

^{Pf}Fomepizole for Injection

1.5 g/1.5 mL (1 g/mL)

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION

Synthetic Alcohol Dehydrogenase Inhibitor

ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action:

Fomepizole for Injection is a competitive inhibitor of alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH). Alcohol dehydrogenase catalyzes the oxidation of ethanol to acetaldehyde. Alcohol dehydrogenase also catalyzes the initial steps in the metabolism of ethylene glycol and methanol to their toxic metabolites.

Ethylene glycol, the main component of most antifreezes and coolants, is metabolized to glycoaldehyde, which undergoes subsequent sequential oxidations to yield glycolate, glyoxylate, and oxalate. Glycolate and oxalate are the metabolic by-products primarily responsible for the metabolic acidosis and renal damage seen in ethylene glycol toxicosis which presents with the following morbidities: nausea/vomiting, seizures, cardiac arrhythmias, stupor, coma, calcium oxaluria, acute tubular necrosis and death, depending on the amount of ethylene glycol ingested and the time elapsed since ingestion. The lethal dose of ethylene glycol in humans is approximately 1.4 mL/kg.

Methanol, the main component of windshield washer fluid, is slowly metabolized via alcohol dehydrogenase to formaldehyde with subsequent oxidation via formaldehyde dehydrogenase to yield formic acid. Formic acid is primarily responsible for the metabolic acidosis and visual disturbances (e.g., decreased visual acuity and potential blindness) associated with methanol poisoning. A lethal dose of methanol in humans is approximately 1-2 mL/kg.

Fomepizole has been shown *in vitro* and *in vivo* to block alcohol dehydrogenase enzyme activity in dog, monkey, and human liver. The relative affinity of fomepizole for human ADH is 80,000 times greater than that of methanol and ethylene glycol, and 8,000 times greater than that of ethanol (3, 18, 30). The concentration of fomepizole at which alcohol dehydrogenase is inhibited by 50% *in vitro* is approximately 0.1 μmol/L. The plasma concentrations achieved in humans with the proposed dosage regimen are well above this, with peak concentrations of fomepizole between 100-300 μmol/L (8.2-24.6 mg/L). These levels are achieved with oral or IV fomepizole doses of 10-20 mg/kg. Fomepizole is most effective when given in close proximity to the ethylene glycol or methanol ingestion before significant target organ damage occurs.

Pharmacokinetics:

The plasma half-life of fomepizole varies with dose, even in patients with normal renal function, and has not been calculated.

Distribution

After intravenous infusion, fomepizole rapidly distributes to total body water. The volume of distribution is between 0.6 L/kg and 1.02 L/kg.

Metabolism

In healthy volunteers, only 1-3.5% of the administered dose of fomepizole (7-20 mg/kg oral and IV) was excreted unchanged in the urine, indicating that metabolism is the major route of elimination. In humans, the primary metabolite of fomepizole is 4-carboxypyrazole (approximately 80-85% of administered dose), which is excreted in the urine. Other metabolites of fomepizole observed in the urine are 4-hydroxymethylpyrazole and the N-glucuronide conjugates of 4-carboxypyrazole and 4-hydroxymethylpyrazole.

Excretion

After a single dose, the elimination of fomepizole is best characterized by Michaelis-Menten kinetics with saturable elimination occurring at plasma concentrations of 100-300 μmol/L (8.2- 24.6 mg/L). With multiple doses, fomepizole rapidly induces its own metabolism via the cytochrome P450 mixed-function oxidase system, which produces a significant increase in the elimination rate after about 30-40 hours. After enzyme induction, elimination follows first-order kinetics.

Special Populations

No special pharmacokinetic studies have been performed with respect to pediatric, geriatric, hepatically-impaired, or renally-impaired patients.

Gender: Possible gender differences were not investigated therefore dose adjustments for patient subgroups cannot be recommended.

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

Fomepizole for Injection is indicated as an antidote for ethylene glycol (such as antifreeze) or methanol (such as windshield washer fluid) poisoning, or for use in suspected ethylene glycol or methanol ingestion, either alone or in combination with hemodialysis (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Fomepizole for Injection should not be administered to patients with a documented serious hypersensitivity reaction to fomepizole or other pyrazoles.

PRECAUTIONS

General:

Fomepizole for Injection should not be given undiluted or by bolus injection. Venous irritation and phlebosclerosis were noted in two of six normal volunteers given bolus injections of fomepizole (over 5 minutes) at a concentration of 25 mg/mL.

Patients should be closely monitored for anaphylaxis symptoms (such as dyspnea, wheezing, flushing, etc.) as serious, life-threatening hypersensitivity reaction (anaphylaxis) has been reported following fomepizole administration. If such a reaction occurs, fomepizole therapy should be discontinued immediately and adequate medical treatment should be initiated (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS**).

