PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

PrNORVIR®
Ritonavir
film-coated tablets (100 mg)

PrNORVIR®
Ritonavir
oral solution (80 mg/mL)

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Protease Inhibitor

Date of Initial Approval:
August 9, 1996

Date of Previous Revision:
August 22, 2018

Date of Revision:
September 25, 2018

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Submission Control No: 217630

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[Pr]NORVIR

ritonavir

PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION

Route of Administration	Dosage Form/Strength	Clinically Relevant Non-medicinal Ingredients
oral	film-coated tablets / 100 mg	sorbitan monolaurate/sorbitan laurate
	oral solution / 80 mg/mL	ethanol, polyoxyl 35 castor oil, propylene glycol
		*For a complete listing of non-medicinal ingredients, see **DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING** section.*

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

NORVIR (ritonavir) film-coated tablets and NORVIR (ritonavir) oral solution are indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection when therapy is warranted.

For patients with advanced Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) disease, this indication is based on the results from a study that showed a reduction in both mortality and AIDS-defining clinical events for patients who received NORVIR. Median duration of follow-up in this study was 6 months. The clinical benefit from NORVIR therapy for longer periods of treatment is unknown.

For patients with less advanced disease, this indication is based on changes in surrogate markers in studies evaluating patients who received NORVIR alone or in combination with other antiretroviral agents (see **CLINICAL TRIALS**).

Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age)

Clinical studies of NORVIR did not include sufficient numbers of subjects age 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. In general, appropriate caution should be exercised in the administration and monitoring of NORVIR in elderly patients

reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

Pediatrics (2 to 16 years of age)

NORVIR concentrations obtained after 350 to 400 mg/m² twice daily in pediatric patients were comparable to those obtained in adults receiving 600 mg (approximately 330 mg/m²) twice daily (see **Pharmacokinetics**, **Special Populations and Conditions**, **Pediatrics**). The safety and effectiveness of NORVIR in pediatric patients below the age of 2 years have not been established.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

When NORVIR (ritonavir) film-coated tablets or NORVIR (ritonavir) oral solution is used as a pharmacokinetic enhancer with other protease inhibitors, see the full prescribing information of that protease inhibitor including contraindication information.

NORVIR is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity [e.g toxic epidermal necrosis (TEN) or Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS)] to NORVIR or any of its ingredients (see **DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING)**.

Co-administration of NORVIR is contraindicated with the drugs listed in **Table 1** (see also **DRUG INTERACTIONS, Serious Drug Interactions** box) because competition for primarily CYP3A by NORVIR could result in inhibition of the metabolism of these drugs and create the potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions, such as cardiac arrhythmias, prolonged or increased sedation, and respiratory depression. Voriconazole and St. John's Wort are exceptions in that co-administration of NORVIR and voriconazole results in a significant reduction in plasma concentrations of voriconazole and possible loss of effect, and co-administration of NORVIR with St. John's Wort may lead to loss of virologic response and possible resistance to NORVIR.

Table 1. Drugs that are Contraindicated with NORVIR

Drug Class	Drugs Within Class that are Contraindicated with NORVIR	Clinical Comment
$Alpha_1$-Adrenoreceptor Antagonist	alfuzosin	Potential for serious reactions, such as hypotension (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**, **Table 5**).
Antiarrhythmics	amiodarone, bepridil[1], dronedarone, flecainide, propafenone, quinidine	Potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions, such as cardiac arrhythmias.
Antibiotic	fusidic acid	Potential of increased fusidic acid-associated adverse events, such as hepatitis or bone marrow suppression.
Anticancer	venetoclax[4]	Concomitant use of strong CYP3A inhibitors, such as NORVIR, and venetoclax may increase the risk of tumor lysis syndrome at the dose initiation and during the ramp-up phase.
Anticoagulant	rivaroxaban	Potential of increased rivaroxaban plasma concentrations which may lead to risk of increased bleeding.
Antifungal	voriconazole	Significant reduction in voriconazole plasma concentrations and possible loss of effect (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**, **Table 6).**
Antigout	colchicine	Potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions in patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS, Table 5**).
Antihistamines	astemizole[1], terfenadine[1]	Potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions, such as cardiac arrhythmias.
Antipsychotics	lurasidone	Potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions.
	pimozide	Potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions, such as cardiac arrhythmias.
Ergot Derivatives	dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, methylergonovine[1]	Potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions, such as acute ergot toxicity characterized by vasospasm and tissue ischemia.
GI Motility Agent	cisapride[1]	Potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions, such as cardiac arrhythmias.
Herbal Products	St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)	May lead to loss of virologic response and possible resistance to NORVIR or to the class of protease inhibitors.
HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors	lovastatin, simvastatin	Potential for serious reactions, such as risk of myopathy including rhabdomyolysis.
Long Acting Beta-Adrenoceptor	salmeterol	May result in potential increased risk of cardiovascular adverse events associated with salmeterol.

Drug Class	Drugs Within Class that are Contraindicated with NORVIR	Clinical Comment
PDE5 Inhibitors	sildenafil[2], only when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)	Potential increase in PDE5 inhibitor associated adverse reactions including hypotension, syncope, visual changes and prolonged erection.
	vardenafil, when used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction or PAH	Potential increase in PDE5 inhibitor associated adverse reactions including hypotension, syncope, visual changes and prolonged erection.
Sedative/Hypnotics	orally administered midazolam[3], triazolam	Potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions, such as prolonged or increased sedation or respiratory depression.

1: Product no longer marketed in Canada.

2: See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS** for co-administration of sildenafil in patients with erectile dysfunction.

3: See **DRUG INTERACTIONS**, **Table 5** for parenterally administered midazolam. Oral formulation of midazolam is not marketed in Canada.

4: See **DRUG INTERACTIONS**, **Table 5** for coadministration of the maintenance dose of venetoclax.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Serious Warnings and Precautions

- Pancreatitis should be considered if clinical symptoms (nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain) or abnormalities in laboratory values (such as increased serum lipase or amylase values) suggestive of pancreatitis should occur. Patients who exhibit these signs or symptoms should be evaluated and NORVIR therapy should be discontinued if a diagnosis of pancreatitis is made (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic, Pancreatitis**).
- Co-administration of NORVIR with certain non-sedating antihistamines, sedative hypnotics, or antiarrhythmics may result in potentially serious and/or life-threatening adverse events due to possible effects of NORVIR on the hepatic metabolism of certain drugs (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).
- See **DRUG INTERACTIONS, Serious Drug Interactions**.

Drug-Drug Interactions

When NORVIR (ritonavir) film-coated tablets or NORVIR (ritonavir) oral solution is used as a pharmacokinetic enhancer with other protease inhibitors, see the full prescribing information of that protease inhibitor including Warning and Precautions.

NORVIR is an inhibitor of cytochrome P450 3A (CYP3A) both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. NORVIR also inhibits CYP2D6 *in vitro*, but to a lesser extent than CYP3A.

Initiation of NORVIR, a CYP3A inhibitor, in patients receiving medications metabolized by CYP3A or initiation of medications metabolized by CYP3A in patients already receiving NORVIR, may increase plasma concentrations of medications metabolized by CYP3A. Initiation of medications that inhibit or induce CYP3A may increase or decrease concentrations of NORVIR, respectively. These interactions may lead to:

- Clinically significant adverse reactions, potentially leading to severe, life-threatening, or fatal events from greater exposures of concomitant medications.
- Clinically significant adverse reactions from greater exposures of NORVIR.
- Loss of therapeutic effect of NORVIR and possible development of resistance.

See **Table 5** for steps to prevent or manage these possible and known significant drug interactions, including dosing recommendations (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**). Consider the potential for drug interactions prior to and during NORVIR therapy; review concomitant medications during NORVIR therapy, and monitor for the adverse reactions associated with the concomitant medications (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

Allergic Reactions

Allergic reactions including urticaria, skin eruptions, bronchospasm, and angioedema have been reported. Rare cases of anaphylaxis, toxic epidermal necrosis (TEN) and Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) have also been reported. Discontinue treatment if these reactions occur.

Organ Targets for Toxicity

Toxicological studies in laboratory animals identified various organs as targets for toxicity at drug exposures below or approaching those achieved in patients participating in clinical trials with NORVIR. Because no safety margin or a small safety margin has been demonstrated in long-term studies, these organs should be assessed periodically or if clinical signs and symptoms occur during therapy (see **NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY**).

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

For a brief discussion of pre-clinical carcinogenicity data, see **NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY, Mutagenicity and Carcinogenicity**. No evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity have been reported in a battery of in vitro and in vivo assays.

PR Interval Prolongation

NORVIR has been shown to cause asymptomatic prolongation of the PR interval in some patients.

Post-marketing reports of second or third degree atrioventricular block have been reported in patients with underlying structural heart disease and pre-existing conduction system abnormalities, ischemic heart disease, cardiomyopathies, as these patients may be at increased risk of cardiac conduction abnormalities, or in patients receiving drugs known to prolong the PR interval (such as calcium channel blockers, beta-adrenergic blockers, digoxin, verapamil or atazanavir).

Co-administration of NORVIR with these drugs should be undertaken with caution, particularly with drugs metabolized by CYP3A4 (see **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**, **Pharmacodynamics**, **Effects on the Electrocardiogram**). Clinical monitoring is recommended (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

Endocrine and Metabolism

Diabetes Mellitus/Hyperglycemia

Levels of blood glucose may increase during antiretroviral therapy. Such changes may in part be linked to the treatment per se (e.g., protease inhibitors), and in part to disease control and life style.New onset diabetes mellitus, exacerbation of pre-existing diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia have been reported during post-marketing surveillance in HIV-infected patients receiving protease inhibitor therapy. Some patients required either initiation or dose adjustments of insulin or oral hypoglycemic agents for treatment of these events. In some cases diabetic ketoacidosis has occurred. In those patients who discontinued protease inhibitor therapy, hyperglycemia persisted in some cases. Because these events have been reported voluntarily during clinical practice, estimates of frequency cannot be made and a causal relationship between protease inhibitor therapy and these events has not been established. For monitoring of blood glucose, reference is made to established HIV treatment guidelines. Glucose elevations should be managed as clinically appropriate (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**, **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**).

Lipid Disorders

Levels of blood lipids may increase during antiretroviral therapy. Such changes may in part be linked to the treatment per se (e.g., protease inhibitors), and in part to disease control and life style. (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Table 4**).

Triglycerides and cholesterol testing should be performed prior to initiating NORVIR therapy and at periodic intervals during therapy (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**, **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**). For monitoring of blood lipids, reference is made to established HIV treatment guidelines. Lipid disorders should be managed as clinically appropriate.

Hematologic

There have been reports of increased bleeding, including spontaneous skin hematomas and hemarthrosis, in patients with hemophilia type A and type B treated with protease inhibitors. In

some patients, additional Factor VIII was given. In more than half of the reported cases, treatment with protease inhibitors was continued or re-introduced. There is no proven relationship between protease inhibitors and such bleeding; however, the frequency of bleeding episodes should be closely monitored in patients on NORVIR.

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

Impaired Hepatic Function

NORVIR is principally metabolized by the liver. Pre-clinical studies have identified the liver as a toxicity target (see **NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY**). Therefore, appropriate tests should be performed at treatment initiation and at periodic intervals to assess hepatic function.

Caution should be exercised when administering NORVIR to patients with impaired hepatic function.

Hepatic Reactions

Hepatic transaminase elevations exceeding 5 times the upper limit of normal, clinical hepatitis, and jaundice have occurred in patients receiving NORVIR alone or in combination with other antiretroviral drugs (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Table 4**). There may be an increased risk for transaminase elevations in patients with underlying hepatitis B or C. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering NORVIR to patients with pre-existing liver disease, liver enzyme abnormalities, or hepatitis. Liver enzyme elevations should be monitored as clinically appropriate (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**, **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**).

There have been post-marketing reports of hepatic dysfunction, including some fatalities. These have generally occurred in patients taking multiple concomitant medications and/or with advanced AIDS.

Pancreatitis

Pancreatitis has been observed in patients receiving NORVIR therapy, including those who developed hypertriglyceridemia. In some cases fatalities have been observed. Patients with advanced HIV disease may be at increased risk of elevated triglycerides and pancreatitis.

Pancreatitis should be considered if clinical symptoms (nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain) or abnormalities in laboratory values (such as increased serum lipase or amylase values) suggestive of pancreatitis should occur. Patients who exhibit these signs or symptoms should be evaluated and NORVIR therapy should be discontinued if a diagnosis of pancreatitis is made.

Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome

Immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome has been reported in HIV-infected patients treated with combination antiretroviral therapy, including NORVIR. During the initial phase of

treatment, patients responding to antiretroviral therapy may develop an inflammatory response to indolent or residual opportunistic infections (such as *Mycobacterium avium* infection, cytomegalovirus, *Pneumocystis jiroveci* pneumonia, or tuberculosis), which may necessitate further evaluation and treatment.

Autoimmune disorders (such as Graves' disease, polymyositis, and Guillain-Barré syndrome) have also been reported to occur in the setting of immune reconstitution, however, the time to onset is more variable, and can occur many months after initiation of treatment.

Neurologic

Central nervous system (CNS) penetration of NORVIR has not been established.

Sensitivity/Resistance

Resistance

Mutations associated with the HIV viral protease in isolates obtained from 41 patients appeared to occur in a stepwise and ordered fashion.

The clinical relevance of phenotypic and genotypic changes associated with NORVIR therapy has not been established (see **MICROBIOLOGY, Resistance**).

Cross-Resistance

Serial HIV isolates obtained from six patients during NORVIR therapy showed a decrease in ritonavir susceptibility *in vitro* to indinavir (8-fold), nelfinavir (12- to 14-fold), and none to amprenavir. One zidovudine (ZDV)-resistant HIV isolate tested *in vitro* retained full susceptibility to ritonavir (see **MICROBIOLOGY, Cross-Resistance**).

Sensitivity

The presence of alcohol in NORVIR oral solution is potentially harmful for those suffering from liver disease, alcoholism, epilepsy, brain injury or disease, as well as for pregnant women and children. It may modify or increase the effects of the other medicines (see **DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING**). Caution should be employed when NORVIR is used in these populations and when co-administered with other medications.

Patients taking NORVIR oral solution, particularly those with renal impairment or with decreased ability to metabolize propylene glycol (e.g., those of Asian origin), should be monitored for adverse reactions potentially related to propylene glycol toxicity (i.e., seizures, stupor, tachycardia, hyperosmolarity, lactic acidosis, renal toxicity, haemolysis).

NORVIR oral solution contains castor oil polyoxyl which may cause stomach upset and diarrhoea. NORVIR oral solution contains the excipients alcohol and propylene glycol (see **Special Populations,** Toxicity in Preterm Neonates).

Special Populations

Pregnant Women

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Prospective pregnancy data from the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry (APR) are not sufficient to adequately assess the risk of birth defects or miscarriage. Based on approximately 6100 live births following exposure to ritonavir-containing regimens (including over 2800 live births exposed in the first trimester and over 3200 live births exposed in the second and third trimesters) in the APR, there was no difference in the rate of overall birth defects for ritonavir compared with the background birth defect rate of 2.7% in the U.S. reference population of the Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program (MACDP). The prevalence of birth defects in live births was 2.3% (95% CI: 1.7%-2.9%) following first-trimester exposure to ritonavir-containing regimens and 2.9% (95% CI: 2.3%-3.5%) following second and third trimester exposure to ritonavir-containing regimens. The prevalence of birth defects after any trimester exposure to ritonavir is comparable to the prevalence observed in the general population.

Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

In rat fertility studies, hepatic toxicity precluded drug exposures equal to those achieved with the proposed human therapeutic dose. No effects on fertility in rats were produced at drug exposures approximately 40% (male) and 60% (female) of that achieved with the proposed human therapeutic dose.

No treatment-related malformations were observed when ritonavir was administered to pregnant rats or rabbits. Developmental toxicity observed in rats (early resorptions, decreased fetal body weight and ossification delays and developmental variations) occurred at a maternally toxic dosage at an exposure equivalent to approximately 30% of that achieved with the proposed therapeutic dose. A slight increase in the incidence of cryptorchidism was also noted in rats at an exposure approximately 22% of that achieved with the proposed therapeutic dose.

Developmental toxicity observed in rabbits (resorptions, decreased litter size and decreased fetal weights) also occurred at a maternally toxic dosage equivalent to 1.8 times the proposed therapeutic dose based on a body surface area conversion factor.

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry

To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to NORVIR, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-258-4263.

