

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Voriconazole 200 mg, Powder for Infusion

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each vial contains 200 mg of voriconazole.

After reconstitution, each ml contains 10 mg of voriconazole. Once reconstituted further dilution is required before administration.

Excipient with known effect: each vial contains 88.74 mg sodium.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Powder for infusion.

White to off-white lyophilised powder.

pH: 5.0 – 7.0

Osmolality: 530 mOsm/Kg \pm 10%

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Voriconazole is indicated for treatment of the following fungal infections:

- Invasive aspergillosis.
- Serious Candida infections (including *C. krusei*), including oesophageal and systemic Candida infections (hepatosplenic candidiasis, disseminated candidiasis, candidaemia).
- Serious fungal infections caused by *Scedosporium* spp. and *Fusarium* spp.
- Other serious fungal infections, in patients intolerant of, or refractory to, other therapy.

4.2 Dose and method of administration

Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion requires reconstitution and dilution prior to administration as an intravenous infusion (see section 6.6).

Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion is packaged in a 25 mL vial. Reconstitution with 19 mL of Water for Injection or 0.9% Sodium Chloride for Injection results in a final extractable volume of 20 mL.

Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion is not recommended for bolus injection.

It is recommended that Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion is administered at a maximum rate of 3 mg/kg per hour over 1 to 2 hours. Electrolyte disturbances such as hypokalaemia,

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

hypomagnesaemia and hypocalcaemia should be corrected prior to initiation of voriconazole therapy (see section 4.4, Cardiovascular).

Use in Adults

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.

Intravenous administration is not recommended for the treatment of oesophageal candidiasis; dosage recommendations for oesophageal candidiasis are provided in the following table.

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

	Intravenous	Oral	
		Patients 40 kg or above	Patients less than 40 kg
<u>Serious invasive <i>Candida</i> infections</u>			
Loading Dose Regimen (first 24 hours)	6 mg/kg every 12 hours (for the first 24 hours)	400 mg every 12 hours (for the first 24 hours) 200 mg twice daily	200 mg every 12 hours (for the first 24 hours) 100 mg twice daily
Maintenance Dose (after first 24 hours)	3 mg/kg every 12 hours		
<u>Oesophageal Candidiasis</u>			
Loading Dose Regimen (first 24 hours)	Not recommended	400 mg every 12 hours (for the first 24 hours) 200 mg twice daily	200 mg every 12 hours (for the first 24 hours) 100 mg or twice daily
Maintenance Dose (after first 24 hours)	Not recommended		
<u>Invasive aspergillosis/ <i>Scedosporium</i> and <i>Fusarium</i> infections/ other serious fungal infections</u>			
Loading Dose Regimen (first 24 hours)	6 mg/kg every 12 hours (for the first 24 hours)	400 mg every 12 hours (for the first 24 hours) 200 mg twice daily	200 mg every 12 hours (for the first 24 hours) 100 mg twice daily
Maintenance Dose (after first 24 hours)	4 mg/kg every 12 hours		

Dosage Adjustment

Intravenous Administration

If patient response at 3 mg/kg every 12 hours is inadequate, the intravenous maintenance dose may be increased to 4 mg/kg every 12 hours.

If patients are unable to tolerate 4 mg/kg every 12 hours, reduce the intravenous dose to 3 mg/kg every 12 hours.

Phenytoin may be co-administered with voriconazole if the maintenance dose of voriconazole is increased to 5 mg/kg intravenously every 12 hours. The loading dose regimen remains unchanged (see sections 4.4 and 4.5).

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

The dose recommendation for concomitant use of intravenous voriconazole and oral efavirenz has not been determined (see section 4.5).

Treatment duration depends upon patients' clinical and mycological response.

Use in the Elderly

No dose adjustment is necessary for elderly patients.

Use in Patients with Renal Impairment

In patients with moderate to severe renal dysfunction (creatinine clearance <50 mL/min), including dialysis patients, accumulation of the intravenous vehicle, hydroxypropylbetadex, occurs. Oral voriconazole should be administered to these patients, unless an assessment of the risk-benefit to the patient justifies the use of intravenous voriconazole. Serum creatinine levels should be closely monitored in these patients and, if increases occur, consideration should be given to changing to oral voriconazole therapy (see section 5.2, Renal Impairment).

The intravenous vehicle, hydroxypropylbetadex, is haemodialysed with a clearance of 37.5 ± 24 ml/min.

Use in Patients with Hepatic Impairment

No dose adjustment is necessary in patients with acute hepatic injury, manifested by elevated liver function tests (ALT, AST) (but continued monitoring of liver function tests for further elevations is recommended).

It is recommended that the standard loading dose regimens be used but that the maintenance dose be halved in patients with mild to moderate hepatic cirrhosis (Child-Pugh A and B) receiving voriconazole.

Voriconazole has not been studied in patients with severe chronic hepatic cirrhosis (Child- Pugh C). Voriconazole has been associated with elevations in liver function tests and clinical signs of liver damage such as jaundice, and must only be used in patients with severe hepatic impairment if the benefit outweighs the potential risk. Patients with severe hepatic impairment must be carefully monitored for medicine toxicity (see section 4.8).

Use in Children

Safety and efficacy in paediatric subjects below the age of 2 years has not been established (see section 5.2). Therefore, voriconazole is not recommended for children less than 2 years of age.

The recommended maintenance dosing regimen in paediatric patients 2 to < 12 years is as follows:

Loading Dose Regimen	No oral or intravenous loading dose is recommended	
Maintenance Dose	Intravenous Dose*	Oral Dose**
	7 mg/kg twice daily	200 mg twice daily

* Based on a population pharmacokinetic analysis in 82 immunocompromised patients aged 2 to < 12 years

** Based on a population pharmacokinetic analysis in 47 immunocompromised patients aged 2 to < 12 years

If paediatric patients are unable to tolerate an intravenous dose of 7mg/kg twice daily, a dose reduction from 7mg/kg to 4mg/kg twice daily may be considered based on the population

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

pharmacokinetic analysis and previous clinical experience. This provides equivalent exposure to 3mg/kg twice daily in adults (see section 4.2, Use in Adults).

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).

These paediatric dose recommendations are based on studies in which voriconazole was administered as the powder for oral suspension formulation.

Adolescents (12 -16 years of age) should be dosed as adults.

4.3 Contraindications

Voriconazole is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to voriconazole or to any of the excipients.

Co-administration of the CYP3A4 substrates, pimozide or quinidine with voriconazole is contraindicated since increased plasma concentrations of these medicinal products can lead to QTc prolongation and rare occurrences of *torsades de pointes* (see section 4.5).

Co-administration of voriconazole with rifabutin, rifampicin, carbamazepine and long-acting barbiturates (e.g. phenobarbitone) is contraindicated since these medicinal products are likely to decrease plasma voriconazole concentrations significantly (see section 4.5).

Co-administration of standard doses of voriconazole with patients receiving 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 (see section 4.5). For information pertaining to lower doses of efavirenz (see sections 4.2 and 4.5).

Co-administration of ergot alkaloids (ergotamine, dihydroergotamine), which are CYP3A4 substrates, is contraindicated since increased plasma concentrations of these medicinal products can lead to ergotism (see section 4.5).

Co-administration of voriconazole and sirolimus is contraindicated, since voriconazole is likely to increase plasma concentrations of sirolimus significantly (see section 4.5).

Co-administration of voriconazole with patients receiving high doses of ritonavir (400 mg and higher twice daily) is contraindicated, because ritonavir significantly decreases plasma voriconazole concentrations in healthy subjects at these doses (see section 4.5). For information pertaining to lower doses of ritonavir see section 4.4.

Co-administration of voriconazole with St John's Wort is contraindicated (see section 4.5).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

The lyophilised powder contents of the Voriconazole 200 mg vials are intended for reconstitution with 19 mL Water for Injections or 19 ml of 9 mg/ml (0.9%) Sodium Chloride for Injection, to produce

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

a solution containing 10 mg/mL voriconazole and 120 mg/mL of hydroxypropylbetadex as the intravenous vehicle (excipient). The resulting solution is further diluted prior to administration as an intravenous infusion (see section 4.2).

Hypersensitivity: Caution should be used in prescribing voriconazole to patients with hypersensitivity to other azoles.

Cardiovascular: Some azoles, including voriconazole have been associated with QT 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 medications that may have been contributory. Voriconazole should be administered with caution to patients with potentially proarrhythmic conditions, such as:

- Congenital or acquired QT-prolongation
- Cardiomyopathy, in particular when heart failure is present
- Sinus bradycardia
- Existing symptomatic arrhythmias
- Concomitant medicinal product that is known to prolong QT interval (see section 4.5).

Electrolyte disturbances such as hypokalaemia, hypomagnesaemia and hypocalcaemia should be monitored and corrected, if necessary, prior to initiation of and during voriconazole therapy (see section 4.2).

