

Effects of Other Drugs on Voriconazole

Voriconazole is metabolized by the human hepatic cytochrome P450 enzymes CYP2C9, CYP2C19, and CYP3A4. Results of *in vitro* metabolism studies indicate that the affinity of voriconazole is highest for CYP2C9, followed by CYP2C19, and is appreciably lower for CYP3A4. Inhibitors or inducers of these three enzymes may increase or decrease voriconazole systemic exposure (plasma concentrations), respectively, as described in the following sections.

The systemic exposure to voriconazole is significantly reduced or is expected to be reduced by the concomitant administration of the following agents and their use is contraindicated:

- Rifampin (potent CYP450 inducer)**—Rifampin (600 mg once daily) decreased the steady state C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 9 days) by 66% and 82%, respectively, in healthy subjects. Doubling the dose of voriconazole to 400 mg q12h does not restore adequate exposure to voriconazole during concomitant administration with rifampin. **Concomitant administration of voriconazole and rifampin is contraindicated.** (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Ritonavir (potent CYP450 inducer; CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate)**—The effect of the administration of voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 10 days) was investigated in two separate studies. High-dose ritonavir (400 mg q12h for 9 days) decreased the steady state C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole by 66% and 82%, respectively, in healthy subjects. Low-dose ritonavir (100 mg q12h for 9 days) decreased the steady state C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 8 days) by an average of 61% and 38%, respectively, in healthy subjects. Although repeat oral administration of voriconazole did not have a significant effect on steady state C_{max} and AUC of high-dose ritonavir in healthy subjects, steady state C_{max} and AUC of low-dose ritonavir decreased slightly by 24% and 14%, respectively, when administered concomitantly with voriconazole in healthy subjects. **Concomitant administration of voriconazole and high-dose ritonavir (400 mg q12h) is contraindicated. Concomitant administration of voriconazole and low-dose ritonavir (100 mg q12h) should be avoided, unless an assessment of the benefit/risk to the patient justifies the use of voriconazole.** (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- St. John's Wort (CYP450 inducer; P-gp inducer)**—In an independent published study in healthy volunteers who were given multiple oral doses of St. John's Wort (300 mg 1L15 extract three times daily for 15 days) followed by a single oral dose of voriconazole, a 59% decrease in mean voriconazole AUC₀₋₂₄ was observed. In contrast, administration of single oral doses of St. John's Wort and voriconazole had no appreciable effect on voriconazole AUC₀₋₂₄. Because long-term use of St. John's Wort is associated with increased risk of bleeding, the concomitant use of voriconazole with St. John's Wort is contraindicated. (See [Contraindications](#) (4).)

- Carbamazepine and long-acting barbiturates (potent CYP450 inducers)**—Although not studied *in vivo*, carbamazepine and long-acting barbiturates are potent inducers of CYP3A4. Concomitant use is likely to significantly decrease plasma voriconazole concentrations. **Concomitant administration of voriconazole with carbamazepine or long-acting barbiturates is contraindicated.** (See [Contraindications](#) (4) and [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

Significant drug interactions that may require voriconazole dosage adjustment, or frequent monitoring of voriconazole concentrations, are listed below:

- Fluconazole (CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP3A4 inhibitor)**—Concurrent administration of oral voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 2.5 days) and oral fluconazole (400 mg 1 day, then 200 mg q24h for 4 days) to 6 healthy male subjects resulted in an increase in the plasma concentration of voriconazole by an average of 25% (90% CI: 20%, 107%) and 73% (90% CI: 40%, 128%), respectively. In a follow-on clinical study involving 8 healthy male subjects, reduced dosing and/or frequency of voriconazole and fluconazole were used. In this study, the concurrent administration of voriconazole and fluconazole at any dose is not recommended. Close monitoring for adverse events related to voriconazole is recommended if voriconazole is used sequentially after fluconazole, especially within 24 hours of the end of fluconazole. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Mimor or other significant pharmacokinetic interactions that do not require dosage adjustment: Concomitant use-specific CYP450 inhibitor and increased gastric pH**—Concomitant use of 400 mg q12h voriconazole and 200 mg steady state C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 9 days) by 25% (90% CI: 13%, 33%), respectively, following oral doses of 200 mg q12h x 7 days to healthy subjects.

