

Vorione

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To be sold by retail on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner only.

PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1. GENERIC NAME

Voriconazole 50 mg and 200 mg film-coated tablets
Voriconazole 200 mg powder for solution for infusion

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Voriconazole tablets
Each Film Coated Tablet Contains
Voriconazole Tablets ----- 50 mg
Voriconazole tablets
Each Film Coated Tablet Contains
Voriconazole Tablets ----- 200 mg
Voriconazole powder for solution for infusion
Each Vial contains
Voriconazole ----- 200 mg
(As sterile freeze dried powder for reconstitution)

3. DOSAGE FORM AND STRENGTH

Voriconazole 50 mg and 200 mg film-coated tablets and Voriconazole 200 mg powder for solution for infusion.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1. Indications

Voriconazole is indicated for the treatment of invasive aspergillosis and serious fungal infections caused by *Scedosporium apiospermum* (asexual form of *Pseudallescheria boydii*) and *Fusarium spp.* Including *Fusarium solani*, in patients intolerant of, or refractory to, other therapy.

Voriconazole is also indicated for Candidemia in non-neutropenic patients and the following candida infections: disseminated infections in skin and infections in abdomen, kidney, bladder wall, and tonsils and esophageal candidiasis.

Voriconazole is indicated for treatment of fluconazole-resistant serious invasive Candida infections (including C. krusei).

Voriconazole should be administered primarily to patients with progressive, possibly life-threatening infections.

Prophylaxis of invasive fungal infections in high risk allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients

4.2. Posology and Method of Administration

Posology

Electrolyte disturbances such as hypokalemia, hypomagnesemia and hypocalcemia should be monitored and corrected, if necessary, prior to initiation and during voriconazole therapy (see section 4.4).

It is recommended that Voriconazole is administered at a maximum rate of 3 mg/kg per hour over 1 to 3 hours.

Other brands of Voriconazole are available as 50 mg and 200 mg film-coated tablets and 40 mg/ml powder for oral suspension.

Treatment

Therapy must be initiated with the specified loading dose regimen of either intravenous or oral Voriconazole to achieve plasma concentrations on Day 1 that are close to steady state. On the basis of the high oral bioavailability (96%; see section 5.2), switching between intravenous and oral administration is appropriate when clinically indicated.

Detailed information on dosage recommendations is provided in the following table:

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Intravenous | Oral | |
| | | Patients 40 kg and above* | Patients less than 40 kg* |
| Loading dose regimen (first 24 hours) | 6 mg/kg every 12 hours | 400 mg every 12 hours | 200 mg every 12 hours |
| Maintenance dose (after first 24 hours) | 4 mg/kg twice daily | 200 mg twice daily | 100 mg twice daily |

* This also applies to patients aged 15 years and older

Duration of treatment

Treatment duration should be as short as possible depending on the patient’s clinical and mycological response. Long term exposure to voriconazole greater than 180 days (6 months) requires careful assessment of the benefit-risk balance.

Dosage adjustment (Adults)

If patient is unable to tolerate intravenous treatment at 4 mg/kg twice daily, reduce the dose to 3 mg/kg twice daily.

If patient response to treatment is inadequate, the maintenance dose may be increased to 300 mg twice daily for oral administration. For patients less than 40 kg the oral dose may be increased to 150 mg twice daily.

If patient is unable to tolerate treatment at a higher dose, reduce the oral dose by 50 mg steps to the 200 mg twice daily (or 100 mg twice daily for patients less than 40 kg) maintenance dose.

In case of use as prophylaxis, refer below.

Children (2 to <12 years) and young adolescents with low body weight (12 to 14 years and <50 kg)

Voriconazole should be dosed as children as these young adolescents may metabolize voriconazole more similarly to children than do adults.

The recommended dosing regimen is as follows:

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| | Intravenous | Oral |
| Loading Dose Regimen (first 24 hours) | 9 mg/kg every 12 hours | Not recommended |
| Maintenance Dose (after first 24 hours) | 8 mg/kg twice daily | 9 mg/kg twice daily (a maximum dose of 350 mg twice daily) |

Note: Based on a population pharmacokinetic analysis in 112 immunocompromised paediatric patients aged 2 to <12 years and 26 immunocompromised adolescents aged 12 to <17 years.

It is recommended to initiate the therapy with intravenous regimen, and oral regimen should be considered only after there is a significant clinical improvement. It should be noted that an 8 mg/kg intravenous dose will provide voriconazole exposure approximately 2-fold higher than a 9 mg/kg oral dose.

All other adolescents (12 to 14 years and ≥50 kg; 15 to 17 years regardless of body weight)

Voriconazole should be dosed as adults.

Dosage adjustment (Children [2 to <12 years] and young adolescents with low body weight [12 to 14 years and <50 kg])

If patient response to treatment is inadequate, the intravenous dose may be increased by 1 mg/kg steps. If patient is unable to tolerate treatment, reduce the intravenous dose to 1 mg/kg steps.

Use in paediatric patients aged 2 to <12 years with hepatic or renal insufficiency has not been studied (see sections 4.8 and 5.2).

Prophylaxis in Adults and Children

Prophylaxis should be initiated on the day of transplant and may be administered for up to 100 days. Prophylaxis should be as short as possible depending on the risk for developing invasive fungal infection (IFI) as defined by neutropenia or immunosuppression. It may only be continued up to 180 days after transplantation in case of continuing immunosuppression or graft versus host disease (GVHD) (see section 5.1).

Dosage

The recommended dosing regimen for prophylaxis is the same as for treatment in the respective age groups. Please refer to the treatment tables above.

Duration of prophylaxis

The safety and efficacy of voriconazole use for longer than 180 days has not been adequately studied in clinical trials.

Use of voriconazole in prophylaxis for greater than 180 days (6 months) requires careful assessment of the benefit-risk balance (see sections 4.4 and 5.1).

The following instructions apply to both Treatment and Prophylaxis

Dosage adjustment

For prophylaxis use, dose adjustments are not recommended in the case of lack of efficacy or treatment-related adverse events. In the case of treatment-related adverse events, discontinuation of voriconazole and use of alternative antifungal agents must be considered (see section 4.4 and 4.8)

Dosage adjustments in case of co-administration

Rifabutin or phenytoin may be co-administered with voriconazole if the maintenance dose of voriconazole is increased to 5 mg/kg intravenously twice daily, see sections 4.4 and 4.5.

