

THE QUANTITATIVE STRUCTURE — ACTIVITY  
RELATIONSHIPS OF ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVE  
2-(p-SUBSTITUTED-PHENYL) BENZOXAZOLE DERIVATIVES  
AGAINST GRAM (+) BACTERIA USING THE COMBINATIONS  
OF SOME HYDROPHOBIC, ELECTRONIC AND  
STERIC PARAMETERS

İsmail YALÇIN(\*)  
Esin ŞENER(\*)  
Tuncel ÖZDEN(\*)  
Seçkin ÖZDEN(\*)

**Summary :** The antibacterial activity of 2-(p-substituted-phenyl) benzoxazole derivatives were thought as a function of their physicochemical parameters. From this phenomenon, we selected some hydrophobic ( $\pi$ ,  $\pi^2$ ), electronic ( $\delta$ , F, R) and steric (MR, MW, P, constants of 2-(p-substituted-phenyl)benzoxazoles as their physicochemical parameters and studied the quantitative structure-activity relationships of these compounds against the gram (+) bacteria such as *S. faecalis* and *Staph. aureus*. The correlation equations of these relationships which were designed from the Hansch analysis were given.

The correlation method of the antibacterial activity against gram (+) bacteria for 2-phenylbenzoxazoles, the combinations of hydrophobic, electronic and steric parameters were found more significant than hydrophobic, electronic or steric parameters used separately. The best equations obtained from QSAR studies were stated.

(\*) A.Ü. Eczacılık Fakültesi, Farmasötik Kimya Anabilim Dalı, Tandoğan - Ankara

**GRAM (+) BAKTERİLERE KARŞI ANTİBAKTERİYEL ETKİLİ  
2-(p-SÜBSTİTÜE-FENİL) BENZOKSAZOL TÜREVLERİ İLE BAZI  
HİDROFOBİK, ELEKTRONİK VE STERİK PARAMETRELER  
KOMBİNASYONLARININ KANTİTATİF YAPI-ETKİ İLİŞKİLERİ**

**Özet :** 2-(p-Süstitüe-fenil)benzoksazol türevlerinin antibakteriyel etkilerinin, bileşiklerin fizikokimyasal özelliklerinden kaynaklandığı düşünülmüştür. Bu düşünceden hareketle, 2-(p-süstitüe-feni)benzoksazol türevlerinin, *S. faecalis* ve *Staph. aureus* gibi gram (+) bakterilere karşı bulunan antibakteriyel etkileri arasındaki, kantitatif yapı-etki ilişkiler, bazı hidrofobik ( $\pi$ ,  $\pi^2$ ), elektronik ( $\delta$ , F, R) ve sterik (MR, MW, P<sub>r</sub>) parametreler kullanılarak incelenmiştir. Bu çalışmada, Hansch analizinden faydalanılarak bulunan korrelasyon denklemleri verilmiştir.

2-Fenilbenzoksazol türevleri için hidrofobik, elektronik ve sterik parametreler kombinasyonları kullanıldığında, gram (+) bakterilere karşı etki ile ilişki, bu parametreler tek başlarına kullanıldığı şekline göre daha dikkate değer bulunmuştur. QSAR çalışmaları sonucunda elde edilen ideal denklemler de bu çalışmada verilmiştir.

**Keywords :** 2-(p-Substituted-phenyl)benzoxazoles,  $\pi$ ,  $\pi^2$ ,  $\delta$ , F, R, MR, MW, P<sub>r</sub>, QSAR, Best Equation, Streptococcus, faecalis, Staphylococcus aureus.

## INTRODUCTION

Five-membered heterocycles condensed with 2 benzene rings were postulated as chemotherapeutically active (1). Antimicrobial active 2-phenylbenzoxazole derivatives having 2 benzene rings and a 5 membered heterocycle are in agreement with that postulate (2-10).

In our previous paper, the synthesis, structure elucidations and determination of antibacterial activity of 2-(p-substituted-phenyl) benzoxazole derivatives were given (8), because of trusting ben-

zoxazoles substituted at C-2 position is decisive for the biological activity (7, 11-17).

It was reported that the activity of a compound is a function of three separable factors: electronic effects, steric effects and hydrophobic effects with provision for structural or theoretical effects (18) as shown below;

$$f(\text{biological activity}) = f(\text{electronic}) + f(\text{steric}) + f(\text{hydrophobic}) + [f(\text{structural}) + f(\text{theoretical})]$$

For that reason we select some steric, electronic and hydrophobic

parameters for our quantitative structure - activity relationship (QSAR) studies. The linear multiple regression analysis method is used which involves finding the best fit of a dependent variable (the microbiological activity) to a linear combination of the independent variables (descriptors) by the method of least squares. This is formally expressed as follow;

$$y = a_0 + a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + \dots + a_n x_n$$

where  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are the descriptor values (physicochemical substituent constants),  $y$  is related to the microbiological activity of benzoxazole derivatives, and  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are the coefficients determined by a least squares analysis. This equation is developed for each benzoxazole derivative in our analysis.

