

Summary of Product Characteristics

1. Name of the medicinal product

Valsartan 24mg and Sacubitril 26mg Tablets

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition

Each film coated tablet contains:

Valsartan USP 24 mg

Sacubitril Sodium

Eq. to Sacubitril 26 mg

Excipients Q.S.

Colour Erythrosine

For excipients see section 6.1

3. Pharmaceutical form

Film coated tablet.

A pink coloured, round in shape, biconvex, having plain on both sides film-coated tablet.

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Indications

Adult heart failure

Sacubitril/Valsartan is indicated in adult patients for treatment of symptomatic chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction.

Paediatric heart failure

Sacubitril/Valsartan is indicated in children and adolescents aged one year or older for treatment of symptomatic chronic heart failure with left ventricular systolic dysfunction.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

General considerations

Sacubitril/Valsartan Tablets should not be co-administered with an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor or an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB). Due to the potential risk of angioedema when used concomitantly with an ACE inhibitor, it must not be started for at least 36 hours after discontinuing ACE inhibitor therapy.

The valsartan contained within Sacubitril/Valsartan Tablet is more bioavailable than the valsartan in other marketed tablet formulations.

If a dose is missed, the patient should take the next dose at the scheduled time.

Adult heart failure

The recommended starting dose of Sacubitril/Valsartan is one tablet of 49 mg/51 mg twice daily, except in the situations described below. The dose should be doubled at 2-4 weeks to the target dose of one tablet of 97 mg/103 mg twice daily, as tolerated by the patient.

If patients experience tolerability issues (systolic blood pressure [SBP] $\leq$ 95 mmHg, symptomatic hypotension, hyperkalaemia, renal dysfunction), adjustment of concomitant medicinal products, temporary down-titration or discontinuation of Sacubitril/Valsartan Tablet is recommended.

In PARADIGM-HF study, Sacubitril/Valsartan Tablet was administered in conjunction with other heart failure therapies, in place of an ACE inhibitor or other ARB. There is limited experience in patients not currently taking an ACE inhibitor or an ARB or taking low doses of these medicinal products, therefore a starting dose of 24 mg/26 mg twice daily and slow dose titration (doubling every 3-4 weeks) are recommended in these patients.

Treatment should not be initiated in patients with serum potassium level >5.4 mmol/l or with SBP <100 mmHg. A starting dose of 24 mg/26 mg twice daily should be considered for patients with SBP ≥ 100 to 110 mmHg.

Paediatric heart failure

Table 1 shows the recommended dose for paediatric patients. The recommended dose should be taken orally twice daily. The dose should be increased every 2-4 weeks to the target dose, as tolerated by the patient.

Sacubitril/Valsartan film-coated tablets are not suitable for children weighing less than 40 kg.

Sacubitril/Valsartan granules are available for these patients.

Table 1 Recommended dose titration

Patient weight	To be given twice daily			
	Half the starting dose*	Starting dose	Intermediate dose	Target dose
Paediatric patients less than 40 kg	0.8 mg/kg [#]	1.6 mg/kg [#]	2.3 mg/kg [#]	3.1 mg/kg [#]
Paediatric patients at least 40 kg, less than 50 kg	0.8 mg/kg [#]	24 mg/26 mg	49 mg/51 mg	72 mg/78 mg
Paediatric patients at least 50 kg	24 mg/26 mg	49 mg/51 mg	72 mg/78 mg	97 mg/103 mg

* Half the starting dose is recommended in patients who have not been taking an ACE inhibitor or an ARB or have been taking low doses of these medicinal products, patients who have renal impairment (estimated glomerular filtration rate [eGFR] <60 ml/min/1.73 m²) and patients who have moderate hepatic impairment (see special populations).

[#]0.8 mg/kg, 1.6 mg/kg, 2.3 mg/kg and 3.1 mg/kg refer to the combined amount of sacubitril and valsartan and are to be given using granules.

In patients not currently taking an ACE inhibitor or an ARB or taking low doses of these medicinal products, half of the starting dose is recommended. For paediatric patients weighing 40 kg to less than 50 kg, a starting dose of 0.8 mg/kg twice daily (given as granules) is recommended. After initiation, the dose should be increased to the standard starting dose following the recommended dose titration in Table 1 and adjusted every 3-4 weeks.

For example, a paediatric patient weighing 25 kg who has not previously taken an ACE inhibitor should start with half the standard starting dose, which corresponds to 20 mg (25 kg $\times$ 0.8 mg/kg) twice daily, given as granules. After rounding to the closest number of full capsules, this corresponds to 2 capsules of 6 mg/6 mg sacubitril/valsartan twice daily.