Infusion-Related Reactions: Anaphylactoid-type reactions, including flushing, fever, sweating, tachycardia, chest tightness, dyspnoea, faintness, nausea, pruritus and rash 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: 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.

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. If treatment is continued, 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 (see section 4.2).

Renal: The pharmacokinetic parameters of orally administered voriconazole are not affected by renal impairment. However, acute renal failure has been observed in severely ill patients undergoing treatment with voriconazole. Patients being treated with voriconazole are likely to be treated

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

concomitantly with nephrotoxic medications and have concurrent conditions that may result in decreased renal function.

In patients with moderate to severe renal dysfunction (creatinine clearance <50 mL/min), including dialysis patients, accumulation of the intravenous vehicle, hydroxypropylbetadex occurs. Oral voriconazole should be administered to these patients, unless an assessment of the risk to the patient justifies the use of intravenous voriconazole.

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

Monitoring of Pancreatic Function: Adults and children with risk factors for acute pancreatitis (e.g. recent chemotherapy, haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT), should be monitored closely during voriconazole treatment. Monitoring of serum amylase or lipase may be considered in this clinical situation.

Dermatological Adverse Events: Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs), such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome, 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 suspected SCAR, voriconazole should be discontinued immediately and an alternative treatment should be considered.

In addition, voriconazole has been associated with photosensitivity skin reaction. It is recommended that patients, including children, avoid exposure to direct sunlight during voriconazole treatment and use measures such as protective clothing and sunscreen with high sun protection factor (SPF) (see **Squamous Cell Carcinoma** below).

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

Long-term Treatment: The following severe adverse events have been reported in relation with long-term voriconazole treatment:

Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC): In patients with photosensitivity skin reactions and additional risk factors, squamous cell carcinoma of the skin and melanoma have been reported during long-term therapy. If phototoxic reactions occur, multidisciplinary advice should be sought and the patient should be referred to a dermatologist. Voriconazole discontinuation should be considered. Dermatologic evaluation should be performed on a systematic and regular basis, whenever voriconazole is continued despite the occurrence of phototoxicity-related lesions, to allow early detection and management of premalignant lesions. If a patient develops a skin lesion consistent with premalignant skin lesions, squamous cell carcinoma or melanoma, voriconazole discontinuation should be considered.

Non-infectious Periostitis: Periostitis has been reported in transplant patients during longterm voriconazole therapy. If a patient develops skeletal pain and radiologic findings compatible with periostitis, voriconazole should be discontinued.

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Visual Adverse Events: There have been post-marketing reports of prolonged visual adverse events, including optic neuritis and papilloedema. These events occurred primarily in severely ill patients who had underlying conditions and/or concomitant medications which may have caused or contributed to these events (see section 4.8, Visual Disturbances).

Visual Disturbances and Effect on Ability to Drive and Use Machines: Voriconazole may cause changes to vision, including blurring, altered/enhanced visual perception and/or photophobia. Patients must avoid potentially hazardous tasks, such as driving or operating machinery whilst experiencing these symptoms. Patients should be advised not to drive at night while taking voriconazole.

Paediatric Use: Safety and efficacy in paediatric subjects below the age of two years has not been established (see section 5.1, Clinical Efficacy and Safety). A higher frequency of liver enzyme elevations was observed in the paediatric population (see section 4.8). Hepatic function and pancreatic function should be monitored. Oral bioavailability may be limited in paediatric patients 2 to 12 years with malabsorption and very low body weight for age. In that case, intravenous voriconazole administration is recommended.

Everolimus (CYP3A4 substrate, P-gp substrate): Co-administration of voriconazole with everolimus 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).

Fluconazole (CYP2C9, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 inhibitor): Co-administration of oral voriconazole and oral fluconazole resulted in significant increase in C_{max} and AUC_t of voriconazole in healthy subjects. The reduced dose and/or frequency of voriconazole and fluconazole that would reduce this effect have not been established. Monitoring for voriconazole associated adverse events is recommended if voriconazole is used sequentially after fluconazole (see section 4.5).

Phenytoin (CYP2C9 substrate and potent CYP450 inducer): Careful monitoring of phenytoin levels is recommended when phenytoin is co-administered with voriconazole. Concomitant use of voriconazole and phenytoin should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs the risk (see section 4.5).

Ritonavir (potent CYP450 inducer; CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate): Co-administration of voriconazole and low dose ritonavir (100 mg twice daily) should be avoided unless an assessment of the benefit/risk justifies the use of voriconazole (see Interactions).

Co-administration of voriconazole and ritonavir 400 mg and higher twice daily is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Methadone (CYP3A4 substrate): Increased plasma concentrations of methadone have been associated with toxicity including QT prolongation. Frequent monitoring for adverse events and toxicity related to methadone is recommended during co-administration. Dose reduction of methadone may be needed (see section 4.5).

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

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 co-administered with voriconazole (see Interactions). As the half-life of alfentanil is prolonged in a 4-fold manner when alfentanil is co-administered with voriconazole and in an independent published study, concomitant use of voriconazole with fentanyl resulted in an increase in the mean AUC $0-\infty$ of fentanyl by 1.4-fold, frequent monitoring for opiate-associated adverse events (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 metabolised by CYP3A4 (e.g. hydrocodone) should be considered when co-administered with voriconazole. Frequent monitoring for opiate-associated adverse events may be necessary (see section 4.5).

Sodium Content: Each vial of Voriconazole 200 mg, Powder for Infusion contains 88.74 mg of sodium. This should be taken into consideration for patients on a controlled sodium diet.

Carcinogenicity and Mutagenicity

Carcinogenic potential was studied in mice and rats at oral doses of up to 100 mg/kg/day and 50 mg/kg/day for 24 months, respectively. Hepatocellular adenoma appeared in male and female mice at 100 mg/kg/day and in female rats at 50 mg/kg/day. There was also an increased incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma in mice at 100 mg/kg/day. Although mean plasma drug concentrations indicated there is no safety margin in humans in terms of exposure, adenoma and carcinoma (as well as non-neoplastic changes) are known to occur in rodents after chronic administration of compounds that are hepatic enzyme inducers.

Voriconazole showed no mutagenic potential in gene-mutation assays in bacterial (*Salmonella typhimurium*) and mammalian (Chinese hamster ovary) cells. While in vitro exposure of human lymphocytes to voriconazole produced equivocal effects on chromosomes, in vivo treatment of male and female mice at doses up to and including the maximum tolerated dose produced no evidence of chromosome damage as determined by the micronucleus assay.

4.5 Interaction with other medicines and other forms of interaction

Unless otherwise specified, medicine interaction studies have been performed in healthy male subjects, using multiple dosing to steady state with oral voriconazole at 200 mg twice daily. These results are relevant to other populations and routes of administration.

This section addresses the effects of other medicinal products on voriconazole, the effects of voriconazole on other medicinal products and two-way interactions. The interactions for the first two sections are presented in the following order: contraindications, those requiring dosage adjustment, those requiring careful clinical and/or biochemical monitoring and finally those that have no significant pharmacokinetic interaction but may be of clinical interest in this therapeutic field.

1. Effects of Other Medicinal Products on Voriconazole

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Voriconazole is metabolised by cytochrome P450 isoenzymes, CYP2C19, CYP2C9 and CYP3A4. Inhibitors or inducers of these isoenzymes may increase or decrease voriconazole plasma concentrations, respectively.

The exposure to voriconazole is significantly reduced by the concomitant administration of the following agents:

Rifampicin (CYP450 inducer): Rifampicin (600 mg once daily) decreased the C_{max} (maximum plasma concentration) and AUC_t (area under the plasma concentration time curve within a dose interval) of voriconazole by 93% and 96%, respectively. Co-administration of voriconazole and rifampicin is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Rifabutin (potent CYP450 inducer): Rifabutin (300 mg once daily) decreased the C_{max} and AUC_t of voriconazole at 200 mg twice daily by 69% and 78%, respectively. During co-administration with rifabutin, the C_{max} and AUC_t of voriconazole at 350 mg twice daily were 96% and 68% of the levels when administered alone at 200 mg twice daily. At a voriconazole dose of 400 mg twice daily C_{max} and AUC_t were 104% and 87% higher, respectively, compared with voriconazole alone at 200 mg twice daily. Voriconazole at 400 mg twice daily increased C_{max} and AUC_t of rifabutin by 195% and 331%, respectively. Co-administration of voriconazole with rifabutin is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Ritonavir (potent CYP450 inducer; CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate): The effect of the co-administration of oral voriconazole (200 mg twice daily) and high dose (400 mg) and low dose (100 mg) oral ritonavir was investigated in two separate studies in healthy volunteers. High doses of ritonavir (400 mg twice daily) decreased the steady state C_{max} and AUC_t of oral voriconazole by an average of 66% and 82% respectively, whereas low doses of ritonavir (100 mg twice daily) decreased the C_{max} and AUC_t of oral voriconazole by an average of 24% and 39% respectively. Administration of voriconazole did not have a significant effect on mean C_{max} and AUC_t of ritonavir in the high dose study, although a minor decrease in steady state C_{max} and AUC_t of ritonavir with an average of 25% and 13% respectively was observed in the low dose ritonavir interaction study. One outlier subject with raised voriconazole levels was identified in each of the ritonavir interaction studies. Co-administration of voriconazole and high doses of ritonavir (400 mg and higher twice daily) is contraindicated (see section 4.3). Co-administration 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 section 4.4).

