

Bevec® (Bevacizumab)

COMPOSITION:
Bevec® 400mg/16ml
Active Ingredient:
Bevacizumab 25mg per ml

Bevec® 100mg/4ml
Active Ingredient:
Bevacizumab 25mg per ml

Concentrate for solution for infusion
(As per innovator's specs.)

DESCRIPTION

Bevacizumab is a vascular endothelial growth factor inhibitor. Bevacizumab is a recombinant humanized monoclonal IgG1 antibody that contains human framework regions and murine complementarity-determining regions. Bevacizumab has an approximate molecular weight of 148 kDa. Bevacizumab is produced in a mammalian cell (Chinese Hamster Ovary) expression system.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

Bevacizumab binds to vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), the key driver of vasculogenesis and angiogenesis, and thereby inhibits the binding of VEGF to its receptors, Flt-1 (VEGFR-1) and KDR (VEGFR-2), on the surface of endothelial cells. Neutralising the biological activity of VEGF regresses the vascularisation of tumours, normalises remaining tumour vasculature, and inhibits the formation of new tumour vasculature, thereby inhibiting tumour growth.

Pharmacodynamics

Administration of bevacizumab or its parental murine antibody to xenotransplant models of cancer in nude mice resulted in extensive anti-tumour activity in human cancers, including colon, breast, pancreas and prostate. Metastatic disease progression was inhibited and microvascular permeability was reduced.

Pharmacokinetics

Bevacizumab was administered as an IV infusion according to clinical trials data. The rate of infusion was based on tolerability, with an initial infusion duration of 90 minutes. The pharmacokinetics of bevacizumab was linear at doses ranging from 1 to 10 mg/kg.

Distribution

The typical value for central volume (Vc) was 2.73 L and 3.28 L for female and male patients respectively, which is in the range that has been described for IgGs and other monoclonal antibodies. The typical value for peripheral volume (Vp) was 1.69 L and 2.35 L for female and male patients respectively, when bevacizumab is co-administered with anti-neoplastic agents. After correcting for body weight, male patients had a larger Vc (+ 20%) than female patients.

Metabolism

The metabolism and elimination of bevacizumab is similar to endogenous IgG i.e. primarily via proteolytic catabolism throughout the body, including endothelial cells, and does not rely primarily on elimination through the kidneys and liver. Binding of the IgG to the FcRn receptor results in protection from cellular metabolism and the long terminal half-life.

Elimination

The value for clearance is, on average, equal to 0.188 and 0.220 L/day for female and male patients, respectively. After correcting for body weight, male patients had a higher bevacizumab clearance (+ 17%) than females. According to the two-compartmental model, the elimination half-life is 18 days for a typical female patient and 20 days for a typical male patient.

Low albumin and high tumour burden are generally indicative of disease severity. Bevacizumab clearance was approximately 30% faster in patients with low levels of serum albumin and 7% faster in subjects with higher tumour burden when compared with a typical patient with median values of albumin and tumour burden.

INDICATIONS

Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

Bevacizumab, in combination with intravenous fluorouracil-based chemotherapy, is indicated for the first- or second-line treatment of patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC). Bevacizumab, in combination with fluoropyrimidine-iriotecan- or fluoropyrimidine-oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy, is indicated for the second-line treatment of patients with mCRC who have progressed on a first-line Bevacizumab-containing regimen.

Limitations of Use: Bevacizumab is not indicated for adjuvant treatment of colon cancer.

First-Line treatment of Non-Squamous Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
Bevacizumab, in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel, is indicated for the first-line treatment of patients with unresectable, locally advanced, recurrent or metastatic non-squamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

Metastatic breast cancer (mBC)

Bevacizumab, in combination with capecitabine is indicated for first-line treatment of adult patients with metastatic breast cancer in whom treatment with other chemotherapy options including taxanes or anthracyclines is not considered appropriate. Patients who have received taxane and anthracycline-containing regimens in the adjuvant setting within the last 12 months should be excluded from treatment with Bevacizumab in combination with capecitabine.

Recurrent Glioblastoma

Bevacizumab is indicated for the treatment of recurrent glioblastoma (GBM) in adults.

Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma

Bevacizumab, in combination with interferon alfa, is indicated for the treatment of metastatic renal cell carcinoma (mRCC).

Persistent, Recurrent, or Metastatic Cervical Cancer

Bevacizumab, in combination with paclitaxel and cisplatin or paclitaxel and topotecan, is indicated for the treatment of patients with persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer.

Epithelial Ovarian, Fallopian Tube, or Primary Peritoneal Cancer

Bevacizumab, in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel, followed by Bevacizumab as a single agent, is indicated for the treatment of patients with stage III or IV epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer following initial surgical resection.

Bevacizumab, in combination with paclitaxel, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin, or topotecan, is indicated for the treatment of patients with platinum-resistant recurrent epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer who received no more than 2 prior chemotherapy regimens.

Bevacizumab, in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel, or with carboplatin and gemcitabine, followed by Bevacizumab as a single agent, is indicated for the treatment of patients with platinum-sensitive recurrent epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer.

Persistent, Recurrent, or Metastatic Carcinoma of the Cervix

Bevacizumab in combination with paclitaxel and cisplatin or paclitaxel and topotecan is indicated for the treatment of persistent, recurrent, or metastatic carcinoma of the cervix.

Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Bevacizumab, in combination with atezolizumab, is indicated for the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) who have not received prior systemic therapy.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Adult dosage

Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

The recommended dosage when Bevacizumab is administered in combination with intravenous fluorouracil-based chemotherapy is:

- 5 mg/kg intravenously every 2 weeks in combination with bolus-IFL.
- 10 mg/kg intravenously every 2 weeks in combination with FOLFOX4.
- 5 mg/kg intravenously every 2 weeks or 7.5 mg/kg intravenously every 3 weeks in combination with fluoropyrimidine-iriotecan- or fluoropyrimidine-oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy in patients who have progressed on a first-line Bevacizumab-containing regimen.

First-Line treatment of Non-Squamous Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
The recommended dosage is 15 mg/kg intravenously every 3 weeks in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel.

Metastatic breast cancer (mBC)

The recommended dose of Bevacizumab is 10 mg/kg of body weight given once every 2 weeks or 15 mg/kg of body weight given once every 3 weeks as an intravenous infusion.

It is recommended that treatment be continued until progression of the underlying disease or until unacceptable toxicity.

Recurrent Glioblastoma

The recommended dosage is 10 mg/kg intravenously every 2 weeks.

Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma

The recommended dosage is 10 mg/kg intravenously every 2 weeks in combination with interferon alfa.

Persistent, Recurrent, or Metastatic Cervical Cancer

The recommended dosage is 15 mg/kg intravenously every 3 weeks in combination with paclitaxel and cisplatin or in combination with paclitaxel and topotecan.

Epithelial Ovarian, Fallopian Tube or Primary Peritoneal Cancer

Stage III or IV Disease Following Initial Surgical Resection

The recommended dosage is 15 mg/kg intravenously every 3 weeks in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel for up to 6 cycles, followed by Bevacizumab 15 mg/kg every 3 weeks as a single agent for a total of up to 22 cycles or until disease progression, whichever occurs earlier.

Hepatocellular Carcinoma

The recommended dosage is 15 mg/kg intravenously after administration of 1,200 mg of atezolizumab intravenously on the same day, every 3 weeks until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.

Recurrent Disease

Platinum Resistant

The recommended dosage is 10 mg/kg intravenously every 2 weeks in combination with paclitaxel, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin, or topotecan (every week).

The recommended dosage is 15 mg/kg intravenously every 3 weeks in combination with topotecan (every 3 weeks).

Platinum Sensitive

Bevacizumab is administered in combination with either carboplatin and gemcitabine for 6 cycles and up to 10 cycles or in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel for 6 cycles and up to 8 cycles, followed by continued use of Bevacizumab as single agent until disease progression. The recommended dose of Bevacizumab is 15 mg/kg of body weight given once every 3 weeks as an intravenous infusion.

Dosage Adjustment in Specific population

Pediatric dosage

The safety and effectiveness of Bevacizumab in pediatric patients have not been established.

