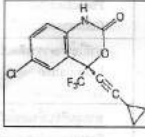


Efavirenz Tablets 600 mg

Therapeutic Category : Antiretroviral

Composition :
Each film coated tablet contains :
Efavirenz 600 mg

Structural Formula is :



Description :
Efavirenz is a human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) specific, non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). Efavirenz is chemically described as (4S)-6-chloro-4-(cyclopropylethynyl)-1,1-dihydro-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2H-3,1-benzoxazin-2-one. Its molecular formula is C₁₄H₉ClF₃NO₂. Efavirenz is a white or almost white powder with a molecular weight of 315.68.

Mechanism of action :
Efavirenz is a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase (RT) inhibitor of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1). Efavirenz activity is mediated predominantly by noncompetitive inhibition of HIV-1 (HIV-1 RT and human cellular DNA polymerases alpha, beta, gamma, and delta are not inhibited by efavirenz).

Indications :
Efavirenz tablets 600 mg in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

Dosage and administration :
The recommended dose of Efavirenz is 600 mg orally, once daily in combination with a reverse transcriptase inhibitor and/or nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). It is recommended that Efavirenz be taken on an empty stomach, preferably at bed time. The increased efavirenz concentrations observed following administration of efavirenz 600 mg with food may lead to an increase in frequency of adverse events. Bed time dosing improves the tolerability of efavirenz.

Contraindications :
It is recommended that Efavirenz be taken on an empty stomach, preferably at bed time. The following table describes the recommended dose of efavirenz for pediatric patients 3 years of age or older and weighing between 10 and 40 kg. The recommended dose of efavirenz for pediatric patients weighing greater than 40 kg is 600 mg once daily.

Table 1 : Pediatric dose to be administered once daily

Body weight (kg)	Efavirenz dose (mg)
10 to < 15	200
15 to < 20	250
20 to < 25	300
25 to < 32.5	350
32.5 to < 40	400
> 40	600

Warnings and Precautions :
Drug Interactions :
Efavirenz is an inducer of CYP3A4 in vivo. Other compounds that are substrates of CYP3A4 may have decreased plasma concentrations when coadministered with efavirenz. In vitro studies have demonstrated that efavirenz inhibits C₂C₉, C₂C₁₉ and 3A4 isoenzymes in the range of observed efavirenz concentrations. Administration of efavirenz with drugs primarily metabolized by these isoenzymes may result in lowered plasma concentrations of the coadministered drug. Therefore, appropriate dose adjustments may be necessary for these drugs. Drugs which induce CYP3A4 activity (e.g. Phenytoin, rifampin, rifabutin) would be expected to increase the clearance of efavirenz resulting in lowered plasma concentrations.

Table 2 : Drugs That Should Not Be Coadministered With Efavirenz

Drug Class	Drugs Within Class Not To Be Coadministered With Efavirenz
Antihistamines Benzodiazepines GI Motility Agents Anti-Migraine	Astemizole, midazolam, triazolam, Cisapride, ergot derivatives

Drug Name : Clarithromycin
Effect : clarithromycin concentration increased 14-OH metabolite concentration
Initial Comment : Plasma concentrations decreased by Efavirenz; clinical significance unknown. Uninfected volunteers, 46% developed rash while receiving Efavirenz and clarithromycin. No dose adjustment of Efavirenz is recommended when given with clarithromycin. Alternatives to clarithromycin, such as azithromycin, should be considered (see Other Drugs, following table). Other acrolide antibiotics, such as erythromycin, have not been studied in combination with Efavirenz.

Drug Name : Indinavir
Effect : Decreased indinavir concentration
Initial Comment : Increase indinavir dose from 800 mg to 1,000 mg every 8 hours.
Drug Name : Methadone
Effect : Decreased methadone concentration
Initial Comment : Coadministration in HIV-infected individuals with a history of injection drug use resulted in decreased plasma levels of methadone and signs of opiate withdrawal. Methadone dose is increased by a mean of 22% to alleviate withdrawal symptoms. Patients should be monitored for signs of withdrawal and their methadone dose increased as required to alleviate withdrawal symptoms.