Treatment should not be initiated in patients with serum potassium level >5.3 mmol/l or with SBP $<5^{\text{th}}$ percentile for the age of the patient. If patients experience tolerability issues (SBP $<5^{\text{th}}$ percentile for the age of the patient, symptomatic hypotension, hyperkalaemia, renal dysfunction), adjustment of concomitant medicinal products, temporary down-titration or discontinuation of Sacubitril/Valsartan Tablet is recommended.

Special populations

Elderly

The dose should be in line with the renal function of the elderly patient.

Renal impairment

No dose adjustment is required in patients with mild (eGFR 60-90 ml/min/1.73 m²) renal impairment. Half of the starting dose should be considered in patients with moderate renal impairment (eGFR 30-60 ml/min/1.73 m²). As there is very limited clinical experience in patients with severe renal impairment (eGFR <30 ml/min/1.73 m²), Sacubitril/Valsartan should be used with caution and half of the starting dose is recommended. In paediatric patients weighing 40 kg to less than 50 kg, a starting dose of 0.8 mg/kg twice daily (given as granules) is recommended. After initiation, the dose should be increased following the recommended dose titration every 2-4 weeks.

There is no experience in patients with end-stage renal disease and use of Sacubitril/Valsartan is not recommended.

Hepatic impairment

No dose adjustment is required when administering Sacubitril/Valsartan to patients with mild hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh A classification).

There is limited clinical experience in patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh B classification) or with aspartate transaminase (AST)/alanine transaminase (ALT) values more than twice the upper limit of the normal range. Sacubitril/Valsartan should be used with caution in these patients and half of the starting dose is recommended. In paediatric patients weighing 40 kg to less than 50 kg, a starting dose of 0.8 mg/kg twice daily (given as granules) is recommended. After initiation, the dose should be increased following the recommended dose titration every 2-4 weeks.

Sacubitril/Valsartan is contraindicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment, biliary cirrhosis or cholestasis (Child-Pugh C classification).

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of Sacubitril/Valsartan in children aged below 1 year have not been established. Currently available data are described in section 5.1 but no recommendation on a posology can be made.

Method of administration

Oral use.

Sacubitril/Valsartan may be administered with or without food. The tablets must be swallowed with a glass of water. Splitting or crushing of the tablets is not recommended.

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to the active substances or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- Concomitant use with ACE inhibitors. Sacubitril/Valsartan must not be administered until 36 hours after discontinuing ACE inhibitor therapy.
- Known history of angioedema related to previous ACE inhibitor or ARB therapy.
- Hereditary or idiopathic angioedema.
- Concomitant use with aliskiren-containing medicinal products in patients with diabetes mellitus or in patients with renal impairment (eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m²).
- Severe hepatic impairment, biliary cirrhosis and cholestasis.
- Second and third trimesters of pregnancy.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Dual blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS)

- The combination of sacubitril/valsartan with an ACE inhibitor is contraindicated due to the increased risk of angioedema. Sacubitril/valsartan must not be initiated until 36 hours after taking the last dose of ACE inhibitor therapy. If treatment with sacubitril/valsartan is stopped, ACE inhibitor therapy must not be initiated until 36 hours after the last dose of sacubitril/valsartan.
- The combination of sacubitril/valsartan with direct renin inhibitors such as aliskiren is not recommended. The combination of sacubitril/valsartan with aliskiren-containing medicinal products is contraindicated in patients with diabetes mellitus or in patients with renal impairment (eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m²).
- Sacubitril/Valsartan contains valsartan, and therefore should not be co-administered with another ARB containing medicinal product.

Hypotension

Treatment should not be initiated unless SBP is ≥ 100 mmHg for adult patients or ≥ 5 th percentile SBP for the age of the paediatric patient. Patients with SBP below these values were not studied. Cases of symptomatic hypotension have been reported in adult patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan during

clinical studies, especially in patients ≥ 65 years old, patients with renal disease and patients with low SBP (<112 mmHg). When initiating therapy or during dose titration with sacubitril/valsartan, blood pressure should be monitored routinely. If hypotension occurs, temporary down-titration or discontinuation of sacubitril/valsartan is recommended. Dose adjustment of diuretics, concomitant antihypertensives and treatment of other causes of hypotension (e.g. hypovolaemia) should be considered. Symptomatic hypotension is more likely to occur if the patient has been volume-depleted, e.g. by diuretic therapy, dietary salt restriction, diarrhoea or vomiting. Sodium and/or volume depletion should be corrected before starting treatment with sacubitril/valsartan, however, such corrective action must be carefully weighed against the risk of volume overload.

Renal impairment

Evaluation of patients with heart failure should always include assessment of renal function. Patients with mild and moderate renal impairment are more at risk of developing hypotension. There is very limited clinical experience in patients with severe renal impairment (estimated GFR <30 ml/min/1.73m²) and these patients may be at greatest risk of hypotension. There is no experience in patients with end-stage renal disease and use of sacubitril/valsartan is not recommended.

