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Discovery of WQ-3810: Design, Synthesis, and Evaluation of 7-(3alkylaminoazetidin-1-yl)fluoro-quinolones as Orally Active Antibacterial Agents

Kenji Itoh, Yasuhiro Kuramoto, Hirotaka Amano, Daichi Kazamori, Akira Yazaki

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Novel 7-(3-alkylaminoazetidin-1-yl)fluoroquinolones were designed, synthesized, and evaluated for their antibacterial activities and oral absorption rates. In this series of compounds, WQ-3810 was identified as an orally active fluoroquinolone with a potent *in vitro* activity.



1	Discovery of WQ-3810: Design, Synthesis, and Evaluation of
2	7-(3-alkylaminoazetidin-1-yl)fluoro-quinolones as Orally Active
3	Antibacterial Agents
4	
5	Kenji Itoh ª,*, Yasuhiro Kuramoto ª, Hirotaka Amano ª, Daichi Kazamori ª, Akira Yazaki ª
6	^a Drug Discovery Laboratory, Wakunaga Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., 1624 Shimokotachi,
7	Koda-cho, Akitakata-shi, Hiroshima 739-1195, Japan
8	* Corresponding author.
9	E-mail address: <u>itoh_k@wakunaga.co.jp</u> (Kenji Itoh)
10	
11	Kewords
12	Antibacterial agent; Fluoroquinolone; Gram-negative bacteria; Oral absorption;
13	Alkylaminoazetidine.
14	
15	Abstract
16	Novel 7-(3-alkylaminoazetidin-1-yl)fluoroquinolones were designed, synthesized, and
17	evaluated for their antibacterial activities and oral absorption rates. Against Gram-negative
18	bacteria, 10a-e , which have various alkyl groups containing different numbers of carbon

atoms (C0-C3) at the C-7 alkylaminoazetidine position, showed potent and similar 19

antibacterial activities, whereas the activity of 10f (C4, t-Bu) was significantly lower than 20

21 those of 10a-e. Conversely, the oral absorption rates of 10a-e in rats increased depending on 22 the number of carbon atoms in the alkyl groups; 10d (C3, n-Pr) and 10e (C3, i-Pr) had high 23 oral absorption rates (> 90 % at 10 mg/kg). These results demonstrated that the introduction of alkyl groups onto C-7 aminoazetidine is useful for the improvement of the oral absorption 24 rates of these drugs while maintaining their antibacterial activities. As a conclusion, from 25 this series of fluoroquinolones, WQ-3810 (10e), having 3-isopropylaminoazetidine as the C-7 26 27 substituent, was identified as an orally active antibacterial agent with a potent in vitro 28 activity.

30 1. Introduction

31 Since the discovery of norfloxacin as the first fluoroquinolone (FQ) [1], FQs have become a 32 significant class of useful antibacterial agents. In an effort to improve the profiles of FQs as 33 antibacterial drugs, a number of structure-activity relationships (SARs) have been 34 established and reviewed [2-7]. In those SARs, aminopyrrolidines and piperazines were 35 identified as the most effective C-7 substituents to enhance the antibacterial activities of FQs 36 [2, 5]. The introduction of alkyl groups onto those C-7 substituents has also enhanced their 37 antibacterial activities against Gram-positive bacteria [8], improved their pharmacokinetic 38 profiles [5], and reduced their cytotoxicities against mammalian cells [7]. Furthermore, a 39 recent study reported that the introduction of a methyl group at the geminal position of the 40 amino group of C-7 aminopyrrolidine was effective for avoiding the mechanism-based inhibition of cytochrome P450 3A4 [9]. 41

42 In our effort to create a useful FQ with a potent in vitro activity against refractory drug-resistant pathogens, we discovered the highly active compound (10a), whose structure is 43 characterized by its unique N-1 and C-7 substituents, 2,4-difluoro-5-aminopyridine and 44 45 3-aminoazetidine, respectively. In the course of SAR studies of this series of FQs, we accumulated several important findings as follows: the introduction of an amino group in the 46 47 N-1 substituent resulted in the reduction of the phototoxicity, even when groups (halogen atoms) that induce phototoxicity were introduced at the C-8 position [10]; a four-membered 48 49 ring (aminoazetidine) substituent at the C-7 position gave a higher antibacterial activity than

50	a five-membered ring (aminopyrrolidine) substituent in combination with the N-1 substituent
51	difluoro-aminopyridine; and the C-8 methyl group was effective for reducing the cytotoxicity
52	without the loss of <i>in vitro</i> activity [11]. However, the proto-type compound 10a has a defect in
53	its pharmacokinetic properties, its poor oral absorption. Until now, there have been few
54	studies evaluating the structure-pharmacokinetic relationships of FQs having a C-7
55	aminoazetidine. Jordi et al. [12-14] demonstrated that introduction of a methyl or ethyl group
56	to the C-7 aminoazetidine improved the pharmacokinetic properties; the area under the
57	plasma concentration-time curve (orally in mice) increased, but the antibacterial activity
58	against Gram-negative bacteria was reduced. It is unclear how longer alkyl groups (> C3)
59	effect the antibacterial activities and pharmacokinetics of 7-(3-alkylaminoazetidin-1-yl)FQs.
60	The aim of this study was to improve the oral absorption of 10a by introducing an alkyl
61	group and to clarify the effect of this introduction. To achieve this goal, we prepared various
62	compounds with different alkyl groups (C0-C4) on the C-7 alkylaminoazetidine (10a-f) and
63	evaluated their antibacterial activities, especially against Gram-negative bacteria, as well as
64	their oral absorption rates in rats. In addition, we investigated the effects of the alkyl groups
65	on the inhibitory activities of the drugs against DNA gyrase, which is one of the molecules
66	targeted by FQs, and the physiochemical properties (solubility and membrane permeability)
67	of the FQs.

