

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use RUFINAMIDE TABLETS safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for RUFINAMIDE TABLETS.

RUFINAMIDE film-coated tablet, for oral use
Initial U.S. Approval: 2008

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Rufinamide tablets are indicated for adjunctive treatment of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) in pediatric patients 1 year of age and older, and in adults (1)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Rufinamide Tablets should be given with food. Tablets can be administered whole, as half tablets, or crushed (2.2)
- Starting daily dose: 10 mg/kg per day in two equally divided doses (2.1)
- Increase by 10 mg/kg increments every other day to maximum dose of 45 mg/kg per day, not to exceed 3200 mg per day, in two divided doses (2.1)

Adults:

- Starting daily dose: 400 to 800 mg per day in two equally divided doses (2.1)
- Increase by 400 to 800 mg every other day until a maximum dose of 3200 mg per day, in two divided doses, is reached (2.1)

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

- Film-coated tablets: 200 mg (pink), 400 mg (pink) (3)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Rufinamide tablets are contraindicated in patients with Familial Short QT syndrome (4)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Monitor patients for new or worsening depression, suicidal thoughts/behavior, and unusual changes in mood or behavior (5.1)
- Central nervous system reactions can occur (5.2)
- Use caution when administering rufinamide with other drugs that shorten the QT interval (5.3)
- Discontinue rufinamide if multi-organ hypersensitivity reaction occurs (5.4)

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ADVERSE REACTIONS

Most common adverse reactions (≥ 10% and greater than placebo) were headache, dizziness, fatigue, somnolence, and nausea (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Hetero Labs Limited at 1-866-495-1995 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

- Patients on valproate should begin at a rufinamide dose lower than 10 mg/kg per day (pediatric patients) or 400 mg per day (adults) (7.2)
- Hormonal contraceptives may be less effective with rufinamide tablets; use additional non-hormonal forms of contraception (7.3)

USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- Pregnancy: Based on animal data, may cause fetal harm. (8.1)
- Renal impairment: Consider adjusting the rufinamide dose for the loss of drug upon dialysis (8.6)
- Not recommended in patients with severe hepatic impairment (8.7)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and Medication Guide

Revised: 03/2021

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following serious adverse reactions are described below and elsewhere in the labeling:

- Suicidal Behavior and Ideation [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)]
- Central Nervous System Reactions [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.2)]
- QT Shortening [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.3)]
- Multi-Organ Hypersensitivity/Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.4)]
- Leukopenia [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.7)]

6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

Adverse Reactions in Adult and Pediatric Patients ages 3 to 17 years of age

In the pooled, double-blind, adjunctive therapy studies in adult and pediatric patients ages 3 to 17 years of age, the most common (≥10%) adverse reactions in rufinamide-treated patients, in all doses studied (200 to 3200 mg per day) with a higher frequency than in patients on placebo were: headache, dizziness, fatigue, somnolence, and nausea.

Table 2 lists adverse reactions that occurred in at least 3% of pediatric patients (ages 3 to less than 17 years) with epilepsy treated with rufinamide in controlled adjunctive studies and were numerically more common in patients treated with rufinamide than in patients on placebo.

At the target dose of 45 mg/kg per day for adjunctive therapy in pediatric patients (ages 3 to less than 17 years), the most common (≥3%) adverse reactions with an incidence greater than in placebo for rufinamide were somnolence, vomiting, and headache.

Table 2: Adverse Reactions in Pediatric Patients (Ages 3 to less than 17 years) in Pooled Double-Blind Adjunctive Trials

Adverse Reaction	Rufinamide (N=187) %	Placebo (N=182) %
Somnolence	17	9
Vomiting	17	7
Headache	16	8
Fatigue	9	8
Dizziness	8	6
Nausea	7	3
Influenza	5	4
Nasopharyngitis	5	3
Decreased Appetite	5	2
Rash	4	2
Ataxia	4	1
Diplopia	4	1
Bronchitis	3	2
Sinusitis	3	2
Psychomotor Hyperactivity	3	1
Upper Abdominal Pain	3	2
Aggression	3	2
Ear Infection	3	1
Disturbance in Attention	3	1
Pruritis	3	0

Table 3 lists adverse reactions that occurred in at least 3% of adult patients with epilepsy treated with rufinamide (up to 3200 mg per day) in adjunctive controlled studies and were numerically more common in patients treated with rufinamide than in patients on placebo. In these studies, either rufinamide or placebo was added to the current AED therapy.

