Product Monograph

Including Patient Medication Information

Pr **MEPRON**

Atovaquone Oral Suspension

750 mg/5 mL Suspension for Oral Use

Antiprotozoal agent

ATC Code: P01AX06

GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

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Date of Authorization:

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Recent Major Label Changes

7 Warnings and Precautions, Skin	2026-03

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Part 1: Healthcare Professional Information

1. Indications

MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension is indicated for:

- the acute oral treatment of mild to moderate *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (PCP) in patients who are intolerant to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX).

1.1. Pediatrics

There are no efficacy studies in children. Clinical experience with MEPRON (atovaquone) in immunosuppressed pediatric patients is limited to safety data from one pharmacokinetic study (n = 11). No children under 4 months of age participated in the Phase I trial.

1.2. Geriatrics

MEPRON (atovaquone) has not been systematically evaluated in patients greater than 65 years of age. Caution should be exercised when treating elderly patients reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal and cardiac function in this population.

2. Contraindications

MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension is contraindicated for individuals with known hypersensitivity to atovaquone or to any of the components of the formulation.

4. Dosage and Administration

4.1. Dosing Considerations

- Failure to administer MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension with food may result in lower plasma concentrations and may limit response to therapy (see 10.2 Pharmacodynamics; 7 Warnings and Precautions).

4.2. Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

Adults

- The recommended oral dose of MEPRON is 750 mg (5 mL) administered with food twice a day (total daily dose 1500 mg) for 21 days. For patients with difficulty in swallowing and unable to take two meals a day, the dose should be 1500 mg (2 x 5 mL) with food once a day for 21 days (see 10.3 Pharmacokinetics).

4.5. Missed Dose

If a dose is missed, it should be taken as soon as possible with a meal after the scheduled time. The subsequent dose should be administered at its regular scheduled time, with a meal. Patients should not take more than a total daily dose of 10 mL.

5. Overdose

There is insufficient experience to predict the consequences of or suggest specific management of overdosage from the oral administration of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension. If overdosage occurs, the patient should be monitored and standard supportive treatment applied.

For the most recent information in the management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre or Health Canada's toll-free number, 1-844 POISON-X (1-844-764-7669).

6. Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition, and Packaging

Table 1 – Dosage Forms, Strengths, and Composition

Route of Administration	Dosage Form/ Strength/Composition	Non-Medicinal Ingredients
Oral Suspension	Dosage form: Oral suspension Strength: 750mg/5mL Active Ingredient: Atovaquone	Benzyl alcohol, flavor (tutti frutti), poloxamer 188, purified water, saccharin sodium and xantham gum

MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension, containing atovaquone 750mg/5mL, is bright yellow with a sweet, fruity flavor. Supplied in bottles of 210 mL with child resistant cap.

7. Warnings and Precautions

General

Absorption of orally administered MEPRON (atovaquone) is limited but can be significantly increased when the drug is taken with food. Atovaquone plasma concentrations have been shown to correlate with the likelihood of successful treatment and survival. Therefore, parenteral therapy with other agents should be considered for patients who have difficulty taking MEPRON (atovaquone) with food (see 10.3 Pharmacokinetics).
The efficacy of MEPRON (atovaquone) in patients who are failing therapy with TMP-SMX has not been systematically studied.

Clinical experience with MEPRON (atovaquone) has been limited to patients with mild to moderate PCP [(A-a)DO2 ≤45 mmHg]. Treatment of more severe episodes of PCP has not been systematically studied with this agent.

MEPRON (atovaquone) has not been evaluated as an agent for PCP prophlyaxis.

Driving and Operating Machinery

There have been no studies to investigate the effect of MEPRON (atovaquone) on driving performance or the ability to operate machinery.

Gastrointestinal

Gastrointestinal disorders may limit absorption of orally administered drugs. Patients with these disorders also may not achieve plasma concentrations of atovaquone associated with response to therapy in controlled trials. The prescriber must be aware that diarrhea at the start of treatment has been shown to be associated with significantly lower atovaquone plasma levels. These, in turn, are correlated with a higher incidence of therapy failures and a lower survival rate.

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

Rare cases of hepatitis, elevated liver function tests, and one case of fatal liver failure have been reported in patients treated with atovaquone. A causal relationship between MEPRON (atovaquone) use and these events could not be established because of numerous confounding medical conditions and concomitant drug therapies (see 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions).

In patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment there is no clinically significant change in exposure to atovaquone when compared to healthy patients. No data are available in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

Immune

Based upon the spectrum of *in vitro* antimicrobial activity, MEPRON (atovaquone) is not effective therapy for concurrent pulmonary conditions such as bacterial, viral or fungal pneumonia or mycobacterial diseases. Clinical deterioration in patients may be due to other pathogens, as well as progressive PCP. All patients with acute PCP should be carefully evaluated for all other possible causes of pulmonary disease and treated with additional agents as appropriate.

Renal

In patients with mild to moderate renal impairment, oral clearance and/or AUC data for atovaquone are within the range of values observed in patients with normal renal function. The C_{max} and AUC of total atovaquone (bound + free) are reduced in patients with severe renal impairment. The effect of severe renal impairment on free (unbound) concentrations of atovaquone in plasma is unknown.

Skin

Cases of severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs), including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) and erythema multiforme (EM) have been reported in patients treated with atovaquone. As SCARs can be life-threatening or fatal, if signs and symptoms suggestive of SCARs appear, treatment with atovaquone must be discontinued immediately, and alternative treatment should be given. Patients who have developed SCARs with the use of atovaquone must not receive atovaquone (see 2 Contraindications; 8 Adverse Reactions).

7.1. Special Populations

7.1.1. Pregnancy

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. MEPRON (atovaquone) should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

7.1.2. Breastfeeding

It is not known whether atovaquone is excreted in human milk and breast feeding is not recommended. In a rat study, atovaquone concentrations in the milk were 30% of the concurrent atovaquone concentrations in the maternal plasma.

7.1.3. Pediatrics

There are no efficacy studies in children. Clinical experience with MEPRON (atovaquone) in immunosuppressed pediatric patients is limited to safety data from one pharmacokinetic study (n = 11). No children under 4 months of age participated in the Phase I trial.

7.1.4. Geriatrics

MEPRON (atovaquone) has not been systematically evaluated in patients greater than 65 years of age. Caution should be exercised when treating elderly patients reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal and cardiac function in this population.

A pharmacokinetic study suggests that atovaquone may accumulate after multiple dosing in the elderly (see 10.3 Pharmacokinetics).

8. Adverse Reactions

8.1. Adverse Reaction Overview

Because many patients who participated in clinical trials with MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets had complications of advanced HIV disease, it was often difficult to distinguish adverse events caused by the drug from those caused by underlying medical conditions. There were no life-threatening or fatal adverse events caused by MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets.

