HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use BORTEZOMIB FOR INJECTION safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for BORTEZOMIB FOR INJECTION.

BORTEZOMIB for injection, for subcutaneous or intravenous use
Initial U.S. Approval: 2003

---------- INDICATIONS AND USAGE ----------

Bortezomib for Injection is a proteasome inhibitor indicated for:
- treatment of adult patients with multiple myeloma (1.1)
- treatment of adult patients with mantle cell lymphoma (1.2)

---------- DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION ----------

- For subcutaneous or intravenous use only. Each route of administration has a different reconstituted concentration. Exercise caution when calculating the volume to be administered. (2.1, 2.10)
- The recommended starting dose of bortezomib for injection is 1.3 mg/m^2 administered either as a 3 to 5 second bolus intravenous injection or subcutaneous injection. (2.2, 2.4, 2.6)
- Retreatment for Multiple Myeloma: May retreat starting at the last tolerated dose. (2.6)
- Hepatic Impairment: Use a lower starting dose for patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment. (2.8)
- Dose must be individualized to prevent overdose. (2.10)

---------- DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS ----------

For injection: Single-dose vial contains 3.5 mg of bortezomib as lyophilized powder for reconstitution and withdrawal of the appropriate individual patient dose. (3)

---------- CONTRAINDICATIONS ----------

- Patients with hypersensitivity (not including local reactions) to bortezomib, boron, or mannitol, including anaphylactic reactions. (4)
- Contraindicated for intrathecal administration. (4)

---------- WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS----------

- Peripheral Neuropathy: Manage with dose modification or discontinuation. (2.7) Patients with pre-existing severe neuropathy should be treated with bortezomib only after careful risk-benefit assessment. (2.7, 5.1)
- Hypotension: Use caution when treating patients taking antihypertensives, with a history of syncope, or with dehydration. (5.2)
- Cardiac Toxicity: Worsening of and development of cardiac failure has occurred. Closely monitor patients with existing heart disease or risk factors for heart disease. (5.3)
- Pulmonary Toxicity: Acute respiratory syndromes have occurred. Monitor closely for new or worsening symptoms and consider interrupting bortezomib therapy. (5.4)
- Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome: Consider MRI imaging for onset of visual or neurological symptoms; discontinue bortezomib if suspected. (5.5)
- Gastrointestinal Toxicity: Nausea, diarrhea, constipation, and vomiting may require use of antiemetic and antidiarrheal medications or fluid replacement. (5.6)
- Thrombocytopenia and Neutropenia: Monitor complete blood counts regularly throughout treatment. (5.7)
- Tumor Lysis Syndrome: Closely monitor patients with high tumor burden. (5.8)
- Hepatic Toxicity: Monitor hepatic enzymes during treatment. Interrupt bortezomib therapy to assess reversibility. (5.9)
- Thrombotic Microangiopathy: Monitor for signs and symptoms. Discontinue bortezomib if suspected. (5.10)
- Embryo-Fetal Toxicity: Bortezomib can cause fetal harm. Advise females of reproductive potential and males with female partners of reproductive potential of the potential risk to a fetus and to use effective contraception. (5.11)

---------- ADVERSE REACTIONS ----------

Most commonly reported adverse reactions (incidence ≥20%) in clinical studies include nausea, diarrhea, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, peripheral neuropathy, fatigue, neuralgia, anemia, leukopenia, constipation, vomiting, lymphopenia, rash, pyrexia, and anorexia. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Meitheal Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at 1-844-824-8426 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

---------- DRUG INTERACTIONS----------

- Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitors: Closely monitor patients with concomitant use. (7.1)
- Strong CYP3A4 Inducers: Avoid concomitant use. (7.3)

---------- USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS ----------

Patients with diabetes may require close monitoring of blood glucose and adjustment of antidiabetic medication. (8.8)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION.

Revised: 12/2021

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FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

1.1 Multiple Myeloma

Bortezomib for Injection is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with multiple myeloma.

1.2 Mantle Cell Lymphoma

Bortezomib for Injection is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with mantle cell lymphoma.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Important Dosing Guidelines

Bortezomib for injection is for intravenous or subcutaneous use only. Do not administer bortezomib for injection by any other route.

Because each route of administration has a different reconstituted concentration, use caution when calculating the volume to be administered.

The recommended starting dose of bortezomib for injection is 1.3 mg/m^2. Bortezomib for injection is administered intravenously at a concentration of 1 mg per mL, or subcutaneously at a concentration of 2.5 mg per mL *[see Dosage and Administration (2.10)]*.

Bortezomib for injection retreatment may be considered for patients with multiple myeloma who had previously responded to treatment with bortezomib for injection and who have relapsed at least six months after completing prior bortezomib for injection treatment. Treatment may be started at the last tolerated dose *[see Dosage and Administration (2.6)]*.

When administered intravenously, administer bortezomib for injection as a 3 to 5 second bolus intravenous injection.

2.2 Dosage in Previously Untreated Multiple Myeloma

Bortezomib for injection is administered in combination with oral melphalan and oral prednisone for 9, six week treatment cycles as shown in *Table 1*. In Cycles 1 to 4, bortezomib for injection is administered twice weekly (Days 1, 4, 8, 11, 22, 25, 29 and 32). In Cycles 5 to 9, bortezomib for injection is administered once weekly (Days 1, 8, 22 and 29). At least 72 hours should elapse between consecutive doses of bortezomib for injection.

Table 1: Dosage Regimen for Patients with Previously Untreated Multiple Myeloma

Twice Weekly Bortezomib for Injection (Cycles 1 to 4)											
Week	**1**				**2**	**3**	**4**			**5**	**6**
Bortezomib (1.3 mg/m^2)	Day 1	--	--	Day 4	Day 8	Day 11	rest period	Day 22	Day 25	Day 29	Day 32	rest period
Melphalan (9 mg/m^2) Prednisone (60 mg/m^2)	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	--	--	rest period	--	--	--	--	rest period
Once Weekly Bortezomib for Injection (Cycles 5 to 9 when used in combination with Melphalan and Prednisone)											
Week	**1**				**2**	**3**	**4**		**5**		**6**
Bortezomib (1.3 mg/m^2)	Day 1	--	--		Day 8		rest period	Day 22		Day 29		rest period
Melphalan (9 mg/m^2) Prednisone (60 mg/m^2)	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	--	--	rest period	--	--	--	--	rest period

2.3 Dose Modification Guidelines for Bortezomib for Injection When Given in Combination with Melphalan and Prednisone

Prior to initiating any cycle of therapy with bortezomib for injection in combination with melphalan and prednisone:

- Platelet count should be at least 70 x 10^9/L and the absolute neutrophil count (ANC) should be at least 1 x 10^9/L
- Nonhematological toxicities should have resolved to Grade 1 or baseline

Table 2: Dose Modifications During Cycles of Combination Bortezomib for Injection, Melphalan and Prednisone Therapy

Toxicity	**Dose Modification or Delay**
Hematological toxicity during a cycle: If prolonged Grade 4 neutropenia or thrombocytopenia, or thrombocytopenia with bleeding is observed in the previous cycle	Consider reduction of the melphalan dose by 25% in the next cycle
If platelet count is not above 30 x 10^9/L or ANC is not above 0.75 x 10^9/L on a bortezomib for injection dosing day (other than Day 1)	Withhold bortezomib for injection dose
If several bortezomib for injection doses in consecutive cycles are withheld due to toxicity	Reduce bortezomib for injection dose by one dose level (from 1.3 mg/m^2 to 1 mg/m^2, or from 1 mg/m^2 to 0.7 mg/m^2)
Grade 3 or higher nonhematological toxicities	Withhold bortezomib for injection therapy until symptoms of toxicity have resolved to Grade 1 or baseline. Then, bortezomib for injection may be reinitiated with one dose level reduction (from 1.3 mg/m^2 to 1 mg/m^2, or from 1 mg/m^2 to 0.7 mg/m^2). For bortezomib for injection-related neuropathic pain and/or peripheral neuropathy, hold or modify bortezomib for injection as outlined in *Table 5*.

For information concerning melphalan and prednisone, see manufacturer's prescribing information.

Dose modifications guidelines for peripheral neuropathy are provided *[see Dosage and Administration (2.7)]*.

2.4 Dosage in Previously Untreated Mantle Cell Lymphoma

Bortezomib for injection (1.3 mg/m^2) is administered intravenously in combination with intravenous rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and oral prednisone (VcR-CAP) for 6, three week treatment cycles as shown in *Table 3*. Bortezomib for injection is administered first followed by rituximab. Bortezomib for injection is administered twice weekly for two weeks (Days 1, 4, 8, and 11) followed by a ten day rest period on Days 12 to 21. For patients with a response first documented at Cycle 6, two additional VcR-CAP cycles are recommended. At least 72 hours should elapse between consecutive doses of bortezomib for injection.