At all doses studied of up to 3200 mg per day given as adjunctive therapy in adults, the most common (≥3%) adverse reactions, and with the greatest increase in incidence compared to placebo, for rufinamide were dizziness, fatigue, nausea, diplopia, vision blurred, and ataxia.

Table 3: Adverse Reactions in Adults in Pooled Double-Blind Adjunctive Trials

Adverse Reaction	Rufinamide (N=823) %	Placebo (N=376) %
Headache	27	26
Dizziness	19	12
Fatigue	16	10
Nausea	12	9
Somnolence	11	9
Diplopia	9	3
Tremor	6	5
Nystagmus	6	5
Blurred Vision	6	2
Vomiting	5	4
Ataxia	4	0
Upper Abdominal Pain	3	2
Anxiety	3	2
Constipation	3	2
Dyspepsia	3	2
Back Pain	3	1
Gait Disturbance	3	1
Vertigo	3	1

Discontinuation in Controlled Clinical Studies

In controlled, double-blind, adjunctive clinical studies, 9% of pediatric and adult patients receiving rufinamide as adjunctive therapy and 4% receiving placebo discontinued as a result of an adverse reaction. The adverse reactions most commonly leading to discontinuation of rufinamide (>1%) used as adjunctive therapy were generally similar in adults and pediatric patients.

In pediatric patients (ages 4 to less than 17 years) double-blind adjunctive clinical studies, 8% of patients receiving rufinamide as adjunctive therapy (at the recommended dose of 45 mg/kg per day) and 2% receiving placebo discontinued as a result of an adverse reaction. The adverse reactions most commonly leading to discontinuation of rufinamide (>1%) used as adjunctive therapy are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Most Common Adverse Reactions Leading to Discontinuation in Pediatric Patients (Ages 4 to less than 17 years) in Pooled Double-Blind Adjunctive Trials

Adverse Reaction	Rufinamide (N=187) %	Placebo (N=182) %
Convulsion	2	1
Rash	2	1
Fatigue	2	0
Vomiting	1	0

In adult double-blind, adjunctive clinical studies, 10% of patients receiving rufinamide as adjunctive therapy (at doses up to 3200 mg per day) and 6% receiving placebo discontinued as a result of an adverse reaction. The adverse reactions most commonly leading to discontinuation of rufinamide (>1%) used as adjunctive therapy are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Most Common Adverse Reactions Leading to Discontinuation in Adult Patients in Pooled Double-Blind Adjunctive Trials

Adverse Reaction	Rufinamide (N=823) %	Placebo (N=376) %
Dizziness	3	1
Fatigue	2	1
Headache	2	1
Nausea	1	0
Ataxia	1	0

Pediatric Patients ages 1 to less than 4 years

In a multicenter, parallel group, open-label study comparing rufinamide (45 mg/kg per day) adjunctive treatment (n=25) to the adjunctive treatment with an AED of the investigator's choice (n=11) in pediatric patients (1 year to less than 4 years of age) with inadequately controlled Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome, the adverse reaction profile was generally similar to that observed in adults and pediatric patients 4 years of age and older treated with rufinamide. Adverse reactions that occurred in at least 2 (8%) rufinamide-treated patients and with a higher frequency than in the AED comparator group were: vomiting (24%), somnolence (16%), bronchitis (12%), constipation (12%), cough (12%), decreased appetite (12%), rash (12%), otitis media (8%), pneumonia (8%), decreased weight (8%), gastroenteritis (8%), nasal congestion (8%), and pneumonia aspiration (8%).

Other Adverse Reactions Observed During Clinical Trials

Rufinamide has been administered to 1978 individuals during all epilepsy clinical trials (placebo-controlled and open-label). Adverse reactions occurring during these studies were recorded by the investigators using terminology of their own choosing. To provide a meaningful estimate of the proportion of patients having adverse reactions, these events were grouped into standardized categories using the MedDRA dictionary. Adverse events occurring at least three times and considered possibly related to treatment are included in the System Organ Class listings below. Terms not included in the listings are those already included in the tables above, those too general to be informative, those related to procedure and terms describing events common in the population. Some events occurring fewer than 3 times are also included based on their medical significance. Because the reports include events observed in open-label, uncontrolled observations, the role of rufinamide in their causation cannot be reliably determined.

Events are classified by body system and listed in order of decreasing frequency as follows: frequent adverse events—those occurring in at least 1/100 patients; infrequent adverse events—those occurring in 1/100 to 1/1000 patients; rare—those occurring in fewer than 1/1000 patients.

Medication Guide Rufinamide (roo-FIN-a-mide) Tablets, USP

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking rufinamide tablets and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about rufinamide tablets?