Worsening renal function

Use of sacubitril/valsartan may be associated with decreased renal function. The risk may be further increased by dehydration or concomitant use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDs). Down-titration should be considered in patients who develop a clinically significant decrease in renal function.

Hyperkalaemia

Treatment should not be initiated if the serum potassium level is >5.4 mmol/l in adult patients and >5.3 mmol/l in paediatric patients. Use of sacubitril/valsartan may be associated with an increased risk of hyperkalaemia, although hypokalaemia may also occur. Monitoring of serum potassium is recommended, especially in patients who have risk factors such as renal impairment, diabetes mellitus or hypoaldosteronism or who are on a high potassium diet or on mineralocorticoid antagonists. If patients experience clinically significant hyperkalaemia adjustment of concomitant medicinal products, or temporary down-titration or discontinuation is recommended. If serum potassium level is >5.4 mmol/l discontinuation should be considered.

Angioedema

Angioedema has been reported in patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan. If angioedema occurs, sacubitril/valsartan should be immediately discontinued and appropriate therapy and monitoring should be provided until complete and sustained resolution of signs and symptoms has occurred. It must not be re-administered. In cases of confirmed angioedema where swelling has been confined to the face and lips, the condition has generally resolved without treatment, although antihistamines have been useful in relieving symptoms.

Angioedema associated with laryngeal oedema may be fatal. Where there is involvement of the tongue, glottis or larynx likely to cause airway obstruction, appropriate therapy, e.g. adrenaline solution 1 mg/1 ml (0.3-0.5 ml), and/or measures necessary to ensure a patent airway, should be promptly administered.

Patients with a prior history of angioedema were not studied. As they may be at higher risk for angioedema, caution is recommended if sacubitril/valsartan is used in these patients. Sacubitril/valsartan is contraindicated in patients with a known history of angioedema related to previous ACE inhibitor or ARB therapy or with hereditary or idiopathic angioedema.

Black patients have an increased susceptibility to develop angioedema.

Patients with renal artery stenosis

Sacubitril/valsartan may increase blood urea and serum creatinine levels in patients with bilateral or unilateral renal artery stenosis. Caution is required in patients with renal artery stenosis and monitoring of renal function is recommended.

Patients with New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional classification IV

Caution should be exercised when initiating sacubitril/valsartan in patients with NYHA functional classification IV due to limited clinical experience in this population.

B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP)

BNP is not a suitable biomarker of heart failure in patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan because it is a neprilysin substrate.

Patients with hepatic impairment

There is limited clinical experience in patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh B classification) or with AST/ALT values more than twice the upper limit of the normal range. In these patients, exposure may be increased and safety is not established. Caution is therefore recommended when using it in these patients. Sacubitril/valsartan is contraindicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment, biliary cirrhosis or cholestasis (Child-Pugh C classification).

Psychiatric disorders

Psychiatric events such as hallucinations, paranoia and sleep disorders, in context of psychotic events, have been associated with sacubitril/valsartan use. If a patient experiences such events, discontinuation of sacubitril/valsartan treatment should be considered.

Sodium

This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per 97 mg/103 mg dose, that is to say essentially 'sodium free'.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Interactions resulting in a contraindication

ACE inhibitors

The concomitant use of sacubitril/valsartan with ACE inhibitors is contraindicated, as the concomitant inhibition of neprilysin (NEP) and ACE may increase the risk of angioedema. Sacubitril/valsartan must not be started until 36 hours after taking the last dose of ACE inhibitor therapy. ACE inhibitor therapy must not be started until 36 hours after the last dose of sacubitril/valsartan.

Aliskiren

The concomitant use of sacubitril/valsartan with aliskiren-containing medicinal products is contraindicated in patients with diabetes mellitus or in patients with renal impairment (eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m²). The combination of sacubitril/valsartan with direct renin inhibitors such as aliskiren is not recommended. Combination of sacubitril/valsartan with aliskiren is potentially associated with a higher frequency of adverse reactions such as hypotension, hyperkalaemia and decreased renal function (including acute renal failure).

Interactions resulting in concomitant use not being recommended

Sacubitril/valsartan contains valsartan, and therefore should not be co-administered with another ARB containing medicinal product.

Interactions requiring precautions

OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 substrates, e.g. statins

In vitro data indicate that sacubitril inhibits OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 transporters. Sacubitril/Valsartan may therefore increase the systemic exposure of OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 substrates such as statins. Co-administration of sacubitril/valsartan increased the C_{max} of atorvastatin and its metabolites by up to 2-fold and AUC by up to 1.3-fold. Caution should be exercised when co-administering sacubitril/valsartan with statins. No clinically relevant interaction was observed when simvastatin and Sacubitril/Valsartan were co-administered.

