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Inhibition of the catalytic activity of HIV-1 integrase

17 bisphosphonates of 5 different groups were synthesized including 3 earlier unknown 6 compounds inhibited both strand transfer and 3'-processing catalyzed by integrase SAR study has been reported and explained using liquid NMR experiments OH / NH₂ in the chelating group switches competitive inhibitor into noncompetitive

Specific features of HIV-1 integrase inhibition by bisphosphonate derivatives

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Abstract

The integration of viral DNA into the cell genome is one of the key steps in the replication cycle of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1). Therefore, the viral enzyme integrase (IN) catalyzing this process is of great interest as a target for new antiviral agents. We performed a structural-functional analysis of five different series of methylene bisphosphonates (BPs), PO_3H_2 -C(R)(X)- PO_3H_2 , as IN inhibitors with the goal of assessing structural elements required for the inhibitory activity. We found that IN is inhibited only by BP bearing a chlorobenzyl substituent R at the bridging carbon of the P-C-P backbone. These BP inhibited both IN-catalyzed reactions with similar efficacies. They were also active toward some INs with mutations characteristic for HIV-1 strains resistant to strand transfer inhibitors. The study of the mechanism of the IN inhibition by various BP showed that it is effected by the nature of the second substituent (X) at the bridging carbon. Among the tested compounds, only the BP with the amino group bound directly to the BP bridging carbon was found to be a noncompetitive inhibitor and, hence, it can be promising for further studies as potential inhibitor of the IN activity within the preintegration complex.

Keywords

HIV, integrase, bisphosphonates, inhibitors, SAR

1. Introduction

One of the key steps of the HIV-1 life cycle is the integration of the viral DNA copy into the host genome. This process is catalyzed by a viral enzyme called integrase (IN). When the reverse transcription of the viral genome is completed, IN binds to its DNA copy and catalyzes the 3'-processing resulting in the cleavage of GT nucleotides from both DNA 3'-ends. Then IN catalyzes the strand transfer reaction, that is, the integration of the viral DNA to the host cell DNA, to form a provirus. Further regulated expression of the proviral genome and assembling give new virions, which leave the cell and infect other cells.

Figure 1.

Integrase is of great interest as a target for the search of new antiviral agents, since, unlike other viral enzymes, it has no cell analogues and its inhibitors must not affect normal cell processes [1],[2]. Several types of integration inhibitors differing in the mechanism of action have been reported, but only two compounds, raltegravir and elvitegravir, are currently used for the treatment of HIV-infection as components of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) [3],[4]. Both of them inhibit the IN function at the strand transfer stage by a similar mechanism, which results in the emergence of viral cross-resistance to these drugs [5],[6],[7]. Dolutegravir, a strand transfer inhibitor (INSTI) of the second generation, which is currently under phase III of clinical trials, is active toward some raltegravir-resistant HIV-1 strains. However, the partial cross-resistance with raltegravir and elvitegravir has been already found for this compound [7],[8]. Taking into consideration the above facts the optimal way for designing new integration inhibitors seems to be the search for the compounds with the mechanism of action differing from that of raltegravir and its analogues. Such inhibitors may be active toward INSTI resistant viral strains.

Phosphonates being hydrolytically stabile analogs of biogenic phosphates are widely used in antiviral drug design [9], [10], [11], [12].

Methylenebisphosphonates (BPs) are mimics of inorganic pyrophosphate, a substrate of HIV-1 reverse transcriptase (RT) in the pyrophosphorolysis reaction. These compounds can inhibit the cleavage of monophosphates of RT nucleoside inhibitors, which is the key reason for the HIV-1 resistance to azidothymidine and its analogues [13],[14]. Previously we found that some BPs can also inhibit HIV-1 IN at micromolar concentrations [15]. This allowed us to regard them as inhibitors of the new generation capable of inhibiting two viral enzymes operating at the early stage of viral infection.

In this work we studied the BP structure-activity relationship toward IN inhibition with the goal of evaluating their mechanism of action and optimizing their structure. Only BPs bearing a chlorobenzyl residue as a substituent R (Fig. 1) were found to display inhibitory properties. They inhibited both IN-catalyzed reactions with similar efficacies. These BPs were also active toward some INs with mutations inherent for drug-resistant HIV-1 strains. For the evaluation of the inhibition mechanism, kinetic models were designed, which demonstrated that the nature of the substituent X as well as the metal-cofactors, Mg^{2+} and Mn^{2+} , affected this

mechanism. This conclusion was also supported by the results of studies of the BP effect on the IN-DNA binding and IN catalytic activity within the IN-LEDGF complex.

2. Results

2.1 Chemistry

Seventeen bisphosphonates of five different groups were synthesized including earlier unknown (**3b**), (**3e**), and (**4c**) (Fig. 1). The compounds (**1a**) [16], (**1b**) [17], (**1d**) [18], (**2a**) [14], (**2c**) [19], (**3a**) [20], (**3c**) [21], (**3d**) [19], (**5**) [19], (**6**) [22] were synthesized as earlier described with minor modifications. General synthetic procedures and physicochemical characteristics of all the prepared BPs are presented in Materials & Methods and SI.

Four general methods used are known from literature [17],[23],[24]. In brief, involved either (A)- phosphonylation of a carboxylic acid that resulted (1a, 1b, 1c, 3a, 3c-e) or a corresponding nitrile that afforded (1d, 2c, 3b). (B)- Michael addition of amine to vinylidenediphosphonic acid to prepare (4a-c). (C)- Reaction of a acylphosphonate with dialkylphosphite followed by removal of alkoxy group with TMSBr (2a, 2b). (D)- Reaction of benzylchlorides with sodium salt of methylenediphosphonic acid tetraester yielded (2d, 5).

Vinylidenediphosphonic acid (VDPA) for synthesis of BPs **4a-c** was prepared using the optimization of the procedures described in the patent [25]. We used different thermal conditions for pyrolysis of etidronate to reach its 100% conversion and we modified procedure for VDPA deionization to avoid using strong ion-exchange resins and H_2SO_4 which yields to partial hydration of VDPA.

2.2. SAR analysis of the BP anti-integrase activity

Recently we demonstrated the capacity of two BPs bearing aromatic substituents to inhibit the IN-catalyzed 3'-processing [15]. Here we report the results of a structural analysis of a series of BPs in the attempt to find structural peculiarities essential for the inhibition of HIV-1 IN.