Do not stop taking rufinamide tablets without first talking to your healthcare provider.

Stopping rufinamide tablets suddenly can cause serious side effects, including:

Rufinamide tablets can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Like other antiepileptic drugs, rufinamide tablets may cause suicidal thoughts or actions in a very small number of people, about 1 in 500.

Call a healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms, especially if they are new, worse, or worry you:

- thoughts about suicide or dying
- attempt to commit suicide
- new or worse depression
- new or worse anxiety
- feeling agitated or restless
- panic attacks
- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- new or worse irritability
- acting aggressive, being angry, or violent
- acting on dangerous impulses
- an extreme increase in activity and talking (mania)
- other unusual changes in behavior or mood
- Suicidal thoughts or actions can be caused by things other than medicines. If you have suicidal thoughts or actions, your healthcare provider may check for other causes.

How can I watch for early symptoms of suicidal thoughts and actions?

- Pay attention to any changes, especially sudden changes, in mood, behaviors, thoughts, or feelings.
- Keep all follow-up visits with your healthcare provider as scheduled.

Call your healthcare provider between visits as needed, especially if you are worried about symptoms.

Do not stop rufinamide tablets without first talking to a healthcare provider.

- Stopping rufinamide tablets suddenly can cause serious problems. Stopping a seizure medicine suddenly in a patient who has epilepsy can cause seizures that will not stop (status epilepticus).

2. Rufinamide tablets may cause you to feel sleepy, tired, weak, dizzy, or have problems with coordination and walking.

What are rufinamide tablets?

Rufinamide tablets are a prescription medicine used with other medicines to treat seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) in adults and pediatric patients 1 year of age and older.

It is not known if rufinamide tablets are safe and effective in the treatment of Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome in pediatric patients under 1 year of age.

Who should not take rufinamide tablets?

Do not take rufinamide tablets if you have a genetic condition called familial short QT syndrome, a problem that affects the electrical system of the heart.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking rufinamide tablets?

Before you take rufinamide tablets, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have heart problems
- have liver problems
- have any other medical problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if rufinamide tablets can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant while taking rufinamide tablets. You and your healthcare provider will decide if you should take rufinamide tablets while you are pregnant.

Rufinamide tablets may make certain types of birth control less effective. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best birth control methods for you while you take rufinamide tablets.

If you become pregnant while taking rufinamide tablets, talk to your healthcare provider about registering with the North American Antiepileptic Drug Pregnancy Registry. You can enroll in this registry by calling 1-888-233-2334. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the safety of antiepileptic medicines during pregnancy.

are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if rufinamide will pass into your breast milk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby if you take rufinamide tablets.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Taking rufinamide tablets with certain other medicines can cause side effects or affect how well they work. Do not start or stop other medicines without talking to your healthcare provider.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist each time you get a new medicine.



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Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders: *Frequent*: anemia. *Infrequent*: lymphadenopathy, leukopenia, neutropenia, iron deficiency anemia, thrombocytopenia.

Cardiac Disorders: *Infrequent*: bundle branch block right, atrioventricular block first degree.

Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders: *Frequent*: decreased appetite, increased appetite.

Renal and Urinary Disorders: *Frequent*: polyuria, *Infrequent*: urinary incontinence, dysuria, hematuria, nephrolithiasis, polyuria, enuresis, nocturia, incontinence.

6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post approval use of rufinamide. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Dermatologic: Stevens-Johnson syndrome and other serious skin rashes with mucosal involvement.

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

7.1 Effects of Rufinamide on other AEDs

Population pharmacokinetic analysis of average concentration at steady state of carbamazepine, lamotrigine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, topiramate, and valproate showed that typical rufinamide C_{max} levels had little effect on the pharmacokinetics of other AEDs. Any effects, when they occur, have been more marked in the pediatric population.

Table 6 summarizes the drug-drug interactions of rufinamide with other AEDs.