Table 3: Dosage Regimen for Patients with Previously Untreated Mantle Cell Lymphoma

Twice Weekly Bortezomib for Injection (6, Three Week Cycles)*								
Week	**1**					**2**		**3**
Bortezomib (1.3 mg/m^2)	Day 1	--	--	Day 4	--	Day 8	Day 11	rest period
Rituximab (375 mg/m^2) Cyclophosphamide (750 mg/m^2) Doxorubicin (50 mg/m^2)	Day 1	--	--			--	--	rest period
Prednisone (100 mg/m^2)	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	--	--	rest period

* Dosing may continue for two more cycles (for a total of eight cycles) if response is first seen at Cycle 6.

2.5 Dose Modification Guidelines for Bortezomib for Injection When Given in Combination with Rituximab, Cyclophosphamide, Doxorubicin and Prednisone

Prior to the first day of each cycle (other than Cycle 1):

- Platelet count should be at least 100 x 10^9/L and absolute neutrophil count (ANC) should be at least 1.5 x 10^9/L
- Hemoglobin should be at least 8 g/dL (at least 4.96 mmol/L)
- Nonhematologic toxicity should have recovered to Grade 1 or baseline

Interrupt bortezomib for injection treatment at the onset of any Grade 3 hematologic or nonhematological toxicities, excluding neuropathy *[see Table 5, Warnings and Precautions (5)]*. For dose adjustments, see *Table 4* below.

Table 4: Dose Modifications on Days 4, 8, and 11 During Cycles of Combination Bortezomib for Injection, Rituximab, Cyclophosphamide, Doxorubicin and Prednisone Therapy

Toxicity	**Dose Modification or Delay**
Hematological Toxicity	
• Grade 3 or higher neutropenia, or a platelet count not at or above 25 x 10^9/L	Withhold bortezomib for injection therapy for up to 2 weeks until the patient has an ANC at or above 0.75 x 10^9/L and a platelet count at or above 25 x 10^9/L. • If, after bortezomib for injection has been withheld, the toxicity does not resolve, discontinue bortezomib for injection. • If toxicity resolves such that the patient has an ANC at or above 0.75 x 10^9/L and a platelet count at or above 25 x 10^9/L, bortezomib for injection dose should be reduced by 1 dose level (from 1.3 mg/m^2 to 1 mg/m^2, or from 1 mg/m^2 to 0.7 mg/m^2).
Grade 3 or higher nonhematological toxicities	Withhold bortezomib for injection therapy until symptoms of the toxicity have resolved to Grade 2 or better. Then, bortezomib for injection may be reinitiated with one dose level reduction (from 1.3 mg/m^2 to 1 mg/m^2, or from 1 mg/m^2 to 0.7 mg/m^2). For bortezomib for injection-related neuropathic pain and/or peripheral neuropathy, hold or modify bortezomib for injection as outlined in *Table 5*.

For information concerning rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and prednisone, see manufacturer's prescribing information.

2.6 Dosage and Dose Modifications for Relapsed Multiple Myeloma and Relapsed Mantle Cell Lymphoma

Bortezomib for injection (1.3 mg/m^2/dose) is administered twice weekly for two weeks (Days 1, 4, 8, and 11) followed by a ten day rest period (Days 12 to 21). For extended therapy of more than eight cycles, bortezomib for injection may be administered on the standard schedule or, for relapsed multiple myeloma, on a maintenance schedule of once weekly for four weeks (Days 1, 8, 15, and 22) followed by a 13 day rest period (Days 23 to 35) *[see Clinical Studies (14)]*. At least 72 hours should elapse between consecutive doses of bortezomib for injection.

Patients with multiple myeloma who have previously responded to treatment with bortezomib for injection (either alone or in combination) and who have relapsed at least six months after their prior bortezomib for injection therapy may be started on bortezomib for injection at the last tolerated dose. Retreated patients are administered bortezomib for injection twice weekly (Days 1, 4, 8, and 11) every three weeks for a maximum of eight cycles. At least 72 hours should elapse between consecutive doses of bortezomib for injection. Bortezomib for injection may be administered either as a single agent or in combination with dexamethasone *[see Clinical Studies (14.1)]*.

Bortezomib for injection therapy should be withheld at the onset of any Grade 3 nonhematological or Grade 4 hematological toxicities excluding neuropathy as discussed below *[see Warnings and Precautions (5)]*. Once the symptoms of the toxicity have resolved, bortezomib for injection therapy may be reinitiated at a 25% reduced dose (1.3 mg/m^2/dose reduced to 1 mg/m^2/dose; 1 mg/m^2/dose reduced to 0.7 mg/m^2/dose).

For dose modifications guidelines for peripheral neuropathy, see section 2.7.

2.7 Dose Modifications for Peripheral Neuropathy

Starting bortezomib for injection subcutaneously may be considered for patients with pre-existing or at high risk of peripheral neuropathy. Patients with pre-existing severe neuropathy should be treated with bortezomib for injection only after careful risk-benefit assessment.

Patients experiencing new or worsening peripheral neuropathy during bortezomib for injection therapy may require a decrease in the dose and/or a less dose-intense schedule.

For dose or schedule modification guidelines for patients who experience bortezomib for injection-related neuropathic pain and/or peripheral neuropathy, see *Table 5*.

Table 5: Recommended Dose Modification for Bortezomib for Injection-Related Neuropathic Pain and/or Peripheral Sensory or Motor Neuropathy

Severity of Peripheral Neuropathy Signs and Symptoms*	**Modification of Dose and Regimen**
Grade 1 (asymptomatic; loss of deep tendon reflexes or paresthesia) without pain or loss of function	No action
Grade 1 with pain or Grade 2 (moderate symptoms; limiting instrumental Activities of Daily Living (ADL)†)	Reduce bortezomib for injection to 1 mg/m^2
Grade 2 with pain or Grade 3 (severe symptoms; limiting self care ADL‡)	Withhold bortezomib for injection therapy until toxicity resolves. When toxicity resolves reinitiate with a reduced dose of bortezomib for injection at 0.7 mg/m^2 once per week.
Grade 4 (life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated)	Discontinue bortezomib for injection

* Grading based on NCI Common Terminology Criteria CTCAE v4.0

† Instrumental ADL: refers to preparing meals, shopping for groceries or clothes, using telephone, managing money, etc.

‡ Self care ADL: refers to bathing, dressing and undressing, feeding self, using the toilet, taking medications, and not bedridden

2.8 Dosage in Patients with Hepatic Impairment

Do not adjust the starting dose for patients with mild hepatic impairment.

Start patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment at a reduced dose of 0.7 mg/m^2 per injection during the first cycle, and consider subsequent dose escalation to 1 mg/m^2 or further dose reduction to 0.5 mg/m^2 based on patient tolerance *(see Table 6) [see Use in Specific Populations (8.7), Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)]*.

Table 6: Recommended Starting Dose Modification for Bortezomib for Injection in Patients with Hepatic Impairment

	Bilirubin Level	**SGOT (AST) Levels**	**Modification of Starting Dose**
Mild	Less than or equal to 1x ULN	More than ULN	None
	More than 1x to 1.5x ULN	Any	None
Moderate	More than 1.5x to 3x ULN	Any	Reduce bortezomib for injection to 0.7 mg/m^2 in the first cycle. Consider dose escalation to 1 mg/m^2 or further dose reduction to 0.5 mg/m^2 in subsequent cycles based on patient tolerability.
Severe	More than 3x ULN	Any	

Abbreviations: SGOT = serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase;

AST = aspartate aminotransferase; ULN = upper limit of the normal range.

2.9 Administration Precautions

The drug quantity contained in one vial (3.5 mg) may exceed the usual dose required. Caution should be used in calculating the dose to prevent overdose *[see Dosage and Administration (2.10)]*.

When administered subcutaneously, sites for each injection (thigh or abdomen) should be rotated. New injections should be given at least one inch from an old site and never into areas where the site is tender, bruised, erythematous, or indurated.

If local injection site reactions occur following bortezomib for injection administration subcutaneously, a less concentrated bortezomib for injection solution (1 mg per mL instead of 2.5 mg per mL) may be administered subcutaneously *[see Dosage and Administration (2.10)]*. Alternatively, consider use of the intravenous route of administration *[see Dosage and Administration (2.10)]*.

Bortezomib for injection is a hazardous drug. Follow applicable special handling and disposal procedures.[1]

2.10 Reconstitution/Preparation for Intravenous and Subcutaneous Administration

Use proper aseptic technique. Reconstitute **only with 0.9% sodium chloride**. The reconstituted product should be a clear and colorless solution.