Minor allergic reactions (mild rash, eosinophilia) have also been reported in a few patients receiving Fomepizole for Injection (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**). Therefore, patients should be monitored for signs of allergic reactions.

Drug Interactions:

Oral doses of fomepizole (10-20 mg/kg) significantly reduced the rate of elimination of ethanol (by approximately 40%), via alcohol dehydrogenase inhibition, when given to healthy volunteers in moderate doses. Similarly, ethanol decreased the rate of elimination of fomepizole (by approximately 50%) by the same mechanism.

Reciprocal interactions may occur with concomitant use of Fomepizole for Injection and drugs that increase or inhibit the cytochrome P450 system (e.g., phenytoin, carbamazepine, cimetidine, ketoconazole), though this has not been studied.

Pregnancy:

Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with fomepizole. It is also not known whether Fomepizole for Injection can cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women or can affect reproduction capacity. Fomepizole for Injection should be given to pregnant women only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers:

It is not known whether fomepizole is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, nursing should be discontinued when Fomepizole is administered to nursing women.

Pediatric Use:

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

Geriatric Use:

Fomepizole is metabolized by the liver and excreted by the kidneys. The functions of both organs are generally lower in elderly patients; therefore, care should be taken when selecting the dose of fomepizole for elderly patients.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The most frequent adverse events reported as drug-related or unknown relationship to study drug in the 78 patients and 63 normal volunteers who received fomepizole were headache (14%), nausea (11%), and dizziness, increased drowsiness, and bad taste/metallic taste (6% each). All other adverse events in this population were reported in approximately 3% or fewer of those receiving fomepizole and were as follows :

Body as a Whole: Abdominal pain, fever, pain during fomepizole injection, inflammation at injection site, lumbalgia/backache, hangover.

Cardiovascular: Phlebosclerosis, phlebitis, hypotension.

Gastrointestinal: Vomiting, diarrhea, dyspepsia, heartburn, decreased appetite, transient increase in liver function tests.

Hemic/Lymphatic: Eosinophilia/hypereosinophilia, lymphangitis, anemia.

Central Nervous System (CNS): Lightheadedness, agitation, feeling drunk, facial flush, vertigo, nystagmus, anxiety, "felt strange", decreased environmental awareness.

Respiratory: Hiccups, pharyngitis.

Skin/Appendages: Application site reaction, rash.

Special Senses: Abnormal smell, speech/visual disturbances, transient blurred vision, roar in ear.

Post-Market Adverse Reactions:

Serious, life-threatening hypersensitivity reaction (anaphylaxis) has been reported following fomepizole administration (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT OF OVERDOSAGE

Nausea, dizziness, and vertigo were noted in healthy volunteers receiving 50 and 100 mg/kg doses of fomepizole (at plasma concentrations of 290-520 μmol/L, 23.8- 42.7 mg/L). These doses are 3-6 times the recommended dose. This dose-dependent CNS effect was short-lived in most subjects however in one subject it lasted up to 30 hours.

Fomepizole is dialyzable, and hemodialysis may be useful in treating cases of overdose.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Treatment Guidelines:

Treatment of ethylene glycol and methanol poisonings consist of blocking the formation of toxic metabolites using inhibitors of alcohol dehydrogenase, such as fomepizole, and correction of metabolic abnormalities. In patients with high ethylene glycol (≥ 50 mg/dL or ≥ 8.1 mmol/L) or methanol concentrations (≥50 mg/dL or ≥ 15.6 mmol/L), significant metabolic acidosis, or renal failure, hemodialysis should be considered in addition to treatment with fomepizole to remove ethylene glycol or methanol and the respective toxic metabolites of these alcohols.

Treatment with Fomepizole for Injection:

Begin Fomepizole for Injection treatment immediately upon suspicion of ethylene glycol or methanol ingestion based on patient disclosure or history and/or anion gap metabolic acidosis, increased osmolar gap, visual disturbances, or oxalate crystals in the urine. **OR** a documented serum ethylene glycol greater than 3.2 mmol/L (20 mg/dL) or methanol concentration greater than 6.2 mmol/L (20 mg/dL).

In addition to specific antidote treatment with Fomepizole for Injection, patients intoxicated with ethylene glycol or methanol should be managed as appropriate for metabolic acidosis, acute renal failure (ethylene glycol), adult respiratory distress syndrome, visual disturbances (methanol) and hypocalcemia. At frequent intervals throughout the treatment, patients poisoned with ethylene glycol should be monitored for ethylene glycol concentrations in serum and urine, and the presence of urinary oxalate crystals. Similarly, serum methanol concentrations should be monitored in patients poisoned with methanol. Hepatic enzymes and white blood cell counts should be monitored during treatment, as transient increases in serum transaminase concentrations and eosinophilia have been noted with repeated fomepizole dosing.