Table 6. Summary of drug-drug interactions of rufinamide with other antiepileptic drugs

AED Co-administered	Influence of Rufinamide on AED concentration ^(a)	Influence of AED on Rufinamide concentration
Carbamazepine	Decrease by 7 to 13% ^(b)	Decrease by 19 to 26% ^(c) Dependent on dose of carbamazepine
Lamotrigine	Decrease by 7 to 13% ^(b)	No Effect
Phenobarbital	Increase by 8 to 13% ^(b)	Decrease by 25 to 46% ^(c, d) Independent of dose or concentration of phenobarbital
Phenytoin	Increase by 7 to 21% ^(b)	Decrease by 25 to 46% ^(c, d) Independent of dose or concentration of phenytoin
Topiramate	No Effect	No Effect
Valproate	No Effect	Increase by <16 to 70% ^(c) Dependent on concentration of valproate
Primidone	Not Investigated	Decrease by 25 to 46% ^(c, d) Independent of dose or concentration of primidone
Benzodiazepines ^(e)	Not Investigated	No Effect

- Predictions are based on rufinamide concentrations at the maximum recommended dose of rufinamide.
- Maximum changes predicted to be in pediatric patients and in adult patients who achieve significantly higher levels of rufinamide, as the effect of rufinamide on these AEDs is concentration-dependent.
- Larger effects in pediatric patients at high doses/concentrations of AEDs.
- Phenobarbital, primidone and phenytoin were treated as a single covariate (phenobarbital-type inducers) to examine the effect of these agents on rufinamide clearance.
- All compounds of the benzodiazepine class were pooled to examine for ‘class effect’ on rufinamide clearance.

Phenytoin: The decrease in clearance of phenytoin estimated at typical levels of rufinamide (C_{PK15} 15 mcg/mL) is predicted to increase plasma levels of phenytoin by 7 to 21%. As phenytoin is known to have non-linear pharmacokinetics (clearance becomes saturated at higher doses), it is possible that exposure will be greater than the model prediction.

7.2 Effects of Other AEDs on Rufinamide

Potent cytochrome P450 enzyme inducers, such as carbamazepine, phenytoin, primidone, and phenobarbital, appear to increase the clearance of rufinamide (see Table 6). Given that the majority of clearance of rufinamide is via a non-CYP-dependent route, the observed decreases in blood levels seen with carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, and primidone are unlikely to be entirely attributable to induction of a P450 enzyme. Other factors explaining this interaction are not understood. Any effects, where they occurred, were likely to be more marked in the pediatric population.

Valproate

Patients stabilized on rufinamide before being prescribed valproate should begin valproate therapy at a low dose, and titrate to a clinically effective dose. Similarly, patients on valproate should begin at a rufinamide dose lower than 10 mg/kg per day (pediatric patients) or 400 mg per day (adults) (see Dosage and Administration (2.5), Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

7.3 Effects of Rufinamide on Hormonal Contraceptives

Female patients of childbearing age should be warned that the concurrent use of rufinamide with hormonal contraceptives may render this method of contraception less effective. Advise women who are taking hormonal contraception are recommended when using rufinamide (see Use in Specific Populations (8.3), Clinical Pharmacology (12.3) and Patient Counseling Information (17)).

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Pregnancy Exposure Registry

There is a pregnancy exposure registry that monitors pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to AEDs, such as rufinamide, during pregnancy. Encourage women who are taking rufinamide during pregnancy to enroll in the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) Pregnancy Registry by calling 1-888-233-2334 or visiting <http://www.aedpregnancyregistry.org>.

Risk Summary

There are no adequate data on the developmental risks associated with use of rufinamide in pregnant women. In animal reproduction studies, oral administration of rufinamide resulted in developmental toxicity in pregnant rats and rabbits at clinically relevant doses (see Data).

In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2 to 4% and 15 to 20%, respectively. The background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown.

Data

Animal data

Oral administration of rufinamide (0, 20, 100, or 300 mg/kg/day) to pregnant rats throughout organogenesis resulted in decreased fetal weight and increased incidence of fetal skeletal abnormalities at 100 and 300 mg/kg/day, which were associated with maternal toxicity. The maternal plasma exposure (AUC) at the no-adverse effect dose (20 mg/kg/day) for developmental toxicity was less than that in humans at the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 3200 mg/day.

Oral administration of rufinamide (0, 30, 200, or 1000 mg/kg/day) to pregnant rabbits throughout organogenesis resulted in embryolethal death, decreased fetal body weight, and increased incidence of fetal visceral and skeletal abnormalities at doses of 200 and 1000 mg/kg/day. The high dose (1000 mg/kg/day) was associated with abortion. Plasma exposure (AUC) at the no-adverse effect dose (30 mg/kg/day) was less than that in humans at the MRHD.

When rufinamide was orally administered (0, 5, 30, or 150 mg/kg/day) to pregnant rats throughout pregnancy and lactation, decreased offspring growth and survival were observed at all doses tested. A no-effect dose for adverse effects on pre- and postnatal development was not established. At the lowest dose tested (5 mg/kg/day), plasma exposure (AUC) was less than that in humans at the MRHD.