8.2. Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. Therefore, the frequencies of adverse reactions observed in the clinical trials may not reflect frequencies observed in clinical practice and should not be compared to frequencies reported in clinical trials of another drug.

Table 2 summarizes all the clinical adverse events reported by $\geq$ 5% of the study population during the TMP-SMX comparative study of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets (n=408), regardless of attribution.

Table 2 Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events in the TMP-SMX Comparative PCP Treatment Study

Treatment-Emergent Adverse Event	Number of Patients with Treatment-Emergent Adverse Event (% of Total)			
	MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets (n = 203)		TMP-SMX (n = 205)	
BODY AS A WHOLE				
Asthenia	17	(8%)	16	(8%)
Fever	28	(14%)	52	(25%)*
Headache	33	(16%)	44	(22%)
GASTROINTESTINAL				
Diarrhea	39	(19%)*	15	(7%)
Constipation	7	(3%)	35	(17%)*
Abdominal Pain	9	(4%)	15	(7%)
Vomiting	29	(14%)	72	(35%)*
Nausea	43	(21%)	90	(44%)*
Monilia, Oral	11	(5%)	21	(10%)
NERVOUS				
Dizziness	7	(3%)	17	(8%)*
Insomnia	20	(10%)	18	(9%)
SKIN				
Rash (including maculopapular)	47	(23%)	69	(34%)*
Pruritus	11	(5%)	18	(9%)
No. of Patients discontinuing Therapy due to an Adverse Event	19	(9%)	50	(24%)*
No. of Patients Reporting at least one Adverse Event	127	(63%)	134	(65%)

* $p < 0.05$

Eight patients receiving MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets had therapy discontinued due to development of rash. The majority of cases of rash among patients receiving MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets were mild and did not require the discontinuation of dosing. The only other clinical adverse event which led to premature discontinuation of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets dosing by more than one patient was the development of vomiting (n=2). The most common adverse event requiring discontinuation of dosing in the TMP-SMX group was rash (n=16).

Laboratory test abnormalities reported for > 5% of the study population during the treatment period are summarized in Table 3. Five patients treated with MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets and 15 patients treated with TMP-SMX had therapy prematurely discontinued due to elevations in ALT/AST.

Table 3 Treatment-Emergent Laboratory Abnormalities

	Number of Patients Developing a Laboratory Test Abnormality (% of Total Patients)	
Laboratory Test Abnormality	**MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets**	**TMP-SMX**
Anemia (Hgb <8.0 g/dL)	6%	7%
Neutropenia (ANC <750 c/mm3)	3%	9%
Elevated ALT (>5 x ULN)	6%	16%
Elevated AST (>5 x ULN)	4%	14%
Elevated Alkaline Phosphate (>2.5 x ULN)	8%	6%
Elevated Amylase (>1.5 x ULN)	7%	12%
Hyponatremia (<0.96 x LLN)	7%	26%

ULN=upper limit of normal range

LLN=lower limit of normal range

Table 4 summarizes the clinical adverse events reported by ≥ 5% of the study population during the comparative trial of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets and intravenous pentamidine (n = 144), regardless of attribution. Of the five patients who discontinued therapy with MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets, three reported rash (4%). Rash was not severe in any patient. No other reason for discontinuation of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets was cited more than once. The most frequently cited reasons for discontinuation of pentamidine therapy were hypoglycemia [8 patients (11%)] and vomiting [6 patients (9%)].

Table 4 Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events in the Pentamidine Comparative PCP Treatment Study

Treatment-Emergent Adverse Event	Number of Patients with Treatment-Emergent Adverse Experience (% of Total)	
	MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets (n = 73)	Pentamidine (n = 71)
BODY AS A WHOLE		
Asthenia	6 (8%)	10 (14%)
Fever	29 (40%)	18 (25%)
Headache	13 (18%)	20 (28%)
Pain	7 (10%)	7 (10%)
CARDIOVASCULAR		
Hypotension	1 (1%)	7 (10%)*
GASTROINTESTINAL		
Diarrhea	15 (21%)	22 (31%)
Dyspepsia	4 (5%)	7 (10%)
Abdominal Pain	7 (10%)	8 (11%)
Vomiting	10 (14%)	12 (17%)
Nausea	16 (22%)	26 (37%)
Monilia, Oral	7 (10%)	2 (3%)
Anorexia	5 (7%)	7 (10%)
METABOLIC		
Hypoglycemia	1 (1%)	11 (15%)*
NERVOUS		
Anxiety	5 (7%)	7 (10%)
Dizziness	6 (8%)	10 (14%)
Insomnia	14 (19%)	10 (14%)

RESPIRATORY		
Sinusitis	5 (7%)	4 (6%)
Rhinitis	4 (5%)	5 (7%)
Cough	10 (14%)*	1 (1%)
SKIN		
Rash	16 (22%)	9 (13%)
Sweat	7 (10%)	2 (3%)
SPECIAL SENSES		
Taste Perversion	2 (3%)	9 (13%)*
No. of Patients discontinuing Therapy due to an Adverse Event	5 (7%)	29 (41%)**
No. of Patients Reporting at least one Adverse Event	46 (63%)	51 (72%)

* p <0.05 ** p <0.001

Laboratory test abnormalities reported in >5% of patients in the pentamidine comparative study are presented in Table 5.

Laboratory abnormality was reported as the reason for discontinuation of treatment in two of 73 patients who received MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets. One patient (1%) had elevated creatinine and BUN levels and one patient (1%) had elevated amylase levels. Laboratory abnormalities were the sole or contributing factor in 14 patients who prematurely discontinued pentamidine therapy. In the 71 patients who received pentamidine, laboratory parameters most frequently reported as reasons for discontinuation were hypoglycemia (11%), elevated creatinine levels (6%), and leukopenia (4%).

Table 5 Treatment-Emergent Laboratory Abnormalities in the Pentamidine Comparative PCP Treatment Study

Laboratory Test Abnormalities	Patients Developing a Laboratory Test Abnormality (% of Total)	
	MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets	Pentamidine
Anemia (Hgb <8.0 g/dL)	4%	9%
Neutropenia (ANC <750 c/mm3)	5%	9%
Hyponatremia (<0.96 x LLN)	10%	10%
Hyperkalemia (>1.18 x ULN)	0%	5%
Elevated Alkaline Phosphate (>2.5 x ULN)	5%	2%
Hyperglycemia (>1.8 x ULN)	9%	13%
Elevated AST (>5 x ULN)	0%	5%
Elevated Amylase (>1.5 x ULN)	8%	4%
Elevated Creatinine (>1.5 x ULN)	0%	7%

ULN=upper limit of normal range

LLN=lower limit of normal range

8.2.1. Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions – Pediatrics

Not available at time of authorization.

