

# Favipiravir Tablets 200 mg Favilow



To be sold on the prescription of medical specialist

## PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### WARNINGS

- Since early embryonic deaths and teratogenicity have been observed in animal studies for Favipiravir, do not administer the drug to women known or suspected to be pregnant.
- When administering Favipiravir to women of child-bearing potential, confirm a negative pregnancy test result before starting the treatment. Explain fully the risks and instruct thoroughly to use most effective contraceptive methods with her partner during and for 7 days after the end of the treatment. If pregnancy is suspected during the treatment, instruct to discontinue the treatment immediately and to consult a doctor.
- Favipiravir is distributed in sperm. When administering the drug to male patients, explain fully the risks and instruct thoroughly to use most effective contraceptive methods in sexual intercourse during and for 7 days after the end of the treatment (men must wear a condom). In addition, instruct not to have sexual intercourse with pregnant women.
- Prior to the treatment, explain thoroughly the efficacy and risks (including the risk of exposure to fetus) to patients or their family members and written informed consent from each patient/ or his representative prior to administration of the drug shall be obtained by the prescriber.
- Examine carefully the necessity of Favipiravir before use.

### 1. GENERIC NAME

Favipiravir Tablets 200 mg

### 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

#### Favipiravir Tablets 200 mg:

Each film coated tablet contains Favipiravir----200 mg

Colors : Titanium Dioxide IP

Ferric Oxide Yellow USP-NF

Ferric Oxide Red USP-NF

Ferric Oxide Black USP-NF

### 3. DOSAGE FORM AND STRENGTH

Favipiravir film-coated tablet 200 mg

### 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

#### 4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Favipiravir is indicated for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 disease, in light of COVID-19 outbreak for restricted emergency use in the country.

#### 4.2 Posology and Method of Administration

The patient will be given a 3,600 mg dose for the first day as a loading dose and subsequently followed by 1,600 mg for maximum up to 14 days depending upon the viral load.

Table 1: Dosage

|                         | Day 1           | Day 2 to max 14 days     |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Total daily dose</b> | 1800 mg BID     | 800 mg BID               |
| <b>Morning</b>          | 200 mg x 9 tabs | 200 mg x 4 tabs each day |
| <b>Evening</b>          | 200 mg x 9 tabs | 200 mg x 4 tabs each day |

Note: Use only as directed by physician.

#### Use in Special Populations Use during Pregnancy, Delivery or Lactation

- Do not administer Favipiravir to women known or suspected to be pregnant. (Early embryonic deaths [rats] and teratogenicity [monkeys, mice, rats and rabbits] have been observed in animal studies with exposure levels similar to or lower than the clinical exposure).
- When administering Favipiravir to lactating women, instruct to stop lactating. (The major metabolite of Favipiravir, a hydroxylated form, was found to be distributed in breast milk).

#### Pediatric Use

Favipiravir has not been administered to children.

#### Use in the Elderly

Since the elderly often have reduced physiological functions, Favipiravir should be administered with care to them by monitoring their general conditions.

#### Other

It is recommended that the drug should be used only in adults and not on patients with severe liver and renal impairment.

#### 4.3 Contraindications

- Patients with a history of hypersensitivity to any ingredient of the drug.
- Women known or suspected to be pregnant (Early embryonic deaths and teratogenicity have been observed in animal studies).
- Contraindicated in lactating women
- Patients with severe renal impairment
- Patients with severe hepatic impairment

#### 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for Use

##### Use during Pregnancy, Delivery or Lactation

- Since early embryonic deaths and teratogenicity have been observed in animal studies for Favipiravir, do not administer the drug to women known or suspected to be pregnant.
- When administering Favipiravir to women of child-bearing potential, confirm a negative pregnancy test result before starting the treatment. Explain fully the risks and instruct thoroughly to use most effective contraceptive methods with her partner during and for 7 days after the end of the treatment. If pregnancy is suspected during the treatment, instruct to discontinue the treatment immediately and to consult a doctor.
- Favipiravir is distributed in sperm. When administering the drug to male patients, explain fully the risks and instruct thoroughly to use most effective contraceptive methods in sexual intercourse during and for 7 days after the end of the treatment (men must wear a condom). In addition, instruct not to have sexual intercourse with pregnant women.
- Prior to the treatment, explain thoroughly the efficacy and risks (including the risk of exposure to fetus) in writing to patients or their family members and obtain their written consent.
- Examine carefully the necessity of Favipiravir before use.