First, we analyzed the dependence of the BP inhibitory activity in 3'-processing reaction versus the substituent R structure (Fig. 1) and found that only compounds with a chlorobenzyl radical as the substituent R were active (Fig. 1, compounds **2a-d**, and **5**). Their inhibitory activities are presented in Table 1 (column 3); all other compounds were not active up to 250 μ M concentration. We assumed that the reason for this effect could be the electron deficiency of the aromatic ring due to electron acceptor properties of the chlorine atom. To confirm this hypothesis, we synthesized compounds **3a-e** containing cationic pyridinium residues, which are more electron deficient than chlorobenzyl groups. However, these compounds did not inhibit IN

up to concentrations of 250 μ M. It is also noteworthy that compound **2b**, although lacking the chlorine atom at the *meta*-position and, hence, less electron deficient, was a more effective inhibitor than the corresponding 3,4-dichlorobenzyl derivative **2a** (Table 1, column 3). These results imply that a chlorine atom at the *para*-position of the aromatic ring is necessary for BPs to display inhibitory properties. Compound **5** bearing two 3,4-dichlorobenzyl residues was somewhat a more effective inhibitor than compounds **2a**, **2c**, and **2d** containing one 3,4-dichlorobenzyl residue, but its activity was comparable with that of the monochlorobenzyl derivative **2b**. It should be noted that a halogen-containing aromatic residue is a mandatory structural element of all efficient INSTIS [1],[2],[8],[26] and some of 3'-processing inhibitors [27],[28],[29]. In the case of INSTIs, a halogenated benzyl group was shown to be involved in stacking interactions with the cytosine of the conserved CA dinucleotide forcing the 3'-OH of the terminal adenosine away from the IN active site [30],[31]. However, the actual role of the halogen atom in this process has been vague so far.

It is known that BPs exhibit strong affinity to metal ions, in particular, Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} [32],[33]. We supposed that the BP inhibitory activity toward IN can be explained by their capacity to coordinate Mg^{2+} ions, which are bound by amino acids D64, D116, and E152 in the enzyme active site. The nature of the substituent X is likely to have a substantial impact on BP metal binding properties and, therefore, their inhibitory activity. Due to the oxygen lone electron pairs, the hydroxyl group at the P-C-P backbone (compound **2a**) can be involved in the coordination of the metal ion. However, the replacement of the hydroxyl group by the hydrogen atom (compound **2d**) did not change the inhibitory activity (Table 1, column 3). This result has thrown into doubt the assumption on the obligatory presence of the Mg^{2+} -coordinating site in the inhibitor structure. Therefore, we evaluated two dichlorobenzyl derivatives containing carboxyl and phosphonate fragments in place of the bisphosphonate backbone (compounds **6** and **7**). Both of them lacked the inhibitory activity up to the concentration of 500 µM. This result allowed us a conclusion that the bisphosphonate backbone is an obligatory structural element of the inhibitors of this type.

The most potent IN inhibition was observed for compound 2c, which had an amino group at the P-C-P backbone (Table 1, column 3). The transfer of the amino group into the linker that joins the P-C-P backbone and the aromatic fragment (compounds 4a-4c) caused the complete loss of the BP inhibitory activity without regard to the position of the amino group in the linker or the presence of a halogen atom (iodine) in the aromatic ring.

Thus, the results of the SAR analysis showed that the BP inhibitory activity is determined by the presence of two structural moieties: a methylenediphosphonic backbone and a *p*chlorobenzyl substituent.

2.3. The effect of the IN metal cofactor on the BP inhibitory activity

The absolute necessity of the P-C-P backbone for the BP inhibitory activity indicated that the latter may be associated with the coordination of the metal ion. With the goal of testing this assumption we studied the inhibition of 3'-processing and strand transfer reactions in the presence of two IN metal cofactors, Mg^{2+} and Mn^{2+} , using the most active inhibitors **2a**, **2b**, **2c**, **2d**, and **5**.

First, we found that all the compounds inhibited the IN activity in both reactions. In the presence of Mg^{2+} ions, the efficiency of the 3'-processing and strand transfer inhibition was nearly the same for compounds 2d and 5; compound 2c inhibited the strand transfer twice as effectively; and compounds 2a and 2b bearing a hydroxyl group in the P-C-P backbone somewhat better inhibited the 3'-processing (Table 1, columns 3 and 5).

In the presence of Mn^{2+} ions all the compounds inhibited both reactions with nearly the same efficiency (Table 1, columns 4 and 6). It is noteworthy that the inhibitory activities of compounds **2a**, **2b**, **2d**, and **5** considerably grew under these conditions. It was especially noticeable for inhibitor **5** containing two 3,4-dichlorobenzyl residues. Also, the inhibitory activities of compounds **2a**, **2b**, and **2d** were comparable with that of compound **2c**, whereas they markedly differed in the presence of Mg²⁺.

In accordance with these results, all the tested BPs could be divided into two groups: group I, which included only compound **2c** with an amino group at the P-C-P backbone, and group II, with all the rest BPs (compounds **2a**, **2b**, **2d**, and **5**). The fact that the metal nature was essential for the inhibitory activity of only group II inhibitors allowed us to make two assumptions. First, the mechanism of the IN inhibition by compound **2c** was independent of the metal cofactor nature. Second, in the presence of different metal cofactors compounds of group II inhibited IN by different mechanisms. Thus, the inhibition mechanism was the same for both groups in the presence of Mn^{2+} and differed in the presence of Mg^{2+} .

2.4. NMR-studies of BP interactions with metal ions

The major reason for such a great difference in the behavior of the inhibitors of the two groups may be differences in electron structures of these compounds. One of these differences is the capacity of the amino group of compound 2c (group I) to be protonated, whereas the substituents X in the group II compounds lack this property under the tested conditions. Evidently, a positive charge in the BP metal-binding site should affect its interaction with metal ions and, hence, the character of IN inhibition.

With the goal of evaluating the impact of X substituents on the BP binding to metal ions, we studied the distribution of the electron density in inhibitors **2a** and **2c** using NMR spectroscopy, which is an accurate and sensitive method characterizing the molecule structure in solution.

It was observed in ¹H NMR spectra that the electron density in the hydrocarbon backbones of these inhibitors was distributed in a different way. This can be explained by the electron withdrawing effect of the ⁺NH₃-function in compound **2c**. As is seen in Fig. S1 (see SI), compound **2c** is characterized by a decreased shielding and a downfield shift of proton resonances. For the linker -CH₂- group the reduction of the electron density resulted in a decrease in the bond lengths, and for the aromatic system, in a decrease in the electron density of the π -system. The synchronous downfield shift of the aromatic protons implies that the cationic function does not cause the redistribution of the π -system electron density. Nevertheless, ⁺NH₃function can influence cation- π and anion- π interactions (reviewed in [34], which may be formed between the inhibitor and IN.