69 2. Chemistry

70 WQ-3810 10e and its derivatives 10a-d and f were synthesized according to previously 16]. 71 reported methods [15,Scheme 1 of shows the synthesis 72 2-amino-6-tert-butylamino-3,5-difluoropyridine (4) as a N-1 substituent of 10a-f. Stepwise 73 aminations of 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoropyridine (1) with *tert*-butylamine and benzylamine gave 74 di-protected diaminopyridine (3). The second amination with benzylamine required a high reaction temperature (160°C) due to the low activity for the amination at the C-6 position of 2. 75 76 The benzyl group of **3** was deprotected selectively by Pd/C-catalyzed hydrogenation to give the 77 mono-protected diaminopyridine 4. $\mathbf{2}$ the of Scheme shows synthesis 78 1-(3,5-difluoro-6-aminopyridin-2-yl)-8-methylquinolone carboxylic acid (8). The reaction of 79 benzoylaceate (5) with triethyl orthoformate under reflux conditions and the removal of 80 excess reagents gave benzoylacrylate (6). The reaction of 6 with 4 and subsequent cyclication 81 under basic conditions gave quinolone ester 7. To obtain 8-methylquinolone carboxylic acid (8), 82 the deprotection of the *tert*-butyl group and the hydrolysis of the ethyl ester of 7 were 83 achieved under acidic conditions.

As shown in scheme 3, compounds **10a-f** were obtained by aromatic nucleophilic substitution at the C-7 position of 8-methylquinolone carboxylic acid (8) with various 3-alkylaminoazetidines **9a-f**, which were synthesized according to a method similar to established procedures [17, 18]. The reactivity at the C-7 position of **8** is low due to the electron donating effect of the C-8 methyl group. We already reported that the C-7

substitution reaction of an 8-methylquinolone core with a 3-alkylaminoazetidine was
accelerated by the presence of Li⁺ ions [19]. Accordingly, the syntheses of 10a-f were conducted
in the presence of LiCl and/or LiOH

93 3. Results

94

95 3.1 In vitro activity

The half maximal inhibitory concentration (IC_{50}) and the minimum inhibitory 96 97 concentration (MIC) values of 10a-f and levofloxacin (LVFX) were determined for Escherichia coli DNA gyrase and Gram-negative bacteria (three strains of E. coli and 15 strains of 11 other 98 99 Gram-negative bacteria), respectively (Table 1). 10a-f have various alkyl groups of different 100 lengths and sizes on the C-7 alkylaminoazetidine. These compounds similarly inhibited E. coli 101 DNA gyrase potently with IC_{50} values ranging from 0.078 to 0.33 mg/L. Conversely, the 102 antibacterial activities of 10a-e were higher than that of 10f; the MIC values for E coli (3 103 strains) and other Gram-negative bacteria (11 species, 15 strains) were from 0.004 to 0.012 (10a-e) and 0.038 mg/L (10f) and from 0.061 to 0.21 (10a-e) and 0.57 mg/L (10f), respectively. 104

105

106 3.2 Oral absorption in rats

107 The urinary and biliary excretions (% of dose) of **10a-e** were measured following their oral 108 (*p.o.*) or intravenous (*i.v.*) administration to rats (Table 2). The excretions of **10a-e** into bile 109 were analyzed after the conversion of glucuronide metabolites of **10a-e** into their 110 unmetabolized forms by alkaline hydrolysis. The total excretions of **10d** (C3, *n*-Pr) and **10e** 111 (C3, \dot{r} -Pr) in urine and bile after oral administration were 91 and 92 % of the dose, respectively, 112 indicating their excellent oral absorption rates (> 90%). The high total recoveries (85-91%) of

10a-c following intravenous administration indicated that these compounds were primary
excreted in their unmetabolized forms or as glucuronide metabolites. Therefore, the oral
absorption rates (%) of 10a-c were calculated by dividing their total recoveries (*p.o.*) by the
total recoveries (*i.v.*). The calculated oral absorption rates of 10a (C0, non-alkylated), 10b (C1,
Me), and 10c (C2, Et) were 9.6, 31, and 76 %, respectively.
3.3 Solubility and membrane permeability

The solubilities and membrane permeabilities of **10a**•**e** were measured (Table 3). The solubilities in Japanese Pharmacopoeia disintegration test solution 2 (JP2) were not very high and ranged from 3.1 to 45 mg/L. The permeability coefficients (P_{eff}s) of **10d** and **10e** in the parallel artificial membrane permeability assay (PAMPA) were 1.1×10^{-6} and 1.2×10^{-6} cm/s, respectively, which were four to 10 times higher than those of **10a**•**c** (1.2×10^{-7} to 2.9×10^{-7} cm/s).

127 4 Discussion

128 In this study, we attempted to improve the oral absorption of our proto-type FQ 10a by 129 performing several SAR studies. We determined the MICs against clinically important 130 Gram-negative pathogens (18 strains of 12 species) and the oral absorption rates (in rats) of 131 10a-f, which have various C-7 alkylaminoazetidine substituents (C0-4). Additionally, we 132 evaluated their inhibitory activities against DNA gyrase, solubilities in JP2, and membrane 133 permeabilities in a PAMPA study. DNA gyrase is the primary drug target of FQs [20], and the 134 solubility and membrane permeability in the gastrointestinal tract are two major determining 135 factors for the oral absorption of a drug.