##### Careful Administration (Favipiravir should be administered with care in the following patients):

Patients with gout or a history of gout, and patients with hyper-uricaemia (Blood uric acid level may increase, and symptoms may be aggravated).

##### Important Precautions

- Although the causal relationship is unknown, psychoneurotic symptoms such as abnormal behaviour after administration of Favipiravir have been reported. For the treatment of children and minors, as a preventive approach in case of an accident due to abnormal behaviour such as fall, patients/their family should be instructed that, after the start of treatment, (i) abnormal behaviour may be developed, and (ii) guardians and others should make an arrangement so that children/minors are not left alone for at least 2 days when they are treated at home. Since similar symptoms associated with influenza encephalopathy have been reported, the same instruction as above should be given.
- Viral infections may be complicated with bacterial infections. In case of bacterial infection or suspected to be bacterial infection, appropriate measures should be taken, such as administration of anti-bacterial agents.

#### 4.5 Drug Interactions

Favipiravir is not metabolized by cytochrome P-450 (CYP), mostly metabolized by Aldehyde Oxidase (AO) and partly metabolized by Xanthine Oxidase (XO). The drug inhibits AO and CYP2C8, but does not induce CYP.

Table 2: Favipiravir should be administered with care when co-administered with the following drugs.

| Drugs                | Signs, Symptoms, and Treatment   | Mechanism and Risk Factors   |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Pyrazinamide         | Blood uric acid level increases. When pyrazinamide 1.5g once daily and Favipiravir 1200 mg /400 mg BID were administered, the blood uric acid level was 11.6 mg/dL when pyrazinamide was administered alone, and 13.9 mg/dL in combination with Favipiravir. | Reabsorption of uric acid in the renal tubule is additively enhanced.                    |
| Repaglinide          | Blood level of repaglinide may increase, and adverse reactions to repaglinide may occur.   | Inhibition of CYP2C8 increases blood level of repaglinide.                               |
| Theophylline         | Blood level of Favipiravir may increase, and adverse reactions to Favipiravir may occur.   | Interaction with XO may increase blood level of Favipiravir.                             |
| Famciclovir Sulindac | Efficacy of these drugs may be reduced.  | Inhibition of AO by Favipiravir may decrease blood level of active forms of these drugs. |

#### 4.6 Use in Special Populations

##### Fertility, Pregnancy and Delivery or Lactation

- In animal toxicity studies, histopathological changes of testis in rats (12 weeks old) and young dogs (7 to 8 months old), and abnormal findings of sperm in mice (11 weeks old) have been reported. Recovery or tendency of recovery has been observed in those studies after the administration was suspended. In fertility study in rats, effects on the testis and sperm and decreased fertility were observed in males and anestrus was observed in females at the high-dose.
- Do not administer Favipiravir to women known or suspected to be pregnant. (Early embryonic deaths [rats] and teratogenicity [monkeys, mice, rats and rabbits] have been observed in animal studies with exposure levels similar to or lower than the clinical exposure).
- Do not administer to lactating women. If administered, instruct to stop lactating. (The major metabolite of Favipiravir, a hydroxylated form, was found to be distributed in breast milk).

#### Pediatric Use

Favipiravir has not been administered to children.

#### Use in the Elderly

Since the elderly often have reduced physiological functions, Favipiravir should be administered with care to them by monitoring their general conditions.

#### Other

It is recommended that the drug should be used only in adults and not on patients with severe liver and renal impairment.

#### 4.7 Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines

No data is available on the effect of Favipiravir on ability to drive and use machines.

#### 4.8 Undesirable Effects

Major undesirable effects observed in the clinical studies with Favipiravir used at different doses included:

- Increase of blood uric acid level in 24 subjects (4.79%),
- Diarrhoea in 24 subjects (4.79%),
- Decrease of neutrophil count in 9 subjects (1.80%),
- Increase of AST (GOT) in 9 subjects (1.80%),
- Increase of ALT (GPT) in 8 subjects (1.60%).

##### Clinically significant adverse reactions (similar drugs):

The following clinically significant adverse reactions have been reported with other antiinfluenza virus agents. Patients should be carefully monitored, and if any abnormality is observed, the treatment should be discontinued and appropriate measures should be taken.