The effect of the X substituent on the interaction of compounds **2a** and **2c** with magnesium ions was studied using ³¹P NMR spectroscopy. Unlike H- and HO-BPs, the shift of the phosphorus resonance of NH₂-BPs at pH close to pK_a of their amino group is much more pronounced [35]. This considerable downfield shift of the phosphorus resonance can be ascribed to deprotonation of the ⁺NH₃-group. This effect was detected for inhibitor **2c** (pK_a of its amino group is 8.3), whereas the resonance of compounds **2a** was nearly constant (Fig. 2A).

We also studied the interaction of compounds **2a** and **2c** with Mg^{2+} ions at pH 1, 7, and 9.5, i.e., for the amino group of the latter was completely protonated, partially protonated, and completely deprotonated, using the ³¹P NMR line broadening method. This approach is based on the principle that formation of coordination bonds between Mg^{2+} and a phosphonate group causes the broadening of the phosphorus resonance in ³¹P NMR [36]. As is seen in Fig. 2B, the broadening of the phosphorus resonance of the amino derivative **2c** at pH 7 and 9.5 occurs much more intensely than that of the hydroxyl analogue **2a**. Since this effect is based on the formation of coordination bonds between BP and Mg^{2+} , we believe that the P-C-P backbone of compound **2a** does not form coordination bonds with Mg^{2+} , whereas in the case of compound **2c** such bonds are formed. Moreover, the greater is the portion of nonprotonated NH₂-groups, the greater is the efficacy of their formation. These experiments evidenced that the lone electron pair of the nitrogen atom nonprotonated amino group of compound **2c** was involved in the formation of coordination bonds with Mg^{2+} ions.

It is noteworthy that the IN inhibition was studied at pH 7.2, that is, when the amino group of compound 2c is nearly fully protonated (Fig. 2A) and thus not capable to coordinate

 Mg^{2+} ions. However, the ⁺NH₃-group can also strengthen metal binding properties of compound **2c**. It is known that α -amino BPs have decreased pK_a of phosphonate groups if compared with the analogues bearing protons or hydroxyl groups at the P-C-P backbone (1–2 log units [33]). Such a decrease is a result of the considerable electron acceptor effect of the NH₃⁺cation, which markedly enhances the coordination capacity of α -amino BPs toward bivalent metal ions.

When summarizing the above facts one can conclude that BP bearing amino groups in the P-C-P backbone possess some physicochemical and, probably, structural specific features, particularly, an increased acidity of protons of aromatic substituents and the capacity to coordinate Mg^{2+} ions. It is likely that these specific features lead to different mechanisms of IN inhibition by group I and II BPs in the presence of Mg^{2+} . As for Mn^{2+} ions, we failed to study the BP interactions with them because of the paramagnetic nature of manganese.

Figure 2.

2. 5. Studies of the inhibition mechanism

The kinetic studies for the evaluation of the inhibition type were performed with compounds **2a** (group II) and **2c** (group I). We studied the dependence of the initial rate of the 3'-processing reaction vs the DNA substrate concentration at varied inhibitor concentrations in the presence of Mg^{2+} or Mn^{2+} ions. The results are given as double-reciprocal plots (Fig. 3).

First, we studied this dependence for compound **2a** in the presence of Mg^{2+} ions. As is seen in Fig. 3A, an increase in the compound **2a** concentration practically did not affect the maximal rate of the reaction (V_{max}) but caused an increase in the apparent Michaelis constant (K_m). This implies that in general the interaction of compound **2a** with IN follows the mechanism of *competitive inhibition*, i.e., the inhibitor binds to and competes with the substrate in the enzyme active site. Based on this model, the calculated values of the Michaelis constant K_m and inhibition constant K_I were determined as 12+/-6 nM and 38+/-8 μ M, respectively, for the IN inhibition by compound **2a** in the presence of Mg^{2+} ions.

Figure 3.

For compound **2c** these dependences were shown to have another shape (Fig. 3B). In the presence of Mg^{2+} ions an increase in the inhibitor concentration resulted in the reduction of the V_{max} , whereas K_m did not change. This mode corresponds to the *noncompetitive inhibition*, i.e., the inhibitor binds to IN at the site differing from the substrate binding site. Based on the calculated K_m value (see above), the value of the inhibition constant K_I was found 2.0+/-0.5 μ M.

In the case of Mn^{2+} ions the dependences of the 3'-processing initial rate vs the DNA substrate concentration at varied inhibitor concentrations were similar and supported the *noncompetitive mechanism* for both inhibitors (Figs. 3C and D). According to this model the calculated inhibition constants for compounds **2a** and **2c** were 4.4+/-0.8 and 1.0+/-0.3 μ M, respectively.

Thus, the study of the dependence of the reaction initial rate vs the DNA substrate concentration at varied inhibitor concentrations demonstrated that the mechanism of IN inhibition for group II BPs (compound **2a**) changes from competitive to noncompetitive with the cofactor change from Mg^{2+} to Mn^{2+} , whereas group I BP (compound **2c**) always inhibited IN by the noncompetitive mechanism.

2.6. The BP effect on the IN-DNA binding

Upon the competitive inhibition the inhibitor competes with the substrate for the binding in the enzyme active site. Based on this principle we assumed that the group II inhibitors (compounds **2a**, **2b**, **2d**, and **5**) would prevent the formation of the IN-DNA complex in the presence of Mg^{2+} ions. Upon the noncompetitive inhibition, which was observed for all the tested BP in the presence of Mn^{2+} ions, the inhibitor bound to the enzyme at some other site and, therefore, is unlikely to have an impact upon the formation of the enzyme-substrate complex.

We studied the influence of the inhibitors of both groups on the complex formation of the IN with the U5 substrate in the presence of ions of both metals in the direct experiment using the DRaCALA (Differential Radial Capillary Action of Ligand Assay) approach [37]. Since this method was not previously used for characterizing the IN-DNA binding, first we evaluated its applicability for this purpose. To this end, we determined the dissociation constant, K_d, of the IN-DNA complex, (Fig. 4A). The calculated value of 20+/-6 nM, was close to that earlier found for the IN-DNA complex by the methods of gel shift[38] and fluorescence anisotropy change [39]. Thus, the DRaCALA method was proved to be useful for studying the IN-DNA binding.