Different volumes of 0.9% sodium chloride are used to reconstitute the product for the different routes of administration. The reconstituted concentration of bortezomib for subcutaneous administration (2.5 mg per mL) is greater than the reconstituted concentration of bortezomib for intravenous administration (1 mg per mL). **Because each route of administration has a different reconstituted concentration, use caution when calculating the volume to be administered** *[see Dosage and Administration (2.9)]*.

For each 3.5 mg single-dose vial of bortezomib, reconstitute with the following volume of 0.9% sodium chloride based on route of administration *(Table 7)*:

Table 7: Reconstitution Volumes and Final Concentration for Intravenous and Subcutaneous Administration

Route of Administration	**Bortezomib (mg per vial)**	**Diluent (0.9% Sodium Chloride)**	**Final Bortezomib Concentration (mg per mL)**
Intravenous	3.5 mg	3.5 mL	1 mg per mL
Subcutaneous	3.5 mg	1.4 mL	2.5 mg per mL

Dose must be individualized to prevent overdosage. After determining patient body surface area (BSA) in square meters, use the following equations to calculate the total volume (mL) of reconstituted bortezomib for injection to be administered:

- **Intravenous Administration [1 mg per mL concentration]**

$$\frac{\text{Bortezomib for injection dose (mg/m}^2\text{)} \times \text{patient BSA (m}^2\text{)}}{\text{1 mg per mL}} = \text{Total bortezomib for injection volume (mL) to be administered}$$

- **Subcutaneous Administration [2.5 mg per mL concentration]**

$$\frac{\text{Bortezomib for injection dose (mg/m}^2\text{)} \times \text{patient BSA (m}^2\text{)}}{\text{2.5 mg per mL}} = \text{Total bortezomib for injection volume (mL) to be administered}$$

Stickers that indicate the route of administration are provided with each bortezomib for injection vial. These stickers should be placed directly on the syringe of bortezomib for injection once bortezomib for injection is prepared to help alert practitioners of the correct route of administration for bortezomib for injection.

Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration whenever solution and container permit. If any discoloration or particulate matter is observed, the reconstituted product should not be used.

Stability

Unopened vials of bortezomib for injection are stable until the date indicated on the package when stored in the original package protected from light.

Bortezomib for injection contains no antimicrobial preservative. Administer reconstituted bortezomib for injection within eight hours of preparation. When reconstituted as directed, bortezomib for injection may be stored at 25ºC (77ºF). The reconstituted material may be stored in the original vial and/or the syringe prior to administration. The product may be stored for up to eight hours in a syringe; however, total storage time for the reconstituted material must not exceed eight hours when exposed to normal indoor lighting.

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

For injection: Each single-dose vial of Bortezomib for Injection contains 3.5 mg of bortezomib as a sterile lyophilized white to off-white powder for reconstitution and withdrawal of the appropriate individual patient dose *[see Dosage and Administration (2.10)]*.

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

Bortezomib is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity (not including local reactions) to bortezomib, boron, or mannitol. Reactions have included anaphylactic reactions *[see Adverse Reactions (6.1)]*.

Bortezomib is contraindicated for intrathecal administration. Fatal events have occurred with intrathecal administration of bortezomib.

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Peripheral Neuropathy

Bortezomib treatment causes a peripheral neuropathy that is predominantly sensory; however, cases of severe sensory and motor peripheral neuropathy have been reported. Patients with pre-existing symptoms (numbness, pain or a burning feeling in the feet or hands) and/or signs of peripheral neuropathy may experience worsening peripheral neuropathy (including ≥Grade 3) during treatment with bortezomib. Patients should be monitored for symptoms of neuropathy, such as a burning sensation, hyperesthesia, hypoesthesia, paresthesia, discomfort, neuropathic pain or weakness. In the Phase 3 relapsed multiple myeloma trial comparing bortezomib subcutaneous vs intravenous, the incidence of Grade ≥2 peripheral neuropathy was 24% for subcutaneous and 39% for intravenous. Grade ≥3 peripheral neuropathy occurred in 6% of patients in the subcutaneous treatment group, compared with 15% in the intravenous treatment group *[see Adverse Reactions (6.1)]*. Starting bortezomib subcutaneously may be considered for patients with pre-existing or at high risk of peripheral neuropathy.

Patients experiencing new or worsening peripheral neuropathy during bortezomib therapy may require a decrease in the dose and/or a less dose-intense schedule *[see Dosage and Administration (2.7)]*. In the bortezomib vs dexamethasone Phase 3 relapsed multiple myeloma study, improvement in or resolution of peripheral neuropathy was reported in 48% of patients with ≥Grade 2 peripheral neuropathy following dose adjustment or interruption. Improvement in or resolution of peripheral neuropathy was reported in 73% of patients who discontinued due to Grade 2 neuropathy or who had ≥Grade 3 peripheral neuropathy in the Phase 2 multiple myeloma studies. The long-term outcome of peripheral neuropathy has not been studied in mantle cell lymphoma.

5.2 Hypotension

The incidence of hypotension (postural, orthostatic, and hypotension NOS) was 8% *[see Adverse Reactions (6.1)]*. These events are observed throughout therapy. Patients with a history of syncope, patients receiving medications known to be associated with hypotension, and patients who are dehydrated may be at increased risk of hypotension. Management of orthostatic/postural hypotension may include adjustment of antihypertensive medications, hydration, and administration of mineralocorticoids and/or sympathomimetics.

5.3 Cardiac Toxicity

Acute development or exacerbation of congestive heart failure and new onset of decreased left ventricular ejection fraction have occurred during bortezomib therapy, including reports in patients with no risk factors for decreased left ventricular ejection fraction *[see Adverse Reactions (6.1)]*. Patients with risk factors for, or existing heart disease should be frequently monitored. In the relapsed multiple myeloma study of bortezomib vs dexamethasone, the incidence of any treatment-related cardiac disorder was 8% and 5% in the bortezomib and dexamethasone groups, respectively. The incidence of adverse reactions suggestive of heart failure (acute pulmonary edema, pulmonary edema, cardiac failure, congestive cardiac failure, cardiogenic shock) was ≤1% for each individual reaction in the bortezomib group. In the dexamethasone group the incidence was ≤1% for cardiac failure and congestive cardiac failure; there were no reported reactions of acute pulmonary edema, pulmonary edema, or cardiogenic shock. There have been isolated cases of QT-interval prolongation in clinical studies; causality has not been established.

5.4 Pulmonary Toxicity

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) and acute diffuse infiltrative pulmonary disease of unknown etiology such as pneumonitis, interstitial pneumonia, lung infiltration have occurred in patients receiving bortezomib. Some of these events have been fatal.

In a clinical trial, the first two patients given high-dose cytarabine (2 g/m^2 per day) by continuous infusion with daunorubicin and bortezomib for relapsed acute myelogenous leukemia died of ARDS early in the course of therapy.

There have been reports of pulmonary hypertension associated with bortezomib administration in the absence of left heart failure or significant pulmonary disease.

In the event of new or worsening cardiopulmonary symptoms, consider interrupting bortezomib until a prompt and comprehensive diagnostic evaluation is conducted.

5.5 Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES)

Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES; formerly termed Reversible Posterior Leukoencephalopathy Syndrome (RPLS)) has occurred in patients receiving bortezomib. PRES is a rare, reversible, neurological disorder which can present with seizure, hypertension, headache, lethargy, confusion, blindness, and other visual and neurological disturbances. Brain imaging, preferably MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), is used to confirm the diagnosis. In patients developing PRES, discontinue bortezomib. The safety of reinitiating bortezomib therapy in patients previously experiencing PRES is not known.

5.6 Gastrointestinal Toxicity

Bortezomib treatment can cause nausea, diarrhea, constipation, and vomiting *[see Adverse Reactions (6.1)]* sometimes requiring use of antiemetic and antidiarrheal medications. Ileus can occur. Fluid and electrolyte replacement should be administered to prevent dehydration. Interrupt bortezomib for severe symptoms.

5.7 Thrombocytopenia/Neutropenia

Bortezomib is associated with thrombocytopenia and neutropenia that follow a cyclical pattern with nadirs occurring following the last dose of each cycle and typically recovering prior to initiation of the subsequent cycle. The cyclical pattern of platelet and neutrophil decreases and recovery remain consistent in the studies of multiple myeloma and mantle cell lymphoma, with no evidence of cumulative thrombocytopenia or neutropenia in the treatment regimens studied.

