Heating Dynamics Simulation of H274Y Mutant Neuraminidase-Inhibitors Complexes

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Abstract-The H274Y mutant neuraminidase, known as oseltamivir-resistant, can be inhibited by zanamivir and laninamivir. inhibition oseltamivir-resistant The of neuraminidase has been experimented in vivo and in vitro in several experiments. To complete the usage of zanamivir and laninamivir inhibition experiments, we investigate the structural and dynamics of neuraminidase-inhibitors complexes using heating dynamics simulation. All processes which support the simulation also reported to produce a vast review of the subject. Through homology modeling method and models assessments, the best model (model number 3) was selected to proceed to the attachment of the substrate via CDOCKER molecular docking. The best docked pose was continued to energy minimization and heating dynamics simulation. The simulation results have been observed using root mean square deviation (RMSD), the percentage of hydrogen bonds occupancy, and the binding free energies comparison. From these results, we have concluded that the high value of the binding free energies, the value and the fluctuation of neuraminidase-oseltamivir RMSD, and the percentage of hydrogen bonds occupancy may be related with the resistance of H274Y mutant neuraminidase to oseltamivir. The simulation results were also correlated to the success of laninamivir and zanamivir to bind H274Y mutant neuraminidase compared with peramivir and oseltamivir. Both laninamivir and zanamivir are preferable to treat H274Y mutant neuraminidase that could resist oseltamivir carboxylate.

Index Terms—Influenza, neuraminidase, mutant, simulation

I. INTRODUCTION

Continuous outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza that able to infect humans has been happening for the last 16 years. Recent event of human infection was reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) in January, 24th 2012 [1]. Since 1996, the first recorded event of highly pathogenic H5N1 virus, many countries with the economical background in poultry farming have been struggling from the avian flu invasion and its localized outbreaks. Indonesia, one of the countries mentioned before, is also impacted by these potential threats. The new strain H5N1 virus is known has been spreading over poultries in 31 of 33 provinces and 12 of them were reported hundreds cases of human infection [2]. As of March, 5th 2012, 186 cases occurred in Indonesia with 154 deaths have been reported in cumulative number of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A H5N1 reported to WHO during 2003-2012 [3]. Today, Indonesia becomes the country with the most human deaths surpassing Vietnam

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The next, mortal, and larger outbreak which could become an epidemic is possible to happen someday if there is no pressure acts and prevention for H5N1 virus transmission. Thus, the routine and continued surveillance is needed in several places known as the potentially infected places such as poultry farms and markets. Ortrud Werner and Timm C Harder wrote in the influenza report that, over the years, the increment of virulence of H5N1 for mammals and the expansion of host range are keep growing [4]. It also had been reported that in China, from 1999 to 2002, and in Vietnam since 2003, the H5N1 virus has become progressively more pathogenic for mammals [5]. Further review from Georg Behrens and Matthias Stoll defined two qualities of influenza account for much of the epidemiological spread of the virus. Include the ability to emerge and circulate in avian or porcine reservoirs by either genetic re-assortment or direct transmission and subsequently spread to humans at irregular intervals, and the fast and unpredictable antigenic change (drift and shift) of important immune targets once the virus have become established in a human [6]. Therefore, the knowledge related with transmission process is become the key to prevent global spread of H5N1 [7].

Both hemaglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA), are known to play an important role in replication and transmission process [8]. Penetration of the virus into the host cell requires HA molecule to bind the sialic acid (SA). The detachment of matured virion from the host cell utilize NA molecule to cleave SA so that the virus is able to infect other host cells. A single mutation in one of these two glycoproteins is able to initiate the resistance against inhibitors. A few specific NA residual mutations in neuraminidase, such as R292K, H274Y, R152K, E119V, and N294S, have created a huge impact in tamiflu treatment (commercial name of oseltamivir) [9]-[19]. Further studies on the oseltamivir-resistant correlated with H274Y mutant had been reported due to the reorientation of the adjacent E276 residue forcing its carboxyl group to move closer to the binding site [9], [20]. A number of experiments have responded this issue with alternative compounds as a promising competitor of SA binding with the H274Y mutant NA [21]-[23]. They proposed laninamivir and zanamivir to resolve the issue of oseltamivir resistance.