Efavirenz may be co-administered with voriconazole if the maintenance dose of voriconazole is increased to 400 mg every 12 hours and the efavirenz dose is reduced by 50%, i.e. to 300 mg once daily. When treatment with voriconazole is stopped, the initial dosage of efavirenz should be restored (see sections 4.4 and 4.5).

Method of administration

Voriconazole requires reconstitution and dilution (see section 6.6) prior to administration as an intravenous infusion. Not for bolus injection.

4.3. Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in the formulation.

Coadministration with CYP3A4 substrates, terfenadine, astemizole, cisapride, pimozide, quinidine or ivabradine since increased plasma concentrations of these medicinal products can lead to QTc prolongation and rare occurrences of torsades de pointes.

Coadministration with rifampicin, carbamazepine and phenobarbital since these medicinal products are likely to decrease plasma voriconazole concentrations significantly.

Coadministration of standard doses of voriconazole with efavirenz doses of 400 mg once daily or higher is contraindicated, because efavirenz significantly decreases plasma voriconazole concentrations in healthy subjects at these doses. Voriconazole also significantly increases efavirenz plasma concentrations.

Coadministration with high-dose ritonavir (400 mg and above twice daily) because ritonavir significantly decreases plasma voriconazole concentrations in healthy subjects at this dose.

Coadministration with ergot alkaloids (ergotamine, dihydroergotamine), which are CYP3A4 substrates, since increased plasma concentrations of these medicinal products can lead to ergotism.

Coadministration with sirolimus since voriconazole is likely to increase plasma concentrations of sirolimus significantly.

Coadministration with St. John’s Wort.

Coadministration with venetoclax at initiation and during venetoclax dose titration phase since voriconazole is likely to significantly increase plasma concentrations of venetoclax and increase risk of tumor lysis syndrome.

4.4. Special Warnings and Precautions for Use

Hypersensitivity

Caution should be used in prescribing VFEND to patients with hypersensitivity to other azoles.

Duration of IV treatment

The duration of treatment with the intravenous formulation should be no longer than 6 months (see section 5.3).

Cardiovascular

Voriconazole has been associated with QTc interval prolongation. There have been rare cases of torsades de pointes in patients taking voriconazole who had risk factors, such as history of cardiotoxic chemotherapy, cardiomyopathy, hypokalemia and concomitant medicinal products which are known to be cardiotoxic.

Voriconazole should be monitored and corrected, if necessary, prior to initiation and during voriconazole therapy (see section 4.2). A study has been conducted in healthy volunteers which examined the effect on QTc interval of single doses of voriconazole up to 4 times the usual daily dose. No subject experienced an interval exceeding the potentially clinically-relevant threshold of 500 msec.

Infusion-related reactions

Intrusion-related reactions, predominantly flushing and nausea, have been observed during administration of the intravenous formulation of voriconazole. Depending on the severity of symptoms, consideration should be given to stopping treatment.

Hepatic toxicity

In clinical trials, there have been cases of serious hepatic reactions during treatment with voriconazole (including clinical hepatitis, cholestasis and fulminant hepatic failure, including fatalities). Instances of hepatic reactions were noted to occur primarily in patients with serious underlying medical conditions (predominantly haematological malignancy). Transient hepatic reactions, including hepatitis and jaundice, have occurred among patients with no other identifiable risk factors. Liver dysfunction has usually been reversible on discontinuation of therapy.

Monitoring of hepatic function

Patients receiving Voriconazole must be carefully monitored for hepatic toxicity. Clinical management should include laboratory evaluation of hepatic function (specifically AST and ALT) at the initiation of treatment with Voriconazole and at least weekly for the first month of treatment. Treatment duration should be as short as possible; however, if based on the benefit-risk assessment the treatment is continued (see section 4.2), monitoring frequency can be reduced to monthly if there are no changes in the Liver Function Tests.

If the liver function tests become markedly elevated, Voriconazole should be discontinued, unless the medical judgment of the risk-benefit of the treatment for the patient justifies continued use.

Monitoring of hepatic function should be carried out in both children and adults.

Serious dermatological adverse reactions

• Phototoxicity
In addition VFEND has been associated with phototoxicity including reactions such as epheleides, lentigo, actinic keratosis and photodermatophy. It is recommended that all patients, including children, avoid exposure to direct sunlight during VFEND treatment and use measures such as protective clothing and sunscreen with high sun protection factor (SPF).

• Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin (SCC)

Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin has been reported in patients, some of whom have reported prior phototoxic reactions. If phototoxic reactions occur, multidisciplinary advice should be sought. VFEND discontinuation and use of alternative antifungal agents should be considered and the patient should be referred to a dermatologist. If VFEND is continued, however, dermatologic evaluation should be performed on a systematic and regular basis, to allow early detection and management of premalignant lesions. VFEND should be discontinued if premalignant skin lesions or squamous cell carcinoma are identified (see below the section under Long-term treatment).

• Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs) including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), which can be life-threatening or fatal, have been reported with the use of voriconazole. If a patient develops a rash he should be alerted closely and VFEND discontinued if lesions progress.

Adrenal events

Adrenal insufficiency has been reported in patients receiving other azoles (e.g., voriconazole).

Reversible cases of adrenal insufficiency have been reported in patients receiving voriconazole.

Patients on long-term treatment with voriconazole and corticosteroids (including inhaled corticosteroids and e.g., budesonide and intranasal corticosteroids) should be carefully monitored for adrenal cortex dysfunction both during treatment and when voriconazole is discontinued.

Long-term treatment

Long term exposure (treatment or prophylaxis) greater than 180 days (6 months) requires careful assessment of the benefit-risk balance and patients should therefore consider the need to limit the exposure to Voriconazole.

Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin (SCC) has been reported in relation with long-term VFEND treatment.

Non-infectious periostitis with elevated fluoride and alkaline phosphatase levels has been reported in transplant patients. If a patient develops skeletal pain and radiologic findings compatible with periostitis VFEND discontinuation should be considered after multidisciplinary advice.

Visual adverse reactions

There have been reports of prolonged visual adverse reactions, including blurred vision, optic neuritis and papilloedema.

Renal adverse reactions

Acute renal failure has been observed in severely ill patients undergoing treatment with VFEND. Patients being treated with voriconazole are likely to be treated concomitantly with nephrotoxic medicinal products and have concurrent conditions that may result in decreased renal function (see section 4.8).