- Ranitidine (increases gastric pH)**—Ranitidine (150 mg q12h) had no significant effect on voriconazole C_{max} and AUC following oral doses of 200 mg q12h x 7 days to healthy subjects.
- Macrolide antibiotics**—Co-administration of erythromycin (CYP3A4 inhibitor; 1g q12h for 7 days) or azithromycin (500 mg q24h for 5 days) with voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 14 days) had no significant effect on voriconazole steady state C_{max} and AUC in healthy subjects. The effects of voriconazole on the pharmacokinetics of either erythromycin or azithromycin are not known.

Effects of Voriconazole on Other Drugs

In vitro studies with human hepatic microsomes show that voriconazole inhibits the metabolic activity of the cytochrome P450 enzymes CYP2C9, CYP2C19, and CYP3A4. In these studies, the inhibition potency of voriconazole for metabolic activity was significantly greater than that of two other azoles, ketoconazole and itraconazole. *In vitro* studies also show that the major metabolite of voriconazole, voriconazole N-oxide, inhibits the metabolic activity of CYP2C9 and CYP3A4 to a greater extent than that of CYP2C19. Therefore, there is potential for voriconazole and its major metabolite to increase the systemic exposure (plasma concentrations) of other drugs metabolized by these CYP450 enzymes.

The systemic exposure of the following drugs is significantly increased or is expected to be significantly increased by concomitant administration of voriconazole and their use is contraindicated:

- Sildenafil (CYP3A4 substrate)**—Repeat dose administration of oral voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 9 days) to 6 healthy male subjects resulted in an increase in the average of 7-fold (90% CI: 5.7, 7.5) and 11-fold (90% CI: 9.9, 12.6), respectively, in healthy male subjects. **Concomitant administration of voriconazole and sildenafil is contraindicated.** (See [Contraindications](#) (4) and [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Terfenadine, astemizole, cisapride, pimozide and quinidine (CYP3A4 substrates)**—Although not studied *in vitro* or *in vivo*, concomitant administration of voriconazole with terfenadine, astemizole, cisapride, pimozide or quinidine may result in inhibition of the metabolism of these drugs. Increased plasma concentrations of these drugs can lead to QT prolongation and rare occurrences of torsades de pointes. **Concomitant administration of voriconazole and terfenadine, astemizole, cisapride, pimozide and quinidine is contraindicated.** (See [Contraindications](#) (4) and [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Ergot alkaloids**—Although not studied *in vitro* or *in vivo*, voriconazole may increase the plasma concentration of ergot alkaloids (ergotamine and dihydroergotamine) and lead to ergotism. **Concomitant administration of voriconazole with ergot alkaloids is contraindicated.** (See [Contraindications](#) (4) and [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Everolimus (CYP3A4 substrate, P-gp substrate)**—Although not studied *in vitro* or *in vivo*, voriconazole may increase plasma concentrations of everolimus, which could potentially lead to exacerbation of everolimus toxicity. Therefore, there are insufficient data to allow specific recommendations in this situation. Therefore, co-administration of voriconazole with everolimus is not recommended. (See [Drug Interactions](#) (7).)

Concomitant administration of voriconazole with the following agents results in increased exposure or is expected to result in increased exposure to these drugs. Therefore, careful monitoring and/or dosage adjustment of these drugs is needed:

- Alfentanil (CYP3A4 substrate)**—Co-administration of multiple doses of oral voriconazole (400 mg q12h on day 1, 200 mg q12h on day 2) with a single 20 mcg/kg intravenous dose of alfentanil with concomitant naloxone resulted in a 6-fold increase in mean alfentanil AUC₀₋₂₄ and a 4-fold prolongation of mean alfentanil elimination half-life, compared to when alfentanil was given alone. An increase in the incidence of delayed and persistent alfentanil-associated nausea and vomiting was also observed. **Concomitant administration of voriconazole and alfentanil is contraindicated.** (See [Contraindications](#) (4) and [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