Carbamazepine and phenobarbitone (CYP450 inducers): Although not studied, carbamazepine or phenobarbitone are likely to significantly decrease plasma voriconazole levels. Co-administration of voriconazole with carbamazepine and long acting barbiturates are contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Significant medicine interactions that may require voriconazole dosage adjustment, or frequent monitoring of voriconazole related adverse events/toxicity:

Fluconazole (CYP2C9, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 inhibitor): Co-administration of oral voriconazole and oral fluconazole resulted in significant increase in C_{max} and AUC_t of voriconazole in healthy subjects. The clinical significance of this medicine interaction has not been established and the co-administration of voriconazole and oral fluconazole is not recommended. Monitoring for

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

voriconazole associated adverse events is recommended if voriconazole is used sequentially after fluconazole.

Minor or no significant pharmacokinetic interactions that require no dosage adjustment:

Cimetidine (non-specific CYP450 inhibitor and increases gastric pH): Cimetidine (400 mg twice daily) increased voriconazole C_{max} and AUC_{τ} by 18% and 23%, respectively. No dosage adjustment of voriconazole is recommended.

Ranitidine (increases gastric pH): Ranitidine (150 mg twice daily) had no significant effect on voriconazole C_{max} and AUC_{τ} .

Macrolide antibiotics: Erythromycin (CYP3A4 inhibitor; 1 g twice daily) and azithromycin (500 mg once daily) had no significant effect on voriconazole C_{max} and AUC_{τ} .

2. Effects of Voriconazole on Other Medicinal Products

Voriconazole inhibits the activity of cytochrome P450 isoenzymes, CYP2C19, CYP2C9 and CYP3A4. Therefore, there is potential for voriconazole to increase the plasma levels of medicines metabolised by these CYP450 isoenzymes.

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

Concomitant use of the following agents with voriconazole is contraindicated:

Pimozide and quinidine (CYP3A4 substrates): Although not studied, co-administration of voriconazole with pimozide or quinidine is contraindicated, since increased plasma concentrations of these drugs can lead to QTc prolongation and rare occurrences of *torsades de pointes* (see section 4.3).

Sirolimus (CYP3A4 substrate): Voriconazole increased sirolimus (2 mg single dose) C_{max} and AUC_{τ} by 556% and 1014%, respectively. Co-administration of voriconazole and sirolimus is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Ergot alkaloids (CYP3A4 substrates): Although not studied, voriconazole may increase the plasma concentrations of ergot alkaloids (ergotamine and dihydroergotamine) and lead to ergotism. Co-administration of voriconazole with ergot alkaloids is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

St John's Wort (CYP450 inducer; P-gp inducer): In a clinical study in healthy volunteers, St John's Wort exhibited a short initial inhibitory effect followed by induction of voriconazole metabolism. After 15 days of treatment with St John's Wort (300 mg three times daily), plasma exposure following a single 400 mg dose of voriconazole decreased by 40-60%. Therefore, concomitant use of voriconazole with St John's Wort is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Interaction of voriconazole with the following agents may result in increased exposure to these medicines. Careful monitoring and/or dosage adjustment should be considered:

Cyclosporin (CYP3A4 substrate): In stable, renal transplant recipients, voriconazole increased cyclosporin C_{max} and AUC_t by at least 13% and 70% respectively. When initiating voriconazole in patients already receiving cyclosporin, it is recommended that the cyclosporine dose be halved and cyclosporin level carefully monitored. Increased cyclosporin levels have been associated with nephrotoxicity. When voriconazole is discontinued, cyclosporin levels must be carefully monitored and the dose increased as necessary.

Tacrolimus (CYP3A4 substrate): Voriconazole increased tacrolimus (0.1 mg/kg single dose) C_{max} and AUC_t by 117% and 221%, respectively. When initiating voriconazole in patients already receiving tacrolimus, it is recommended that the tacrolimus dose be reduced to a third of the original dose and tacrolimus levels carefully monitored. Increased tacrolimus levels have been associated with nephrotoxicity. When voriconazole is discontinued, tacrolimus levels must be carefully monitored and the dose increased as necessary.

Methadone (CYP3A4 substrate): Repeat dose administration of oral voriconazole (400 mg every 12 hours for 1 day, then 200 mg every 12 hours for 4 days) increased the C_{max} and AUC_t of pharmacologically active R-methadone by 31% (90% CI: 22%, 40%) and 47% (90% CI: 38%, 57%) respectively in subjects receiving a methadone maintenance dose (30-100 mg daily) (see section 4.4).

Short Acting Opiates (CYP3A4 substrate): In an independent publication, steady-state administration of oral voriconazole increased the AUC_{∞} of a single dose of alfentanil by 6-fold. Reduction in the dose of alfentanil and other short acting opiates similar in structure to alfentanil and metabolised by CYP3A4 (e.g. sufentanil) should be considered when co-administered with voriconazole (see section 4.4).

Fentanyl (CYP3A4 substrate): In an independent published study, concomitant use of voriconazole (400 mg q12h on Day 1, then 200 mg q12h on Day 2) with a single intravenous dose of fentanyl (5 μ g/kg) resulted in an increase in the mean $AUC_{0-\infty}$ of fentanyl by 1.4-fold (range 1.12-1.60-fold). When voriconazole is co-administered with fentanyl, extended and frequent monitoring of patients for respiratory depression and other fentanyl-associated adverse events is recommended, and the fentanyl dose should be reduced if warranted.

Oxycodone (CYP3A4 substrate): In an independent publication, co-administration of multiple doses of oral voriconazole (400 mg q12h on Day 1, followed by five doses of 200 mg q12h on Days 2 to 4) with a single 10 mg oral dose of oxycodone on Day 3 resulted in an increase in the mean C_{max} and $AUC_{0-\infty}$ of oxycodone by 1.7-fold (range 1.4- to 2.2-fold) and 3.6-fold (range 2.7- to 5.6-fold), respectively. The mean elimination half-life of oxycodone was also increased by 2.0-fold (range 1.4- to 2.5-fold). A reduction in oxycodone dosage may be needed during voriconazole treatment to avoid opioid related adverse effects. Extended and frequent monitoring for adverse effects associated with oxycodone and other long-acting opiates metabolised by CYP3A4 is recommended.

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Everolimus (CYP3A4 substrate, P-gP substrate): Although not studied, voriconazole is likely to significantly increase the plasma concentrations of everolimus. Co-administration of voriconazole and everolimus is not recommended because voriconazole is expected to significantly increase everolimus concentrations.

Warfarin (CYP2C9 substrate): Co-administration of voriconazole (300 mg twice daily) with warfarin (30 mg single dose) increased maximum prothrombin time by 93%. Close monitoring of prothrombin time is recommended if warfarin and voriconazole are co-administered.

Other Oral Anticoagulants (CYP2C9, CYP3A4 substrates): Although not studied, voriconazole may increase the plasma concentrations of coumarins and therefore may cause an increase in prothrombin time. If patients receiving coumarin preparations are treated simultaneously with voriconazole, the prothrombin time should be monitored at close intervals and the dosage of anticoagulants adjusted accordingly.

Sulphonylureas (CYP2C9 substrates): Although not studied, voriconazole may increase the plasma levels of sulphonylureas, (e.g. tolbutamide, glipizide, and glyburide) and therefore cause hypoglycaemia. Careful monitoring of blood glucose is recommended during co-administration.

Statins (CYP3A4 substrates): Although not studied clinically, voriconazole has been shown to inhibit lovastatin metabolism *in vitro* (human liver microsomes). Therefore, voriconazole is likely to increase plasma levels of statins that are metabolised by CYP3A4. It is recommended that dose adjustment of the statin be considered during co-administration. Increased statin levels have been associated with rhabdomyolysis.

Benzodiazepines (CYP3A4 substrates): Although not studied clinically, voriconazole has been shown to inhibit midazolam metabolism *in vitro* (human liver microsomes). Therefore, voriconazole is likely to increase the plasma levels of benzodiazepines that are metabolised by CYP3A4 (e.g. midazolam, triazolam and alprazolam) and lead to a prolonged sedative effect. It is recommended that dose adjustment of the benzodiazepine be considered during co-administration.