8.2 Lactation

Risk Summary

There are no data on the presence of rufinamide in human milk, the effects on the breastfed infant, or the effects of the drug on milk production.

The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for rufinamide and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed infant from rufinamide or from the underlying maternal condition.

8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential

Contraception

Use of rufinamide may reduce the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives containing ethinyl estradiol or norethindrone. Advise women of reproductive potential taking rufinamide with hormonal contraceptives containing ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone to use an additional non-hormonal form of contraception (see Drug Interactions (7.3) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

Fertility

The effect of rufinamide on fertility in humans has not been established. Oral administration of rufinamide (20, 60, 200, and 600 mg/kg/day) to male and female rats prior to mating, during mating, and during early gestation (females only) resulted in the impairment of fertility at all dose levels tested. The no-effect dose was not established. The plasma exposure level of 20 mg/kg was approximately 0.2 times the human plasma AUC at the MRHD (see Nonclinical Toxicology (13.1)).

8.4 Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness have been established in pediatric patients 1 to 17 years of age. The effectiveness of rufinamide in pediatric patients 4 years of age and older was based upon an adequate and well-controlled trial of rufinamide that included both adults and pediatric patients, 4 years of age and older, with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome. The effectiveness in patients 1 to less than 4 years was based upon a bridging pharmacokinetic and safety study (see Dosage and Administration (2.1), Adverse Reactions (6.1) and Clinical Studies (14)). The pharmacokinetics of rufinamide in the pediatric patients, ages 1 to less than 4 years of age is similar to children older than 4 years of age and adults (see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients below the age of 1 year has not been established.

Oral administration of rufinamide (0, 15, 50, or 150 mg/kg) to young rats for 10 weeks starting on postnatal day 7 resulted in decreased brain weights at the mid and high doses and neurobehavioral impairment (learning and memory deficit, altered startle response, decreased locomotor activity) and decreased growth (decreased body weight) at the highest dose tested. The no-effect dose for adverse effects on postnatal development in rats (15 mg/kg) was associated with a plasma exposure (AUC) lower than that in humans at the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 3200 mg/day.

8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of rufinamide did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

Pharmacokinetics of rufinamide in the elderly are similar to that in the young subjects (see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

8.6 Renal Impairment

Rufinamide pharmacokinetics in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30 mL/min) was similar to that of healthy subjects. Dose adjustment in patients undergoing dialysis should be considered (see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

8.7 Hepatic Impairment

Use of rufinamide in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh score 10 to 15) is not recommended. Caution should be exercised in treating patients with mild (Child-Pugh score 5 to 6) to moderate (Child-Pugh score 7 to 9) hepatic impairment.

10 OVERDOSAGE

Because strategies for the management of overdose are continually evolving, it is advisable to contact a Certified Poison Control Center to determine the latest recommendations for the management of an overdose of any drug.

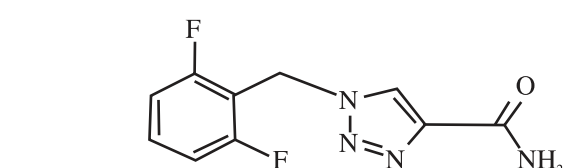
One overdose of 7200 mg per day rufinamide was reported in an adult during the clinical trials. The overdose was associated with no major signs or symptoms, no medical intervention was required, and the patient continued in the study at the target dose.

Treatment or Management of Overdose: There is no specific antidote for overdose with rufinamide. If clinically indicated, elimination of unabsorbed drug should be attempted by induction of emesis or gastric lavage. Usual precautions should be observed to maintain the airway. General supportive care of the patient is indicated including monitoring of vital signs and observation of the clinical status of the patient.

Hemodialysis: Standard hemodialysis procedures may result in limited clearance of rufinamide. Although there is no experience to date in treating overdose with hemodialysis, the procedure may be considered when indicated by the patient's clinical state.

11 DESCRIPTION

Rufinamide is a triazole derivative structurally unrelated to currently marketed antiepileptic drugs (AEDs). Rufinamide has the chemical name 1-(2,6-Difluorophenyl)-methyl-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4-carboxamide. It has an empirical formula of C₁₂H₁₀F₂N₄O and a molecular weight of 238.19. The drug substance is a white to cream colored powder, hygroscopic. Rufinamide is slightly soluble in dimethyl formamide.



Rufinamide is available for oral administration in film-coated tablets, functionally scored on both sides, containing 200 and 400 mg of rufinamide. Inactive ingredients are colloidal silicon dioxide, croscopollose, hypromellose, iron oxide red, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol, polysorbate 80, sodium lauryl sulfate and titanium dioxide.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

The precise mechanism(s) by which rufinamide exerts its antiepileptic effect is unknown.