Nursing Women

HIV-infected mothers should not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV. Limited published data reports that ritonavir is present in human milk. There is no information on the effects of ritonavir on the breastfed infant or the effects of the drug on milk production. Because of the potential for (1) HIV transmission (in HIV-negative infants), (2) developing viral resistance (in HIV-positive infants) and (3) serious adverse reactions in a breastfed infant, instruct mothers **not to breast-feed if they are receiving NORVIR.**

Pediatrics (2 to 16 years of age)

The safety and effectiveness of NORVIR in pediatric patients below the age of 2 years have not been established. Although the database in HIV-infected patients age 2 to 16 years is much smaller, the adverse event profile seen during a clinical trial and post-marketing experience was similar to that observed for adult patients.

Toxicity in Preterm Neonates

NORVIR oral solution should not be used in preterm neonates in the immediate postnatal period because of possible toxicities. NORVIR oral solution contains the excipients alcohol (43.2% v/v) and propylene glycol (26.57% w/v). When administered concomitantly with propylene glycol, ethanol competitively inhibits the metabolism of propylene glycol, which may lead to elevated concentrations. Preterm neonates may be at an increased risk of propylene glycol-associated adverse events due to diminished ability to metabolize propylene glycol, thereby leading to accumulation and potential adverse events. Postmarketing life-threatening cases of cardiac toxicity (including complete AV block, bradycardia, and cardiomyopathy), lactic acidosis, acute renal failure, CNS depression and respiratory complications leading to death have been reported, predominantly in preterm neonates receiving lopinavir/ritonavir oral solution which also contains the excipients alcohol and propylene glycol. Infants should be monitored closely for toxicity related to ritonavir oral solution including: hyperosmolality, with or without lactic acidosis, renal toxicity, CNS depression (including stupor, coma, and apnea), seizures, hypotonia, cardiac arrhythmias and ECG changes, and hemolysis.

Total amounts of alcohol and propylene glycol from all medicines that are to be given to infants should be taken into account in order to avoid toxicity from these excipients (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** and **OVERDOSAGE**).

Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age)

Clinical studies of NORVIR did not include sufficient numbers of subjects age 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. In general, appropriate caution should be exercised in the administration and monitoring of NORVIR in elderly patients reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

Monitoring and Laboratory Tests

NORVIR has been associated with elevations in cholesterol, triglycerides, SGOT (AST), SGPT (ALT), GGT, CK, and uric acid. Appropriate laboratory testing should be performed prior to initiating NORVIR therapy and at periodic intervals or if any clinical signs or symptoms occur during therapy. For monitoring of liver enzymes, blood lipids, and glucose refer to established HIV treatment guidelines. For comprehensive information concerning laboratory test alterations associated with other antiretroviral agents, physicians should refer to the complete product information for each of these drugs.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

When NORVIR (ritonavir) film-coated tablets or NORVIR (ritonavir) oral solution is used as a pharmacokinetic enhancer with other protease inhibitors, see the full prescribing information of that protease inhibitor including Adverse Reactions.

Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

> *Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and for approximating rates.*

Adult Patients

The safety of NORVIR alone and in combination with nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors was studied in 1270 adult patients.

Table 2 lists treatment-emergent adverse events (at least possibly related and of at least moderate intensity) that occurred in 2% or greater of adult patients receiving NORVIR alone or in combination with nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors in Study M94-247 or Study M94-245 and in combination with saquinavir in Study M94-462. In that study, 141 protease inhibitor-naïve, HIV-infected patients with mean baseline CD_4 of 300 cells/microliter were randomized to one of four regimens of NORVIR plus saquinavir, including NORVIR 400 mg twice daily plus saquinavir 400 mg twice daily. Overall, the most frequently reported adverse drug reactions among patients receiving NORVIR alone or in combination with other antiretroviral drugs were gastrointestinal and neurological disturbances including diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, abdominal pain (upper and lower), and neurological disturbances (including paresthesia and oral paresthesia), and fatigue/asthenia. Similar adverse event profiles were reported in adult patients receiving NORVIR in other trials.

Table 2. Percentage of Patients with Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events[1] of Moderate or Severe Intensity Occurring in ≥ 2% of Adult Patients Receiving NORVIR

Adverse Events	Study M94-247 Advanced Patients[2]		Study M94-245 Naïve Patients[3]			Study M94-462 PI-Naïve Patients[4]
	NORVIR (n = 541)	Placebo (n = 545)	NORVIR + Zidovudine (n = 116)	NORVIR (n = 117)	Zidovudine (n = 119)	NORVIR[5] + Saquinavir (n = 141)
Body as a Whole						
Abdominal Pain	8.3	5.1	5.2	6.0	5.9	2.1
Asthenia	15.3	6.4	28.4	10.3	11.8	16.3
Fever	5.0	2.4	1.7	0.9	1.7	0.7
Headache	6.5	5.7	7.8	6.0	6.7	4.3
Malaise	0.7	0.2	5.2	1.7	3.4	2.8
Pain (unspecified)	2.2	1.8	0.9	1.7	0.8	4.3
Cardiovascular						
Syncope	0.6	0.0	0.9	1.7	0.8	2.1
Vasodilation	1.7	0.0	3.4	1.7	0.8	3.5
Digestive						
Anorexia	7.8	4.2	8.6	1.7	4.2	4.3
Constipation	0.2	0.4	3.4	0.0	0.8	1.4
Diarrhea	23.3	7.9	25.0	15.4	2.5	22.7
Dyspepsia	5.9	1.5	2.6	0.0	1.7	0.7
Fecal Incontinence	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8
Flatulence	1.7	0.7	2.6	0.9	1.7	3.5
Liver Function Tests Abnormal	3.3	0.9	2.6	1.7	1.7	5.0
Local Throat Irritation	2.8	0.4	0.9	1.7	0.8	1.4
Nausea	29.8	8.4	46.6	25.6	26.1	18.4
Vomiting	17.4	4.4	23.3	13.7	12.6	7.1
Metabolic and Nutritional						
Creatinine Phosphokinase (CK) Increase	0.9	0.2	4.3	3.4	3.4	N/A
Hyperlipidemia	5.7	0.2	2.6	1.7	0.0	3.5
Weight Loss	2.4	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Adverse Events	Study M94-247 Advanced Patients[2]		Study M94-245 Naïve Patients[3]			Study M94-462 PI-Naïve Patients[4]
	NORVIR (n = 541)	Placebo (n = 545)	NORVIR + Zidovudine (n = 116)	NORVIR (n = 117)	Zidovudine (n = 119)	NORVIR[5] + Saquinavir (n = 141)
Musculoskeletal						
Arthralgia	1.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Myalgia	2.4	1.1	1.7	1.7	0.8	2.1
Nervous						
Anxiety	1.7	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.8	2.1
Circumoral Paresthesia	6.7	0.4	5.2	3.4	0.0	6.4
Confusion	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	2.1
Depression	1.7	0.7	1.7	1.7	2.5	7.1
Dizziness	3.9	1.1	5.2	2.6	3.4	8.5
Insomnia	2.0	1.8	3.4	2.6	0.8	2.8
Paresthesia	3.0	0.4	5.2	2.6	0.0	2.1
Peripheral Paresthesia	5.0	1.1	0.0	6.0	0.8	5.7
Somnolence	2.4	0.2	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
Thinking Abnormal	0.9	0.4	2.6	0.0	0.8	0.7
Respiratory						
Pharyngitis	0.4	0.4	0.9	2.6	0.0	1.4
Skin and Appendages						
Rash	3.5	1.5	0.9	0.0	0.8	0.7
Sweating	1.7	1.1	3.4	2.6	1.7	2.8
Special Senses						
Taste Perversion	7.0	2.2	17.2	11.1	8.4	5.0
Urogenital						
Nocturia	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8

1: Includes those adverse events at least possibly related to study drug or of unknown relationship and excludes concurrent HIV conditions.

2: The median duration of treatment for patients randomized to regimens containing NORVIR in Study M94-247 was 9.4 months.

3: The median duration of treatment for patients randomized to regimens containing NORVIR in Study M94-245 was 9.1 months.

4: The median duration of treatment for patients in Study M94-462 was 48 weeks.

5: The dose of NORVIR when co-administered with saquinavir was reduced to 400 mg twice daily.

Definitions: N/A = Not available

Other Common Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Table 3 includes other treatment-emergent adverse reactions (with possible or probable relationship to study drug) occurring in ≥ 1% of adult patients receiving NORVIR derived from cumulative data from combined Phase 2 to 4 studies.

Table 3. Treatment-Emergent Adverse Reactions (With Possible or Probable Relationship to Study Drug) Occurring in ≥ 1% of Adult Patients Receiving NORVIR in Combined Phase 2 to 4 Studies (N = 1,755)

Adverse Reactions	n	%
Eye disorders		
Blurred vision	113	6.4
Gastrointestinal disorders		
Abdominal Pain (upper and lower)	464	26.4
Diarrhea including severe with electrolyte imbalance	1,192	67.9
Dyspepsia	201	11.5
Flatulence	142	8.1
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	41	2.3
Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)	19	1.1
Nausea	1,007	57.4
Vomiting	559	31.9
General disorders and administration site conditions		
Fatigue including asthenia	811	46.2
Hepatobiliary disorders		
Blood bilirubin increased (including jaundice)	25	1.4
Hepatitis (including increased AST, ALT, GGT)	153	8.7
Immune system disorders		
Hypersensivity including urticatria and face edema	114	8.2

Adverse Reactions	n	%
Metabolism and nutrition disorders		
Edema and peripheral edema	110	6.3
Gout	24	1.4
Hypercholesterolemia	52	3.0
Hypertriglyceridemia	158	9.0
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders		
Arthralgia and back pain	326	18.6
Myopathy/creatine phosphokinase increased	66	3.8
Myalgia	156	8.9
Nervous system disorders		
Dizziness	274	15.6
Dysgeusia	285	16.2
Paresthesia (including oral paresthesia)	889	50.7
Peripheral neuropathy	178	10.1
Syncope	58	3.3
Psychiatric disorders		
Confusion	52	3.0
Disturbance in attention	44	2.5
Renal and urinary disorders		
Increased urination	74	4.2
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders		
Coughing	380	21.7
Oropharyngeal Pain	279	15.9
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders		
Acne	67	3.8
Pruritus	214	12.2
Rash (includes erythematous and maculopapular)	475	27.1

Adverse Reactions	n	%
Vascular disorders		
Flushing, feeling hot	232	13.2
Hypertension	58	3.3
Hypotension including orthostatic hypotension	30	1.7
Peripheral coldness	21	1.2

Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Events (< 2%)

Adverse events occurring in less than 2% of adult patients receiving NORVIR in all Phase 2/Phase 3 studies and considered at least possibly related or of unknown relationship to treatment and of at least moderate intensity are listed below by body system.

Body as a Whole: Abdomen enlarged, accidental injury, cachexia, chest pain, chills, facial pain, flu syndrome, hormone level altered, hypothermia, kidney pain, neck pain, neck rigidity, pelvic pain, photosensitivity reaction, and substernal chest pain.

Cardiovascular System: Cardiovascular disorder, cerebral ischemia, cerebral venous thrombosis, hemorrhage, migraine, myocardial infarct, palpitation, peripheral vascular disorder, phlebitis, postural hypotension, tachycardia, and vasospasm.

Digestive System: Abnormal stools, bloody diarrhea, cheilitis, cholangitis, cholestatic jaundice, colitis, dry mouth, dysphagia, eructation, esophageal ulcer, esophagitis, gastritis, gastroenteritis, gastrointestinal disorder, gingivitis, hepatic coma, hepatomegaly, hepatosplenomegaly, ileitis, ileus, liver damage, melena, mouth ulcer, oral moniliasis, pancreatitis, periodontal abscess, pseudomembranous colitis, rectal disorder, rectal hemorrhage, sialadenitis, stomatitis, tenesmus, thirst, tongue edema, and ulcerative colitis.

Endocrine System: Adrenal cortex insufficiency and diabetes mellitus.

Hemic and Lymphatic System: Acute myeloblastic leukemia, anemia, ecchymosis, leukopenia, lymphadenopathy, lymphocytosis, myeloproliferative disorder, and thrombocytopenia.

Metabolism and Nutritional Disorders: Albuminuria, alcohol intolerance, avitaminosis, BUN increased, dehydration, enzymatic abnormality, glycosuria, and xanthomatosis.

Musculoskeletal System: Arthritis, arthrosis, bone disorder, bone pain, extraocular palsy, joint disorder, leg cramps, muscle cramps, muscle weakness, myositis, and twitching.

Nervous System:	Abnormal dreams, abnormal gait, agitation, amnesia, aphasia, ataxia, coma, convulsion, dementia, depersonalization, diplopia, emotional lability, euphoria, grand mal convulsion, hallucinations, hyperesthesia, hyperkinesia, hypesthesia, incoordination, libido decreased, manic reaction, nervousness, neuralgia, neuropathy, paralysis, peripheral neuropathic pain, peripheral sensory neuropathy, personality disorder, sleep disorder, speech disorder, stupor, subdural hematoma, tremor, urinary retention, vertigo, and vestibular disorder.
Respiratory System:	Asthma, bronchitis, dyspnea, epistaxis, hiccup, hypoventilation, interstitial pneumonia, larynx edema, lung disorder, rhinitis, and sinusitis.
Skin and Appendages:	Contact dermatitis, dry skin, eczema, erythema multiforme, exfoliative dermatitis, folliculitis, fungal dermatitis, furunculosis, molluscum contagiosum, onychomycosis, psoriasis, pustular rash, seborrhea, skin discoloration, skin disorder, skin hypertrophy, skin melanoma, and vesiculobullous rash.
Special Senses:	Abnormal electro-oculogram, abnormal electroretinogram, abnormal vision, amblyopia/blurred vision, blepharitis, conjunctivitis, ear pain, eye disorder, eye pain, hearing impairment, increased cerumen, iritis, parosmia, photophobia, taste loss, tinnitus, uveitis, visual field defect, and vitreous disorder.
Urogenital System:	Acute kidney failure, breast pain, cystitis, dysuria, hematuria, impotence, kidney calculus, kidney failure, kidney function abnormal, kidney pain, menorrhagia, penis disorder, polyuria, pyelonephritis, urethritis, urinary frequency, urinary tract infection, and vaginitis.

Abnormal Hematologic and Clinical Chemistry Findings

Table 4 shows the percentage of adult patients who developed marked laboratory abnormalities.

Table 4. Percentage of Adult Patients, by Study and Treatment Group, with Chemistry and Hematology Abnormalities Occurring in ≥ 2% of Patients Receiving NORVIR

Variable	Limit	Study M94-247 Advanced Patients		Study M94-245 Naïve Patients			Study M94-462 PI-Naïve Patients
		NORVIR (n = 541)	Placebo (n=545)	NORVIR + ZDV (n = 116)	NORVIR (n = 117)	ZDV (n=119)	NORVIR + Saquinavir (n = 141)
Chemistry	High						
Alkaline Phosphatase	> 550 IU/L	2.3	2.2	-	0.9	-	-
Cholesterol	> 6.22 mmol/L	36.5	8.0	30.7	44.8	9.3	65.2
CK	> 1000 IU/L	9.1	6.3	9.6	12.1	11.0	9.9
GGT	> 300 IU/L	19.6	11.3	1.8	5.2	1.7	9.2
Glucose	> 13.88 mmol/L	0.9	1.3	2.6	0.9	0.8	0.7
SGOT/AST	> 180 IU/L	6.4	7.0	5.3	9.5	2.5	7.8
SGPT/ALT	> 215 IU/L	8.5	4.4	5.3	7.8	3.4	9.2
Total Bilirubin	> 61.56 micromol/L	1.3	0.2	-	0.9	0.8	2.1
Triglycerides	> 9.04 mmol/L	33.6	9.4	9.6	17.2	3.4	23.4
Triglycerides	> 16.95 mmol/L	12.6	0.4	1.8	2.6	-	11.3
Triglycerides Fasting	> 16.95 mmol/L	9.9	0.3	1.5	1.3	-	-
Uric Acid	> 713.76 micromol/L	3.8	0.2	-	-	-	1.4
Chemistry	Low						
Potassium	< 3.0 mEq/L	3.0	2.0	-	1.7	-	2.1
Hematology	High						
Eosinophils	> 1.0 x 10^9/L	2.6	3.3	-	2.6	1.7	0.7
Neutrophils	> 20 x 10^9/L	2.3	1.3	-	-	-	-

Variable	Limit	Study M94-247 Advanced Patients		Study M94-245 Naïve Patients			Study M94-462 PI-Naïve Patients
		NORVIR (n = 541)	Placebo (n=545)	NORVIR + ZDV (n = 116)	NORVIR (n = 117)	ZDV (n=119)	NORVIR + Saquinavir (n = 141)
Hematology	Low						
Hematocrit	< 30%	17.3	22.0	2.6	-	0.8	0.7
Hemoglobin	< 80 g/L	3.8	3.9	0.9	-	-	-
Neutrophils	$\leq 0.5 \times 10^9$/L	6.0	8.3	-	-	-	-
Red Blood Cells (RBC)	$< 3.0 \times 10^{12}$/L	18.6	24.4	1.8	-	5.9	-
White Blood Cells (WBC)	$< 2.5 \times 10^9$/L	36.9	59.4	-	0.9	6.8	3.5

– Indicates no events reported.