In the MIC assay, the antibacterial activities of 10a-e, containing a C0-C3 alkyl group, were 136 137 found to be similar against Gram-negative bacteria; however, 10f (C4, t-Bu) was significantly less potent (Table 1). To address the reason for the differences between the antibacterial 138 139 activities of 10a-e and 10f, we measured the IC50 values of 10a-f against E. coli DNA gyrase 140 and examined the correlation between their IC₅₀s and MICs for *E. coli* (three strains). 141 Contrary to the higher MIC value of 10f compared to those of 10a-e, 10a-f exhibited similar 142 inhibition rates of *E. coli* DNA gyrase, although a good correlation between the IC₅₀ and MIC 143 values of the FQs was reported [21]. This result suggested that the less potent antibacterial 144 activity of **10f** was not due to its weaker inhibitory activity against the target enzyme.

145 To exert a potent antibacterial activity, a drug must have enough exposure to its target in 146 addition to strong inhibition of the target molecules. The bacterial uptake of drugs is greatly

147 affected by components of the cell wall structure characteristic of bacteria. Especially, 148 Gram-negative bacteria have a hydrophilic outer membrane in the cell wall, which serves as 149 an effective permeability barrier against lipophilic antibiotics including FQs. The influence of 150 the lipophilicities of FQs on their uptake by Gram-negative bacteria has been studied [22-24], 151 and an inverse correlation between the lipophilicity of a FQ and its uptake by E. coli was 152 reported [24]. The cLogD values and the retention times of **10a-f** (data not shown) for 153 reverse-phase HPLC indicated that the lipophilicities of **10a-f** increased depending on the 154 number of carbon atoms in the alkyl groups, and **10f** has the highest lipophilicity. Therefore, 155 the impaired bacterial uptake of **10f** due to its higher lipophilicity might be a plausible reason 156 for its less potent antibacterial activity, although this speculation should be confirmed by the 157 future evaluation of the bacterial uptakes of 10a-f.

158 The oral absorption rates of **10a-e** were evaluated in rats by measuring the total recoveries 159 (% of dose) of their unmetabolized forms and glucuronide metabolites. The total recoveries of 160 10d and 10e (p.o.) were over 90%, indicating that both compounds were almost completely 161 absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract. The oral absorption rates (%) of 10a-e increased with 162 an increase in the number of carbon atoms in the alkyl group. These results indicated that 163 introduction of alkyl groups at the C-7 aminoazetidine of **10a** enhanced the oral absorption by 164 increasing the lipophilicities of the compounds. The oral absorption of drugs depends on their 165 physicochemical properties. Considering the process of the intestinal absorption of drugs, the 166 solubility of a drug in gastrointestinal tract fluid and its intestinal membrane permeability

167 are two major determinants for its oral absorption. The dissolution of drugs in 168 gastrointestinal fluid is the first requirement; only drug molecules dissolved in the fluid can 169 be available for absorption across the intestinal membrane and thereafter be delivered to 170 their site of action by systemic circulation. Due to the lipid nature of the intestinal membrane, 171 a drug's lipophilicity is considered to be an important factor for its penetration. To address the 172 reason for the improvement of the oral absorption of 10a by the introduction of the alkyl groups, we evaluated the solubilities and permeabilities of 10a-e (Table 3). The solubility 173 174 study used JP2, which is one of the most commonly used test mediums as a simulated 175 gastrointestinal tract fluid. The solubilities of 10a-e in JP2 were not extremely high, and their 176 solubilities were all at a similar level. The membrane permeabilities were evaluated using a 177 PAMPA model, which has been reported to be useful for predicting the oral absorption rates of 178 drugs [25]. In this report, a sigmoidal relationship has been observed between the P_{eff} value in 179 the PAMPA study and the oral absorption in humans; most of the drugs with Peff values 180 greater than 1.0×10^{-6} cm/s had good oral absorption rates. The P_{eff} values of **10a-e** increased 181 depending on the number of carbon atoms in the alkyl groups, and the values of $10d (1.1 \times 10^{-6})$ cm/s) and 10e (1.2 \times 10⁻⁶ cm/s) were greater than 1.0 \times 10⁻⁶ cm/s (Table 3). These results 182 183 demonstrated that the oral absorption rates of 10a-e in rats was in good correlation with the 184 Peff values, suggesting that the introduction of alkyl groups to the C-7 aminoazetidine of 10a 185 improved the oral absorption through the enhancement of the membrane permeabilities of 186 the drugs due to their increased lipophilicities.

187 **5** Conclusion

188 This evaluated effects various (C0-C4)study the of alkyl groups of 7-(3-alkylaminoazetidin-1-yl)FQs 10a-f on the anti-Gram-negative activities and oral 189 absorption rates of the drugs. The alkyl group had little influence on the inhibitory 190 activity against *E. coli* DNA gyrase, but a *t* Bu group (**10f**, C4) decreased the antibacterial 191 activity against Gram-negative bacteria, including E. coli, which might be due to its 192 193 reduced bacterial uptake due to an excessive increase in its lipophilicity. Conversely, the 194 increased lipophilicity by the introduction of alkyl groups enhanced oral absorption by enhancing the membrane permeability. Consequently, WQ-3810 (10e, rPr) was identified 195 as an orally active FQ with a potent in vitro activity. Our subsequent evaluations have 196 197 demonstrated that WQ-3810 is highly active against quinolone-resistant pathogens and has a good pharmacokinetic profile as well as a low potential for side effects related to 198 this class of antibiotics [26, 27]. 199

201 6 Experimental

202

203 6.1. Chemistry

204

205 6.1.1. General Methods

All chemicals used were of reagent grade. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer
chromatography on silica gel (Merck 60F 254) plates using UV light (254 nm) for detection.
NMR spectra were recorded with a JEOL JNM-ECP 500 at 500 MHz (¹H NMR) and Varian
VNMRS 500 at 125 MHz (¹³C NMR). Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm (δ) relative to
internal tetramethylsilane, and the coupling constants (J values) are given in hertz (Hz).
Mass spectra (MS) were obtained with a Finnigan LTQ mass spectrometer with ESI.

