



**Keywords:** Glycopeptide antibiotic; Methicillin-resistant; Oral absorption; Extracellular fluid; Nephrotoxic; Ototoxic risks

## Introduction

Vancomycin is a glycopeptide antibiotic that is commonly used to treat serious bacterial infections, especially those caused by Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and other gram-positive bacteria. Understanding the pharmacokinetics of Vancomycin is crucial for optimizing its therapeutic efficacy and minimizing the risk of toxicity. Vancomycin is not absorbed orally and is typically administered intravenously for systemic infections. It has a large volume of distribution, primarily in the extracellular fluid and limited penetration through the blood-brain barrier, so it may not be effective in treating central nervous system infections. This drug does not bind

kidneys. The elimination half-life of Vancomycin is typically 4 to 6 hours in individuals with normal renal function. Due to the variability in pharmacokinetics among patients, therapeutic drug monitoring is often recommended for Vancomycin. Monitoring involves measuring trough levels just before the next dose to ensure that concentrations remain within the therapeutic range. The therapeutic range for Vancomycin trough levels is typically 15-20 mg/L for serious infections, although specific recommendations may vary [1].

infections in these fluid-filled spaces.

### Metabolism of vancomycin

Vancomycin is a large, complex molecule that is not subject to extensive metabolism in the liver or other tissues. The lack of significant metabolism contributes to the drug's relatively straightforward pharmacokinetics. Approximately 90% of the administered Vancomycin is excreted unchanged in the urine. This high renal clearance highlights the importance of monitoring renal function when using Vancomycin. The elimination half-life of Vancomycin is around 4 to 6 hours in individuals with normal renal function. The relatively short half-life necessitates frequent dosing to maintain therapeutic drug concentrations. In individuals with impaired renal function, the clearance of Vancomycin is reduced, leading to potential drug accumulation. This may increase the risk of Vancomycin-associated toxicities, such as nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity. Dosing adjustments are often required in patients with renal impairment to prevent excessive drug accumulation. Therapeutic drug monitoring is involved to measure Vancomycin concentration just before the next dose. This optimizes the efficacy while minimizing the risk factors [8].

### Elimination of this drug

Vancomycin is primarily eliminated from the body through renal excretion. The major route of elimination for vancomycin is renal excretion. Approximately 90% of the administered dose is excreted unchanged in the urine. The kidneys play a crucial role in clearing vancomycin from the bloodstream. Vancomycin is filtered by the glomerulus in the kidneys, and its clearance is dependent on the Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR). In individuals with normal renal function, vancomycin is eliminated relatively efficiently. Impaired renal function can significantly affect the elimination of vancomycin. In patients with reduced GFR, the clearance of vancomycin is decreased, leading to potential drug accumulation. Dose adjustments are often necessary in individuals with renal impairment to prevent excessive drug concentrations and associated toxicities. TDM involves measuring vancomycin concentrations, particularly trough levels just before the next dose, to ensure that concentrations remain within the therapeutic range while optimizing efficacy while minimizing the risk of adverse