Monitor complete blood counts (CBC) frequently during treatment with bortezomib. Measure platelet counts prior to each dose of bortezomib. Adjust dose/schedule for thrombocytopenia *[see Dosage and Administration (2.6)]*. Gastrointestinal and intracerebral hemorrhage has occurred during thrombocytopenia in association with bortezomib. Support with transfusions and supportive care, according to published guidelines.

In the single agent, relapsed multiple myeloma study of bortezomib vs dexamethasone, the mean platelet count nadir measured was approximately 40% of baseline. The severity of thrombocytopenia related to pretreatment platelet count is shown in *Table 8*. The incidence of bleeding (≥Grade 3) was 2% on the bortezomib arm and was <1% in the dexamethasone arm.

Table 8: Severity of Thrombocytopenia Related to Pretreatment Platelet Count in the Relapsed Multiple Myeloma Study of Bortezomib vs Dexamethasone

Pretreatment Platelet Count*	**Number of Patients (N=331)‡**	**Number (%) of Patients with Platelet Count <10,000/µL**	**Number (%) of Patients with Platelet Count 10,000 to 25,000/µL**
≥75,000/µL	309	8 (3%)	36 (12%)
≥50,000/µL to <75,000/µL	14	2 (14%)	11 (79%)
≥10,000/µL to <50,000/µL	7	1 (14%)	5 (71%)

* A baseline platelet count of 50,000/µL was required for study eligibility

‡ Data were missing at baseline for one patient

In the combination study of bortezomib with rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and prednisone (VcR-CAP) in previously untreated mantle cell lymphoma patients, the incidence of thrombocytopenia (≥Grade 4) was 32% vs 1% for the rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone (R-CHOP) arm as shown in *Table 12*. The incidence of bleeding events (≥Grade 3) was 1.7% in the VcR-CAP arm (four patients) and was 1.2% in the R-CHOP arm (three patients).

Platelet transfusions were given to 23% of the patients in the VcR-CAP arm and 3% of the patients in the R-CHOP arm.

The incidence of neutropenia (≥Grade 4) was 70% in the VcR-CAP arm and was 52% in the R-CHOP arm. The incidence of febrile neutropenia (≥Grade 4) was 5% in the VcR-CAP arm and was 6% in the R-CHOP arm. Myeloid growth factor support was provided at a rate of 78% in the VcR-CAP arm and 61% in the R-CHOP arm.

5.8 Tumor Lysis Syndrome

Tumor lysis syndrome has been reported with bortezomib therapy. Patients at risk of tumor lysis syndrome are those with high tumor burden prior to treatment. Monitor patients closely and take appropriate precautions.

5.9 Hepatic Toxicity

Cases of acute liver failure have been reported in patients receiving multiple concomitant medications and with serious underlying medical conditions. Other reported hepatic reactions include hepatitis, increases in liver enzymes, and hyperbilirubinemia. Interrupt bortezomib therapy to assess reversibility. There is limited rechallenge information in these patients.

5.10 Thrombotic Microangiopathy

Cases, sometimes fatal, of thrombotic microangiopathy, including thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura/hemolytic uremic syndrome (TTP/HUS), have been reported in the postmarketing setting in patients who received bortezomib. Monitor for signs and symptoms of TTP/HUS. If the diagnosis is suspected, stop bortezomib and evaluate. If the diagnosis of TTP/HUS is excluded, consider restarting bortezomib. The safety of reinitiating bortezomib therapy in patients previously experiencing TTP/HUS is not known.

5.11 Embryo-Fetal Toxicity

Based on the mechanism of action and findings in animals, bortezomib can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Bortezomib administered to rabbits during organogenesis at a dose approximately 0.5 times the clinical dose of 1.3 mg/m^2 based on body surface area caused postimplantation loss and a decreased number of live fetuses *[see Use in Specific Populations (8.1)]*.

Advise females of reproductive potential to use effective contraception during treatment with bortezomib and for seven months following treatment. Advise males with female partners of reproductive potential to use effective contraception during treatment with bortezomib and for four months following treatment. If bortezomib is used during pregnancy or if the patient becomes pregnant during bortezomib treatment, the patient should be apprised of the potential risk to the fetus *[see Use in Specific Populations (8.1, 8.3), Nonclinical Toxicology (13.1)]*.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following clinically significant adverse reactions are also discussed in other sections of the labeling:

- Peripheral Neuropathy *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]*
- Hypotension *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.2)]*
- Cardiac Toxicity *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)]*
- Pulmonary Toxicity *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)]*
- Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES) *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.5)]*
- Gastrointestinal Toxicity *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.6)]*
- Thrombocytopenia/Neutropenia *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.7)]*
- Tumor Lysis Syndrome *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.8)]*
- Hepatic Toxicity *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.9)]*
- Thrombotic Microangiopathy *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.10)]*

6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in clinical practice.

Summary of Clinical Trial in Patients with Previously Untreated Multiple Myeloma

Table 9 describes safety data from 340 patients with previously untreated multiple myeloma who received bortezomib (1.3 mg/m^2) administered intravenously in combination with melphalan (9 mg/m^2) and prednisone (60 mg/m^2) in a prospective randomized study.

The safety profile of bortezomib in combination with melphalan/prednisone is consistent with the known safety profiles of both bortezomib and melphalan/prednisone.

Table 9: Most Commonly Reported Adverse Reactions (≥10% in the Bortezomib, Melphalan and Prednisone Arm) with Grades 3 and ≥4 Intensity in the Previously Untreated Multiple Myeloma Study

	Bortezomib, Melphalan and Prednisone (n=340)			**Melphalan and Prednisone (n=337)**		
Body System	**Total**	**Toxicity Grade, n (%)**		**Total**	**Toxicity Grade, n (%)**	
Adverse Reaction	**n (%)**	**3**	**≥4**	**n (%)**	**3**	**≥4**
Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders						
Thrombocytopenia	164 (48)	60 (18)	57 (17)	140 (42)	48 (14)	39 (12)
Neutropenia	160 (47)	101 (30)	33 (10)	143 (42)	77 (23)	42 (12)
Anemia	109 (32)	41 (12)	4 (1)	156 (46)	61 (18)	18 (5)
Leukopenia	108 (32)	64 (19)	8 (2)	93 (28)	53 (16)	11 (3)
Lymphopenia	78 (23)	46 (14)	17 (5)	51 (15)	26 (8)	7 (2)
Gastrointestinal Disorders						
Nausea	134 (39)	10 (3)	0	70 (21)	1 (<1)	0
Diarrhea	119 (35)	19 (6)	2 (1)	20 (6)	1 (<1)	0

of patients. Two percent (2%) of patients discontinued treatment due to fatigue and <1% due to weakness and asthenia. Asthenic conditions were reported in 53% of patients with multiple myeloma and 59% of patients with mantle cell lymphoma.

Pyrexia

Pyrexia (>38ºC) was reported as an adverse reaction for 21% of patients. The reaction was Grade 3 in 1% and ≥Grade 4 in <1%. Pyrexia was reported as a serious adverse reaction in 3% of patients and led to bortezomib discontinuation in <1% of patients. The incidence of pyrexia was higher among patients with multiple myeloma (23%) compared to patients with mantle cell lymphoma (10%). The incidence of ≥Grade 3 pyrexia was 1% in patients with multiple myeloma and <1% in patients with mantle cell lymphoma.

Herpes Virus Infection

Consider using antiviral prophylaxis in subjects being treated with bortezomib. In the randomized studies in previously untreated and relapsed multiple myeloma, herpes zoster reactivation was more common in subjects treated with bortezomib (ranging between 6 to 11%) than in the control groups (3 to 4%). Herpes simplex was seen in 1 to 3% in subjects treated with bortezomib and 1 to 3% in the control groups. In the previously untreated multiple myeloma study, herpes zoster virus reactivation in the bortezomib, melphalan and prednisone arm was less common in subjects receiving prophylactic antiviral therapy (3%) than in subjects who did not receive prophylactic antiviral therapy (17%).

Retreatment in Relapsed Multiple Myeloma

A single-arm trial was conducted in 130 patients with relapsed multiple myeloma to determine the efficacy and safety of retreatment with intravenous bortezomib. The safety profile of patients in this trial is consistent with the known safety profile of bortezomib-treated patients with relapsed multiple myeloma as demonstrated in *Tables 10, 11,* and *13*; no cumulative toxicities were observed upon retreatment. The most common adverse drug reaction was thrombocytopenia which occurred in 52% of the patients. The incidence of ≥Grade 3 thrombocytopenia was 24%. Peripheral neuropathy occurred in 28% of patients, with the incidence of ≥Grade 3 peripheral neuropathy reported at 6%. The incidence of serious adverse reactions was 12.3%. The most commonly reported serious adverse reactions were thrombocytopenia (3.8%), diarrhea (2.3%), and herpes zoster and pneumonia (1.5% each).