- 212
- 213 6.1.2. 2-(*tert*-Butylamino)-3,5,6-trifluoropyridine (2)

A mixture of 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoropyridine (1, 11.0 g, 72.8 mmol), *tert* butylamine (18.5 g, 253 mmol) and MeCN (40 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 3 d. The reaction mixture was evaporated, and the residue was partitioned between CHCl₃ (100 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic layer was separated, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to give **2** as pale yellow oil. (9.7 g, 66% yield); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.45 (s, 9H), 4.40 (brs, 1H), 7.16 (ddd, J = 7.0 Hz, 8.0 Hz, 9.0 Hz, 1H).

- 221 6.1.3. 2-Benzylamino-6-(*tert*-butylamino)-3,5-difluoropyridine (3)
- A mixture of 2-(*tert*-butylamino)-3,5,6-trifluoropyridine (2, 9.7 g, 47.5 mmol), benzylamine
 (15.5 g, 145 mmol) and N-methylpyrrolidone (20 mL) was stirred at 160 °C for 1 d. After
 cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with CHCl₃. The solution was
 washed with water (500 mL × 3), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to give crude 3 (16.5 g).
 The obtained crude 3 was used for next reaction without further purification.
- 227

228 6.1.4. 2-Amino-6-(*tert*-butylamino)-3,5-difluoropyridine (4)

- A mixture of crude 2-benzylamino-6-(*tert*-butylamino)-3,5-difluoropyridine (3, 10.7 g, 36.7 mmol), 10% Pd/C (1.1 g), conc. HCl (3.8g) and MeOH (60 mL) was stirred at room temperature
 for 1 d under hydrogen atmosphere. After the catalyst was filtered off, the filtrate was
 evaporated, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (2:1 CHCl₃/hexane → CHCl₃) to give 4 as pale brown oil. (3.3 g, 44% yield); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ
 1.43 (s, 9H), 4.11 (brs, 2H), 6.94 (t, J=10.0 Hz, 1H).
- 235

6.1.5. Ethyl 1-[6-(*tert*-butylamino)-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl]-6,7-difluoro-8-methyl-4-oxo1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (7)

A mixture of ethyl 2,4,5-trifluoro-3-methylbenzoyl acetate (5, 3.4 g, 13 mmol), acetic
anhydride (3.2 g, 31 mmol) and triethyl orthoformate (2.3 g, 16 mmol) was refluxed for 4 h.
The reaction mixture was evaporated to give a crude 6, which was dissolved in EtOH (5 mL).

241 То the solution added dropwise solution of was а 242 2-amino-6-(tert-butylamino)-3,5-difluoropyridine (4, 2.7 g, 13 mmol) in EtOH (20 mL) at 0 °C, 243 and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 min. The reaction mixture was evaporated, and the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (1:8 ethyl 244 acetate/hexane). The fraction was evaporated, and the residue was dissolved in DMF (10 mL). 245 246 To the solution was added K₂CO₃ (1.4 g, 9.8 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 247 50 min. The reaction mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water, and the 248 organic layer was separated, dried over MgSO4 and evaporated. The residue was triturated 249 with EtOH, and the precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with Et₂O to give 7 as a pale yellow solid. (2.6 g, 44% yield); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): S1.34-1.48 (m, 12H), 1.82 (d, J= 3.0 Hz, 250 251 3H), 4.40 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.75 (brs, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (t, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 252 8.50 (s, 1H).

253

6.1.6

255 1-(6-Amino-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-6,7-difluoro-8-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-c
256 arboxylic acid (8)

257	А	mixture	of	ethyl
258	1-[6-(<i>tert</i> -buty	lamino)-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl]-6,′	7-difluoro-8-methyl-4-oxc	-1,4-dihydroquinol
259	ine-3-carboxyla	ate (7, 2.5 g, 5.5 mmol) and conc.	HCl (10 mL) was reflux	ed overnight. After
260	cooling to roor	n temperature, the precipitate was	s collected by filtration a	nd washed in turn

