
Address for correspondence: Gerald L. Murray, The Royal Women’s Hospital, Parkville, Victoria, Australia 3052; email: gerald.murray@mcri.edu.au; and Catriona Bradshaw; Central Clinical School, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3800; email: cbradshaw@mshc.org.au

etymologia

Fluoroquinolone [floor"o-kwin'o-lôn]

Ronnie Henry

The first quinolone (quinol[ine] + -one [compound related to ketone]), nalidixic acid, was isolated as a byproduct of chloroquine (see “quinine”) synthesis and was introduced in 1962 to treat urinary tract infections. In 1980, researchers at the Kyorin Pharmaceutical Company showed that the addition of a fluorine atom to the quinoline ring resulted in an antibiotic with broader antimicrobial activity, which was named norfloxacin, the first fluoroquinolone. In 1983, Bayer published data that showed adding a single carbon atom to norfloxacin—what would become ciprofloxacin—further increased activity. Fluoroquinolones are today among the most frequently used antimicrobial drugs to treat infections in humans and animals.

Sources


By Reubot, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14746558

Address for correspondence: Ronnie Henry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop E03, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027, USA; email: boq3@cdc.gov

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2305.ET2305