8.3. Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

See Section 8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions.

8.5. Post-Market Adverse Reactions

In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during worldwide post-approval use of MEPRON. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to a combination of their seriousness, frequency of reporting, or potential causal connection to MEPRON.

Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders: Methemoglobinemia, thrombocytopenia.

Immune System Disorders: Hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema, bronchospasm, throat tightness and urticaria.

Eye Disorders: Vortex keratopathy.

Gastrointestinal Disorders: Pancreatitis.

Hepatobiliary Disorders: Hepatitis and one case of fatal liver failure have been reported with atovaquone usage.

Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders: Erythema multiforme and Stevens-Johnson syndrome and skin desquamation have been reported in patients receiving multiple drug therapy including atovaquone.

Renal and Urinary Disorders: Acute renal impairment

9. Drug Interactions

9.4. Drug-Drug Interactions

Table 6 Established or Potential Drug-Drug Interactions

Drug Type/Non-Proprietary Name	Reference	Effect	Clinical comment
Plasma protein bound drugs (Quinine, phenytoin, warfarin, sulphamethoxazole, indomethacin or diazepam)	T	Atovaquone is highly bound to plasma protein (>99.9%). Competition for binding sites may occur. The extent of plasma protein binding of atovaquone in human plasma is not affected by the presence of therapeutic concentrations of phenytoin (15 µg/mL). Atovaquone does not affect the pharmacokinetics, metabolism or extent of protein binding of phenytoin *in vivo*. *In vitro* there is no plasma protein binding interaction between atovaquone and quinine, phenytoin, warfarin,	Caution should be used when administering MEPRON (atovaquone) concurrently with other highly plasma protein bound drugs with narrow therapeutic indices.

Drug Type/Non-Proprietary Name	Reference	Effect	Clinical comment
		sulphamethoxazole, indomethacin or diazepam.	
Rifampicin, rifabutin	T	Concomitant administration of rifampicin or rifabutin is known to reduce atovaquone levels by approximately 50% and 34%, respectively, and could result in sub-therapeutic plasma concentrations in some patients.	The concomitant administration of atovaquone and rifampicin or rifabutin is not recommended.
Tetracycline, metoclopramide	T	Concomitant treatment with tetracycline or metoclopramide has been associated with significant decreases in plasma concentrations of atovaquone.	Caution should be exercised in prescribing these drugs with MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension until the potential interaction has been further studied.
Acetominophen, benzodiazepines, acyclovir, opiates, cephalosporins, anti-diarrheals, laxatives	CT	In clinical trials of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension, small decreases in plasma concentrations of atovaquone (mean <3 µg/ml) were associated with concomitant administration of acetominophen, benzodiazepines, acyclovir, opiates, cephalosporins, anti-diarrheals and laxatives.	The causal relationship between the change in plasma concentrations of atovaquone and the administration of these drugs is unknown.
Zidovudine	T	Zidovudine does not appear to affect the pharmacokinetics of atovaquone. However, pharmacokinetic data have shown that atovaquone appears to decrease the rate of metabolism of zidovudine to its glucuronide metabolite (steady state AUC of zidovudine was increased by 33% and peak plasma concentration of the glucuronide was decreased by 19%). At zidovudine dosages of 500 or 600 mg/day it would seem unlikely that a three-week, concomitant	Extra care should be taken in monitoring patients receiving prolonged MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension therapy.

Drug Type/Non-Proprietary Name	Reference	Effect	Clinical comment
		course of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension for the treatment of acute PCP would result in an increased incidence of adverse reactions attributable to higher plasma concentrations of zidovudine. There are no data available for ddC (zalcitabine).	
Didanosine	CT	Didanosine (ddI) does not affect the pharmacokinetics of atovaquone as determined in a prospective multidose drug interaction study of atovaquone and ddI.	There was a 24% decrease in the AUC for ddI when co-administered with atovaquone which is unlikely to be of clinical significance.
Indinavir	CT	Concomitant administration of MEPRON (atovaquone) and indinavir results in a decrease in the C_{min} of indinavir (23% decrease; 90% CI 8-35%).	Caution should be exercised when prescribing atovaquone with indinavir due to the decrease in trough levels of indinavir.
Fluconazole, clotrimazole, ketoconazole, antacids, systemic corticosteroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, anti-emetics (excluding metoclopramide) and H_2-antagonists.	CT	In clinical trials of atovaquone the following drugs were not associated with a change in steady state plasma concentrations of atovaquone.	No clinically significant drug interaction was observed.

Drug Type/Non-Proprietary Name	Reference	Effect	Clinical comment

Legend: C = Case Study; CT = Clinical Trial; T = Theoretical; PBPK = Physiologically based pharmacokinetic modeling; popPK = Population pharmacokinetic modeling

9.7. Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

It is not known if MEPRON (atovaquone) interferes with clinical laboratory test or assay results.

10. Clinical Pharmacology

10.1. Mechanism of Action

Atovaquone is a hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone, an analog of ubiquinone, with anti-pneumocystis activity. The mechanism of action against *Pneumocystis jirovecii ha*s not been fully elucidated.

10.2. Pharmacodynamics

Relationship Between Atovaquone Plasma Concentration and Clinical Outcome:

In a comparative study of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) for oral treatment of mild to moderate PCP, where AIDS patients received 750 mg atovaquone tablets three times daily for 21 days, the mean steady-state atovaquone concentration was 13.9 ± 6.8 µg/mL (n=191). Analysis of these data established a relationship between atovaquone plasma concentration and successful treatment.

Table 7 Relationship Between Atovaquone Plasma Concentrations and Successful Treatment

Steady-State Plasma Atovaquone Concentrations (µg/mL)	Successful Treatment* Number successes/Number in Group (%)			
	Observed		Predicted†	
0 to <5	0/6	0%	1.5/6	25%
5 to <10	18/26	69%	14.7/26	57%
10 to <15	30/38	79%	31.9/38	84%
15 to <20	18/19	95%	18.1/19	95%
20 to <25	18/18	100%	17.8/18	99%
25+	6/6	100%	6/6	100%

* Successful treatment was defined as improvement in clinical and respiratory measures persisting at least 4 weeks after cessation of therapy.

