

Tolvaptan

JINARC®

15mg & 30mg Tablet Diuretic (Vasopressin Antagonist)

FORMULATION:
Each tablet containing 15 mg or 30 mg of tolvaptan.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:
Tolvaptan (JINARC®) 15 mg tablets
Blue, triangular (major axis: 6.58 mm, minor axis: 6.20 mm), shallow-convex, debossed with "OTSUKA" and "15" on one side.

Tolvaptan (JINARC®) 30 mg tablets
Blue, round (diameter: 8 mm), shallow-convex, debossed with "OTSUKA" and "30" on one side.

INDICATIONS:
Tolvaptan (JINARC®) is indicated to slow the progression of cyst development and renal insufficiency of autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) in adults with CKD stage 1 to 4 at initiation of treatment with evidence of rapidly progressing disease (see *Pharmacodynamics*).

DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:
Tolvaptan (JINARC®) is to be administered twice daily in split dose regimens of 45 mg + 15 mg, 60 mg + 30 mg or 90 mg + 30 mg. The morning dose is to be taken at least 30 minutes before the morning meal. The second daily dose can be taken with or without food. According to these split dose regimens the total daily doses are 60, 90, or 120 mg.

Dose titration
The initial dose is 60 mg tolvaptan per day as a split-dose regimen of 45 mg + 15 mg (45 mg taken upon waking and prior the morning meal and 15 mg taken 8 hours later). The initial dose is to be titrated upward to a split-dose regimen of 90 mg tolvaptan (60 mg + 30 mg) per day and then to a target split-dose regimen of 120 mg tolvaptan (90 mg + 30 mg) per day, if tolerated, with at least weekly intervals between titrations. Dose titration has to be performed cautiously to ensure that high doses are not poorly tolerated through overly rapid up-titration. Patients may down-titrate to lower doses based on tolerability. Patients have to be maintained on the highest tolerable tolvaptan dose.

The aim of dose titration is to block activity of vasopressin at the renal V2 receptor as completely and constantly as possible, while maintaining acceptable fluid balance (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*).
Measurements of urine osmolality are recommended to monitor the adequacy of vasopressin inhibition. Periodic monitoring of plasma osmolality or serum sodium (to calculate plasma osmolality) and/or body weight should be considered to monitor the risk of dehydration secondary to the aquaretic effects of tolvaptan in case of patient's insufficient water intake. The safety and efficacy of Tolvaptan (JINARC®) in CKD stage 5 have not been adequately explored and therefore tolvaptan treatment should be discontinued if renal insufficiency progresses to CKD stage 5. The morning dose of Tolvaptan (JINARC®) is to be taken at least 30 minutes before the morning meal. The second daily dose can be taken with or without food. Therapy must be interrupted if the ability to drink or the accessibility to water is limited (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*).

PRECAUTION:
Tolvaptan treatment must be initiated and monitored under the supervision of physicians with expertise in managing ADPKD and a full understanding of the risks of tolvaptan therapy including hepatic toxicity and monitoring requirements (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*).

Tolvaptan must not be taken with grapefruit juice (see *Drug Interactions*). Patients must be instructed to drink sufficient amounts of water or other aqueous fluids (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*).

IMPORTANT PRECAUTION:
Dose adjustment for patients taking strong CYP3A inhibitors
In patients taking strong CYP3A inhibitors (see *Drug Interactions*), tolvaptan doses have to be reduced as follows:

Tolvaptan daily split-dose	Reduced dose (once daily)
90+30 mg	30 mg (further reduction to 15 mg if 30 mg are not well tolerated)
60+30 mg	30 mg (further reduction to 15 mg if 30 mg are not well tolerated)
45+15 mg	15 mg

Dose adjustment for patients taking moderate CYP3A inhibitors
In patients taking moderate CYP3A inhibitors, tolvaptan doses have to be reduced as follows:

Tolvaptan daily split-dose	Reduced split-dose
90+30 mg	45+15 mg
60+30 mg	30+15 mg
45+15 mg	15+15 mg

Further reductions have to be considered if patients cannot tolerate the reduced tolvaptan doses.