The use of this method with physicochemical substituent constants and quantitative biological data forms the basis for the Hansch analysis. This methodology has also been called physicochemical structure-activity relationship (PSAR). PSAR has been used primarily to analyse data on sets of congeners (18). In general, this approach is to set up the equations involving different combinations of the substituent constants, then to allow the correlative method to aid in the selection of the best equation for our study.

In our previous paper, QSAR studies of 2-phenylbenzoxazoles in gram (-) bacteria were reported

(19). In this research, the activity of the same compounds against gram (+) bacteria such as *S. faecalis* and *Staph. aureus* are analyzed for the first time using physicochemical parameters, in order to design of more active derivatives. The antimicrobial activity against gram (+) bacteria for these compounds are thought as the function of the physicochemical parameters on this lead optimization method.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

Regression analysis equations of the QSAR studies were performed by using IBM-XT computer working with Microstat Statistic Package.

$P_r$  (Parachor) relates principally to molecular volume (20) and it is used in QSAR studies (21).  $P_r$  values of each compound were calculated by the additive summation the  $P_r$  values of all the atoms and the structural features using Quayle's Table (22).  $\pi$  (pi substituent constant),  $\pi^2$  (the square of pi substituent constant),  $\delta$  (sigma substituent constant),  $F$  (field effect),  $R$  (resonance effect),  $MR$  (molar refractivity) and  $MW$  (molar value) were taken from the table given by Hansch et al. (23). These values were shown in Table 1.

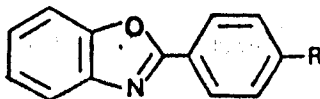
## RESULTS

To design the best equations of 2-(p-substituted-phenylbenzoxa-

zoles, the antibacterial activity against gram (+) bacteria such as *S. faecalis* and *Staph. aureus* were chosen as the biological activity.

Some hydrophobic ( $\pi$ ,  $\pi^2$ ), electronic ( $\delta$ , F R) and steric (MR, MW, P<sub>c</sub>) parameters used as physicochemical constants for the

Table 1 : The physicochemical parameters of 2-(p-substituted-phenyl)benzoxazole derivatives.



R	$\pi$	$\pi^2$	$\sigma_p$	$\mathcal{F}$	$\mathcal{R}$	MR	MW	P <sub>c</sub>
H	0.00	0.0000	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	1.0	400.9
OCH <sub>3</sub>	-0.02	0.0004	-0.27	0.26	-0.51	7.87	31.0	468.1
C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	1.98	3.9204	-0.20	-0.07	-0.13	19.62	57.1	557.2
Cl	0.71	0.5041	0.23	0.41	-0.15	6.03	35.4	440.6
Br	0.36	0.7396	0.23	0.44	-0.17	8.88	73.9	453.4
CH <sub>3</sub>	-1.23	1.5129	-0.66	0.02	-0.68	5.42	16.0	427.9
ICH <sub>3</sub>	-0.47	0.2209	-0.84	-0.11	-0.74	10.33	30.1	470.9

Table 2 : Regression equations generated for 2-(p-substituted-phenyl)benzoxazole derivatives in *S. faecalis*.

Equ. No	Equations
1	$\log 1/C = -0.14(\pm 0.11)\pi + 3.44$ n: 7 ; R <sup>2</sup> : 0.2515 ; s: 0.27 ; F: 1.60
2	$\log 1/C = -0.12(\pm 0.11)\pi - 0.37(\pm 0.51)\mathcal{F} + 3.48$ n: 7 ; R <sup>2</sup> : 0.3400 ; s: 0.28 ; F: 1.03
3	$\log 1/C = -0.27(\pm 0.13)\pi - 0.55(\pm 0.44)\mathcal{F} + 0.77(\pm 0.48)\mathcal{R} + 3.81$ n: 7 ; R <sup>2</sup> : 0.6462 ; s: 0.24 ; F: 1.83
4	$\log 1/C = 0.97(\pm 0.22)\pi - 1.6(\pm 0.23)\mathcal{F} - 2.09(\pm 0.52)\mathcal{R}$ $-0.17(\pm 0.03)MR + 4.05$ n: 7 ; R <sup>2</sup> : 0.9795 ; s: 0.07 ; F: 23.85
5	$\log 1/C = 1.09(\pm 0.03)\pi + 1.99(\pm 0.05)\mathcal{F} - 2.37(\pm 0.07)\mathcal{R}$ $-0.19(\pm 0.00)MR + 0.004(\pm 0.00)MW + 4.09$ n: 7 ; R <sup>2</sup> : 0.9998 ; s: 0.01 ; F: 1181.20 (P < 0.02)

C is the molar concentrations of the MIC values of the compounds (C), the numbers in parenthesis in the regression equations represent the standard errors of the regression coefficients, n is the number of the compounds, R<sup>2</sup> is the square of the multiple correlation coefficient, s is standard deviation of the regression and F is the F test for the significance of the regression, P is the probability of F test.

quantitative structure-activity relationships of these compounds. The lead optimization method has been examined by multiple regression

analysis using the Microstat computer program. Log 1/C values were used in the regression equations, where C was the molar con-

**Table 3 : Correlation matrix between regression parameters for 2-(p-substituted-phenyl)benzoxazole derivatives in S. feacalis.**