The results of *in vitro* studies suggest that the principal mechanism of action of rufinamide is modulation of the activity of sodium channels and, in particular, prolongation of the inactive state of the channel. Rufinamide (>1 μ M) significantly slowed sodium channel recovery from inactivation after a prolonged prepulse in cultured cortical neurons, and limited sustained repetitive firing of sodium-dependent action potentials (EC₅₀ of 3.8 μ M).

12.2 Pharmacokinetics

Overview

Rufinamide is well absorbed after oral administration. However, the rate of absorption is relatively slow and the extent of absorption is decreased as dose is increased. The pharmacokinetics does not change with multiple dosing. Most elimination of rufinamide is via metabolism, with the primary metabolite resulting from enzymatic hydrolysis of the carboxamide moiety to form the carboxylic acid. This metabolic route is not cytochrome P450 dependent. There are no known active metabolites. Plasma half-life of rufinamide is approximately 6 to 10 hours.

Absorption and Distribution

Following oral administration of rufinamide, peak plasma concentrations occur between 4 and 6 hours (T_{max}) both under fasted and fed conditions. Rufinamide tablets display decreasing bioavailability with increasing dose after single and multiple dose administration. Based on urinary excretion, the extent of absorption was at least 85% following oral administration of a single dose of 600 mg rufinamide tablet under fed conditions.

Multiple dose pharmacokinetics can be predicted from single dose data for both rufinamide and its metabolite. Given the dosing frequency of every 12 hours and the half-life of 6 to 10 hours, the observed steady-state peak concentration of about two to three times the peak concentration after a single dose is expected.

Food increased the extent of absorption of rufinamide in healthy volunteers by 34% and increased peak exposure by 56% after a single dose of 400 mg tablet, although the T_{max} was not elevated (see Dosage and Administration (2.5)).

Only a small fraction of rufinamide (34%) is bound to human serum proteins, predominantly to albumin (27%), giving little risk of displacement drug-drug interactions. Rufinamide was evenly distributed between erythrocytes and plasma. The apparent volume of distribution is dependent upon dose and varies with body surface area. The apparent volume of distribution was about 50 L at 3200 mg per day.

Metabolism

Rufinamide is extensively metabolized but has no active metabolites. Following a radiolabeled dose of rufinamide, less than 2% of the dose was recovered unchanged in urine. The primary biotransformation pathway is carboxylesterase mediated hydrolysis of the carboxamide group to the acid derivative CGP 47292. A few minor additional metabolites were detected in urine, which appeared to be acyl-glucuronides of CGP 47292. There is no involvement of oxidizing cytochrome P450 enzymes or glutathione in the biotransformation process. Rufinamide is a weak inhibitor of CYP 2E1. It did not show significant inhibition of other CYP enzymes. Rufinamide is a weak inducer of CYP 3A4 enzymes.

Rufinamide did not show any significant inhibition of P-glycoprotein in an *in vitro* study.

Elimination/Excretion

Renal excretion is the predominant route of elimination for drug related material, accounting for 85% of the dose based on a radiolabeled study. Of the metabolites identified in urine, at least 66% of the rufinamide dose was excreted as the acid metabolite CGP 47292, with 2% of the dose excreted as rufinamide.

The plasma elimination half-life is approximately 6 to 10 hours in healthy subjects and patients with epilepsy.

Special Populations

Age

- Pediatrics
Based on a population analysis which included a total of 115 patients, including 85 pediatric patients (24 patients ages 1 to 3 years, 40 patients ages 4 to 11 years, and 21 patients ages 12 to 17 years), the pharmacokinetics of rufinamide was similar across all age groups.

- Elderly
The results of a study evaluating single-dose (400 mg) and multiple dose (800 mg per day for 6 days) pharmacokinetics of rufinamide in 8 healthy elderly subjects (65 to 80 years old) and 7 younger healthy subjects (18 to 45 years old) found no significant age-related differences in the pharmacokinetics of rufinamide.

Sex

Population pharmacokinetic analyses of females show a 6 to 14% lower apparent clearance of rufinamide compared to males. This effect is not clinically important.

Race

In a population pharmacokinetic analysis of clinical studies, no difference in clearance or volume of distribution of rufinamide was observed between the black and Caucasian subjects, after controlling for body size. Information on other races could not be obtained because of smaller numbers of these subjects.