Concomitant administration of voriconazole with the following agents results in increased exposure or is expected to result in increased exposure to these drugs. Therefore, careful monitoring and/or dosage adjustment of these drugs is needed:

- Fentanyl (CYP3A4 substrate)**—In an independent published study, concomitant use of voriconazole (400 mg q12h on Day 1, then 200 mg q12h on Day 2) with a single intravenous dose of fentanyl (5 mcg) resulted in an increase in the mean AUC₀₋₂₄ of fentanyl by 1.4-fold (range 0.81- to 2.04-fold). When voriconazole is co-administered with fentanyl IV, oral, or transmucosal dosage forms, extended and frequent monitoring of patients for respiratory depression and other fentanyl-associated adverse events is recommended, and fentanyl dosage should be reduced if warranted. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Oxycodone (CYP3A4 substrate)**—In an independent published study, coadministration of multiple doses of oral voriconazole (400 mg q12h on Day 1 followed by five doses of 200 mg q12h on Days 2 to 6) with a single 10 mg oral dose of oxycodone on Day 1 resulted in an increase in the mean C_{max} and AUC₀₋₂₄ of oxycodone by 1.7-fold (range 1.4- to 2.2-fold) and 3.6-fold (range 2.7- to 5.6-fold), respectively. The mean elimination half-life of oxycodone was also increased by 0.6-fold (range 1.4- to 2.5-fold). Voriconazole also increased the visual effects (diploplopia and miosis) of oxycodone. A reduction in oxycodone dosage may be needed during voriconazole treatment to avoid opioid-related adverse effects. Extended and frequent monitoring for adverse effects associated with oxycodone and other long-acting opiates metabolized by CYP3A4 is recommended. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Cyclosporine (CYP3A4 substrate)**—In a stable renal transplant recipients receiving chronic cyclosporine therapy, concomitant administration of oral voriconazole (200 mg q12h for 7 days) increased cyclosporine C_{max} and AUC₀₋₂₄ by an average of 1.1 times (90% CI: 0.9, 1.41) and 1.8 times (90% CI: 1.5, 2.0), respectively, as compared to when cyclosporine was administered without voriconazole. When initiating therapy with voriconazole in patients already receiving cyclosporine, it is recommended that the cyclosporine dose be reduced to one-half of the original dose and followed with frequent monitoring of the cyclosporine blood levels. Increased cyclosporine levels should be associated with nephrotoxicity. When voriconazole is discontinued, cyclosporine levels should be frequently monitored, and the dose increased as necessary. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Methadone (CYP3A4, CYP2C19, CYP2C9 substrate)**—Repeat dose administration of oral voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 4 days) increased the C_{max} and AUC of pharmacologically active methadone by 31% (90% CI: 22%, 40%) and 47% (90% CI: 38%, 57%), respectively, in patients receiving a methadone maintenance dose (30-100 mg daily). The C_{max} and AUC of (S)-methadone increased by 65% (90% CI: 53%, 79%) and 103% (90% CI: 85%, 124%), respectively. Increased plasma concentrations of methadone have been associated with toxicity including QT prolongation. Frequent monitoring for adverse events and toxicity related to methadone is recommended during coadministration. Dose reduction of methadone may be needed. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Tacrolimus (CYP3A4 substrate)**—Repeat oral dose administration of voriconazole (400 mg q12h x 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 6 days) increased tacrolimus (0.1 mg/kg single dose) C_{max} and AUC₀₋₂₄ in healthy subjects by an average of 2-fold (90% CI: 1.8, 2.5) and 3-fold (90% CI: 2.7, 3.8), respectively. When initiating therapy with voriconazole in patients already receiving tacrolimus, it is recommended that the tacrolimus dose be reduced to one-third of the original dose and followed with frequent monitoring of the tacrolimus blood levels. Increased tacrolimus levels have been associated with nephrotoxicity. When voriconazole is discontinued, tacrolimus levels should be carefully monitored and the dose increased as necessary. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Warfarin (CYP2C9 substrate)**—Co-administration of voriconazole (300 mg q12h x 12 days) with warfarin (30 mg single dose) significantly increased maximum prothrombin time by approximately 2 times that of placebo in healthy subjects. Close monitoring of prothrombin time or other suitable anticoagulation tests is recommended if warfarin and voriconazole are co-administered and the warfarin dose adjusted accordingly. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Oral Coumatin Anticoagulants (CYP2C9, CYP3A4 substrates)**—Although not studied *in vitro* or *in vivo*, voriconazole may increase the plasma concentrations of coumatin anticoagulants and therefore may cause an increase in prothrombin time. If patients receiving coumatin preparations are treated simultaneously with voriconazole, the prothrombin time or other suitable anti-coagulation tests should be monitored at close intervals and the dosage of anticoagulants adjusted accordingly. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Statins (CYP3A4 substrates)**—Although not studied clinically, voriconazole is likely to increase the plasma concentrations of statins that are metabolized by CYP3A4. It is recommended that dose adjustment of the statin be considered during coadministration. Increased statin concentrations in plasma have been associated with rhabdomyolysis. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Benzodiazepines (CYP3A4 substrates)**—Although not studied clinically, voriconazole has been shown to inhibit plasma metabolism *in vitro* (human liver microsomes). Therefore, voriconazole is likely to increase the plasma concentrations of benzodiazepines that are metabolized by CYP3A4 (e.g., midazolam, triazolam, and alprazolam) and lead to a prolonged sedative effect. It is recommended that the dosage adjustment of the benzodiazepine be considered during coadministration. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Calcium Channel Blockers (CYP3A4 substrates)**—Although not studied clinically, voriconazole has been shown to inhibit ligand metabolism *in vitro* (human liver microsomes). Therefore, voriconazole may increase the plasma concentrations of calcium channel blockers that are metabolized by CYP3A4. Frequent monitoring for adverse events and toxicity related to calcium channel blockers is recommended during coadministration. Dose adjustment of the calcium channel blocker may be needed. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Sulfonamides (CYP2C9 substrates)**—Although not studied *in vitro* or *in vivo*, voriconazole may increase plasma concentrations of sulfonamides (e.g., tolfamide, glipizide, and glyburide) and therefore cause hypoglycemia. Frequent monitoring of blood glucose and appropriate adjustment (i.e., reduction) of the sulfonamide dosage is recommended during coadministration. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Vinca Alkaloids (CYP3A4 substrates)**—Although not studied *in vitro* or *in vivo*, voriconazole may increase the plasma concentrations of the vinca alkaloids (e.g., vincristine and vinblastine) and lead to neurotoxicity. Therefore, it is recommended that dose adjustment of the vinca alkaloid be considered. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs; CYP2C9 substrates)**—In two independent published studies, single doses of ibuprofen (400 mg) and diclofenac (50 mg) were given on Day 2, the last dose of voriconazole (400 mg q12h on Day 1, followed by 200 mg q12h on Day 2). Voriconazole increased the mean C_{max} and AUC of the pharmacologically active isomer, S-isomer by 20% and 100%, respectively. Voriconazole increased the mean C_{max} and AUC of diclofenac by 114% and 78%, respectively.