- Shock, anaphylaxis
- Pneumonia
- Hepatitis fulminant, hepatic dysfunction, jaundice
- Toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), oculomucocutaneous syndrome (Stevens-Johnson syndrome)
- Acute kidney injury
- White blood cell count decreased, neutrophil count decreased, platelet count decreased
- Neurological and psychiatric symptoms (consciousness disturbed, abnormal behavior, delirium, hallucination, delusion, convulsion, etc.).

##### Abnormal behaviour

Abnormal behaviour (such as sudden movement or wandering) that could result in falls etc. may occur in patients infected with influenza, although the existence of a causal relationship between these symptoms and this drug is currently unclear.

- Colitis haemorrhagic

In prospective, multi-center, comparative trial with 240 subjects, 37 incidences of antiviral-associated adverse effects (AE) were detected in the favipiravir group (dose used: 1600 mg twice a day on first day; 600 mg twice a day from second day up to a maximum of 10 days) and 28 incidences in the Umifenovir (Arbidol) group. All observed AE incidences were mild. Increased serum uric acid (3 (2.50%) vs 16 (13.79%), P=0.0014) were more common in patients of the favipiravir group. No statistical difference was observed for the frequency of abnormal liver function tests (LFT), psychiatric symptom reactions and digestive tract reactions (nausea, acid reflux, flatulence). Most of these adverse reactions disappeared by the time patients being discharged. Antiviral-associated adverse effects of favipiravir were mild and manageable.

Table 3: Comparison of Anti-viral associated adverse effects

| Adverse effects               | Favipiravir group (N = 116) |             | Arbidol group (N = 120) |             | P value |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|
|                               | Frequency                   | Cases, n(%) | Frequency               | Cases, n(%) |         |
| Total                         | 43                          | 37 (31.90)  | 33                      | 28 (23.33)  | 0.1410  |
| Abnormal LFT                  | 10                          | 10 (8.62)   | 12                      | 12 (10.00)  | 0.7156  |
| Raised serum uric acid        | 16                          | 16 (13.79)  | 3                       | 3 (2.50)    | 0.0014  |
| Psychiatric symptom reactions | 5                           | 5 (4.31)    | 1                       | 1 (0.83)    | 0.1149* |
| Digestive tract reactions     | 16                          | 16 (13.79)  | 17                      | 14 (11.67)  | 0.6239  |

\*Fisher's exact test was used for comparison between groups.

In a study of favipiravir versus Lopinavir /ritonavir for the treatment of COVID-19, the total number of adverse reactions in the favipiravir arm (dose used: 1600 mg twice a day on first day; 600 mg twice a day from second day up to a maximum of 14 days) was 109 (11.43%), which was significantly fewer than the 25 adverse reactions (55.56%) in the control arm (P 0.001). Two patients had diarrhoea, one had a liver injury, and one had a poor diet in the favipiravir arm. Meanwhile, there were five patients with diarrhoea, five with vomiting, six with nausea, four with rash, three with liver injury, and two with chest tightness and palpitations in the control arm.

Table 4: statistics of adverse reactions after medication [Favipiravir versus Lopinavir / ritonavir]

| Characteristic                 | Treatment          |                             |         |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
|                                | Favipiravir (N:35) | Lopinavir /ritonavir (N:45) | P value |
| Total no. of reactions adverse | 4 (11.43%)         | 25 (55.56%)                 | < 0.001 |
| Diarrhea                       | 2 (5.71%)          | 5 (11.11%)                  | 0.46    |
| Vomiting                       | 0 (0%)             | 5 (11.11%)                  | 0.06    |
| Nausea                         | 0 (0%)             | 6 (13.33%)                  | 0.03    |
| Rash                           | 0 (0%)             | 4 (8.89%)                   | 0.13    |
| Liver and kidney injury        | 1 (2.86%)          | 3 (6.67%)                   | 0.63    |
| Others                         | 1 (2.86%)          | 2 (4.44%)                   | 1.00    |

##### Other adverse reactions:

If the following adverse reactions occur, appropriate measures should be taken according to the symptoms.