PDE5 inhibitors including sildenafil

Addition of a single dose of sildenafil to sacubitril/valsartan at steady state in patients with hypertension was associated with a significantly greater blood pressure reduction compared to administration of sacubitril/valsartan alone. Therefore, caution should be exercised when sildenafil or another PDE5 inhibitor is initiated in patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan.

Potassium

Concomitant use of potassium-sparing diuretics (triamterene, amiloride), mineralocorticoid antagonists (e.g. spironolactone, eplerenone), potassium supplements, salt substitutes containing potassium or other agents (such as heparin) may lead to increases in serum potassium, and to increases in serum creatinine. Monitoring of serum potassium is recommended if sacubitril/valsartan is co-administered with these agents.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDs), including selective cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitors

In elderly patients, volume-depleted patients (including those on diuretic therapy), or patients with compromised renal function, concomitant use of sacubitril/valsartan and NSAIDs may lead to an increased risk of worsening of renal function. Therefore, monitoring of renal function is recommended when initiating or modifying treatment in patients on sacubitril/valsartan who are taking NSAIDs concomitantly.

Lithium

Reversible increases in serum lithium concentrations and toxicity have been reported during concomitant administration of lithium with ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II receptor antagonists including sacubitril/valsartan. Therefore, this combination is not recommended. If the combination proves necessary, careful monitoring of serum lithium levels is recommended. If a diuretic is also used, the risk of lithium toxicity may be increased further.

Furosemide

Co-administration of sacubitril/valsartan and furosemide had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of sacubitril/valsartan but reduced $C_{\max}$ and AUC of furosemide by 50% and 28%, respectively. While there was no relevant change in urine volume, the urinary excretion of sodium was reduced within 4 hours and 24 hours after co-administration. The average daily dose of furosemide was unchanged from baseline until the end of the PARADIGM-HF study in patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan.

Nitrates, e.g. nitroglycerine

There was no interaction between sacubitril/valsartan and intravenously administered nitroglycerin with regard to blood pressure reduction. Co-administration of nitroglycerin and sacubitril/valsartan was associated with a treatment difference of 5 bpm in heart rate compared to the administration of nitroglycerine alone. A similar effect on the heart rate may occur when sacubitril/valsartan is co-administered with sublingual, oral or transdermal nitrates. In general no dose adjustment is required.

OATP and MRP2 transporters

The active metabolite of sacubitril (LBQ657) and valsartan are OATP1B1, OATP1B3, OAT1 and OAT3 substrates; valsartan is also a MRP2 substrate. Therefore, co-administration of sacubitril/valsartan with inhibitors of OATP1B1, OATP1B3, OAT3 (e.g. rifampicin, ciclosporin), OAT1 (e.g. tenofovir, cidofovir) or MRP2 (e.g. ritonavir) may increase the systemic exposure of LBQ657 or valsartan. Appropriate care should be exercised when initiating or ending concomitant treatment with such medicinal products.

Metformin

Co-administration of sacubitril/valsartan with metformin reduced both $C_{\max}$ and AUC of metformin by 23%. The clinical relevance of these findings is unknown. Therefore, when initiating therapy with sacubitril/valsartan in patients receiving metformin, the clinical status of the patient should be evaluated.

No significant interaction

No clinically meaningful interaction was observed when sacubitril/valsartan was co-administered with digoxin, warfarin, hydrochlorothiazide, amlodipine, omeprazole, carvedilol or a combination of levonorgestrel/ethinyl estradiol.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

The use of sacubitril/valsartan is not recommended during the first trimester of pregnancy and is contraindicated during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy.

Valsartan

Epidemiological evidence regarding the risk of teratogenicity following exposure to ACE inhibitors during the first trimester of pregnancy has not been conclusive; however, a small increase in risk cannot be excluded. Whilst there is no controlled epidemiological data on the risk with ARBs, similar risks may exist for this class of medicinal product. Unless continued ARB therapy is considered essential, patients planning pregnancy should be changed to alternative antihypertensive treatments which have an established safety profile for use in pregnancy. When pregnancy is diagnosed, treatment with ARBs should be stopped immediately and, if appropriate, alternative therapy should be started. Exposure to ARBs therapy during the second and third trimesters is known to induce human foetotoxicity (decreased renal function, oligohydramnios, skull ossification retardation) and neonatal toxicity (renal failure, hypotension, hyperkalaemia).

Should exposure to ARBs have occurred from the second trimester of pregnancy, ultrasound check of renal function and skull is recommended. Infants whose mothers have taken ARBs should be closely observed for hypotension.

Sacubitril

There are no data from the use of sacubitril in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity.

Sacubitril/valsartan

There are no data from the use of sacubitril/valsartan in pregnant women. Animal studies with sacubitril/valsartan have shown reproductive toxicity.