Monitoring of renal function

Patients should be monitored for the development of abnormal renal function. This should include laboratory evaluation, particularly serum creatinine.

Monitoring of pancreatic function

Patients, especially children, with risk factors for acute pancreatitis (e.g., recent chemotherapy, haemopoietic stem cell transplantation [HSCT]), should be monitored closely during VFEND treatment. Monitoring of serum amylase or lipase may be considered in this clinical situation.

Paediatric population

Safety and effectiveness in paediatric subjects below the age of two years has not been established (see sections 4.8 and 5.1). Voriconazole is indicated for paediatric patients aged two years or older. A higher frequency of liver enzyme elevations was observed in the paediatric population (see section 4.8). Hepatic function should be monitored in both children and adults. Oral bioavailability may be limited in paediatric patients aged 2 to <12 years with malabsorption and very low body weight for age. In that case, intravenous voriconazole administration is recommended.

• Serious dermatologic adverse reactions (including SCC)

The frequency of phototoxicity reactions is higher in the paediatric population. As an evolution towards SCC has been reported, stringent measures for the photoprotection are warranted in this population of patients. In children experiencing phototoxic injuries such as lentigenes or epheleides, sun avoidance and dermatologic follow-up are recommended even after treatment discontinuation.

Prophylaxis

In case of treatment-related adverse events (hepatotoxicity, severe skin reactions including phototoxicity and SCC, severe or prolonged renal disorders and periostitis), discontinuation of voriconazole and use of alternative antifungal agents should be considered. Phenytoin (CYP2C9 substrate and potent CYP450 inducer).

Careful monitoring of phenytoin levels is recommended when phenytoin is coadministered with voriconazole. Concomitant use of voriconazole and phenytoin should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs the risk (see section 4.5).

Efavirenz (CYP450 inducer; CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate)

When voriconazole is coadministered with efavirenz the dose of voriconazole should be increased to 400 mg every 12 hours and the dose of efavirenz should be decreased to 300 mg every 24 hours (see sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5).

Rifabutin (Potent CYP450 inducer)

Careful monitoring of full blood counts and adverse reactions to rifabutin (e.g., uveitis) is recommended when rifabutin is coadministered with voriconazole. Concomitant use of voriconazole and rifabutin should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs the risk (see section 4.5).

Ritonavir (potent CYP450 inducer; CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate)

Coadministration of voriconazole and low-dose ritonavir (100 mg twice daily) should be avoided unless an assessment of the benefit/risk to the patient justifies the use of voriconazole (see sections 4.3 and 4.5).

Everolimus (CYP3A4 substrate, P-gp substrate) Coadministration of voriconazole with everolimus data is not recommended because voriconazole is expected to significantly increase everolimus concentrations. Currently there are insufficient data to allow dosing recommendations in this situation (see section 4.5).

Naloxegol (CYP3A4 substrate)

Coadministration of voriconazole and naloxegol is not recommended because voriconazole is expected to significantly increase naloxegol concentrations. Currently there are insufficient data to allow dosing recommendations of naloxegol in this situation (see section 4.5).

Methadone (CYP3A4 substrate)

Frequent monitoring for adverse reactions and toxicity related to methadone, including QTc prolongation, is recommended when coadministered with voriconazole since methadone levels increased following coadministration of voriconazole. Dose reduction of methadone may be needed (see section 4.5).

Short-acting opiates (CYP3A4 substrate)

Reduction in the dose of alfentanil, fentanyl and other short-acting opiates similar in structure to alfentanil and metabolised by CYP3A4 (e.g., sufentanil) should be considered when coadministered with voriconazole (see section 4.5). As the half-life of alfentanil is prolonged in a 4-fold manner when alfentanil is coadministered with voriconazole, and in an independent published study concomitant use of voriconazole with fentanyl resulted in an increase in the mean AUC_{0-∞} of fentanyl, frequent monitoring for opiate-associated adverse reactions (including a longer respiratory monitoring period) may be necessary.

Long-acting opiates (CYP3A4 substrate)

Reduction in the dose of oxycodone and other long-acting opiates metabolized by CYP3A4 (e.g., hydrocodone) should be considered when coadministered with voriconazole. Frequent monitoring for opiate-associated adverse reactions may be necessary (see section 4.5).

Fluconazole (CYP2C9, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 inhibitor)

Coadministration of oral voriconazole and oral fluconazole resulted in a significant increase in C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole in healthy subjects. The reduced dose and/or frequency of voriconazole and fluconazole that would eliminate this effect have not been established. Monitoring for voriconazole - associated adverse reactions is recommended if voriconazole is used sequentially after fluconazole (see section 4.5).

Sodium content

This medicinal product contains 216-228 mg of sodium equivalent to 10.8-11.4% of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake of 2g sodium for an adult.

4.5. Drug Interactions

Voriconazole is metabolised by, and inhibits the activity of, the cytochrome P450 isoenzymes, CYP2C19, CYP2C9, and CYP3A4. Inhibitors of these enzymes may increase or decrease voriconazole plasma concentrations, respectively, and there is potential for voriconazole to increase the plasma concentrations of substances metabolised by these CYP450 isoenzymes.

Unless otherwise specified, drug interaction studies have been performed in healthy adult male subjects using multiple dosing to steady state

with oral voriconazole at 200 mg twice daily (BID). These results are relevant to other populations and routes of administration.

Voriconazole should be administered with caution in patients with concomitant medication that is known to prolong QTc interval. When there is also a potential for voriconazole to increase the plasma concentrations of substances metabolised by CYP3A4 isoenzymes (certain antihistamines, quinidine, cisapride, pimozide), co-administration is contraindicated (see below and section 4.3).

Interaction table

Interactions between voriconazole and other medicinal products are listed in the table below (once daily as “OD”, twice daily as “BID”, three times daily as “TID” and not determined as “ND”). The direction of the arrow for each pharmacokinetic parameter is based on the 90% confidence interval of the geometric mean ratio being within (+), below (↓) or above (↑) the 80-125% range. The asterisk (*) indicates drug-drug interaction. AUC_{0-∞}, AUC_{0-12h}, represent area under the curve over a dosing interval, from time zero to the time with detectable measurement and from time zero to infinity, respectively.