The main objective of this study is to simulate neuraminidase-inhibitors complexes and compare the interactions between them during the heating dynamics simulation. To achieve this, a series of sequence alignment, phylogenetics, homology modeling, protein assessments, molecular docking, and structural energy minimization had been completed before being followed with heating dynamics simulation. The structural and energetic investigation, such as RMSD value and fluctuation, the hydrogen bonds occupation, and the binding free energies, had been collected from molecules trajectories post-simulation. We realize that the simulation is way too short to reveal the conformational changes of the complex molecules. But in this time interval, we are able to observe the atoms in the active site and their atomic interaction with inhibitors.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Molecules Preparation

The National Center of Biotechnology Information (NCBI) influenza database contained with many proteins and nucleotides sequences [24]. It is including H274Y mutant NA type 1 (N1) sequence from the high pathogenic avian influenza virus (A/Indonesia/560H/2006(H5N1)) which has been stored with the accession code ABW06159. In NCBI influenza database, we also found another 133 NA sequences collected around the years 2003-2007, but sequence which has H274Y mutation is only ABW06159. The collected protein sequence, contained with 449 amino acids, was used to identify homologous template molecule. The template identification had been done using BLASTP 2.2.16 [25] and InterProScan [26] provided by Swiss Expasy [27]-[31]. The closest homologous template, with the greatest percentage of identity, suggested from Swiss Expasy template identification is a crystal structure with protein data bank code 3CKZ. The molecule of 3CKZ was taken from Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics (RCSB) [32].

TABLE I: THE ACCESSION CODES OF NA'S OF INFLUENZA VIRUSES FROM PANDEMICS OCCURRED DURING THE 20TH and 21ST CENTURIES

PAP	CENTURIES		
No.	Accession Code & Sequence Name	Virus Name	Note
1.	AAF77036	A/Brevig Mission/1/1918(H1N1)	Obtained at Spanish flu occurred
2.	AAT66420	A/Japan/305/1957(H2N2)	Obtained at Asian flu occurred
3.	AAO46476	A/England/878/1969(H3 N2)	Obtained at Hongkong flu occurred
4.	ADL39249	A/Alaska/WRAIR1114P/ 2009(H1N1)	Obtained at 2009 pandemic
5.	3CKZ		Sequence of template structure

The sequence has been aligned with a few NA sequences. Those sequences had been extracted from the virus which had been spread out during prevalent pandemics/infections, and the chosen template sequence (see Table I). Those NAs were analyzed using multiple sequences alignment with parameters focused on the consensus and trace residues to see the similar pattern of the viruses. A phylogenetic tree has been produced using parameters neighbor joining method [33], the best tree mode and set a distance as Uncorrected ('p'). Those parameters have been set to simplify the analysis because the results were given as percentages of different residues within aligned sequences.

The models created by homology modeling using MODELER [34]. The medium optimization level and cut overhangs have been set. The cut overhangs addition is able to remove the terminal of unaligned residues in models. The homology modeling generated five models from the template. The models are then evaluated using three different protein assessments. The Discrete Optimized Protein Energy (DOPE) method [35] and 3D-profiles [36], [37] were used to verify models stability and reliability. The DOPE-HR method was conducted to models evaluation in MODELER. It is similar with regular DOPE method, but obtained at higher resolution. The smooth windows sized 10 and Kabsch-Sander algorithm for secondary structure was set for 3D-profiles method [38]. Besides DOPE scoring and 3D-profiles, all models also sent to Swiss Expasy to be analyzed with PROCHECK [39]-[41] to get insight the stereo chemical properties of the models using Ramachandran analysis.

B. Molecular Docking, Minimization, and Heating Dynamics Simulation

TABLE II: LIST OF INHIBITOR COMPOUNDS USED IN THIS STUDY AND THEIR	
PROPERTIES	

Figure	ID	Name	Formula
store the	60855	Zanamivir	$C_{12}H_{20}N_4O_7$
A for	154234	Peramivir	$C_{15}H_{28}N_4O_4$
÷	449381	Oseltamivir Carboxylate	$C_{14}H_{24}N_2O_4$
A.	502272	Laninamivir	$C_{13}H_{22}N_4O_7$

The compounds and substances database PubChem provides over 31 million compounds, 75 million substances and bioactivity results from 1644 high-throughput screening programs [42]. The structures of inhibitors listed in Table II were collected from PubChem chemical molecules database, which is maintained by NCBI. Actually, there are 13 neuraminidase inhibitor compounds, but only four inhibitors had been used in this study. The selection of these neuraminidase inhibitors was based on the experiment of Kiso et al. which used laninamivir, zanamivir, peramivir and oseltamivir carboxylate [23].