Breast-feeding

It is not known whether sacubitril/valsartan is excreted in human milk. The components of Sacubitril/Valsartan, sacubitril and valsartan, were excreted in the milk of lactating rats. Because of the potential risk for adverse reactions in breast-fed newborns/infants, it is not recommended during breast-feeding. A decision should be made whether to abstain from breast-feeding or to discontinue Sacubitril/Valsartan while breast-feeding, taking into account the importance of sacubitril/valsartan to the mother.

Fertility

There are no available data on the effect of sacubitril/valsartan on human fertility. No impairment of fertility was demonstrated in studies with it in male and female rats.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Sacubitril/valsartan has a minor influence on the ability to drive and use machines. When driving vehicles or operating machines it should be taken into account that occasionally dizziness or fatigue may occur.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

The most commonly reported adverse reactions in adults during treatment with sacubitril/valsartan were hypotension (17.6%), hyperkalaemia (11.6%) and renal impairment (10.1%). Angioedema was reported in patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan (0.5%) (see description of selected adverse reactions).

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

Adverse reactions are ranked by System organ class and then by frequency with the most frequent first, using the following convention: very common ($\geq 1/10$); common ($\geq 1/100$ to $<1/10$); uncommon ($\geq 1/1\ 000$ to $<1/100$); rare ($\geq 1/10\ 000$ to $<1/1\ 000$); very rare ($<1/10\ 000$). Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are ranked in order of decreasing seriousness.

Table 2 List of adverse reactions

System organ class	Preferred term	Frequency category
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Anaemia	Common
Immune system disorders	Hypersensitivity	Uncommon
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Hyperkalaemia*	Very common
	Hypokalaemia	Common
	Hypoglycaemia	Common
	Hyponatraemia	Uncommon
Psychiatric disorders	Hallucinations**	Rare
	Sleep disorders	Rare
	Paranoia	Very rare
Nervous system disorders	Dizziness	Common
	Headache	Common
	Syncope	Common
	Dizziness postural	Uncommon
Ear and labyrinth disorders	Vertigo	Common
Vascular disorders	Hypotension*	Very common
	Orthostatic hypotension	Common
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Cough	Common
Gastrointestinal disorders	Diarrhoea	Common
	Nausea	Common
	Gastritis	Common
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Pruritus	Uncommon
	Rash	Uncommon
	Angioedema*	Uncommon
Renal and urinary disorders	Renal impairment*	Very common
	Renal failure (renal failure, acute renal failure)	Common
General disorders and administration site conditions	Fatigue	Common
	Asthenia	Common

*See description of selected adverse reactions.

**Including auditory and visual hallucinations

Description of selected adverse reactions

Angioedema

Angioedema has been reported in patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan. In PARADIGM-HF, angioedema was reported in 0.5% of patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan, compared with 0.2% of patients treated with enalapril. A higher incidence of angioedema was observed in Black patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan (2.4%) and enalapril (0.5%).

Hyperkalaemia and serum potassium

In PARADIGM-HF, hyperkalaemia and serum potassium concentrations >5.4 mmol/l were reported in 11.6% and 19.7% of sacubitril/valsartan-treated patients and 14.0% and 21.1% of enalapril-treated patients, respectively.

Blood pressure

In PARADIGM-HF, hypotension and clinically relevant low systolic blood pressure (<90 mmHg and decrease from baseline of >20 mmHg) were reported in 17.6% and 4.76% of sacubitril/valsartan-treated patients compared with 11.9% and 2.67% of enalapril-treated patients, respectively.

Renal impairment

In PARADIGM-HF, renal impairment was reported in 10.1% of sacubitril/valsartan-treated patients and 11.5% of enalapril-treated patients.

Paediatric population

In the PANORAMA-HF study, the safety of sacubitril/valsartan was assessed in a randomised, active-controlled, 52-week study of 375 paediatric heart failure (HF) patients aged 1 month to <18 years compared to enalapril. The safety profile observed in paediatric patients aged 1 month to <18 years who received treatment with sacubitril/valsartan was similar to that observed in adult patients. Safety data in patients aged 1 month to <1 year was limited.

Limited safety data are available in paediatric patients with moderate hepatic impairment or moderate to severe renal impairment.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are requested to report any suspected adverse reactions via pharmacy and poisons board, Pharmacovigilance Electronic Reporting System (PvERS) <https://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org>.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Agents acting on the renin-angiotensin system; angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs), other combinations, ATC code: C09DX04

Mechanism of action

Sacubitril/valsartan exhibits the mechanism of action of an angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitor by simultaneously inhibiting neprilysin (neutral endopeptidase; NEP) via LBQ657, the active metabolite of the prodrug sacubitril, and by blocking the angiotensin II type-1 (AT1) receptor via valsartan. The complementary cardiovascular benefits of sacubitril/valsartan in heart failure patients are attributed to the enhancement of peptides that are degraded by neprilysin, such as natriuretic peptides (NP), by LBQ657 and the simultaneous inhibition of the effects of angiotensin II by valsartan. NPs exert their effects by activating membrane-bound guanylyl cyclase-coupled receptors, resulting in increased concentrations of the second messenger cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP), which could result in vasodilation, natriuresis and diuresis, increased glomerular filtration rate and renal blood flow, inhibition of renin and aldosterone release, reduction of sympathetic activity, and anti-hypertrophic and anti-fibrotic effects.