- A reduction in ibuprofen and diclofenac dosage may be needed during concomitant administration with voriconazole. Patients receiving voriconazole concomitantly with other NSAIDs (e.g., celecoxib, naproxen, flumequine, meloxicam) that are also metabolized by CYP2C9 should be carefully monitored for NSAID-related adverse events and toxicity, and dosage reduction should be made if warranted. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

No significant pharmacokinetic interactions were observed when voriconazole was coadministered with the following agents. Therefore, no dosage adjustment for these agents is recommended:

- Propranolol (CYP3A4 substrate)**—Voriconazole (200 mg q12h x 30 days) increased C_{max} and AUC of propranolol (60 mg single dose) by an average of 11% and 34%, respectively, in healthy subjects.

- Digoxin (P-glycoprotein mediated transport)**—Voriconazole (200 mg q12h x 12 days) had no significant effect on steady state C_{max} and AUC of digoxin (0.25 mg once daily for 10 days) in healthy subjects.
- Mycophenolic acid (UDP-glucosyl transferase substrate)**—Voriconazole (200 mg q12h x 5 days) had no significant effect on the C_{max} and AUC of mycophenolic acid and its major metabolite, mycophenolic acid glucuronide after administration of a 1 g single oral dose of mycophenolate mofetil.

Two-Way Interactions

Concomitant use of the following agents with voriconazole is contraindicated:

- Rifabutin (potent CYP450 inducer)**—Rifabutin (300 mg once daily) decreased the C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole at 200 mg twice daily by an average of 67% (90% CI: 55%, 73%) and 61% (90% CI: 71%, 84%), respectively, in healthy subjects. During coadministration with rifabutin (300 mg once daily), the steady state C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole following an increased dose of 400 mg twice daily were on average approximately 2 times higher, compared with voriconazole alone at 200 mg twice daily. Coadministration of voriconazole at 400 mg twice daily with rifabutin 300 mg twice daily increased C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole by an average of 3 times (90% CI: 2.2, 4.0) and 4 times (90% CI: 3.5, 5.4), respectively, compared to rifabutin given alone. **Concomitant administration of voriconazole and rifabutin is contraindicated.** (See [Contraindications](#) (4).)

Significant drug interactions that may require dosage adjustment, frequent monitoring of drug levels and/or frequent monitoring of drug-related adverse events/toxicity:

- Efavirenz, a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (CYP3A4 inducer; CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate)**—Standard doses of voriconazole and efavirenz (400 mg q24h or higher) must not be co-administered. (See [Drug Interactions](#) (7).) Steady state C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 8 days) by an average of 61% and 77%, respectively, in healthy male subjects. Voriconazole at steady state (400 mg PO q12h for 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 8 days) increased the steady state C_{max} and AUC of efavirenz (400 mg PO q24h for 9 days) by an average of 38% and 44%, respectively, in healthy subjects.

The pharmacokinetics of adjusted doses of voriconazole and efavirenz were studied in healthy male subjects following administration of voriconazole (400 mg PO q12h on Days 2 to 7) with efavirenz (200 mg PO q24h on Days 1-7), relative to steady state administration of voriconazole (400 mg for 1 day, then 200 mg PO q12h for 2 days) or efavirenz (600 mg q24h for 9 days). Administration of voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 8 days) decreased voriconazole AUC by 7% (90% CI: -23%, 13%) and increased C_{max} by 23% (90% CI: -1%, 53%). Efavirenz AUC was increased by 17% (90% CI: 6%, 29%) and C_{max} was equivalent.

Concomitant use of standard doses of voriconazole and efavirenz (400 mg q24h or higher) is contraindicated. Voriconazole may be co-administered with efavirenz if the voriconazole maintenance dose is increased to 400 mg q12h and the efavirenz dose is decreased to 300 mg q24h. When treatment with voriconazole is stopped, the initial dosage of efavirenz should be restored. (See [Dosage and Administration](#) (2.4), [Contraindications](#) (4), and [Drug Interactions](#) (7).)

Phenyltin (CYP2C9 substrate and potent CYP450 inducer)—Repeat dose administration of voriconazole (200 mg once daily) decreased the steady state C_{max} and AUC of orally administered voriconazole (200 mg q12h x 14 days) by an average of 50% and 70%, respectively, in healthy subjects. Administration of voriconazole (400 mg q12h x 7 days) followed by phenyltin (300 mg once daily) resulted in comparable steady state voriconazole C_{max} and AUC values, as compared to when voriconazole was given at 200 mg q12h without phenyltin.

Phenyltin may be co-administered with voriconazole if the maintenance dose of voriconazole is increased from 4 mg/kg to 6 mg/kg intravenously every 12 hours or from 200 mg to 400 mg orally every 12 hours (100 mg to 200 mg orally every 12 hours in patients less than 40 kg) [see [Dosage and Administration](#) (2.4) and [Drug Interactions](#) (7)].