Definitions: CK = creatinine; ULN = upper limit of the normal range; N/A = Not Applicable; SGPT/ALT = serum glutamic-pyruvic transaminase/alanine aminotransferase; SGOT/AST = serum glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase/aspartate aminotransferase; GGT = gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase; ZDV = zidovudine.

Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions

The following adverse events have been reported during post-marketing use of NORVIR. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, it is not possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to NORVIR exposure.

Cardiovascular System:	First-degree AV block, second-degree AV block, third-degree AV block, right bundle branch block have been reported (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, PR Interval Prolongation**). Myocardial infarction has been reported. Cardiac and neurologic events have been reported when NORVIR has been co-administered with disopyramide, mexiletine, nefazodone, fluoxetine, and beta blockers. The possibility of drug interaction cannot be excluded.
Endocrine System:	Hyperglycemia has been reported in individuals with and without a known history of diabetes. Cushing's syndrome and adrenal suppression have been reported when NORVIR was co-administered with fluticasone propionate, budesonide or triamcinolone.
Hemic and Lymphatic System:	There have been reports of increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia A or B (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic**).

Immune System:	Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**, **Immune**)
Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders:	Dehydration, usually associated with gastrointestinal symptoms, and sometimes resulting in hypotension, syncope, or renal insufficiency has been reported. Syncope, orthostatic hypotension and renal insufficiency have also been reported without known dehydration. Co-administration of NORVIR with ergotamine or dihydroergotamine has been associated with acute ergot toxicity characterized by vasospasm and ischemia of the extremities and other tissues including the central nervous system.
Nervous System Disorders:	There have been post-marketing reports of seizure. Cause and effect relationship has not been established.
Reproductive System and Breast Disorders:	Menorrhagia has been reported.
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders:	Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), and Toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN).

Pediatric Patients

The safety and pharmacokinetic profiles of NORVIR in pediatric patients below the age of 2 have not been studied. Although the database in HIV-infected patients age 2 to 16 years is much smaller, the adverse event profile seen during a clinical trial and post-marketing experience was similar to that observed for adult patients.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Serious Drug Interactions

- **Co-administration** (saquinavir//NORVIR): The recommended dose of NORVIR is 100 mg twice daily when used with saquinavir. Higher doses of NORVIR when given with saquinavir have been associated with severe adverse events mainly diabetic ketoacidosis and liver disorders, especially in patients with pre-existing liver disease.
- **Co-administration** (saquinavir/rifampin/NORVIR): Saquinavir/NORVIR should not be given together with rifampin, due to the risk of severe hepatotoxicity (presenting as increased hepatic transaminases) if the three drugs are given together.
- **Co-administration** (tipranavir/NORVIR): Tipranavir co-administered with 200 mg of NORVIR has been associated with reports of clinical hepatitis and hepatic decompensation including some fatalities. Extra vigilance is warranted in patients with chronic hepatitis B or hepatitis C co-infection, as these patients have an increased risk of hepatotoxicity.

Overview

When NORVIR (ritonavir) film-coated tablets or NORVIR (ritonavir) oral solution is used as a pharmacokinetic enhancer with other protease inhibitors, see the full prescribing information of that protease inhibitor including information on drug interactions.

Potential for NORVIR to Affect Other Drugs

Ritonavir is an inhibitor of cytochrome P450 3A (CYP3A) and may increase plasma concentrations of agents that are primarily metabolized by CYP3A. Agents that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A and have high first pass metabolism appear to be the most susceptible to large increases in AUC (> 3-fold) when co-administered with ritonavir. Thus, co-administration of NORVIR with drugs highly dependent on CYP3A for clearance and for which elevated plasma concentrations are associated with serious and/or life-threatening events is contraindicated. Co-administration with other CYP3A substrates may require a dose adjustment or additional monitoring as shown in **Table 5**.

Ritonavir also inhibits CYP2D6 to a lesser extent. Co-administration of substrates of CYP2D6 with ritonavir could result in increases (up to 2-fold) in the AUC of the other agent, possibly requiring a proportional dosage reduction. Ritonavir also appears to induce CYP3A, CYP1A2, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, and CYP2B6 as well as other enzymes, including glucuronosyl transferase. Therefore, decreased plasma concentrations of the co-administered drugs and potential loss of therapeutic effects may signify the need for dosage alteration of these agents.

When co-administering NORVIR with any agent having a narrow therapeutic margin, such as anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, and antiarrhythmics, special attention is warranted.

Potential for Other Drugs to Affect NORVIR

Agents which increase CYP3A activity (e.g. phenobarbital, carbamazepine, dexamethasone, phenytoin, rifampin, and rifabutin) would be expected to increase the clearance of NORVIR resulting in decreased ritonavir plasma concentrations. Tobacco use is associated with an 18% decrease in the area under the concentration-time curve (AUC) of ritonavir.

Drug-Drug Interactions

Table 5 lists the established and other potentially significant drug interactions. Alteration in dose or regimen may be recommended based on drug interaction studies or predicted interaction (see also **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS**, **Table 6** and **Table 7** for magnitude of interaction).

Table 5. Established and Other Potentially Significant Drug Interactions: Alteration in Dose or Regimen Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies or Predicted Interaction.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
HCV-Antiviral Agents		
HCV Combination Drug:		
ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ ritonavir with or without dasabuvir	↑ paritaprevir	Exposures of paritaprevir may be increased when co-administered with NORVIR, therefore, co-administration is not recommended.
HCV Protease Inhibitors:		
simeprevir	↑ simeprevir	A pharmacokinetic study demonstrated that concomitant administration of simeprevir 200 mg once daily with NORVIR 100 mg twice daily resulted in an increase in simeprevir concentrations. It is not recommended to co-administer NORVIR with simeprevir.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
HIV-Antiretroviral Agents		
HIV Protease Inhibitors:		
fosamprenavir	↑ amprenavir (↑ AUC, ↑ Cmax, ↑ Cmin)	Refer to the fosamprenavir Product Monograph for details on co-administration of fosamprenavir 700 mg twice daily with NORVIR 100 mg twice daily or fosamprenavir 1400 mg once daily with NORVIR 200 mg once daily.
atazanavir	↑ atazanavir (↑ AUC, ↑ Cmax, ↑ Cmin)	Atazanavir plasma concentrations achieved with atazanavir 300 mg once daily and NORVIR 100 mg once daily are higher than those achieved with atazanavir 400 mg once daily. Refer to the atazanavir Product Monograph for details on co-administration of atazanavir 300 mg once daily, with NORVIR 100 mg once daily.
darunavir	↑ darunavir (↑ AUC, ↑ Cmax, ↑ Cmin)	Refer to the darunavir Product Monograph for details on co-administration of darunavir 600 mg twice daily with NORVIR 100 mg twice daily.
indinavir	↑ indinavir (↑ AUC, ↑ Cmax, ↑ Cmin)	Alterations in concentrations are noted when reduced doses of indinavir are co-administered with reduced dose of NORVIR. The safety and efficacy of this combination have not yet been established. The risk of nephrolithiasis may be increased when doses of indinavir equal to or greater than 800 mg twice daily are given with NORVIR. Adequate hydration and monitoring of the patients is warranted.
nelfinavir	↑ M8 (major active metabolite of nelfinavir)	NORVIR increases the concentrations of nelfinavir major active metabolite, M8. This interaction is likely to involve cytochrome P450 inhibition and induction.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
saquinavir	↑ saquinavir (↑ AUC, ↑ Cmax, ↑ Cmin)	The recommended dosage regimen is saquinavir 1000 mg with NORVIR 100 mg twice daily taken within 2 hours after a meal. Dose adjustment may be needed if other HIV-protease inhibitors are used in combination with saquinavir and NORVIR. Saquinavir and NORVIR should not be given together with rifampin due to risk of severe hepatotoxicity (presenting as increased hepatic transaminases) if the three drugs are given together. In some cases, co-administration of saquinavir and NORVIR has led to severe adverse events, mainly diabetic ketoacidosis and liver disorders, especially in patients with pre-existing liver disease. Refer to the saquinavir Product Monograph for prescribing information.
tipranavir	↑ tipranavir (↑ AUC, ↑ Cmax, ↑ Cmin)	Refer to the tipranavir Product Monograph for details on co-administration of tipranavir 500 mg twice daily with NORVIR 200 mg twice daily.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors:		
didanosine	↓ didanosine	Dosing of didanosine and NORVIR should be separated by 2.5 hours to avoid formulation incompatibility.
tenofovir	↑ tenofovir	Lopinavir/ritonavir has been shown to increase tenofovir concentrations. Higher tenofovir concentrations could potentiate tenofovir-associated adverse events, including renal disorders. Patients receiving NORVIR and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate should be monitored for tenofovir-associated adverse events. Refer to the tenofovir Product Monograph for more information.
Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors:		
delavirdine	↑ ritonavir ↔ delavirdine	When used in combination with delavirdine, a dose reduction of NORVIR should be considered. Based on comparison to historical data, the pharmacokinetics of delavirdine did not appear to be affected by NORVIR. The safety and efficacy of this combination (delavirdine/ NORVIR) have not been established.
efavirenz	↑ efavirenz	In healthy volunteers receiving 500 mg NORVIR twice daily with efavirenz 600 mg once daily, the steady state AUC was increased by 21%. An associated increase in the AUC of NORVIR of 17% was observed.
Integrase Inhibitor:		
raltegravir	↓ raltegravir	A pharmacokinetic study showed that co-administration of NORVIR 100 mg twice daily and raltegravir 400 mg single dose resulted in a reduction in raltegravir plasma concentration.
CCR5 Antagonist:		
maraviroc	↑ maraviroc (↑ AUC, ↑ Cmax, ↑ Cmin)	When co-administered with reduced doses of NORVIR plasma levels of maraviroc increases. The dose of maraviroc should be decreased during co-administration with NORVIR. Refer to the maraviroc Product Monograph for details on co-administration of maraviroc 150 mg twice daily with NORVIR.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
Other Agents		
Alpha1-adrenoreceptor Antagonist:		
alfuzosin	↑ alfuzosin	Based on results of a drug interaction study with ketoconazole, another potent inhibitor of CYP3A4, a significant increase in alfuzosin exposure is expected in the presence of NORVIR (600 mg twice daily). Therefore, alfuzosin is contraindicated with NORVIR (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).
Analgesics, Narcotic:		
fentanyl tramadol propoxyphene	↑ fentanyl ↑ tramadol ↑ propoxyphene	NORVIR inhibits CYP3A4 and as a result is expected to increase the plasma concentrations of fentanyl, tramadol, propoxyphene. Careful monitoring of therapeutic and adverse effects (including respiratory depression) is recommended when NORVIR is co-administered with fentanyl, including extended-release, transdermal or transmucosal preparations. Use tramadol and propoxyphene with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.
methadone	↓ methadone	Dosage increase of methadone may be considered.
Anesthetic:		
meperidine	↓ meperidine ↑ normeperidine (metabolite)	Dosage increase and long-term use of meperidine with NORVIR are not recommended due to the increased concentrations of the metabolite normeperidine which has both analgesic activity and CNS stimulant activity (e.g. seizures).
Antialcoholics:		
disulfiram[1]/metronidazole		NORVIR oral solution contains alcohol, which can produce disulfiram-like reactions when co-administered with disulfiram or other drugs that produce this reaction (e.g. metronidazole). Use with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.
Antiarrhythmics:		
disopyramide, lidocaine (systemic), mexiletine	↑ antiarrhythmics	Plasma concentrations of these drugs are expected to increase by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.
amiodarone, bepridil[1], dronedarone, flecainide, propaferone, quinidine	↑ antiarrhythmics	Co-administration may lead to serious and/or life-threatening reactions, such as cardiac arrhythmias. Therefore, use of these antiarrhythmics with NORVIR is contraindicated (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
Antibacterial:		
fusidic acid	↑ fusidic acid ↑ ritonavir	Coadministration of protease inhibitors, including NORVIR with fusidic acid is expected to increase fusidic acid, as well as the protease inhibitor concentration in plasma (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS)**.
Anticancer agents:		
dasatinib, ibrutinib, nilotinib, vincristine, vinblastine	↑ anticancer agents	Serum concentrations increase when co-administered with NORVIR resulting in the potential for increased incidence of adverse events. Coadministration of NORVIR with ibrutinib is not recommended due to expected increase in ibrutinib exposure that could potentially result in a risk of tumor lysis syndrome. Coadministration of NORVIR with dasatinib should be avoided due to expected increase in dasatinib exposure. If the co-administration is unavoidable, close monitoring for toxicity and a dasatinib dose reduction should be considered (see SPRYCEL Product Monograph). Coadministration of NORVIR with nilotinib should be avoided due to expected increase in nilotinib exposure. If the co-administration is unavoidable, close monitoring for the QT interval prolongation is recommended (see TASIGNA Product Monograph).
venetoclax	↑ venetoclax	Concomitant use of strong CYP3A inhibitors, such as NORVIR, and venetoclax may increase the risk of tumor lysis syndrome at the dose initiation and during the ramp-up phase (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**). For patients who have completed the ramp-up phase and are on a steady daily dose of venetoclax, reduce the venetoclax dose by at least 75% when used with strong CYP3A inhibitors (see VENCLEXTA Product Monograph).
Anticoagulants:		
rivaroxaban	↑ rivaroxaban	A study has shown that co-administration of NORVIR and rivaroxaban resulted in increased exposure of rivaroxaban which may lead to risk of increased bleeding. NORVIR and rivaroxaban should not be used concomitantly (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).
warfarin	↓ R-warfarin ↓ ↑ S-warfarin	Initial frequent monitoring of the INR (International Normalized Ratio) during NORVIR and warfarin co-administration is indicated.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
Anticonvulsants:		
clonazepam ethosuximide divalproex lamotrigine	↑ clonazepam ↑ ethosuximide ↓ divalproex ↓ lamotrigine	Plasma concentrations of clonazepam and ethosuximide are expected to increase by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed. Plasma concentrations of divalproex and lamotrigine are expected to decrease by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose increase of these drugs may be needed.
carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin	↑ carbamazepine ↓ phenytoin ↓ ritonavir	Plasma concentrations of carbamazepine is expected to increase by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose reduction of carbamazepine may be needed. Plasma concentrations of phenytoin is expected to decrease by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose increase of phenytoin may be needed. Carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, which increase CYP3A activity, would be expected to increase the clearance of NORVIR resulting in decreased ritonavir plasma concentrations. Use with caution, dose adjustment of NORVIR may be needed.
Antidepressants:		
amitriptyline, clomipramine, fluoxetine, imipramine, maprotiline, nefazodone, nortriptyline, paroxetine, sertraline, trimipramine, venlafaxine	↑ antidepressants	NORVIR dosed as an antiretroviral agent may inhibit CYP2D6 and result in increased plasma exposure of these drugs. NORVIR dosed as a pharmacokinetic enhancer is not expected to result in any clinically meaningful increases in CYP2D6 substrates. Use with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.
bupropion	↓ bupropion	Bupropion is primarily metabolized by CYP2B6. Concurrent administration of bupropion with repeated doses of NORVIR decreases bupropion levels.
desipramine	↑ desipramine	A study has shown that co-administration of NORVIR and desipramine resulted in increased exposure of desipramine. Dosage reduction and concentration monitoring of desipramine is recommended.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
trazodone	↑ trazodone	Concomitant use of NORVIR and trazodone increases concentrations of trazodone. Adverse events of nausea, dizziness, hypertension and syncope have been observed. If trazodone is used with a CYP3A4 inhibitor, such as NORVIR, the combination should be used with caution and a lower dose of trazodone should be considered.
Antiemetics:		
dronabinol	↑ dronabinol	Plasma concentrations of dronabinol are expected to increase by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose reduction of dronabinol may be needed.
Antifungal:		
ketoconazole itraconazole	↑ ketoconazole ↑ itraconazole	High doses of ketoconazole or itraconazole (> 200 mg/day) are not recommended.
Antigout:		
colchicine	↑ colchicine	<u>For patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment:</u> • Life-threatening and fatal drug interactions have been reported in patients treated with colchicine and NORVIR. For patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment co-administration of colchicine with NORVIR is contraindicated (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**). <u>For patients with normal renal and/or hepatic function:</u> • *Treatment of gout flares*: 0.6 mg (1 tablet) x 1 dose, followed by 0.3 mg (half tablet) 1 hour later. Dose to be repeated no earlier than 3 days. • *Prophylaxis of gout flares*: If the original colchicine regimen was 0.6 mg twice daily, the regimen should be adjusted to 0.3 mg once a day. If the original colchicine regimen was 0.3 mg twice daily, the regimen should be adjusted to 0.3 mg once every other day. • *Treatment of Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF)*: Maximum daily dose of 0.6 mg (may be given as 0.3 mg twice a day).
Anti-infective:		