Valsartan inhibits detrimental cardiovascular and renal effects of angiotensin II by selectively blocking the AT1 receptor, and also inhibits angiotensin II-dependent aldosterone release. This prevents sustained activation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system that would result in vasoconstriction, renal sodium and fluid retention, activation of cellular growth and proliferation, and subsequent maladaptive cardiovascular remodelling.

Pharmacodynamic effects

The pharmacodynamic effects of sacubitril/valsartan were evaluated after single and multiple dose administrations in healthy subjects and in patients with heart failure, and are consistent with simultaneous neprilysin inhibition and RAAS blockade. In a 7-day valsartan-controlled study in patients with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF), administration of sacubitril/valsartan resulted in an initial increase in natriuresis,

increased urine cGMP, and decreased plasma levels of mid-regional pro-atrial natriuretic peptide (MR-proANP) and N-terminal prohormone brain natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) compared to valsartan. In a 21-day study in HFrEF patients, sacubitril/valsartan significantly increased urine ANP and cGMP and plasma cGMP, and decreased plasma NT-proBNP, aldosterone and endothelin-1 compared to baseline. The AT1-receptor was also blocked as evidenced by increased plasma renin activity and plasma renin concentrations. In the PARADIGM-HF study, sacubitril/valsartan decreased plasma NT-proBNP and increased plasma BNP and urine cGMP compared with enalapril. In the PANORAMA-HF study, a reduction in NT-proBNP was observed at weeks 4 and 12 for sacubitril/valsartan (40.2% and 49.8%) and enalapril (18.0% and 44.9%) compared to baseline. The NT-proBNP levels continued to decrease over the duration of the study with a reduction of 65.1% for sacubitril/valsartan and 61.6% for enalapril at week 52 compared to baseline. BNP is not a suitable biomarker of heart failure in patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan because BNP is a neprilysin substrate. NT-proBNP is not a neprilysin substrate and is therefore a more suitable biomarker. In a thorough QTc clinical study in healthy male subjects, single doses of sacubitril/valsartan 194 mg sacubitril/206 mg valsartan and 583 mg sacubitril/617 mg valsartan had no effect on cardiac repolarisation. Neprilysin is one of multiple enzymes involved in the clearance of amyloid- β (A β) from the brain and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). Administration of sacubitril/valsartan 194 mg sacubitril/206 mg valsartan once daily for two weeks to healthy subjects was associated with an increase in CSF A β 1-38 compared to placebo; there were no changes in concentrations of CSF A β 1-40 and 1-42. The clinical relevance of this finding is not known.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

The valsartan contained within sacubitril/valsartan is more bioavailable than the valsartan in other marketed tablet formulations; 26 mg, 51 mg, and 103 mg of valsartan in sacubitril/valsartan is equivalent to 40 mg, 80 mg and 160 mg of valsartan in other marketed tablet formulations, respectively.

Adult population

Absorption

Following oral administration, sacubitril/valsartan dissociates into valsartan and the prodrug sacubitril. Sacubitril is further metabolised to the active metabolite LBQ657. These reach peak plasma concentrations in 2 hours, 1 hour, and 2 hours, respectively. The oral absolute bioavailability of sacubitril and valsartan is estimated to be more than 60% and 23%, respectively.

Following twice daily dosing of sacubitril/valsartan, steady-state levels of sacubitril, LBQ657 and valsartan are reached in three days. At steady state, sacubitril and valsartan do not accumulate significantly, while LBQ657 accumulates 1.6-fold. Administration with food has no clinically significant impact on the systemic exposures of sacubitril, LBQ657 and valsartan. Sacubitril/valsartan can be administered with or without food.

Distribution

Sacubitril, LBQ657 and valsartan are highly bound to plasma proteins (94-97%). Based on the comparison of plasma and CSF exposures, LBQ657 crosses the blood brain barrier to a limited extent (0.28%). The average apparent volume of distribution of valsartan and sacubitril were 75 litres to 103 litres, respectively.

Biotransformation

Sacubitril is readily converted to LBQ657 by carboxylesterases 1b and 1c; LBQ657 is not further metabolised to a significant extent. Valsartan is minimally metabolised, as only about 20% of the dose is recovered as metabolites. A hydroxyl metabolite of valsartan has been identified in plasma at low concentrations (<10%).

Since CYP450-enzyme-mediated metabolism of sacubitril and valsartan is minimal, co-administration with medicinal products that impact CYP450 enzymes is not expected to impact the pharmacokinetics.