Renal Impairment

Rufinamide pharmacokinetics in 9 patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30 mL per min) was similar to that of healthy subjects. Patients undergoing dialysis 3 hours post rufinamide dosing showed a reduction in AUC and C_{max}, by 29% and 16%, respectively.

Drug Interactions

Based on *in vitro* studies, rufinamide shows little or no inhibition of most cytochrome P450 enzymes at clinically relevant concentrations, with weak inhibition of CYP 2E1. Drugs that are substrates of CYP 2E1 (e.g., chlorzoxazone) may have increased plasma levels in the presence of rufinamide, but this has not been studied.

Based on a population pharmacokinetic analysis, rufinamide clearance was decreased by valproate. In pediatric patients, valproate administration may lead to elevated levels of rufinamide by up to 70% (see Drug Interactions (7.2)).

Based on *in vivo* drug interaction studies with triazolam and oral contraceptives, rufinamide is a weak inducer of the CYP 3A4 enzyme and can decrease exposure of drugs that are substrates of CYP 3A4.

- Co-administration and pre-treatment of rufinamide (400 mg twice daily) and triazolam resulted in a 37% decrease in AUC and a 23% decrease in C_{max} of triazolam, a CYP 3A4 substrate.
- Co-administration of rufinamide (800 mg twice daily for 14 days) and Ortho-Novum 1/35® resulted in a mean decrease in the ethinyl estradiol AUC₀₋₂₄ of 22% and C_{max} by 31% and norethindrone AUC₀₋₂₄ by 14% and C_{max} by 18%, respectively. The clinical significance of this decrease is unknown (see Drug Interactions (7.3) and Use in Specific Populations (8.3)).

Rufinamide is metabolized by carboxylesterases. Drugs that may induce the activity of carboxylesterases may increase the clearance of rufinamide. Broad-spectrum inducers such as carbamazepine and phenobarbital may have minor effects on rufinamide metabolism via this mechanism. Drugs that are inhibitors of carboxylesterases may decrease metabolism of rufinamide.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenesis

Rufinamide was given in the diet to mice at 40, 120, and 400 mg/kg per day and to rats at 20, 60, and 200 mg/kg per day for 2 years. The doses in mice were associated with plasma AUCs 0.1 to 1 times the human plasma AUC at the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD, 3200 mg/day). Increased incidences of tumors (benign bone tumors (osteomas) and/or hepatocellular adenomas and carcinomas) were observed in mice at all doses. Increased incidences of thyroid follicular adenomas were observed in rats at all but the low dose; the low dose is <0.1 times the MRHD on a mg/m² basis.

Mutagenesis

Rufinamide was not mutagenic in the *in vitro* bacterial reverse mutation (Ames) assay or the *in vitro* mammalian cell point mutation assay. Rufinamide was not clastogenic in the *in vitro* mammalian cell chromosomal aberration assay or the *in vivo* rat bone marrow micronucleus assay.

Impairment of Fertility

Oral administration of rufinamide (doses of 20, 60, 200, and 600 mg/kg per day) to male and female rats prior to mating and throughout mating, and continuing in females up to day 6 of gestation resulted in impairment of fertility (decreased conception rates and mating and fertility indices; decreased numbers of corpora lutea, implantations, and live embryos; increased preimplantation loss; decreased sperm count and motility) at all doses tested. Therefore, a no-effect dose was not established. The lowest dose tested was associated with a plasma AUC = 0.2 times the human plasma AUC at the MRHD.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

Adult and Pediatric Patients ages 4 years and older

The effectiveness of rufinamide as adjunctive treatment for the seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) in adult and pediatric patients ages 4 years and older was established in a single multi-center, double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized, parallel-group study (N=138). Male and female patients (between 4 and 30 years of age) were included if they had a diagnosis of inadequately controlled seizures associated with LGS (including both atypical absence seizures and drop attacks) and were being treated with 1 to 3 concomitant stable dose AEDs. Each patient must have had at least 90 seizures in the month prior to study entry. After completing a 4-week Baseline Phase on stable therapy, patients were randomized to have rufinamide or placebo added to their ongoing therapy during the 12-week Double-blind Phase. The Double-blind Phase consisted of 2 periods: the Titration Period (1 to 2 weeks) and the Maintenance Period (10 weeks). During the Titration Period, the dose was increased to a target dosage of approximately 45 mg/kg per day (3200 mg in adults of > 70 kg), given on a twice daily schedule. Dosage reductions were permitted during titration if problems in tolerability were encountered. Final doses at titration were to remain stable during the maintenance period. Target dosage was achieved in 88% of the rufinamide-treated patients. The majority of these patients reached the target dose within 7 days, with the remaining patients achieving the target dose within 14 days.