As we suggested, none of the tested BP affected the formation of the IN-DNA complex in the presence of Mn^{2+} ions (Table 1, column 2). In the presence of Mg^{2+} ions compounds **2a**, **2b**, **2d**, and **5**, but not **2c**, inhibited the IN binding to the substrate (Table 1, column 1). These results confirmed the previous conclusions about different types of inhibition for group I and II BPs in the presence of Mg^{2+} ions and the change of the mechanism upon the Mg^{2+} replacement by Mn^{2+} . However, it is noteworthy that the inhibition of DNA binding was observed at higher BP concentrations than the inhibition of the IN catalytic activity (Table 1, columns 1, 3, and 5). This can probably be explained by the fact that the DRaCALA method only allows the evaluation of overall DNA-IN binding including both the substrate-specific and nonspecific

binding and, hence, we can only study the effect of the inhibitor in total. The inhibitor concentrations, at which they inhibit the formation of the specific IN-substrate complex, can be lower than those found by us and can be closer to those, at which they inhibit the 3'-processing and strand transfer reactions.

2.7. The inhibitor effect on the IN activity within the LEDGF complex

With the goal of further studying the mechanism of the IN inhibition with BP derivatives we tested the activity of these compounds toward the pre-formed IN-LEDGF complex composed of four IN and two LEDGF molecules [40]. Previously we demonstrated that the efficiency of the IN inhibition with a competitive inhibitor derived from a dimeric bisbenzimidazole reduced in the presence of LEDGF [41]. For the BPs tested, we found that group II compounds (**2a**, **2b**, and **2d**) did not inhibit IN within the IN-LEDGF complex in the presence of Mg²⁺ ions up to concentrations of 250 μ M (Table 1, column 7). In the presence of Mn²⁺ ions they inhibited the complex with a similar efficiency as IN alone (Table 1, columns 4 and 8). As for compound **2c**, its inhibitory activity toward IN alone and IN-LEDGF complex was similar in the presence of both ions. These results supported once again the hypothesis on different mechanisms of IN inhibition by the tested BP derivatives.

Since competitive inhibitors compete with the substrate for the enzyme binding, the inability of compounds **2a**, **2b**, and **2d** to inhibit the IN-LEDGF complex can be explained by kinetic or thermodynamic factors, that is, faster or tighter binding of the DNA substrate to IN within its complex with LEDGF than to the free IN. The study of the strength of the DNA-IN-LEDGF complex in the presence of Mg^{2+} ions showed that K_d of this complex was 25+/-10 nM, which is comparable with the K_d value for the DNA-IN complex (Fig. 4A). We also calculated the rate of the DNA binding to IN and the IN-LEDGF complex using the DRaCALA method (Fig. 4B). The initial rate of the DNA binding to IN (V_o = 0.7 nM/min).

Thus, the lack of activity of inhibitors of group II toward the IN-LEDGF complex can be explained by kinetic factors: the DNA binds to the complex faster than the inhibitor does. In the case of free IN the situation is inverse.

Figure 4.

2.7. Inhibition of IN mutants with increased resistance toward strand transfer inhibitors

All the experiments performed imply that compounds of groups I and II followed different mechanisms while inhibiting IN, that is, they are likely to bind to the enzyme in different modes. In order to find out their binding sites, we tested their activities toward IN preparations bearing E92Q, E138K, G140S, and N155H mutations that are known to affect the binding to IN of such inhibitors as *L*-chicoric acid, diketoacid L-731,988, raltegravir, elvitegravir, and dolutegravir, a second generation INSTI [7],[42],[43]. For these experiments we also used compounds **2a** and **2c** and Mg²⁺ ions, i.e., the conditions under which different mechanisms are involved and, hence, binding to IN occurs at different sites. However, both compounds inhibited the 3'-processing catalyzed by all of the mutants and wild type IN with a similar efficacy: in all the cases IC₅₀ was 35+/-7 μ M for compound **2a** and 7+/-2 μ M for compound **2c**. These results demonstrated that the character of the BP binding to IN differed from that of the known inhibitors, but unfortunately they were useless for specifying the binding sites.

3. Discussion and Conclusions

The interest in BPs is stimulated by their capacity to inhibit the pyrophosphorolytic activity of HIV-1 reverse transcriptase and thus reduce the susceptibility of drug-resistant virus strains to azidothymidine [44]. We demonstrated that BPs could also inhibit another HIV-1 enzyme, integrase. The SAR analysis of the BP anti-integrase activity showed that these compounds must contain a chlorobenzyl residue as an R substituent for being effective IN inhibitors (Fig. 1). Substituents with other halogen atoms were not studied in the present work, and we cannot rule out their positive effect on the inhibitory activity of BPs. Of note, a halogen-containing aromatic substituent is a mandatory structural element of many of the IN inhibitors, but the halogen role is still unclear. A reason for the increased activity of halogen-containing inhibitors may be the formation of halogen bonding[45],[46]. This noncovalent interaction formed by the halogen atom and the nucleophile containing a lone electron pair is similar to the hydrogen bonding in both the properties and the way of formation.

For some enzymes it was found that a significant increase in the activity of their inhibitors was a result of the formation of halogen-bonded complexes [47],[48],[49]. Chlorine, bromine, and iodine atoms, but not the fluorine one, which possesses specific properties [50] can be involved in the formation of halogen bonds [45],[49]. Therefore, it is likely that the inhibitory activity of BPs with a chlorobenzyl substituent can be explained by the halogen bonding formation, which stabilizes the IN-inhibitor complexes.

Also, we found that the X substituent has an impact on the IN inhibition mechanism. In the presence of Mg^{2+} ions the inhibition mechanism of BP **2c** with X = NH₂ (group I) differs from that of all other BP (group II). This fact indirectly indicates that the group I and II

compounds bind to the enzyme using different modes (probably, at different binding sites). We assume that the reason for the different behavior of group I and II compounds may be the difference in their electron structures. Indeed, the ¹H NMR spectra indicated different distribution of the electron density in the hydrocarbon backbone of these compounds. The ³¹P NMR spectra demonstrated that the P-C-P backbone of the group II inhibitors did not coordinate Mg^{2+} ions, whereas in the case of compound **2c** such coordination occurred with the efficacy that is growing with an increase in the amino group deprotonation degree.

Although currently it is difficult to detect directly the differences in the BP-IN binding, our results support further studies of BPs as IN inhibitors. Among all the compounds studied, α -amino BPs (analogues of compound **2c**) may be of the greatest interest, since, being IN noncompetitive inhibitors, they may inhibit the IN functioning in the preintegration complex. It is also essential that BP-based inhibitors are active toward IN mutants resistant to several known INSTI.