† Based on logistic regression analysis

A dosing regimen of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension for the treatment of mild to moderate PCP has been selected to achieve average atovaquone plasma concentrations of approximately 20 µg/mL, because this plasma concentration was previously shown to be well tolerated and associated with the highest treatment success rates (Table 7). In an open-label PCP treatment study with MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension, dosing regimens of 1000 mg once daily, 750 mg twice daily, 1500 mg once daily, and 1000 mg twice daily were administered to AIDS patients with PCP. The average steady-state plasma atovaquone concentration (Cavg,ss ± SD) achieved at the 750 mg twice daily dose given with meals was 22.0 ± 10.1 µg/mL (n=18). Twelve of the eighteen patients (67%) achieved a Cavg,ss level of ≥15 µg/mL after 21 days of treatment. Based on the limited pharmacokinetic data, the Cavg,ss for the 1500 mg once daily treatment regimen given with meals was 17.6 ± 8.1 µg/mL (n = 9). At this dosing regimen, five of the nine patients (56%) achieved a Cavg,ss level of ≥15 µg/mL after 21 days of treatment.

10.3. Pharmacokinetics

The pharmacokinetics of atovaquone have been studied in healthy volunteers, HIV-infected adults with varying stages and manifestations of HIV infection and in immunocompromised children. The half-life of atovaquone is long (2 to 3 days) due to presumed enterohepatic cycling and eventual fecal elimination. There is no evidence that the drug is metabolized in man.

Atovaquone is a highly lipophilic compound with a low aqueous solubility. It is extensively bound to plasma proteins (>99.9%).

The bioavailability of atovaquone is highly dependent on formulation and diet. MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension, which has now replaced MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets, has atovaquone particles significantly smaller than those in the tablet formulation, and provides an approximately two-fold increase in atovaquone bioavailability in the fasting or fed state compared to the tablet formulation studied under the same conditions. The bioavailability of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension can be increased greatly when administered with meals. In healthy volunteers, a standard meal (23 g fat; 610 kCal) increased the bioavailability two to three-fold following 750 mg single doses of atovaquone suspension. The mean area under the atovaquone plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) was increased 2.5 fold and the mean C_{max} was increased 3.4. Fat has been shown to enhance absorption significantly (see Pharmacokinetics).

In healthy volunteers there is no evidence that the drug is metabolized and there is negligible excretion of atovaquone in the urine, with parent drug being predominantly (>90%) excreted unchanged in feces. During a multiple-dose study of 4 HIV-seropositive asymptomatic volunteers, the relative oral bioavailability of the tablet formulation decreased at doses above 750 mg once daily with food. In another multiple-dose escalation study conducted in AIDS patients, lack of dose proportionality was also demonstrated with the tablet formulation; there was, however, a modest increase in concentrations.

Absorption

Atovaquone is a highly lipophilic drug with low solubility in water. Pharmacokinetic and bioavailability studies indicate that the bioavailability of the drug is highly dependent on formulation and diet. The suspension formulation provides an approximately two-fold increase in atovaquone bioavailability in the fasting or fed state compared to the tablet formulation studied under the same conditions. The absolute bioavailability of a 750 mg dose of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension, administered under fed conditions, has been evaluated in nine HIV-seropositive (CD_4 ³100 cells/mm^3) volunteers and was 47% ± 15%. In the same study, the bioavailability of the tablet formulation was 23% ± 11%. Other pharmacokinetic parameters from this study are shown in Table 8.

Table 8 Mean (±SD) Pharmacokinetic Parameters for Atovaquone after 0.5 mg/kg Intravenous Infusion or 750 mg Tablet and Oral Suspension Administration*

Parameter	I.V.	Tablet	Oral Suspension
C_{max} (µg/mL)	3.21 ± 0.38	4.76 ± 1.71	11.47 ± 2.76
AUC (hr•µg/mL)	70.0 ± 25.6	316 ± 159	639 ± 227
Bioavailability (%)	—	23 ± 11	47 ± 15
$t_{½}$ (hr)	62.5 ± 35.3	67.8 ± 28.9	67.0 ± 33.4

* Mean IV dose was 36.9 mg.

The bioavailability of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets is increased approximately three-fold when administered with meals. In particular, fat has been shown to enhance absorption significantly. In one study, 18 volunteers received a single dose of 500 mg MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets after an overnight fast and following a breakfast (23 g fat: 2696 kJ (642 kCal)). The mean (± SD) AUC values were 93.8 ± 45.7 and 288 ± 77 hr•µg/mL, under fasting and fed conditions, respectively. In another volunteer study where MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets were administered under fasting conditions, with 28 g butter (23 g fat) and 56 g butter (46 g fat) on toast, mean AUC values increased 2.7- and 4.0-fold, respectively, compared to the fasting state.

The bioavailability of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension is increased approximately two-fold when administered with meals. In one study, 16 healthy volunteers received a single dose of 750 mg MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension after an overnight fast and following a standard breakfast [23 g fat: 2686 kJ (642 kCal)]. The mean (±SD) area under the concentration-time curve (AUC) values were 324 ± 115 and 801 ± 320 hr•µg/mL under fasting and fed conditions, respectively. The effect of food [23 g fat: 1673 kJ (400 kCal] on atovaquone plasma concentrations was also evaluated in a multiple-dose, randomized, crossover study in 19 HIV-infected volunteers (CD_4 £200 cells/mm^3) receiving daily doses of 500 mg MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension. AUC was 280 ± 114 hr•µg/mL when atovaquone was administered with food as compared to 169 ± 77 hr•µg/mL under fasting conditions. Maximum plasma atovaquone concentration ($C_{max)}$ was 15.1 ± 6.1 and 8.8 ± 3.7 µg/mL when atovaquone was administered with food and under fasting conditions, respectively. Significant differences in the bioavailability of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension have been observed between normal volunteers or HIV-seropositive asymptomatic volunteers and AIDS patients.

Comparisons of AUC values of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets and MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension across studies indicate that, on average, atovaquone plasma concentrations are approximately two- to three-fold higher in non-HIV-infected individuals than in patients with AIDS.

Dose Proportionality

Plasma atovaquone concentrations do not increase proportionally with dose. When MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension was administered with food at dosage regimens of 500 mg once daily, 750 mg once daily and 1000 mg once daily, average steady-state plasma atovaquone concentrations were 11.7 ± 4.8, 12.5 ± 5.8, and 13.5 ± 5.1 µg/mL, respectively. The corresponding C_{max} concentrations were 15.1 ± 6.1, 15.3 ± 7.6, and 16.8 ± 6.4 µg/mL. When MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension was administered to five HIV-infected volunteers at a dose of 750 mg twice daily, the average steady-state plasma atovaquone concentration was 21.0 ± 4.9 µg/mL and C_{max} was 24.0 ± 5.7 µg/mL. The minimum plasma atovaquone concentration (C_{min}) associated with the 750 mg twice daily regimen was 16.7 ± 4.6 µg/mL.