In vitro metabolism studies indicate that potential for CYP450-based drug interactions is low since there is limited metabolism of sacubitril/valsartan via CYP450 enzymes. Sacubitril/valsartan does not induce or inhibit CYP450 enzymes.

Elimination

Following oral administration, 52-68% of sacubitril (primarily as LBQ657) and ~13% of valsartan and its metabolites are excreted in urine; 37-48% of sacubitril (primarily as LBQ657) and 86% of valsartan and its metabolites are excreted in faeces.

Sacubitril, LBQ657 and valsartan are eliminated from plasma with a mean elimination half-life ($T_{1/2}$) of approximately 1.43 hours, 11.48 hours, and 9.90 hours, respectively.

Linearity/non-linearity

The pharmacokinetics of sacubitril, LBQ657 and valsartan were approximately linear over a sacubitril/valsartan dose range of 24 mg sacubitril/26 mg valsartan to 97 mg sacubitril/103 mg valsartan.

Special populations

Elderly

LBQ657 and valsartan exposure are increased in subjects over 65 years of age by 42% and 30%, respectively, compared to younger subjects.

Renal impairment

A correlation was observed between renal function and systemic exposure to LBQ657 in patients with mild to severe renal impairment. The exposure of LBQ657 in patients with moderate ($30 \text{ ml/min/1.73 m}^2 \leq \text{eGFR} < 60 \text{ ml/min/1.73 m}^2$) and severe renal impairment ($15 \text{ ml/min/1.73 m}^2 \leq \text{eGFR} < 30 \text{ ml/min/1.73 m}^2$) was 1.4-fold and 2.2-fold higher compared to patients with mild renal impairment ($60 \text{ ml/min/1.73 m}^2 \leq \text{eGFR} < 90 \text{ ml/min/1.73 m}^2$), the largest group of patients enrolled in PARADIGM-HF. The exposure of valsartan was similar in patients with moderate and severe renal impairment compared to patients with mild renal impairment. No studies have been performed in patients undergoing dialysis. However, LBQ657 and valsartan are highly bound to plasma protein and therefore unlikely to be effectively removed by dialysis.

Hepatic impairment

In patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment, the exposures of sacubitril increased by 1.5- and 3.4-fold, LBQ657 increased by 1.5- and 1.9-fold, and valsartan increased by 1.2-fold and 2.1-fold, respectively, compared to matching healthy subjects. However, in patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment, the exposures of free concentrations of LBQ657 increased by 1.47- and 3.08-fold, respectively, and the exposures of free concentrations of valsartan increased by 1.09-fold and 2.20-fold, respectively, compared to matching healthy subjects. Sacubitril/valsartan has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment, biliary cirrhosis or cholestasis.

Effect of gender

The pharmacokinetics of sacubitril/valsartan (sacubitril, LBQ657 and valsartan) are similar between male and female subjects.

Paediatric population

The pharmacokinetics of sacubitril/valsartan were evaluated in paediatric heart failure patients aged 1 month to <1 year and 1 year to <18 years and indicated that the pharmacokinetic profile of sacubitril/valsartan in paediatric and adult patients is similar.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical data (including studies with sacubitril and valsartan components and/or sacubitril/valsartan) reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential and fertility.

Fertility, reproduction and development

Sacubitril/valsartan treatment during organogenesis resulted in increased embryofoetal lethality in rats at doses ≥ 49 mg sacubitril/51 mg valsartan/kg/day (≤ 0.72 -fold the maximum recommended human dose [MRHD] on the basis of AUC) and rabbits at doses ≥ 4.9 mg sacubitril/5.1 mg valsartan/kg/day (2-fold and 0.03-fold the MRHD on the basis of valsartan and LBQ657 AUC, respectively). It is teratogenic based on a low incidence of foetal hydrocephaly, associated with maternally toxic doses, which was observed in rabbits at a sacubitril/valsartan dose of ≥ 4.9 mg sacubitril/5.1 mg valsartan/kg/day. Cardiovascular abnormalities (mainly cardiomegaly) were observed in rabbit foetuses at a maternally non-toxic dose (1.46 mg sacubitril/1.54 mg valsartan/kg/day). A slight increase in two foetal skeletal variations (misshapen sternebra, sternebra bipartite ossification) was observed in rabbits at a sacubitril/valsartan dose of 4.9 mg sacubitril/5.1 mg valsartan/kg/day. The adverse embryofoetal effects of sacubitril/valsartan are attributed to the angiotensin receptor antagonist activity.