Table 5: Adverse reactions observed in clinical studies and the global phase III clinical study (studies conducted with dose levels lower than the approval dosage).

| System organ class                                     | ≥ 1%   | 0.5 - < 1%                       | < 0.5%  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>          |  | Rash                             | Eczema, pruritus  |
| <b>Hepatic disorders</b>                               | AST (GOT) increased, ALT (GPT) increased, γGTP increased         |                                  | Blood ALP increased, blood bilirubin increased  |
| <b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>                      | Diarrhoea (4.79%)  | Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain | Abdominal discomfort, duodenal ulcer, haematochezia, gastritis  |
| <b>Hematologic disorders</b>                           | Neutrophil count decreased, white blood cell count decreased     |                                  | White blood cell count increased, reticulocyte count decreased, monocyte increased  |
| <b>Metabolic disorders</b>                             | Blood uric acid increased (4.79%), blood triglycerides increased | Glucose urine present            | Blood potassium decreased   |
| <b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b> |  |                                  | Asthma, oropharyngeal pain, rhinitis, nasopharyngitis   |
| <b>Others</b>  |  |                                  | Blood CK (CPK) increased, blood urine present, tonsil polyp, pigmentation, dysgeusia, bruise, vision blurred, eye pain, vertigo, supraventricular extrasystoles |

##### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. To report Suspected Adverse Reactions, contact MSN Laboratories Private Limited at [pharmacovigilance@msnlabs.com](mailto:pharmacovigilance@msnlabs.com) or through company website [www.msnlabs.com](http://www.msnlabs.com)->Contact us->Medical Enquiry/ to report a side effect. You can also report side effects directly via the National Pharmacovigilance Programme of India by calling on **1800 180 3024** or you can report to MSN Labs on **+918458305295**. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this product.

#### 4.9 Overdose

There is no human experience of acute over dosage with Favipiravir. Treatment of overdose with Favipiravir should consist of general supportive measures, including monitoring of vital signs and observation of the clinical status of the patient. There is no specific antidote for overdose with Favipiravir.

## 5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

### 5.1 Pharmacodynamic Properties

#### Mechanism of Action

It is considered that Favipiravir is metabolized in cells to a ribosyl triphosphate form (Favipiravir RTP) and that Favipiravir RTP selectively inhibits RNA dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) involved in SARS CoV2 viral replication. With regards to the activity against human DNA polymerases α, β and γ, Favipiravir RTP (1000 μmol/L) showed no inhibitory effect on α, 9.1-13.5% inhibitory effect on β and 11.7-41.2% inhibitory effect on γ. Inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) of Favipiravir RTP on human RNA polymerase II was 905 μmol/L.

#### Pharmacodynamic Properties

##### Microbiology/Resistance Information

##### Antiviral Activity

It has a proven *in-vitro* activity against SARS CoV-2. It has a wide therapeutic safety margin for COVID-19 dose.

Authors evaluated the antiviral efficiency of Favipiravir (T-705) against a clinical isolate of 2019- nCoV *in vitro*. Standard assays were carried out to measure the effects of Favipiravir on the cytotoxicity, virus yield and infection rates of 2019-nCoVs. Firstly, the cytotoxicity of the Favipiravir in Vero E6 cells (ATCC-1586) was determined by the CCK8 assay. Then, Vero E6 cells were infected with nCoV- 2019 Beta CoV /Wuhan /WIV04 /2019 at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 0.05 in the presence of varying concentrations of the test drugs. DMSO was used in the controls. Efficacies were evaluated by quantification of viral copy numbers in the cell supernatant via quantitative real-time RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) and confirmed with visualization of virus nucleoprotein (NP) expression through immunofluorescence microscopy at 48 h post infection (p.i.) (cytopathic effect was not obvious at this time point of infection). High concentrations of Favipiravir [Half-Effective Concentration (EC)<sub>50</sub> = 61.88 μM, Half-Cytotoxic Concentration (CC)<sub>50</sub> > 400 μM, Selectivity Index (SI) > 6.46] were required to reduce the viral infection.

##### Resistance

No clinical data are available on the development of SARS-CoV-2 resistance to Favipiravir. The cell culture development of SARS-CoV-2 resistance to Favipiravir has not been assessed to date.

##### Clinical Trials in Subjects with COVID-19

Favipiravir is backed by strong clinical evidence showing encouraging results in patients with mild to moderate COVID-19.

##### Experimental Treatment with Favipiravir for COVID-19: An Open-Label Control Study

An outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection and its caused coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been reported in China since December 2019. More than 16% of patients developed acute respiratory distress syndrome, and the fatality ratio was about 1%–2%. No specific treatment has been reported. Herein, we examine the effects of Favipiravir (FPV) versus Lopinavir (LPV)/ritonavir (RTV) for the treatment of COVID-19. Patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who received