Elderly population
Increasing age has no effect on tolvaptan plasma concentrations. However, the safety and effectiveness of tolvaptan in ADPKD patients aged over 50 years has not yet been established.

Renal impairment
Tolvaptan is contraindicated in anuric patients (see *Contraindications*).
Dose adjustment is not required in patients with renal impairment. No clinical trials in subjects with a creatinine clearance < 10 mL/min or in patients undergoing dialysis have been conducted. The risk of hepatic damage in patients with severely reduced renal function (i.e. eGFR < 20) may be increased; these patients should be carefully monitored for hepatic toxicity. Data for patients in CKD stage 3 are more limited than for patients in stage 1 or 2 (see *Pharmacodynamics*).

Hepatic impairment
In patients with severe hepatic impairment the benefits and risks of treatment with Tolvaptan (JINARC®) must be evaluated carefully. Patients must be managed carefully and liver enzymes must be monitored regularly (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*). Tolvaptan (JINARC®) is contraindicated in patients with elevated liver enzymes and/or signs or symptoms of liver injury prior to initiation of treatment that meet the requirements for permanent discontinuation of tolvaptan (see *Contraindications and Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*). No dose adjustment is needed in patients with mild or moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh classes A and B).

Paediatric population
The safety and efficacy of tolvaptan in children and adolescents has not yet been established. No data are available. Tolvaptan is not recommended in the paediatric age group.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1 or to benzazepine or benzazepine derivatives (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*)
- Elevated liver enzymes and/or signs or symptoms of liver injury prior to initiation of treatment that meet the requirements for permanent discontinuation of tolvaptan (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*)
- Habitual hypotension
- Anuria
- Hypernatraemia
- Volume depletion
- Hypernatraemia
- Patients who cannot perceive or respond to thirst
- Pregnancy (see *Fertility, Pregnancy and Lactation*)
- Breast-feeding (see *Fertility, Pregnancy and Lactation*)

SPECIAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE:
Idiosyncratic Hepatic Toxicity
Tolvaptan has been associated with idiosyncratic elevations of blood alanine and aspartate aminotransferases (ALT and AST) with infrequent cases of concomitant elevations in bilirubin-total (BT).
In post-marketing experience with tolvaptan in ADPKD, acute liver failure requiring liver transplantation has been reported.

In a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in patients with ADPKD, elevation (> 3 × upper limit of normal [ULN]) of ALT was observed in 4.4% (42/958) of patients on tolvaptan and 1.0% (5/484) of patients on placebo, while elevation (> 3 × ULN) of AST was observed in 3.1% (30/958) of patients on tolvaptan and 0.8% (4/484) patients on placebo. Two (2/957, 0.2%) of these tolvaptan treated-patients, as well as a third patient from an extension open label trial, exhibited increases in hepatic enzymes (> 3 × ULN) with concomitant elevations in BT (> 2 × ULN). The period of onset of hepatocellular injury (by ALT elevations > 3 × ULN) was within 3 to 14 months after initiating treatment and these increases were reversible, with ALT returning to < 3 × ULN within 1 to 4 months. While these concomitant elevations were reversible with prompt discontinuation of tolvaptan, they represent a potential for significant liver injury. Similar changes with other medicinal products have been associated with the potential to cause irreversible and potentially life-threatening liver injury.

Prescribing physicians must comply fully with the safety measures required below.

To mitigate the risk of significant and/or irreversible liver injury, blood testing for hepatic transaminases and bilirubin is required prior to initiation of Tolvaptan (JINARC®), continuing monthly for 18 months and at regular 3-monthly intervals thereafter. Concurrent monitoring for symptoms that may indicate liver injury (such as fatigue, anorexia, nausea, right upper abdominal discomfort, vomiting, fever, rash, pruritus, dark urine or jaundice) is recommended.