The best neuraminidase model is selected according to the value of DOPE method, 3D-profile, and PROCHECK. Then, the model is attached with peramivir, laninamivir, zanamivir,

III. RESULTS

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[43]. Ten random top hits and conformations, 1000 random conformations dynamics steps and conformations dynamics target temperature, including electrostatic interactions and orientation van der Waals energy threshold, and use CHARMm [44]-[45] for forcefield and ligand partial charge were determined for the parameters used. The candidate poses were created using random rigid-body with six degrees of freedom (three rotations/three translations) followed by simulated annealing. The sphere was generated to fill the active site. The generation of the sphere is to facilitate ligand matching in the sphere centre and to find possible ligand orientations. Following that, a final minimization used to refine the ligand position in the active site. A pose with minimum interaction energy would be continued to the next energy minimization and heating dynamics simulation.

and oseltamivir carboxylate one by one using CDOCKER

All best pose molecules were subjected to two steps of energy minimization to produce an optimum geometrical structure. The first step was executed by the steepest descent with a targeted energy gradient of 0.5 kcal/(mol x Å) and a 1,000,000 steps maximum. The second step was executed by the conjugate gradient with a targeted energy gradient of 0.1 kcal/(mol x Å) and a 1,000,000 steps maximum. The Generalized Born Molecular Volume (GBMV) implicit solvent energy to mimicking the aqueous environment [46], SHAKE algorithm [47], a non bond list radius of 14 Å, and a switching function was applied between 10-12 Å for a computational efficiency [48]-[49]. To gain a long-range electrostatic energy contribution, it was visualized in a spherical cutoff mode.

A 100 picosecond (ps) time simulation was conducted to all optimized structures and rising the system temperature from 0 into 300 K with 50,000 steps, two femtoseconds (fs) time step, and the trajectory data were stored every 0.1 ps. Other parameters such as GBMV implicit solvent, SHAKE algorithm, non bond list radius, and switching function were determined identical with minimization energy set up.

After the heating dynamics simulation, the binding free energies were calculated in vacuum environment which constructed from the each molecule average Gibbs energy. The temperature and entropy contribution were included in the calculation and combined with molecular mechanic energy contribution (\overline{E}_{MM}), which is the energy term produced by the applied forcefield and also the potential energy of the system [50]:

$$E_{MM} = E_{potential} = E_{bond} + E_{angle} + E_{torsion} + E_{outofplane} + E_{electrostatic} + E_{vanderWaat}$$
(1)

The relationship between the ligand, receptor, and complex energy is given in the next equation:

$$\Delta \overline{G}_{binding} = \overline{G}_{complexl} - (\overline{G}_{ligand} + \overline{G}_{receptor})$$
⁽²⁾

The average Gibbs energy which constructed each component energy in the (2) equation is the binding free energy of the complex. Furthermore, all phases of the study described in this section from structure preparation to molecular dynamics simulation were conducted with Discovery Studio 2.1 (Accelrys).

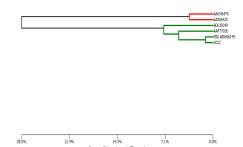


Fig. 1. The phylogenetic tree of ABW06159 correlated with several viruses.

The evolution link is shown in Fig. 1 as a phylogenetic tree. Template 3CKZ was identified have a 97% similarity, which is the most similar sequence, with ABW06159 sequence. Another NA sequences which have closer relationship with ABW06159 sequence are the sequences obtained from 1918s epidemic and 2009 pandemic. The differences between ABW06159 and 2009 pandemic is higher than 1918s epidemic. Different types of NA were observed from Asian and Hongkong flu pandemics. The differences between ABW06159 with both of them are up to 28%.

Five models have been generated by Build Homology Modeling from 3CKZ (homologous template) and shown in Fig. 2. Refinement and codon renumbering were subjected to all models. The reason of models refinement be caused that the 3CKZ template has a few broken peptide bonds and repeated numbers such as 169 and 169-A residues, 345 and 345-A, and 412, 412-A, 412-B, 412-C and 412-D. Those repeated numbers does not mean that there are two residues in one position, but only the next residue has numbered, with the same number and the alphabetical addition after the number, as its previous position residue.

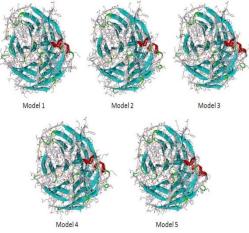


Fig. 2. Five models of H274Y mutant ABW06159.