Distribution

Following the intravenous administration of atovaquone, the volume of distribution at steady state (Vd_{ss}) was 0.60 ± 0.17 L/kg (n=9). Atovaquone is extensively bound to plasma proteins (99.9%) over the concentration range of 1 to 90 µg/mL. In three HIV-infected children who received 750 mg atovaquone as the tablet formulation four times daily for 2 weeks, the cerebrospinal fluid concentrations of

atovaquone were 0.04 µg/mL, 0.14 µg/mL, and 0.26 µg/mL, representing less than 1% of the plasma concentration.

Elimination

The plasma clearance of atovaquone following intravenous administration in nine HIV-infected volunteers was 10.4 ± 5.5 mL/min (0.15 ± 0.09 mL/min/kg). The half-life of atovaquone was 62.5 ± 35.3 hours after I.V. administration and ranged from 67.0 ± 33.4 to 77.6 ± 23.1 hours across studies following administration of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension. The half-life of atovaquone is long due to presumed enterohepatic cycling and eventual fecal elimination. In a study where ^{14}C-labelled atovaquone was administered to healthy volunteers, greater than 94% of the dose was recovered as unchanged atovaquone in the feces over 21 days. There was little or no excretion of atovaquone in the urine (less than 0.6%). There is indirect evidence that atovaquone may undergo limited metabolism; however, a specific metabolite has not been identified.

Special populations and conditions

- HIV Seropositive Asymptomatic Adults:

  During a multiple-dose study of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets in cohorts of 4 HIV-seropositive asymptomatic adult volunteers, dose-proportionality was demonstrated for dosage regimens of 100 to 750 mg once daily. However, at doses above 750 mg once daily with food, the relative oral bioavailability decreased. The maximum dose tested, 3000 mg once daily, produced a mean ±SD steady-state average plasma concentration of 40.0 ± 19.0 µg/mL compared to 26.9 ± 10.0 µg/mL in volunteers receiving 750 mg once daily.

  In a multiple-dose escalation study (Table 9) conducted in volunteers with AIDS, where a single cohort of 15 individuals received 15- to 17-day consecutive courses of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets administered with food at regimens of 750, 1500, 3000 mg once daily, 750 mg twice daily, and 1500 mg twice daily, the lack of dose proportionality was also demonstrated; however, there was a modest increase in concentrations with increasing total daily dose. Altering dose intervals without changing total daily dose did not affect concentrations. In this study, the Cmax/Cmin concentration ratio values were low; approximately 1.5, and independent of the dosage regimen.

Table 9 MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets AUC Values and Plasma Concentrations in Volunteers with AIDS*

Parameter	**750 mg (n =15)**	**1500 mg (n =15)**	**3000 mg (n =14)**	**750 mg (n =12)**	**1500 mg (n =13)**
Steady-State AUC (hr µg/mL)	181 ± 84	253 ± 126	322 ± 135	231 ± 59	314 ± 109
Steady-State Average Concentrations (µg/mL)	7.5 ± 3.5	10.6 ± 5.3	13.4 ± 5.6	9.6 ± 2.5	13.1 ± 4.5

*Mean ± SD

In two pivotal studies for the treatment of PCP where 191 AIDS patients received 750 mg MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets three times daily, the mean steady-state atovaquone concentration was 13.9 ± 6.8 µg/mL.

- Pediatrics:

Immunocompromised children: The pharmacokinetics of atovaquone have been evaluated in 10 immunocompromised children (age: 5 months to 13 years; weight: 3.5 to 85.5 kg). The mean half-life was 2.7 ± 1.6 days. A dosage regimen of 10 mg/kg once daily achieved a steady-state average concentration of 7.5 ± 4.6 µg/mL (range 2.5 to 15.2 µg/mL). For 3 of these children who also received a dosage regimen of 40 mg/kg once daily, a steady-state average concentration of 14.0 ± 2.2 µg/mL (range 10.9 to 15.6 µg/mL) was achieved.

- Geriatrics:

There is no clinically significant change in the average rate or extent of absorption of atovaquone between elderly and young patients. A trend toward an increase in t½ in elderly participants after a single dose suggests that atovaquone may accumulate after multiple dosing.

11. Storage, Stability, and Disposal

MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension should be stored at 15°C to 25°C and kept in tight, light resistant containers.

MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension SHOULD NOT BE FROZEN.

Part 2: Scientific Information

13. Pharmaceutical Information

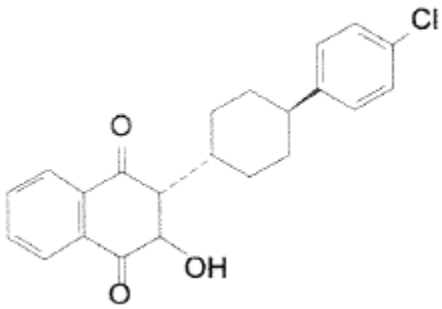
Drug Substance

Non-proprietary name of the drug substance(s): Atovaquone

Chemical name: trans-2-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)cyclohexyl]-3-hydroxy-1,4-naphtalenedione

Molecular weight: 366.84

Structural Formula:



Physicochemical properties: Atovaquone is a yellow crystalline solid with a melting point of ~221°C. It is practically insoluble in water (<2 x 10-4 mg/mL) and in 1.0M HCl (<2 x 10-4 mg/mL), and slightly soluble in 0.1M NaOH (1.7 mg/mL).

14. Clinical Trials

14.1. Clinical Trials by Indication

Pneumocystis *jirovecii* pneumonia (PCP)

The indication is based on the results of comparative pharmacokinetic studies of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension and MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablet formulations (see 10.3 Pharmacokinetics) and clinical efficacy studies of the tablet formulation which established a relationship between atovaquone plasma concentration and successful treatment. The results of a randomized double-blind trial comparing MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets to TMP-SMX in AIDS patients with mild to moderate PCP (defined as an alveolar-arterial oxygen diffusion gradient [(A-a)DO2] $\leq$ 45 mmHg and Pa02 $\geq$ 60 mmHg on room air), and a randomized trial comparing MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets to intravenous pentamidine isethionate in patients with mild to moderate PCP intolerant to trimethoprim or sulfa-antimicrobials are summarized below:

TMP-SMX Comparative Study

This double-blind trial, initiated in 1990, was designed to compare the safety and efficacy of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets to that of TMP-SMX for the treatment of AIDS patients with histologically confirmed PCP. Only patients with mild to moderate PCP were eligible for enrollment.

A total of 408 patients were enrolled into the trial at 37 study centres. Eighty-six patients without histologic confirmation of PCP were excluded from the efficacy analyses. Of the 322 patients with histologically confirmed PCP, 160 were randomized to receive MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets and 162 to TMP-SMX.