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
clarithromycin	↑ clarithromycin	For patients with renal impairment, the following dosage adjustments should be considered: • For patients with CL_{CR} 30 to 60 mL/min the dose of clarithromycin should be reduced by 50%. • For patients with CL_{CR} < 30 mL/min the dose of clarithromycin should be reduced by 75%. No dose adjustment for patients with normal renal function is necessary.
Antimycobacterial:		
rifabutin	↑ rifabutin and rifabutin metabolite ↓ ritonavir	Dosage reduction of rifabutin by at least three-quarters of the usual dose of 300 mg/day is recommended (e.g. 150 mg every other day or three times a week). Further dosage reduction may be necessary.
rifampin	↓ ritonavir	May lead to loss of virologic response. Alternate antimycobacterial agents, such as rifabutin should be considered (see **Antimycobacterial**: rifabutin) for dose reduction recommendations.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
Antiparasitics:		
atovaquone	↓ atovaquone	Plasma concentrations of atovaquone are expected to decrease by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose increase of atovaquone may be needed.
quinine	↑ quinine	Plasma concentrations of quinine are expected to increase by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose reduction of quinine may be needed.
Anxiolytics/Sedative/Hypnotics:		
midazolam, oral[1]	↑ midazolam	Midazolam is extensively metabolized by CYP3A4. Increases in the concentration of midazolam are expected to be significantly higher with oral than parenteral administration. Co-administration of oral midazolam with NORVIR is contraindicated (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).
midazolam, parenteral	↑ midazolam	Concomitant use of parenteral midazolam with NORVIR may increase plasma concentrations of midazolam. Coadministration should be done in a setting which ensures close clinical monitoring and appropriate medical management in case of respiratory depression and/or prolonged sedation. Dosage reduction for midazolam should be considered, especially if more than a single dose of midazolam is administered.
buspirone, clorazepate, diazepam, estazolam[1], flurazepam, zolpidem	↑ Anxiolytics/Sedatives/ Hypnotics	Plasma concentrations of these drugs are expected to increase by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.
Beta-blockers:		
metoprolol, timolol	↑ beta-blockers	Plasma concentrations of these drugs are expected to increase by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.
Bronchodilator:		
theophylline	↓ theophylline	Increased dosage of theophylline may be required; therapeutic monitoring should be considered.
Calcium channel blockers:		
diltiazem, nifedipine, verapamil	↑ calcium channel blockers	Plasma concentrations of these drugs are expected to increase by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
Corticosteroids:		
fluticasone propionate, budesonide, triamcinolone	↑ fluticasone ↑ budesonide ↑ triamcinolone	Concomitant use of NORVIR and inhaled, injectable, or intranasal fluticasone propionate, budesonide, triamcinolone, or other glucocorticoids that are metabolized by CYP3A4 are not recommended unless the potential benefit of treatment outweighs the risk of systemic corticosteroid side effects, including Cushing's syndrome and adrenal suppression. Concomitant use of NORVIR and fluticasone propionate, budesonide or triamcinolone can significantly increase fluticasone propionate, budesonide or triamcinolone plasma concentrations and reduce serum cortisol concentrations. Consider alternatives to fluticasone propionate, budesonide or triamcinolone particularly for long-term use.
dexamethasone	↑dexamethasone ↓ ritonavir	Dexamethasone, which increases CYP3A activity, would be expected to increase the clearance of NORVIR resulting in decreased ritonavir plasma concentrations.
prednisone	↑ prednisone	Plasma concentrations of dexamethasone and prednisone are expected to increase by co-administration with NORVIR. Use with caution, dose adjustment of these drugs may be needed.
digoxin	↑ digoxin	A literature report has shown that co-administration of NORVIR (300 mg every 12 hours) and digoxin resulted in significantly increased digoxin levels. Caution should be exercised when co-administrating NORVIR and digoxin, with appropriate monitoring of serum levels.
Endothelin receptor antagonist:		
bosentan	↑ bosentan	Co-administration of bosentan in patients already on NORVIR for at least 10 days: Start at 62.5 mg once daily or every other day based upon individual tolerability. Coadministration of NORVIR in patients on bosentan: Discontinue use of bosentan at least 36 hours prior to initiation of NORVIR. After at least 10 days following the initiation of NORVIR, resume bosentan at 62.5 mg once daily or every other day based upon individual tolerability.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
PDE5 Inhibitors:		
sildenafil, tadalafil, vardenafil	↑ sildenafil	Particular caution should be used when prescribing PDE5 inhibitors for the treatment of erectile dysfunction in patients receiving NORVIR. Co-administration of NORVIR with these drugs is expected to substantially increase their concentrations and may result in increase in associated adverse events, such as hypotension, syncope, visual changes, and prolonged erection. <u>Use of PDE-5 Inhibitors for Erectile Dysfunction</u> Sildenafil may be used with caution at reduced doses of 25 mg every 48 hours with increased monitoring for adverse events. Tadalafil may be used with caution at reduced doses of 10 mg every 72 hours with increased monitoring for adverse events. Vardenafil should not be used with NORVIR (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**). <u>Use of PDE-5 Inhibitors for Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension</u> Coadministration of NORVIR and tadalafil for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension is not recommended. The use of sildenafil or vardenafil is contraindicated with NORVIR (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).
Hypolipidemics, HMG- CoA Reductase Inhibitors:		
lovastatin, simvastatin	↑ lovastatin, simvastatin	The HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors simvastatin and lovastatin are highly dependent on CYP3A for metabolism, thus concomitant use of NORVIR with simvastatin or lovastatin is contraindicated due to an increased risk of myopathy including rhabdomyolysis (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).
atorvastatin, rosuvastatin	↑ atorvastatin, rosuvastatin	Caution must also be exercised and reduced doses should be considered if NORVIR is used concurrently with

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
		atorvastatin, which is metabolized to a lesser extent by CYP3A4. While rosuvastatin elimination is not dependent on CYP3A, an elevation of rosuvastatin exposure has been reported with NORVIR co-administration. Use the lowest doses of atorvastatin or rosuvastatin with careful monitoring for signs and symptoms of myopathy or rhabdomyolysis. If treatment with an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is indicated, pravastatin or fluvastatin is recommended.
Immunosuppressants :		
cyclosporine, everolimus, tacrolimus, rapamycin	↑ immunosuppressants	Therapeutic concentration monitoring is recommended for immunosuppressant agents when co-administered with NORVIR.
Neuroleptics/Antipsychotics:		
lurasidone	↑ lurasidone	Due to CYP3A inhibition by NORVIR, concentrations of lurasidone are expected to increase. Co-administration of lurasidone with NORVIR is contraindicated (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).
perphenazine, risperidone, thioridazine	↑ neuroleptics	NORVIR dosed as an antiretroviral agent may inhibit CYP2D6 resulting in increases in the plasma concentration of perphenazine, risperidone, and thioridazine. NORVIR dosed as a pharmacokinetic enhancer is not expected to result in any clinically meaningful increases in CYP2D6 substrates. Use with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.
pimozide	↑ pimozide	Co-administration of NORVIR with pimozide is contraindicated as it may lead to serious and/or life-threatening reactions, such as cardiac arrhythmias (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).
quetiapine	↑ quetiapine	Caution should be exercised when NORVIR is co-administered with quetiapine. Due to CYP3A inhibition by NORVIR, concentrations of quetiapine are expected to increase, which may lead to quetiapine-related toxicities. Consider alternative antiretroviral therapy to avoid increase in quetiapine exposures. If co-administration is necessary, reduce the dose of quetiapine and monitor for quetiapine-associated adverse reactions. Refer to the quetiapine Product Monograph for recommendations on adverse reaction monitoring.
Oral Contraceptive or Patch Contraceptive:		
ethinyl estradiol	↓ ethinyl estradiol	Dosage increase or alternate contraceptive measures should be considered.

Concomitant Drug Class: Drug Name	Effect on Concentration of NORVIR or Concomitant Drug	Clinical Comment
Stimulants:		
methamphetamine	↑ methamphetamine	NORVIR dosed as an antiretroviral agent may inhibit CYP2D6 and as a result is expected to increase concentrations of amphetamine and its derivatives. NORVIR dosed as a pharmacokinetic enhancer is not expected to result in any clinically meaningful increases in CYP2D6 substrates. Use with caution, dose reduction of these drugs may be needed.
1.Products not marketed in Canada.		

Assessment of Drug Interactions

For details regarding the ritonavir pharmacokinetics refer to section (**ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics**).

The effects of co-administration of ritonavir on the AUC, C_{max}, and C_{min} are summarized in **Table 6** and **Table 7**.

Table 6. Drug Interactions: Pharmacokinetic Parameters for Ritonavir in the Presence of the Co-administered Drug (See Table 5 for Recommended Alterations in Dose or Regimen)

Co-Administered Drug	Dose of Co-Administered Drug	NORVIR Dosage	n	AUC % (95% CI)	C_{max} % (95% CI)	C_{min} % (95% CI)
Antidepressants						
Fluoxetine	30 mg every 12 h 8 days	600 mg single dose	16	↑ 19% (7, 34%)	↔	ND
Antifungal						
Fluconazole	400 mg Day 1, 200 mg daily 4 days	200 mg every 6 h 4 days	8	↑ 12% (5, 20%)	↑ 15% (7, 22%)	↑ 14% (0, 26%)
Ketoconazole	200 mg daily 7 days	500 mg every 12 h 10 days	12	↑ 18% (-3, 52%)	↑ 10% (-11, 36%)	ND
Voriconazole	400 mg every 12 h, 1 day; then 200 mg every 12 h 8 days	400 mg every 12 h 9 days	17	↔	↔	ND
Anti-infective						
Clarithromycin	500 mg every 12 h 4 days	200 mg every 8 h 4 days	22	↑ 12% (2, 23%)	↑ 15% (2, 28%)	↑ 14% (-3, 36%)
Antimycobacterial						
Rifampin	600 mg or 300 mg daily 10 days	500 mg every 12 h 20 days	7,9*	↓ 35% (7, 55%)	↓ 25% (-5, 46%)	↓ 49% (-14, 91%)
HIV-Antiretroviral Agents						
Didanosine	200 mg every 12 h 4 days, about 2.5 h before NORVIR	600 mg every 12 h 4 days	12	↔	↔	↔
Zidovudine	200 mg every 8 h 4 days	300 mg every 6 h 4 days	10	↔	↔	↔

↑ Indicates increase; ↓ indicates decrease; ↔ indicates no change.

* Parallel group design; entries are subjects receiving combination and control regimens, respectively.

Definitions: h = hour; ND = not detected

Table 7. Drug Interactions: Pharmacokinetic Parameters for Co-administered Drug in the Presence of ritonavir (See Table 5 for Recommended Alterations in Dose or Regimen)

Co-Administered Drug	Dose of Co-Administered Drug	NORVIR Dosage	n	AUC % (95% CI)	C_{max} % (95% CI)	C_{min} % (95% CI)
Analgesics, Narcotic						
Methadone[1]	5 mg single dose	500 mg every 12h 15 days	11	↓ 36% (16, 52%)	↓ 38% (28, 46%)	ND
Anesthetic						
Meperidine	50 mg oral single dose	500 mg every 12h 10 days	8	↓ 62% (59, 65%)	↓ 59% (42, 72%)	ND
Normeperidine metabolite			6	↑ 47% (-24, 345%)	↑ 87% (42, 147%)	ND
Anticoagulants						
Warfarin	5 mg single dose	400 mg every 12h 12 days	12	↑ 9%	↓ 9%	ND
S-Warfarin				(-17, 44%)[2]	(-16, -2%)[2]	
R-Warfarin				↓ 33% (-38, -27%)[2]	↔	ND
Antidepressant						
Trazodone	50 mg single dose	200 mg every 12h 10 days	10	↑ 2.4-fold	↑ 34%	
Desipramine	100 mg single dose	500 mg every 12h 12 days	14	↑ 145% (103, 211%)	↑ 22% (12, 35%)	ND
2-OH desipramine metabolite				↓ 15% (3, 26%)	↓ 67% (62, 72%)	ND
Antifungal						
Ketoconazole	200 mg daily 7 days	500 mg every 12h 10 days	12	↑ 3.4-fold (2.8, 4.3X)	↑ 55% (40, 72%)	ND
Voriconazole	400 mg every 12h, 1day; then 200 mg every 12h 8 days	400 mg every 12h 9 days	17	↓ 82%	↓ 66%	not reported
Anti-infective						
Clarithromycin	500 mg every 12h 4 days	200 mg every 8h 4 days	22	↑ 77% (56, 103%)	↑ 31% (15, 51%)	↑ 2.8-fold (2.4, 3.3X)

Co-Administered Drug	Dose of Co-Administered Drug	NORVIR Dosage	n	AUC % (95% CI)	C_{max} % (95% CI)	C_{min} % (95% CI)
14-OH clarithromycin metabolite				↓100%	↓ 99%	↓ 100%
Antimicrobial						
Sulfamethoxazole[3]	800 mg single dose	500 mg every 12h 12 days	15	↓ 20% (16, 23%)	↔	ND
Trimethoprim[3]	160 mg single dose	500 mg every 12h 12 days	15	↑ 20% (3, 43%)	↔	ND
Antimycobacterial						
Rifabutin	150 mg daily 16 days	500 mg every 12h 10 days	5,11*	↑ 4-fold (2.8, 6.1X)	↑ 2.5-fold (1.9, 3.4X)	↑ 6-fold (3.5, 18.3X)
25-O-desacetyl rifabutin metabolite				↑ 38-fold (28, 56X)	↑ 16-fold (13, 20X)	↑ 181-fold(ND)
Bronchodilator						
Theophylline	3 mg/kg every 8h 15 days	500 mg every 12h 10 days	13, 11*	↓ 43% (42, 45%)	↓ 32% (29, 34%)	↓ 57% (55, 59%)
CCR5 Antagonist						
Maraviroc	100 mg every 12h	100 mg every 12h	8	↑ 28%	↑ 161%	not reported
Corticosteroid						
Fluticasone propionate aqueous nasal spray	200 mcg daily 7 days	100 mg every 12h 7 days	18	↑ approx. 350-fold[5]	↑ approx. 25-fold[5]	
HIV-Antiretroviral Agents						
Atazanavir	300 mg every 24h Days 1 to 20	100 mg every 24h Days 11 to 20	28	↑ 3.4-fold	↑ 1.9-fold	↑ 11.9-fold
Darunavir	800 mg single dose	Titrated: 300 to 600 mg every 12h over 6 days	8	↑ 9.2-fold	↑ 2-fold	not reported
Didanosine	200 mg every 12h 4 days, about 2.5 h before NORVIR	600 mg every 12h 4 days	12	↓ 13% (0, 23%)	↓ 16% (5, 26%)	↔

Co-Administered Drug	Dose of Co-Administered Drug	NORVIR Dosage	n	AUC % (95% CI)	C_{max} % (95% CI)	C_{min} % (95% CI)
Indinavir[6] Day 14 Day 15	400 mg every 12h 15 days	400 mg every 12h 15 days	10	 ↑ 6% (-14, 29%) ↓ 7% (-22, 28%)	 ↓ 51% (40, 61%) ↓ 62% (52, 70%)	 ↑ 4-fold (2.8, 6.8X) ↑ 4-fold (2.5, 6.5X)
Saquinavir[6]	400 mg every 12h steady state	400 mg every 12h steady-state	7	↑ 17-fold (9, 31X)	↑ 14-fold (7, 28X)	ND
Raltegravir	400 mg single dose	100 mg every 12 h 16 days	10	↓ 16% (-30, 1%)	↓ 24% (-45, 4%)	↓ 1% (-30, 40%)
Zidovudine	200 mg every 8h 4 days	300 mg every 6h 4 days	9	↓ 25% (15, 34%)	↓ 27% (4, 45%)	ND
Oral Contraceptive or Patch Contraceptive						
Ethinyl estradiol	50 mcg single dose	500 mg every 12h 16 days	23	↓ 40% (31, 49%)	↓ 32% (24, 39%)	ND
PDE-5 Inhibitors						
Sildenafil	100 mg single dose	500 mg b.i.d.‡ 8 days	28	↑ 11-fold	↑ 4-fold	ND
Tadalafil	20 mg single dose	200 mg every 12h		↑ 124%	↔	ND
Vardenafil	5 mg	600 mg every 12h		↑ 49-fold	↑ 13-fold	ND
Sedative/hypnotics						
Alprazolam	1 mg single dose	500 mg every 12h 10 days	12	↓ 12% (-5, 30%)	↓ 16% (5, 27%)	ND

Co-Administered Drug	Dose of Co-Administered Drug	NORVIR Dosage	n	AUC % (95% CI)	C_{max} % (95% CI)	C_{min} % (95% CI)

1: Effects were assessed on a dose normalized comparison to a methadone 20 mg single dose.

