

# POSACAR (Delayed-Release Film-Coated Tablets)

## Posaconazole 100 mg

### COMPOSITION AND EXCIPIENTS:

Each delayed-release film-coated tablets contains: Posaconazole 100 mg.

### Excipients:

**The core:** Hypromellose acetate succinate, Microcrystalline cellulose, Hydroxypropylcellulose, Silica dental type, Croscarmellose sodium, Magnesium stearate.

**The film:** Polyvinyl alcohol, Macrogol 3350, Titanium dioxide, Talc, Iron oxide yellow.

**MECHANISM OF ACTION:** Posaconazole is an azole antifungal agent; it blocks the synthesis of ergosterol, a key component of the fungal cell membrane, through the inhibition of cytochrome P-450 dependent enzyme that responsible for the conversion of lanosterol to ergosterol in the fungal cell membrane. This results in weakening the structure and function of the fungal cell membrane. This may be responsible for the antifungal activity of Posaconazole.

### PHARMACOKINETICS:

**Absorption:** When given orally in healthy volunteers, the delayed-release tablets are absorbed with a median T<sub>max</sub> of 4 to 5 hours. The absolute bioavailability of the oral delayed-release tablet is approximately 54% under fasted conditions. In order to enhance the oral absorption of posaconazole and optimize plasma concentrations, posaconazole delayed-release tablets should be administered with food.

**Distribution:** Posaconazole is highly bound to human plasma proteins (> 98%), predominantly to albumin.

**Metabolism:** Posaconazole is primarily metabolized via UDP glucuronidation and is a substrate for p-glycoprotein (P-gp).

**Excretion:** Posaconazole delayed-release tablet is eliminated with a mean half-life (t<sub>1/2</sub>) ranging between 26 to 31 hours.

### INDICATIONS:

- It is indicated for prophylaxis of invasive Aspergillus and Candida infections in patients who are at high risk of developing these infections due to being severely immunocompromised, such as hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients with graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) or those with hematologic malignancies with prolonged neutropenia from chemotherapy.
- Posaconazole delayed-release tablets are indicated in patients 13 years of age and older.

### DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:

- Patients who have severe diarrhea or vomiting should be monitored closely for break through fungal infections when receiving Posaconazole delayed-release tablets.

Indication	Dose and Duration of Therapy
Prophylaxis of invasive Aspergillus and Candida infections	<b>Loading dose:</b> 300 mg (three 100 mg delayed-release tablets) twice a day on the first day. <b>Maintenance dose:</b> 300 mg (three 100 mg delayed-release tablets) once a day, starting on the second day. Duration of therapy is based on recovery from neutropenia or immunosuppression.

o Swallow tablets whole. Do not divide, crush, or chew. Administer Posaconazole delayed-release tablets with food to enhance the oral absorption of posaconazole and optimize plasma concentrations.

o The delayed-release tablets should be used only for the prophylaxis indication. The delayed-release tablets generally provide higher plasma drug exposures than the oral suspension under both fed and fasted conditions, and therefore is the preferred oral formulation for the prophylaxis indication.

o For patients who cannot eat a full meal or tolerate an oral nutritional supplement or an acidic carbonated beverage and who do not have the option of taking Posaconazole delayed-release tablets, an alternative antifungal therapy should be considered or patients should be monitored closely for breakthrough fungal infections.

o Posaconazole delayed-release tablets and oral suspension are not to be used interchangeably due to the differences in the dosing of each formulation. Therefore, follow the specific dosage recommendations for each of the formulations.

**Dosage Adjustments in Patients with Renal Impairment:** The pharmacokinetics of Posaconazole delayed-release tablets are not significantly affected by renal impairment. Therefore, no adjustment is necessary for oral dosing in patients with mild to severe renal impairment.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- It is contraindicated in persons with known hypersensitivity to posaconazole or other azole antifungal agents.
- It is contraindicated with sirolimus. Concomitant administration of posaconazole with sirolimus increases the sirolimus blood concentrations by approximately 9-fold and can result in sirolimus toxicity.

- Posaconazole is contraindicated with CYP3A4 substrates that prolong the QT interval. Concomitant administration of posaconazole with the CYP3A4 substrates, pimozide and quinidine may result in increased plasma concentrations of these drugs, leading to QTc prolongation and cases of torsades de pointes.
- Co-administration with the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors that are primarily metabolized through CYP3A4 (e.g., atorvastatin, lovastatin, and simvastatin) is contraindicated since increased plasma concentration of these drugs can lead to rhabdomyolysis.
- It is contraindicated with Use with Ergot Alkaloids, Posaconazole may increase the plasma concentrations of ergot alkaloids (ergotamine and dihydroergotamine) which may lead to ergotism.

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS:

**Arrhythmias and QT Prolongation:** Some azoles, including posaconazole, have been associated with prolongation of the QT interval on the electrocardiogram. In addition, cases of torsades de pointes have been reported in patients taking posaconazole. Posaconazole should be administered with caution to patients with potentially proarrhythmic conditions. Do not administer with drugs that are known to prolong the QTc interval and are metabolized through CYP3A4. Rigorous attempts to correct potassium, magnesium, and calcium should be made before starting posaconazole.

**Hepatic Toxicity:** Hepatic reactions (e.g., mild to moderate elevations in ALT, AST, alkaline phosphatase, total bilirubin, and/or clinical hepatitis) have been reported in clinical trials. The elevations in liver function tests were generally reversible on discontinuation of therapy, and in some instances these tests normalized without drug interruption. Cases of more severe hepatic reactions including cholestasis or hepatic failure including deaths have been reported in patients with serious underlying medical conditions (e.g., hematologic malignancy) during treatment with posaconazole. Liver function tests should be evaluated at the start of and during the course of posaconazole therapy. Patients who develop abnormal liver function tests during posaconazole therapy should be monitored for the development of more severe hepatic injury. Patient management should include laboratory evaluation of hepatic function (particularly liver function tests and bilirubin). Discontinuation of posaconazole must be considered if clinical signs and symptoms consistent with liver disease develop that may be attributable to posaconazole.

**Weight:** Pharmacokinetic modeling suggests that patients weighing greater than 120 kg may have lower posaconazole plasma drug exposure. It is, therefore, suggested to closely monitor for breakthrough fungal infections.

**Pregnancy:** There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. It should be used in pregnancy only if the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the fetus.

**Nursing Mothers:** Posaconazole is excreted in milk of lactating rats. It is not known whether Posaconazole is excreted in human milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions from Posaconazole in nursing infants, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

**Pediatric Use:** The safety and effectiveness posaconazole delayed-release tablets have been established in the age groups 13 to 17 years of age. The safety and effectiveness of posaconazole in pediatric patients below the age of 13 years have not been established.

**Geriatric Use:** No overall differences in the pharmacokinetics and safety were observed between elderly and young subjects during clinical trials, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

**Renal Impairment:** No dose adjustment is required in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment. Due to the variability in exposure, patients with severe renal impairment should be monitored closely for breakthrough fungal infections.

**Hepatic Impairment:** It is recommended that no dose adjustment of Posaconazole is needed in patients with mild to severe hepatic impairment.

### DRUG INTERACTIONS:

• Posaconazole is primarily metabolized via UDP glucuronosyltransferase and is a substrate of p-glycoprotein (P-gp). Therefore, inhibitors or inducers of these clearance pathways may affect posaconazole plasma concentrations.

• Co-administration of drugs that can decrease the plasma concentrations of posaconazole should generally be avoided unless the benefit outweighs the risk. If such drugs are necessary, patients should be monitored closely for breakthrough fungal infections.

• Posaconazole is also a strong inhibitor of CYP3A4. Therefore, plasma concentrations of drugs predominantly metabolized by CYP3A4 may be increased by posaconazole.

#### 1. Immunosuppressants Metabolized by CYP3A4:

**Siroliimus:** Concomitant administration of posaconazole with sirolimus increases the sirolimus blood concentrations by approximately 9-fold and can result in sirolimus toxicity. Therefore, posaconazole is contraindicated with sirolimus.

**Tacrolimus:** Posaconazole has been shown to significantly increase the C<sub>max</sub> and AUC of tacrolimus. At initiation of posaconazole treatment, reduce the

tacrolimus dose to approximately one-third of the original dose. Frequent monitoring of tacrolimus whole blood concentrations should be performed during and after discontinuation of posaconazole treatment and the tacrolimus dose adjusted accordingly.

**Cyclosporine:** Posaconazole has been shown to increase cyclosporine whole blood concentrations in heart transplant patients upon initiation of posaconazole treatment. It is recommended to reduce cyclosporine dose to approximately three-fourths of the original dose upon initiation of posaconazole treatment. Frequent monitoring of cyclosporine whole blood concentrations should be performed during and after discontinuation of posaconazole treatment and the cyclosporine dose adjusted accordingly.

**2. CYP3A4 Substrates:** Concomitant administration of posaconazole with CYP3A4 substrates such as pimozide and quinidine may result in increased plasma concentrations of these drugs, leading to QTc prolongation and cases of torsades de pointes. Therefore, posaconazole is contraindicated with these drugs.

**3. HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors (Statins) Primarily Metabolized Through CYP3A4:** Concomitant administration of posaconazole with simvastatin increases the simvastatin plasma concentrations by approximately 10-fold. Therefore, posaconazole is contraindicated.

**4. Ergot Alkaloids:** Most of the ergot alkaloids are substrates of CYP3A4. Posaconazole may increase the plasma concentrations of ergot alkaloids (ergotamine and dihydroergotamine) which may lead to ergotism. Therefore, posaconazole is contraindicated with ergot alkaloids.

**5. Benzodiazepines Metabolized by CYP3A4:** Concomitant administration of posaconazole with midazolam increases the midazolam plasma concentrations by approximately 5-fold. Increased plasma midazolam concentrations could potentiate and prolong hypnotic and sedative effects. Concomitant use of posaconazole and other benzodiazepines metabolized by CYP3A4 (e.g., alprazolam, triazolam) could result in increased plasma concentrations of these benzodiazepines. Patients must be monitored closely for adverse effects associated with high plasma concentrations of benzodiazepines metabolized by CYP3A4 and benzodiazepine receptor antagonists must be available to reverse these effects.

#### 6. Anti-HIV Drugs:

**Efavirenz:** Efavirenz induces UDP-glucuronidase and significantly decreases posaconazole plasma concentrations. It is recommended to avoid concomitant use of efavirenz with posaconazole unless the benefit outweighs the risks.

**Ritonavir and Atazanavir:** Ritonavir and atazanavir are metabolized by CYP3A4 and posaconazole increases plasma concentrations of these drugs. Frequent monitoring of adverse effects and toxicity of ritonavir and atazanavir should be performed during coadministration with posaconazole.

**Fosamprenavir:** Combining fosamprenavir with posaconazole may lead to decreased posaconazole plasma concentrations. If concomitant administration is required, close monitoring for breakthrough fungal infections is recommended.

**Rifabutin:** Rifabutin induces UDP-glucuronidase and decreases posaconazole plasma concentrations. Rifabutin is also metabolized by CYP3A4. Therefore, coadministration of rifabutin with posaconazole increases rifabutin plasma concentrations. Concomitant use of posaconazole and rifabutin should be avoided unless the benefit to the patient outweighs the risk. However, if concomitant administration is required, close monitoring for breakthrough fungal infections as well as frequent monitoring of full blood counts and adverse reactions due to increased rifabutin plasma concentrations (e.g., uveitis, leukopenia) are recommended.

**7. Phenytoin:** Phenytoin induces UDP-glucuronidase and decreases posaconazole plasma concentrations. Phenytoin is also metabolized by CYP3A4. Therefore, coadministration of phenytoin with posaconazole increases phenytoin plasma concentrations. Concomitant use of posaconazole and phenytoin should be avoided unless the benefit to the patient outweighs the risk. However, if concomitant administration is required, close monitoring for breakthrough fungal infections is recommended and frequent monitoring of phenytoin concentrations should be performed and dose reduction of phenytoin should be considered.

**8. Gastric Acid Suppressors/Neutralizers:** No clinically relevant effects on the pharmacokinetics of posaconazole were observed when posaconazole delayed-release tablets are concomitantly used with antacids, H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists and proton pump inhibitors. No dosage adjustment of the delayed-release tablets is required when it is used concomitantly with these drugs.

**9. Vinca Alkaloids:** Most of the vinca alkaloids are substrates of CYP3A4. Posaconazole may increase the plasma concentrations of vinca alkaloids (e.g., vincristine and vinblastine) which may lead to neurotoxicity. Therefore, it is recommended that dose adjustment of the vinca alkaloid be considered.

**10. Calcium Channel Blockers Metabolized by CYP3A4:** Posaconazole may increase the plasma concentrations of calcium channel blockers metabolized by CYP3A4 (e.g., verapamil, diltiazem, nifedipine, nicardipine, felodipine). Frequent



monitoring for adverse reactions and toxicity related to calcium channel blockers is recommended during co-administration. Dose reduction of calcium channel blockers may be needed.

**11. Digoxin:** Increased plasma concentrations of digoxin have been reported in patients receiving digoxin and posaconazole. Therefore, monitoring of digoxin plasma concentrations is recommended during co-administration.

**12. Gastrointestinal Motility Agents:** Concomitant administration of metoclopramide with posaconazole delayed-release tablets did not affect the pharmacokinetics of posaconazole. No dosage adjustment is required.

**13. Glipizide:** Although no dosage adjustment of glipizide is required, it is recommended to monitor glucose concentrations when posaconazole and glipizide are concomitantly used.

### ADVERSE REACTION:

Clinical Trial Experience with Posaconazole Delayed-Release Tablets:

• **Frequency of at Least 10%:** Anemia, Thrombocytopenia, Abdominal Pain, Constipation, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Nausea, Asthenia, Chills, Mucosal Inflammation, Peripheral Edema, Pyrexia, Hypokalemia, Headache, Cough, Epistaxis, Rash, Hypertension.

• The most frequently reported adverse reactions (>25%) were: diarrhea, pyrexia, and nausea.

• The most common adverse reaction leading to discontinuation was nausea.

• The most common adverse reactions that led to treatment discontinuation of posaconazole in the Controlled OPC: respiratory impairment and pneumonia.

• In the refractory OPC, the most common adverse reactions that led to treatment discontinuation: AIDS and respiratory impairment.

• **Frequency of at Least 10% in OPC Studies:** Fever, Headache, Anorexia, Fatigue, Asthenia, Rigors, Pain, Neutropenia, Anemia, Diarrhea, Nausea, Vomiting, Abdominal Pain, Candidiasis Oral, Herpes Simplex, Pneumonia, Weight Decrease, Dehydration, Insomnia, Coughing, Dyspnea, Rash, Sweating Increased.

### OVERDOSAGE:

There is no experience with overdosage of posaconazole delayed-release tablets. During the clinical trials, some patients received posaconazole oral suspension up to 1600 mg/day with no adverse reactions noted that were different from the lower doses. In addition, accidental overdose was noted in one patient who took 1200 mg BID posaconazole oral suspension for 3 days. Posaconazole is not removed by hemodialysis.

### Storage conditions:

store at room temperature, below 30°C.

### Packaging:

2 blisters, each contains 10 delayed-release film-coated tablets/carton box.

TPP1900000 THIS IS A MEDICATION	
-	A medication is a product but unlike any other products.
-	A medication is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you.
-	Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medication. The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks.
-	Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you.
-	Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor.
<b>KEEP MEDICATIONS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN</b>	
(Council of Arab Health Ministers) (Arab Pharmacists Association)	

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