Vinca Alkaloids (CYP3A4 substrates): Although not studied, voriconazole may increase the plasma levels of the vinca alkaloids (e.g. vincristine and vinblastine) and lead to neurotoxicity. It is therefore recommended that dose adjustment of the vinca alkaloid be considered.

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs): Voriconazole increased C_{max} and AUC of ibuprofen (400 mg single dose) by 20% and 100%, respectively. Voriconazole increased C_{max} and AUC of diclofenac (50 mg single dose) by 114% and 78%, respectively. Frequent monitoring for adverse events and toxicity relating to NSAIDs is recommended. Adjustment of dosage of NSAIDs may be needed.

No significant pharmacokinetic interactions were observed when voriconazole was co-administered with the following agents. No dosage adjustment for these agents is recommended:

Prednisolone (CYP3A4 substrate): Voriconazole increased C_{max} and AUC_{τ} of prednisolone (60 mg single dose) by 11% and 34%, respectively. No dosage adjustment is recommended.

Digoxin (P-glycoprotein mediated transport): Voriconazole had no significant effect on C_{max} and AUC_{τ} of digoxin (0.25 mg once daily).

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Mycophenolic acid (UDP-glucuronyl transferase substrate): Voriconazole had no effect on the C_{max} and AUC_t of mycophenolic acid (1 g single dose).

3. Two-way Interactions

Phenytoin (CYP2C9 substrates and potent CYP450 inducer): Concomitant use of voriconazole and phenytoin should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs the risk. Phenytoin (300 mg once daily) decreased the C_{max} and AUC_t of voriconazole by 49% and 69%, respectively. Voriconazole (400 mg twice daily) increased C_{max} and AUC_t of phenytoin (300 mg once daily) by 67% and 81%, respectively.

Phenytoin may be co-administered with voriconazole if the maintenance dose of voriconazole is increased to 5 mg/kg intravenously twice daily or from 200 mg to 400 mg orally, twice daily (100 mg to 200 mg orally, twice daily in patients less than 40 kg). Careful monitoring of phenytoin plasma levels is recommended when phenytoin is co-administered with voriconazole.

Omeprazole (CYP2C19 inhibitor; CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 substrate): Omeprazole (40 mg once daily) increased voriconazole C_{max} and AUC_t by 15% and 41%, respectively. No dosage adjustment of voriconazole is recommended. Voriconazole increased omeprazole C_{max} and AUC_t by 116% and 280%, respectively. When initiating voriconazole in patients already receiving omeprazole, it is recommended that the omeprazole dose be halved. The metabolism of other proton pump inhibitors which are CYP2C19 substrates may also be inhibited by voriconazole.

Fluconazole (CYP2C9, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 inhibitor): Fluconazole (200 mg once daily) increased the C_{max} and AUC_t of voriconazole by 57% and 79%, respectively. The C_{max} and AUC_t of fluconazole were not determined. The reduced dose and/or frequency of voriconazole and fluconazole that would eliminate this effect have not been established. Monitoring for voriconazole-associated adverse events is recommended if voriconazole is used sequentially after fluconazole.

Oral Contraceptives (CYP3A4 substrate): Co-administration of voriconazole and an oral contraceptive (norethisterone 1 mg and ethinylestradiol 0.035 mg once daily) in healthy female subjects resulted in increases in the C_{max} and AUC_t of ethinylestradiol (36% and 61% respectively) and norethisterone (15% and 53% respectively). Voriconazole C_{max} and AUC_t increased by 14% and 46% respectively. Oral contraceptives containing doses other than norethisterone 1 mg and ethinylestradiol 0.035 mg have not been studied. As the ratio between norethisterone and ethinylestradiol remained similar during interaction with voriconazole, their contraceptive activity would probably not be affected. Monitoring for adverse events related to oral contraceptives is recommended during co-administration.

Indinavir (CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate): Indinavir (800 mg three times daily) had no significant effect on voriconazole C_{max} and AUC_t . Voriconazole did not have a significant effect on C_{max} , C_{min} and AUC_t of indinavir.

Other HIV protease inhibitors (CYP3A4 substrates and inhibitors): *In vitro* studies suggest that voriconazole may inhibit the metabolism of HIV protease inhibitors (e.g. saquinavir, amprenavir and nelfinavir). *In vitro* studies also show that the metabolism of voriconazole may be inhibited by HIV protease inhibitors. Patients should be carefully monitored for medicine toxicity during the co-administration of voriconazole and HIV protease inhibitors.

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Efavirenz (a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor [CYP450 inducer; CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate]): Use of standard doses of voriconazole with efavirenz doses of 400 mg once daily or higher is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

In healthy subjects, steady state efavirenz (400 mg oral once daily) decreased the steady state C_{max} and AUC_t of voriconazole by an average of 61% and 77%, respectively. In the same study, voriconazole at steady state (400 mg orally every 12 hours for 1 day, then 200 mg orally every 12 hours for 8 days) increased the steady state C_{max} and AUC_t of efavirenz by an average of 38% and 44%, respectively, in the same subjects.

In a separate study in healthy subjects, voriconazole dose of 300 mg twice daily in combination with low dose efavirenz (300 mg once daily) did not lead to sufficient voriconazole exposure.

Following co-administration of voriconazole 400 mg twice daily with efavirenz 300 mg orally once daily in healthy subjects, the AUC_t of voriconazole was decreased by 7% and C_{max} was increased by 23% compared to voriconazole 200 mg twice daily alone. The AUC_t of efavirenz was increased by 17% and C_{max} was equivalent compared to efavirenz 600 mg once daily alone. These differences were not considered to be clinically significant.

The concomitant use of intravenous voriconazole and oral efavirenz has not been studied.

Other non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs) (CYP3A4 substrates, inhibitors or CYP450 inducers): *In vitro* studies show that the metabolism of voriconazole may be inhibited by delavirdine. Although not studied, the metabolism of voriconazole may be induced by nevirapine. Voriconazole may also inhibit the metabolism of NNRTIs. Patients should be carefully monitored for medicine toxicity during the co-administration of voriconazole and NNRTIs.

Guidance on the Clinical Management of Medicinal Interactions

Contraindications	Dose adjustment of voriconazole	Dose adjustment and/or monitoring of other medicines	No dose adjustment of voriconazole or other medicines
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NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Rifampicin Sirolimus Barbiturates (long acting) Carbamazepine Cisapride Pimozide Quinidine Ergot alkaloids St John’s Wort Rifabutin Ritonavir (400 mg q12h) Efavirenz (400 mg q24h)	Phenytoin ^(1,3) Ritonavir (100 mg q12h) Efavirenz ⁽¹⁾	Cyclosporin ^(2,3) Tacrolimus ^(2,3) Omeprazole ⁽²⁾ Warfarin ⁽⁴⁾ Phenytoin ⁽³⁾ Sulphonylureas ⁽⁵⁾ Statins ⁽⁷⁾ Benzodiazepines ⁽⁷⁾ Vinca Alkaloids ⁽⁷⁾ Nevirapine ⁽⁷⁾ Efavirenz ⁽¹⁾ HIV protease inhibitors ⁽⁷⁾ (excluding indinavir & ritonavir) Methadone ⁽⁷⁾ Oral Contraceptive ⁽⁷⁾ Short Acting Opiates including fentanyl ⁽⁷⁾ NSAIDs ⁽⁷⁾ Oxycodone ⁽⁷⁾	Indinavir Mycophenolate mofetil Cimetidine Ranitidine Macrolide antibiotics Prednisolone Digoxin No established dosing recommendation Everolimus ⁽⁸⁾ Fluconazole ⁽⁹⁾
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¹ See section 4.2, Dosage Adjustment.

² Reduce dose (halve dose of cyclosporin and omeprazole, reduce dose to one third for tacrolimus)

³ Carefully monitor blood levels

⁴ Monitor prothrombin time

⁵ Monitor blood glucose

⁶ Monitor complete blood counts

⁷ Monitor for potential medicinal toxicity and consider dose reduction

⁸ Co-administration with voriconazole is not recommended

⁹ Monitor for voriconazole associated adverse events if voriconazole is used sequentially after fluconazole

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Effects on Fertility

Fertility of male and female rats was not affected at oral doses of up to 50 mg/kg/day, corresponding to exposures 4-6 times the expected human exposure (based on AUC) at the maintenance dose.