261	with EtOH and Et ₂ O to give 8 as a pale yellow solid. (1.7 g, 84% yield); ¹ H NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ				
262	1.84 (s, 3H), 6.91 (brs, 2H), 8.03 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.93 (s, 1H).				
263					
264	6.1.7.				
265	7-(3-Aminoazetidin-1-yl)-1-(6-amino-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-6-fluoro-8-methyl-4-oxo-1,4				
266	-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (10a)				
267	To a suspension of 3-aminoazetidine hydrochloride (9a , 283 mg, 2.0 mmol) in DMSO (2 mL)				
268	were added LiOH monohydrate (165 mg, 3.9 mmol), tetramethylguanidine (300 mg, 2.6 mmol),				
269	LiCl (165 mg, 3.9 mmol) and				
270	1-(6-amino-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-6,7-difluoro-8-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carbo				
271	xylic acid (8, 477 mg, 1.3 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at 30-35 °C for 40 h. The				
272	reaction mixture was washed with Et ₂ O (5 mL \times 5) by decantation to remove DMSO. To the				
273	residue was added water (3 mL), and the pH of the suspension was adjusted to pH 6 with				
274	aqueous 10% citric acid. The precipitate was collected by filtration, which was suspended in				
275	water (10 mL), and the pH of suspension was adjusted to pH 6 with AcOH. The suspension				
276	was stirred at 80 °C for 20 h. The precipitate was collected by filtration, which was suspended				
277	in EtOH (10 mL), and the suspension was refluxed for 2 h. The precipitate was collected by				
278	filtration, and dried under reduced pressure to give 10a as a white solid. (220 mg, 40% yield);				
279	¹ H NMR (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆): δ 1.63 (s, 3H), 3.68-3.82 (m, 2H), 3.87-3.98 (m, 1H), 4.37-4.52 (m, 2H),				
280	6.84 (brs, 2H), 7.76 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.71 (s, 1H); ¹³ C				

285	420 [M+H]+.	
284	<i>J</i> = 10 Hz), 150.14 (s), 151.35 (d, <i>J</i> = 247 Hz), 165.86 (s), 177.13	(d, J = 3 Hz); MS-ESI (+): m/z
283	4 Hz), 138.78 (s), 142.53 (dd, 250, 5 Hz), 145.40 (dd, 260, 5 Hz), 1	146.60 (d, J = 14 Hz), 147.32 (d,
282	22 Hz), 113.03 (d, J=4 Hz), 114.54 (dd, J=24, 21 Hz), 117.45 (d	l, J = 7 Hz), 134.74 (dd, J = 13,
281	NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ 17.73 (s), 44.04 (d, $J = 5$ Hz), 67.05 (s), 67.3	4 (s), 108.03 (s), 109.12 (d, <i>J</i> =

286

287 **6.1.8**.

- 288 1-(6-Amino-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-6-fluoro-8-methyl-7-[3-(methylamino)azetidin-1-yl]-4-oxo
- 289 -1,4-dihydro-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid (10b)
- 290 The title compound **10b** was prepared from 3-(methylamino)azetidine hydrochloride (**9b**,
- **291** 310 mg, 2.0 mmol) according to the similar procedure for **10a**.
- Pale yellow solid (380 mg, 67% yield); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ 1.64 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 292 293 3.46-3.54 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.95-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.34-4.50 (m, 2H), 6.85 (brs, 2H), 7.75 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd, J = 9.5 Hz, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.71 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ 294 17.71 (s), 33.41 (s), 50.80 (d, J = 4 Hz), 64.22 (s), 64.42 (s), 108.03 (s), 109.13 (d, J = 23 Hz), 295 296 112.81 (d, J = 4 Hz), 114.57 (dd, J = 24, 21 Hz), 117.41 (d, J = 7 Hz), 134.77 (dd, J = 13, 4 Hz), 297 138.83 (s), 142.53 (dd, J = 250, 5 Hz), 145.35 (dd, J = 259, 5 Hz), 146.60 (d, J = 14 Hz), 147.16 (d, J = 10 Hz), 150.15 (s), 151.26 (d, J = 247 Hz), 165.86 (s), 177.12 (d, J = 3 Hz); MS-ESI(+): 298 m/z 434 [M+H]+. 299
- 300

301 **6.1.9**.

- 302 1-(6-Amino-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-7-[3(ethyl-amino)azetidin-1-yl]-6-fluoro-8-methyl-4-o
 303 xo-1,4-dihydro-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid (10c)
- 304 The title compound 10c was prepared from 3-(ethylamino)azetidine hydrochloride (9c, 1.6 g,
- 305 9.0 mmol) according to the similar procedure for **10a**.
- 306 Pale yellow solid (960 mg, 36% yield); ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6): $\delta 0.98$ (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.63 (s,
- 307 3H), 3.53-3.63 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.95-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.36-4.51 (m, 2H), 6.83 (brs, 2H),
- 308 7.75 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd, J = 9.5 Hz, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.70 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ
- 309 15.77 (s), 17.69 (s), 45.66 (s), 49.24 (d, J = 4 Hz), 64.80 (s), 65.05 (s), 109.18 (d, J = 23 Hz),
- 310 112.85 (d, J = 4 Hz), 114.54 (dd, J = 24, 21 Hz), 117.83 (d, J = 6 Hz), 134.94 (dd, J = 13, 4 Hz),
- **311** 138.75 (s), 142.51 (dd, *J* = 249, 5 Hz), 145.32 (dd, *J* = 260, 5 Hz), 146.56 (d, *J* = 14 Hz), 146.93
- 312 (d, J = 10 Hz), 149.96 (s), 151.20 (d, J = 247 Hz), 165.87 (s), 176.98 (d, J = 3 Hz); MS-ESI(+):
- 313 m/z 448 [M+H]+.
- 314
- 315 **6.1.10**.