Dosing of Fomepizole for Injection:

A loading dose of 15 mg/kg should be administered, followed by doses of 10 mg/kg every 12 hours for 4 doses, then 15 mg/kg every 12 hours thereafter until ethylene glycol or methanol concentrations are undetectable or have been reduced below 20 mg/dL (3.2 mmol/L for ethylene glycol and 6.2 mmol/L for methanol), and the patient is asymptomatic with normal pH. All doses should be administered as a slow intravenous infusion over 30 minutes (see **Preparation for Intravenous Administration**, below).

Dosage with Hemodialysis:

Hemodialysis should be considered in addition to Fomepizole for Injection in the case of renal failure, significant or worsening metabolic acidosis, or a measured ethylene glycol or methanol concentration of greater than or equal to 50 mg/dL (8.1 mmol/L for ethylene glycol and 15.6 mmol/L for methanol). Patients should be dialyzed to correct metabolic abnormalities and to lower the ethylene glycol concentrations below 50 mg/dL (8.1 mmol/L for ethylene glycol and 15.6 mmol/L for methanol).

The following guidelines for administering Fomepizole for Injection during hemodialysis should be used:

Before dialysis: Administer next scheduled dose if >6 hours since the last dose

During dialysis: Administer doses every 4 hours

Post-dialysis: If time since last dose is < 1 hour, then give the next scheduled dose 12 hours from the last dose administered, and then follow the normal dosing schedule (see **Dosing of Fomepizole for Injection**).

If time since last dose is ≥ 1 hour but < 3 hours, then immediately administer 50% of the next scheduled dose, and then follow the normal dosing schedule.

If time since last dose is ≥ 3 hours, then immediately administer 100% of the next scheduled dose, and then follow the normal dosing schedule.

Discontinuation of Fomepizole for Injection Treatment:

Treatment with Fomepizole for Injection may be discontinued when ethylene glycol or methanol concentrations are undetectable or have been reduced below 20 mg/dL (3.2 mmol/L for ethylene glycol and 6.2 mmol/L for methanol), and the patient is asymptomatic with normal pH.

Preparation for Intravenous Administration:

When preparing Fomepizole for Injection solution avoid ocular, dermal, or inhalation exposures. In case of eye or skin exposure, flush immediately with copious amounts of water. Seek medical attention if irritation persists. Prepare solution in well-ventilated area. If accidental inhalation occurs, move to fresh air.

Fomepizole for Injection solidifies at temperatures less than 25°C (77°F). If the Fomepizole for Injection solution has become solid in the vial, the solution should be liquefied by placing the vial under warm running water or by holding in the hand. Solidification does not affect the efficacy, safety, or stability of Fomepizole for Injection. Using sterile technique, the appropriate dose of Fomepizole for Injection should be drawn from the vial with a syringe and injected into **at least 100 mL of sterile 0.9% sodium chloride injection or dextrose 5% injection**. Mix well. The entire contents of the resulting solution should be infused over 30 minutes.

Fomepizole for Injection, like all parenteral products, should be inspected visually for particulate matter prior to administration.

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

Drug Substance:

Common name: fomepizole

Chemical name: 4-methylpyrazole

Structural formula:



Molecular Formula: C₄H₆N₂

Molecular weight: 82.11 g/mol

Description: Fomepizole is a colourless to yellow semi-solid to liquid. It may be present in a solid form at room temperature. Solidification does not affect the efficacy, safety or stability of fomepizole.

Composition:

The drug product is 100% bulk fomepizole (1 g/mL) (wt/vol) with no excipients or preservatives.

Stability and Storage Recommendations:

Store at controlled room temperature (20°C to 25°C).

Fomepizole for Injection vials are for single use only. Any unused portion should be discarded.

For stability information, please refer to **Parenteral Products**, *Stability*, below.

Parenteral Products:

Stability: Fomepizole for Injection diluted in 0.9% sodium chloride injection or dextrose 5% injection remains stable and sterile for at least 24 hours when stored refrigerated or at room temperature. Fomepizole for Injection does not contain preservatives. Therefore, maintain sterile conditions, and after dilution do not use beyond 24 hours. Solutions showing haziness, particulate matter, precipitate, discolouration or leakage should not be used.

AVAILABILITY OF DOSAGE FORMS

Fomepizole for Injection is a sterile, preservative-free solution for intravenous use. Fomepizole for Injection is supplied in a dual pack carton containing two 1.5 mL (1 g/mL) vials of Fomepizole for Injection and in a single pack carton containing one 1.5 mL (1 g/mL) vial of Fomepizole for Injection.

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Questions or concerns: 1-800-881-3550

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