Use in Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category B3

There are no adequate studies in pregnant women. Studies in rats have shown reproductive toxicity, including teratogenicity (cleft palates) at oral doses of ≥ 10 mg/kg/day and disturbance of parturition (dystocia) at oral doses of ≥ 3 mg/kg/day, with exposures similar to or below those expected in humans at maintenance dosing. Voriconazole was not teratogenic in rabbits at oral doses of up to 100 mg/kg/day, but produced an increase in post-implantation loss and a decrease in foetal body weight, with exposures approximately 4 times the expected human exposure. Voriconazole must not be used during pregnancy except in patients with severe or potentially life-threatening fungal infections in whom voriconazole may be used if the benefit to the mother clearly outweighs the potential risk to the foetus.

Women of Childbearing Potential

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Women of childbearing potential must always use effective contraception during treatment.

Use in Lactation

It is not known whether voriconazole is excreted in the milk of laboratory animals or in human breast milk. Breast-feeding must be stopped on initiation of treatment with voriconazole.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Voriconazole may cause changes to vision, including blurring, altered/enhanced visual perception and/or photophobia. Patients must avoid potentially hazardous tasks, such as driving or operating machinery whilst experiencing these symptoms. Patients should be advised not to drive at night while taking voriconazole.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Clinical Trial Data

The safety of voriconazole in adults is based on an integrated safety database of more than 2000 subjects (1603 adult patients in therapeutic studies). This represents a heterogeneous population, containing patients with haematological malignancy, HIV infected patients with oesophageal candidiasis and refractory fungal infections, non-neutropenic patients with candidaemia or aspergillosis and healthy volunteers.

The table below includes all causality adverse reactions in 1603 adults from pooled therapeutic studies. The most commonly reported adverse events were visual impairment, liver function test abnormal, pyrexia, rash, vomiting, nausea, diarrhoea, headache, peripheral oedema and abdominal pain. The severity of the adverse events was generally mild to moderate. No clinically significant differences were seen when the safety data were analysed by age, race, or gender.

MedDRA System Organ Class Frequency [†]	Adverse Drug Reactions
Infections and infestations	
Common	Sinusitis
Uncommon	Pseudomembranous colitis
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	
Common	Agranulocytosis ^a , pancytopenia, thrombocytopenia ^b , leukopenia, anaemia
Uncommon	Bone marrow failure, lymphadenopathy, eosinophilia
Rare	Disseminated intravascular coagulation
Immune system disorders	
Uncommon	Hypersensitivity
Rare	Anaphylactoid reaction
Endocrine disorders	
Uncommon	Adrenal insufficiency, hypothyroidism
Rare	Hyperthyroidism
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Very common	Oedema peripheral
Common	Hypoglycaemia, hypokalaemia, hyponatraemia
Psychiatric disorders	
Common	Depression, hallucination, anxiety, insomnia, agitation, confusional state
Nervous system disorders	
Very common	Headache
Common	Syncope, tremor, hypertonia ^c , paraesthesia, somnolence, dizziness
Uncommon	Brain oedema, encephalopathy ^d , extrapyramidal disorder ^e , neuropathy peripheral, ataxia, hypoaesthesia, dysgeusia
Rare	Hepatic encephalopathy, Guillain-Barré syndrome, seizure, nystagmus
Eye disorders	
Very common	Visual impairment ^f
Common	Retinal haemorrhage
Uncommon	Papilloedema ^g , oculogyric crisis, diplopia, scleritis, blepharitis
Rare	Optic atrophy, optic nerve disorder ^h , corneal opacity
Ear and labyrinth disorders	
Uncommon	Hypoacusis, vertigo, tinnitus
Cardiac disorders	
Common	Arrhythmia supraventricular, tachycardia, bradycardia
Uncommon	Ventricular fibrillation, ventricular extrasystoles, ventricular tachycardia, electrocardiogram QT prolonged, supraventricular tachycardia
Rare	Torsades de pointes, atrioventricular block complete, bundle branch block, nodal rhythm
Vascular disorders	
Common	Hypotension, phlebitis
Uncommon	Thrombophlebitis, lymphangitis
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	
Common	Acute respiratory distress syndrome, pulmonary oedema
Gastrointestinal disorders	
Very common	Diarrhoea, vomiting, nausea
Common	Cheilitis, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, constipation, gingivitis
Uncommon	Peritonitis, pancreatitis, swollen tongue, duodenitis, gastroenteritis, glossitis
Hepatobiliary disorders	
Very common	Liver function test abnormal
Common	Jaundice, jaundice cholestatic
Uncommon	Hepatic failure, hepatitis ⁱ , hepatomegaly, cholecystitis, cholelithiasis
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	
Very common	Rash

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Common	Dermatitis exfoliative, alopecia, purpura, rash maculopapular, pruritus
Uncommon	Stevens-Johnson syndrome ^g , photosensitivity reaction, urticaria
Rare	Toxic epidermal necrolysis ^g , drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) ^g , angioedema, pseudoporphyria, erythema multiforme, psoriasis, cutaneous lupus erythematosus*, drug eruption, eczema
Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders	
Common	Back pain
Uncommon	Arthritis
Renal and urinary disorders	
Common	Renal failure acute, haematuria
Uncommon	Renal tubular necrosis, proteinuria, nephritis
General disorders and administration site conditions	
Very common	Pyrexia
Common	Chest pain, face oedema ⁱ , asthenia, chills
Uncommon	Infusion site reaction, influenza-like illness
Investigations	
Common	Blood creatinine increased
Uncommon	Blood urea increased, blood cholesterol increased

†Frequencies are categorised as follows: very common ≥10%; common from ≥1% to <10%; uncommon from ≥0.1% to <1%; rare from 0.01% to <0.1%)

*ADR identified post-marketing

^a Includes febrile neutropenia and neutropenia

^b Includes immune thrombocytopenic purpura

^c Includes nuchal rigidity and tetany

^d Includes hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy and metabolic encephalopathy

^e Includes akathisia and parkinsonism

^f See “Visual Impairment” in section 4.8

^g See section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use

^h Prolonged optic neuritis has been reported post-marketing. See section 4.4

ⁱ Includes drug-induced liver injury, hepatitis toxic, hepatocellular injury and hepatotoxicity

^j Includes periorbital oedema, lip oedema and oedema mouth

Adverse Events Reported in Comparative Therapeutic Studies at a rate of ≥ 1% Possibly Related to Therapy or Causality Unknown

	Voriconazole vs Fluconazole		Voriconazole vs Conventional Amphotericin B	
	(oral therapy)		(IV/oral therapy)	
	Vori N = 200 N (%)	Fluc N = 191 N (%)	Vori N = 196 N (%)	Ampho B* N = 185 N (%)
Body as a whole				

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Fever	-	-	7 (3.6)	25 (13.5)
Chills	-	-	-	36 (19.5)
Headache	-	-	7 (3.6)	8 (4.3)
Abdominal pain	-	-	5 (2.6)	6 (3.2)
Chest pain	-	-	4 (2.0)	2 (1.1)
Cardiovascular system				
Tachycardia	-	-	5 (2.6)	5 (2.7)
Hypertension	-	-	-	2 (1.1)
Hypotension	-	-	-	3 (1.6)
Vasodilatation	-	-	2 (1.0)	2 (1.1)
Digestive system				
Nausea	2 (1.0)	3 (1.6)	14 (7.1)	29 (15.7)
Vomiting	2 (1.0)	-	11 (5.6)	18 (9.7)
Liver function tests abnormal	6 (3.0)	2 (1.0)	9 (4.6)	4 (2.2)
Diarrhoea	-	-	3 (1.5)	6 (3.2)
Cholestatic jaundice	3 (1.5)	-	4 (2.0)	-
Dry mouth	-	-	3 (1.5)	-
Haemic and lymphatic system				
Thrombocytopenia	-	-	2 (1.0)	2 (1.1)
Anaemia	-	-	-	5 (2.7)
Metabolic and nutritional systems				
Alkaline phosphatase increased	10 (5.0)	3 (1.6)	6 (3.1)	4 (2.2)
Hepatic enzymes increased	3 (1.5)	-	7 (3.6)	5 (2.7)
AST (SGOT) increased	8 (4.0)	2 (1.0)	-	-
ALT (SGPT) increased	6 (3.0)	2 (1.0)	3 (1.5)	-
Hypokalaemia	-	-	-	36 (19.5)
Peripheral oedema	-	-	7 (3.6)	9 (4.9)
Hypomagnesaemia	-	-	2 (1.0)	10 (5.4)
Bilirubinaemia	-	-	-	3 (1.6)
Creatinine increased	-	-	-	59 (31.9)
Nervous system				
Hallucinations	-	-	10 (5.1)	-
Dizziness	-	2 (1.0)	5 (2.6)	-
Skin and appendages				
Rash	3 (1.5)	1 (0.5)	13 (6.6)	7 (3.8)
Pruritus	-	-	2 (1.0)	2 (1.1)
Maculopapular rash	3 (1.5)	-	-	-
Special senses				
Abnormal vision	31 (15.5)	8 (4.2)	55 (28.1)	1 (0.5)
Photophobia	5 (2.5)	2 (1.0)	7 (3.6)	-
Chromatopsia	2 (1.0)	-	2 (1.0)	-
Urogenital				
Kidney function abnormal	-	-	4 (2.0)	40 (21.6)
Acute kidney failure	-	-	-	11 (5.9)

*Amphotericin B followed by other licensed antifungal therapy

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicine is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicine. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions <https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/reporting/>

4.9 Overdose

Clinical data on overdose with this agent is scant.