Dosage adjustment in Renal impairment

The safety and efficacy have not been studied in patients with renal impairment

Dosage adjustment in Hepatic impairment

The safety and efficacy have not been studied in patients with hepatic impairment.

Administration requirements

Do not administer Bevacizumab until at least 28 days following surgery and the wound is fully healed.

The initial dose should be delivered over 90 minutes as an intravenous infusion. If the first infusion is well tolerated, the second infusion may be administered over 60 minutes. If the 60-minute infusion is well tolerated, all subsequent infusions may be administered over 30 minutes.

It should not be administered as an intravenous push or bolus. Dose reduction for adverse reactions is not recommended. If indicated, therapy should either be permanently discontinued or temporarily suspended.

Precautions to be taken before handling or administering the medicinal product

Bevacizumab infusions should not be administered or mixed with glucose solutions.

Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Bevacizumab should be prepared by a healthcare professional using aseptic technique to ensure the sterility of the prepared solution. The necessary amount of bevacizumab should be withdrawn and diluted to the required administration volume with sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9%) solution for injection. The concentration of the final bevacizumab solution should be kept within the range of 1.4 mg/ml to 16.5 mg/ml. In the majority of the occasions, the necessary amount of Bevacizumab can be diluted with 0.9 % sodium chloride solution for injection to a total volume of 100 ml. Parenteral medicinal products should be inspected visually for

particulate matter and discolouration prior to administration. No incompatibilities between Bevacizumab and polyvinyl chloride or polyolefine bags or infusion sets have been observed. Bevacizumab is for single-use only, as the product contains no preservatives. Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed in accordance with local requirements.

Dosage Modifications for Adverse Reactions

There are no recommended dose reductions.

Adverse Reaction	Severity	Dosage Modification
Gastrointestinal Perforations and Fistulae	Gastrointestinal perforation, any grade • Tracheoesophageal fistula, any grade • Fistula, Grade 4 • Fistula formation involving any internal organ	Discontinue Bevacizumab
Wound Healing Complications	Any	Withhold Bevacizumab until adequate wound healing. The safety of resumption of Bevacizumab after resolution of wound healing complications has not been established.
	Necrotizing fasciitis	Discontinue Bevacizumab
Hemorrhage	Grade 3 or 4 Recent history of hemoptysis of 1/2 teaspoon (2.5 mL) or more	Discontinue Bevacizumab
Thromboembolic Events	Arterial thromboembolism, severe Venous thromboembolism, Grade 4	Discontinue Bevacizumab
Hypertension	• Hypertensive crisis • Hypertensive encephalopathy • Hypertension, severe	Discontinue Bevacizumab Withhold Bevacizumab if not controlled with medical management; resume once controlled
Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES)	Any	Discontinue Bevacizumab
Renal Injury and Proteinuria	Nephrotic syndrome • Proteinuria greater than or equal to 2 grams per 24 hours in absence of nephrotic syndrome	Discontinue Bevacizumab Withhold Bevacizumab until proteinuria less than 2 grams per 24 hours
Infusion-Related Reactions	Severe Clinically significant	Discontinue Bevacizumab Interrupt infusion; resume at a decreased rate of infusion after symptoms resolve
	Mild, clinically insignificant	Decrease infusion rate

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients.
- Hypersensitivity to Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cell products or other recombinant human or humanised antibodies.
- Pregnancy

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Gastrointestinal Perforations and Fistulae

Patients may be at an increased risk for the development of gastrointestinal perforation and gall bladder perforation when treated with bevacizumab. Intra-abdominal inflammatory process may be a risk factor for gastrointestinal perforations in patients with metastatic carcinoma of the colon or rectum, therefore, caution should be exercised when treating these patients. Prior radiation is a risk factor for GI perforation in patients treated for persistent, recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer with bevacizumab and all patients with GI perforation had a history of prior radiation. Therapy should be permanently discontinued in patients who develop gastrointestinal perforation.

GI-vaginal Fistulae

Patients treated for persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer with bevacizumab are at increased risk of fistulae between the vagina and any part of the GI tract (Gastrointestinal-vaginal fistulae). Prior radiation is a major risk factor for the development of GI-vaginal fistulae and all patients with GI-vaginal fistulae had a history of prior radiation. Recurrence of cancer within the field of prior radiation is an additional important risk factor for the development of GI-vaginal fistulae.