Study participants randomized to MEPRON treatment were to receive 750 mg MEPRON (three 250 mg tablets) three times daily for 21 days and those randomized to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole were to receive 320 mg TMP plus 1600 mg SMX three times daily for 21 days.

All patients were evaluated for their response to treatment. Each patient was classified as a therapy success or failure. Therapy success was defined as improvement in clinical and respiratory measures persisting at least 4 weeks after cessation of therapy. Therapy failures included lack of response, treatment discontinuation due to an adverse event, and unevaluable.

Table 10 Outcome of Treatment for PCP-Positive Patients Enrolled in the TMP-SMX Comparative Study

	Number of Patients (% of Total)			
	MEPRON [2] (n = 160)		**TMP–SMX** (n = 162)	
Outcome of Therapy [1]				P value
Therapy Success	99	(62%)	103	(64%)	0.75
Therapy Failure					
Lack of Response	28	(17%)	10	(6%)	<0.01
Adverse Event	11	(7%)	33	(20%)	<0.01
Unevaluable	22	(14%)	16	(10%)	0.28
Required Alternative PCP Therapy During Study	55	(34%)	55	(34%)	0.95

[1] As defined by the protocol and described in study description above

[2] MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets

There was a significant difference (p=0.03) in mortality rates between the treatment groups. Among the 322 patients with confirmed PCP, 13 of 160 patients treated with MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets and 4 of 162 patients receiving TMP-SMX died during the 21-day treatment course or an 8-week follow-up period. In the intent-to-treat analysis for all 408 randomized patients there were 16 deaths in the MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets arm and 7 in the TMP-SMX arm (p=0.051).

This difference in mortality between the two treatment groups appeared to be partially due to a disproportionate number of fatal bacterial infections in the MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets group. Four of the 13 MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets-treated patients died of PCP, while 5 of the 13 died of a combination of bacterial infections and PCP. A correlation between plasma concentrations and death was demonstrated; in general, patients with lower atovaquone plasma concentrations were more likely to die than patients with higher atovaquone plasma concentrations.

There were no significant differences in the effect of either treatment on additional indicators of response (i.e., arterial blood gas measurements, vital signs, serum LDH levels, clinical symptoms, and chest radiographs).

Pentamidine Comparative Study

This open, randomized trial, initiated in 1991, was designed to compare the safety and efficacy of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets to that of pentamidine for the treatment of histologically confirmed mild or moderate PCP among AIDS patients. Approximately 80% of the patients had a history of, or were currently experiencing, intolerance to trimethoprim or sulfa-antimicrobials.

Patients randomized to MEPRON were to receive 750 mg atovaquone (three 250 mg tablets) three times daily for 21 days, and those randomized to pentamidine isethionate were to receive a 3 to 4 mg/kg single intravenous infusion daily for 21 days.

It was anticipated that patients intolerant of TMP-SMX would present in either of two ways. They would either have a known intolerance and would represent a primary therapy group, or their intolerance would first become evident during treatment for the current episode of PCP and would represent a study group for salvage therapy.

A total of 135 PCP-positive patients were enrolled: 110 were in the primary therapy group and 25 were in the salvage therapy group.

The therapeutic outcomes are presented in Table 11 below.

Table 11 Outcome of Treatment for PCP-Positive Patients Enrolled in the Pentamidine Comparative Study

	Primary Treatment			**Salvage Treatment**		
Outcome of Therapy	**MEPRON** [1] (n = 56)	**Penta-midine** (n = 53)	P value	**MEPRON** [1] (n = 14)	**Penta-midine** (n = 11)	P value
Therapy Success	32(57%)	21(40%)	0.09	13(93%)	7 (64%)	0.14

Therapy Failure						
Lack of Response	16(29%)	9(17%)	0.18	0	0	
Adverse Event	2(3.6%)	19(36%)	<0.01	0	3(27%)	0.07
Unevaluable	6(11%)	4(8%)	0.75	1(7%)	1(9%)	1.00
Required Alternative PCP Therapy During Study	19(34%)	29(55%)	0.04	0	4(36%)	0.03

[1] MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets

There was no difference in mortality rates between the treatment groups. Among the 135 patients with confirmed PCP, 10 of 70 patients treated with MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets and nine of 65 patients treated with pentamidine died during the 21-day treatment course or an 8-week follow-up period. Three of the ten patients treated with MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets died of PCP while another 3 patients died with a combination of bacterial infections and PCP. The contribution of PCP in these latter deaths is unclear. One patient died of sepsis, one died of lymphoma, one died of complications of AIDS and one died of refractory pneumothorax. Two of nine patients treated with pentamidine died of PCP while another 3 patients died with a combination of bacterial infections and PCP. The contribution of PCP in these latter deaths is unclear. One each died of a cerebral mycotic aneurysm and disseminated *Coccidioides immitis* and 2 patients died of complications of AIDS. In the intent-to-treat analysis for all randomized patients, there were 11 deaths in the MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets arm and 12 deaths in the pentamidine arm. For those patients for whom day 4 atovaquone plasma concentration are available, 3 of 5 (60%) patients with concentrations <5 µg/mL died during participation in the study. However, only 2 of 21 (9%) patients with day 4 plasma concentrations >5 µg/mL died.

Data on Chronic Use

MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension has not been systematically evaluated as a chronic suppressive agent to prevent the development of PCP in patients at high risk for *Pneumocystis jirovecii* disease. In a pilot-dosing study of chronic dosing of MEPRON (atovaquone) Tablets in AIDS patients, 5 of 31 patients had PCP breakthroughs: one patient at a dose of 750 mg once daily (after 20 days), three patients at 750 mg twice daily (after 14, 70, and 97 days), and one patient at 1500 mg twice daily (after 74 days). The dose used in the acute treatment studies (750 mg three times daily) was not studied and, therefore, there are no data on the rate of breakthrough at this dose. Based on these limited observations, no recommendation can be made as to the use of MEPRON (atovaquone) Oral Suspension for prophylaxis.

15. Microbiology

Pneumocystis jirovecii

Several laboratories, using different *in vitro* methodologies, have shown the IC_{50} (50% Inhibitory Concentration) of atovaquone against rat *P. jirovecii* to be in the range of 0.1 - 3.0 µg/mL.

Atovaquone is active against *P. jirovecii* in immunosuppressed rats. This activity has been demonstrated in both prophylactic and treatment regimens. In a study designed to test atovaquone in the acute treatment of PCP, rats were immunosuppressed with corticosteroids for 4 or 6 weeks to predispose them to PCP and then treated by oral route once daily for 5 or 7 days per week for three weeks. A dose of 100 mg/kg completely cured (i.e. there was no histologic evidence of infection) a majority of the animals. In another study, 100 mg/kg of atovaquone was given daily for 3 weeks starting at the beginning of week 5 of immunosuppression. This regimen was effective in producing complete cures, as defined previously, in 4 of the 15 (27%) rats evaluated. The average infection score in treated rats was reduced to 0.8 from 2.57 in untreated immunosuppressed rats.