Adverse reactions leading to discontinuation occurred in 13% of patients. The reasons for discontinuation included peripheral neuropathy (5%) and diarrhea (3%).

Two deaths considered to be bortezomib-related occurred within 30 days of the last bortezomib dose; one in a patient with cerebrovascular accident and one in a patient with sepsis.

Additional Adverse Reactions from Clinical Studies

The following clinically important serious adverse reactions that are not described above have been reported in clinical trials in patients treated with bortezomib administered as monotherapy or in combination with other chemotherapeutics. These studies were conducted in patients with hematological malignancies and in solid tumors.

Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders: Anemia, disseminated intravascular coagulation, febrile neutropenia, lymphopenia, leukopenia

Cardiac Disorders: Angina pectoris, atrial fibrillation aggravated, atrial flutter, bradycardia, sinus arrest, cardiac amyloidosis, complete atrioventricular block, myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, pericarditis, pericardial effusion, *Torsades de pointes*, ventricular tachycardia

Ear and Labyrinth Disorders: Hearing impaired, vertigo

Eye Disorders: Diplopia and blurred vision, conjunctival infection, irritation

Gastrointestinal Disorders: Abdominal pain, ascites, dysphagia, fecal impaction, gastroenteritis, gastritis hemorrhagic, hematemesis, hemorrhagic duodenitis, ileus paralytic, large intestinal obstruction, paralytic intestinal obstruction, peritonitis, small intestinal obstruction, large intestinal perforation, stomatitis, melena, pancreatitis acute, oral mucosal petechiae, gastroesophageal reflux

General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions: Chills, edema, edema peripheral, injection site erythema, neuralgia, injection site pain, irritation, malaise, phlebitis

Hepatobiliary Disorders: Cholestasis, hepatic hemorrhage, hyperbilirubinemia, portal vein thrombosis, hepatitis, liver failure

Immune System Disorders: Anaphylactic reaction, drug hypersensitivity, immune complex mediated hypersensitivity, angioedema, laryngeal edema

Infections and Infestations: Aspergillosis, bacteremia, bronchitis, urinary tract infection, herpes viral infection, listeriosis, nasopharyngitis, pneumonia, respiratory tract infection, septic shock, toxoplasmosis, oral candidiasis, sinusitis, catheter-related infection

Injury, Poisoning and Procedural Complications: Catheter-related complication, skeletal fracture, subdural hematoma

Investigations: Weight decreased

Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders: Dehydration, hypocalcemia, hyperuricemia, hypokalemia, hyperkalemia, hyponatremia, hypernatremia

Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders: Arthralgia, back pain, bone pain, myalgia, pain in extremity

Nervous System Disorders: Ataxia, coma, dizziness, dysarthria, dysesthesia, dysautonomia, encephalopathy, cranial palsy, grand mal convulsion, headache, hemorrhagic stroke, motor dysfunction, neuralgia, spinal cord compression, paralysis, postherpetic neuralgia, transient ischemic attack

Psychiatric Disorders: Agitation, anxiety, confusion, insomnia, mental status change, psychotic disorder, suicidal ideation

Renal and Urinary Disorders: Calculus renal, bilateral hydronephrosis, bladder spasm, hematuria, hemorrhagic cystitis, urinary incontinence, urinary retention, renal failure (acute and chronic), glomerular nephritis proliferative

Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders: Acute respiratory distress syndrome, aspiration pneumonia, atelectasis, chronic obstructive airways disease exacerbated, cough, dysphagia, dyspnea, dyspnea exertional, epistaxis, hemoptysis, hypoxia, lung infiltration, pleural effusion, pneumonitis, respiratory distress, pulmonary hypertension

Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders: Urticaria, face edema, rash (which may be pruritic), leukocytoclastic vasculitis, pruritus

Vascular Disorders: Cerebrovascular accident, cerebral hemorrhage, deep venous thrombosis, hypertension, peripheral embolism, pulmonary embolism, pulmonary hypertension

6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been identified from the worldwide postmarketing experience with bortezomib. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure:

Cardiac Disorders: Cardiac tamponade

Ear and Labyrinth Disorders: Deafness bilateral

Eye Disorders: Optic neuropathy, blindness, chalazion/blepharitis

Gastrointestinal Disorders: Ischemic colitis

Infections and Infestations: Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), ophthalmic herpes, herpes meningoencephalitis

Nervous System Disorders: Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES, formerly RPLS), Guillain-Barré syndrome, demyelinating polyneuropathy

Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders: Acute diffuse infiltrative pulmonary disease

Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders: Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis (SJS/TEN), acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis (Sweet's syndrome)

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

7.1 Effects of Other Drugs on Bortezomib

Strong CYP3A4 Inducers

Coadministration with a strong CYP3A4 inducer decreases the exposure of bortezomib *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)]* which may decrease bortezomib efficacy. Avoid coadministration with strong CYP3A4 inducers.

Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitors

Coadministration with a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor increases the exposure of bortezomib *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)]* which may increase the risk of bortezomib toxicities. Monitor patients for signs of bortezomib toxicity and consider a bortezomib dose reduction if bortezomib must be given in combination with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors.

7.2 Drugs Without Clinically Significant Interactions with Bortezomib

No clinically significant drug interactions have been observed when bortezomib was coadministered with dexamethasone, omeprazole, or melphalan in combination with prednisone *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)]*.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Risk Summary

Based on its mechanism of action *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.1)]* and findings in animals, bortezomib can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. There are no studies with the use of bortezomib in pregnant women to inform drug-associated risks. Bortezomib caused embryo-fetal lethality in rabbits at doses lower than the clinical dose *(see Data)*. Advise pregnant women of the potential risk to the fetus.

Adverse outcomes in pregnancy occur regardless of the health of the mother or the use of medications. The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. In the U.S. 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.

Data

Animal Data

Bortezomib was not teratogenic in nonclinical developmental toxicity studies in rats and rabbits at the highest dose tested (0.075 mg/kg; 0.5 mg/m^2 in the rat and 0.05 mg/kg; 0.6 mg/m^2 in the rabbit) when administered during organogenesis. These dosages are approximately 0.5 times the clinical dose of 1.3 mg/m^2 based on body surface area.

Bortezomib caused embryo-fetal lethality in rabbits at doses lower than the clinical dose (approximately 0.5 times the clinical dose of 1.3 mg/m^2 based on body surface area). Pregnant rabbits given bortezomib during organogenesis at a dose of 0.05 mg/kg (0.6 mg/m^2) experienced significant postimplantation loss and decreased number of live fetuses. Live fetuses from these litters also showed significant decreases in fetal weight.

8.2 Lactation

Risk Summary

There are no data on the presence of bortezomib or its metabolites in human milk, the effects of the drug on the breastfed child, or the effects of the drug on milk production. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because the potential for serious adverse reactions in a breastfed child from bortezomib is unknown, advise nursing women not to breastfeed during treatment with bortezomib and for two months after treatment.

8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential

Based on its mechanism of action and findings in animals, bortezomib can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman *[see Use in Specific Populations (8.1)]*.

Pregnancy Testing

Conduct pregnancy testing in females of reproductive potential prior to initiating bortezomib treatment.

Contraception

Females

Advise females of reproductive potential to use effective contraception during treatment with bortezomib and for seven months after the last dose.

Males

Males with female partners of reproductive potential should use effective contraception during treatment with bortezomib and for four months after the last dose.

Infertility

Based on the mechanism of action and findings in animals, bortezomib may have an effect on either male or female fertility *[see Nonclinical Toxicology (13.1)]*.

8.4 Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness have not been established in pediatric patients.

The activity and safety of bortezomib in combination with intensive reinduction chemotherapy was evaluated in pediatric and young adult patients with lymphoid malignancies (pre-B cell ALL 77%, 16% with T-cell ALL, and 7% T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma (LL)), all of whom relapsed within 36 months of initial diagnosis in a single-arm multicenter, nonrandomized cooperative group trial. An effective reinduction multiagent chemotherapy regimen was administered in three blocks. Block 1 included vincristine, prednisone, doxorubicin and pegaspargase; Block 2 included cyclophosphamide, etoposide and methotrexate; Block 3 included high-dose cytosine arabinoside and asparaginase. Bortezomib was administered at a dose of 1.3 mg/m^2 as a bolus intravenous injection on Days 1, 4, 8, and 11 of Block 1 and Days 1, 4, and 8 of Block 2. There were 140 patients with ALL or LL enrolled and evaluated for safety. The median age was ten years (range: 1 to 26), 57% were male, 70% were white, 14% were black, 4% were Asian, 2% were American Indian/Alaska Native, 1% were Pacific Islander.