Repeat dose administration of voriconazole (400 mg q12h x 10 days) increased the steady state C_{max} and AUC of phenyltin (300 mg once daily) by an average of 77% and 80%, respectively, in healthy subjects. The increase in phenyltin C_{max} and AUC when co-administered with voriconazole may be expected to be as high as 2 times the C_{max} and AUC estimates when phenyltin is given without voriconazole. Therefore, frequent monitoring of plasma phenyltin concentrations and appropriate dosage adjustment of voriconazole is recommended if voriconazole is co-administered with voriconazole. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

Omeprazole (CYP2C19 inhibitor; CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 substrate)—Co-administration of omeprazole (40 mg once daily x 10 days) with oral voriconazole (400 mg q12h x 1 day, then 200 mg q12h x 9 days) increased the steady state C_{max} and AUC of voriconazole by an average of 15% (90% CI: 28%, 45%) and 40% (90% CI: 29%, 55%), respectively, in healthy subjects. No dosage adjustment of voriconazole is recommended if voriconazole is co-administered with omeprazole. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

Co-administration of voriconazole (400 mg q12h x 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 6 days) with omeprazole (40 mg once daily x 7 days) to healthy subjects significantly increased the steady state C_{max} and AUC of omeprazole an average of 2 times (90% CI: 1.8, 2.6) and 4 times (90% CI: 3.3, 4.4), respectively, as compared to when omeprazole is given without voriconazole. When initiating voriconazole in patients already receiving omeprazole doses of 40 mg or greater, it is recommended that the omeprazole dose be reduced by one-half. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

The metabolism of other proton pump inhibitors that are CYP2C19 substrates may also be inhibited by voriconazole and may result in increased plasma concentrations of these drugs.

Oral Contraceptives (CYP3A4 substrate; CYP2C19 inhibitor)—Co-administration of oral voriconazole (400 mg q12h for 1 day, then 200 mg q12h for 3 days) and oral contraceptive (Ortho-Novum 35/35 containing 35 mcg ethinyl estradiol and 1 mg norethindrone, 0.24h) to healthy female subjects at steady state increased the C_{max} and AUC of ethinyl estradiol by an average of 38% (90% CI: 28%, 45%) and 61% (90% CI: 50%, 72%), respectively, and that of norethindrone by 15% (90% CI: 3%, 28%) and 53% (90% CI: 44%, 63%), respectively, in healthy subjects. Voriconazole C_{max} and AUC increased by an average of 14% (90% CI: 3%, 27%) and 46% (90% CI: 32%, 61%), respectively. Monitoring for adverse events related to oral contraceptives, in addition to those for voriconazole, is recommended during coadministration. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

No significant pharmacokinetic interaction was seen and no dosage adjustment of these drugs is recommended:

- Indinavir (CYP3A4 inhibitor and substrate)**—Repeat dose administration of indinavir (800 mg TID for 10 days) had no significant effect on voriconazole C_{max} and AUC following repeat doses of 400 mg q12h for 14 days.

- Repeat dose administration of voriconazole (200 mg q12h for 7 days) did not have a significant effect on steady state C_{max} and AUC of indinavir following repeat dose administration (800 mg TID for 14 days) in healthy subjects.**
- Other Two-Way Interactions Expected to be Significant Based on *In Vitro* and *In Vivo* Findings:**

- Other HIV Protease Inhibitors (CYP3A4 substrates and inhibitors)**—*In vitro* studies (human liver microsomes) suggest that voriconazole may inhibit the metabolism of HIV protease inhibitors (e.g., saquinavir, zalcitabine, and didanosine). *In vitro* studies (human liver microsomes) also show that the metabolism of voriconazole may be inhibited by HIV protease inhibitors (e.g., saquinavir and zalcitabine). Patients should be monitored for changes in voriconazole toxicity after the coadministration of voriconazole and HIV protease inhibitors. (See [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

- Other Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NNRTIs) (CYP3A4 substrates, inhibitors or CYP450 inducers)**—*In vitro* studies (human liver microsomes) show that the metabolism of voriconazole may be inhibited by NNRTIs (e.g., delamanvir). The findings of a clinical voriconazole-efavirenz drug interaction study in healthy male subjects suggest that the metabolism of voriconazole may be inhibited by a NNRTI. This *in vivo* study also showed that voriconazole may inhibit the metabolism of a NNRTI. (See [Drug Interactions](#) (7) and [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.8)). Patients should be frequently monitored for drug toxicity during the coadministration of voriconazole and other NNRTIs. Frequent monitoring for adverse events related to NNRTIs and *Pravastatin* (5.1). Dose adjustments are required when voriconazole is co-administered with efavirenz. (See [Drug Interactions](#) (7) and [Warnings and Precautions](#) (5.1).)