The interactions in the table are presented in the following order: contraindications, those requiring dose adjustment and careful clinical and/or biological monitoring, and finally those that have no significant pharmacokinetic interaction but may be of clinical interest in this therapeutic field.

| Medicinal product (Mechanism of interaction) | Interaction Geometric mean changes (%) | Recommendations concerning co-administration |
|--|---|---|
| Astemizole, cisapride, pimozide, quinidine and terfenadine [CYP3A4 substrates] | Although not studied, increased plasma concentrations of these medicinal products can lead to QTc prolongation and rare occurrences of torsades de pointes. | Contraindicated (see section 4.3) |
| Carbamazepine and long-acting barbiturates (e.g., phenobarbital, mephobarbital) [potent CYP450 inducers] | Although not studied, carbamazepine and long-acting barbiturates are likely to significantly decrease plasma voriconazole concentrations | Contraindicated (see section 4.3) |
| Efavirenz (a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor) [CYP450 inducer; CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate] <p>Everifrenz 400 mg QD, co-administered with voriconazole 200 mg BID*</p> | <p>Efavirenz C_{max} ↑ 38%</p> <p>Efavirenz AUC_{0-∞} ↑ 44%</p> <p>Voriconazole C_{max} ↓ 14%</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↓ 77%</p> <p>Compared to efavirenz 600 mg QD.</p> <p>Everifrenz C_{max} ↑ 104%</p> <p>Efavirenz AUC_{0-12h} ↑ 17%</p> <p>Compared to voriconazole 200 mg BID.</p> <p>Voriconazole C_{max} ↑ 73%</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↑ 7%</p> | Use of standard doses of voriconazole with efavirenz doses of 400 mg QD or higher is contraindicated (see section 4.3). Voriconazole may be co-administered with efavirenz if the voriconazole maintenance dose is increased to 400 mg BID and the efavirenz dose is decreased to 300 mg QD. When voriconazole treatment is stopped, the initial dose of efavirenz should be restored (see section 4.2 and 4.4) |
| Everifrenz 300 mg QD, co-administered with voriconazole 400 mg BID* | <p>Everifrenz 300 mg QD, co-administered with voriconazole 400 mg BID*</p> | Contraindicated (see section 4.3) |
| Ergot alkaloids (e.g., ergotamine and dihydroergotamine) [CYP3A4 substrates] | Although not studied, voriconazole is likely to increase the plasma concentrations of ergot alkaloids and lead to ergotism. | Contraindicated (see section 4.3) |
| Rifabutin [potent CYP450 inducer] <p>300 mg QD</p> <p>300 mg QD (co-administered with voriconazole 350 mg BID)*</p> <p>300 mg QD (co-administered with voriconazole 400 mg BID)*</p> | <p>Voriconazole C_{max} ↓ 69%</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↓ 78%</p> <p>Compared to voriconazole 200 mg BID.</p> <p>Voriconazole C_{max} ↓ 4%</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↓ 32%</p> <p>Rifabutin C_{max} ↑ 195%</p> <p>Rifabutin AUC_{0-12h} ↑ 331%</p> <p>Compared to voriconazole 200 mg BID.</p> <p>Voriconazole C_{max} ↑ 104%</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↑ 87%</p> | Concomitant use of voriconazole and rifabutin should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs the risk. The maintenance dose of voriconazole may be increased to 5 mg/kg intravenously BID or from 200 mg to 350 mg orally BID (100 mg to 200 mg orally BID in patients less than 40 kg) (see section 4.2). Careful monitoring of full blood counts and adverse reactions to rifabutin (e.g., uveitis) is recommended when rifabutin is co-administered with voriconazole. |
| Rifampicin (600 mg QD) [potent CYP450 inducer] | <p>Voriconazole C_{max} ↓ 93%</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↓ 96%</p> | Contraindicated (see section 4.3) |
| Ritonavir (protease inhibitor) [potent CYP450 inducer; CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate] <p>High dose (400 mg BID)</p> <p>Low dose (100 mg BID)*</p> | <p>Ritonavir C_{max} and AUC_{0-12h} ↔</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↓ 16%</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↓ 82%</p> <p>Ritonavir C_{max} ↓ 75%</p> <p>Ritonavir AUC_{0-12h} ↓ 13%</p> <p>Voriconazole C_{max} ↓ 44%</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↓ 39%</p> | Co-administration of voriconazole and high doses of ritonavir (400 mg and above BID) is contraindicated (see section 4.3). Co-administration of voriconazole and low-dose ritonavir (100 mg BID) should be avoided unless an assessment of the benefit/risk to the patient justifies the use of voriconazole. |
| St. John’s Wort [CYP450 inducer; P-gp inducer] <p>300 mg TID (co-administered with voriconazole 400 mg single dose)</p> | <p>In an independent published study,</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↓ 59%</p> | Contraindicated (see section 4.3) |
| Everolimus [CYP3A4 substrate, P-gp substrate] | <p>Although not studied, voriconazole is likely to significantly increase the plasma concentrations of everolimus.</p> | Co-administration of voriconazole with everolimus is not recommended because voriconazole is expected to significantly increase everolimus concentrations (see section 4.4). |
| Fluconazole (200 mg QD) [CYP2C9, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 inhibitor] | <p>Voriconazole C_{max} ↓ 57%</p> <p>Voriconazole AUC_{0-12h} ↑ 79%</p> <p>Fluconazole C_{max} ND</p> <p>Fluconazole AUC_{0-12h} ND</p> | The reduced dose and |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Psychiatric disorders | | depression, hallucination, anxiety, insomnia, agitation, confusional state | |
| Nervous system disorders | headache | brain edema, convulsion, syncope, tremor, hyperreflexia, paraesthesia, somnolence, dizziness | encephalopathy*, estryramyol*, midal disorder*, neuropathy peripheral, ataxia, hypoaesthesia, dysaesthesia |
| Eye disorders | visual impairment* | retinal haemorrhage | optic nerve disorder*, papilloedema*, oculoerythric crisis, diplopia, scleritis, blepharitis |
| Ear and labyrinth disorders | | hypoaacusis, vertigo, tinnitus | |
| Cardiac disorders | | arrhythmia supraventricular, tachycardia, bradycardia | ventricular fibrillation, ventricular extrasystoles, ventricular tachycardia, electrocardiogram QT prolonged, supraventricular tachycardia |
| Vascular disorders | | hypotension, phlebitis | thrombophlebitis, lymphangitis |
| Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders | respiratory distress* | acute respiratory distress syndrome, pulmonary oedema | |
| Gastro-intestinal disorders | diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal pain, nausea | cheilitis, dyspepsia, constipation, gingivitis | peritonitis, pancreatitis, swollen tongue, duodenitis, gastroenteritis, glossitis |
| Hepatobiliary disorders | liver function test abnormal | jaundice, cholestatic, hepatitis* | hepatic failure, hepatomegaly, cholelithiasis, cholelithiasis |
| Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders | rash | dermatitis exfoliative, alopecia, rash maculo-papular, pruritus, erythema | Stevens-Johnson syndrome, phototoxicity, purpura, urticaria, dermatitis allergic, rash papular, rash macular, eczema |
| Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders | | back pain | arthritis, periostitis* |
| Renal and urinary disorders | | renal failure acute, haematuria | renal tubular necrosis, proteinuria, nephritis |
| General disorders and administration site conditions | pyrexia | chest pain, face oedema*, asthenia, chills | infusion site reaction, influenza like illness |
| Investigations | | blood creatinine increased | blood urea increased, blood cholesterol increased |