Non-Gastrointestinal Fistulae

Patients may be at increased risk for the development of fistulae when treated with bevacizumab. Permanently discontinue Bevacizumab in patients with tracheoesophageal (TE) fistula or any Grade 4 fistula. Limited information is available on the continued use of bevacizumab in patients with other fistulae. In cases of internal fistula not arising in the gastrointestinal tract, discontinuation of Bevacizumab should be considered.

Wound Healing Complications

Bevacizumab may adversely affect the wound healing process. Serious wound healing complications, including anastomotic complications, with a fatal outcome have been reported. There are no data on when to initiate for at least 28 days following major surgery or until the surgical wound is fully healed. In patients who experienced wound healing complications during therapy, treatment should be withheld until the wound is fully healed. Therapy should be withheld for elective surgery. Necrotizing fasciitis, including fatal cases, has rarely been reported in patients treated with bevacizumab. This condition is usually secondary to wound healing complications, gastrointestinal perforation or fistula formation. Bevacizumab therapy should be discontinued in patients who develop necrotizing fasciitis, and appropriate treatment should be promptly initiated.

Hypertension

An increased incidence of hypertension was observed in bevacizumab-treated patients. Clinical safety data suggest that the incidence of hypertension is likely to be dose-dependent. Pre-existing hypertension should be adequately controlled before starting Bevacizumab treatment. There is no information on the effect of bevacizumab in patients with uncontrolled hypertension at the time of initiating therapy. Monitoring of blood pressure is generally recommended during therapy. In most cases hypertension was controlled adequately using standard antihypertensive treatment appropriate for the individual situation of the affected patient. The use of diuretics to manage hypertension is not advised in patients who receive a cisplatin-based chemotherapy regimen. Bevacizumab should be permanently discontinued if medically significant hypertension cannot be adequately controlled with antihypertensive therapy, or if the patient develops hypertensive crisis or hypertensive encephalopathy.

Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES)

There have been rare reports of bevacizumab-treated patients developing signs and symptoms that are consistent with PRES, a rare neurologic disorder, which can present with the following signs and symptoms among others: seizures, headache, altered mental status, visual disturbance, or cortical blindness, with or without associated hyperexcitability. A diagnosis of PRES requires confirmation by brain imaging, preferably magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). In patients developing PRES, treatment of specific symptoms including control of hypertension is recommended along with discontinuation of Bevacizumab. The safety of reinitiating bevacizumab therapy in patients previously experiencing PRES is not known.

Proteinuria

Patients with a history of hypertension may be at increased risk for the development of proteinuria when treated with bevacizumab. Monitoring of proteinuria by dipstick urinalysis is recommended prior to starting and during therapy. Grade 4 proteinuria (nephrotic syndrome) was seen in up to 1.4% of patients treated with bevacizumab. Therapy should be permanently discontinued in patients who develop nephrotic syndrome.

Arterial thromboembolism

In clinical trials, the incidence of arterial thromboembolic reactions including cerebrovascular accidents (CVAs), transient ischaemic attacks (TIAs) and myocardial infarctions (MIs) was higher in patients receiving bevacizumab in combination with chemotherapy compared to those who received chemotherapy alone.

Patients receiving bevacizumab plus chemotherapy, with a history of arterial thromboembolism, diabetes or age greater than 65 years have an increased risk of developing arterial thromboembolic reactions during therapy. Caution should be taken when treating these patients with Bevacizumab.

Therapy should be permanently discontinued in patients who develop arterial thromboembolic reactions.

Venous thromboembolism

Patients may be at risk of developing venous thromboembolic reactions, including pulmonary embolism under Bevacizumab treatment.

Patients treated for persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer with Bevacizumab in combination with paclitaxel and cisplatin may be at increased risk of venous thromboembolic events.

Bevacizumab should be discontinued in patients with life-threatening (Grade 4) thromboembolic reactions, including pulmonary embolism. Patients with thromboembolic reactions ≤ Grade 3 need to be closely monitored.