12 Mechanism of Action

Voriconazole is an azole antifungal agent. The primary mode of action of voriconazole is the inhibition of fungal cytochrome P-450-mediated 14 α -lanosterol demethylation, an essential step in fungal ergosterol biosynthesis. The accumulation of 14 α -methyl sterols correlates with the subsequent loss of ergosterol in the fungal cell walls and may be responsible for the antifungal activity of voriconazole.

Drug Resistance

Voriconazole drug resistance development has not been adequately studied *in vitro* against *Candida*, *Aspergillus*, *Scedosporium* and *Fusarium* species. The frequency of drug resistance development for the various fungi for which this drug is indicated is not known.

Fungal isolates exhibiting reduced susceptibility to voriconazole or itraconazole may also show reduced susceptibility to other azoles. Therefore, there is potential for cross-resistance. The relevance of cross-resistance and clinical outcome has not been fully characterized. Clinical cases where azole cross-resistance is demonstrated may require alternative antifungal therapy.

Activity *In Vitro* and *In Vivo*

Voriconazole has been shown to be active against most strains of the following microorganisms, both *in vitro* and *in clinical infections*:

Aspergillus fumigatus

Aspergillus flavus

Aspergillus niger

Aspergillus terreus

Candida albicans

Candida glabrata

Candida guilliermondii

Candida parapsilosis

Candida tropicalis

Fusarium spp. including *Fusarium solani*

Scedosporium apiospermum

^aIn clinical studies, voriconazole MIC₉₀ for *C. glabrata* baseline isolates was $\geq 1 \mu\text{g/mL}$; 13/50 (26%) *C. glabrata* baseline isolates were resistant to voriconazole. In these studies, based on 1054 isolates tested in surveillance studies the MIC₉₀ was $\geq 1 \mu\text{g/mL}$. (See [Table 12](#)).

The following data are available, but their clinical significance is unknown.

Voriconazole exhibits *in vitro* minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ or less against most (90%) isolates of the following microorganisms tested in surveillance studies: *Candida albicans*, *Candida guilliermondii*, *Candida lusitanae*, and *Candida parapsilosis*.

Susceptibility Testing Methods^{1,2}

Aspergillus fumigatus and other filamentous fungi

No interpretive criteria have been established for *Aspergillus* species and other filamentous fungi.

Candida species

The interpretive standards for voriconazole against *Candida* species are applicable only to tests performed using Clinical Laboratory and Standards Institute (CLSI) microbroth dilution reference method M27 for MIC read at 48 hours or disk diffusion reference method M44 for zone diameter read at 24 hours.^{1,2}

Broth Microdilution Techniques—Quantitative methods are used to determine antifungal minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs). These MICs provide estimates of the susceptibility of *Candida* spp. to antifungal agents. MICs should be determined using a standardized procedure at 48 hours.¹ Standardized procedures are based on a microdilution method (broth) with standardized inoculum concentrations and standardized concentrations of voriconazole powder. The MIC values should be interpreted according to the criteria provided in [Table 9](#).

Dilution Techniques—Qualitative methods that require measurement of zone diameters also provide reproducible estimates of the susceptibility of *Candida* spp. to an antifungal agent. One such standardized procedure requires the use of standardized inoculum concentrations.² This procedure uses paper disks impregnated with 1 μg of voriconazole to test the susceptibility of yeasts to voriconazole at 24 hours. Disk diffusion interpretive criteria are also provided in [Table 9](#).

Susceptibility Interpretive Criteria for Voriconazole^{1,2}

Broth Microdilution MIC (MIC in $\mu\text{g/mL}$)	Disk Diffusion at 24 hours (Zone Diameter in mm)	
	Susceptible	Intermediate to Resistant