If a patient shows abnormal ALT, AST or BT levels prior to initiation of treatment which fulfill the criteria for permanent discontinuation (see below) the use of tolvaptan is discontinued (see *Contraindications*). In case of abnormal baseline levels below the limits for permanent discontinuation treatment can only be initiated if the potential benefits of treatment outweigh the potential risks and liver function testing must continue at increased time frequency. The advice of a hepatologist is recommended.

During the first 18 months of treatment, Tolvaptan (JINARC®) can only be supplied to patients whose physician has determined that liver function supports continued therapy.

At the onset of symptoms or signs consistent with hepatic injury or if clinically significant abnormal ALT or AST increases are detected during treatment, Tolvaptan (JINARC®) administration must be immediately interrupted and repeat tests including ALT, AST, BT and alkaline phosphatase (AP) must be obtained as soon as possible (ideally within 48-72 hours). Testing must continue at increased time frequency until symptoms/signs/laboratory abnormalities stabilise or resolve, at which point Tolvaptan (JINARC®) may be reinstated.

Current clinical practice suggests that Tolvaptan (JINARC®) therapy is to be interrupted upon confirmation of sustained or increasing transaminase levels and permanently discontinued if significant increases and/or clinical symptoms of hepatic injury persist.

Recommended guidelines for permanent discontinuation include:

- ALT or AST > 5-times ULN
- ALT or AST > 5-times ULN for more than 2 weeks
- ALT or AST > 3-times ULN and (BT) > 2-times ULN or International Normalized Ratio (INR) > 1.5
- ALT or AST > 3-times ULN with persistent symptoms of hepatic injury noted above.

If ALT and AST levels remain below 3-times the upper limit of normal (ULN), Tolvaptan (JINARC®) may be cautiously re-started, with frequent monitoring at the same or lower doses, as transaminase levels appear to stabilise during continued therapy in some patients.

Access to water
Tolvaptan may cause adverse reactions related to water loss such as thirst, polyuria, nocturia, and polykaliaria (see *Adverse Reactions*). Therefore, patients must have access to water (or other aqueous fluids) and be able to drink sufficient amounts of these fluids (see *Dosage and Administration*). Patients have to be instructed to drink water or other aqueous fluids at the first sign of thirst in order to avoid excessive thirst or dehydration.

Additionally, patients have to drink 1-2 glasses of fluid before bedtime regardless of perceived thirst and replenish fluids overnight with each episode of nocturia.

Dehydration
Volume status must be monitored in patients taking tolvaptan because treatment with tolvaptan may result in severe dehydration which constitutes a risk factor for renal dysfunction. If dehydration becomes evident, take appropriate action which may include the need to interrupt or reduce the dose of tolvaptan and increase fluid intake. Special care must be taken in patients having diseases that impair appropriate fluid intake or who are at an increased risk of water loss e.g. in case of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Urine outflow obstruction
Urine outflow must be secured. Patients with partial obstruction of urinary outflow, for example patients with prostatic hypertrophy or impairment of micturition, have an increased risk of developing acute retention.

Fluid and electrolyte balance
Fluid and electrolyte status must be monitored in all patients. Administration of tolvaptan induces copious aquaresis and may cause dehydration and increases in serum sodium (see *Adverse Reactions*) and is contraindicated in hypernatraemic patients (see *Contraindications*). Therefore, serum creatinine, electrolytes and symptoms of electrolyte imbalances (e.g. dizziness, fainting, palpitations, confusion, weakness, gait instability, hyper-reflexia, seizures, coma) have to be assessed prior to and after starting tolvaptan to monitor for dehydration.

During long-term treatment electrolytes have to be monitored at least every three months.