The activity was evaluated in a prespecified subset of the first 60 evaluable patients enrolled on the study with pre-B ALL ≤21 years and relapsed <36 months from diagnosis. The complete remission (CR) rate at day 36 was compared to that in a historical control set of patients who had received the identical backbone therapy without bortezomib. There was no evidence that the addition of bortezomib had any impact on the CR rate.

No new safety concerns were observed when bortezomib was added to a chemotherapy backbone regimen as compared with a historical control group in which the backbone regimen was given without bortezomib.

The BSA-normalized clearance of bortezomib in pediatric patients was similar to that observed in adults.

8.5 Geriatric Use

Of the 669 patients enrolled in the relapsed multiple myeloma study, 245 (37%) were 65 years of age or older: 125 (38%) on the bortezomib arm and 120 (36%) on the dexamethasone arm. Median time to progression and median duration of response for patients ≥65 were longer on bortezomib compared to dexamethasone [5.5 mo vs 4.3 mo, and 8.0 mo vs 4.9 mo, respectively]. On the bortezomib arm, 40% (n=46) of evaluable patients aged ≥65 experienced response (CR + PR) vs 18% (n=21) on the dexamethasone arm. The incidence of Grade 3 and 4 events was 64%, 78% and 75% for bortezomib patients ≤50, 51 to 64 and ≥65 years old, respectively *[see Adverse Reactions (6.1), Clinical Studies (14.1)]*.

No overall differences in safety or effectiveness were observed between patients ≥age 65 and younger patients receiving bortezomib; but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

8.6 Renal Impairment

No starting dosage adjustment of bortezomib is recommended for patients with renal impairment. In patients requiring dialysis, bortezomib should be administered after the dialysis procedure *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)]*.

8.7 Hepatic Impairment

No starting dosage adjustment of bortezomib is recommended for patients with mild hepatic impairment (total bilirubin ≤1x ULN and AST >ULN, or total bilirubin >1 to 1.5x ULN and any AST). The exposure of bortezomib is increased in patients with moderate (total bilirubin ≥1.5 to 3x ULN and any AST) and severe (total bilirubin >3x ULN and any AST) hepatic impairment. Reduce the starting dose in patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment *[see Dosage and Administration (2.8), Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)]*.

8.8 Patients with Diabetes

During clinical trials, hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia were reported in diabetic patients receiving oral hypoglycemics. Patients on oral antidiabetic agents receiving bortezomib treatment may require close monitoring of their blood glucose levels and adjustment of the dose of their antidiabetic medication.

10 OVERDOSAGE

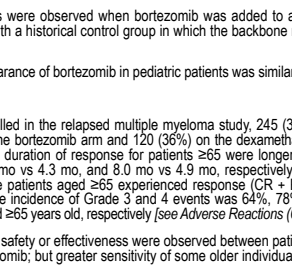
There is no known specific antidote for bortezomib overdosage. In humans, fatal outcomes following the administration of more than twice the recommended therapeutic dose have been reported, which were associated with the acute onset of symptomatic hypotension (5.2) and thrombocytopenia (5.7). In the event of an overdosage, the patient's vital signs should be monitored and appropriate supportive care given.

Studies in monkeys and dogs showed that intravenous bortezomib doses as low as two times the recommended clinical dose on a mg/m^2 basis were associated with increases in heart rate, decreases in contractility, hypotension, and death. In dog studies, a slight increase in the corrected QT interval was observed at doses resulting in death. In monkeys, doses of 3 mg/m^2 and greater (approximately twice the recommended clinical dose) resulted in hypotension starting at one hour postadministration, with progression to death in 12 to 14 hours following drug administration.

11 DESCRIPTION

Bortezomib for Injection, a proteasome inhibitor, contains bortezomib which is an antineoplastic agent. Bortezomib is a modified dipeptidyl boronic acid. The chemical name for bortezomib, the monomeric boronic acid, is [(1R)-3-methyl-1-[[(2S)-1-oxo-3-phenyl-2-[(pyrazinylcarbonyl) amino]propyl]amino] butyl] boronic acid.

Bortezomib has the following chemical structure:



The molecular weight is 384.24. The molecular formula is $C_{19}H_{25}BN_4O_4$. The solubility of bortezomib, as the monomeric boronic acid, in water is 3.3 to 3.8 mg/mL in a pH range of 4.0 to 7.0.

Bortezomib for Injection is available for intravenous injection or subcutaneous use. Each single-dose vial contains 3.5 mg of bortezomib as a sterile lyophilized powder. It also contains the inactive ingredient: 35 mg mannitol. The product is provided as a mannitol boronic ester which, in reconstituted form, consists of the mannitol ester in equilibrium with its hydrolysis product, the monomeric boronic acid. The drug substance exists in its cyclic anhydride form as a trimeric boroxine.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

Bortezomib is a reversible inhibitor of the chymotrypsin-like activity of the 26S proteasome in mammalian cells. The 26S proteasome is a large protein complex that degrades ubiquitinated proteins. The ubiquitin-proteasome pathway plays an essential role in regulating the intracellular concentration of specific proteins, thereby maintaining homeostasis within cells. Inhibition of the 26S proteasome prevents this targeted proteolysis, which can affect multiple signaling cascades within the cell. This disruption of normal homeostatic mechanisms can lead to cell death. Experiments have demonstrated that bortezomib is cytotoxic to a variety of cancer cell types *in vitro*. Bortezomib causes a delay in tumor growth *in vivo* in nonclinical tumor models, including multiple myeloma.

12.2 Pharmacodynamics

Following twice weekly administration of 1 mg/m^2 and 1.3 mg/m^2 bortezomib doses, the maximum inhibition of 20S proteasome activity (relative to baseline) in whole blood was observed five minutes after drug administration. Comparable maximum inhibition of 20S proteasome activity was observed between 1 and 1.3 mg/m^2 doses. Maximal inhibition ranged from 70% to 84% and from 73% to 83% for the 1 mg/m^2 and 1.3 mg/m^2 dose regimens, respectively.

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Following intravenous administration of 1 mg/m^2 and 1.3 mg/m^2 doses, the mean maximum plasma concentrations of bortezomib (C_{max}) after the first dose (Day 1) were 57 and 112 ng/mL, respectively. When administered twice weekly, the mean maximum observed plasma concentrations ranged from 67 to 106 ng/mL for the 1 mg/m^2 dose and 89 to 120 ng/mL for the 1.3 mg/m^2 dose.

Following an intravenous bolus or subcutaneous injection of a 1.3 mg/m^2 dose to patients with multiple myeloma, the total systemic exposure after repeat dose administration (AUC_{last}) was equivalent for subcutaneous and intravenous administration. The AUC_{last} geometric mean ratio (90% confidence interval) was 0.99 (0.80 to 1.23). The C_{max} after subcutaneous administration (20.4 ng/mL) was lower than after intravenous administration (223 ng/mL) with repeat dose administration.

Distribution

The mean distribution volume of bortezomib ranged from approximately 498 to 1884 L/m^2 following single- or repeat-dose administration of 1 mg/m^2 or 1.3 mg/m^2 to patients with multiple myeloma. The binding of bortezomib to human plasma proteins averaged 83% over the concentration range of 100 to 1000 ng/mL.

Elimination

The mean elimination half-life of bortezomib upon multiple dosing ranged from 40 to 193 hours after the 1 mg/m^2 dose and 76 to 108 hours after the 1.3 mg/m^2 dose. The mean total body clearances were 102 and 112 L/h following the first dose for doses of 1 mg/m^2 and 1.3 mg/m^2, respectively, and ranged from 15 to 32 L/h following subsequent doses for doses of 1 and 1.3 mg/m^2, respectively.

Metabolism

Bortezomib is primarily oxidatively metabolized to several inactive metabolites *in vitro* via cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzymes 3A4, CYP2C19, and CYP1A2, and to a lesser extent by CYP2D6 and CYP2C9.

Excretion

The pathways of elimination of bortezomib have not been characterized in humans.

Specific Populations

No clinically significant differences in the pharmacokinetics of bortezomib were observed based on age, sex, or renal impairment (including patients administered bortezomib after dialysis). The effect of race on bortezomib pharmacokinetics is unknown.

Patients with Hepatic Impairment

Following administration of bortezomib doses ranging from 0.5 to 1.3 mg/m^2, mild (total bilirubin ≤1x ULN and AST >ULN, or total bilirubin >1 to 1.5x ULN and any AST) hepatic impairment did not alter dose-normalized bortezomib AUC when compared to patients with normal hepatic function. Dose normalized mean bortezomib AUC increased by approximately 60% in patients with moderate (total bilirubin >1.5 to 3x ULN and any AST) or severe (total bilirubin >3x ULN and any AST) hepatic impairment. A lower starting dose is recommended in patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment.