*ADR identified post-marketing
 † Includes febrile neutropenia and neutropenia.
 ‡ Includes immune thrombocytopenic purpura.
 § Includes nuchal rigidity and tetany.
 ¶ Includes hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy and metabolic encephalopathy.
 †† Includes akathisia and parkinsonism.
 ††† See "Visual impairments" paragraph in section 4.8.
 †††† Prolonged optic neuritis has been reported post-marketing. See section 4.4.
 ††††† See section 4.4.
 †††††† Includes dyspnoea and dyspnoea exertional.
 ††††††† Includes drug-induced liver injury, hepatitis toxic, hepatocellular injury and hepatotoxicity.
 †††††††† Includes periorbital oedema, lip oedema, and oedema mouth.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions.
 Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. To report Suspected Adverse Reactions, contact MSN Laboratories Private Limited at pharmacovigilance@msnlabs.com or through company website www.msnlabs.com>Contact us—Medical Enquiry to report a side effect.

4.9. Overdose
 In clinical trials there were 3 cases of accidental overdose. All occurred in paediatric patients, who received up to five times the recommended intravenous dose of voriconazole. A single adverse reaction of photophobia of 10 minutes duration was reported.

There is no known antidote to voriconazole.

Voriconazole is haemodialysed with a clearance of 121 ml/min. The intravenous vehicle, SBECD, is haemodialysed with a clearance of 55 ml/min. In an overdose, haemodialysis may assist in the removal of voriconazole and SBECD from the body.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties
 Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antimycotics for systemic use, triazole derivatives, ATC code: J02 AC03

Mode of action
 Voriconazole is a triazole antifungal agent. The primary mode of action of voriconazole is the inhibition of fungal cytochrome P450-mediated 14 alpha-lanosterol demethylation, an essential step in fungal ergosterol biosynthesis. The accumulation of 14 alpha-methyl sterols correlates with the subsequent loss of ergosterol in the fungal cell membrane and may be responsible for the antifungal activity of voriconazole. Voriconazole has been shown to be more selective for fungal cytochrome P-450 enzymes than for various mammalian cytochrome P-450 enzyme systems.

Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic relationship
 In 10 therapeutic studies, the median for the average and maximum plasma concentrations in individual subjects across the studies was 2425 ng/ml (inter-quartile range 1193 to 4380 ng/ml) and 3742 ng/ml (inter-quartile range 2027 to 6302 ng/ml), respectively. A positive association between mean, maximum or minimum plasma voriconazole concentration and efficacy in therapeutic studies was not found and this relationship has not been explored in prophylaxis studies.

Pharmacokinetic-Pharmacodynamic analyses of clinical trial data identified positive associations between plasma voriconazole concentrations and both liver function test abnormalities and visual disturbances. Dose adjustments in prophylaxis studies have not been explored.

Clinical efficacy and safety

In vitro, voriconazole displays broad-spectrum antifungal activity with antifungal potency against *Candida* species (including fluconazole-resistant *C. krusei* and resistant strains of *C. glabrata* and *C. albicans*) and fungicidal activity against all *Aspergillus* species tested. In addition, voriconazole shows *in vitro* fungicidal activity against emerging fungal pathogens, including those such as *Scedosporium* or *Fusarium* which have limited susceptibility to existing antifungal agents.

Clinical efficacy defined as partial or complete response, has been demonstrated for *Aspergillus* spp. including *A. flavus*, *A. fumigatus*, *A. terreus*, *A. niger*, *A. nidulans*, *A. nidulans*, *C. glabrata*, *C. krusei*, *C. parapsilosis* and *C. tropicalis*; and limited numbers of *C. dubliniensis*, *C. inconspicua* and *C. guilliermondii*, *Scedosporium* spp., including *S. apiospermum*, *S. prolificans*; and *Fusarium* spp.

Other treated fungal infections (often with either partial or complete responses) included isolated cases of *Alternaria* spp., *Blasotriomyces dermatitidis*, *Blasotriomyces capitatus*, *Cladospirium* spp., *Coccidioides immitis*, *Conidiobolus coronatus*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Exserohilum rostratum*, *Exophiala spinifera*, *Fonsecaea pedrosoi*, *Maduraella mycetomatis*, *Paeclomyces lilacinus*, *Penicillium* spp. including *P. marneffei*, *Phialophora richardiae*, *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis* and *Trichosporon* spp. including *T. beigellii* infections.

In vitro activity against clinical pathogens has been observed for *Acremonium* spp., *Alternaria* spp., *Bipolaris* spp., *Cladophialophora* spp., and *Histioplasma capsulatum*, with most strains being inhibited by concentrations of voriconazole in the range 0.05 to 2 µg/ml.

In vitro activity against the following pathogens has been shown, but the clinical significance is unknown: *Curvularia* spp. and *Sporothrix* spp.

Infectious diseases
 Specimens for fungal culture and other relevant laboratory studies (serology, histopathology) should be obtained prior to therapy to isolate and identify causative organisms. Therapy may be instituted before the results of the cultures and other laboratory studies are known; however, once these results become available, anti-infective therapy should be adjusted accordingly.

