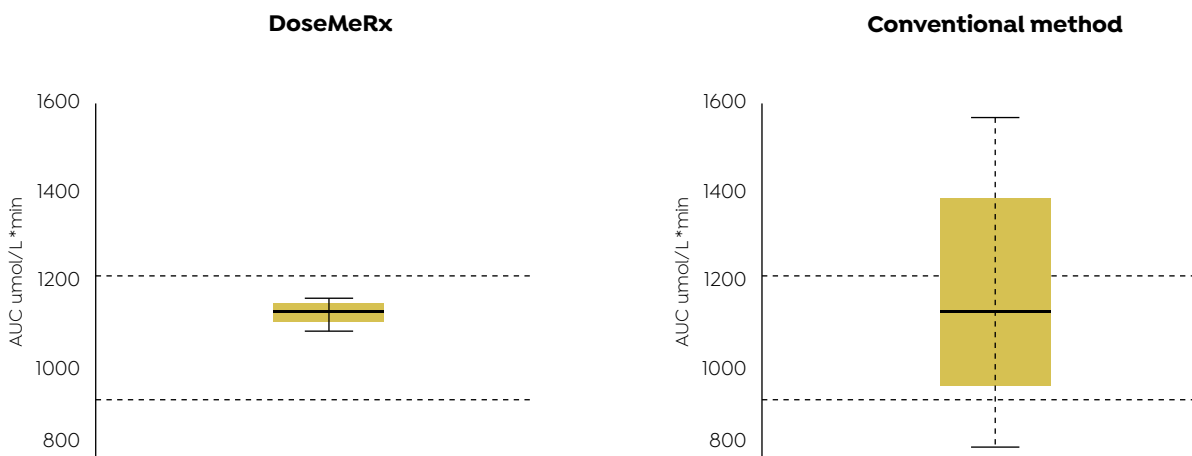
Best combination of assays for model fitting



Authors' Highlight:

DoseMeRx presents a clear opportunity to reduce the number of assays performed by 75% – improving operational efficiency without compromising patient outcomes. A trough assay and one assay at any other time will allow DoseMeRx to accurately calculate AUC.

Achieved AUC vs Target Range



Authors' Highlight:

AUCs achieved using DoseMeRx with two assay results were more likely to fall within the therapeutic range than that achieved by adjusting the dose using the conventional method.

*DoseMeRx's AUC target was the mid-point of the therapeutic range of 900 - 1200 $\mu\text{mol/L} \cdot \text{min}$. More precise comparison between DoseMeRx and conventional method is possible when individual per-patient AUC targets are available.

BENEFITS OF DOSEMERX FOR TDM OF BUSULFAN

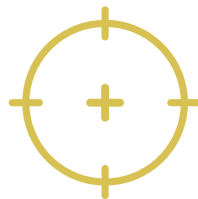
CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that busulfan TDM in HCT patients can be simplified safely using DoseMeRx with only two samples. The reduced requirement for blood collection samples not only lessens the distress to HCT patients, but also greatly reduces the cost by decreasing unnecessary assays. It also permits for more frequent dose adjustment allowing for changes in individual patient's pharmacokinetics.

Overall, this study shows that DoseMeRx reduces the requirement for multiple blood sample collection and assay processing. By allowing for a wide range of times at which the two assays may be sampled, DoseMeRx reduces the likelihood of inappropriate use of assays. This assists healthcare practitioners to select the most appropriate dose to achieve an optimal therapeutic outcome and reduce potential toxicity.



DoseMeRx using a two-sample method is able to accurately calculate an individualised dose to achieve Busulfan exposure in therapeutic range using only **one-quarter of the laboratory results** required by the conventional method.



Using the DoseMeRx, **only two assays results are required for accurate AUC** estimation.



DoseMeRx using a two-sample method allows less frequent collection at a more relaxed time regime. While ideally the samples should be collected 2.5 and 6 hours after administration, any combination of **two samples that include the trough is as accurate** as conventional methods.

AUTHORS

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