



7.5 Drugs That Slow Heart Rate or Atrioventricular Conduction (e.g., beta blockers or diltiazem)
Fingolimod was studied in clinical trials in patients receiving concurrent therapy with drugs that slow the heart rate or AV conduction (e.g., beta blockers, digoxin, or heart rate-slowing calcium channel blockers, such as diltiazem or verapamil) is limited. Because initiation of fingolimod treatment may result in an additional decrease in heart rate, concomitant use of these drugs during fingolimod initiation may be associated with severe bradycardia or heart block. Seek advice from the physician prescribing these drugs regarding the possibility to switch to drugs that do not slow the heart rate or atrioventricular conduction before initiating fingolimod. Patients who cannot switch should have overnight continuous ECG monitoring after the first dose. [see Dosage and Administration (2.4), Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]

7.6 Laboratory Test Interference

Because fingolimod reduces blood lymphocyte counts via redistribution in secondary lymphoid organs, peripheral blood lymphocyte counts cannot be utilized to evaluate the lymphocyte subset status of a patient treated with fingolimod. A recent CBC should be available before initiating treatment with fingolimod.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Risk Summary
Available observational pregnancy registry data suggest that use of fingolimod is associated with an increased prevalence of major birth defects in comparison to the general population. However, limitations in the number of exposed pregnant women and in the study design preclude definitive conclusions (see Data). Data from prospective reports to the pregnancy registry are currently not sufficient to allow for an adequate assessment of the drug-associated risk for miscarriage.

Based on findings from animal studies, fingolimod may cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman.

In oral studies conducted in rats and rabbits, fingolimod demonstrated developmental toxicity, including an increase in malformations (rats) and embryofetality, when given to pregnant animals. In rats, the highest no-effect dose was less than the recommended human dose of 0.5 mg/day on a body surface area (mg/m²) basis. The most common fetal visceral malformations in rats were persistent truncus arteriosus and ventricular septal defect. The receptor affected by fingolimod (sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor) is known to be involved in vascular formation during embryogenesis (see Data). Advise pregnant women of the potential risk to the fetus.

In the US 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.

Clinical Considerations

In females planning to become pregnant, fingolimod should be stopped 2 months before planned conception. The possibility of severe increase in disability should be considered in women who discontinue or are considering discontinuation of fingolimod because of pregnancy or planned pregnancy. In many of the cases in which increase in disability was reported after stopping fingolimod, patients had stopped fingolimod because of pregnancy or planned pregnancy (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)).

Data

Human Data
In a prospective observational fingolimod pregnancy registry (OPR) (2011 to 2024), the rate of major birth defects among 147 live births, stillbirths, or terminations of pregnancy due to fetal anomalies from women who were administered fingolimod during the first trimester was 8.2% (95% CI: 4.3 to 13.8) using the European Registration of Congenital Anomalies and Twin classification (ESAT) (11). Since it takes approximately 2 months to eliminate the compound from the body after stopping treatment, the potential risk to the fetus may persist and women should use effective contraception during this period (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)).

In fingolimod prospective pharmacovigilance data, the most frequent major birth defect types were similar to those reported in the OPR.

The pattern of malformations reported for fingolimod is similar to that observed in the general population. There is no evidence of clustering of specific birth defects with fingolimod.

Animal Data

When fingolimod was orally administered to pregnant rats during the period of organogenesis (0, 0.03, 0.1, and 0.3 mg/kg/day or 0, 1, 3, and 10 mg/kg/day), increased incidences of fetal malformations and embryofetal deaths were observed at all but the lowest dose tested (0.03 mg/kg/day), which is less than the recommended human dose (RHD) on a mg/m² basis. Oral administration to pregnant rabbits during organogenesis (0, 0.5, 1.5, and 5 mg/kg/day) resulted in increased embryofetal mortality and fetal growth retardation at the mid and high doses. The no-effect dose for these effects in rabbits (0.5 mg/kg/day) is approximately 20 times the RHD on a mg/m² basis.

When fingolimod was orally administered to female rats during pregnancy and lactation (0, 0.05, 0.15, and 0.5 mg/kg/day), pup survival was decreased at all doses and a neurobehavioral (learning) effect was seen in offspring at the high dose. The no-effect dose of 0.05 mg/kg/day is approximately the RHD on a mg/m² basis.

8.2 Lactation

In female patients planning to become pregnant, fingolimod should be stopped 2 months before planned conception.

The possibility of severe increase in disability should be considered in women who discontinue or are considering discontinuation of fingolimod because of pregnancy or planned pregnancy. In many of the cases in which increase in disability was reported after stopping fingolimod, patients had stopped fingolimod because of pregnancy or planned pregnancy (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)).

8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential

Pregnancy Testing
The pregnancy status of females of reproductive potential should be verified prior to starting treatment with fingolimod (see Use in Specific Populations (8.1)).

Contraception
Before initiation of fingolimod treatment, females of reproductive potential should be counseled on the potential for a serious risk to the fetus and the need for effective contraception during treatment with fingolimod (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)). Use in Specific Populations (8.1)). Since it takes approximately 2 months to eliminate the compound from the body after stopping treatment, the potential risk to the fetus may persist and women should use effective contraception during this period (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)).

8.4 Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness of fingolimod for the treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis in pediatric patients 10 to less than 18 years of age were established in one randomized, double-blind clinical study in 215 patients (fingolimod $n = 107$; interferon beta-1a $n = 108$) (see Clinical Studies (14.2)).

In the controlled pediatric study, the safety profile in pediatric patients (10 to less than 18 years of age) receiving fingolimod 0.5 mg daily was similar to that seen in adult patients. The incidence of adverse events of serious events reported in 5.6% of fingolimod-treated patients and 0.9% of interferon beta-1a-treated patients.