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

There is no known antidote to voriconazole. It is recommended that treatment of overdose is symptomatic and supportive.

Monitor potassium, full blood count and liver function following an overdose.

Consider administration of activated charcoal in the event of a potentially toxic ingestion. Activated charcoal is most effective when administered within **one hour** of ingestion. In patients who are not fully conscious or have impaired gag reflex, consideration should be given to administering activated charcoal via nasogastric tube once the airway is protected.

Voriconazole is haemodialysed with a clearance of 121 mL/min. The intravenous vehicle, hydroxypropylbetadex, is haemodialysed with a clearance of 37.5 ± 24 ml/min. In an overdose, haemodialysis may assist in the removal of voriconazole and hydroxypropylbetadex from the body.

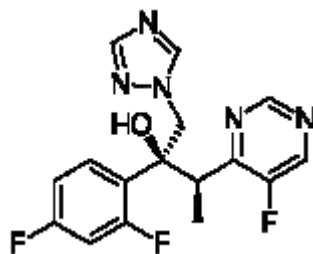
For advice on the management of overdose please contact the National Poisons Centre on 0800 POISON (0800 764766).

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antimycotics for systemic use, triazole derivatives, ATC code: J02AC03

The structural formula is:



CAS number 137234-62-9

Voriconazole is designated chemically as (2R, 3S)-2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-3-(5-fluoro-4-pyrimidinyl)-1-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-2-butanol with an empirical formula of $C_{16}H_{14}F_3N_5O$ and a molecular weight of 349.3.

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Mechanism of action

Voriconazole is a triazole antifungal agent. Voriconazole's primary mode of action is the inhibition of fungal cytochrome P-450-mediated 14 α -lanosterol demethylation, an essential step in ergosterol biosynthesis. Voriconazole is more selective than some other azole drugs for fungal as opposed to various mammalian cytochrome P-450 enzyme systems. The subsequent loss of normal sterols correlates with the accumulation of 14 α -methyl sterols in fungi and may be responsible for its fungistatic/fungicidal activity.

In vitro, voriconazole displays broad-spectrum antifungal activity with high 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* activity against emerging fungal pathogens, such as *Scedosporium* or *Fusarium*, some isolates of which have limited susceptibility to existing antifungal agents. In addition, voriconazole exhibits *in vitro* fungicidal activity against some strains within these species.

In animal studies there is a correlation between minimum inhibitory concentration values and efficacy against experimental mycoses. Furthermore, there appears to be a correlation between minimum inhibitory concentration values and clinical outcome for *Candida* species.

Microbiology

Clinical efficacy (with partial or complete response, see below - Clinical Efficacy and Safety) has been demonstrated for *Aspergillus* spp. including *A. flavus*, *A. fumigatus*, *A. terreus*, *A. niger*, *A. nidulans*, *Candida* spp., including *C. albicans*, *C. dubliniensis*, *C. glabrata*, *C. inconspicua*, *C. krusei*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. tropicalis* and *C. guilliermondii*, *Scedosporium* spp., including *S. apiospermum*, *S. prolificans* and *Fusarium* spp.

Other treated fungal infections (with often partial or complete response) included isolated cases of *Alternaria* spp., *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Blastoschizomyces capitatus*, *Cladosporium* spp., *Coccidioides immitis*, *Conidiobolus coronatus*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Exserohilum rostratum*, *Exophiala spinifera*, *Fonsecaea pedrosoi*, *Madurella mycetomatis*, *Paecilomyces lilacinus*, *Penicillium* spp including *P. marneffeii*, *Phialophora richardsiae*, *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis* and *Trichosporon* spp including *T. beigelii* infections.

In vitro activity against clinical isolates has been observed for *Acremonium* spp., *Alternaria* spp., *Bipolaris* spp., *Cladophialophora* spp, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, with most strains being inhibited by concentrations of voriconazole in the range 0.05 to 2 μ g/mL.

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

Specimens for fungal culture and other relevant laboratory studies (serology, histopathology) should be obtained to isolate and identify causative organisms prior to therapy. 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.

Clinical isolates with decreased susceptibility to voriconazole have been identified. However, elevated Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) did not always correlate with clinical failure and

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

clinical success has been observed in patients infected with organisms resistant to other azoles. Correlation of *in vitro* activity with clinical outcome is difficult owing to the complexity of the patients studied in clinical trials; breakpoints for voriconazole remain to be established.

Clinical Efficacy and Safety

Duration of Treatment

In clinical trials, 561 patients received voriconazole therapy for greater than 12 weeks, with 136 subjects receiving voriconazole for over 6 months.

Clinical Experience

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

Invasive Aspergillosis

The efficacy and survival benefit of voriconazole compared to conventional amphotericin B in the primary treatment of acute invasive aspergillosis was demonstrated in an open, randomised, multicentre study. The total duration of treatment was 12 weeks. Patients could be switched to Other Licensed Antifungal Therapy (OLAT) during the 12 week study period, either due to lack of efficacy of the initial randomised treatment (IRT) or for safety/tolerability reasons. Efficacy was assessed at 12 weeks (primary endpoint) and at the end of IRT by a Data Review Committee. 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 seven days, after which the oral formulation at a dose of 200 mg twice daily could be used. Patients in the comparator group received conventional amphotericin B as a slow infusion at a daily dose of 1.0-1.5 mg/kg/day.

In this study, 277 immunocompromised patients with invasive aspergillosis (modified intent to treat population) were evaluated. At week 12, a satisfactory global response (complete or partial resolution of all attributable symptoms, signs, radiographic/bronchoscopic abnormalities present at baseline) was seen in 53% of patients in the voriconazole group compared to 31% of patients in the comparator group. At the end of IRT, a satisfactory global response was seen in 53.5% of voriconazole treated patients compared to 21.8% of conventional amphotericin B treated patients. Subjects in the voriconazole group were treated longer than subjects in the amphotericin B group before switching to OLAT (median duration of IRT was 73 vs 12 days respectively). OLAT included liposomal amphotericin B formulations, itraconazole and flucytosine. Survival in the voriconazole group (71%) was greater than in the comparator group (58%) at week 12.

Efficacy of Voriconazole in the Primary Treatment of Acute Invasive Aspergillosis

	Satisfactory Global Response	Survival at Week 12 ^b	Discontinuations due to AEs ^c
	Study 307/602 ^a	Study 307/602	Study 307/602
Voriconazole	76/144 (53%) ^e	102/144 (71%)	40/196 (20%)
Comparator	42/133 (31%) ^{d,e}	77/133 (58%)	103/185 (56%)
	p < 0.0001	p = 0.02	--

a MITT (modified intent to treat) population assessed by independent Data Review Committee

b MITT population proportion of subjects alive

c Safety population discontinuations from initial randomised treatment due to adverse events/laboratory abnormalities (all causality)

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

d Amphotericin B

e Response rate stratified by protocol

The results of this comparative trial confirmed the results of an earlier trial in the primary treatment of patients with acute invasive aspergillosis. In this study, an overall success rate of 54% was seen in patients treated with voriconazole.

Voriconazole successfully treated cerebral, sinus, pulmonary and disseminated aspergillosis in patients with bone marrow and solid organ transplants, haematological malignancies, cancer and AIDS.

Serious *Candida* Infections

Systemic *Candida* Infections

The efficacy of voriconazole compared to the regimen of (conventional) amphotericin B followed by fluconazole in the primary treatment of candidaemia was demonstrated in an open comparative study (number 150-608). Three hundred and seventy (370) nonneutropenic patients with documented candidaemia (positive blood culture and clinical signs of infection) were included in the study, of which 248 were treated with voriconazole. The patient population was seriously ill, with approximately 50% of subjects in the intensive care unit and 40% mechanically ventilated at baseline. The median treatment duration was 15 days in both treatment arms. A successful response (resolution/improvement in all clinical signs and symptoms of infection, blood cultures negative for *Candida*, infected deep tissue sites negative for *Candida*) was seen in 41% of patients in both treatment arms 12 weeks after the End of Therapy (EOT). In this analysis, patients who did not have an assessment 12 weeks after EOT were set to failure. According to a secondary analysis, which compared response rates at the latest time point most relevant to the evaluation of the patient (EOT, or 2, 6, or 12 weeks after EOT, which is more appropriate for this type of study), voriconazole and the regimen of amphotericin B followed by fluconazole had response rates of 65% and 71%, respectively.