In studies designed to test atovaquone for prophylaxis of PCP, doses of 100 mg/kg, started concurrently with the immunosuppressive agent, prevented the development of pneumocystosis in the majority of susceptible rats. Atovaquone was administered by oral route either once daily for 5 days per week for six weeks, or daily for eight weeks. A dose response was evident in this model with doses lower than 100 mg/kg demonstrating a decreasing effect and doses of 10 mg/kg and 25 mg/kg having only a marginal effect, as evidenced by persistence of infection in 90% and 88% of animals, respectively. At the end of the study, animals remaining negative for PCP had atovaquone plasma concentrations >60 µg/mL (range 60-94 µg/mL). These atovaquone plasma concentrations are achievable at daily doses of 50 mg/kg/day or greater.

Toxoplasma gondii

The following additional preclinical data are available regarding *Toxoplasma gondii*, but their clinical significance is unknown. The *in vitro* IC_{50}s of atovaquone against the tachyzoite stage of a number of strains of *T. gondii* were in the range of 0.001 to 0.07 µg/mL. Atovaquone was also clearly active against the isolated cyst stages at 50 µg/mL over a 72-hour incubation period. Limited activity was also observed at 5.0 µg/mL; however, no intermediate atovaquone concentrations were tested.

Studies in an immunocompromised mouse model infected with clinical laboratory strains of *T. gondii* indicated ED_{50}s (50% Effective Dose for delaying the time of death) to be in the range of 10 to 30 mg/kg/day when treatment was initiated 24 hours after infection. Percentage survival of mice decreased if the treatment was initiated later. In one study, mice treated with 50 mg/kg of atovaquone once daily for 15 days and surviving 30 days post infection were evaluated for residual viable brain cysts. Brain homogenates prepared from treated mice were shown to produce a fatal toxoplasma infection when subinoculated into normal mice. Thus, although atovaquone showed activity against *T. gondii in vivo*, these results indicate that viable organisms remain encysted in the brain. In another study with animals with pre-existing brain infections, dosage regimens of 100 mg/kg/day had a beneficial effect on survival and level of infection. However, relapse of infection due to residual parasites was not evaluated.

Plasmodium species

The *in vitro* IC_{50} against *Plasmodium* sp. is approximately 0.004 µg/mL. Strains of *P. falciparum* resistant to atovaquone have been produced by drug selective pressure in the laboratory.

In order to determine the *in vivo* efficacy of atovaquone against murine malaria, CD-1 mice were injected with between 1 and 5 x 10^6 erythrocytes infected with pathogenic strains of *P. yoelii* or *P. berghei* and the dose of atovaquone required to reduce parasitemia by 50% (ED_{50}) and 99% (ED_{99}) when given in 7 separate doses was determined. In drug sensitive strains, atovaquone has an ED_{99} of 0.09-0.15 mg/kg (*P. yoelii*) and 0.009-0.116 mg/kg (*P. berghei*).

Atovaquone was also evaluated in the *Aotus* monkey model of *P. falciparum* malaria. In *P. falciparum* infected monkeys, 1 mg/kg of atovaquone once a day orally for 3 to 7 days cleared all animals of circulating parasites 2 to 4 days after onset of treatment. Those receiving drug for 7 days were completely cured, while most of the animals treated with 3 or 5 doses recrudesced.

In *Plasmodium* species, the site of action appears to be the cytochrome bc_1 complex (Complex III). Several metabolic enzymes are linked to the mitochondrial electron transport chain via ubiquinone. Inhibition of electron transport by atovaquone will result in indirect inhibition of these enzymes. The ultimate metabolic effects of such blockade may include inhibition of nucleic acid and ATP synthesis

16. Non-Clinical Toxicology

General toxicology

The toxicology of atovaquone has been investigated extensively in a variety of species for periods of up to six months (see Table 11).

Acute Toxicity Studies

In acute toxicity experiments in rats and mice, the oral MLD (median lethal dose) was determined to be in excess of 1 825 mg/kg. No deaths or other treatment-related effects were observed. The intravenous MLD was approximately 26 mg/kg in mice and 36 mg/kg in rats. The lowest doses at which any deaths occurred were 25 and 35 mg/kg in mice and rats, respectively, and all deaths occurred on the day of dosing. Clonic convulsions, and other signs included ataxia, decreased activity, prostration, and laboured breathing. These signs were seen either immediately, or within 3 minutes after dosing and all survivors recovered within 24 hours.

Subchronic Oral Toxicity Studies

Subchronic (28-day and 6-month) oral studies were conducted in rats and dogs given atovaquone at doses of 20 to 500 mg/kg/day.

In the 28-day rat study, no treatment-related antemortem or postmortem effects were noted at doses up to 500 mg/kg/day. In the 6-month study, equivocal or marginal decreases in erythrocytic parameters were observed at doses of 20 to 500 mg/kg/day.

In 28-day and 6-month studies in dogs, daily oral doses ranged from 20 to 500 mg/kg/day. No treatment-related antemortem or postmortem effects were seen.

Carcinogenicity

Oncogenicity studies in mice showed an increased incidence of hepatocellular adenomas and carcinomas without determination of the no observed adverse effect level. No such findings were observed in rats and mutagenicity tests were negative. These findings appear to be due to the inherent susceptibility of mice to atovaquone and are considered of no relevance in the clinical situation. At concentrations up to the limit of drug solubility, atovaquone was not mutagenic in the Ames *Salmonella* mutagenicity assay (79 µg/plate: 29.3 µg/mL) nor mouse lymphoma assay (50 µg/mL), with or without metabolic activation. Atovaquone was not associated with any biologically significant increases in the incidence of structural or numerical chromosomal abnormalities in cultured human lymphocytes at up to 50 µg/mL and 10 µg/mL with or without metabolic activation, respectively.

There was no biologically significant increase in the incidence of structural or numerical chromosome abnormalities in bone marrow cells from mice given oral doses of atovaquone up to 5000 mg/kg.

Reproductive and developmental toxicology

Studies were conducted in rats at oral doses up to 1000 mg/kg/day and in rabbits at oral doses up to 1200 mg/kg/day. Maternal trough plasma concentrations of atovaquone averaged 76 µg/mL (1000 mg/kg/day) and 16 µg/mL (1200 mg/kg/day) for the rat and rabbit teratology studies, respectively. There was no evidence of teratogenicity in either species.

