

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL QUESTION & ANSWER BROCHURE

Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion

JCSH PHARMA LIMITED

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	What is the purpose of this brochure?	3
2	What is Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?	3
3	What should I know about phototoxicity and skin squamous cell carcinoma risk associated with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?	3
4	What should I know about patient management to minimise the risk of photosensitivity and squamous cell carcinoma with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?	4
5	What do I need to know about the hepatic risk associated with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?	4
6	What are the knowledge and the recommendations regarding patients with hepatic impairment?	5
7	What should I know about safety monitoring to minimise the hepatotoxicity risk of Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?	5
8	What tools are available to help me for the monitoring of my patients?	6
9	What should I discuss with my patient?	6
10	Where can I obtain further information?	7
11	How do I report Adverse Reactions/Events?	7

1. What is the purpose of this brochure?

These questions and answers (Q&As) are provided by JCSH Pharma Limited for prescribers and other healthcare professionals (HCPs) involved in the treatment of patients with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion.

This document will enable you to:

- Understand what Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion is used for and how it should be used
- Be aware of important identified risks of phototoxicity, squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the skin and hepatic toxicity adverse reactions of Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion and how they should be mitigated and managed
- Understand what other tools are available to communicate and remind patients of these risks
- Provide important safety information to patients

Please also familiarise yourself with the complete Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC), which can be downloaded via the MHRA website, [MHRA Products | Home](#) before prescribing or dispensing Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion.

2. What is Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?

Voriconazole is a broad spectrum, triazole antifungal agent and is indicated in adults and children aged 2 years and above as follows:

- Treatment of invasive aspergillosis.
- Treatment of candidemia in non-neutropenic patients.
- Treatment of fluconazole-resistant serious invasive *Candida* infections (including *C. krusei*).
- Treatment of serious fungal infections caused by *Scedosporium* spp. and *Fusarium* spp.

Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion should be administered primarily to patients with progressive, possibly life-threatening infections.

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

3. What should I know about phototoxicity and skin squamous cell carcinoma risk associated with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?

Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion has been associated with phototoxicity reactions.

Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin has also been reported in patients receiving Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion, some of whom have reported prior phototoxic reactions.

4. What should I know about patient management to minimise the risk of phototoxicity and squamous cell carcinoma with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?

All patients, including children, and their parents or caregivers, should be educated about avoiding exposure to direct sunlight during Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion treatment and using measures such as protective clothing and sufficient sunscreen with high sun protection factor (SPF).

Patients should be asked to inform you immediately of the occurrence of sunburn or severe skin reaction following exposure to light or sun.

If phototoxic reactions occur, multidisciplinary advice (e.g., a consultation with a dermatologist) should be sought for the patient. Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion discontinuation and use of alternative antifungal agents should be considered.

Dermatological evaluation should be performed on a systematic and regular basis, whenever Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion is continued despite the occurrence of phototoxicity-related lesions to allow early detection and management of pre-malignant lesions. Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion treatment should be discontinued if pre-malignant skin lesions or squamous cell carcinoma are identified.

Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin has been reported in relation with long-term Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion therapy. Treatment duration with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion should be as short as possible. Long-term exposure (treatment or prophylaxis) greater than 180 days (6 months) requires careful assessment of the benefit risk balance and physicians should therefore consider the need to limit the exposure to Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion.

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

For prophylaxis use, dose adjustments are not recommended in the case of lack of efficacy or treatment related adverse events. In the case of treatment-related adverse events, discontinuation of Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion and use of alternative antifungal agents must be considered.

5. What do I need to know about the hepatic risk associated with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?

Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion has been associated with hepatic toxicity. In clinical trials, there have been uncommon 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.

6. What are the knowledge and the recommendations regarding patients with hepatic impairment?

There are limited data on the safety of Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion in patients with abnormal liver function tests (LFTs) (aspartate transaminase [AST], alanine transaminase [ALT], alkaline phosphatase [AP], or total bilirubin >5 times the upper limit of normal [ULN]).

Patients with hepatic impairment must be carefully monitored for drug toxicity. In patients with severe hepatic impairment, Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion must only be used if the benefit outweighs the potential risk.