316 1-(6-Amino-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-6-fluoro-8-methyl-4-oxo-7-[3-(*n*-propylamino)azetidi
317 ne-1-yl]-1,4-di-hydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (10d)

318 To a suspension of 3-(*n*-propylamino)azetidine hydrochloride (9d, 2.7 g, 15 mmol) in DMSO

319 (6.5 mL) were added LiOH monohydrate (1.2 g, 29 mmol), 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene

320 (1	.8 mL,	12	mmol)	and
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321 1-(6-amino-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-6,7-difluoro-8-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carbo 322 xylic acid (8, 1.1 g, 2.9 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h. The reaction 323 mixture was washed with Et_2O (5 mL \times 5) by decantation to remove DMSO. To the residue 324 was added water (2 mL), and the pH of the suspension was adjusted to pH 6 with aqueous 325 10% citric acid. The precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with EtOH and dried 326 under reduced pressure to give 10d as a pale yellow solid. (500 mg, 36% yield); ¹H NMR 327 (DMSO- d_6): $\delta 0.86$ (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.32-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 2.41 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 328 3.53-3.61 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.91 (m, 1H), 3.95-4.04 (m, 1H), 4.36-4.51 (m, 2H), 6.84 (brs, 2H), 7.76 329 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd, J = 9.5 Hz, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.71 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ 330 12.20 (s), 17.70 (s), 23.14 (s), 48.95 (s), 49.31 (d, J = 4 Hz), 64.51 (s), 64.76 (s), 108.02 (s), 331 109.14 (d, J = 23 Hz), 112.90 (d, J = 4 Hz), 114.55 (dd, J = 24, 21 Hz), 117.46 (d, J = 7 Hz), 134.75 (dd, J = 13, 4 Hz), 138.81 (s), 142.51 (dd, J = 250, 5 Hz), 145.44 (dd, J = 259, 5 Hz), 332 146.60 (d, J = 14 Hz), 147.16 (d, J = 10 Hz), 150.17 (s), 151.26 (d, J = 247 Hz), 165.79 (s), 333 177.13 (d, J= 3 Hz); MS-ESI(+): m/z 462 [M+H]+. 334

335

6.1.11.

337 1-(6-Amino-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-6-fluoro-7-[3-(isopropylamino)azetidin-1-yl]-8-methy
338 l-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid (10e)

- 339 The title compound **10e** was prepared from 3-(isopropylamino)azetidine hydrochloride (**9e**,
- 340 14.0 g, 75 mmol) according to the similar procedure for **10a**.

341	Pale yellow solid (12.0 g, 52% yield); ¹ H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 0.93 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 6H), 1.62 (s, 5.1)
342	3H), 2.66-2.75 (m, 1H), 3.60-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.76-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.92-4.02 (m, 1H), 4.39-4.54 (m,
343	2H), 6.82 (s, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd, J = 9.5 Hz, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.69 (s, 1H); ¹³ C
344	NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ 17.73 (s), 23.57 (s), 47.19 (s), 47.51 (d, J = 4 Hz), 65.54 (s), 65.81 (s), 108.03
345	(s), 109.13 (d, $J = 23$ Hz), 112.93 (d, $J = 4$ Hz), 114.55 (dd, $J = 24$, 21 Hz), 117.43 (d, $J = 7$ Hz),
346	134.76 (dd, J = 13, 4 Hz), 138.80 (s), 142.49 (dd, J = 250, 5 Hz), 145.35 (dd, J = 259, 5 Hz),
347	146.59 (d, $J = 14$ Hz), 147.23 (d, $J = 10$ Hz), 150.15 (s), 151.36 (d, $J = 247$ Hz), 165.80 (s),
348	177.12 (d, J= 3 Hz); MS-ESI(+): m/z 462 [M+H]+.

- 349
- 350 **6.1.12**.
- 351 1-(6-Amino-3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-7-[3-(*tert*-butyl-amino)azetidin-1-yl]-6-fluoro-8-meth
- 352 yl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid (10f)
- 353 The title compound **10f** was prepared from 3-(*tert*-butylamino)azetidine hydrochloride (**9f**,
- 354 145 mg, 0.7 mmol) according to the similar procedure for **10d**.
- 355 Pale yellow solid (45 mg, 58% yield); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ1.09 (s, 9H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 3.86-4.07
- 356 (m, 2H), 4.07-4.18 (m, 1H), 4.47-4.65 (m, 2H), 6.85 (brs, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 13.5 Hz), 7.96 (dd, J =
- 357 9.5 Hz, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.73 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ 17.75 (s), 29.86 (s), 44.54 (d, J = 4 Hz),
- **358** 50.59 (s), 66.84 (s), 67.11 (s), 109.19 (d, J = 23 Hz), 113.08 (d, J = 4 Hz), 114.50 (dd, J = 24, 21
- 359 Hz), 118.10 (d, J = 7 Hz), 135.00 (dd, J = 13, 4 Hz), 135.59 (s), 138.66 (s), 142.49 (dd, J = 250, 5

360 Hz), 145.26 (dd, J = 259, 5 Hz), 146.56 (d, J = 14 Hz), 146.92 (d, J = 10 Hz), 149.91 (s), 151.20

361 (d, J = 247 Hz), 165.96 (s), 176.91 (d, J = 3 Hz); MS-ESI(+): m/z 476 [M+H]+.