2: 90% CI presented for R- and S-warfarin AUC and C_{max} ratios.

3: Sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim taken as single combination tablet.

4: NORVIR and indinavir were co-administered for 15 days; Day 14 doses were administered after a 15% fat breakfast (757 Kcal) and 9% fat evening snack (236 Kcal), and Day 15 doses were administered after a 15% fat breakfast (757 Kcal) and 32% fat dinner (815 Kcal). Indinavir C_{min} was also increased 4-fold. Effects were assessed relative to an indinavir 800 mg every 8h regimen under fasting conditions.

5: This significant increase in plasma fluticasone propionate exposure resulted in a significant decrease (86%) in plasma cortisol AUC.

6: Comparison to a standard saquinavir 600 mg every 8h regimen (n = 114).

‡ Subjects in the entire study, a subset of subjects were administered the specified regimen.

* Parallel group design; entries are subjects receiving combination and control regimens, respectively.

↑ Indicates increase; ↓ indicates decrease; ↔ indicates no change.

Definitions: b.i.d. = twice daily; ND = not detected.

Drug-Food Interactions

It is recommended that NORVIR be taken with meals, if possible. Refer to **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Absorption** and to **CLINICAL TRIALS** for information on the effect of food on ritonavir pharmacokinetics.

Drug-Herb Interactions

Concomitant use of NORVIR and St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) or products containing St. John's wort is contraindicated. Co-administration of protease inhibitors, including NORVIR, with St. John's wort is expected to substantially decrease protease inhibitor concentrations and may result in sub-optimal levels of ritonavir and lead to loss of virologic response and possible resistance to NORVIR or to the class of protease inhibitors (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Drug-Laboratory Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

General Dosing Guidelines

Patients should be aware that frequently observed adverse events, such as mild to moderate gastrointestinal disturbances and paresthesias, may diminish as therapy is continued. In addition, patients initiating combination regimens with NORVIR (ritonavir) and other antiretroviral agents may improve gastrointestinal tolerance by initiating NORVIR alone and subsequently adding the

other antiretroviral agents before completing two weeks of NORVIR monotherapy. The long-term effects of dose escalation on efficacy have not been established.

Dose Modification for NORVIR

Dose reduction of NORVIR is necessary when used with other protease inhibitors: atazanavir, darunavir, fosamprenavir, saquinavir, and tipranavir.

When NORVIR film-coated tablets or NORVIR oral solution is used as a pharmacokinetic enhancer with other protease inhibitors, see the full prescribing information and clinical study information of that protease inhibitor.

Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

Adult Patients

NORVIR Film-coated Tablets

The recommended dose of NORVIR tablets is 600 mg (six tablets) twice daily orally and should be taken with a meal.

NORVIR tablets should be swallowed whole with water and not chewed, broken or crushed.

NORVIR Oral Solution

The recommended dosage of NORVIR is 600 mg (7.5 mL) twice daily orally.

Some patients experience nausea upon initiation of 600 mg twice daily dosing. Use of a dose titration schedule may help to reduce treatment-emergent adverse events while maintaining appropriate ritonavir plasma levels. NORVIR should be started at no less than 300 mg twice daily and increased by 100 mg twice daily increments up to 600 mg twice daily. The titration period should not exceed 14 days.

Pediatric Patients (2 to 16 years of age)

NORVIR should be used in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

The recommended dosage of NORVIR oral solution is 400 mg/m^2 of body surface area twice daily by mouth and should not exceed 600 mg twice daily (**Table 8**).

NORVIR oral solution should be started at 250 mg/m^2 twice daily and increased at 2- to 3-day intervals by 50 mg/m^2 twice daily, as tolerated. If patients do not tolerate 400 mg/m^2 twice daily due to adverse events, the highest tolerated dose should be used for maintenance therapy in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

Doses of oral solution should be administered using a calibrated dosing syringe.

Table 8. Pediatric Dosage Guidelines for NORVIR Oral Solution

Body Surface Area* (m^2)	Twice Daily Dose 250 mg/m^2	Twice Daily Dose 300 mg/m^2	Twice Daily Dose 350 mg/m^2	Twice Daily Dose 400 mg/m^2
0.25	0.8 mL (62.5 mg)	0.9 mL (75 mg)	1.1 mL (87.5 mg)	1.25 mL (100 mg)
0.50	1.6 mL (125 mg)	1.9 mL (150 mg)	2.2 mL (175 mg)	2.5 mL (200 mg)
0.75	2.3 mL (187.5 mg)	2.8 mL (225 mg)	3.3 mL (262.5 mg)	3.75 mL (300 mg)
1.00	3.1 mL (250 mg)	3.75 mL (300 mg)	4.4 mL (350 mg)	5 mL (400 mg)
1.25	3.9 mL (312.5 mg)	4.7 mL (375 mg)	5.5 mL (437.5 mg)	6.25 mL (500 mg)
1.50	4.7 mL (375 mg)	5.6 mL (450 mg)	6.6 mL (525 mg)	7.5 mL (600 mg)

* Body surface area can be calculated with the following equation:

$$\text{BSA } (m^2) = \sqrt{\frac{\text{Ht (Cm) x Wt (kg)}}{3600}}$$

Total amounts of alcohol and propylene glycol from all medicines, including NORVIR oral solution, that are to be given to children should be taken into account in order to avoid toxicity from these excipients. NORVIR oral solution should not be used in preterm neonates in the immediate postnatal period because of possible toxicities (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**, Toxicity in Preterm Neonates and **OVERDOSAGE**, **Management of Overdosage**).

For older children it may be feasible to substitute tablets for the maintenance dose of the oral solution.

Missed Dose

If a dose of this medication has been missed, it should be taken as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double doses.

Administration

NORVIR (ritonavir) film-coated tablets and NORVIR (ritonavir) oral solution are administered orally. It is recommended that NORVIR oral solution be taken with meals if possible. Patients may improve the taste of NORVIR oral solution by mixing with chocolate milk or ENSURE® within one hour of dosing. The effects of antacids on the absorption of NORVIR have not been studied.

The NORVIR oral solution dosage cup should be cleaned immediately with hot water and dish soap after use. When cleaned immediately, drug residue is removed. The dosage cup **must** be dry prior to use.

OVERDOSAGE

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.

Acute Overdosage

Human Overdose Experience

Human experience of acute overdose with NORVIR (ritonavir) film-coated tablets and NORVIR (ritonavir) oral solution is limited. One patient in clinical trials took NORVIR 1500 mg/day for two days. The patient reported paresthesias which resolved after the dose was decreased.

A post-marketing case of renal failure with eosinophilia has been reported with NORVIR overdose.

Management of Overdosage

Administration of activated charcoal may be used to aid in removal of unabsorbed drug. Treatment of overdose with NORVIR consists of general supportive measures including monitoring of vital signs and observation of the clinical status of the patient. There is no specific antidote for overdose with NORVIR. Since ritonavir is extensively metabolized by the liver and is highly protein-bound, dialysis is unlikely to be beneficial in significant removal of the drug. However, dialysis can remove both alcohol and propylene glycol in the case of overdose with NORVIR oral solution.

NORVIR oral solution contains 43.2% alcohol by volume and 26.57% propylene glycol by weight. Accidental ingestion of the product by a young child could result in significant alcohol- and propylene glycol-related toxicity and could approach the potential lethal dose of alcohol.

ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

NORVIR is an inhibitor of HIV protease with activity against the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Ritonavir is an orally active peptidomimetic inhibitor of both the HIV-1 and HIV-2 proteases. Inhibition of HIV protease renders the enzyme incapable of processing the *gag-pol* polyprotein precursor which leads to the production of HIV particles with immature morphology that are unable to initiate new rounds of infection. Ritonavir has selective affinity for the HIV protease and has little inhibitory activity against human aspartyl proteases.

Pharmacodynamics

In vitro data indicate that ritonavir is active against all strains of HIV tested in a variety of transformed and primary human cell lines. The concentration of drug that inhibits 50% and 90% (EC_{50}, EC_{90}) of viral replication is approximately 0.02 and 0.11 microM, respectively. Studies which measured direct cell toxicity of ritonavir on several cell lines showed no direct toxicity at concentrations up to 25 microM, with a resulting *in vitro* therapeutic index of at least 1000.

Effects on the Electrocardiogram

A Phase 1, multiple-dose, open-label, placebo and active controlled (moxifloxacin 400 mg once daily), randomized crossover study was conducted in healthy volunteers. NORVIR was dosed at 400 mg twice daily and on Day 3, ritonavir concentrations were approximately 1.5 fold higher than that observed with the 600 mg twice daily dose at steady state. At these increased concentrations, the maximum increase in QTcF was 5.5 msec. This increase is not clinically significant. No subject experienced an increase in QTcF of ≥ 60 msec from baseline or a QTcF interval exceeding the potentially clinically relevant threshold of 500 msec. Maximum PR interval was 252 msec and no second or third degree heart block was observed. Exposure-response analysis predicted that the PR effect of ritonavir plateaus around 20 msec, thus ritonavir 600 mg twice daily is unlikely to result in clinically significant PR prolongation (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**).

Pharmacokinetics

The pharmacokinetics of ritonavir have been studied in healthy volunteers and HIV-infected patients (CD_4 ≥ 50 cells/microliter). See **Table 9** for ritonavir pharmacokinetic characteristics.

Table 9. Ritonavir Pharmacokinetic Characteristics

Parameter	n	Values (Mean ± SD)
C_{max} SS[1]	10	11.2 ± 3.6 mcg/mL
C_{trough} SS[1]	10	3.7 ± 2.6 mcg/mL
V_β/F[2]	91	0.41 ± 0.25 L/kg
$t_{½}$		3 to 5 h
CL/F SS[1]	10	8.8 ± 3.2 L/h
CL/F[2]	91	4.6 ± 1.6 L/h
CL_R	62	< 0.1 L/h
RBC/Plasma Ratio		0.14
Percent Bound[3]		98 to 99%

1: SS = steady state; patients taking NORVIR 600 mg every 12h.

2: Single NORVIR 600 mg dose.

3: Primarily bound to human serum albumin and alpha-1 acid glycoprotein over the ritonavir concentration range of 0.01 to 30 mcg/mL.

Absorption

The absolute bioavailability of NORVIR has not been determined. After a 600 mg dose of oral solution, peak concentrations of ritonavir were achieved approximately 2 hours and 4 hours after dosing under fasting and non-fasting (514 KCal; 9% fat, 12% protein, and 79% carbohydrate) conditions, respectively.

NORVIR tablets are not bioequivalent to NORVIR capsules. Under moderate fat conditions (857 kcal; 31% fat, 13% protein, 56% carbohydrates), when a single 100 mg NORVIR dose was administered as a tablet compared with a capsule, $AUC_{(0-\infty)}$ met equivalence criteria but mean C_{max} was increased by 26% (92.8% confidence intervals: +15% to +39%).

No information is available comparing NORVIR tablets to NORVIR capsules or NORVIR oral solution under fasting conditions.

Effect of Food on Oral Absorption

When the oral solution was given under non-fasting conditions, peak ritonavir concentrations decreased 23% and the extent of absorption decreased 7% relative to fasting conditions. Dilution of oral solution, within one hour of administration, with 240 mL of chocolate milk, ADVERA® or ENSURE® did not significantly affect the extent and rate of ritonavir absorption. After a single 600 mg dose under non-fasting conditions, in two separate studies, the capsule (n = 21) and oral solution (n = 18) formulations yielded mean ± SD areas under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUCs) of 129.5 ± 47.1 and 129.0 ± 39.3 mcg·h/mL, respectively. Relative to fasting conditions, the extent of absorption of ritonavir from the capsule formulation was 15% higher when administered with a meal (771 KCal; 46% fat, 18% protein, and 37% carbohydrate).

A food effect is observed for NORVIR tablets. Food decreased the bioavailability of the ritonavir tablets when a single 100 mg dose of NORVIR was administered. Under high fat conditions (907 kcal; 52% fat, 15% protein, 33% carbohydrates), a 23% decrease in mean $AUC_{(0-\infty)}$ [90% confidence intervals: -30% to -15%], and a 23% decrease in mean C_{max} [90% confidence intervals: -34% to -11%] was observed relative to fasting conditions. Under moderate fat conditions, a 21% decrease in mean $AUC_{(0-\infty)}$ [90% confidence intervals: -28% to -13%], and a 22% decrease in mean C_{max} [90% confidence intervals: -33% to -9%] was observed relative to fasting conditions.

However, the type of meal administered did not change ritonavir tablet bioavailability when high fat was compared to moderate fat meals.

Distribution

The protein binding of ritonavir in human plasma was noted to be approximately 98 to 99%. Ritonavir binds to both human α-1-acid glycoprotein (AAG) and human serum albumin (HSA) with comparable affinities. Total plasma protein binding is constant over the concentration range of 1 to 100 mcg/mL.

Tissue distribution studies with ^{14}C-labeled ritonavir in rats showed the liver, adrenals, pancreas, kidneys and thyroid to have the highest concentrations of drug. Tissue to plasma ratios of approximately one, measured in rat lymph nodes, suggest that ritonavir distributes into lymphatic tissue. Ritonavir penetrates minimally into the brain.

Metabolism

Nearly all of the plasma radioactivity after a single oral 600 mg dose of ^{14}C-ritonavir oral solution (n = 5) was attributed to unchanged ritonavir. Five ritonavir metabolites have been identified in human urine and feces. The isopropyl thiazole oxidation metabolite (M-2) is the major metabolite and has antiviral activity similar to that of parent drug; however, the concentrations of this metabolite in plasma are low. Studies utilizing human liver microsomes have demonstrated that cytochrome P450 3A (CYP3A) is the major isoform involved in ritonavir metabolism, although CYP2D6 also contributes to the formation of M-2.

Excretion

In a study of five subjects receiving a 600 mg dose of ^{14}C-ritonavir oral solution, 11.3 ± 2.8% of the dose was excreted into the urine, with 3.5 ± 1.8% of the dose excreted as unchanged parent drug. In that study, 86.4 ± 2.9% of the dose was excreted in the feces with 33.8 ± 10.8% of the dose excreted as unchanged parent drug. Upon multiple dosing, ritonavir accumulation is less than predicted from a single dose possibly due to a time and dose-related increase in clearance.

Special Populations and Conditions

Pediatrics

The pharmacokinetic profile of NORVIR in pediatric patients below the age of 2 years has not been established. Steady-state pharmacokinetics were evaluated in 37 HIV-infected patients ages 2 to 14 years receiving doses ranging from 250 mg/m^2 twice daily to 400 mg/m^2 twice daily. Across dose groups, ritonavir steady-state oral clearance (CL/F/m^2) was approximately 1.5 times faster in pediatric patients than in adult subjects. Ritonavir concentrations obtained after 350 to 400 mg/m^2 twice daily in pediatric patients were comparable to those obtained in adults receiving 600 mg (approximately 330 mg/m^2) twice daily.

Geriatrics

No age-related pharmacokinetic differences have been observed in adult patients (18 to 63 years). Ritonavir pharmacokinetics have not been studied in older patients.

Gender

A study of ritonavir pharmacokinetics in healthy males and females showed no statistically significant differences in the pharmacokinetics of ritonavir.

Race

Pharmacokinetic differences due to race have not been identified.

Weight

Ritonavir pharmacokinetic parameters were not statistically significantly associated with body weight or lean body mass.

Hepatic Insufficiency

In six HIV-infected adult subjects with mild hepatic insufficiency dosed with NORVIR 400 mg twice daily, ritonavir exposures were similar to control subjects dosed with 500 mg twice daily. Results indicate that dose adjustment is not required in patients with mild hepatic impairment.