The species most frequently involved in causing human infections include *C. albicans*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. glabrata* and *C. krusei*, all of which usually exhibit minimal inhibitory concentration (MICs) of less than 1 mg/L for voriconazole.

However, the *in vitro* activity of voriconazole against *Candida* species is not uniform. Specifically, for *C. glabrata*, the MICs of voriconazole for fluconazole-resistant isolates are proportionally higher than are those of fluconazole-susceptible isolates. Therefore, every attempt should be made to identify *Candida* to species level. If antifungal susceptibility testing is available, the MIC results may be interpreted using breakpoint criteria established by European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST).

EUCAST Breakpoints

| Species | MIC breakpoint (mg/L) | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| | ≤S (Susceptible) | >R (Resistant) |
| <i>Candida albicans</i> ¹ | 0.064 | 0.25 |
| <i>Candida dubliniensis</i> | 0.064 | 0.25 |
| <i>Candida parapsilosis</i> ¹ | 0.125 | 0.25 |
| <i>Candida tropicalis</i> ¹ | 0.125 | 0.25 |
| <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> ² | 1 | 2 |
| <i>Candida glabrata</i> | Insufficient evidence | |
| <i>Candida krusei</i> | Insufficient evidence | |
| <i>Candida guilliermondii</i> ¹ | Insufficient evidence | |
| <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> ¹ | Insufficient evidence | |
| <i>Aspergillus niger</i> ¹ | Insufficient evidence | |
| <i>Aspergillus terreus</i> ¹ | Insufficient evidence | |
| <i>Aspergillus nidulans</i> | Insufficient evidence | |
| Non-species related breakpoints ³ | Insufficient evidence | |

¹ Strains with MIC values above the S/I breakpoint are rare or not yet reported. The identification and antifungal susceptibility tests on any such isolate must be repeated and if the result is confirmed the isolate sent to a reference laboratory. Until there is evidence regarding clinical responses for confirmed isolates with MIC above the current resistant breakpoint they should be reported resistant. A clinical response of 76% was achieved in infections caused by the species listed below when MICs were lower than or equal to the epidemiological cut-offs. Therefore, wild type populations of *C. albicans*, *C. dubliniensis*, *C. parapsilosis* and *C. tropicalis* are considered susceptible.

² Monitoring of azole trough concentrations in patients treated for fungal infection is recommended.

³ The ECOFFs for these species are in general higher than for *C. albicans*.

⁴ The ECOFFs for these species are in general one step higher than for *A. fumigatus*.

⁵ Non-species related breakpoints have been determined mainly on the basis of PK/PD data and are independent of MIC distributions of specific species. They are for use only for organisms that do not have specific breakpoints.

For *Candida* the intermediate category is introduced to acknowledge that the increased exposure obtained by iv dosing is sufficient (partially confirmed by TDM). There is not enough information available for the response to voriconazole of infections caused by *Candida* isolates with higher MICs.

Clinical experience

Successful outcome in this section is defined as complete or partial response.

***Aspergillus* infections – efficacy in aspergillus patients with prior prophylaxis**

Voriconazole has *in vitro* fungicidal activity against *Aspergillus* spp. The efficacy and survival benefit of voriconazole versus conventional amphotericin B in the primary treatment of acute invasive aspergillosis was demonstrated in an open, randomised, multicentre study in 277 immunocompromised patients treated for 12 weeks. Voriconazole was administered intravenously with a loading dose of 6 mg/kg every 12 hours for the first 24 hours followed by a maintenance dose of 4 mg/kg every 12 hours for a minimum of 7 days. Therapy could then be switched to the oral formulation at a dose of 200 mg every 12 hours. Median duration of IV voriconazole therapy was 10 days (range 2-85 days). After IV voriconazole therapy, the median duration of oral voriconazole therapy was 76 days (range 2-232 days).

A satisfactory global response (complete or partial resolution of all attributable symptoms, signs, radiographic/bronchoscopic abnormalities present at baseline) was seen in 55% of voriconazole-treated patients compared to 31% of patients treated with conazole. The 84-day survival rate for voriconazole was statistically significantly higher than that for the comparator and a clinically and statistically significant benefit was shown in favour of voriconazole for both time to death and time to discontinuation due to toxicity.

This study confirmed findings from an earlier, prospectively designed study where there was a positive outcome in subjects with risk factors for a poor prognosis, including graft versus host disease, and, in particular, cerebral infections (normally associated with almost 100% mortality).

The studies included cerebral, sinus, pulmonary and disseminated aspergillosis in patients with bone marrow and solid organ transplants, haematological malignancies, cancer and AIDS.

Candidaemia in non-neutropenic patients

The efficacy of voriconazole compared to the regimen of amphotericin B followed by fluconazole in the primary treatment of candidaemia was demonstrated in an open, comparative study. Three hundred and seventy non-neutropenic patients (above 12 years of age) with documented candidaemia were included in the study, of whom 248 were treated with voriconazole. Nine subjects in the voriconazole group and 5 in the amphotericin B followed by fluconazole group also had microbiologically proven infection in deep tissue. Patients with renal failure were excluded from this study. The median treatment duration was 15 days in both treatment arms. In the primary analysis, successful response as assessed by a Data Review Committee (DRC) blinded to study medicinal product was defined as resolution/improvement in all clinical signs and symptoms of infection with eradication of *Candida* from blood and infected deep tissue sites 12 weeks after the end of therapy (EOT). Patients who did not have an assessment 12 weeks after EOT were counted as failures. In this analysis a successful response was seen in 41% of patients in both treatment arms.

In a secondary analysis, which utilized DRC assessments at the latest evaluable time point (EOT, or 2, 6, or 12 weeks after EOT) voriconazole and the regimen of amphotericin B followed by fluconazole had successful response rates of 65% and 71%, respectively.

The Investigator's assessment of successful outcome at each of these time points is shown in the following table.

| Timepoint | Voriconazole (N=248) | Amphotericin B → fluconazole (N=122) |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| EOT | 178 (72%) | 88 (72%) |
| 2 weeks after EOT | 125 (50%) | 62 (51%) |
| 6 weeks after EOT | 104 (42%) | 55 (45%) |
| 12 weeks after EOT | 104 (42%) | 51 (42%) |

Serious refractory *Candida* infections

The study recruited 55 patients with serious refractory systemic *Candida* infections (including candidaemia, disseminated and other invasive candidiasis) where prior antifungal treatment, particularly with fluconazole, had been ineffective. Successful response was seen in 24 patients (15 complete, 9 partial responses). In fluconazole-resistant non-*albicans* species, a successful outcome was seen in 3/3 *C. krusei* (complete responses) and 6/8 *C. glabrata* (5 complete, 1 partial response) infections. The clinical efficacy data were supported by limited susceptibility data.