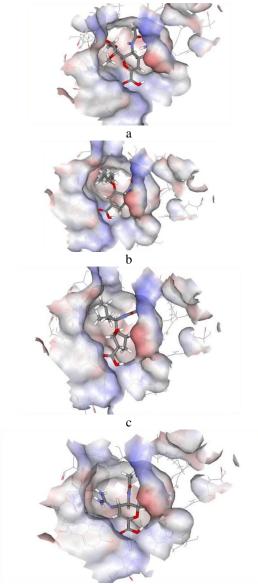
The models and template structures were assessed using three different methods. The results of protein structures assessment are shown in the Table III. The verify scores of all models vary from 192-201, which is higher than the high expected score, 175.54. The highest score was occupied by model 3, which being the only one model exceeded template verify score.

Second assessment was executed using DOPE-HR scores. The DOPE-HR score relate with the stability of molecules. The higher DOPE-HR score indicated the worst model. All DOPE score of the structures assessed vary in range -36386 to -34793. The lowest DOPE-HR score of structures assessed is template 3CKZ. The comparison without template show that model 3, which have the lowest DOPE-HR score compared than other models.

PROCHECK protein assessment revealed the stereo chemical properties of structures. The result from PROCHECK provides ramachandran plots of all NA residues without glycine and proline. In the Table III, the PROCHECK data shown is the percentage of NA residues which in the most favoured and additionally allowed regions which have been extracted from ramachandran plots. The template is taking the first place with 99.7% followed by model 3 and 4 with 99.4%.

All assessment methods being used in this experiment are in agreement that the model 3 is the best NA model compared with other models generated.

B. Molecular Docking, Minimization, and Heating **Dynamics Simulation**



d Fig. 3. The best pose structure of: a. NA-LA complex; b. NA-OS complex; c. NA-PE complex; d. NA-ZA complex.

TABLE III:	THE ASSESSMEN	T SCORES OF	F FIVE HOMOLOGY MODELS

TABLE III: THE ASSESSMENT SCORES OF FIVE HOMOLOGY MODELS				
Template and Models	Verify Score	DOPE	Most Additional Percentage and Pro)	Favoured& Residues (without Gly
Model 1	192.99	-35183	98.8%	
Model 2	198.73	-34793	99.1%	
Model 3	200.3	-36386	99.4%	
Model 4	197.4	-35510	99.4%	
Model 5	197.98	-35311	99.1%	
Template 3CKZ	199.53	-42594	99.7%	

The best model, model 3, was subjected to molecular docking with four inhibitors mentioned in Table II. Each NA-inhibitor molecular docking process has conferred 10 poses. The smallest CDOCKER energy, which related with the inreaction, has been used to help selecting the best pose. The best pose was executed further to create a complex molecule. All complexes are shown in Fig. 3a, 3b, 3c, and 3d. The red region in the electrostatic surface of neuraminidase is the negative charges of aspartic acid side chain. After being docked, steepest descent and conjugate gradient energy minimization were executed.

The hydrogen bonds formed in the NA-inhibitor interaction site before and after minimizations were observed. We have found that in NA-ZA and NA-LA complexes, the number of hydrogen bonds formed had increased. In NA-ZA complex, the numbers of the hydrogen bonds formed increase from 11 to 13 whereas in NA-LA is from nine to ten. It is in contrast with NA-peramivir (NA-PE) complex, which shown the decreased number of hydrogen bonds formed from seven to six. The NA-oseltamivir carboxylate (NA-OS) complex shows no change in the number of hydrogen bonds formed with six hydrogen bonds. However, the minimization process resulting in satisfied energy gradient of all complex structures and brought all complexes total energies into -20135.62, -20148.52, -20142.29, and -20138.44 kcal/mol, for NA-LA, NA-OS, NA-PE, and NA-ZA, respectively.

The heating dynamics simulation has been done to check the stability and the interaction of structures during the simulation. Heating dynamics simulation increases the temperature of the system from 0 into 300 K. The system was heated from 0 to 300 K in the first 2.5 ps then fluctuating in the range 296-305 K. The total energies of NA-LA, NA-OS, NA-PE, and NA-ZA complexes rose as much as kinetic energies. The trajectories stored were analyzed to get insight the NA-inhibitors interaction. The trajectories contained with the data of the simulated molecule complexes.

The binding free energy is able determine the ability of enzyme protein to bind its substrate [51]-[52]. In this simulation, the binding free energies were calculated in vacuum through all trajectories recorded. The averages of data from each complex were listed in Table IV. The results show that NA-ZA and NA-LA complexes have lower binding free energies than NA-OS and NA-PE complexes. This is in accordance with other results in this current study that oseltamivir and peramivir have less strength in binding with H274Y mutant neuraminidase.