Sacubitril treatment during organogenesis resulted in embryo-foetal lethality and embryo-foetal toxicity (decreased foetal body weights and skeletal malformations) in rabbits at doses associated with maternal toxicity (500 mg/kg/day; 5.7-fold the MRHD on the basis of LBQ657 AUC). A slight generalised delay in ossification was observed at doses of >50 mg/kg/day. This finding is not considered adverse. No evidence of embryo-foetal toxicity or teratogenicity was observed in rats treated with sacubitril. The embryo-foetal no-observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) for sacubitril was at least 750 mg/kg/day in rats and 200 mg/kg/day in rabbits (2.2-fold the MRHD on the basis of LBQ657 AUC).

Pre- and postnatal development studies in rats conducted with sacubitril at high doses up to 750 mg/kg/day (2.2-fold the MRHD on the basis of AUC) and valsartan at doses up to 600 mg/kg/day (0.86-fold the MRHD on the basis of AUC) indicate that treatment with sacubitril/valsartan during organogenesis, gestation and lactation may affect pup development and survival.

Other preclinical findings

Sacubitril/valsartan

The effects of sacubitril/valsartan on amyloid- β concentrations in CSF and brain tissue were assessed in young (2-4 years old) cynomolgus monkeys treated with sacubitril/valsartan (24 mg sacubitril/26 mg valsartan/kg/day) for two weeks. In this study CSF A β clearance in cynomolgus monkeys was reduced, increasing CSF A β 1-40, 1-42 and 1-38 levels; there was no corresponding increase in A β levels in the brain. Increases in CSF A β 1-40 and 1-42 were not observed in a two-week healthy volunteer study in humans. Additionally, in a toxicology study in cynomolgus monkeys treated with sacubitril/valsartan at 146mg sacubitril/154 mg valsartan/kg/day for 39 weeks, there was no evidence for the presence of amyloid plaques in the brain. Amyloid content was not, however, measured quantitatively in this study.

Sacubitril

In juvenile rats treated with sacubitril (postnatal days 7 to 70), there was a reduction in age-related bone mass development and bone elongation at approximately 2-fold the AUC exposure to the active metabolite of sacubitril, LBQ657, based on sacubitril/valsartan paediatric clinical dose of 3.1 mg/kg twice daily. The mechanism for these findings in juvenile rats, and consequently the relevance to the human paediatric population, is unknown. A study in adult rats showed only a minimal transient inhibitory effect on bone mineral density but not on any other parameters relevant for bone growth, suggesting no relevant effect of sacubitril on bone in adult patient populations under normal conditions. However, a mild transient interference of sacubitril with the early phase of fracture healing in adults cannot be excluded. Clinical data in paediatric patients (PANORAMA-HF study) did not show evidence that sacubitril/valsartan has an impact on body weight, height, head circumference and fracture rate. Bone density was not measured in the study. However, long-term paediatric data on (bone)growth and fracture rates are not available.

Valsartan

In juvenile rats treated with valsartan (postnatal days 7 to 70), doses as low as 1 mg/kg/day produced persistent irreversible kidney changes consisting of tubular nephropathy (sometimes accompanied by tubular

epithelial necrosis) and pelvic dilatation. These kidney changes represent an expected exaggerated pharmacological effect of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin II type 1 blockers; such effects are observed if rats are treated during the first 13 days of life. This period coincides with 36 weeks of gestation in humans, which could occasionally extend up to 44 weeks after conception in humans. Functional renal maturation is an ongoing process within the first year of life in humans. Consequently, a clinical relevance in paediatric patients less than 1 year of age cannot be excluded, while preclinical data do not indicate a safety concern for paediatric patients older than 1 year.

5.4 Overdose

Limited data are available with regard to overdose in humans. A single dose of 583 mg sacubitril/617 mg valsartan and multiple doses of 437 mg sacubitril/463 mg valsartan (14 days) were studied in healthy adult volunteers and were well tolerated.

Hypotension is the most likely symptom of overdose due to the blood pressure lowering effects of sacubitril/valsartan. Symptomatic treatment should be provided.

The medicinal product is unlikely to be removed by haemodialysis due to high protein binding.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 List of excipients

Sodium Starch Glycolate, Povidone (PVP K30), Iso Propyl Alcohol, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Crospovidone, Purified Talc, Magnesium Stearate, Polacrillin Potassium (Kyrion T), Film Coat, Dichloromethane and Erythrosine.

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life:

36 months

6.4 Special precautions for storage:

Store below 30°C and protect from direct sunlight.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

2 x 14 pack: 14 tablets packed in Alu-Alu blister and such 2 Alu-Alu blisters are packed in single carton along with pack insert.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Not applicable.

7. Marketing authorisation holder

Galaxy Pharmaceutical Ltd.
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P.O.BOX 39107 - 00623,
Nairobi (Kenya).

Manufacturer Name:

Ovation Remedies.
Trilokpur road, Kala-Amb Dist. Sirmor, Himachal Pradesh (INDIA)

8. MARKETING AUTHORIZATION NUMBER

CTD12444

9. DATE OF FIRST <REGISTRATION> / RENEWAL OF THE

24/06/2026

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

24/06/2026