Forty-seven percent of isolated pathogens in the voriconazole treatment group were from non-*albicans* species, including *C.glabrata* and *C.krusei*, although *C.albicans* was the most commonly isolated species in the small subgroup of patients (n = 14) with confirmed deep tissue infections. When considering response at 12 weeks after EOT by pathogen, the success rates were comparable between voriconazole (43%) and amphotericin B followed by fluconazole (46%) for baseline *Candida albicans* infections. Success rates were more favourable with voriconazole (38.6%) than with amphotericin followed by fluconazole (32.3%) for baseline non-*albicans* infections.

Refractory *Candida* Infections

A study that combined results of 2 open-label, non-comparative trials) assessed voriconazole in the treatment of fungal infections in patients refractory to, or intolerant of, other antifungal medications. Of the 301 patients assessed for efficacy, 87 patients had serious candidiasis: 38 had oesophageal candidiasis and 47 had invasive candidiasis, of which 26 patients had deep tissue *Candida* infections. The median duration of IV therapy was 11 days (range 1-138 days) and of oral therapy was 81 days (range 1-326 days). Overall 25/47 (53.2%) of invasive candidiasis subjects had a successful response, with 16/47 (34.0%) having a complete response and 9/47 (19.1%) having a partial response; 6/47 (12.8%) were assessed as stable. Of the subjects with deep tissue *Candida* infection, 14/26 (53.8%) had a successful response, with 8/26 (30.8%) having a complete response, 6/26 (23.1%) having a partial response and 5/26 (19.2%) assessed as stable.

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Oesophageal Candidiasis

This was studied in a randomised, double-blind, comparative study versus oral fluconazole in immunocompromised patients with endoscopically-proven oesophageal candidiasis. 200 patients were randomised to receive voriconazole (200 mg twice daily) and 191 to receive fluconazole (400 mg once daily on day 1 followed by 200 mg once daily from day 2 onwards). Over half of the patients in each group had advanced AIDS with CD4 cell counts <50 cells/ μ L. Outcome was assessed by repeat endoscopy at day 43 or the end of therapy. Voriconazole and fluconazole showed equivalent efficacy against oesophageal candidiasis in the per protocol and intention to treat analysis.

Efficacy of Voriconazole in the Treatment of Oesophageal Candidiasis

Treatment	Success/total (%)	
	PP	ITT
Voriconazole	113/115 (98%)	175/200 (88%)
Fluconazole	134/141 (95%)	171/191 (90%)

Other Serious Fungal Pathogens

The efficacy, safety and tolerability of voriconazole in the treatment of systemic and invasive fungal infections in patients failing, or intolerant to other therapy, or for invasive fungal infections due to pathogens for which there is no licensed therapy was assessed in two, open, non-comparative studies. A total of 301 patients were evaluated for efficacy, of whom 72 cases had invasive infections due to fungal pathogens other than *Aspergillus* spp. or *Candida* spp.

Patients received an initial intravenous loading dose of 6 mg/kg q12h or an oral loading dose of 400 mg for the first 24 hours, followed by maintenance dosing with 4 mg/kg q12h or 200 mg twice daily, respectively, for up to 12 weeks. The primary endpoint was satisfactory global response at End of Therapy, defined as 'complete' or 'partial' global response.

Overall 39/72 (54.2%) subjects with other (non-*Aspergillus*, non-*Candida*) serious fungal infections had a satisfactory global outcome at end of voriconazole therapy.

In pooled analyses of patients enrolled across the development program, including those from the combined studies, voriconazole was shown to be effective against the following additional fungal pathogens:

Scedosporium spp.- Successful response to voriconazole therapy was seen in 16 of 28 patients with *S. apiospermum* and in 2 of 7 patients with *S. prolificans* infection. In addition, a successful response was seen in 1 of 3 patients with mixed organism infections.

Fusarium spp.- Seven of 17 patients were successfully treated with voriconazole. Of these seven patients, 3 had eye, 1 had sinus, and 3 had disseminated infection. Four additional patients with fusariosis had an infection caused by several organisms; two of them had a successful outcome.

The majority of patients receiving voriconazole treatment for rare fungal infections were intolerant of, or refractory to, prior antifungal therapy.

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Other successfully treated fungal infections included isolated cases of: *Alternaria* spp., *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Blastoschizomyces capitatus*, *Cladosporium* spp., *Coccidioides immitis*, *Conidiobolus coronatus*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Exserohilum rostratum*, *Exophiala spinifera*, *Fonsecaea pedrosoi*, *Madurella mycetomatis*, *Paecilomyces lilacinus*, *Penicillium* spp including *P. marneffeii*, *Phialophora richardsiae*, *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis*, and *Trichosporon* spp. including *T. beigelii* infections.

Paediatric Use

Fifty-three pediatric 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 (ICC), or esophageal candidiasis (EC) requiring either primary or salvage therapy, of whom 17 patients were included in the MITT efficacy analyses. Of the total of 31 patients included in the MITT analyses, 14 patients were 2 to <12 years old (5 patients with IA, and 9 patients with ICC or EC) and 17 patients were 12 to <18 years old (9 patients with IA, and 8 patients with ICC or EC). The overall rates of global response were 64.3% (9/14) at 6 weeks for patients with IA, 85.7% (6/7) at EOT for patients with ICC, and 70% (7/10) at EOT for patients with EC. In subjects with IA, the success rate was 40% (2/5) for patients 2 to <12 years and 77.8% (7/9) for patients 12 to <18 years of age.

Clinical Studies Examining QT Interval

A placebo-controlled, randomised, single-dose, crossover study to evaluate the effect on the QT interval of healthy volunteers was conducted with three oral doses of voriconazole and ketoconazole. 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 ketoconazole 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. Subjects who were CYP2C19 genotype poor metabolisers were excluded from this study however the dose of 1600 mg voriconazole achieved plasma concentrations of approximately 5,400 to 16,900 ng/mL which covered the exposure seen in 95% of patients in Phase 2/3 trials where poor metabolisers were not excluded.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Pharmacokinetics

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 haematopoietic 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

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

increase in exposure (AUC_{τ}) (area under the plasma concentration time curve over the 12-hour dosing interval) while increasing the intravenous dose from 3 mg/kg twice daily to 4 mg/kg twice daily produces a 2.3-fold increase in exposure. When the recommended intravenous or oral loading dose regimens are administered, plasma 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 to 2 hours after dosing. The oral bioavailability of voriconazole is estimated to be 96%. Bioequivalence has been established between the 200 mg tablet and the 40 mg/mL oral suspension when administered as a 200 mg dose.

When multiple doses of voriconazole are administered with high fat meals, C_{max} and AUC_{τ} of the tablets are reduced by 34% and 24%, respectively, and C_{max} and AUC_{τ} of the suspension are reduced by 58% and 37%, 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.

Metabolism

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 (AUC_{τ}) 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.

Excretion

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

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

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 3 mg/kg (intravenously) or 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.

Pharmacokinetic-Pharmacodynamic (PK/PD) Relationships

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.

PK/PD analyses of clinical trial data identified positive associations between plasma voriconazole concentrations and both LFT abnormalities and visual disturbances.

Pharmacokinetics in Special Patient Groups

Gender

In an oral multiple dose study, C_{max} and AUC_t 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 AUC_t were observed between healthy elderly males and healthy elderly females (≥ 65 years).

In clinical studies, 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 AUC_t 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 AUC_t 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.

Paediatrics

The recommended intravenous dose in paediatric patients is based on a population pharmacokinetic analysis of data pooled from 82 immunocompromised paediatric patients aged 2 to <12 years old who were evaluated in three pharmacokinetic studies (examining and 8 mg/kg twice daily and multiple oral suspension doses of 4 and 6 mg/kg twice daily). The majority of patients received more than one dose level with a maximum duration of dosing of 30 days. A comparison of the paediatric and adult population pharmacokinetic data indicated that in order to obtain comparable exposures to those obtained in adults following intravenous maintenance doses of 4 mg/kg twice daily,

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

intravenous maintenance doses of 7 mg/kg twice daily are required in paediatric patients. The higher intravenous maintenance dose in paediatric patients relative to adults reflects the higher elimination capacity in paediatric patients due to a greater liver mass to body mass ratio. In order to obtain comparable exposures to those obtained in adults following intravenous maintenance doses of 3 mg/kg twice daily, intravenous maintenance doses of 4 mg/kg twice daily are required in paediatric patients. Based on the population pharmacokinetic analysis, no loading dose or dosage adjustment according to age is warranted in patients aged 2 to <12 years old.