Drug Name : Ethinyl estradiol
Effect : Increased ethinyl estradiol concentration
Initial Comment : Plasma concentrations increased by Efavirenz (efavirenz); clinical significance known. Because the potential interaction of efavirenz with oral contraceptives has not been fully characterized, a reliable method of barrier contraception should be used in addition to oral contraceptives.

Drug Name : Rifabutin
Effect : Decreased rifabutin concentration
Initial Comment : Increase daily dose of rifabutin by 50% Consider doubling the rifabutin dose in patients where rifabutin is given 2 or 3 times a week.

Drug Name : Rifampin
Effect : Decreased efavirenz concentration
Initial Comment : Clinical significance of reduced efavirenz concentrations unknown. Established drug interactions decreased.

Drug Name : Ritonavir
Effect : Increased ritonavir concentration, increased efavirenz concentration
Initial Comment : Combination was associated with a higher frequency of adverse clinical experiences (eg. dizziness, nausea, paresthesia) and laboratory abnormalities (elevated liver enzymes). Monitoring of liver enzymes is recommended when Efavirenz is used in combination with ritonavir.

Drug Name : Saquinavir
Effect : Decreased Saquinavir concentration
Initial Comment : Should not be used as sole protease inhibitor in combination with Efavirenz

Other potentially clinically significant drug or herbal product interactions with Efavirenz

Anticoagulants : Warfarin	Potentially increased or decreased by Efavirenz
Anticonvulsants : Phenytoin Phenobarbital Carbamazepine	Potential for reduction in anticonvulsant and/or efavirenz plasma levels; periodic monitoring of anticonvulsant plasma levels should be conducted.
Antifungals : Itraconazole Ketoconazole	Drug interaction studies with Efavirenz and these imidazole and triazole antifungals have not been conducted. Efavirenz has the potential to decrease plasma concentrations of itraconazole and ketoconazole.
Anti-HIV protease inhibitors : Saquinavir/ritonavir combination Amprenavir	No pharmacokinetic data are available. Efavirenz has the potential to decrease serum concentrations of amprenavir.
Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors	No studies have been performed with other NNRTIs.
St. John's wort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	Expected to substantially decrease plasma levels of efavirenz; has not been studied in combination with Efavirenz tablets.

General : Efavirenz must not be used as a single agent to treat HIV or added on as a sole agent to a failing regimen. As with all other non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, resistant virus emerges rapidly when efavirenz is administered as monotherapy. The choice of new antiretroviral agent(s) to be used in combination with efavirenz should take into consideration the potential for viral cross-resistance.

Psychiatric Symptoms : Serious psychiatric adverse experiences have been reported in patients treated with efavirenz. These include severe depression, suicidal ideation/attempts, aggressive behavior, paranoid reactions and manic reactions. Patients with a prior history of psychiatric disorders appear to be at greater risk for these psychiatric adverse experiences. Patients with serious psychiatric adverse experiences should seek immediate medical evaluation to assess the possibility that the symptoms may be related to the use of efavirenz, and if so, to determine whether the risk of continued therapy outweighs the benefits.

Skin Rash : Rash associated with blistering, moist desquamation or ulceration occurred in 0.9% of patients treated with efavirenz. The incidence of erythema multiforme or Stevens-Johnson Syndrome was approximately 0.1%. The median time to onset of rash in adults was 11 days and the median duration 16 days. The discontinuation rate for rash in clinical trials was 1.7%. Efavirenz must be discontinued in patients developing severe rash associated with blistering, desquamation, mucosal involvement or fever. Appropriate antihistamines and/or corticosteroids may improve the tolerability and hasten the resolution of rash.

Nervous System Symptoms : These include dizziness, insomnia, impaired concentration, somnolence, abnormal dreams and hallucinations. Nervous system symptoms usually begin during the first one or two days of therapy and generally resolve after the first 2-4 weeks. Patients should be informed that these common symptoms were likely to improve with continued therapy and were not predictive of subsequent onset of the less frequent psychiatric symptoms. Dosing at bedtime seems to improve the tolerability of these symptoms and can be recommended during the first weeks of therapy and in patients who continue to experience these symptoms. Patients should be alerted to the potential for additive central nervous system effects when efavirenz is used concomitantly with alcohol or psychoactive drugs. Patients who experience central nervous system symptoms such as dizziness, impaired concentration and/or drowsiness should avoid potentially hazardous tasks such as driving or operating machinery.