362

363 6.2 in vitro Activity

364

365 6.2.1. Antibacterial activity

366 The *in vitro* antibacterial activities of **10a-f** and LVFX were evaluated against the following 367 representative organisms: E. coli NIHJ, E. coli KC-14, E. coli 177, Citrobacter freundii 368 IFO1268, Klebsiella pneumoniae KC-1, K. pneumoniae DT-S, Salmonella typhimurium IFO13245, Enterobacter cloacae IFO13535, Proteus vulgaris IFO3167, Proteus mirabilis IFO 369 370 3849, Serratia marcescens IFO3736, S. marcescens T-55, Morganella morganii W1026, 371 Providencia rettgeri W1008, Pseudomonas aeruginosa IFO3445, P. aeruginosa E-2, P. 372 aeruginosa 15846, and Acinetobacter calcoaceticus Ac-54. MICs were determined by an agar 373 dilution method with Muller Hinton Agar (MHA, Becton Dickinson, NJ, USA) according to 374 the standard method described by the Japanese Society of Chemotherapy [28]. Approximately 375 10⁴ cfu of organisms were inoculated onto the MHA plates containing the two-fold dilution 376 series of 10a-f and LVFX in the concentration range of 128 to 0.002 mg/L, and the plates were 377 incubated at 37°C for 18 h. The MIC values were determined to be the lowest concentrations 378 of **10a-f** and LVFX that yielded no visible growth of organisms on the MHA plates.

380 6.2.2. Inhibitory activity against DNA gyrase

381 The inhibitory activities of 10a-f and LVFX against E. coli DNA gyrase were examined by 382 the supercoiling assay [29]. After the preincubation of mixtures (20 μ L) containing 35 mM Tris-HCl, 24 mM KCl, 4 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM DTT, 1.8 mM spermidine, 1 mM ATP, 6.5% glycerol, 383 0.1 mg/mL albumin, 0.2 units of *E.coli* gyrase (New England Biolab, MA, USA), and a series of 384 diluted solutions of the test compounds at 37°C for 5 min, 250 ng of relaxed pBR322 385 386 (Inspiralis, Norwich, UK) was added to initiate the supercoiling reaction. The reaction 387 mixture was then further incubated at 37°C for 15 min. The reaction was terminated by the 388 addition of loading buffer, which was followed by electrophoretic analysis in 1% agarose gels. 389 The gels were viewed and photographed on an ImageQuant4000 instrument (GE Healthcare, 390 Pollards Wood, UK). The intensities of the bands were calculated using ImageQuant TL (GE Healthcare). The IC_{50} values were determined by nonlinear least-squares regression analysis 391 392 using Kyplot (version 5.0, Keyence, Osaka, Japan).

393

394 6.3. Excretion and oral absorption in rats

395 Six-week old male Sprague-Dawley rats (Japan SLC and Charles River Japan, Japan) were 396 used. Before the study, the animals had been acclimated to the laboratory conditions for at 397 least 1 week. 10a-e were orally or intravenously administered at doses of 10 mg/kg and 5 398 mg/kg, respectively, to rats fasted overnight. 10a-e were suspended in 0.5% methylcellulose 399 for oral administration or dissolved in 0.04 N NaOH for intravenous injection. Urine samples

400 were collected from intact rats individually housed in a metabolic cage for up to 24 h post-dose. 401 Bile samples were collected from bile duct-cannulated rats individually kept in a Bollmann 402 cage for 24 h post-dose. The volumes of the urine and bile samples were recorded, and the 403 samples were stored at -30°C until analysis. The urine and bile samples were analyzed as 404 follows: bile samples (100 µL) were alkaline-treated by the addition of 10 µL of 1 N NaOH 405 with incubation at 37°C for 1 h. Intact and alkaline-treated samples were diluted with HPLC 406 mobile phase and spiked with an internal standard. After centrifugation, portions of the 407 supernatants were analyzed by HPLC [LC-10A System, Shimadzu; Kyoto, Japan; analytical 408 column, ODS-80_{TM}, 5 μm, 4.6 × 150 mm, Tosoh, Tokyo, Japan; flow rate, 1 mL/min; column temperature, 40°C; mobile phase, A (MeCN), B (distilled water containing 20 mM sodium 409 410 1-decansulfonate, 40 mM phosphoric acid, and 0.2% (v/v) triethylamine), isocratic A/B (40/60); 411 detection wavelength, 290 nm]. The extent of excretion (% of dose) was calculated by dividing 412 the amount of **10a-e** excreted in the urine and bile by the administered dose. The oral absorption rate (%) was calculated by dividing the total urinary and biliary excretions of 10a-e 413 (p.o.) by the total excretion (i.v.). 414

415

416 6.4 Solubility in JP2

417 Suspensions of 10a-e were prepared by adding excess amounts of 10a-e into 0.6 mL of JP2,
418 which is a 50 mM potassium dihydrogenphosphate solution at a pH of 6.8. Each suspension
419 was incubated at 25°C for 24 h with shaking to prepare a thermodynamically equilibrated

420	solution, which was followed by filtration through a $0.45 \ \mu m$ Millex HV membrane filter
421	(Millipore, MA, USA). The concentrations of 10a-e in the filtrate were measured with HPLC
422	and defined as the solubilities. HPLC separation was achieved on a UPLC BEH C18 column
423	(1.7 μm 2.1 \times 100 mm, Waters) using gradient elution at a flow rate of 0.3 mL/min. The mobile
424	phases consisted of 10% acetonitrile/90% water containing 0.1% formic acid (A) and
425	acetonitrile containing 0.1% formic acid (B). The following HPLC gradient program was used:
426	starting at 15% mobile phase B, a linear gradient was run beginning at 0.5 min to reach 40%
427	B at 3 min, with the solvent composition being returned to 15% in 0.2 min and then
428	re-equilibration for 1.8 min. The column temperature was set at 40°C, and UV detection was
429	applied at 290 nm.