TABLE IV: THE BINDING FREE ENERGIES OF NA-INHIBITOR COMPLEXES

Binding Free Energies in Vacuum (kcal/mol)				
NA-LA	NA-OS	NA-PE	NA-ZA	
-215.67	-103.65	-116.56	-239.34	

C. Structural Analysis

The stability of inhibitors has been monitored during the simulation. The movement of the inhibitors in the active site of NA can be represented by its root mean square deviation (RMSD). The RMSD of four inhibitors were plotted in Fig. 4. The RMSD of all inhibitors show that the movement of oseltamivir carboxylate in the active site is relatively high (showed in the red line). The fluctuation of RMSD almost surpassing 3.5 Å and being the highest value compared with laninamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir. The zanamivir RMSD fluctuation is higher than peramivir. Further observation in the structure of NA-PE complex resulted that peramivir has moving away from NA active site. The number of hydrogen bonds between NA-PE was known decreased after minimization energy had been executed. Because of that, since the peramivir is already far from the active site, the RMSD of it is not really significant. In other hand, the laninamivir has the lowest RMSD and less fluctuated during the simulation. Laninamivir has RMSD fluctuates below 1 Å.

The hydrogen bond is able to indicate the strength of the interaction. The better interaction will results in more hydrogen bonds created between them. The strength of hydrogen bond had been monitored from its occupancy in every conformation in the trajectories. Shu et al. has showed that the strong hydrogen bond have a percentage of hydrogen bond occupancy larger than 80% [53]. In Fig. 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d, have been plotted the percentage of hydrogen bond occupancy between NA and its inhibitors during the simulation. The results will be discussed based on Stoll et al. characterization with the addition of E277 into S5 [54].

The hydrogen bond occupancy of NA-LA is shown in Fig. 5a. There are eight NA residues which produced strong hydrogen bonds with laninamivir. In the S1 subsite, the hydrogen bond occupation was dominated by R292. Other residues, R118 and R371, did not giving a big contribution into NA-LA binding. Even R118 does not make any hydogen bond during simulation. The most contribution of bindings is come from S3 and S5 subsites residues. They are W178, S179, S246, E276, and E277 which produced the percentage of occupancy above 80%.

The percentage of hydrogen bond occupancy shown in the Fig. 5b revealed the lack of interaction between NA-OS. All

functional residues have a weak interaction during simulation because all of hydrogen bond occupation percentages are below 80%. There are only two residues from S2 subsite, E119 and E227, which almost 80%. Even the NA-PE interaction is better than NA-OS. It could be observed from the three strong hydrogen bonds formed during the simulation as shown in Fig. 5c. In NA-PE interaction, the hydrogen bond bindings were dominated by D151, W178, and R292.

In Fig. 5d, the interaction between NA-ZA was revealed. The percentage of hydrogen bond above 80% were made by S1, S3 and S5 subsites residues such as R118, R152, E276, E277, R292, and catalytic residue D151. In the S1, similar with the interaction between NA-LA, R371 did not give much contribution to the bindings. Alternate binding in the S3 subsite, a hydrogen bond formed by R152, the interaction in S5 subsite of NA-ZA complex have a similarity with what happened in the NA-LA complex, the E276 and E277 have a good interaction with zanamivir.

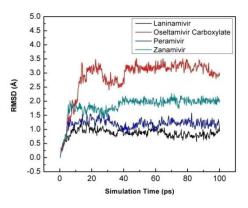
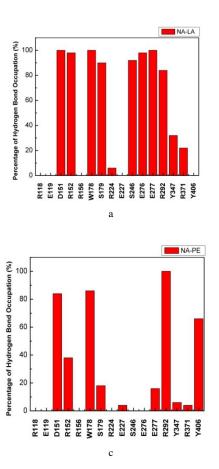


Fig. 4. The RMSD of four inhibitors during the simulation



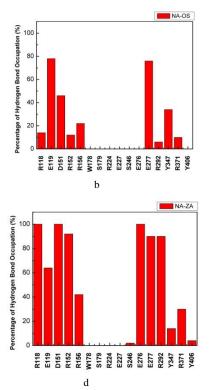


Fig. 5. The percentage of hydrogen bond occupancy of: a. NA-LA complex; b. NA-OS complex; c. NA-PE complex; d. NA-ZA complex.