It is recommended that pediatric patients, if possible, complete all immunizations in accordance with current immunization guidelines and prior to initiating fingolimod therapy.

Safety and effectiveness of fingolimod in pediatric patients below the age of 10 years have not been established.

Juvenile Animal Toxicity Data
In a study in which fingolimod (0.3, 1.5, or 7.5 mg/kg/day) was orally administered to young rats from weaning through sexual maturity, changes in sexual maturity, density and perianth neurobehavioral impairment (altered auditory startle) were observed at all doses. Delayed sexual maturation was noted in females at the highest dose tested and in males at all doses. The bone changes observed in fingolimod-treated juvenile rats are consistent with a reported role of S1P in the regulation of bone mineralization.

When fingolimod (0.5 or 5 mg/kg/day) was orally administered to rats from the neonatal period through sexual maturity, a marked decrease in T-cell dependent antibody response was observed at both doses. This effect had not fully recovered by 6 to 8 weeks after the end of treatment.

Overall, a no-effect dose for adverse developmental effects in juvenile animals was not identified.

8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical MS studies of fingolimod did not include sufficient numbers of patients aged 65 years and over to determine whether they respond differently than younger patients. Fingolimod should be used with caution in patients aged 65 years and over, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased health, or renal function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

8.6 Hepatic Impairment

Because fingolimod, but not fingolimod-phosphate, exposure is doubled in patients with severe hepatic impairment, patients with severe hepatic impairment should be closely monitored, as the risk of adverse reactions may be greater (see Warnings and Precautions (5.5), Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

No dose adjustment is needed in patients with mild or moderate hepatic impairment.

8.7 Renal Impairment

The blood level of some fingolimod metabolites is increased (up to 13-fold) in patients with severe renal impairment (see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)). The basis for these findings is not fully explored.

None of these metabolites has not been assessed in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment.

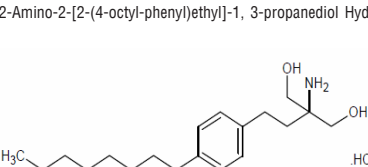
10 OVERDOSAGE

Fingolimod can induce bradycardia as well as AV conduction blocks (including complete AV block). The decline in heart rate usually starts within 1 hour of the first dose and is maximal after 6 to 10 hours (see Clinical Studies (14.2)). In a study of patients with severe heart failure, fingolimod was associated with an increase in heart rate and blood pressure (see Clinical Studies (14.2)).

Neither dialysis nor plasma exchange results in removal of fingolimod from the body.

11 DESCRIPTION

Fingolimod is a sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor modulator. Chemically, fingolimod is 2-Amino-2-[2-(4-octyl-phenyl)ethyl]-1,3-propanediol hydrochloride. Its structure is shown below.



Fingolimod hydrochloride USP is an off-white to white powder that is freely soluble in water and in alcohol. It has a molecular weight of 343.94 g/mol.

Fingolimod is provided as 0.5 mg hard gelatin capsules for oral use.

Each 0.5 mg capsule contains 0.56 mg of fingolimod hydrochloride USP equivalent to 0.5 mg of fingolimod. Each fingolimod 0.5 mg capsule contains the following inactive ingredients: black iron oxide, FD&C blue # 2 aluminum lake, gelatin, iron oxide yellow, magnesium stearate, potassium hydroxide, powdered cellulose, polyethylene glycol, shellac, sodium lauryl sulfate and titanium dioxide.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

Fingolimod is metabolized by sphingosine kinase to the active metabolite, fingolimod-phosphate. Fingolimod-phosphate is a sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor modulator, and binds with high affinity to sphingosine 1-phosphate receptors 1, 3, 4, and 5. Fingolimod-phosphate blocks the capacity of lymphocytes to egress from lymph nodes, reducing the number of lymphocytes in peripheral blood. The mechanism by which fingolimod exerts therapeutic effects in multiple sclerosis is unknown, but may involve reduction of lymphocyte migration into the central nervous system.

12.2 Pharmacokinetics

Heart Rate and Rhythm

Fingolimod causes a transient reduction in heart rate and AV conduction at treatment initiation (see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)).

Heart rate progressively increases after the first day, returning to baseline values within 1 month of the start of chronic treatment.

Autonomic responses of the heart, including diurnal variation of heart rate and response to exercise, are not affected by fingolimod treatment.

Fingolimod treatment is not associated with a decrease in cardiac output.

Potential to Prolong the QT Interval

In a thorough QT interval study of doses of 1.25 or 2.5 mg fingolimod at steady-state, when a negative chronotropic effect of fingolimod was still present in the prolonged QT interval study, the mean QT interval was within the upper boundary of the 90% confidence interval (CI) of 14.0 msec. There is no consistent signal of increased incidence of QT outliers, either absolute or change from baseline, associated with fingolimod treatment. In MS studies, there was no clinically relevant prolongation of the QT interval, but patients at risk for QT prolongation were not included in clinical studies.

Immune System

Exposure to fingolimod in clinical studies in patients receiving concurrent therapy with drugs that slow the heart rate or AV conduction (e.g., beta blockers, digoxin, or heart rate-slowing calcium channel blockers, such as diltiazem or verapamil) is limited. Because initiation of fingolimod treatment may result in an additional decrease in heart rate, concomitant use of these drugs during fingolimod initiation may be associated with severe bradycardia or heart block. Seek advice from the physician prescribing these drugs regarding the possibility to switch to drugs that do not slow the heart rate or atrioventricular conduction before initiating fingolimod. Patients who cannot switch should have overnight continuous ECG monitoring after the first dose. [see Dosage and Administration (2.4), Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]

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