Adequate pharmacokinetic data are not available for patients with moderate hepatic impairment. Protein binding of ritonavir was not statistically significantly affected by mildly or moderately impaired hepatic function.

Renal Insufficiency

Ritonavir pharmacokinetics have not been studied in patients with renal insufficiency; however, since renal clearance is negligible, a decrease in total body clearance is not expected in patients with renal insufficiency.

Because ritonavir is highly protein bound it is unlikely that it will be significantly removed by dialysis (see **OVERDOSAGE**).

STORAGE AND STABILITY

NORVIR Film-coated Tablets

Store NORVIR film-coated tablets between 15 and 30°C. Dispense in original container or USP equivalent container (60 mL or less). For patient use: exposure of the product to high humidity outside the original or USP equivalent tight container (60 mL or less) for longer than 2 weeks is not recommended.

NORVIR Oral Solution

Store NORVIR oral solution between 20 and 25°C (68 and 77ºF). **Do not refrigerate. SHAKE WELL BEFORE EACH USE.** Product must be stored and dispensed in the original container. Avoid exposure to excessive heat. Keep cap tightly closed. Use by product expiration date.

The NORVIR oral solution dosage cup should be cleaned immediately with hot water and dish soap after use. When cleaned immediately, drug residue is removed. The dosage cup **must** be dry prior to use.

DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

NORVIR is available as

- 100 mg film-coated tablets
- 80 mg/mL oral solution

NORVIR Film-coated Tablets

NORVIR (ritonavir) film-coated tablets are white oval tablets debossed with the Abbott logo and the Abbo-Code "NK" on the same side. NORVIR is available as 100 mg tablets. Each bottle contains 30 tablets.

Listing of Non-Medicinal Ingredients

Each white film-coated oval tablet contains 100 mg of ritonavir with the following non-medicinal ingredients: copovidone, colloidal silicon dioxide/colloidal anhydrous silica, dibasic calcium phosphate anhydrous/calcium hydrogen phosphate anhydrous, sorbitan monolaurate/sorbitan laurate, sodium stearyl fumarate. The film coating ingredients include: colloidal silicon dioxide/colloidal silica anhydrous, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400/macrogol type 400, polyethylene glycol 3350/macrogol type 3350, polysorbate 80, talc and titanium dioxide E171.

NORVIR Oral Solution

NORVIR (ritonavir) oral solution is an orange-colored liquid supplied in amber-colored, multi-dose bottles. Each multi-dose bottle contains 600 mg ritonavir per 7.5 mL marked dosage cup (80 mg/mL) in the following size: 240 mL bottles.

Listing of Non-Medicinal Ingredients

Each mL of oral solution contains 80 mg of ritonavir in a peppermint and caramel-flavored vehicle with the following non-medicinal ingredients: anhydrous citric acid to adjust pH, creamy caramel flavouring, ethanol, FD&C Yellow No. 6, peppermint oil, polyoxyl 35 castor oil, propylene glycol, saccharin sodium and water.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

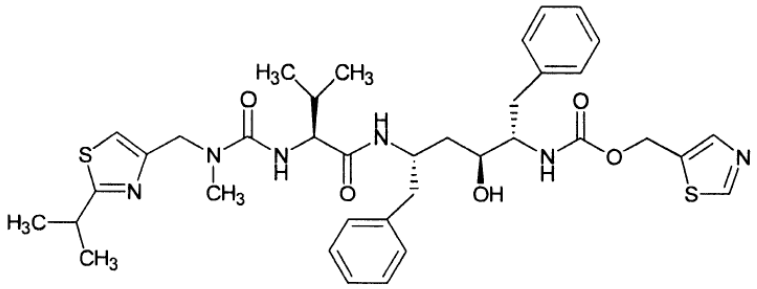
Drug Substance

Proper name: ritonavir

Chemical name: 10-Hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-methylethyl)-1- [2-(1-methylethyl)-4-thiazolyl]-3,6-dioxo-8,11-bis(phenylmethyl)-2,4,7,12-tetraazatridecan-13-oic acid, 5-thiazolylmethyl ester, [5S-(5R*,8R*,10R*,11R*)]

Molecular formula and molecular mass: $C_{37}H_{48}N_6O_5S_2$ 720.95

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: Ritonavir is a white to light tan powder.

Solubility: Ritonavir has a bitter metallic taste. It is freely soluble in methanol and ethanol, soluble in isopropanol and practically insoluble in water.

CLINICAL TRIALS

The activity of NORVIR (ritonavir) as monotherapy or in combination with nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors has been evaluated in 1446 patients enrolled in two double-blind, randomized trials. NORVIR therapy in combination with zidovudine and zalcitabine was also evaluated in an open-label, non-comparative study of 32 patients.

Study Demographics and Trial Design

Table 10. Summary of Patient Demographics for Clinical Trials in Specific Indication

Study #	Trial Design	Dosage, Route of Administration and Duration	Study Subjects	Mean Age (Range)	Gender Race (% M/F) (%C/O)[1]	Mean Baseline CD_4 Cell Count (Range)
Advanced Patients with Prior Antiretroviral Therapy						
M94-247	Double blind, randomized, two-arm, parallel, multicenter international	NORVIR liquid or semi-solid capsules (600 mg b.i.d.) vs. Placebo Oral 6 months double-blind followed by 14 months open-label follow-up	1090	38.9 years (15-72)	92/8 86/14	32 cells/microliter (0-154)[2]

Study #	Trial Design	Dosage, Route of Administration and Duration	Study Subjects	Mean Age (Range)	Gender Race (% M/F) (%C/O)[1]	Mean Baseline CD_4 Cell Count (Range)
Patients Without Prior Antiretroviral Therapy						
M94-245	Double blind, randomized, three-arm, parallel, multicenter	NORVIR liquid or semi-solid capsules (600 mg b.i.d.) vs. zidovudine capsules (200 mg t.i.d.) vs. NORVIR liquid or semi-solid capsules (600 mg b.i.d.) + zidovudine capsules (200 mg t.i.d.) Oral 8-12 months	356	36.0 years (18-69)	91/9 83/17	364 cells/ microliter Range: 139-1054 (200-500)[3]
Combination Therapy in Anti-retroviral Naïve Patients						
M94-208	Phase II, open-label, multicenter	Triple Therapy Combination: NORVIR (600 mg b.i.d.) + zidovudine (200 mg t.i.d.) + zalcitabine (0.75 mg t.i.d.) Oral 6 months	32	38.1 years (29-52)	88/12 97/3	Median: 83 > 100 cells/ microliter (81%)[4]

1: % Male/Female; % Caucasian/Other

2: Approximately 50% of patients had baseline CD_4 cell counts ≤ 20 cells/microliter, and only 22% had counts > 50 cells/microliter.

3: Approximately 75% of the patients were evenly distributed between this range

4: The majority (81%) of patients had baseline CD_4 values > 100 cells/microliter

Definitions: b.i.d. = twice daily; t.i.d. = three times daily.

Study Results

Advanced Patients with Prior Antiretroviral Therapy

Study M94-247 was a randomized, double-blind trial conducted in HIV-infected patients with at least nine months of prior antiretroviral therapy and baseline CD_4 cells counts $\leq$ 100 cells/microliter. NORVIR 600 mg twice daily or placebo was added to each patient's baseline antiretroviral therapy regimen, which could have consisted of up to two approved antiretroviral agents. The study accrued 1090 patients, with mean baseline CD_4 cell count at study entry of 32 cells/ microliter. Median duration of follow-up was 6 months.

The six month cumulative incidence of clinical disease progression or death was 17% for patients randomized to NORVIR compared to 34% for patients randomized to placebo. This difference in rates was statistically significant.

The six-month cumulative mortality was 5.8% for patients randomized to NORVIR and 10.1% for patients randomized to placebo. This difference in rates was statistically significant.

In addition, analyses of mean CD_4 cell count changes from baseline over the first 16 weeks of study for the first 211 patients enrolled (mean baseline CD_4 cell count = 29 cells/microliter) showed that NORVIR was associated with larger increases in CD_4 cell counts than was placebo. Compared to placebo, NORVIR also produced a greater mean decrease in HIV RNA levels from baseline.

Patients Without Prior Antiretroviral Therapy

In Study M94-245, 356 antiretroviral-naïve HIV-infected patients (mean baseline CD_4 = 364 cells/microliter) were randomized to receive either NORVIR 600 mg twice daily, zidovudine 200 mg three times daily, or a combination of these drugs. In analyses of average CD_4 cell count changes from baseline over the first 16 weeks of study, both NORVIR monotherapy and combination therapy produced greater mean increases in CD_4 cell count than did zidovudine monotherapy. The CD_4 cell count increases for NORVIR monotherapy were larger than the increases for combination therapy. Similarly, the mean decreases in HIV RNA level from baseline were larger with NORVIR monotherapy than with combination therapy or zidovudine monotherapy.

Combination Therapy with NORVIR, Zidovudine, and Zalcitabine in Antiretroviral- Naïve Patients

In Study M94-208, an open-label uncontrolled trial, 32 antiretroviral- naïve HIV-infected patients initially received NORVIR 600 mg twice daily monotherapy. Zidovudine 200 mg three times daily and zalcitabine 0.75 mg three times daily were added after 14 days of NORVIR monotherapy. Results of combination therapy for the first 20 weeks of this study show median increases in CD_4 cell counts from baseline levels of 83 to 106 cells/microliter over the treatment period. Mean decreases from baseline in HIV RNA particle levels ranged from 1.69 to 1.92 logs.

MICROBIOLOGY

Resistance

HIV-1 isolates with reduced susceptibility to ritonavir have been selected *in vitro*. The clinical relevance of phenotypic and genotypic changes associated with NORVIR therapy has not been established (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **MICROBIOLOGY**).Genotypic analysis of these isolates showed mutations in the HIV protease gene at amino acid positions 84 (Ile to Val), 82 (Val to Phe), 71 (Ala to Val), and 46 (Met to Ile). Phenotypic (n = 18) and genotypic (n = 44) changes in HIV isolates from selected patients treated with ritonavir were monitored in Phase 1/2 trials over a period of 3 to 32 weeks. Mutations associated with the HIV viral protease in isolates obtained from 41 patients appeared to occur in a stepwise and ordered fashion; in sequence, these mutations were position 82 (Val to Ala/Phe), 54 (Ile to Val), 71 (Ala to Val/Thr), and 36 (Ile to Leu), followed by combinations of mutations at an additional 5 specific amino acid positions.

Of 18 patients for which both phenotypic and genotypic analysis were performed on free virus isolated from plasma, 12 showed reduced susceptibility to ritonavir *in vitro*. All 18 patients possessed one or more mutations in the viral protease gene. The 82 mutation appeared to be necessary but not sufficient to confer phenotypic resistance. Phenotypic resistance was defined as a ≥ 5-fold decrease in viral sensitivity *in vitro* from baseline. The clinical relevance of phenotypic and genotypic changes associated with NORVIR therapy has not been established.

Cross-resistance to other antiretrovirals

Among protease inhibitors variable cross-resistance has been recognized. (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **MICROBIOLOGY**).Serial HIV isolates obtained from six patients during NORVIR therapy showed a decrease in ritonavir susceptibility *in vitro* but did not demonstrate a concordant decrease in susceptibility to saquinavir *in vitro* when compared to matched baseline isolates. However, isolates from two of these patients demonstrated decreased susceptibility to indinavir *in vitro* (8-fold). Isolates from five patients were also tested for cross-resistance to amprenavir and nelfinavir; isolates from two patients had a decrease in susceptibility to nelfinavir (12- to 14-fold), and none to amprenavir. Cross-resistance between ritonavir and reverse transcriptase inhibitors is unlikely because of the different enzyme targets involved. One ZDV-resistant HIV isolate tested *in vitro* retained full susceptibility to ritonavir.

Cross-resistance between ritonavir and reverse transcriptase inhibitors is unlikely because of the different enzyme targets involved. One ZDV-resistant HIV isolate tested in vitro retained full susceptibility to ritonavir.

Antiviral Activity *in vitro*

The activity of ritonavir was assessed *in vitro* in acutely infected lymphoblastoid cell lines and in peripheral blood lymphocytes. The concentration of drug that inhibits 50% (EC_{50}) of viral replication ranged from 3.8 to 153 nM depending upon the HIV-1 isolate and the cells employed. The average EC_{50} for low passage clinical isolates was 22 nM (n = 13). In MT_4 cells, ritonavir demonstrated additive effects against HIV-1 in combination with either zidovudine (ZDV) or didanosine (ddI). Studies which measured cytotoxicity of ritonavir on several cell lines showed that > 20 microM was required to inhibit cellular growth by 50% resulting in an *in vitro* therapeutic index of at least 1000.

NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

The toxicology of ritonavir has been assessed in mice, rats, dogs and rabbits in studies ranging in duration from a single dose to six months of oral administration. All phases of the reproductive process have been evaluated for potential adverse effects, and a generally accepted battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* mutagenicity studies has been conducted. The following section summarizes the findings from these studies. The most significant target organs in the toxicity studies have been the liver and retina. Retinal changes secondary to phospholipidosis were limited to rodents only and were considered not to pose any undue risk to humans. Dogs appeared to be less sensitive than the rodent to the hepatotoxic effects of ritonavir. Human clinical studies have not disclosed a high incidence of hepatic complications (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**).

Pharmacodynamics

Ritonavir was administered orally to mice or rats at doses of 5 to 50 mg/kg to determine potential effects on various neuropharmacological endpoints. In mice, ritonavir had no meaningful effect on rotarod performance, ethanol-induced sleep time or pentobarbital-induced sleep time. In rats, no effect was observed on spontaneous motor activity or rotarod performance.

Ritonavir produced no pharmacologically significant effects on heart rate or blood pressure when administered orally to unanesthetized rats at doses of 20 or 50 mg/kg. The compound was also infused intravenously in a vehicle consisting of 20% ethanol and 15% propylene glycol in 5% dextrose water to pentobarbital-anesthetized dogs instrumented to measure various cardiovascular parameters.

Mean peak plasma levels of ritonavir were as high as 15.11 mcg/mL. Although the vehicle itself produced hemodynamic changes consistent with cardiac depression, ritonavir produced no consistent additional effects on systemic or pulmonary pressures or resistance, central venous pressure, cardiac output, left ventricular dP/dt or end-diastolic pressure.

Ritonavir had no effect on isolated guinea pig ileum basal tone or on carbachol-induced contractions.

Acute Toxicity

Ritonavir has a low order of acute toxicity in rodents by oral route but is more toxic when given intravenously. The difference is probably due to the fact that the acute toxicity produced by ritonavir is more related to plasma C_{max} than AUC values, and C_{max} is most likely considerably higher following intravenous injection. When given orally in a vehicle of propylene glycol and ethyl alcohol (95:5, v/v) containing two molar equivalents of p-toluene sulfonic acid monohydrate, the median lethal dose (LD_{50}) generally exceeds the limited dose of 2500 mg/kg for both mice and rats. Toxic signs for both species consisted of decreased activity, ataxia, dyspnea, squinting, prostration, and tremors.

When administered intravenously, the approximately lethal dose (ALD) ranged from 35 to 80 mg/kg for both species. Signs of toxicity included decreased activity, ataxia, dyspnea, exophthalmos, and clonic convulsions.

Sub-chronic Toxicity

Rat

Ritonavir has been studied in rats at study durations for one-month (0, 15, 50 and 150/100 mg/kg/day), 13-weeks (0, 25, 75, and 175/125 mg/kg/day) and six-months (0, 25, 75, and 175/125 mg/kg/day). Consistent findings across all studies included treatment-related clinical signs consisting of decreased activity, emaciation, hunched posture, weakness, and rough hair coat along with some indications of ataxia, lower body weight and food consumption at higher dosages. Target organs of toxicity were liver, eye (retina), kidney and thyroid.

Hepatic changes include multinucleated hepatocytes, single cell necrosis, histiocytic granulomas and chronic paricholangitis. Changes in laboratory parameters consisten with these findings were observed in serum for ALT, AST, GGT, ALP, total bilirubin, and cholesterol.

Retinal changes included observation of pale choroidal vasculature, with hypertrophy and cytoplasmic granularity in the retinal pigment epithelium, with reduced or absent photoreceptor outer segments. Electroretihograms (ERGs) revealed decreases in A- and –wave amplitudes, with primary findings associated with rods. Recovery was not observed following treatment discontinuation.

Mild epithelial hypertrophy in the thyroid gland was associated with increased TSH and lower T_4. Kidney changes were consisted of tubular degeneration and were only observed in the six-month study.

