

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Psychiatric disorders | depression, hallucination, anxiety, insomnia, agitation, confusional state | | |
| Nervous system disorders | headache | brain edema, encephalopathy*, estryramygdal disorder*, neuropathy peripheral, ataxia, hypoesthesia, dysaesthesia | hepatic encephalopathy, Guillain-Barre syndrome, nystagmus |
| Eye disorders | visual impairment* | retinal haemorrhage | optic atrophy, corneal opacity |
| Ear and labyrinth disorders | | hypoaacusis, vertigo, tinnitus | |
| Cardiac disorders | | ventricular fibrillation, ventricular extrasystoles, ventricular tachycardia, electrocardiogram QT prolonged, supraventricular tachycardia | torsades de pointes, atrioventricular block complete, bundle branch block, nodal rhythm |
| Vascular disorders | | hypotension, phlebitis | |
| 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 | toxic epidermal necrolysis, drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS)*, angioedema, actinic keratosis*, pseudopharynx, erythema multiforme, psoriasis, drug eruption |
| Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders | | back pain | arthritis |
| 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 macula 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

Pharmacotheapeutic 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. glaucus*, *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 response) 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 richardsiae*, *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 response 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 53% 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% (4.7%, 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** |
| Completed at 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:

| Study endpoints | Voriconazole | Itraconazole | 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

| Study endpoints | Voriconazole | Itraconazole | 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 20