	Log 1/C	$\pi$	$\rho$	$\mathcal{R}$	MR	MW
Log 1/C	1.00					
$\pi$	-0.50	1.00				
$\rho$	-0.40	0.21	1.00			
$\mathcal{R}$	-0.03	0.71	0.32	1.00		
MR	-0.65	0.66	-0.25	-0.02	1.00	
MW	-0.79	0.66	0.46	0.21	0.63	1.00

**Table 4 : Regression equations generated for 2-(p-substituted-phenyl)benzoxazole derivatives in Staph, aureus**

Equ. No	Equations
1	$\log 1/C = -0.40(\pm 0.14)\pi + 3.80$ n: 7 ; $R^2: 0.6266$ ; s: 0.35 ; F: 8.38
2	$\log 1/C = -0.51(\pm 0.20)\pi + 0.56(\pm 0.70)\mathcal{R} + 4.03$ n: 7 ; $R^2: 0.6776$ ; s: 0.36 ; F: 4.20
3	$\log 1/C = -0.66(\pm 0.73)\pi + 1.00(\pm 2.05)\mathcal{R} + 0.02(\pm 0.10)MR + 4.03$ n: 7 ; $R^2: 0.6933$ ; s: 0.41 ; F: 2.16
4	$\log 1/C = -0.17(\pm 0.91)\pi - 0.08(\pm 2.26)\mathcal{R} - 0.01(\pm 0.10)MR - 0.01(\pm 0.01)MW + 4.18$ n: 7 ; $R^2: 0.7950$ ; s: 0.40 ; F: 1.95
5	$\log 1/C = -1.43(\pm 0.09)\pi + 2.50(\pm 0.21)\mathcal{R} - 0.33(\pm 0.02)MR - 0.01(\pm 0.00)MW + 0.05(\pm 0.00)P_r - 15.64$ n: 7 ; $R^2: 0.9994$ ; s: 0.03 ; F: 360.25 (P<0.05)

**Table 5 : Correlation matrix between regression parameters for 2-(p-substituted-phenyl)benzoxazole derivatives in Staph. aureus.**

	Log 1/C	$\pi$	$\mathcal{R}$	MR	MW	$P_r$
Log 1/C	1.00					
$\pi$	-0.79	1.00				
$\mathcal{R}$	-0.40	0.71	1.00			
MR	-0.66	0.66	-0.02	1.00		
MW	-0.33	0.66	0.21	0.63	1.00	
$P_r$	-0.59	0.63	0.01	0.39	0.57	1.00

centrations of the MIC values of the compounds (8). The data on the parameters were stated in Table 1. Observed and calculated values of log 1/C were given in Table 6. The regression equations stated in Tab-

les 2 and 4 and the parameters in the best equations were selected according to the correlation matrixes (Table 3 and 5) and the squares of their partial regression coefficients.

**Table 6 : Observed and calculated log 1/C values of 2-(p-substitutedphenyl)-benzoxazole derivatives according to the best equations given in Tables 2 and 4.**

Com. No	S. faecalis			Staph. aureus		
	Obsd	Calcd	Residual	Obsd	Calcd	Residual
1	2.99	3.29	0.00	4.19	4.18	0.01
2	3.35	3.35	0.00	4.26	4.26	0.00
3	3.01	3.01	0.00	3.10	3.10	0.00
4	3.36	3.37	-0.01	3.36	3.33	-0.02
5	3.14	3.14	0.00	3.14	3.13	0.01
6	3.32	3.32	0.00	4.23	4.24	-0.01
7	3.65	3.65	0.00	3.65	3.64	0.01

## DISCUSSION

The multiple regression analysis results show that the activity against *S. faecalis* and *Staph. aureus* are fundamentally a function of the combinations of some hydrophobic, electronic and steric parameters. It is interesting that the parameters used alone do not show good correlations with the activity in the QSAR studies. But, if they are used in combinations significant relationships can be seen with the antibacterial activity.

The P values of the F-tests for the best equations (Table 2, equ. no: 5 and Table 4, equ. no: 5) are found less than 0.05 which shows us that the physicochemical parameters used as independent variables are related to the dependent variable (log 1/C) in the multiple regression analysis. In addition, the standard deviation(s) is minimized and forward elimination procedure, one of stepwise regression method, is stated in our study (Tab.

le 2 and 4). These situations are statistically justified the best equations.

The best equations which are obtained from the regression analysis, involve  $\pi$  value instead of  $\pi^2$  as hydrophobic parameter which cause a linear relationship, F and/or R are more available than the  $\delta$ , as the electronic parameters and the values of the MW and MR as steric parameters fit both of the best equations.  $P_r$ , a steric parameter, is only adapted for *Staph. aureus*.

The square of multiple regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) were obtained for *Staph. aureus* as 0.9994 and for *S. faecalis* as 0.9998. This means that the best equation which we have established can be used to predict the antibacterial activity for untested 2-(p-substituted-phenyl)benzoxazoles against *S. faecalis* and *Staph. aureus*. Of course, this observation supplies a lot of advantages in designing the most active compound.

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