Haemorrhage

Patients treated with bevacizumab have an increased risk of haemorrhage, especially in tumour-associated haemorrhage. Bevacizumab should be discontinued permanently in patients who experience Grade 3 or 4 bleeding during Bevacizumab therapy. Patients with untreated CNS metastases were routinely excluded from clinical trials with bevacizumab, based on imaging procedures or signs and symptoms. Therefore, the risk of CNS haemorrhage in such patients has not been prospectively evaluated in randomized clinical trials. Patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of CNS bleeding, and Bevacizumab treatment discontinued in cases of intracranial bleeding.

There is no information on the safety profile of bevacizumab in patients with congenital bleeding diathesis, acquired coagulopathy or in patients receiving full dose of anticoagulants for the treatment of thromboembolism prior to starting bevacizumab treatment, as such patients were excluded from clinical trials. Therefore, caution should be exercised before initiating therapy in these patients. However, patients who developed venous thrombosis while receiving therapy did not appear to have an increased rate of Grade 3 or above bleeding when treated with a full dose of warfarin and bevacizumab concomitantly.

Pulmonary haemorrhage/haemoptysis

Patients with non-small cell lung cancer treated with bevacizumab may be at risk of serious, and in some cases fatal, pulmonary haemorrhage/haemoptysis. Patients with recent pulmonary haemorrhage/ haemoptysis (> 2.5 ml of red blood) should not be treated with Bevacizumab.

Aneurysms and artery dissections

The use of VEGF pathway inhibitors in patients with or without hypertension may promote the formation of aneurysms and/or artery dissections. Before initiating bevacizumab, this risk should be carefully considered in patients with risk factors such as hypertension or history of aneurysm.

Congestive heart failure (CHF)

Reactions consistent with CHF were reported in clinical trials. The findings ranged from asymptomatic declines in left ventricular ejection fraction to symptomatic CHF, requiring treatment or hospitalisation. Caution should be exercised when treating patients with clinically significant cardiovascular disease such as pre-existing coronary artery disease, or congestive heart failure with Bevacizumab. Most of the patients who experienced CHF had metastatic breast cancer and had received previous treatment with anthracyclines, prior radiotherapy to the left chest wall or other risk factors for CHF were present. CHF Grade 3 or higher reactions were somewhat more frequent among patients receiving bevacizumab in combination with chemotherapy than in patients receiving chemotherapy alone. This is consistent with results in patients in other studies of metastatic breast cancer who did not receive concurrent anthracycline treatment.

Neutropenia and infections

Increased rates of severe neutropenia, febrile neutropenia, or infection with or without severe neutropenia (including some fatalities) have been observed in patients treated with some myelotoxic chemotherapy regimens plus bevacizumab in comparison to chemotherapy alone. This has mainly been seen in combination with platinum- or taxane-based therapies in the treatment of NSCLC, mBC, and in combination with paclitaxel and topotecan in persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer.

Hypersensitivity reactions/infusion reactions

Patients may be at risk of developing infusion/hypersensitivity reactions. Close observation of the patient during and following the administration of Bevacizumab is recommended as expected for any infusion of a therapeutic humanised monoclonal antibody. If a reaction occurs, the infusion should be discontinued and appropriate medical therapies should be administered. A systematic premedication is not warranted.

Osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ)

Cases of ONJ have been reported in cancer patients treated with bevacizumab, the majority of whom had received prior or concomitant treatment with intravenous bisphosphonates, for which ONJ is an identified risk. Caution should be exercised when bevacizumab and intravenous bisphosphonates are administered simultaneously or sequentially.

Invasive dental procedures are also an identified risk factor. A dental examination and appropriate preventive dentistry should be considered prior to starting the treatment with Bevacizumab in patients who have previously received or are receiving intravenous bisphosphonates. Invasive dental procedures should be avoided, if possible.

Intravitreal use

Bevacizumab is not formulated for intravitreal use.

Eye disorders

Individual cases and clusters of serious ocular adverse reactions have been reported following unapproved intravitreal use of bevacizumab

[illegible]

b. For additional information refer below within section "Further information on selected serious adverse reactions"

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Manufactured by:
BIOCAD
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