In the rabbit study, fetal concentrations of atovaquone averaged 30% of the concurrent maternal plasma concentrations. Body weight loss occurred at 1200 mg/kg/day; 5 of 25 animals aborted at 1200 mg/kg/day. Rabbits that aborted were in the group of animals that had severely reduced food consumption and considerable weight loss. Small decreases in fetal body length and body weight were seen at 1200 mg/kg/day; these effects may have been a result of drug-related maternal toxicity.

Special toxicology

Data on further animal studies are supplied below. The relationship of these findings to potential human toxicity is unclear. In a long-term, 6-month, oral toxicity study in Wistar rats, atovaquone was administered at doses of 20, 100 and 500 mg/kg/day. Starting at week 5, slight anemia was observed at doses that were approximately 1-4 times the estimated human exposure (based upon plasma concentrations and AUC).

Unexplained deaths occurred in a 90-day study in mice administered atovaquone orally 800 mg/kg/day; as well as in a study in rabbits receiving up to 1200 mg/kg/day for gestation days 6 through 18.

Intravenously administered atovaquone caused unexplained deaths in mice and rats. In the mice, deaths occurred at 25 and 30 mg/kg/day. The deaths in rats occurred at intravenous doses associated with atovaquone plasma concentrations greater than 100 µg/mL.

Additionally, a 1-hour infusion of an intravenous formulation of atovaquone 60 mg/kg, dissolved in a cosolvent vehicle containing polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol and tromethamine (TRIS) caused convulsions and death in dogs at plasma concentrations of 164 µg/mL.

Patient Medication Information

READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

Pr **MEPRON**

atovaquone oral suspension

This Patient Medication Information is written for the person who will be taking **MEPRON**. This may be you or a person you are caring for. Read this information carefully. Keep it as you may need to read it again.

This Patient Medication Information is a summary. It will not tell you everything about this medication. If you have more questions about this medication or want more information about **MEPRON,** talk to a healthcare professional.

What MEPRON is used for:

- MEPRON is used to treat *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (PCP).
- You can get PCP when your lungs are infected with a fungus called *Pneumocystis jirovecii.*

How MEPRON works:

This medicine prevents the fungus responsible for PCP from growing.

The ingredients in MEPRON are:

Medicinal ingredient(s): Atovaquone

Non-medicinal ingredients: Benzyl alcohol, flavor (tutti frutti), polaxamer 188, purified water, saccharin sodium, xantham gum

MEPRON comes in the following dosage form(s):

MEPRON is a bright yellow liquid. It tastes sweet and fruity. Each bottle contains 210 mL of MEPRON (750 mg/5 mL) and has a cap that children cannot open.

Do not use MEPRON if:

- You are allergic to atovaquone or to any of the ingredients in MEPRON (Read also “The ingredients in MEPRON are” above)

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take MEPRON. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- Currently have diarrhea
- Have kidney problems
- Are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant
- Are breastfeeding or are planning to breastfeed
- Are over 65 years of age
- Have had severe skin reactions with MEPRON

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with MEPRON:

- tetracycline, rifampicin, rifabutin, and cephalosporins, drugs used to treat bacterial infections
- metoclopramide, a drug used to treat symptoms of slowed stomach emptying
- acetaminophen, a drug used to relieve pain and reduce fever (also included in cold and flu remedies)
- benzodiazepines and opiates (like codeine), drugs used to treat anxiety and pain
- acyclovir, a drug used to treat herpes
- medicines used to treat diarrhea
- laxatives
- zidovudine and indinavir, drugs used to treat HIV infection/AIDS

How to take MEPRON:

- It is important to drink MEPRON with a meal. This will help the medicine to work properly. Drink it with your morning meal and your evening meal. If you can eat only one meal a day, take your whole daily dose with your daily meal. Before you pour each dose, shake the bottle gently.

Usual dose:

Drink 5 mL (one teaspoonful) of MEPRON twice each day, with your meals. Take this medicine for 21 days (i.e. one 5 mL spoonful of medicine in the morning and evening with food).
If you can eat only one meal a day, drink 10 mL (two teaspoonfuls) of MEPRON once each day with your meal. Take this medicine for 21 days.

Overdose:

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much MEPRON, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, regional poison control centre or Health Canada's toll-free number, 1-844 POISON-X (1-844-764-7669) immediately, even if there are no signs or symptoms.

Missed dose:

If you missed a dose of MEPRON, take it as soon as you remember (with a meal) and then take the next dose at the right time (again with a meal). Do not take more than 10 mL (two teaspoonfuls) a day in total.

Possible side effects from using MEPRON:

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking MEPRON. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

Side effects may include:

- headache, fever
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, constipation
- trouble sleeping, dizziness, feeling weak and achy
- sweating, rash, itching, hives
- thrush (yeast infection in the mouth)
- eye problems
- kidney problems

Side effects that may show up in a blood test:

- low levels of sodium in the blood (hyponatremia)
- changes in liver enzymes
- low numbers of red blood cells (anemia), which can cause tiredness, headaches and shortness of breath
- low numbers of white blood cells (neutropenia)
- high levels of amylase (an enzyme produced in the pancreas)
- high blood sugar levels (hyperglycemia)
- high levels of methemoglobin (a protein in the blood)
- low numbers of platelets in the blood

Serious side effects and what to do about them

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Common			
Hypersensitivity (allergic) reaction: hives, swelling, difficulty in breathing, throat tightness			✓
Very Rare			
Severe Skin Reactions: Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS): flu-like symptoms with a rash, fever, swollen glands, and abnormal blood test results.			✓
Unknown			
Serious skin reactions: • erythema multiforme. This is a skin rash. It may blister. It looks like small targets (central dark spots, surrounded by a paler area with a dark ring around the edge). • Stevens-Johnson syndrome. This is a widespread rash. Blisters will form. The skin will peel, particularly around the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals.			✓
Pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas): sudden pain in the upper area of the abdomen (belly), nausea/vomiting, fever, sweating, yellowing of the skin or the whites of the eyes		✓	
Hepatitis (inflammation of the liver): yellowing of the skin or the whites of the eyes, dark or tea-coloured urine, pale-coloured stools (bowel movements), nausea/ vomiting, loss of appetite,			✓

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
pain, aching or tenderness on right side below the ribs			

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

Reporting side effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (canada.ca/drug-device-reporting) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your healthcare professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

Store this medicine at room temperature, between 15°C and 25°C (between 59°F and 77°F). Store it in a dark area, protected from the light. Do NOT store it near a heat source. Do NOT freeze it.

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

If you want more information about MEPRON:

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes the Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada Drug Product Database website (Drug Product Database: Access the database); the manufacturer's website www.gsk.ca; or by calling 1-800-387-7474.

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