Drug Interaction Studies

Clinical Studies

No clinically significant differences in bortezomib pharmacokinetics were observed when coadministered with dexamethasone (weak CYP3A4 inducer), omeprazole (strong CYP2C19 inhibitor), or melphalan in combination with prednisone.

Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitor

Coadministration with ketoconazole (strong CYP3A4 inhibitor) increased bortezomib exposure by 35%.

Strong CYP3A4 Inducer

Coadministration with rifampin (strong CYP3A4 inducer) decreased bortezomib exposure by approximately 45%.

In Vitro Studies

Bortezomib may inhibit CYP2C19 activity and increase exposure to drugs that are substrates for this enzyme.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenicity studies have not been conducted with bortezomib.

Bortezomib showed clastogenic activity (structural chromosomal aberrations) in the *in vitro* chromosomal aberration assay using Chinese hamster ovary cells. Bortezomib was not genotoxic when tested in the *in vitro* mutagenicity assay (Ames test) and *in vivo* micronucleus assay in mice.

Fertility studies with bortezomib were not performed but evaluation of reproductive tissues has been performed in the general toxicity studies. In the six month rat toxicity study, degenerative effects in the ovary were observed at doses ≥0.3 mg/m^2 (one-fourth of the recommended clinical dose), and degenerative changes in the testes occurred at 1.2 mg/m^2.

13.2 Animal Toxicology and/or Pharmacology

Cardiovascular Toxicity

Studies in monkeys showed that administration of dosages approximately twice the recommended clinical dose resulted in heart rate elevations, followed by profound progressive hypotension, bradycardia, and death 12 to 14 hours postdose. Doses ≥1.2 mg/m^2 induced dose-proportional changes in cardiac parameters. Bortezomib has been shown to distribute to most tissues in the body, including the myocardium. In a repeated dosing toxicity study in the monkey, myocardial hemorrhage, inflammation, and necrosis were also observed.

Chronic Administration

In animal studies at a dose and schedule similar to that recommended for patients (twice weekly dosing for two weeks followed by one week rest), toxicities observed included severe anemia and thrombocytopenia, and gastrointestinal, neurological and lymphoid system toxicities. Neurotoxic effects of bortezomib in animal studies included axonal swelling and degeneration in peripheral nerves, dorsal spinal roots, and tracts of the spinal cord. Additionally, multifocal hemorrhage and necrosis in the brain, eye, and heart were observed.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

14.1 Multiple Myeloma

Randomized, Open-Label Clinical Study in Patients with Previously Untreated Multiple Myeloma

A prospective, international, randomized (1:1), open-label clinical study (NCT00111319) of 682 patients was conducted to determine whether bortezomib administered intravenously (1.3 mg/m^2) in combination with melphalan (9 mg/m^2) and prednisone (60 mg/m^2) resulted in improvement in time to progression (TTP) when compared to melphalan (9 mg/m^2) and prednisone (60 mg/m^2) in patients with previously untreated multiple myeloma. Treatment was administered for a maximum of nine cycles (approximately 54 weeks) and was discontinued early for disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. Antiviral prophylaxis was recommended for patients on the bortezomib study arm.

The median age of the patients in the study was 71 years (48;91), 50% were male, 88% were Caucasian and the median Karnofsky performance status score for the patients was 80 (60;100). Patients had IgG/IgA/Light chain myeloma in 63%/25%/8% instances, a median hemoglobin of 105 g/L (64;165), and a median platelet count of 221,500/microliter (33,000;587,000).

Efficacy results for the trial are presented in *Table 14*. At a prespecified interim analysis (with median follow-up of 16.3 months), the combination of bortezomib, melphalan and prednisone therapy resulted in significantly superior results for time to progression, progression-free survival, overall survival and response rate. Further enrollment was halted, and patients receiving melphalan and prednisone were offered bortezomib in addition. A later, prespecified analysis of overall survival (with median follow-up of 36.7 months with a hazard ratio of 0.65, 95% CI: 0.51, 0.84) resulted in a statistically significant survival benefit for the bortezomib, melphalan and prednisone treatment arm despite subsequent therapies including bortezomib based regimens. In an updated analysis of overall survival based on 387 deaths (median follow-up 60.1 months), the median overall survival for the bortezomib, melphalan and prednisone treatment arm was 56.4 months and for the melphalan and prednisone treatment arm was 43.1 months, with a hazard ratio of 0.695 (95% CI: 0.57, 0.85).

Table 14: Summary of Efficacy Analyses in the Previously Untreated Multiple Myeloma Study

Efficacy Endpoint	Bortezomib, Melphalan and Prednisone (n=344)	Melphalan and Prednisone (n=338)
Time to Progression		
Events n (%)	101 (29)	152 (45)
Median* (months) (95% CI)	20.7 (17.6, 24.7)	15.0 (14.1, 17.9)
Hazard ratio† (95% CI)	0.54 (0.42, 0.70)	
p-value‡	0.000002	
Progression-Free Survival		
Events n (%)	135 (39)	190 (56)
Median* (months) (95% CI)	18.3 (16.6, 21.7)	14.0 (11.1, 15.0)
Hazard ratio† (95% CI)	0.61 (0.49, 0.76)	
p-value ‡	0.00001	
Response Rate		
CR§ n (%)	102 (30)	12 (4)
PR§ n (%)	136 (40)	103 (30)
nCR n (%)	5 (1)	0
CR + PR§ n (%)	238 (69)	115 (34)
p-value¶	$<10^{-10}$	
Overall Survival at Median Follow-Up of 36.7 Months		
Events (deaths) n (%)	109 (32)	148 (44)
Median* (months) (95% CI)	Not Reached (46.2, NR)	43.1 (34.8, NR)
Hazard ratio† (95% CI)	0.65 (0.51, 0.84)	
p-value‡	0.00084	

Note: All results are based on the analysis performed at a median follow-up duration of 16.3 months except for the overall survival analysis.

* Kaplan-Meier estimate

† Hazard ratio estimate is based on a Cox proportional-hazard model adjusted for stratification factors: beta$_2$-microglobulin, albumin, and region. A hazard ratio less than one indicates an advantage for bortezomib, melphalan and prednisone

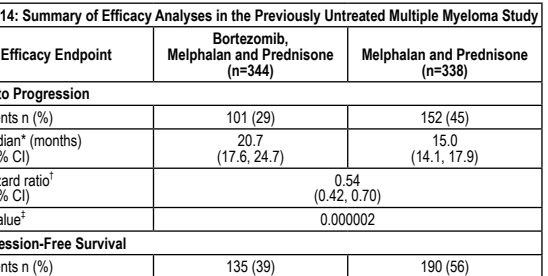
‡ p-value based on the stratified log-rank test adjusted for stratification factors: beta$_2$-microglobulin, albumin, and region

§ EBMT criteria

¶ p-value for Response Rate (CR + PR) from the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square test adjusted for the stratification factors

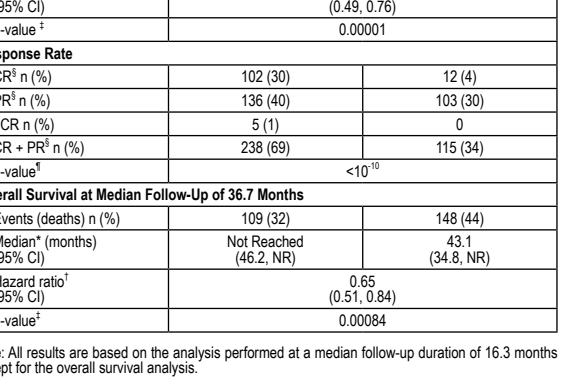
TTP was statistically significantly longer on the bortezomib, melphalan and prednisone arm *(see Figure 1)* (median follow-up 16.3 months).

Figure 1: Time to Progression Bortezomib, Melphalan and Prednisone vs Melphalan and Prednisone



Overall survival was statistically significantly longer on the bortezomib, melphalan and prednisone arm *(see Figure 2)* (median follow-up 60.1 months).

Figure 2: Overall Survival Bortezomib, Melphalan and Prednisone vs Melphalan and Prednisone



Randomized, Clinical Study in Relapsed Multiple Myeloma of Bortezomib vs Dexamethasone

A prospective Phase 3, international, randomized (1:1), stratified, open-label clinical study (NCT00048230) enrolling 669 patients was designed to determine whether bortezomib resulted in improvement in time to progression (TTP) compared to high-dose dexamethasone in patients with progressive multiple myeloma following 1 to 3 prior therapies. Patients considered to be refractory to prior high-dose dexamethasone were excluded as were those with baseline Grade ≥2 peripheral neuropathy or platelet counts <50,000/µL. A total of 627 patients were evaluable for response.