The primary efficacy variables were:

- The percent change in total seizure frequency per 28 days;
- The percent change in tonic-atonic (drop attacks) seizure frequency per 28 days;
- Seizure severity from the Parent/Guardian Global Evaluation of the patient's condition. This was a 7-point assessment performed at the end of the Double-blind Phase. A score of <3 indicated that the patient's seizure severity was very much improved, a score of 0 that the seizure severity was unchanged, and a score of >3 that the seizure severity was very much worse.

The results of the three primary endpoints are shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome Trial Seizure Frequency Primary Efficacy Variable Results

Variable	Placebo	Rufinamide
Median percent change in total seizure frequency per 28 days	-11.7	-32.7 (p=0.0015)
Median percent change in tonic-atonic seizure frequency per 28 days	1.4	-42.5 (p<0.0001)
Improvement in Seizure Severity Rating from Global Evaluation	30.6	53.4 (p=0.0041)

Pediatric Patients ages 1 to less than 4 years

The effectiveness of rufinamide as adjunctive treatment for the seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome in pediatric patients ages 1 year to less than 4 years was established based on a single multi-center, open-label, active-controlled, randomized, pharmacokinetic bridging study. The pharmacokinetic profile of rufinamide is not significantly affected by age either as a continuous covariate (1 to 35 years) or as a categorical covariate (age categories: 1 to less than 4 years and 4 years of age and older), after body weight is taken into consideration.

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

16.1 How Supplied

Rufinamide tablets USP, 200 mg (containing 200 mg rufinamide) are pink, oval, biconvex tablets, debossed with 'H' on one side with score line and 'R' and '7' separated by score line on the other side. They are available in Bottles of 30 Tablets NDC 31722-598-30 and Bottles of 120 Tablets NDC 31722-598-12.

Rufinamide tablets USP, 400 mg (containing 400 mg rufinamide) are pink, oval, biconvex tablets, debossed with 'H' on one side with score line and 'R' and '8' separated by score line on the other side. They are available in Bottles of 30 Tablets NDC 31722-599-30 and Bottles of 120 Tablets NDC 31722-599-12.

16.2 Storage and Handling

Store the tablets at 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature]. Protect from moisture. Replace cap securely after opening.

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Medication Guide).

Administration Information

- Advise patients to take rufinamide tablets with food (see Dosage and Administration (2.2)).

Suicidal Thinking and Behavior

Inform patients, their caregivers, and families that antiepileptic drugs increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior and should be advised of the need to be alert for the emergence or worsening of the signs and symptoms of depression, any unusual changes in mood or behavior, or the emergence of suicidal thoughts, behavior, or thoughts about self-harm. Behaviors of concern should be reported immediately to healthcare providers (see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)).

Central Nervous System Reactions

Inform patients about the potential for somnolence or dizziness and advise them not to drive or operate machinery until they have gained sufficient experience on rufinamide tablets to gauge whether it adversely affects their mental and/or motor performance (see Warnings and Precautions (5.2)).

Multi-Organ Hypersensitivity Reactions

Advise patients to notify their physician if they experience a rash associated with fever (see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)).

Drug Interactions

- Inform female patients of childbearing age that the concurrent use of rufinamide tablets with hormonal contraceptives may render this method of contraception less effective. Recommend patients use additional non-hormonal forms of contraception when using rufinamide tablets (see Drug Interactions (7.3) and Use in Specific Populations (8.3)).
- Inform patients that alcohol in combination with rufinamide tablets may cause additive central nervous system effects.

Pregnancy

Advise patients to notify their physician if they become pregnant or intend to become pregnant during therapy. Encourage patients to enroll in the North American Antiepileptic Drug Pregnancy Registry if they become pregnant. To enroll, patients can call the toll free number 1-888-233-2334 (see Use in Specific Populations (8.1)).

Breast-feeding

Advise patients to notify their physician if they are breast-feeding or intend to breast-feed (see Use in Specific Populations (8.2)).

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How should I take rufinamide tablets?

- Take rufinamide tablets exactly as your healthcare provider tells you. Your healthcare provider will tell you how much rufinamide to take.
- Your healthcare provider may change your dose. Do not change your dose of rufinamide tablets without talking to your healthcare provider.
- Take rufinamide tablets with food.
- Rufinamide tablets can be swallowed whole, cut in half or crushed.
- If you take too much rufinamide, call your local Poison Control Center or get emergency medical help right away.