The no-toxi effect dosage was considered to be 15 mg/kg/day and corresponded to systemic exposure of 3.6 to 4.7 mcg.h/mL in male rats and 5.3 to 8.9 mcg.h/mL in female rats (approximately 1/25th of the expected human exposure of 150 mcg.h/mL from a dose of 600 mg twice daily).

Dog

Ritonavir has been studied in dogs at study durations for one-month (0, 10, 50 and 200 mg/kg/day), 13-weeks (0, 10, 50, and 200/100 mg/kg/day) and six-months (0, 10, 50 and 125 mg/kg/day). Consistent findings across all studies included treatment-related clinical signs consisting of emesis and abnormal stool/diarrhea; at higher dosages decreased activity, ataxia, weakness, tremor and posture difficulties were observed along with decreased body weight and food intake. Target organs of toxicity were liver and thymus. Due to pronounced clinical adversity and moribundity the high dosage was reduced from 200 mg/kg/day to 100 mg/kg/day in the 13-week study.

Hepatic changes included histopathological findings of hydropic degeneration, with pericholangitis, biliary hyperplasia, fibrosis becoming evident as the dose duration increased. Associated changes in serum markers included ALT, ALLP, GGT, and bile acids.

Decreased thymic weight and atrophy were observed at the highest dosages.

The no-toxic effect dosage was dependent on the test formulation used and ranged from 10 – 50 mg/kg/day that corresponded to systemic exposure of 18-25 mcg.h/mL (approximately one-seventh of the expected human exposure of 150 mcg.h/mL). However, it is important to note that histopathological changes in liver were only observed in a single female dog at the highest dosage (125 mg/kg/day) at a plasma drug exposure of 482 mcg.h/mL.

Special Studies

Dietary administration of ritonavir was provided to mice and rats for 13-weeks in preparation for two-year carcinogenicity studies in these species. Dosages were 0, 200, 400, 600, and 1000 mg/kg/day for mice and 0 50, 100, 160, and 200 mg/kg/day for male rats and 0, 30, 75, 125, and 175 mg/kg/day for female rats. In both species target organ toxicity was similar to that noted in the 3-month rat study using oral gavage administration, with target organ toxicities in liver, eye (retina), and thyroid (rat only). Systemic plasma exposure (AUC) associated with target organ toxicity was similar to plasma exposures in the 3-month study in rats.

Ritonavir was evaluated for the potential to produce delayed contact hypersensitivity in guinea pigs. The Maximization Method was used in this study and the data generated indicated that ritonavir did not induce delayed contact hypersensitivity in guinea pigs.

Mutagenicity and Carcinogenicity

Carcinogenicity studies with ritonavir have been conducted in mice and rats. In male mice, at dosage levels of 50, 100, or 200 mg/kg/day, there was a dose dependent increase in the incidence

of both adenomas and combined adenomas and carcinomas in the liver. Based on the drug exposure (AUC) measurements, the exposure at the high dosage was approximately 0.3-fold for males that of exposure in humans with the recommended therapeutic dose (600 mg twice daily). There were no carcinogenic effects seen in females at the dosages tested. The exposure at the high dosage was approximately 0.6-fold for the females that of the exposure in humans. In rats dosed at levels of 7, 15, or 30 mg/kg/day there were no carcinogenic effects. In this study the exposure at the high dose was approximately 5% that of the exposure in humans with the 600 mg twice daily regimen. Based on the exposures achieved in the animal studies, the significance of the observed effects is not known.

Ritonavir was not found to be mutagenic or clastogenic in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including the Ames bacterial reverse mutation assay using *S. Typhimurium* and *E. coli*, the mouse lymphoma assay, the mouse micronucleus test and chromosomal aberration assays in human lymphocytes.

Reproduction and Teratology

Fertility and General Reproductive Performance

Rats

Ritonavir was administered orally by gavage to female rats at dosages of 0, 20, 40, and 75 mg/kg/day beginning at 14 days prior to mating with males that were treated at dosages of 0, 20, 40, and 125 mg/kg/day beginning at 28 days prior to mating. The treatment in female rats was continued through mating until gestation Day 9. The group mean plasma AUC values for males near the end of the premating period were 8.2, 19.7 and 61.0 mcg·h/mL, respectively, for the 20, 40, and 125 mg/kg/day treatment groups. The corresponding values for females were 14.6, 33.1 and 90.5 mcg·h/mL, respectively, for the 20, 40 and 75 mg/kg/day treatment groups. There were no treatment-related deaths in the study. Maternal toxicity consisted of adverse clinical signs and decreases in mean body weights and food intake in the mid and high dosage groups.

There were no treatment-related effects on the estrous cycle or male and female reproductive indices. Maternal survival and pregnancy status of the ritonavir-treated groups were also comparable to the controls. No treatment-related effects were seen in the number of corpora lutea, implantation sites, viable and nonviable embryos. There were no increases in the incidence of preimplantation and postimplantation losses. The no-toxic-effect level for systemic toxicity in F_0 generation rats was 20 mg/kg/day. However, there were no adverse effects on male or female reproduction or early embryonic development up to the highest dosage (125/75 mg/kg/day) tested.

Developmental Toxicity

Rats

Ritonavir was administered orally to mated female rats at dosages of 0, 15, 35, and 75 mg/kg/day from Gestation Day 6 to 17. Three high dosage rats were euthanized in moribund condition during the study. The group mean plasma AUC values on Gestation Day 16 were 17.3, 34.3 and 45.2 mcg·h/mL at dosages of 15, 35 and 75 mg/kg/day, respectively. Decreased activity, emaciation, dehydration, rough coat and/or matted coat, hunched posture, tremors, and noisy respiration were observed in rats at the high dosage level. Marked decreases in body weights and food consumption were evident in the high dosage group. Reduction in food consumption accompanied by a reduction in body weight gain was also noted for the mid dosage group during Gestation Days 6 to 9. No effects were found in the number of corpora lutes or implantation sites. Developmental toxicity in the high dosage group was characterized by increased postimplantation loss, decreased fetal body weights, and an increased incidence of ossification delays and developmental variations (enlarged fontanelles, cryptorchidism and wavy ribs). Developmental toxicity at the 35 mg/kg/day dosage level was characterized by a slight increase in cryptorchidism. No treatment-related malformations were observed in this study.

Developmental toxicity occurred only at maternally toxic dosages. The no-effect level for maternal and developmental toxicity was 15 mg/kg/day corresponding to a systemic exposure of 17.3 mcg·h/mL.

Rabbits

Ritonavir was administered to mated female rabbits by oral gavage at dosages of 0, 25, 50, and 110 mg/kg/day from Gestation Day 6 to 19. The group mean plasma AUC values on Gestation Day 20 were 1.30 and 28.55 mcg·h/mL at dosages of 25 and 50 mg/kg/day, respectively. Plasma AUC values were not calculated for the 110 mg/kg/day group because plasma samples were obtained from the three surviving rabbits at only two time points. Four deaths in rabbits given 110 mg/kg/day were considered to be possibly drug-related. There was an increased incidence of decreased defecation and soft stool in all drug-treated groups. The observation of no stool was noted in mid and high dosage groups; rales and mucoid stool occurred only at the high dosage. Marked decreases in body weights, body weight gain and food consumption were noted in the high dosage group. Developmental toxicity was evident at the high dosage level with four whole litter resorptions and in surviving litters a significant increase in postimplantation losses, decreased litter size and decreased uterine and fetal weights. There were no drug-related fetal malformations in this study.

The no-observable-effect level was 50 mg/kg/day with respect to maternal and developmental toxicity.

Peri-/Postnatal Toxicity

Rats

Mated female rats were administered ritonavir orally at dosages of 0, 15, 35, or 60 mg/kg/day beginning on Gestation Day (GD) 6. Treatment continued throughout gestation, parturition and lactation; the final dosage was given on Postpartum Day (PD) 20. Plasma drug levels were not determined in this study. No deaths or treatment-related clinical signs were observed among the F0 dams. Dams in the 60 mg/kg/day group gained less weight and consumed less food during GD 6 to 9. Gestation length, litter size at birth, and F_1 pup growth and survival were unaffected. No effects on the time of appearance of developmental landmarks or learning as measured by a passive avoidance test were evident. The ontogeny of various reflexes were unaffected. The reproductive competence of the F_1 generation was unaffected. Therefore, the no-observed-effect level for developmental toxicity was considered to be 60 mg/kg/day, the highest dosage tested.

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PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

[Pr] NORVIR® film-coated tablets
ritonavir

This leaflet is PART III of a three-part Product Monograph published when NORVIR tablets was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about NORVIR tablets. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

When co-administering NORVIR with other protease inhibitors, consult the PART III of that protease inhibitor's Product Monograph.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What the medication is used for:

- NORVIR is for adults who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus which causes AIDS.
- NORVIR is prescribed for use in combination with other antiretroviral medicines.

What it does:

NORVIR is an inhibitor of the HIV protease enzyme. It helps control HIV infection by inhibiting or interfering with the protease enzyme that HIV needs to multiply.

NORVIR is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking NORVIR may still develop infections or other serious illnesses associated with HIV disease and AIDS.

When it should not be used:

Do not take NORVIR if you:

- are allergic to ritonavir or to any of the non-medicinal ingredients in NORVIR. See **What the important non-medicinal ingredients are** for a complete listing.
- are currently taking any of the following medicines:
  - alfuzosin (e.g., Xatral®) - used to treat high blood pressure
  - amiodarone (e.g., Cordarone®*), bepridil* (e.g., Vascor®), dronedarone (e.g., Multaq®), flecainide (e.g., Tambocor®), propafenone (e.g., Rythmol®), quinidine - used to treat irregular heart beats
  - colchicine, if you have kidney and/or liver problems – used to treat gout
  - fusidic acid (e.g., Fucidin®) – antibiotic
  - astemizole* or terfenadine* - antihistamines
  - lurasidone (e.g., Latuda®), pimozide (e.g., Orap®) - used to treat abnormal thoughts or feelings
  - cisapride* - used to relieve certain stomach problems
  - ergotamine, dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, methylergonovine (used to treat headaches), such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®* and others
  - voriconazole (e.g., Vfend®) – antifungal
  - lovastatin (e.g., Mevacor®) or simvastatin (e.g., Zocor®) – used to lower blood cholesterol
  - triazolam, oral midazolam – used to relieve anxiety and/or trouble sleeping
  - rivaroxaban (e.g., Xarelto®) – anticoagulant
  - salmeterol (e.g., Advair®, Serevent®) used in the treatment of asthma
  - sildenafil (e.g., Revatio®) – only when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
  - vardenafil (e.g., Levitra®) used in the treatment of erectile dysfunction
- are taking both rifampin and saquinavir. NORVIR should not be taken with rifampin and saquinavir. Rifampin is also known as Rimactane®*, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®*; saquinavir is also known as Invirase®.
- are taking products containing St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) as this may stop NORVIR from working properly.
- are currently taking any of these medications; your doctor may switch your medication.

*** Products not marketed in Canada.**

What the medicinal ingredient is:

ritonavir

What the important non-medicinal ingredients are:

NORVIR 100 mg tablets also contain copovidone, colloidal silicon dioxide/colloidal anhydrous silica, dibasic calcium phosphate anhydrous/calcium hydrogen phosphate anhydrous, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400/macrogol type 400, polyethylene glycol 3350/macrogol type 3350, polysorbate 80, sorbitan monolaurate/sorbitan laurate, sodium stearyl fumarate, talc and titanium dioxide E171.

What dosage forms it comes in:

NORVIR is available in the following dosage forms:

- Film-coated tablets containing 100 mg ritonavir
- Oral solution containing 80 mg/mL of ritonavir

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Serious Warnings and Precautions

Tell your doctor if you develop symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. These may be signs of problems with your pancreas (pancreatitis). Your doctor must decide if these are related to pancreatitis and what to do about them.

BEFORE using NORVIR, talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- have liver problems or are infected with hepatitis B or hepatitis C.
- have diabetes or symptoms, such as frequent urination and/or increase in thirst.
- have hemophilia: patients taking NORVIR may have increased bleeding.
- are taking or planning to take other medicines, including prescription, herbal and other medicines you can buy without a prescription.
- have heart disease or heart condition.
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. Pregnant women should not take NORVIR unless specifically directed by the doctor. Be sure to tell your doctor immediately if you are or may be pregnant. If you take NORVIR while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed. It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants because of the possibility the baby could be infected with HIV through breast milk.

NORVIR does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others with sexual contact or blood contamination. You should use appropriate precautions, such as practicing safe sex and not reusing or sharing needles.

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Drugs that may interact with NORVIR include:

NORVIR may interact with certain other medications with possible clinical effects. The following medicines should only be used together with NORVIR if advised by your physician:

- medicines used to treat erectile dysfunction, such as sildenafil (e.g., Viagra®) or tadalafil (e.g., Cialis®); vardenafil (e.g., Levitra®) should not be taken with NORVIR
- medicines used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, such as bosentan (e.g., Tracleer®) or tadalafil (e.g., Adcirca®)
- medicines used to lower blood cholesterol, such as atorvastatin (e.g., Lipitor®), rosuvastatin (e.g., Crestor®)
- some medicines affecting the immune system, such as cyclosporin, sirolimus (e.g., Rapamune®) and tacrolimus
- some medicines used to treat seasonal allergies and ear and eye infections, such as budesonide, dexamethasone, fluticasone propionate (e.g., Flonase®) and prednisone, triamcinolone
- medicines used to treat AIDS and related infections, such as amprenavir*, indinavir (e.g., Crixivan®), nelfinavir (e.g., Viracept®), saquinavir (e.g., Invirase®), didanosine (e.g., Videx®), rifabutin (e.g., Mycobutin®), tipranavir (e.g., Aptivus®), delavirdine (e.g., Rescriptor®), atazanavir (e.g., Reyataz®), maraviroc (e.g., Celsentri®), fosamprenavir (e.g., Telzir®), raltegravir (e.g., Isentress®), tenofovir and darunavir (e.g., Prezista®)
- medicines used to treat depression, such as trazodone, desipramine and bupropion
- certain heart medicines, such as calcium channel antagonists including diltiazem (e.g., Tiazac®), nifedipine (e.g., Adalat®) and verapamil (e.g., Isoptin®)
- medicines used to correct heart rhythm, such as systemic lidocaine and digoxin
- antifungals, such as ketoconazole (e.g., Nizoral®) and itraconazole (e.g., Sporanox®)
- morphine-like medicines, such as methadone and meperidine (e.g., Demerol®)
- anticonvulsants, such as carbamazepine (e.g., Tegretol®), phenytoin (e.g., Dilantin®) and phenobarbital
- anticoagulants, such as warfarin
- certain antibiotics, such as rifabutin (e.g., Mycobutin®) and clarithromycin (e.g., Biaxin®)
- antibiotics used in the treatment of tuberculosis, such as rifampin, also known as Rimactane®*, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®*
- bronchodilatators used to treat asthma, such as theophylline
- medicines used to treat cancer, such as dasatinib (Sprycel®), ibrutinib (Imbruvica®), nilotinib (Tasigna®), venetoclax (Venclexta™), vincristine and vinblastine
- colchicine used for the treatment of gout
- some heart rhythm drugs, such as mexiletine and disopyramide
- some anticonvulsants, such as clonazepam, divalproex, lamotrigene and ethosuximide
- some narcotic analgesics, such as fentanyl (e.g., Duragesic®) in all forms, tramadol and propoxyphene
- quetiapine used to treat schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder
- medicine used to treat hepatitis C, such as simeprevir (e.g., Galexos®) or ombitasvir, paritaprevir and ritonavir with or without dasabuvir (e.g. Holkira® Pak, Technivie™)
- some sedatives or medicines to treat anxiety, such as buspirone, clorazepate, diazepam (e.g., Valium®), flurazepam (e.g., Dalmane®) and zolpidem (e.g., Sublinox®)
- stimulants, such as methamphetamine
- medicine to treat anxiety and/or trouble sleeping, such as midazolam (injected)

***Products not marketed in Canada.**

If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") or the contraceptive patch (i.e., ethinyl estradiol) to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since NORVIR may reduce the effectiveness of oral or patch contraceptives.

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

It is important that you take NORVIR every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. Even if you feel better, do not stop taking NORVIR without talking to your doctor. Using NORVIR as recommended should give you the best chance to delay the development of resistance to the product.

It is therefore important that you remain under the supervision of your doctor while taking NORVIR.

Usual dose:

The usual dose for adults is six 100 mg tablets (600 mg) twice daily orally and should be taken with a meal. NORVIR tablets should be swallowed whole with water and not chewed, broken or crushed.