4. Experimental protocols

Materials and Methods

The structures of 17 bisphosphonates studied are shown in the Figure 1.

All reagents used were purchased from Aldrich or Acros Organics.

The acyl halides used in **Method C** were prepared by refluxing the corresponding acids with 2 eq of $SOCl_2$ in dry dichloromethane for 3-4 hours followed by vacuum distillation to give 75–88% of the target compounds.

The pyridinium acetic acids or acetonitriles were prepared reacting the corresponding pyridines with bromoacetic acid or bromoacetonitrile. For details see SI.

Flash chromatography was performed on Kieselgel (40-63 µm, Merck, Germany).

The inhibitor concentrations were measured by ¹H NMR using the known concentrations of *tert*-butanol-d1 in D_2O as an internal reference standard (relaxation delay (D1) was set to 60 s for ¹H measurements).

High-resolution electrospray mass spectra were obtained on Applied Biosystems/MDS Sciex QSTAR XL. NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz (¹H), 161.9 MHz (³¹P), and 100.6 MHz (¹³C) AMX III -400 Bruker spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) using tetramethylsilane (¹H), *tert*-butanol-d1 (¹³C), and 85% H₃PO₄ (³¹P) as external standards. ¹³C and ³¹P NMR spectra were proton-decoupled unless otherwise specified.

Method A.

A mixture of carboxylic acid (2 mmol) or nitrile (2 mmol), phosphorous acid (2 mmol) and methanesulfonic acid (5 mL) in dry benzene (10 mL) was refluxed for 10-20 min till the mixture became homogenous. On cooling to 60-65 °C a solution of POCl₃ (3 mmol) in dry benzene (10 mL) was added dropwise for 30 min, maintaining the temperature below 70°C. The reaction mixture was refluxed with stirring for addition 8-12 h (24 h for (**3b**)), then the viscous yellowish mixture was cooled to ~40°C and pooled into the ice-cooled 3 N HCl (50 mL) under vigorous stirring followed by the reflux for 2 h. The aqueous layer was separated, concentrated *in vacuo* to a volume of 3 mL and kept for 12-24 h at +5°C till the bisphosphonates **3a-e**, **1d**, **2c** were crystallized. For BPs **1a-c**, the pH of the water layer was first adjusted to 4 with 50% NaOH and then kept for 5-12 h at +5°C for crystallization.

Method B.

Vinylidenediphosphonic acid.

VDPA was prepared by thermal dehydration of tetrasodium salt of etidronic acid followed by partial deionization of tetrasodium VDPA by CO₂ gas. Sodium bicarbonate formed was removed by filtration. For details and NMR data see SI.

Synthesis of 2-amino-1,1-bisphosphonates 4a-4c.

A water solution of disodium VDPA (1 eq) in water and the corresponding amine (1.5 eq) was concentrated *in vacuo* to homogenous syrup and heated at 120°C for 3 h. The reaction mixture was poured into a 50% water/ethanol mixture, acidified with HCl to pH 1 and allowed to crystallize at $+5^{\circ}$ C. The precipitated zwitterionic BPs were of 95% purity according to ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR data.

Method C.

A solution of acyl chloride (3 mmol) in dry benzene (10 mL) was added dropwise at 0°C to triethylphosphite (3 mmol) in dry benzene (10 mL) under vigorous stirring and followed by stirring for additional 2 h at +5°C. Diethylphosphite (3 mmol) and diisopropyl amine (0.3 mmol) were added and stirring was continued for 4–5 h at+5°C. Reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and **2a**, **2b** were purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CHCl₃-MeOH (0 to 15% MeOH) as an eluent. Solvents were removed *in vacuo* and ethyl groups were routinely removed by using 5 equivalents of TMSBr overnight at rt followed by methanolysis.

Method D.

To a solution of 1.2 mL (4 mmol) tetraisopropyl methylenebisphosphonate in dry THF (5 mL) 160 mg (4 mmol) of NaH (60% suspension in oil) in of dry THF (5 mL) was added at 0°C with stirring under the Ar atmosphere and stirring was continued for 1 h at 0°C, and then for 3 h at rt. A solution of 782 mg (4 mmol) 3,4-dichlorobenzyl chloride in THF (5 mL) was added to the resulted carbanion solution and stirred overnight at rt. The reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl (20 mL), extracted with DCM (3x50 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Target BPs **2d** or **5** were purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with EtOAc – MeOH gradient (0 to 25% MeOH). For bisphosphonate **5** 10 mmol NaH and 10 mmol 3,4-dichlorobenzylchloride were used. Tetraisopropyl esters were refluxed with 48% HBr (4 mL) for 2 h followed by co-evaporation with water (3x15 mL) and drying *in vacuo* over P₂O₅/KOH to give target **2d** and **5** as vaxi oils.

1-Hydroxy-2-phenylethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (1a). Compound **1** was prepared from phenylacetic acid following **Method A** as colorless solid (disodium salt, 490 mg, 75%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 7.38-7.28 (m, 5H), 3.32 (t, $J_{PH} = 14$ Hz, 2H). ³¹P (D₂O, pH 1): δ 19.0 s; lit. 19.0 s[16]. ¹³C (D₂O, pH 2, *t*-BuOD 30.3 ppm): δ 7.48-7.36 (5H, m, Ph), 74.0 (t, $J_{PC} = 147.0$ Hz), 40.6 s

Compound **1b** was available from previous work [17]

1-Hydroxy-5-phenylpentylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (**1c**). Compound **1c** was prepared from phenylpentanoic acid following **General Method A** as colorless solid (tetrapotassium salt, 391 mg, 41%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 2): δ 7.35-7.20 (m, Ph, 5H), 2.63 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH₂-PCP, 2H), 2.08-1.96 (m, CH₂-PCP, 2H), 1.66-1.57 (m,-(CH₂)₂-, 4H). ³¹P (D₂O, pH 2): δ 18.5 s. ¹³C (D₂O, pH 2, *t*-BuOD 30.3 ppm): δ 144.4 s, 129.6 s, 126.8 s, 74.1 t (*J*_{PC} = 147 Hz), 35.2 s, 33.9 s, 32.0 s, 30.1 s.

1-Amino-2-phenylethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (**1d**). Compound **1d** was prepared from phenylacetonitrile following **Method A** as colorless solid (180 mg, 32%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 3): δ 7.46-7.32 (5H, m, Ph), 3.43 (2H, t, $J_{PC} = 12.5$ Hz, CH₂-PCP).³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 6, P-H coupled) δ 12.4 (t, $J_{PH} = 12$ Hz). ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 2) δ 12.3 s. ¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH 14, *t*-BuOD 30.3 ppm): δ 141.9 s, 133.3 s, 128.6 s, 126.8 s, 58.5 (t, $J_{PC} = 129.4$ Hz), 41.2 s.