Serum sodium abnormalities
Pre-treatment sodium abnormalities (hyponatraemia or hypernatraemia) must be corrected prior to initiation with tolvaptan therapy.

Anaphylaxis
In post-marketing experience, anaphylaxis (including anaphylactic shock and rash generalised) has been reported very rarely following administration of tolvaptan. This type of reaction occurred after the first administration of tolvaptan. Patients have to be carefully monitored during treatment. Patients with known hypersensitivity reactions to benzazepines or benzazepine derivatives (e.g. benzazepil, convaptan, fenoldopam mesylate or nizatapine) may be at risk for hypersensitivity reaction to tolvaptan (see *Contraindications*).

If an anaphylactic reaction or other serious allergic reactions occur, administration of tolvaptan must be discontinued immediately and appropriate therapy initiated. Since hypersensitivity is a contraindication (see *Contraindications*) treatment must never be restarted after an anaphylactic reaction or other serious allergic reactions.

Lactose
Tolvaptan (JINARC®) contains lactose as an excipient. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

Diabetes mellitus
Diabetic patients with an elevated glucose concentration (e.g. in excess of 300 mg/dl) may present with pseudohyponatraemia. This condition must be excluded prior and during treatment with tolvaptan.

Tolvaptan may cause hyperglycaemia (see *Adverse Reactions*). Therefore, diabetic patients treated with tolvaptan must be managed cautiously. In particular this applies to patients with inadequately controlled type II diabetes.

Uric acid increases
Decreased uric acid clearance by the kidneys is a known effect of tolvaptan. In a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of patients with ADPKD, potentially clinically significant increased uric acid (greater than 10 mg/dL) was reported at a higher rate in tolvaptan-patients (6.2%) compared to placebo-treated patients (1.7%). Adverse reactions of gout were reported more frequently in tolvaptan-treated patients (28/961, 2.9%) than in patients receiving placebo (7/483, 1.4%). In addition, increased use of allopurinol and other medicinal products used to manage gout were observed in the double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Effects on serum uric acid are attributable to the reversible renal hemodynamic changes that occur in response to tolvaptan effects on urine osmolality and may be clinically relevant. However, events of increased uric acid and/or gout were not serious and did not cause

discontinuation of therapy in the double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Uric acid concentrations are to be evaluated prior to initiation of Tolvaptan (JINARC®) therapy, and its acidified treatment based on symptoms.

Effect of tolvaptan on glomerular filtration rate (GFR)
A reversible reduction in GFR has been observed in ADPKD trials at the initiation of tolvaptan treatment.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:
Effect of other medicinal products on the pharmacokinetics of Tolvaptan

CYP3A inhibitors
Concomitant use of medicinal products that are moderate CYP3A inhibitors (e.g. amprenavir, aprepitant, atazanavir, ciprofloxacin, cizoperim, darunavir/ritonavir, diltiazem, erythromycin, flucanazole, fosamprenavir, imatinib, verapamil) or strong CYP3A inhibitors (e.g., itraconazole, ketoconazole, ritonavir, clarithromycin) increase tolvaptan concentrations.
Co-administration of tolvaptan and ketoconazole resulted in a 440 % increase in area under time-concentration curve (AUC) and 248 % increase in maximum observed plasma concentration (C_{max}) for tolvaptan.
Co-administration of tolvaptan and fluconazole, a moderate CYP3A inhibitor, produced a 200 % and 80 % increase in tolvaptan AUC and C_{max}, respectively.
Co-administration of tolvaptan with grapefruit juice, a moderate to strong CYP3A inhibitor, produced a doubling of peak tolvaptan concentrations (C_{max}).
Dose reduction of tolvaptan is recommended for patients while taking moderate or strong CYP3A inhibitors (see *Dosage and Administration*). Patients taking moderate or strong CYP3A inhibitors must be managed cautiously, in particular if the inhibitors are taken more frequently than once a day.