Your doctor may monitor blood levels of fats (lipids), cholesterol and glucose before and during NORVIR treatment.

Overdose:

If you realize you have taken more NORVIR than you were supposed to, contact your doctor or local poison control centre right away, even if you have no symptoms. If you cannot reach your doctor, go to the hospital.

Missed dose:

If you miss a dose of NORVIR, it should be taken as soon as possible and the next scheduled dose taken at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

The most commonly reported side effects of NORVIR are abdominal pain, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, nausea, vomiting, changes in taste, loss of appetite, dizziness, tingling feeling or numbness in hands, feet or around the lips and rash.

- If you have liver disease, such as hepatitis B and hepatitis C, taking NORVIR may worsen your liver disease.
- Some patients taking NORVIR can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis) which may cause death. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol (forms of fat that are found in your blood).
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) may occur in patients taking protease inhibitors, such as NORVIR. Symptoms of diabetes or high blood sugar may include frequent urination or increased thirst. Let your doctor know if you have or develop these symptoms while taking NORVIR.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- Severe skin reactions, such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis have been reported with NORVIR use, with symptoms, such as peeling, inflamed, blistering skin and mucous membranes in mouth, nose and throat, flu-like symptoms, fever, and redness in the eye. If these symptoms occur, stop taking the drug and contact a doctor immediately.
- Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time, or you could develop an autoimmune disease in which your immune system reacts against your own body (e.g., Grave's disease [which affects the thyroid gland], Guillain-Barre syndrome [which affects the nervous system] or polymyositis [which affects the muscles] and it may develop at any time, sometimes months later after the start of HIV therapy). Sometimes symptoms can be severe, so if you develop high temperature (fever), joint or muscle pain, redness, rash, swelling, or fatigue or any new symptoms, contact your doctor straight away.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom/effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Common	Diarrhea	√		
	Rash	√		
	Headache	√		
	Nausea	√		
	Vomiting	√		
	Tingling feeling in hands, feet and around lips	√		
Uncommon	Chest Pain		√	
	Pancreatitis		√	
	- Abdominal Pain		√	
	- Nausea		√	
	- Vomiting		√	
	Severe skin reactions, such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis			√

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking NORVIR, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

Keep NORVIR and all other medicines out of the reach and sight of children.

NORVIR film-coated tablets should be stored between 15 and 30°C. Exposure of the product to high humidity outside the original container for longer than two weeks is not recommended.

It is important to keep NORVIR in the original package. Do not transfer to any other container.

Do not use after the expiry date stated on the package.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following three ways:

- **Report on line at:** www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting
- **Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345**
- **Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:**
  - **Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789**
  - **Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program**
    Health Canada
    Postal Locator 1908C
    Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guidelines are available on the MedEffect™ Canada Web site at:
www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting

Note: Should you require information related to the management of side effects, contact your healthcare professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

The most recent version of this document plus the full Product Monograph, prepared for healthcare professionals, can be found at:

www.abbvie.ca
or by contacting the sponsor, AbbVie Corporation, Saint-Laurent, QC H4S 1Z1 at: 1-888-704-8271

This leaflet was prepared by AbbVie Corporation.

Last revised: September 25, 2018

PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

[Pr]NORVIR® oral solution
ritonavir

This leaflet is PART III of a three-part Product Monograph published when NORVIR was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about NORVIR. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

When co-administering NORVIR with other protease inhibitors, consult the PART III of that protease inhibitor's Product Monograph.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What the medication is used for:

- NORVIR is for adults and children two years of age or older who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus which causes AIDS.
- NORVIR is prescribed for use in combination with other antiretroviral medicines.

What it does:

NORVIR is an inhibitor of the HIV protease enzyme. It helps control HIV infection by inhibiting or interfering with the protease enzyme that HIV needs to multiply.

NORVIR is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking NORVIR may still develop infections or other serious illnesses associated with HIV disease and AIDS.

When it should not be used:

NORVIR should not be taken if you/your child:

- are allergic to ritonavir or to any of the non-medicinal ingredients in NORVIR. See **What the important non-medicinal ingredients are** for a complete listing.
- are currently taking any of the following medicines:
  - alfuzosin (e.g., Xatral®) - used to treat high blood pressure
  - amiodarone (e.g., Cordarone®*), bepridil* (e.g., Vascor®), dronedarone (e.g., Multaq®), flecainide (e.g., Tambocor®), propafenone (e.g., Rythmol®), quinidine - used to treat irregular heart beats
  - colchicine, if you have kidney and/or liver problems – used to treat gout
  - fusidic acid (e.g., Fucidin®) – antibiotic
  - astemizole* or terfenadine* - antihistamines
  - lurasidone (e.g., Latuda®), pimozide (e.g., Orap®) - used to treat abnormal thoughts or feelings
  - cisapride* - used to relieve certain stomach problems
  - ergotamine, dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, methylergonovine (used to treat headaches), such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®* and others
  - voriconazole (e.g., Vfend®) – antifungal
  - lovastatin (e.g., Mevacor®) or simvastatin (e.g., Zocor®) – used to lower blood cholesterol
  - triazolam, oral midazolam – used to relieve anxiety and/or trouble sleeping
  - rivaroxaban (e.g., Xarelto®) – anticoagulant
  - salmeterol (e.g., Advair®, Serevent®) – used in the treatment of asthma
  - sildenafil (e.g., Revatio®) – only when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
  - vardenafil (e.g., Levitra®) used in the treatment of erectile dysfunction
- are taking both rifampin and saquinavir. NORVIR should not be taken with rifampin and saquinavir. Rifampin is also known as Rimactane®*, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®*; saquinavir is also known as Invirase®.
- are taking products containing St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) as this may stop NORVIR from working properly.
- are currently taking any of these medications; your/your child's doctor may switch your medication.

*** Products not marketed in Canada.**

What the medicinal ingredient is:

ritonavir

What the important non-medicinal ingredients are:

NORVIR oral solution also contains anhydrous citric acid to adjust pH, creamy caramel flavouring, ethanol, FD&C Yellow No. # 6, peppermint oil, polyoxyl 35 castor oil, propylene glycol, and sodium saccharin.

What dosage forms it comes in:

NORVIR is available in the following dosage forms:

- Film-coated tablets containing 100 mg ritonavir
- Oral solution containing 80 mg/mL of ritonavir

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Serious Warnings and Precautions

Tell your doctor if you or your child develop symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. These may be signs of problems with your/your child's pancreas (pancreatitis). Your/your child's doctor must decide if these are related to pancreatitis and what to do about them.

BEFORE you use NORVIR, talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you/your child:

- have liver problems or are infected with hepatitis B or hepatitis C.
- have diabetes or symptoms, such as frequent urination and/or increase in thirst.
- have hemophilia: patients taking NORVIR may have increased bleeding.
- are taking or planning to take other medicines, including prescription, herbal and other medicines you can buy without a prescription.
- have heart disease or heart condition.
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. Pregnant women should not take NORVIR unless specifically directed by the doctor. Be sure to tell your/your child's doctor immediately if you/your child are or may be pregnant. If you/ your child take NORVIR while you/your child are pregnant, talk to your/your child's doctor about how you/your child can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed. It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants because of the possibility the baby could be infected with HIV through breast milk.

NORVIR does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others with sexual contact or blood contamination. You should use appropriate precautions, such as practicing safe sex and not reusing or sharing needles.

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Drugs that may interact with NORVIR include:

NORVIR may interact with certain other medications with possible clinical effects. The following medicines should only be used together with NORVIR if advised by your/your child's physician:

- medicines used to treat erectile dysfunction, such as sildenafil (e.g., Viagra®) or tadalafil (e.g., Cialis®); vardenafil (e.g., Levitra®) should not be taken with NORVIR
- medicines used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, such as bosentan (e.g., Tracleer®) or tadalafil (e.g., Adcirca®)
- medicines used to lower blood cholesterol, such as atorvastatin (e.g., Lipitor®), rosuvastatin (e.g., Crestor®)
- some medicines affecting the immune system, such as cyclosporin, sirolimus (e.g., Rapamune®) and tacrolimus
- some medicines used to treat seasonal allergies and ear and eye infections, such as budesonide, dexamethasone, fluticasone propionate (e.g., Flonase®), prednisone and triamcinolone
- medicines used to treat AIDS and related infections, such as amprenavir*, indinavir (e.g., Crixivan®), nelfinavir (e.g., Viracept®), saquinavir (e.g., Invirase®), didanosine (e.g., Videx®), rifabutin (e.g., Mycobutin®), tipranavir (e.g., Aptivus®), delavirdine (e.g., Rescriptor®), atazanavir (e.g., Reyataz®), maraviroc (e.g., Celsentri®), fosamprenavir (e.g., Telzir®), raltegravir (e.g., Isentress®), tenofovir and darunavir (e.g., Prezista®)
- medicines used to treat depression, such as trazodone, desipramine and bupropion
- certain heart medicines, such as calcium channel antagonists including diltiazem (e.g., Tiazac®), nifedipine (e.g., Adalat®) and verapamil (e.g., Isoptin®)
- medicines used to correct heart rhythm, such as systemic lidocaine and digoxin
- antifungals, such as ketoconazole (e.g., Nizoral®) and itraconazole (e.g., Sporanox®)
- morphine-like medicines, such as methadone and meperidine (e.g., Demerol®)
- anticonvulsants, such as carbamazepine (e.g., Tegretol®), phenytoin (e.g., Dilantin®) and phenobarbital
- anticoagulants, such as warfarin
- certain antibiotics, such as rifabutin (e.g., Mycobutin®) and clarithromycin (e.g., Biaxin®)
- antibiotics used in the treatment of tuberculosis, such as rifampin, also known as Rimactane®* Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®*
- bronchodilatators used to treat asthma, such as theophylline
- medicines used to treat cancer, such as dasatinib (Sprycel®), ibrutinib (Imbruvica®), nilotinib (Tasigna®), venetoclax (Venclexta™), vincristine and vinblastine
- colchicine used for the treatment of gout
- some heart rhythm drugs, such as mexiletine and disopyramide
- some anticonvulsants, such as clonazepam, divalproex, lamotrigene and ethosuximide
- some narcotic analgesics, such as fentanyl (e.g., Duragesic®) in all forms, tramadol and propoxyphene
- quetiapine used to treat schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder
- medicine used to treat hepatitis C, such as simeprevir (e.g., Galexos®) or ombitasvir, paritaprevir and ritonavir with or without dasabuvir (e.g. Holkira® Pak, Technivie™)
- some sedatives or medicines to treat anxiety, such as buspirone, clorazepate, diazepam (e.g., Valium®), flurazepam (e.g., Dalmane®) and zolpidem (e.g., Sublinox®)
- stimulants, such as methamphetamine
- medicine to treat anxiety and/or trouble sleeping, such as midazolam (injected)

***Products not marketed in Canada.**

If you/your child are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") or the contraceptive patch (i.e., ethinyl estradiol) to prevent pregnancy, you/your child should use a different type of contraception since NORVIR may reduce the effectiveness of oral or patch contraceptives.

NORVIR oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your/your child's doctor if you/your child are taking or planning to take metronidazole (e.g., Flagyl®) or disulfiram*(e.g., Antabuse®). Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

NORVIR oral solution contains propylene glycol which could cause adverse effects for those with kidney problems. Talk to your doctor if you have kidney problems. Stop taking NORVIR and contact your doctor immediately if you develop symptoms of propylene glycol toxicity, such as seizures, rapid heartbeat (tachycardia), and blood in the urine, rapid breathing, weakness, nausea and vomiting.

*** Product no longer marketed in Canada.**

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

It is important that you/your child take NORVIR every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. Even if you/your child feel better, do not stop taking NORVIR without talking to your/your child's doctor. Using NORVIR as recommended should give you/your child the best chance to delay the development of resistance to the product.

It is therefore important that you/your child remain under the supervision of your/your child's doctor while taking NORVIR.

Usual dose:

The usual dose for adults is 7.5 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.

The dose for children over two years of age will be determined by your/your child's doctor based on the child's height and weight.

Take NORVIR with food, if possible, to help it work better.

After use, clean the dosage cup immediately with hot water and dish soap and dry. The dosage cup **must** be dry before use.

Your doctor may monitor blood levels of fats (lipids), cholesterol and glucose before and during NORVIR treatment.

Overdose:

If you/your child realize you have taken more NORVIR than you/your child were supposed to, contact your/your child's doctor or local poison control centre right away, even if you have no symptoms. If you cannot reach your/your child's doctor, go to the hospital.

NORVIR oral solution contains 43% alcohol and 27% propylene glycol and accidental ingestion could be toxic and potentially lethal to a young child.

Missed dose:

If you/your child miss a dose of NORVIR, it should be taken as soon as possible and the next scheduled dose taken at its regular time. If it is almost time for your/your child's next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

The most commonly reported side effects of NORVIR are abdominal pain, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, nausea, vomiting, changes in taste, loss of appetite, dizziness, tingling feeling or numbness in hands, feet or around the lips and rash.

- If you/your child have liver disease, such as hepatitis B and hepatitis C, taking NORVIR may worsen your liver disease.
- Some patients taking NORVIR can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis) which may cause death. Tell your/your child's doctor if you/your child have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol (forms of fat that are found in your/your child's blood).
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) may occur in patients taking protease inhibitors, such as NORVIR. Symptoms of diabetes or high blood sugar may include frequent urination or increased thirst. Let your/your child's doctor know if you/your child have or develop these symptoms while taking NORVIR.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- Severe skin reactions, such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis have been reported with NORVIR use, with symptoms, such as peeling, inflamed, blistering skin and mucous membranes in mouth, nose and throat, flu-like symptoms, fever, and redness in the eye. If these symptoms occur, stop taking the drug and contact a doctor immediately.
- Changes in your/your child's immune system (Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your/your child's immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your/your child's body for a long time, or

you/your child could develop an autoimmune disease in which your/your child's immune system reacts against your own body (e.g. Grave's disease [which affects the thyroid gland], Guillain-Barre syndrome [which affects the nervous system] or polymyositis [which affects the muscles] and it may develop at any time, sometimes months later after the start of HIV therapy). Sometimes symptoms can be severe, so if you/your child develop high temperature (fever), joint or muscle pain, redness, rash, swelling, or fatigue or any new symptoms contact your/your child's doctor straight away.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom/effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Common	Diarrhea	√		
	Rash	√		
	Headache	√		
	Nausea	√		
	Vomiting	√		
	Tingling feeling in hands, feet and around lips	√		
Uncommon	Chest Pain		√	
	Pancreatitis		√	
	- Abdominal Pain		√	
	- Nausea		√	
	- Vomiting		√	
	Severe skin reactions, such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis			√

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking NORVIR, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

Keep NORVIR and all other medicines out of the reach and sight of children.

NORVIR oral solution should be stored at room temperature, between 20 and 25°C. **DO NOT REFRIGERATE. SHAKE WELL BEFORE EACH USE.** Avoid exposure to excessive heat. Keep cap tightly closed.

It is important to keep NORVIR in the original package. Do not transfer to any other container.

Do not use after the expiry date stated on the package.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following three ways:

- **Report on line at:** www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting
- **Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345**
- **Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:**
  - **Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789**
  - **Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program**
    Health Canada
    Postal Locator 1908C
    Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guidelines are available on the MedEffect™ Canada Web site at:
www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting

NOTE: Should you require information related to the management of side effects, contact your healthcare professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

The most recent version of this document plus the full Product Monograph, prepared for healthcare professionals, can be found at:

www.abbvie.ca
or by contacting the sponsor, AbbVie Corporation, Saint-Laurent, QC H4S 1Z1 at: 1-888-704-8271

This leaflet was prepared by AbbVie Corporation.

Last revised: September 25, 2018

Adalat, Adcirca, Advair, Advera, Antabuse, Aptivus, Biaxin, Cafergot, Celsentri, Cialis, Cordarone, Crestor, Crixivan, Demerol, D.H.E. 45, Dilantin, Duragesic, Ensure, Flagyl, Flonase,

Fucidin, Galexos, Imbruvica, Invirase, Isentress, Isoptin, Latuda, Levitra, Lipitor, Mevacor, Migranal, Multaq, Mycobutin, Nizoral, Orap, Prezista, Rapamune, Rescriptor, Revatio, Reyataz, Rifadin, Rifamate, Rifater, Rimactane, Rythmol, Serevent, Sporanox, Sprycel, Tambocor, Tasigna, Tegretol, Telzir, Tiazac, Tracleer, Vfend, Viagra, Videx, Viracept, Xarelto, Xatral and Zocor are trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of AbbVie Corporation. The makers of these brands are not affiliated with and do not endorse AbbVie or its products.