1-Hydroxy-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (2a). Compound **2a** was prepared from 3,4-dichlorophenylacetic acid following **Method C** as colorless solid (750 mg,

71%). ¹H NMR (D₂O+25% DMSO-d6, pH 2): δ 7.39 (d, *J* 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (t, *J*_{PH} = 13 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (D₂O+25% DMSO-d6, pH 2, *t*-BuOD 30.3): δ 132.5 s, 131.8 s, 131.1 s, 130.8 s, 74.3 (t, *J*_{PC} = 147.2 Hz), 38.3 s. ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 2): δ 18.0 s

1-Hydroxy-2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (**2b**). Compound **2b** was prepared from 4-chlorophenylacetic acid following **Method C** as colorless solid (785 mg, 82%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 5): δ 7,37 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7,28 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 3,23 (t, J = 12.6 Hz).¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH 12, *t*-BuOD 30.3 ppm): δ 134.1 s, 132.3 s, 131.5 s, 129.5 s, 74.0 (t, $J_{PC} = 147$ Hz), 38.9 s. ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 5): δ 18.0 s. HREIMS: m/z 314.9594 (calcd for C₈H₁₀ClO₇P₂, [M-H]+314.9590).

1-Amino-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (2c). Compound **2c** was prepared from 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile following **Method A** as colorless solid (273 mg, 39%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 11): δ 7.55 (d, J = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, J = 8.3, J = 2 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (t, J = 12 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH 11, DMSO-d6 39.52 ppm): δ 140.4 s, 134.4 s, 132.8 s, 131.9 s, 130.9 s, 130.6 s, 57.5 (t, $J_{PC} = 123.6$ Hz), 40.3 s ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 11): δ 18.9 s. HREIMS: m/z 347.9366 (calcd for C₈H₁₀Cl₂NO₆P₂, [M-H]+ 347.9360).

2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (2d). Compound **2d** was prepared from 3,4-dichlorobenzylchloride following **Method D** as colorless solid (disodium salt, 379 mg, 50%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 10): δ 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 2 Hz 1H), 3.06 (ddd, *J*_{HH} = 7 Hz, *J*_{PH} = 15 Hz, 2H), 2.10 (dt, *J*_{HH} = 7 Hz, *J*_{PH} = 20 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH 10, *t*-BuOD 30.3 ppm): δ 157.3 s, 138.6 s, 126.1 s, 125.2 s, 124.3 s, 36.8 (t, *J*_{PC} = 111 Hz), 26.4 s. ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 10): δ 19.4 s. HREIMS: m/z 332.9265 (calcd for C₈H₉Cl₂O₆P₂, [M-H]+332.9251).

1-Hydroxy-2-(pyridine-1-yl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (3a). Compound **3a** was prepared from 2-(pyridine-1-yl)acetic acid following **Method A** as colorless solid (449 mg, 79%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 8.9 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 8.6 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.0 (t, *J* = 7Hz, 2H), 5.0 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH 1, acetone 30.9 ppm): δ 146.7 s, 127.6 s, 73.4 (t, *J* = 137 Hz, PCP), 64.4 s (CH₂). ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 14.4 s; lit. 14.3 s [20]

1-Amino-2-(pyridine-1-yl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (3b). Bisphosphonate **3b** was prepared by **Method A** from 2-(pyridine-1-yl)acetonitrile (synthesized as described in SI) as colorless solid (221 mg, 39%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 9.0 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 8.7 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.1 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 5.2 (t, *J*_{PH} = 9.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 146.9 (s, Py), 146.0 (s, Py), 127.7 (s, Py), 61.5 (s, CH₂), 57.1 (t, *J*_{PC} = 123 Hz, PCP). ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 8.5 s. ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 14): δ 17.4 s

1-Hydroxy-2-(4-phenylpyridine-1-yl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (3c). Bisphosphonate **3c** was prepared by **Method A** from 2-(4-phenylpyridine-1-yl)acetic acid (synthesized as described in SI) as colorless solid (526 mg, 73%).

¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 8.8 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H, Py), 8.2 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H, Py), 7.9 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.6 (m, 3H, Ph), 5.0 (t, $J_{PH} = 9.5$ Hz). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 159.9 (s, Py), 148.9 (s, Py), 137.0 (s, Py), 135.1 (s, Ph), 132.6 (s, Ph), 131.0 (s, Ph), 126.8 (s, Ph), 76.1 (t, $J_{PC} = 134$ Hz, PCP), 66.2 (s, CH₂). ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 14.9 s (lit. 14.7 s [21])

1-Hydroxy-2-(3-hydroxypyridine-1-yl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (3d).

Bisphosphonate **3d** was prepared by **Method A** from 2-(3-hydroxypyridine-1-yl)acetic acid (synthesized as described in SI) as colorless solid (282 mg, 47%). ¹HNMR (D₂O, pH 14): δ 7.8 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.8 (s, 1H), 7.3 (m, 2H), 4.6 (t, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H). ¹³CNMR (D₂O, pH 10, acetone 30.9 ppm): δ 164.6 (s, Py), 136.1 (s, Py), 133.2 (s, Py), 130.6 (s, Py), 126.0 (s, Py), 73.8 (t, *J*_{PC} = 127 Hz, PCP), 64.5 (s, CH₂). ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 14): δ 15.5 s

1-Hydroxy-2-(2-ethylpyridine-1-yl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (3e). Bisphosphonate **3e** was prepared by **Method A** from 2-(2-ethylpyridine-1-yl) acetic acid (synthesized as described in SI) as colorless solid (319 mg, 51%).

¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 1): δ 8.8 (dd, J_I = 6.4 Hz, J_I = 1.6 Hz, 1H, Py), 8.3 (ddd, J_I = 8.0 Hz, J_2 = 1.7 Hz, 1H, Py), 7.8 (dd, J_I = 8.0 Hz, J_2 = 1.8 Hz, 1H, Py), 7.7 (ddd, J_I = 6.4 Hz, J_2 = 1.7 Hz, 1H, Py), 5.0 (t, J_{HP} = 10 Hz, 2H, N-CH₂), 3.3 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH₂-Et), 1.27 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH₃). ¹³CNMR (D₂O, pH 10): δ 161.0 (s, Py), 146.7 (s, Py), 144.3 (s, Py), 126.4 (s, Py), 123.0 (s, Py), 73.8 (t, J_{PC} = 126 Hz, PCP), 59.1 (s, CH₂-Py), 26.1 (s, <u>CH₂-CH₃)</u>, 11.2 (s, CH₃). ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 10): δ 15.3 s. ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 10, coupled): δ 15.3 (t, J_{PH} = 10 Hz) (2-Phenylethylamino)-2-ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (4a). Compound 4a was prepared from 3.78 mL (30 mmol) 2-phenylethylamine and VDPA (20 mmol) following Method B as colorless solid (4.3 g, 69%, as calculated for VDPA). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 9): δ 7.39-7.27 (5H, m, Ph), 3.35 (dt, J_{HH} = 6.5 Hz, J_{PH} = 15 Hz, 2H, CH₂-PCP), 3.27 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH₂-<u>CH₂-NH</u>), 2.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH₂-Ph), 2.07 (tt, J_{HH} = 6.5 Hz, J_{PH} = 20 Hz, 1H, H-PCP). ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 9): δ 16.2 s. ¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH 9, *t*-BuOD 30.3ppm):δ 137.3 s, 129.6 s, 129.5 s, 127.8 s, 48.6 s, 47.2 s, 37.5 (t, J_{PC} = 110 Hz)

Phenylamino-2-ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (4b)

Compound **4b** was prepared from 2.7 mL (30 mmol) freshly distilled aniline and VDPA (20 mmol) following **Method B** as colorless solid becoming brownish if kept on air (4.1 g, 73%, as calculated for VDPA). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 2): δ 7.51-7.42 (5H, m, Ph), 3.35 (2H, ddd, *J*_{HH} 7.5 Hz, *J*_{PH} 15Hz, *J*_{PH} 13Hz, CH₂-PCP), (1H, tt, *J*_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, *J*_{PH} = 21 Hz, H-PCP). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH

2, *t*-BuOD 30.3 ppm) : δ 134.9 s, 131.0 s, 130.9 s, 130.6 s, 123.1 s, 50.2 s (CH₂), 36.3 (t, *J*_{CP} = 121 Hz). ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 2): δ 15.8 s

((4-Iodophenyl)amino)-2-ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (4c). To a solution of 562 mg (2 mmol) bisphosphonate 4b in 1M NaHCO₃ (10 mL) 762 mg (3 mmol) of iodine was addad and resulted mixture was stirred overnight at 5°C followed by the addition of 126 mg (1 mmol) Na₂SO₃. The resulted solution was applied on a column of Dowex-50 (H⁺) resin (50 mL) then column was washed with 50 mL of water and combined eluents were concentrated *in vacuo* to 5 mL and kept at +5°C for crystallization (635 mg, 78%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 10): δ 7.5 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 6.6 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 3.5 (ddd, *J*_{HH} = 7 Hz, *J*_{PH} = 14 Hz, 2H), 2.1 (dt, *J*_{HH} = 7 Hz, *J*_{PH} = 20.5 Hz, 1H). ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 10): δ 18.5 s. ³¹P NMR (coupled): δ 18.5 (dt, *J*_I = 14 Hz, *J*₂ = 20.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR: δ (D₂O, pH 7, *t*-BuOD 30.3 ppm): δ 147.9 s, 138.5 s. 117.7 s, 79.8 s, 41.9 s, 39.2 (t, *J* = 114.2 Hz). HREIMS: m/z 405.9150 (calcd for C₈H₁₁INO₆P₂, [M-H]+ 405.9106).

Bis-(**2**-(**3,4-dichlorophenyl**)**ethylidene**)-**1,1-bisphosphonic acid** (**5**). Compound **5** was prepared from 3,4-dichlorobenzylchloride following **Method D** as colorless solid (tetra potassium salt, 1.1 g, 92%). ¹H NMR (D₂O, pH 12): δ 7.64 (s, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, J = 15.4 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, pH 12, *t*-BuOD 30.3 ppm): δ 158.1 s, 139.0 s, 126.9 s, 125.2 s, 125.1 s, 36.8 (t, $J_{PC} = 112$ Hz), 26.0 s. ³¹P NMR (D₂O, pH 12): δ 20.9 s. HREIMS: m/z 490.8942 (calcd for C₁₅H₁₃Cl₄O₆P₂, [M-H]+490.8942).

Biology

The detergent-free recombinant IN protein (wt and mutant forms) was produced in *Escherichia coli* and purified as previously described[51]. The plasmids containing the mutant forms of the IN genes (E92Q, E138K, G140S, and N155H substitutions) were obtained by sitedirected mutagenesis of a plasmid encoding wild-type IN using the QuikChange II Site-Directed Mutagenesis kit (Agilent Technologies, USA). All procedures were performed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

IN/LEDGF complex was produced as described in [40].

All oligonucleotides were synthesized by the phosphoramidite method on an automatic ABI 3400 DNA synthesizer (Applied Biosystems, USA) under conditions recommended by manufacturer and purified by electrophoresis in a 20% polyacrylamide/7 M urea gel.

³²P-labeled IN substrate preparation. DNA duplexes consisting of oligonucleotides U5A (5'-ACTGCTAGAGATTTTCACAC-3') and U5B (5'-GTGTGGAAAATCTCTAGCAGT-3') or U5B-2 (5'-GTGTGGAAAATCTCTAGCA-3'), and mimicking the end of the HIV-1 U5 LTR were used as IN substrates. The U5B or U5B-2 oligonucleotide (10 pmol) was labeled with T4 polynucleotide kinase (Fermentas, Lithuania) and 50 µCi [γ³²P]ATP (3000 Ci/mmol). After 1 h of incubation at 37°C, the T4 polynucleotide kinase was inactivated by the addition of EDTA followed by heating at 65°C for 5 minutes. The U5B or U5B-2 oligonucleotide was then annealed with an equimolar amount of complementary oligonucleotide, U5A. The resulting U5B/U5A or U5B-2/U5A duplex was then purified from unincorporated [γ-³²P]ATP by centrifugation through MicroSpin G-25 Columns (GE Healthcare, UK).