CYP3A inducers
Concomitant use of medicinal products that are potent CYP3A inducers (e.g., rifampicin) may decrease tolvaptan exposure and efficacy. Co-administration of tolvaptan with rifampicin reduces C_{max} and AUC for tolvaptan by about 85%. Therefore, concomitant administration of tolvaptan with potent CYP3A inducers (e.g., rifampicin, rifabutin, rifapiprin, phenytoin, carbamazepine, and St. John's Wort) is to be avoided.

Co-administration with medicinal products that increase serum sodium concentration
There is an experience with concomitant use of tolvaptan with concomitant use of tolvaptan and hypertonic sodium chloride solution, oral sodium formulations, and medicinal products that increase serum sodium concentration. Medicinal products with high sodium content such as effervescent analgesic preparations and certain sodas containing electrolytes for dyspepsia may also increase serum sodium concentration.
Concomitant use of tolvaptan with medicinal products that increase serum sodium concentration may result in a higher risk for developing hypernatraemia (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*) and is therefore not recommended.

Diuretics
Tolvaptan has not been extensively studied in ADPKD in combination with diuretics. While there does not appear to be a synergistic or additive effect of concomitant use of tolvaptan with loop and thiazide diuretics, each class of agent has the potential to lead to severe dehydration, which constitutes a risk factor for renal dysfunction. If dehydration or renal dysfunction becomes evident, appropriate action must be taken which may include the need to interrupt or reduce doses of tolvaptan and/or diuretics and increased fluid intake. Other potential causes of renal dysfunction or dehydration must be evaluated and addressed.

Effect of tolvaptan on the pharmacokinetics of other products

CYP3A substrates
In healthy subjects, tolvaptan, a CYP3A substrate, had no effect on the plasma concentrations of some other CYP3A substrates (e.g. warfarin or amiodarone). Tolvaptan increased plasma levels of tolvastatin by 1.3- to 1.5-fold. Even though this increase has no clinical relevance, it indicates tolvaptan can potentially increase exposure to CYP3A4 substrates.

Transporter substrates
In-vitro studies indicate that tolvaptan is a substrate and competitive inhibitor of P-glycoprotein (P-gp). *In-vitro* studies indicate that tolvaptan or its oxobutyric metabolite may have the potential to inhibit OATP1B1, OATP1B3, OAT3, BCRP and OCT1 transporters. Steady state digoxin concentrations were increased (1.3-fold in maximum observed plasma concentration [C_{max}] and 1.2-fold in area under the plasma concentration-time curve over the dosing interval [AUC]) when co-administered with multiple once daily 60 mg doses of tolvaptan. Patients receiving digoxin or other narrow therapeutic P-gp substrates (e.g., dabigatran) must therefore be managed cautiously and evaluated for excessive effects when treated with tolvaptan. Statins commonly used in the tolvaptan phase 3 pivotal trial (i.e., rosuvastatin and pitavastatin) are OATP1B1 or OATP1B3 substrates, however no difference in A/E profile was seen between the phase 3 pivotal trial for tolvaptan in ADPKD. If OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 substrates (e.g., statins such as rosuvastatin and pitavastatin), OAT3 substrates (e.g. methotrexate, ciprofloxacin), BCRP substrates (e.g. sulfasalazine) or OCT1 substrates (e.g. metformin) are co-administered with tolvaptan, patients must be managed cautiously and evaluated for excessive effects of these medicinal products.

Diuretics or non-diuretic anti-hypertensive medicinal product(s)
Standing blood pressure was not routinely measured in ADPKD trials, therefore a risk of orthostatic/postural hypotension due to a pharmacodynamic interaction with tolvaptan cannot be excluded.

Co-administration with vasopressin analogues
In addition to its renal aquaretic effect, tolvaptan is capable of blocking vascular vasopressin V2 receptors involved in the release of coagulation factors (e.g., von Willebrand factor from endothelial cells). Therefore, the effect of vasopressin analogues such as desmopressin may be attenuated in patients using such analogues to prevent or control bleeding when co-administered with tolvaptan. It is not recommended to administer Tolvaptan (JINARC®) with vasopressin analogues.

Smoking and alcohol
Data related to smoking or alcohol history in ADPKD trials are too limited to determine possible interactions of smoking or alcohol with efficacy and safety of ADPKD treatment with tolvaptan.

FERTILITY, PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:

Pregnancy
There are no adequate data from the use of tolvaptan in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see *Preclinical Safety data*). The potential risk for humans is unknown. Women of childbearing potential must use adequate contraceptive measures during Tolvaptan (JINARC®) use. Tolvaptan (JINARC®) must not be used during pregnancy (see *Contraindications*).

Breast-feeding
It is unknown whether tolvaptan is excreted in human breast milk. Studies in rats have shown excretion of tolvaptan in milk.

The potential risk for humans is unknown. Tolvaptan (JINARC®) is contraindicated during breast-feeding (see *Contraindications*).

Fertility
Studies in animals showed effects on fertility (see *Preclinical Safety data*). The potential risk for humans is unknown.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Tolvaptan (JINARC®) has minor influence on the ability to drive or use machines. However, when driving vehicles or using machines it has to be taken into account that occasionally dizziness, asthenia or fatigue may occur.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

The pharmacodynamically predictable and most commonly reported adverse reactions are thirst, polyuria, nocturia, and polykaliaria occurring in approximately 55 %, 38 %, 29 % and 23 % of patients, respectively. Furthermore, tolvaptan has been associated with idiosyncratic elevations of blood alanine and aspartate aminotransferases (ALT and AST) with infrequent cases of concomitant elevations in bilirubin-total (BT).

The incidences of the Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) associated with tolvaptan therapy are tabulated below. The table is based on adverse events reported during clinical trials and/or post-marketing use. All ADRs are listed by system organ class and frequency; very common (≥ 1/10), common (≥ 1/100 to < 1/10), uncommon (≥ 1/1,000 to < 1/100), very rare (< 1/10,000) and not known (cannot be estimated from the available data). Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

The frequency of adverse reactions reported during post-marketing use cannot be determined as they are derived from spontaneous reports. Consequently, the frequency of these adverse events is qualified as "not known".

	Very common	Common	Uncommon	Not known*
Immune system disorder				Anaphylactic shock, Generalised rash
Metabolism and nutrition disorder	Polydipsia	Dehydration, Hyponatraemia, Decreased appetite, Hyperuricaemia, Hypoglycaemia, Gout		
Psychiatric disorder		Insomnia		
Nervous system disorder	Headache, Dizziness			
Cardiac disorders		Palpitations		
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders		Dyspnoea		
Gastrointestinal disorders	Diarrhoea, Dry mouth	Abdominal pain, Abdominal distension, Constipation, Dyspepsia, Gastroesophageal reflux disease		Acute hepatic failure
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders		Rash, Pruritus		
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders		Muscle spasms		
Renal and urinary disorders	Nocturia, Polykaliaria, Polyuria			
General disorders and administration site conditions	Fatigue, Thirst	Asthenia		
Investigations		Alanine aminotransferase increased, Aspartate aminotransferase increased, Weight decreased	Bilirubin increased	

* reported during post-marketing surveillance of tolvaptan approved for other indications
* based on post-marketing with tolvaptan in ADPKD. Liver transplantation was necessary.

To mitigate the risk of significant or irreversible liver injury, blood testing for hepatic transaminases is required prior to initiation of Tolvaptan (JINARC®) treatment, continuing monthly for 18 months and at regular 3-monthly intervals thereafter (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*).

The most frequent adverse reactions are related to water loss. It is therefore of greatest importance that patients have access to water and are able to drink sufficient amounts of fluids. The volume status of patients taking tolvaptan must be monitored to prevent dehydration (see *Special Warnings and Precautions For Use*).