In patients with mild to moderate hepatic cirrhosis (Child-Pugh A and B) receiving Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion, it is recommended that the standard loading dose regimens be used but that the maintenance dose be halved. Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion has not been studied in patients with severe chronic hepatic cirrhosis (Child-Pugh C).

7. What should I know about safety monitoring to minimise the hepatotoxicity risk of Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion?

Both children and adult patients receiving Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion 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 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion and at least weekly for the first month of treatment.**

Treatment should be as short as possible. However, if based on the benefit-risk assessment the treatment is continued, and if there are no changes in the LFTs, monitoring frequency can be reduced to monthly.

If the LFTs become markedly elevated, Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion use should be discontinued, unless medical judgment of the risk-benefit of the treatment justifies continued use.

For prophylaxis use, dose adjustments are not recommended in the case of lack of efficacy or treatment related adverse events. In the case of treatment-related adverse events, discontinuation of Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion and use of alternative antifungal agents must be considered.

8. What tools are available to help me for the monitoring of my patients?

THE HCP CHECKLIST

The HCP Checklist is a recommended tool. It is designed to help you evaluate and discuss the risks of phototoxicity, SCC of the skin and hepatic toxicity with your patients before prescribing Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion. This will remind you to closely monitor patients who develop phototoxicity and to refer them for regular dermatological consultation to minimise the risk of developing SCC of the skin, as well as to monitor liver function at the initiation of, and on a regular basis during Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion treatment.

The completed checklist can be included within the patient chart to document that the patient has been informed of these risks. If other members of your team, such as junior doctors and specialist nurses, are involved in prophylaxis use or treating patients with severe fungal infections, the checklist is a useful educational aid.

THE PATIENT ALERT CARD

The Patient Alert Card is a folding card, which helps to remind patients about the need for dermatological evaluations on a regular basis (if phototoxic reactions occur). It also urges the patient to report phototoxic symptoms that increase the risk of SCC of the skin.

Additionally, it reminds patients:

- To avoid exposure to sunlight
- To use protective clothing and sufficient sunscreen with high sun protective factor (SPF)
- To inform their doctor if they develop sunburn or severe skin reactions

You are encouraged to fill in your contact details on the Patient Alert Card and give it to each patient receiving Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion treatment. Patients should be encouraged to carry this card during their daily activities.

If you need additional copies of the HCP Checklist, HCP Q&A Brochure or the Patient Alert Card, please contact JCSH Pharma Limited at office address, 5 Millmead, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4BE, United Kingdom.

<https://jcshpharma.co.uk/contact-us>

Tel: +44 (0) 1483 923111 or

Email: pv@jcshpharma.co.uk

9. What should I discuss with my patient?

Your role in educating patients about their treatment and its potential adverse effects is very important.

You will need to inform patients about:

- Important phototoxicity, SCC of the skin, and hepatic risks associated with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion

- The need for dermatological evaluation in case of phototoxicity and regular follow-up afterwards
- The need for patients (including children) to avoid exposure to direct sunlight during Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion treatment and to use measures such as protective clothing and sufficient sunscreen with high SPF.
- The need for patients to inform you immediately of the occurrence of sunburn or severe skin reaction following exposure to light or sun
- The need for liver function tests on a regular basis
- The need for patients to recognize symptoms and signs of liver toxicity (jaundice, unexplained vomiting, stomach pain, dark urine) and to report to you immediately

You should give the patient a Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion **Patient Alert Card**, which reinforces the important risk of phototoxicity, and skin SCC associated with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion treatment and advise the patient to carry this card during their daily activities.

You should also remind the patient about this important safety information regularly during their treatment with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion.

10. Where can I obtain further information?

For further information please contact JCSH Pharma Limited at office address, 5 Millmead, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4BE, United Kingdom.

<https://jcshpharma.co.uk/contact-us>

Tel: +44 (0) 1483 923111 or

Email: pv@jcshpharma.co.uk

11. How do I report Adverse Reactions/Events?

It is important that you promptly report any adverse reactions associated with Voriconazole 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion to assist in fully characterising the product's safety profile.

Reporting can be done by contacting JCSH Pharma Limited at office address, 5 Millmead, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4BE, United Kingdom.

<https://jcshpharma.co.uk/contact-us>

Tel: +44 (0) 1483 923111 or

Email: pv@jcshpharma.co.uk

Alternatively, Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.