

Selected Properties of Ritonavir

Other names	Norvir®, ABT-538
Manufacturer	Abbott Canada
Pharmacology/Mechanism of Action	HIV aspartic protease is critical in the post-translational processing of the polyprotein products of gag and gag-pol genes into the functional core proteins and viral enzymes. Inhibition of viral protease prevents cleavage of the gag-pol polyprotein thus producing immature, non-infectious virions.
Activity	IC90: 0.11 uM (in vitro) WT IC50: 0.007-0.0436 uM (Phenosense)
Resistance - genotypic	Mutations in the protease gene associated with resistance to protease inhibitors (IAS-USA Fall 2005 Resistance Mutations): Major: V82A/F/T/S, I84V Minor: L10F/I/R/V, K20R/M, V32I, L33F, M36I, M46I/L, I50V, I54V/L, A71V/T, V77I, L90M <i>*as major & minor mutations accumulate, susceptibility to PIs decreases</i>
Resistance - phenotypic	Phenotypic data on clinical virus isolates associated with various mutations using ViroLogic PhenoSense™ (http://hivdb.stanford.edu/): V82A/T/F/S : 1.3- to 4-fold ↑ 84V: 4.3-fold ↑ 84V, 90M: 17-fold ↑ 54V, 82A, 90M: 84-fold ↑ (high resistance) 54V, 82A: 22-fold ↑ 46I/V, 54V, 82A: 30- to 40-fold ↑ (high resistance)
Cross-Resistance	Cross- resistance with other PI's seen.
Oral Bioavailability	Absolute bioavailability not determined.
Effect of Food	food ↑ AUC by 13% (capsules)
Protein Binding	98-99% (albumin and AAG)
Vd	0.41 ± 0.25 L/kg
Tmax	2 (fasting), 4 (with food)
serum T ½	3-5 hours

Drug Concentrations	Cmax: 11.2 ± 3.6 ug/mL, Cmin 3.7 ±2.6 ug/mL (600mg q12h) In vivo intracellular accumulation: cell/plasma ratio 1.0 (range 0.6-2.28).
Minimum target trough concentrations (for wildtype virus)	2.1 mg/mL
CSF (% of serum)	CSF concentrations usually < 0.05 mg/L (may have similar unbound drug concentrations as plasma)
Metabolism	- metabolic auto-induction occurs in first 2 weeks- dose escalation necessary to avoid overdosing and minimize side-effects Ritonavir is metabolized to 5 major metabolites Ritonavir is the most potent inhibitor of the P450 enzyme system (CYP3A>2D6>2C9>2C19>2A6,2E1). Ritonavir also induces CYP1A2 and glucuronyl transferase activity. May also induce CYP2C9, 2C19. - isopropylthiazole oxidation metabolite(M-2) has activity similar to ritonavir, but conc. are low
Excretion	- 86% biliary/ fecal - 11% renal
Dosing – Adult	-High dose: 600 mg po q12h; for better tolerability, start with 300 mg BID and increase dose at 2 to 3 day intervals by 100mg BID. Low dose (for boosting other PIs): due to intolerance to RTV at high doses, ritonavir is mainly in lower doses as a metabolic booster of other PIs. The dosage varies depending on the respective drug used. See drug interaction tables for more detailed dosing. -Take with meals; To improve palatability, mix solution with Ensure or chocolate milk within 1 hour of dosing.

<p>Dosing – Pediatric</p>	<p><u>For children 1 month-2 years of age:</u> The recommended dosage of ritonavir in children > 1 month is 350 to 400 mg/m² twice daily by mouth and should not exceed 600 mg twice daily. Ritonavir should be started at 250 mg/m² and increased at 2 to 3 day intervals by 50 mg/m² twice daily. If patients do not tolerate 400 mg/m² twice daily due to adverse events, the highest tolerated dose may be used for maintenance therapy in combination with other antiretroviral agents, however, alternative therapy should be considered.</p> <p>General Pediatric Dosing: 400 mg/m²/dose po bid range: 350-400 mg/m²/dose po bid</p> <p>Initial: start at 250 mg/m²/dose & ↑ dose over 5 days: 250 mg/m²/dose x 2/7 (or ↑ dose by 100 mg cap), then 300 mg/m²/dose x 2/7, then 350 mg/m²/dose 1/7, then 400 mg/m²/dose po bid</p> <p>Neonatal (≤ 12 hrs postbirth) PACTG 354: <i>Protocol Dose:</i> 350 mg/m²/dose po bid x 4 wks</p>
<p>Special instructions for pediatric patients</p>	<p>When possible, dose should be administered using a calibrated dosing syringe.</p> <p>Liquid is unpalatable, bad aftertaste</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dull taste buds: give after popsicle or frozen juice 2) Give with fat: ice cream, high fat yogurt, PC® Devon cream 3) Coat mouth: give after grape jelly, maple syrup or peanut butter on toast 4) Mix with: formula, milk, chocolate milk, ice cream, pudding, maple syrup, Tang®, Ensure® 5) Give strong flavour after dose: maple syrup, cheese, strong-flavoured chewing gum <p>- flush g-tube with milk or enteral feed</p> <p>Avoid co-administration of amprenavir solution with ritonavir solution. A competitive metabolic interaction with propylene glycol contained in amprenavir (550 mg/ml) & ethanol in ritonavir (43% v/v ethanol) may occur. Both are substrates of alcohol dehydrogenase.</p>
<p>Adjust in Liver Dysfunction</p>	<p>No dosage recommendation available, use with caution in hepatic impairment.</p>
<p>Adjust in Renal Failure/Dialysis</p>	<p>Dosage adjustment not necessary. May administer drug regardless of hemodialysis schedule.</p>