Convulsions : Convulsions have been observed infrequently in patients receiving efavirenz, generally in the presence of known medical history of seizures. Patients who are receiving concomitant anticonvulsant medications primarily metabolized by the liver, such as phenytoin, carbamazepine and Phenytoin, may require periodic monitoring of plasma levels. Caution must be taken in any patient with a history of seizures.

Liver Enzymes : In patients with known or suspected history of hepatitis B or C infection and in patients treated with other medications associated with liver toxicity, monitoring of liver enzymes is recommended. In patients with persistent elevations of serum transaminases to greater than 5 times the upper limit of normal range, the benefit of continued therapy with efavirenz needs to be weighed against the unknown risks of significant liver toxicity. Because of the extensive cytochrome P450-mediated metabolism of efavirenz and limited clinical experience in patients with hepatic impairment, caution must be exercised in administering efavirenz to these patients.

Cholesterol : Monitoring of cholesterol and triglycerides should be considered in patients treated with efavirenz. Fat Redistribution: Redistribution/accumulation of body fat, including central obesity, dorsocervical fat enlargement (buffalo hump), peripheral wasting, facial wasting, breast enlargement, and "cushingoid appearance", have been observed in patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. The mechanism and long term consequences of these events are currently unknown. A causal relationship has not been established.

Renal Impairment : The pharmacokinetics of efavirenz have not been studied in patients with renal insufficiency. However, less than 1% of efavirenz is excreted unchanged in the urine, so the impact of renal impairment on efavirenz elimination should be minimal.

Pregnancy : Category C. Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving efavirenz. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with the other methods of contraception (e.g. oral hormonal contraceptives). Women of childbearing potential should undergo pregnancy testing prior to initiation of efavirenz. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Efavirenz should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus, such as in pregnant women without other therapeutic options.

Lactation : Since animal data suggest that efavirenz may be passed into breast milk, it is recommended that mothers taking efavirenz do not breast feed their infants. It has also been recommended that HIV-infected women do not breast feed their infants in order to avoid transmission of HIV.

Side Effects : The most significant adverse events observed in patients treated with efavirenz are nervous system symptoms, psychiatric symptoms and rash. A few cases of pancreatitis have been described, although a causal relationship with efavirenz has not been established. Asymptomatic increases in serum amylase levels were observed in a significantly higher number of patients treated with efavirenz 600 mg than in control patients. Increases in total cholesterol of 10-20% have been observed in some uninfected volunteers receiving efavirenz. Other side effects are allergic reactions, asthenia, abnormal coordination, ataxia, convulsions, hypoesthesia, paraesthesia, neuropathy, tremor, gynaecomastia, constipation, malabsorption, flushing, palpitations, hepatic enzyme increase, hepatic failure, hypercholesterolaemia, hypertriglyceridaemia, arthralgia, myalgia, myopathy, aggressive reaction, agitation, delusions, emotional lability, mania, neurosis, paranoia, psychosis, suicide, dyspnea, erythema multiforme, nail disorders, skin discoloration, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, abnormal vision, tinnitus

Overdosage :
Some patients accidentally taking 600 mg twice daily have reported increased nervous system symptoms. One patient experienced involuntary muscle contractions. Treatment of overdose with efavirenz should consist of general supportive measures, including monitoring of vital signs and observation of the patient's clinical status. Administration of activated charcoal may be used to aid removal of unabsorbed efavirenz. There is no specific antidote for overdose with efavirenz. Since efavirenz is highly protein bound, dialysis is unlikely to remove significant quantities from blood.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE REACH OF CHILDREN

Storage : Store in a dry place, below 25°C. Protect from light.

Presentation :
Efavirenz Tablets 600 mg : 30 Tablets in a HDPE container.

Manufactured by :
Emcure[®]
PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.
Hinjawdi, Pune 411 057, INDIA.

Imported and Distributed by :
The Government Pharmaceutical
Organization, Bangkok, Thailand