***Scedosporium* and *Fusarium* infections**

Voriconazole was shown to be effective against the following rare fungal pathogens:

***Scedosporium* spp.** Successful response to voriconazole therapy was seen in 16 (6 complete, 10 partial responses) of 28 patients with *S. apiospermum* and in 2 (both partial responses) of 7 patients with *S. prolificans* infection. In addition, a successful response was seen in 1 of 3 patients with infections caused by more than one organism including *Scedosporium* spp.

***Fusarium* spp.** Seven (3 complete, 4 partial responses) of 17 patients were successfully treated with voriconazole. Of these 7 patients, 3 had eye, 1 had sinus, and 3 had disseminated infection. Four additional patients with fusariosis had an infection caused by several organisms; 2 of them had a successful outcome.

The majority of patients receiving voriconazole treatment of the above mentioned rare infections were intolerant of, or refractory to, prior antifungal therapy.

Primary Prophylaxis of Invasive Fungal Infections – Efficacy in HSCT recipients without prior proven or probable IFI

Voriconazole was compared to itraconazole as primary prophylaxis in an open-label, comparative, multicenter study of adult and adolescent allogeneic HSCT recipients without prior proven or probable IFI. Success was defined as the ability to continue study drug prophylaxis for 100 days after HSCT (without stopping for >14 days) and survival with an open proven or probable IFI for 180 days after HSCT. The modified intent-to-treat (MITT) group included 465 allogeneic HSCT recipients with 45% of patients having AML. From all patients 58% were subject to myeloablative conditions regimens. Prophylaxis with study drug was started immediately after HSCT: 224 received voriconazole and 241 received itraconazole. The median duration of study drug prophylaxis was 96 days for voriconazole and 68 days for itraconazole in the MITT group.

Success rates and other secondary endpoints are presented in the table below:

| Study Endpoints | Voriconazole | | Difference in proportions and the 95% confidence interval (CI) | P-Value |
|--|--------------|-------------|--|----------|
| | N=224 | N=241 | | |
| Success at day 180* | 109 (48.7%) | 80 (33.2%) | 16.4% (6.7%, 25.1%)** | 0.0002** |
| Success at least 100 days after study drug prophylaxis | 121 (53.6%) | 96 (39.8%) | 14.6% (6.6%, 24.2%)** | 0.0001** |
| Survived to day 180 | 184 (82.1%) | 197 (81.7%) | 0.4% (-6.6%, 7.4%) | 0.9107 |
| Developed proven or probable IFI to day 180 | 3 (1.3%) | 5 (2.1%) | -0.7% (-3.1%, 1.6%) | 0.5390 |
| Developed proven or probable IFI to day 100 | 2 (0.9%) | 4 (1.7%) | -0.8% (-2.8%, 1.3%) | 0.4589 |
| Developed proven or probable IFI while on study drug | 0 | 3 (1.2%) | -1.2% (-2.6%, 0.2%) | 0.0813 |

* Primary endpoint of the study
 ** Difference in proportions, 95% CI and p-values obtained after adjustment for randomization

The breakthrough IFI rate to Day 180 and the primary endpoint of the study, which is Success at Day 180, for patients with AML and myeloablative conditioning regimens respectively, is presented in the table below:

AML

| Study endpoints | Voriconazole | | Difference in proportions and the 95% confidence interval (CI) |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| | (N=98) | (N=109) | |
| Breakthrough IFI – Day 180 | 1 (1.0%) | 2 (1.8%) | -0.8% (-4.0%, 2.4%)** |
| Success at Day 180* | 55 (56.1%) | 45 (41.3%) | 14.7% (1.7%, 27.7%)** |

* Primary endpoint of study
 ** Using a margin of 5%, non-inferiority is demonstrated
 *** Difference in proportions, 95% CI obtained after adjustment for randomization

Myelo-ablative conditioning regimens

| Study endpoints | Voriconazole | | Difference in proportions and the 95% confidence interval (CI) |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| | (N=125) | (N=143) | |
| Breakthrough IFI – Day 180 | 2 (1.6%) | 3 (2.1%) | -0.5% (-3.7%, 2.7%)** |
| Success at Day 180* | 70 (56.0%) | 53 (37.1%) | 20.1% (8.5%, 31.7%)** |

* Primary endpoint of study
 ** Using a margin of 5%, non-inferiority is demonstrated
 *** Difference in proportions, 95% CI obtained after adjustment for randomization

Secondary Prophylaxis of IFI – Efficacy in HSCT recipients with prior proven or probable IFI

Voriconazole was investigated as secondary prophylaxis in an open-label, non-comparative, multicenter study of adult allogeneic HSCT recipients with prior proven or probable IFI. The primary endpoint was the rate of occurrence of proven and probable IFI during the first year after HSCT. The MITT group included 40 patients with prior IFI, including 31 with aspergillosis, 5 with candidiasis, and 4 with other IFI. The median duration of study drug prophylaxis was 95.5 days in the MITT group.

Proven or probable IFIs developed in 7.5% (3/40) of patients during the first year after HSCT, including one candidemia, one sepsis (both relatives of prior IFI), and one zygomycosis. The survival rate at Day 180 was 80.0% (32/40) and at 1 year was 70.0% (28/40).

Duration of treatment.
 In clinical trials, 705 patients received voriconazole therapy for greater than 12 weeks, with 164 patients receiving voriconazole for over 6 months.

Paediatric population

Fifty-three paediatric patients aged 2 to <18 years were treated with voriconazole in two prospective, open-label, non-comparative, multi-center clinical trials. One study enrolled 31 patients with possible, proven or probable invasive aspergillosis (IA), of whom 14 patients had proven or probable IA and were included in the MITT efficacy analyses. The second study enrolled 22 patients with invasive candidiasis including candidaemia (IC), and esophageal candidiasis (EC) requiring either primary or salvage therapy, of whom 17 were included in the MITT efficacy analyses. For patients with IA the overall rates of global response at 6 weeks were 64.3% (9/14), the global response rate was 40% (2/5) for patients 2 to <12 years and 77.8% (7/9) for patients 12 to <18 years of age. For patients with IC the global response rate at EOT was 85.7% (6/7) and for patients with EC the global response rate at EOT was 70% (7/10). The overall rate of response (IC and EC combined) was 88.9% (8/9) for 2 to <12 years old and 62.5% (5/8) for 12 to <18 years old.