<p>Toxicity</p>	<p>Most of these toxicities are dose-related. When RTV is used in low doses, the toxicity is decreased.</p> <p>GI: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, dyspepsia, abdominal discomfort, anorexia, taste disturbances, dehydration± syncope/ hypotension/ renal insufficiency, pancreatitis</p> <p>Hepatic: ↑ transaminases >5x (2-15%), jaundice, (↑ risk in HBV/HCV), hepatotoxic fatalities reported</p> <p><u>Caution in liver failure, liver enzyme abnormalities, or hepatitis</u></p> <p>CNS: perioral & peripheral paresthesias, asthenia, headache, fatigue, weakness, light-headedness, seizures</p> <p>Other: Protease class effects include: hyperlipidemia, hypertriglyceridemia, hyperglycemia, fat maldistribution, weight gain, increase in LFTs, hepatitis, increased bleeding in hemophiliacs, osteonecrosis.</p> <p>Solution contains alcohol.</p>
<p>Pregnancy & Lactation</p>	<p>Pregnancy risk category B. Minimal placental transfer in humans. Low drug levels in pregnancy, therefore use only in low-doses to boost the concentration of other PIs (i.e. saquinavir, indinavir, lopinavir).</p>
<p>Drug Interactions</p>	<p>Ritonavir is the most potent inhibitor of the P450 enzyme system (CYP3A>2D6>2C9>2C19>2A6,2E1). Ritonavir also induces CYP1A2 and glucuronyl transferase activity. May also induce CYP2C9, 2C19.</p> <p>See Separate Drug Interaction Table</p> <p>The concomitant administration of ritonavir oral solution with disulfiram or other medicinal products that reduce alcohol metabolism (e.g. or preparations that contain alcohol) is contraindicated. Do not coadminister with amprenavir oral solution.</p>
<p>Baseline Assessment</p>	<p>Assess risk factors for diabetes, coronary artery disease, osteonecrosis (i.e. steroids, ETOH, diabetes, hyperlipidemia), and hepatic dysfunction (i.e. HBV/HCV, ETOH use). CBC/diff, LFTs, glucose, fasting cholesterol profile.</p>
<p>Routine Labs</p>	<p>CBC/diff, LFTs, glucose q 3 mos. Fasting lipids (8-12 hr level) q 3-6 months post-therapy, then annually. If TG > 2.3 mmol/L at baseline, repeat after 1-2 months.</p>

Dosage Forms	<p>100mg (white) soft gel capsules; DIN 02241480 Capsules contain lecithin and coconut oil. In Canada, ritonavir capsules are exposed to soy lecithin. As peanut and soy are from the same plant family, some patients allergic to peanuts may also be allergic to soy (consult an allergist prior to taking capsules).</p> <p>80mg/ml oral solution (240ml bottles); DIN 02229145 Both caps (12% v/v) & solution (43% v/v) contain ethanol.</p>
Storage	<p>Solution stable at room temperature and should be used by product expiration date; Caps should be refrigerated until dispensed, then stable for 30 days at room temperature. – photosensitive.</p>

References:

Ford J, Khoo SH, Back DJ. The intracellular pharmacology of antiretroviral protease inhibitors. JAC 2004 (advance on-line publication).

Izzedine H, Launay-Vacher V, Deray G. Pharmacokinetics of ritonavir and nevirapine in peritoneal dialysis. Nephrol Dial Transplant. 2001 Mar;16(3):643.

Revisions to Norvir Product Insert, October 6, 2006. Food and Drug Administration approved dosing recommendations for NORVIR (ritonavir) in pediatric patients one month to two years of age.