IV. RESULTS

The aim of this study is to check the stability and the interaction of H274Y mutant neuraminidase. In order to achieve that, the heating dynamics simulation was subjected to the NA-Inhibitor complexes. All the processes within the series of three different assessment methods, molecular docking, minimization energy, and heating dynamics simulation, had been included in this paper since each of them influences other process. The combination of three different assessment used give a comprehensive approaching to select the best model since every method used has its own specialties. Molecular docking is able to attach inhibitors into the NA enzyme. The minimization energy could optimize the molecule structure before simulated. And the last but not least, the heating dynamics simulation could be used in depth analyses of structure, energy, and electrostatic interaction of the inhibitors with the NA.

The inhibitor response can be compared from its movement, which is represented from RMSD. The highest movement is made by oseltamivir carboxylate whereas the smallest is laninamivir. As far as RMSD comparison is concerned, the findings acquired here is in line with multiple studies that infers how higher substrate RMSD suggest superior NA ability to reject an inhibitor [53], [55]-[56]. Thus, the Indonesian H274Y mutant NA could be said as one of many oseltamivir-resistant.

A few differences in the hydrogen bond contribution between each inhibitor have been observed. The carboxylic group that acts as a "main attraction", particularly for the 118-292-371 triad that initiates binding, is observed to have two residues, R118 and R292, with strong hydrogen bonds only happens in NA-ZA [57]. In contrast to that, NA-LA and NA-PE only had one residue, R292, which has formed strong hydrogen bonds for the exact same region whereas in NA-OS no residue of this S1 subsite that formed a strong hydrogen bonds. The strong hydrogen bond at Arg292 emphasizes the importance of this residue in NA-inhibitors binding. There are studies that describe inhibitor resistance due to the R292K mutation [09]-[11].

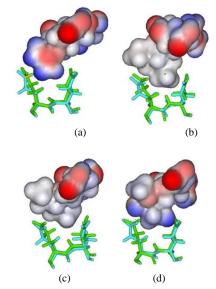


Fig. 6. E276 and E277 (stick figures) with inhibitors (electrostatic surface): a. zanamivir; b. peramivir; c. oseltamivir carboxylate; d. laninamivir.

The differences interaction of S5 subsite with different inhibitor is easily distinguished. It could only happen if there is a different partial charge in the inhibitor atoms near S5 subsite. In the Fig. 6a, 6b, 6c, and 6d, were captured the electrostatic surface from inhibitors while interacted with S5. It could be observed that the blue electrostatic surface, which is mean has positive charge, is only seen in zanamivir and laninamivir. This is the answer why there is different interaction happened between S5 subsite and inhibitors. It is obvious since the glutamic acid have a negative charge in its side chain which will attracts better the more positively charged region.

Accordance with Le et al. and Maki Kiso et al. studies [21], [23], our results shows that oseltamivir-resistant variants which possess a histidine-to-tyrosine substitution at position 274 (H274Y) and an asparagine-to-serine substitution at position 294 (N294S) in NA was reduced by R-125489 (laninamivir compound) and zanamivir, but not by oseltamivir carboxylate. Other oseltamivir-resistant experiment shows that oseltamivir carboxylate IC50 ratios of 32 to 8400 for H274Y H1N1, R292K, E119K, and N294S (H3N2) mutants, whereas for laninamivir and zanamivir are 0.69 to 2.8, and 0.72 to 1.7, respectively [22]. The values of IC50 indicate that the ability of NA to bind both laninamivir and zanamivir is better than oseltamivir carboxylate.

V. CONCLUSION

This research shows a comparison of models using the combination of three different assessment methods, four inhibitors (zanamivir, laninamivir, oseltamivir carboxylate and peramivir) affinities when attached into and simulated with neuraminidase. The unique perspective of each assessment method were used in this study have its own advantages when being worked to selecting the best model. The preferably good structure chosen is model 3 which have the best rank in verify-3D and DOPE scores and shared the 1st rank with model 4. The model which was docked with four inhibitors and simulated model shows different binding affinities .The hydrogen bonds and interaction energy shows that zanamivir and laninamivir is preferable to treat a patient which infected with oseltamivir-resistant virus.

We have made two important points from this simulation study. First, the movement of oseltamivir carboxylate is relatively high compared with other inhibitors simulated and it may indicate the resistance of the virus neuraminidase. Second, the inhibitors movement and hydrogen bonds occupation comparison show that zanamivir and laninamivir are preferable for Indonesian H274Y mutant. But still, further experiment with equilibrated system is needed to produce a better interaction.

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