

# Venclexta

(venetoclax)



New Product  
Slideshow

MPR

# Introduction

- **Brand name:** Venclexta
- **Generic name:** Venetoclax
- **Pharmacological class:** BCL-2 inhibitor
- **Strength and Formulation:** 10mg, 50mg, 100mg; tablets
- **Manufacturer:** AbbVie
- **How supplied:** Starting Pack—1 (four weekly blisters); Wallets 10mg—14; 50mg—7; Tabs 100mg—120
- **Legal Classification:** Rx

# VENCLEXTA



# Indications

- **Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)** in patients with 17p deletion, as detected by an FDA-approved test, who have received at least 1 prior therapy

# Dosage & Administration

- Swallow whole
- Take with food and water
- Initially 20mg once daily for Week 1, then 50mg once daily for Week 2, then 100mg once daily for Week 3, then 200mg once daily for Week 4, then 400mg once daily for Week 5 and beyond until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity
- Risk assessment/prophylaxis for tumor lysis syndrome or dose modifications for toxicities: see full labeling

# Considerations for Special Populations

- **Pregnancy:** Avoid
- **Nursing mothers:** Not recommended
- **Pediatric:** Not established
- **Geriatric:** No overall differences in safety and efficacy
- **Hepatic impairment:** Moderate to severe impairment: monitor closely
- **Renal impairment:** Severe impairment or dialysis: no dose recommended

# Warnings/Precautions

- Risk of **tumor lysis syndrome** (esp. with high tumor burden, comorbidities, CrCl <80mL/min); perform tumor burden assessment, radiographic evaluation, blood chemistry; correct pre-existing abnormalities prior to initiation
- Premedicate with anti-hyperuricemics and ensure adequate hydration
- Monitor CBCs and for signs of **infection**; interrupt or reduce dose if severe neutropenia occurs

# Warnings/Precautions

- Embryo-fetal toxicity
- Females of reproductive potential: should undergo pregnancy testing prior to initiation
- Use effective contraception during and for  $\geq 1$  month after final dose

# Interactions

- See Contraindications
- Concomitant **strong CYP3A inhibitors** after ramp-up phase (eg, ketoconazole, conivaptan, clarithromycin, indinavir, itraconazole, lopinavir, ritonavir, telaprevir, posaconazole, voriconazole); avoid use or reduce venetoclax dose by  $\geq 75\%$

# Interactions

- Avoid concomitant **moderate CYP3A inhibitors** (eg, erythromycin, ciprofloxacin, diltiazem, dronedarone, fluconazole, verapamil) **or P-gp inhibitors** (eg, amiodarone, azithromycin, captopril, carvedilol, cyclosporine, felodipine, quercetin, quinidine, ranolazine, rifampin, ticagrelor); consider alternatives; if inhibitor necessary, reduce venetoclax dose by  $\geq 50\%$  and monitor closely

# Interactions

- Resume at prior venetoclax dose 2–3 days after discontinuing the inhibitor
- Avoid concomitant **strong CYP3A inducers** (eg, carbamazepine, phenytoin, rifampin, St. John's Wort) or **moderate CYP3A inducers** (eg, bosentan, efavirenz, etravirine, modafinil, nafcillin); consider alternatives
- Avoid live attenuated vaccines until B-cell recovery

# Interactions

- Avoid grapefruit, Seville oranges, and starfruit during treatment
- Monitor INR with concomitant warfarin
- Avoid **P-gp substrates with narrow therapeutic index** (eg, digoxin, everolimus, sirolimus); if necessary, take  $\geq 6$ hrs before venetoclax

# Adverse Reactions

- Neutropenia
- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Anemia
- Upper respiratory tract infection
- Thrombocytopenia
- Fatigue

# Mechanism of Action

- Venetoclax is a selective and orally bioavailable small-molecule inhibitor of BCL-2
- It helps restore the process of apoptosis by binding directly to the BCL-2 protein, displacing pro-apoptotic proteins, triggering mitochondrial outer membrane permeabilization and the activation of caspases
- In non-clinical studies, venetoclax demonstrated cytotoxic activity in tumor cells that overexpress BCL-2

# Pharmacokinetics

- **Distribution:** Highly bound to plasma protein
- **Metabolism:** CYP3A4/5 (major)
- **Elimination:** Fecal

# Clinical Trials

- The efficacy of Venclexta was established in an open-label, single-arm, multicenter trial (n=106) in patients with CLL with 17p deletion who had received at least 1 prior therapy
- Patients received Venclexta via a weekly ramp-up schedule starting at 20mg and ramping to 50mg, 100mg, 200mg, and finally 400mg once daily until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity

# Clinical Trials

- The efficacy of Venclexta was evaluated by **overall response rate (ORR)** as assessed by an Independent Review Committee (IRC) using the updated NCI-WG guidelines
- The median time on treatment at the time of evaluation was 12.1 months

# Clinical Trials

- **ORR** was seen in 80.2% of patients (95% CI: 71.3, 87.3) treated with Venclexta
- Complete remission was seen in 5.7% of patients and complete remission with incomplete marrow recovery was seen in 1.9% of patients
- Nodular partial remission was seen in 2.8% of patients
- Partial remission was seen in 69.8% of patients

# Clinical Trials

- The median time to first response was 0.8 months (range 0.1–8.1 months)
- For patients who achieved complete remission or complete remission with incomplete bone marrow recovery, 3% were minimal residual disease (MRD) negative in the peripheral blood and bone marrow
- For more clinical data, see full labeling

# New Product Monograph

- For more information view the product monograph available at:

<http://www.empr.com/venclexta/drug/34571/>