430

431 6.5 Membrane permeability in PAMPA

The passive membrane permeabilities of 10a-e were evaluated using a PAMPA plate system
(BD Biosciences, CA, USA). Ten micromolar solutions of 10a-e in 300 µL of phosphate buffered
saline (PBS) containing 5% MeOH were added into the donor plate. The acceptor plate filled
with 200 µL of PBS was placed on the donor plate, which was followed by incubation at 25°C
for 5 h. The solutions of both plates were analyzed by HPLC as described above (section 6.4).
The permeability coefficients (Peff) of 10a-e were calculated by following formula [30]:

- 438 $P_{eff} = -\ln[1-C_a(t)/C_{equ}]/[A \times (1/V_d + 1/V_a) \times t]$
- 439 $C_{equ} = [C_d(t) \times V_d + C_a(t) + V_a]/[V_d + V_a]$

 $\label{eq:constraint} 440 \qquad \text{where } \mathrm{C}_d(t) \text{ and } \mathrm{C}_a(t) \text{ are the concentrations of } 10a\mbox{-}e \text{ in the solutions of the donor and acceptor}$

- 441 plates at time t, respectively. V_d and V_a are the volumes of the solutions in the donor and
- 442 acceptor plates, respectively, A is the filter surface area (0.3 cm^2) , and t is the incubation time
- 443 (18,000 s).

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Table 1

IC50 and GM-MIC values of 10a-f for E. coli DNA gyrase and Gram-

negative bacteria

Comp	IC ₅₀ (mg/L) GM-MICs (mg		ICs (mg/L) ^a
comp.	DNA gyrase ^b	E.coli ^c	Other bacteria ^d
10a	0.12	0.004	0.061
10b	0.24	0.006	0.077
10c	0.078	0.006	0.12
10d	0.19	0.012	0.21
10e (WQ-3810)	0.20	0.010	0.17
10f	0.33	0.038	0.57
LVFX	0.17	0.019	0.12

^ageometric mean MICs

^bone wild type strain

^c three strains

^d15 strains of 11 Gram-negative bacteria, which names are described in

Experimental session

Table 2

Oral absorption rates (%) of 10a-e in rats

		Exe	cretion of 10a-e in	n urine and bile (% o	f dose)		
Comp.		p.o. (10 mg/kg)			i.v. (5 mg/kg)		Oral absorption rate ^d (%)
	Urine ^a	Bile ^{a, b}	Total ^c	Urine ^a	Bile ^{a, b}	Total ^c	
10a	4.0 ± 0.42	4.2 ± 1.3	8.2	44 ± 8.0	41 ± 7.1	85	9.6
10b	13 ± 2.1	16 ± 2.8	28	49 ± 7.2	41 ± 7.1	90	31
10c	20 ± 2.4	49 ± 5.9	69	41 ± 5.0	51 ± 5.4	91	76
10d	17 ± 5.4	74 ± 14	91	n.t.	ń.t.	n.t.	>90
10e (WQ-3810)	24 ± 1.6	68 ± 1.5	92	n.t.	n.t.	n.t.	>90

 $^a\!Each$ value represents mean \pm S.D. for three rats.

^bExcreted amount of **10a-e** in bile was measured after the complete conversion of the glucuronide metabolites of **10a-e** to their unmetabolized forms by alkaline hydrolysis.

^cTotal value was calculated by adding the mean values of **10a-e** in urine and bile.

^dOral absorption rate was calculated by dividing the total excretions (% of dose) of **10a-e** (p.o.) by the total excretions (i.v.).

n.t., not tested.

Table	3
-------	---

Solubility in JP2^a and Peff^b in PAMPA^c of 10a-e

Comp.	Solubility in JP2 (mg/L)	Peff (10^{-6} cm/s)
10a	27 ± 1.4	0.12 ± 0.028
10b	3.1 ± 0.089	0.19 ± 0.048
10c	45 ± 0.72	0.29 ± 0.086
10d	41 ± 3.6	1.1 ± 0.23
10e (WQ-3810)	41 ± 2.3	1.2 ± 0.10

Each value represents mean \pm S.D (n=3)

^aJapanese Pharmacopoeia disintegration test solution 2 (pH 6.8)

^bPermeability coefficient

°Parallel artificial membrane permeability assay



Scheme 1. Synthesis of compound 4. Reagents and conditions: (a) t-BuNH₂ in MeCN; (b) BnNH₂ in NMP; (c) 10% Pd/C, conc. HCl in MeOH.



Scheme 2. Synthesis of compound 8. Reagents and conditions: (a) CH(OEt)₃, Ac₂O; (b) 4 in EtOH; (c) K₂CO₃ in DMF; (d) conc. HCl.

CERTER MARK



Scheme 3. Synthesis of compounds 10a-f. Reagents and conditions: (a) TMG, LiOH, LiCl in DMSO or DBU, LiOH in DMSO for 10d and 10f.

CER HER

We synthesized and evaluated 7-(3-alkylaminoazetidin-1-yl)fluoroquinolones.

Introduction of alkyl groups at the C-7 aminoazetidine enhanced the oral absorption.

WQ-3810 was identified as an orally active fluoroquinolone.

WQ-3810 showed a potent antibacterial activity against Gram-negative bacteria.







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m/z

600

650

557.84 585.16

838.64

850

837.73

800

767.30

and a state of the state of the second

750

Pressient of the second

675.68 719.81

700

869.80 893.24

900

930.63 987.52

1000

950

534.32

550

451.23

450

473.24









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Single Pulse Experiment









Single Pulse Experiment







WQ-3810









m/z









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950.88



584.38

659.37

491.27

499.31