The recommended oral dose in paediatrics is based on a population pharmacokinetic analysis data obtained from 47 immunocompromised paediatric patients aged 2 to <12 years old who were evaluated in a pharmacokinetic study examining multiple oral suspension doses of 4 to 6 mg/kg twice daily. A comparison of the paediatric and adult population pharmacokinetic data indicated that in order to obtain comparable exposures to those obtained in adults following a maintenance dose of 200 mg twice daily, the same dose of 200 mg of oral solution twice daily is required in paediatric patients, independent of body weight. In paediatric patients there is a general trend towards low bioavailability at lower body weights and high bioavailability at higher body weights (towards the extent demonstrated in adults). Based on the population pharmacokinetic analysis, no dosage adjustment according to age or weight is warranted in patients aged 2 to <12 years old at the 200 mg twice daily oral solution dosing regimen. A loading dose is not indicated in paediatric patients. Oral bioavailability may however be limited in paediatric patients with malabsorption and very low body weight for their age. In that case, intravenous voriconazole administration is recommended.

Renal Impairment

In patients with normal renal function, the pharmacokinetic profile of hydroxypropylbetadex, an ingredient of voriconazole intravenous formulation, has a short half-life of 1 to 2 hours, and demonstrates no accumulation following successive daily doses.

In healthy subjects and in patients with mild to severe renal insufficiency, the majority (>85%) of an 8 g dose of hydroxypropylbetadex is eliminated in the urine.

In subjects with mild, moderate, and severe renal impairment, half-life values were increased over normal values by approximately two-, four-, and six-fold, respectively. In these patients, successive infusions may result in accumulation of hydroxypropylbetadex until steady state is reached.

Hydroxypropylbetadex is removed by hemodialysis, with a clearance of 37.5 ± 24 ml/min.

In a single oral dose (200 mg) study in subjects with normal renal function and mild (creatinine clearance 41-60 mL/min) to severe (creatinine clearance <20 mL/min) renal impairment, the pharmacokinetics of voriconazole were not significantly affected by renal impairment. The plasma protein binding of voriconazole was similar in subjects with different degrees of renal impairment. In patients with moderate to severe renal dysfunction (creatinine clearance < 50 mL/min), accumulation of the intravenous vehicle, hydroxypropylbetadex, occurs. Oral voriconazole should be administered to patients with moderate to severe renal dysfunction including dialysis patients, unless an assessment of the benefit risk to the patient justifies the use of intravenous voriconazole. Serum creatinine levels should be closely monitored in these patients, and if increases occur, consideration should be given to changing to oral voriconazole therapy (see section 4.2).

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

A pharmacokinetic study in subjects with renal failure undergoing haemodialysis showed that voriconazole is dialysed with clearance of 121 mL/min. The intravenous vehicle, hydroxypropylbetadex, is haemodialysed with clearance of 37.5 ± 24 ml/min. A 4-hour haemodialysis session does not remove a sufficient amount of voriconazole to warrant dose adjustment.

Hepatic Impairment

After a single oral dose (200 mg), AUC was 233% higher in subjects with mild to moderate hepatic cirrhosis (Child-Pugh A and B) compared with subjects with normal hepatic function. Protein binding of voriconazole was not affected by impaired hepatic function.

In a multiple oral dose study, AUC_t was similar in subjects with moderate hepatic cirrhosis (Child-Pugh B) given maintenance doses of 100 mg twice daily and subjects with normal hepatic function given 200 mg twice daily. No pharmacokinetic data are available for patients with severe hepatic cirrhosis (Child-Pugh C) (see section 4.2).

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Repeated-dose toxicity studies with voriconazole indicated the liver to be the target organ. Hepatotoxicity occurred at plasma exposures similar to those obtained at therapeutic doses in humans, in common with other antifungal agents. In rats, mice and dogs, voriconazole also induced minimal adrenal changes. Conventional studies of safety pharmacology, genotoxicity or carcinogenic potential did not reveal a special hazard for humans.

In reproduction studies, voriconazole was shown to be teratogenic in rats and embryotoxic in rabbits at systemic exposures equal to those obtained in humans with therapeutic doses. In the pre and postnatal development study in rats at exposures lower than those obtained in humans with therapeutic doses, voriconazole prolonged the duration of gestation and labour and produced dystocia with consequent maternal mortality and reduced perinatal survival of pups. The effects on parturition are probably mediated by species-specific mechanisms, involving reduction of oestradiol levels, and are consistent with those observed with other azole antifungal agents. Voriconazole administration induced no impairment of male or female fertility in rats at exposures similar to those obtained in humans at therapeutic doses.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Hydroxypropylbetadex
Hydrochloric acid (for pH adjustment)
Sodium chloride

6.2 Incompatibilities

Blood Products and Electrolyte Supplementation

Voriconazole must not be infused concomitantly with any blood product or any short-term infusion of concentrated solution of electrolytes, even if the two infusions are running in separate lines.

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

Electrolyte disturbances such as hypokalaemia, hypomagnesaemia and hypocalcaemia should be corrected prior to initiation of voriconazole therapy (see section 4.4, Cardiovascular).

Intravenous solutions containing (non-concentrated) electrolytes

Voriconazole can be infused at the same time as other intravenous solutions containing (nonconcentrated) electrolytes, but must be infused through a separate line.

Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN)

Voriconazole can be infused at the same time as total parenteral nutrition, but must be infused in a separate line. If infused through a multiple-lumen catheter, TPN needs to be administered using a different port from the one used for voriconazole.

Voriconazole must not be diluted with 4.2% Sodium Bicarbonate Infusion. Compatibility with other concentrations is unknown.

Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion must not be mixed with other medicinal products except those mentioned in section 6.6.

6.3 Shelf life

Unopened: 2 years.

Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion is a single dose unpreserved sterile lyophilised powder that should be stored below 25°C.

Following reconstitution of the vial with Water for Injections or 9 mg/ml (0.9%) Sodium Chloride for Injection, to 10 mg/mL, the Voriconazole 200mg reconstituted concentrate can be stored at 2°C to 8°C in a refrigerator for up to 24 hours prior to use (see section 4.2).

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion is a single dose unpreserved sterile lyophilised powder that should be stored below 25°C.

Following reconstitution of the vial with Water for Injections or 9 mg/ml (0.9%) Sodium Chloride for Injection, to 10 mg/mL, the Voriconazole 200mg reconstituted concentrate can be stored at 2°C to 8°C in a refrigerator for up to 24 hours prior to use (see section 4.2).

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion is supplied as a sterile lyophilised powder in single use 25 mL clear glass vials. Packs of 1.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion is supplied in single use vials. The powder should be reconstituted with 19 mL of Water for Injection or 19 ml of 9 mg/ml (0.9%) Sodium Chloride for Injection. Shake thoroughly to give a clear concentrate containing 10 mg/mL of voriconazole and an extractable volume of 20 mL. It is recommended that a standard 20 mL (non-automated) syringe be

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

used to ensure that the exact amount (19.0 mL) of Water for Injections (or Sodium Chloride for Injection) is dispensed. Discard the vial if a vacuum does not pull the diluent into the vial.

For administration, the required volume of the reconstituted concentrate is added to a recommended compatible infusion solution (detailed below) to obtain a final solution containing voriconazole at a concentration between 0.5 mg/mL and 5 mg/mL. Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion should be administered at a maximum rate of 3 mg/kg per hour over 1 to 2 hours and not as a bolus injection.

Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion contains no antimicrobial agent. To reduce microbiological hazard, use as soon as practicable after reconstitution. If storage is necessary, hold at 2°C to 8°C for not more than 24 hours. Product is for single use in one patient only. Discard any residue. Only clear solutions without particles should be used.

Chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 24 hours at 2°C to 8°C.

The reconstituted solution can be diluted with:

- 0.9% Sodium Chloride Intravenous Infusion
- Compound Sodium Lactate Intravenous Infusion
- 5% Glucose and Compound Sodium Lactate Intravenous Infusion
- 5% Glucose and 0.45% Sodium Chloride Intravenous Infusion
- 5% Glucose Intravenous Infusion
- 5% Glucose in 20 mEq Potassium Chloride Intravenous Infusion
- 0.45% Sodium Chloride Intravenous Infusion
- 5% Glucose and 0.9% Sodium Chloride Intravenous Infusion

The compatibility of Voriconazole 200mg, Powder for Infusion with diluents other than those described above is unknown (see section 6.2).

7 MEDICINE SCHEDULE

Prescription Medicine

8 SPONSOR

Max Health Ltd, P O Box 65 231, Mairangi Bay, Auckland 0754

Ph:(09) 815 2664.

9 DATE OF FIRST APPROVAL

23 November 2017

NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

21 January 2020

SUMMARY TABLE OF CHANGES

Date of Revision	Section Changed	Summary of new information
21 Jan 2020	4.4 4.8	Inclusion of information on drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS).