

VI.2 Elements for a public summary

VI.2.1 Overview of disease epidemiology

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. It kills or damages the body's immune system cells. AIDS stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. It is the most advanced stage of infection with HIV. HIV most often spreads through contact with the blood of an infected person. There are approximately 35 million people currently living with HIV and tens of millions of people have died of AIDS-related causes since the beginning of the epidemic (rapid spread of infectious disease) worldwide. Globally, 15 countries are accounted for nearly 75% of all people living with HIV. At the end of 2013, just over 2.3 million people were estimated to be living with HIV in western and central Europe and North America. Four countries in western Europe

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account for almost a quarter of the regional total number of people living with HIV, with 8% in France, 6% in Spain, 5% in the United Kingdom and 5% in Italy. There is no cure for HIV, but early detection and effective treatment with medicines that stop the virus multiplying and allowing patients to stay healthy and live longer lives.

VI.2.2 Summary of treatment benefits

Abacavir is indicated for the treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection in adults and children. HIV destroys cells in the body called CD4 T cells (cells of defense mechanism). These cells are a type of white blood cell and are important because they are involved in protecting your body from infection. Abacavir slows down the progress of HIV infection by reducing the amount of virus in your body. Abacavir can be taken alone, or added to the combination of lamivudine and zidovudine (other antiviral medicines) or the patients' existing HIV treatment.

Abacavir has been studied in six main studies including 1,843 HIV-infected adults (aged 18 years and over). In these studies, abacavir was taken alone or in combination with other antiviral medicines like lamivudine and zidovudine. Here, abacavir was found to be effective in reducing viral load (virus volume) and thus increasing in CD 4 cell counts. In another study, abacavir was found to be more effective than placebo (dummy treatment), and as effective as other antiviral medicines in reducing viral loads in all age groups.

VI.2.3 Unknowns relating to treatment benefits

Effectiveness of abacavir has been established in the target population.

VI.2.4 Summary of safety concerns

Important identified risks

Risk	What is known	Preventability
<p>Serious allergic reaction (ABC hypersensitivity reaction (including reduced vigilance following HLA-B*5701 testing)</p>	<p>Anyone taking abacavir could develop a hypersensitivity reaction, which could be life threatening if they continue to take abacavir.</p> <p>You are more likely to develop such a reaction if you have the HLA-B*5701 gene (but you can get a reaction even if you do not have this gene). You should have been tested for this gene before abacavir was prescribed for you. If you know you have this gene, tell your doctor before you take Abacavir Accord.</p> <p>The most common symptoms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fever (high temperature) and skin rash. <p>Other common symptoms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea (feeling sick), vomiting (being sick), diarrhoea, abdominal (stomach) pain, severe tiredness. <p>Other symptoms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pains in the joints or muscles, swelling of the neck, shortness of 	<p>Yes</p> <p>When you are being treated for HIV infection, it can be hard to tell whether a symptom is a side effect of abacavir or other medicines you are taking, or an effect of the HIV disease itself. So it is very important to talk to your doctor about any changes in your health.</p> <p>It is very important that you read and understand the information about this serious reaction.</p> <p>You should have been tested for this HLA-B*5701 gene before abacavir is prescribed to you. If you know you have this gene, tell your doctor before you take abacavir.</p> <p>If you are caring for a child who is being treated with abacavir, it is important that you understand the information about serious allergic reaction. If your child gets the</p>

Risk	What is known	Preventability
	<p>breath, sore throat, cough, headache</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasionally, inflammation of the eye (conjunctivitis), mouth ulcers, low blood pressure, tingling or numbness of the hands or feet. <p>If you continue to take Abacavir Accord, the symptoms will get worse, and may be life-threatening.</p> <p>Hypersensitivity reactions can start at any time during treatment with Abacavir Accord, but are more likely during the first 6 weeks of treatment.</p> <p>Very rarely, reactions have developed in people who start taking abacavir again, but who had no symptoms before they stopped taking it.</p>	<p>symptoms described below it is essential that you follow the instructions given:</p> <p>Contact your doctor immediately:</p> <p>1 if you get a skin rash, OR</p> <p>2 if you get symptoms from at least 2 of the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fever - shortness of breath, sore throat or cough - nausea or vomiting, diarrhoea or abdominal pain - severe tiredness or achiness, or generally feeling ill. <p>If you have stopped taking abacavir for any reason - especially because you think you are having side effects, or because you have other illness:</p> <p>Talk to your doctor before you start again. Your doctor will check whether your symptoms were related to a hypersensitivity reaction. If the doctor thinks they may have been, you will then be</p>

Risk	What is known	Preventability
		<p>told never again to take abacavir, or any other medicine containing abacavir (e.g. Trizivir or Kivexa). It is important that you follow this advice.</p> <p>If your doctor advises that you can start taking abacavir again, you may be asked to take your first doses in a place where you will have ready access to medical care if you need it.</p> <p>If you have serious allergic reaction to abacavir, return all your unused abacavir tablets for safe disposal. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice.</p>
<p>Use in patient with moderate to severe liver disease (Use in subjects with hepatic impairment)</p>	<p>Some people taking abacavir for HIV are more at risk of serious side effects. You need to be aware of the extra risks, if you have ever had liver disease, including hepatitis B or C.</p> <p>Lactic acidosis is more likely to develop in people who have liver disease, or in obese (very overweight) people, especially women.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Do not take abacavir if you have severe liver disease.</p>

Risk	What is known	Preventability
	Some people taking abacavir, or other medicines like it (NRTIs), develop a condition called lactic acidosis, together with an enlarged liver.	

Important potential risks

Risk	What is known
Possible interaction with ribavirin	None
Risk of heart attack (Ischaemic cardiac events)	<p>It cannot be excluded that abacavir may increase the risk of having a heart attack.</p> <p>Tell your doctor if you have heart problems, if you smoke, or have other illnesses that may increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, or diabetes. Do not stop taking Abacavir unless your doctor advises you to do so.</p>
Use in pregnancy	<p><u>Pregnancy</u></p> <p>Abacavir is not recommended for use during pregnancy. Abacavir and similar medicines may cause side effects in unborn babies. If you become pregnant while you are taking abacavir, your baby may be given extra check-ups (including blood tests) to make sure it is developing normally.</p> <p>If you are pregnant, if you become pregnant, or if you are planning to become pregnant:</p> <p>Talk to your doctor immediately about the risks and benefits of</p>

Risk	What is known
	<p>taking abacavir, or other medicines for treating HIV infection, during your pregnancy.</p> <p>Children whose mothers took NRTIs (medicines like Abacavir) during pregnancy have a reduced risk of being infected with HIV. This benefit is greater than the risk of having side effects.</p>
<p>Potential to cause cancer in long term use of abacavir. (Long term risk of carcinogenicity and long term exposure to NRTIs)</p>	<p>The cancer-causing potential of abacavir has been seen in animal studies and however the clinical studies in humans have not been done.</p>
<p>Use in children other than approved dosage (Off label use in children)</p>	<p>There are insufficient safety data to recommend the use of abacavir in infants less than three months old.</p>

VI.2.5 Summary of risk minimisation measures by safety concern

All medicines have a Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) which provides physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals with details on how to use the medicine, the risks and recommendations for minimising them. An abbreviated version of this in lay language is provided in the form of the package leaflet (PL). The measures in these documents are known as routine risk minimisation measures.

This medicine has additional risk minimisation measures for ABC hypersensitivity reaction (including reduced vigilance following HLA-B*-5701 testing)

Risk minimisation measure:

Healthcare Professional and patient education

Objective and rationale:

Patients and HCPs to understand the risk of ABC hypersensitivity reaction and the procedures related to the appropriate management of this risk to minimise its occurrence and its severity.

Description:

HCP educational materials to be provided to prescribing physicians and pharmacists including advice on:

- Major symptoms associated with ABC HSR
- Risk factors for ABC HSR
- Recommendations for HLA-B*5701 screening
- Information on HLA-B*5701 testing
- Management of ABC HSR reaction
- Hypersensitivity case studies

Patient alert card remind patient and medical staff about abacavir hypersensitivity

VI.2.6 Planned post authorisation development plan (if applicable)

Study/activity Type, title and category (1-3)	Objectives	Safety concerns addressed	Status (planned, started)	Date for submission of interim or final reports (planned or actual)
Post-approval Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry (APR) (non- interventional prospective, 3)	To detect any major teratogenic effects involving any of the registry drugs, including abacavir	Abacavir use in pregnancy	Planned to participate after obtaining authorisation	-