Stratification factors were based on the number of lines of prior therapy the patient had previously received (one previous line vs more than one line of therapy), time of progression relative to prior treatment (progression during or within six months of stopping their most recent therapy vs relapse >6 months after receiving their most recent therapy), and screening beta$_2$-microglobulin levels (≤2.5 mg/L vs >2.5 mg/L).

Baseline patient and disease characteristics are summarized in *Table 15*.

Table 15: Summary of Baseline Patient and Disease Characteristics in the Relapsed Multiple Myeloma Study

Patient Characteristics	Bortezomib (N=333)	Dexamethasone (N=336)
Median age in years (range)	62.0 (33, 84)	61.0 (27, 86)
Gender: Male/female	56%/44%	60%/40%
Race: Caucasian/black/other	90%/6%/4%	88%/7%/5%
Karnofsky performance status score ≤70	13%	17%
Hemoglobin <100 g/L	32%	28%
Platelet count <75 x 10^9/L	6%	4%
Disease Characteristics		
Type of myeloma (%): IgG/IgA/Light chain	60%/23%/12%	59%/24%/13%
Median beta$_2$-microglobulin (mg/L)	3.7	3.6
Median albumin (g/L)	39.0	39.0
Creatinine clearance ≤30 mL/min [n (%)]	17 (5%)	11 (3%)
Median Duration of Multiple Myeloma Since Diagnosis (Years)	3.5	3.1
Number of Prior Therapeutic Lines of Treatment		
Median	2	2
1 prior line	40%	35%
>1 prior line	60%	65%
Previous Therapy		
Any prior steroids, e.g., dexamethasone, VAD	98%	99%
Any prior anthracyclines, e.g., VAD, mitoxantrone	77%	76%
Any prior alkylating agents, e.g., MP, VBMCP	91%	92%
Any prior thalidomide therapy	48%	50%
Vinca alkaloids	74%	72%
Prior stem cell transplant/other high-dose therapy	67%	68%
Prior experimental or other types of therapy	3%	2%

Patients in the bortezomib treatment group were to receive 8, three week treatment cycles followed by 3, five week treatment cycles of bortezomib. Patients achieving a CR were treated for four cycles beyond first evidence of CR. Within each three week treatment cycle, bortezomib 1.3 mg/m^2/dose alone was administered by intravenous bolus twice weekly for two weeks on Days 1, 4, 8, and 11 followed by a ten day rest period (Days 12 to 21). Within each five week treatment cycle, bortezomib 1.3 mg/m^2/dose alone was administered by intravenous bolus once weekly for four weeks on Days 1, 8, 15, and 22 followed by a 13 day rest period (Days 23 to 35) *[see Dosage and Administration (2.2)]*.

Patients in the dexamethasone treatment group were to receive 4, five week treatment cycles followed by 5, four week treatment cycles. Within each five week treatment cycle, dexamethasone 40 mg/day PO was administered once daily on Days 1 to 4, 9 to 12, and 17 to 20 followed by a 15 day rest period (Days 21 to 35). Within each four week treatment cycle, dexamethasone 40 mg/day PO was administered once daily on Days 1 to 4 followed by a 24 day rest period (Days 5 to 28). Patients with documented progressive disease on dexamethasone were offered bortezomib at a standard dose and schedule on a companion study. Following a preplanned interim analysis of time to progression, the dexamethasone arm was halted and all patients randomized to dexamethasone were offered bortezomib, regardless of disease status.

In the bortezomib arm, 34% of patients received at least one bortezomib dose in all eight of the three week cycles of therapy, and 13% received at least one dose in all 11 cycles. The average number of bortezomib doses during the study was 22, with a range of 1 to 44. In the dexamethasone arm, 40% of patients received at least one dose in all four of the five week treatment cycles of therapy, and 6% received at least one dose in all nine cycles.

The time to event analyses and response rates from the relapsed multiple myeloma study are presented in *Table 16*. Response and progression were assessed using the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) criteria. Complete response (CR) required <5% plasma cells in the marrow, 100% reduction in M-protein, and a negative immunofixation test (IF$^-$). Partial response (PR) requires ≥50% reduction in serum myeloma protein and ≥90% reduction of urine myeloma protein on at least two occasions for a minimum of at least six weeks along with stable bone disease and normal calcium. Near complete response (nCR) was defined as meeting all the criteria for complete response including 100% reduction in M-protein by protein electrophoresis; however, M-protein was still detectable by immunofixation (IF$^+$).

Table 16: Summary of Efficacy Analyses in the Relapsed Multiple Myeloma Study

Efficacy Endpoint	All Patients		1 Prior Line of Therapy		>1 Prior Line of Therapy	
	Bortezomib (n=333)	Dex (n=336)	Bortezomib (n=132)	Dex (n=119)	Bortezomib (n=200)	Dex (n=217)
Time to Progression Events n (%)	147 (44)	196 (58)	55 (42)	64 (54)	92 (46)	132 (61)
Median* (95% CI)	6.2 mo (4.9, 6.9)	3.5 mo (2.9, 4.2)	7.0 mo (6.2, 8.8)	5.6 mo (3.4, 6.3)	4.9 mo (4.2, 6.3)	2.9 mo (2.8, 3.5)
Hazard ratio† (95% CI)	0.55 (0.44, 0.69)		0.55 (0.38, 0.81)		0.54 (0.41, 0.72)	
p-value‡	<0.0001		0.0019		<0.0001	
Overall Survival Events (deaths) n (%)	51 (15)	84 (25)	12 (9)	24 (20)	39 (20)	60 (28)
Hazard ratio† (95% CI)	0.57 (0.40, 0.81)		0.39 (0.19, 0.81)		0.65 (0.43, 0.97)	
p-value‡ §	<0.05		<0.05		<0.05	
Response Rate Population¶ n=627	n=315	n=312	n=128	n=110	n=187	n=202
CR# n (%)	20 (6)	2 (<1)	8 (6)	2 (2)	12 (6)	0 (0)
PR# n(%)	101 (32)	54 (17)	49 (38)	27 (25)	52 (28)	27 (13)
nCR#,♠ n(%)	21 (7)	3 (<1)	8 (6)	2 (2)	13 (7)	1 (<1)
CR + PR# n (%)	121 (38)	56 (18)	57 (45)	29 (26)	64 (34)	27 (13)
p-value♥	<0.0001		0.0035		<0.0001	

* Kaplan-Meier estimate

† Hazard ratio is based on Cox proportional-hazard model with the treatment as single independent variable. A hazard ratio less than one indicates an advantage for bortezomib

‡ p-value based on the stratified log-rank test including randomization stratification factors

§ Precise p-value cannot be rendered

¶ Response population includes patients who had measurable disease at baseline and received at least one dose of study drug

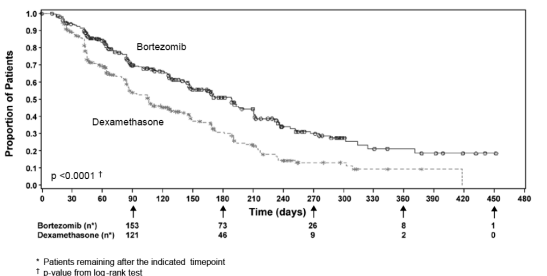
EBMT criteria; nCR meets all EBMT criteria for CR but has positive IF. Under EBMT criteria nCR is in the PR category

♠ In two patients, the IF was unknown

♥ p-value for Response Rate (CR + PR) from the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square test adjusted for the stratification factors

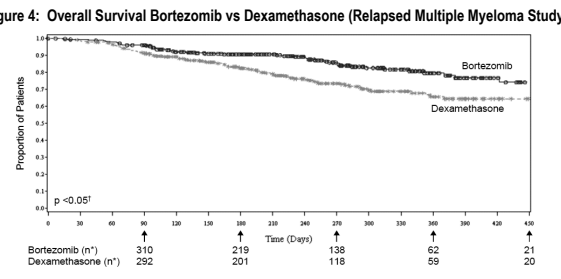
TTP was statistically significantly longer on the bortezomib arm *(see Figure 3)*.

Figure 3: Time to Progression Bortezomib vs Dexamethasone (Relapsed Multiple Myeloma Study)



As shown in *Figure 4*, bortezomib had a significant survival advantage relative to dexamethasone (p <0.05). The median follow-up was 8.3 months.

Figure 4: Overall Survival Bortezomib vs Dexamethasone (Relapsed Multiple Myeloma Study)


Proportion of Patients
Bortezomib
Dexamethasone
p <0.05†
Time (Days