Inhibition of 3'-processing and strand transfer reactions. ³²P-labeled duplex U5B/U5A (3 nM) for 3'-processing or U5B-2/U5A (10 nM) for strand transfer was incubated with IN (100 nM) in 20 μ l of the buffer A (20 mM HEPES pH 7.2, 7.5 mM MgCl₂ or MnCl₂, 1 mM DTT) in the presence of increasing concentrations of an inhibitor at 37°C for 2 h. The reaction was stopped by adding 80 μ l of stop solution (7 mM EDTA, 0.3 M sodium acetate, and 10 mM Tris–HCl, pH 8). IN was extracted with 100 μ l of phenol–chloroform–isoamyl alcohol mixture (25:24:1). DNA was precipitated with 250 μ l of ethanol at 0°C and assayed by denaturing PAGE (20%). Gel was visualized in a STORM 840TM Phosphorimager (Molecular Dynamics, United States). The reaction efficiency was assessed using the Image QuaNTTM 4.1 program.

Inhibition of 3' processing catalyzed by the complex IN/LEDGF was studied analogously using 100 mM IN combined with 50 nM LEDGF.

For the inhibition mechanism studies, IN (100 nM) was incubated with ³²P-labeled substrate U5B/U5A (2.5–12.5 nM) and compound **2a** (0–39 μ M) or **2c** (0–15 μ M), in 20 μ l of the buffer A for 1 h at 37°C.

DNA binding assay. The ³²P-labeled substrate U5B/U5A (3 nM) was incubated with HIV-1 IN at different concentrations (3 – 300 nM) in 10 μ l of the buffer A at 25°C for 20 min before loading on nitrocellulose membrane (Amersham Hybond, GE Healthcare). Molecular Dynamics STORM 840 Phosphorimager was used for analysis and quantification.

For kinetic measurements, the ³²P-labeled substrate U5B/U5A (3 nM) was incubated with IN alone (100 nM) or combined with LEDGF (50 nM) in 10 μ l of the buffer A at 25°C, and the aliquots were taken after different times of incubation (0-60 min).

To study the DNA-IN binding inhibition, compounds **2a-d** or **5** (0-500 μ M) were added to the DNA/IN mixture.

Abbreviations:

HAART - highly active antiretroviral therapy, , IN – integrase, BP – bisphosphonate, INSTI – integrase strand transfer inhibitor, LEDGF - lens epithelium derived growth factor, RT - reverse transcriptase, VDPA – vinylidenediphosphonic acid. DRaCALA - differential radial capillary action of ligand assay

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Supporting Information Available:

¹H, ¹³C, ³¹P NMR data for all new and most other BPs. Detail synthetic procedures for preparation some intermediate compounds. Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version, at <u>http://dx.doi.org/</u>

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Figure legends

Figure 1. The general structure of the methylenebisphosphonates under study (A) and structures of the compounds synthesized (B). First prepared compounds are in italic

Figure 2. ³¹P NMR spectra of compounds **2a** and **2c**. (A) The pH dependence of the chemical shifts of phosphorus atoms. (B) The variations of the phosphorus atom resonances at various pH in the presence of Mg^{2+} ions. The sample contained both BP at a ratio of 1:2 and Mg^{2+} at a molar concentration twice as high as that of both BPs.

Figure 3. The dependence of the 3'-processing initial rate vs the DNA substrate concentration at varied inhibitor concentrations on double-reciprocal plots. (A) Compound **2a** in the presence of Mg^{2+} ions; (B) Compound **2c** in the presence of Mg^{2+} ions; (C) Compound **2a** in the presence of Mn^{2+} ions; (D) Compound **2c** in the presence of Mn^{2+} ions.

Figure 4. Binding of the DNA substrate to IN alone and IN-LEDGF complex. A. The dependency of the binding efficacy vs IN concentration ($[IN_{eq}]=[IN]$ for IN and $[IN_{eq}] = 4*[IN/LEDGF]$ for the complex) **B**. The kinetics of the DNA substrate binding to IN alone and to the IN-LEDGF complex ($IN_{eq} = 100$ nM). The binding kinetics at initial time points are shown at the insert.

	Inhibitory effect of the tested BPs, $IC_{50}(\mu M)$							
Compound	IN activity						Activity of the	
	Binding		3'-processing		ST		complex in 3'- processing	
	Mg ²⁺	Mn ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	Mn ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	Mn ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	Mn ²⁺
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2a	150	>500	35	5	45	4	>250	4.5
2b	70	>500	20	5	42	6	>250	8
2c	>256	>500	7	2	3	2	7	2
2d	130	>500	30	5	30	5	>250	6
5	100	>500	20	0.8	16	0.8	nd*	nd

Table 1. Inhibition of the DNA-binding and catalytic activities of HIV-1 IN by BPs in the

presence of different metal cofactors.

* - not determined























Specific features of HIV-1 integrase inhibition by bisphosphonate derivatives

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Figure S1. ¹H NMR chemical shifts of selected protons. The effect of the X substituent on the electron density at nuclei H for compounds **2a** and **2c**. The electron density reduces from upfield to downfield.

Pyridinium acetic acids and pyridinium acetonitriles.



Bromoacetic acid or bromoacetonitrile (6 mmol) was added to a solution of the pyridine derivative (5 mmol) in ether (15 mL) and the reaction mixture refluxed for 6-8 h to give the substituted pyridinium bromides as white precipitates. The precipitates were filtered, washed with ether (2x10 mL) and dried in vacuum. Yields were >95%.

Vinylidenediphosphonic acid (VDPA).

VDPA was prepared by thermal dehydration of tetrasodium salt of etidronic acid followed by partial deionization of tetrasodium VDPA by CO_2 gas. The thermal conditions and dehydration time were optimized (350°C, 5 h) to get 97-100% conversion of etidronate. Reaction was monitored by ³¹P NMR analysis, which revealed VDPA and PP_i to be the main reaction products (>90%).

Muffle furnace dried (250°C, 2 h) tetrasodium etidronate was heated 5 h at 350°C. After the reaction was completed and cooled to room temperature, the residue was dissolved in a minimal amount of water at 20°C, and insoluble materials were filtered off. The filtrate was diluted two-fold with water and a CO_2 flow was passed through at +5°C up to pH 6. The solution was left at this temperature for additional 5-6 h and the precipitated NaHCO₃ was filtered off. Since we failed to crystallize VDPA either from water/alcohols or from water/acetone solutions, we used it as a water solution with concentration measured by ¹H-NMR.





f1 (мд)








kr7870c13dec

BPH-1d

¹S10

20

30

41.15

~57.16

50

40



ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

BPH-1d



31P



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75	70	65	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	Ο	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	C11
/5	70	05	00	55	50	чJ	70	55	50	25	20	f1 (мл)	10	J	0	5	10	15	20	25	50	55	JII
												1 ± (11A)											











BPH-2c

























BPH-3c





31P

48



31P



BPH-3d









31P
















31P

BPH-4c





31P

BPH-5