Clinical studies examining QTc interval
 A placebo-controlled, randomized, single-dose, crossover study to evaluate the effect on the QTc interval of healthy volunteers was conducted with three oral doses of voriconazole and itraconazole. The placebo-adjusted mean maximum increases in QTc from baseline after 800, 1200 and 1600 mg of voriconazole were 5, 1, 4, 8, and 8.2 msec, respectively and 7.0 msec for itraconazole 800 mg. No subject in any group had an increase in QTc of ≥ 60 msec from baseline. No subject experienced an interval exceeding the potentially clinically-relevant threshold of 500 msec.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties
General pharmacokinetic characteristics

The pharmacokinetics of voriconazole have been characterised in healthy subjects, special populations and patients. During oral administration of 200 mg or 300 mg twice daily for 14 days in patients at risk of aspergillosis (mainly patients with malignant neoplasms of lymphatic or haemopoietic tissue), the observed pharmacokinetic characteristics of rapid and consistent absorption, accumulation and non-linear pharmacokinetics were in agreement with those observed in healthy subjects.

The pharmacokinetics of voriconazole are non-linear due to saturation of its metabolism. Greater than proportional increase in exposure is observed with increasing dose. It is estimated that, on average, increasing the oral dose from 200 mg twice daily to 300 mg twice daily leads to a 2.5-fold increase in exposure (AUC₀₋₂₄). The oral maintenance dose of 200 mg or 300 mg for patients less than 40 kg achieves a voriconazole exposure similar to 3 mg/kg IV. A 300 mg (or 150 mg for patients less than 40 kg) oral maintenance dose achieves an exposure similar to 4 mg/kg IV. When the recommended intravenous or oral loading dose regimens are administered, plasma concentrations close to steady state are achieved within the first 24 hours of dosing. Without the loading dose, accumulation occurs during twice daily multiple dosing with steady-state plasma voriconazole concentrations being achieved by Day 6 in the majority of subjects.

Absorption

Voriconazole is rapidly and almost completely absorbed following oral administration, with maximum plasma concentrations (C_{max}) achieved 1-2 hours after dosing. The absolute bioavailability of voriconazole after oral administration is estimated to be 96%. When multiple doses of voriconazole are administered with high fat meals, C_{max} and AUC₀₋₂₄ are reduced by 34% and 24%, respectively. The absorption of voriconazole is not affected by changes in gastric pH.

Distribution

The volume of distribution at steady state for voriconazole is estimated to be 4.6 L/kg, suggesting extensive distribution into tissues. Plasma protein binding is estimated to be 58%.

Cerebrospinal fluid samples from eight patients in a compassionate programme showed detectable voriconazole concentrations in all patients.

Biotransformation

In vitro studies showed that voriconazole is metabolised by the hepatic cytochrome P450 isoenzymes CYP2C19, CYP2C9 and CYP3A4. The inter-individual variability of voriconazole pharmacokinetics is high.

In vivo studies indicated that CYP2C19 is significantly involved in the metabolism of voriconazole. This enzyme exhibits genetic polymorphism. For example, 15-20% of Asian populations may be expected to be poor metabolisers. For Caucasians and Blacks the prevalence of poor metabolisers is 3-5%. Studies conducted in Caucasian and Japanese healthy subjects have shown that poor metabolisers have, on average, 4-fold higher voriconazole exposure (AUC₀₋₂₄) than their homozygous extensive metaboliser counterparts. Subjects who are heterozygous extensive metabolisers have on average 2-fold higher voriconazole exposure than their homozygous extensive metaboliser counterparts.

The major metabolite of voriconazole is the N-oxide, which accounts for 72% of the circulating radiolabelled metabolites in plasma. This metabolite has minimal antifungal activity and does not contribute to the overall efficacy of voriconazole.

Elimination

Voriconazole is eliminated via hepatic metabolism with less than 2% of the dose excreted unchanged in the urine.

After administration of a radiolabelled dose of voriconazole, approximately 80% of the radioactivity is recovered in the urine after multiple intravenous dosing and 83% in the urine after multiple oral dosing. The majority (> 94%) of the total radioactivity is excreted in the first 96 hours after both oral and intravenous dosing.

The terminal half-life of voriconazole depends on dose and is approximately 6 hours at 200 mg (orally). Because of non-linear pharmacokinetics, the terminal half-life is not useful in the prediction of the accumulation or elimination of voriconazole.

Pharmacokinetics in special patient groups

Gender

In an oral multiple-dose study, C_{max} and AUC₀₋₂₄ for healthy young females were 83% and 113% higher, respectively, than in healthy young males (18-45 years). In the same study, no significant differences in C_{max} and AUC₀₋₂₄ were observed between healthy elderly males and healthy elderly females (≥ 65 years).

In the clinical programme, no dosage adjustment was made on the basis of gender. The safety profile and plasma concentrations observed in male and female patients were similar. Therefore, no dosage adjustment based on gender is necessary.

Elderly

In an oral multiple-dose study C_{max} and AUC₀₋₂₄ in healthy elderly males (> 65 years) were 61% and 86% higher, respectively, than in healthy young males (18-45 years). No significant differences in C_{max} and AUC₀₋₂₄ were observed between healthy elderly females (≥ 65 years) and healthy young females (18-45 years).

In the therapeutic studies no dosage adjustment was made on the basis of age. A relationship between plasma concentrations and age was observed. The safety profile of voriconazole in young and elderly patients was similar and, therefore, no dosage adjustment is necessary for the elderly (see section 4.2).

Paediatric population

The recommended doses in children and adolescent patients are based on a population pharmacokinetic analysis of data obtained from 112 immunocompromised paediatric patients aged 2 to <12 years and 26 immunocompromised adolescent patients aged 12 to <17 years. Multiple intravenous doses of 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 mg/kg twice daily and multiple oral doses (using the powder for oral suspension) of 4 mg/kg, 6 mg/kg, and