OVERDOSAGE:
Single oral doses up to 480 mg (4 times the maximum recommended daily dose) and multiple doses up to 300 mg once daily for 5 days have been well tolerated in trials in healthy subjects. There is no specific antidote for tolvaptan intoxication. The signs and symptoms of an acute overdose can be anticipated to be those of excessive pharmacodynamic reactivity: a rise in serum sodium concentration, polyuria, thirst and dehydration/hypovolaemia.

No mortality was observed in rats or dogs following single oral doses of 2,000 mg/kg (maximum feasible dose). A single oral dose of 2,000 mg/kg was lethal in mice and symptoms of toxicity in affected mice included decreased locomotor activity, staggering gait, tremor and hypothermia.

In patients with suspected tolvaptan overdose, assessment of vital signs, electrolyte concentrations, ECG and fluid status is recommended. Appropriate replacement of water and/or electrolytes must continue until aqueous abates. Dialysis may not be effective in removing tolvaptan because of its high binding affinity for human plasma protein (> 98%).

PHARMACOLOGY

Pharmacodynamics
Pharmacotherapeutic group: Diuretics, vasopressin antagonists.

Mechanism of action
Tolvaptan is a vasopressin antagonist that specifically blocks the binding of arginine vasopressin (AVP) at the V2 receptors of the distal portions of the nephron. Tolvaptan affinity for the human V2 receptor is 1.8 times that of native AVP.

Pharmacodynamic effects
The pharmacodynamic effects of tolvaptan have been determined in healthy subjects and subjects with CKD stages 1 to 4. Effects on free water clearance and urine volume are evident across all CKD stages with smaller absolute effects observed at later stages, consistent with the declining number of fully functioning nephrons. Acute reductions in mean total kidney volume were also observed following 3 weeks of therapy in all CKD stages, ranging from 4.4% for CKD stage 1 to 1.9% for CKD stage 4.

Clinical efficacy and safety
The primary focus of the clinical program for development of tolvaptan tablets for the treatment of ADPKD is a single pivotal, multinational, phase 3, randomised, placebo controlled trial in which the long-term safety and efficacy of oral split dose tolvaptan regimens (titrated between 60 mg/day and 120 mg/day) were compared with placebo in 1,445 adult subjects with ADPKD. In total, 14 clinical trials involving tolvaptan have been completed worldwide in support of the ADPKD indication, including 8 trials in the US, 1 in the Netherlands, 3 in Japan, 1 in Korea, and the multinational phase 3 pivotal trial.

The phase 3 pivotal trial (TEMPO 3-4; 156-04-251) included subjects from 129 centres in the Americas, Japan, Europe and other countries. The primary objective of this trial was to evaluate the long-term efficacy of tolvaptan; with smaller absolute effects observed at later stages, consistent with the declining number of fully functioning nephrons. Acute reductions in mean total kidney volume were also observed following 3 weeks of therapy in all CKD stages, ranging from 4.4% for CKD stage 1 to 1.9% for CKD stage 4.

The results of the primary endpoint, the rate of change in TKV for subjects randomised to tolvaptan (normalised as percentage) to the rate of change for subjects on placebo, were highly statistically significant. The rate of TKV increase over 3 years was significantly less for tolvaptan-treated subjects than for subjects receiving placebo: 3.80% per year vs 5.51% per year, respectively (ratio of geometric mean 0.74; 95% CI 0.569-0.950; p < 0.0001).

Pre-specified secondary endpoints were tested sequentially. The key secondary composite endpoint (ADPKD progression) was time to multiple clinical progression events of:

- worsening kidney function (defined as a persistent [reproduced over at least 2 weeks] 25 % reduction in reciprocal serum creatinine during treatment [from end of titration to last on-medical product visit])
- medically significant kidney pain (defined as requiring prescribed leave, last-resort analgesics, narcotic and anti-nauseptive, radiologic or surgical interventions)
- worsening hypertension
- worsening albuminuria

The relative rate of ADPKD-related events was decreased by 13.5 % in tolvaptan-treated patients, (hazard ratio, 0.87; 95% CI, 0.78 to 0.97; p = 0.0095).
The result of the key secondary composite endpoint is primarily attributed to effects on worsening kidney function and medically significant kidney pain. The renal function events were 61.4 % less likely for tolvaptan compared with placebo (hazard ratio, 0.39; 95% CI, 0.26 to 0.57; nominal p < 0.0001), while renal pain events were 35.8 % less likely in tolvaptan-treated patients (hazard ratio, 0.64; 95% CI, 0.47 to 0.89; nominal p = 0.007). In contrast, there was no effect of tolvaptan on either progression of hypertension or albuminuria.

TEMPO 4-4 is an open-label extension study that included 871 subjects that completed TEMPO 3-4 from 106 centres across 13 countries. This trial evaluated the effects of tolvaptan on safety, TKV and eGFR in subjects receiving active treatment for 5 years (early-treated), compared with subjects treated with placebo for 3 years, then switched to active treatment for 2 years (delayed-treated).

The primary end point for TKV did not distinguish a difference in change (-1.7%) over the 5 year treatment between early- and delayed-treated subjects at the pre-specified threshold of statistical significance (p = 0.3580). Both groups' TKV growth trajectory was slowed, relative to placebo in the first 3 years, suggesting both early- and delayed-treated subjects benefited to a similar degree.

A secondary endpoint testing the persistence of positive effects on renal function indicated that the preservation of eGFR observed by the end of the TEMPO 3-4 pivotal trial (3.01 to 3.34 mL/min/1.73 m² at follow-up visits 1 and 2) could be preserved during open-label treatment. This difference was maintained in the pre-specified MMRM analysis (3.5 mL/min/1.73 m², 95% CI 1.462 to 4.536, p = 0.0003) and with sensitivity analyses where baseline eGFR data were carried forward (2.64 mL/min/1.73 m², 95% CI 0.672 to 4.603, p = 0.0086). These data suggest that Tolvaptan (JINARC®) can slow the rate of renal function decline, and that these benefits persist over the duration of therapy.

Longer term data are not currently available to show whether long-term therapy with Tolvaptan (JINARC®) will slow the rate of renal function decline and affect clinical outcomes of ADPKD, including delay in the onset of end-stage renal disease.

Genotyping for PKD1 and PKD2 genes was conducted in a majority of patients entering the open-label extension study (TEMPO 4) but the results are not yet known.

Following an additional 2 years of tolvaptan treatment, resulting in a total of 5 years on tolvaptan therapy no new safety signals were identified.

The phase 3, multi-centre, international, randomized-withdrawal, placebo-controlled, double-blind trial 156-13-10 compared the efficacy and safety of tolvaptan (45 to 120 mg/day) to placebo in patients able to tolerate tolvaptan during a five-week titration and run-in period on tolvaptan. The trial utilized a randomized withdrawal design, to recruit for patients that were able to tolerate tolvaptan for a 5-week, single-blind pre-randomization period consisting of a 2-week titration period and a 3-week run-in period. The design was used to minimize the impact of early discontinuation and missing data on trial endpoints.

A total of 1,370 patients (age 18-65) with chronic kidney disease (CKD) with an eGFR between 25 and 65 mL/min/1.73 m² if younger than age 56; or eGFR between 25 and 44 mL/min/1.73 m², plus eGFR decline >2.0 mL/min/1.73 m²/year if between age 56-65 were randomized to either tolvaptan (n = 683) or placebo (n = 687) and were treated for a period of 12 months.

For subjects randomized, the baseline, average estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) was 41 mL/min/1.73 m² (CKD-Epidemiology formula) and historical TKV, available in 3