

Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1. NAME OF THE MEDICAL PRODUCT

Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each vial of powder for concentrate for solution for infusion contains 50 mg decitabine.

After reconstitution with 10 ml of water for injections, each ml of concentrate contains 5 mg of decitabine.

Excipients with known effect

Each vial contains 0.29 mmol sodium (E524).

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (powder for infusion). White to almost white lyophilized powder.

Following reconstitution: clear colorless solution, free from visible extraneous matter.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1. Therapeutic Indications

Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial is indicated for the treatment of patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) including previously treated and untreated, de novo and secondary MDS of all French-American-British subtypes (refractory anemia, refractory anemia with ringed sideroblasts, refractory anemia with excess blasts, refractory anemia with excess blasts in transformation, myelodysplastic/myeloid leukaemia) and Intermediate-1, Intermediate-2, and High-Risk International Prognostic Scoring System groups.

Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with newly diagnosed de novo or secondary acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) classification, who are not candidates for standard induction chemotherapy.

4.2. Posology and Method of Administration

Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial administration must be initiated under the supervision of physicians experienced in the use of chemotherapeutic agents.

Posology

There are 2 regimens recommended for Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial administration. A 5-Day dosing regimen in the treatment of AML, and a 3-Day or 5-Day dosing regimen in the treatment of MDS.

Pre-medication for the prevention of nausea and vomiting is not routinely recommended but may be administered if required.

MDS

There are two regimens for Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial administration for MDS. With either regimen it is recommended that patients be treated for a minimum of 4 cycles; however, a complete or partial response may take longer than 4 cycles.

Complete blood counts and platelet counts should be performed as needed to monitor response and toxicity, but at a minimum, prior to each cycle. Liver chemistries and serum creatinine should be obtained prior to initiation of treatment.

In the Phase 3 MDS study, the median time to response (complete remission [CR] or CR with incomplete platelet recovery [CRP]) was 4.3 months. In MDS, the median time to response (CR+PR) was 4.3 months. In MDS, the median time to response (CR+PR) was 4.3 months. In MDS, the median time to response (CR+PR) was 4.3 months.

Complete blood counts and platelet counts should be performed as needed to monitor response and toxicity, but at a minimum, prior to each cycle. Liver chemistries and serum creatinine should be obtained prior to initiation of treatment.

In the Phase 3 MDS study with the 3-Day dosing regimen, the median time to response was 3 cycles. Treatment may be continued as long as the patient shows response, continues to benefit or exhibits stable disease, i.e., in the absence of overt progression.

If after 4 cycles, the patient's hematological values (e.g., platelet counts or absolute neutrophil count [ANC]), have not returned to pre-treatment levels or if disease progression occurs (peripheral blast counts are increasing or bone marrow blast counts are worsening), the patient may be considered to be a non-responder and alternative therapeutic options to Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial should be considered.

4.2.1 Treatment Regimen - Option 1

Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial is administered at a dose of 15 mg/m² body surface by continuous intravenous infusion over 3 hours repeated every 8 hours for 3 days. This cycle should be repeated every 6 weeks. Patients may be pre-medicated with standard anti-emetic therapy.

4.2.2 Treatment Regimen - Option 2

Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial is administered at a dose of 20 mg/m² by continuous intravenous infusion over 1 hour repeated daily for 5 days. This cycle should be repeated every 4 weeks. Patients may be pre-medicated with standard anti-emetic therapy.

4.2.3 Patients with Non-hematologic Toxicity

Following treatment with either Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial regimen, if the following non-hematological toxicities occur, the next cycle of Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial therapy should be withheld until levels return to within the normal range or baseline.

- Serum creatinine greater than or equal to 2 mg/dL. Serum glutamate pyruvate transaminase (SGPT) or alanine aminotransferase (ALT) or, total bilirubin greater than or equal to 2 times the upper limit of normal (ULN).

- Active viral or bacterial infection that is not controlled by concomitant anti-infective therapy.

AML

In a treatment cycle, Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial is administered at a dose of 20 mg/m² body surface area by intravenous infusion over 1 hour repeated daily for 5 consecutive days (i.e., a total of 5 doses per treatment cycle). The total daily dose must not exceed 20 mg/m² and the total dose per treatment cycle must not exceed 100 mg/m². If a dose is missed, treatment should be resumed as soon as possible.

The cycle should be repeated every 4 weeks depending on the patient's clinical response and tolerability. It is recommended that patients be treated for a minimum of 4 cycles; however, a complete or partial remission may take longer than 4 cycles to be obtained. Treatment may be continued as long as the patient shows response, continues to benefit or exhibits stable disease, i.e., in the absence of overt progression.

If after 4 cycles, the patient's hematological values (e.g., platelet counts or absolute neutrophil count), have not returned to pre-treatment levels or if disease progression occurs (peripheral blast counts are increasing or bone marrow blast counts are worsening), the patient may be considered to be a non-responder and alternative therapeutic options to Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial should be considered.

Management of myelosuppression and associated complications

Myelosuppression and adverse events related to myelosuppression (thrombocytopenia, anaemia, neutropenia, and febrile neutropenia) are common in both treated and untreated patients with AML and MDS. Complications of myelosuppression include infections and bleeding. Treatment may be modified in patients experiencing myelosuppression and associated complications as described below:

In AML

Treatment may be delayed at the discretion of the treating physician, if the patient experiences myelosuppression-associated complications, such as those described below:

- Febrile neutropenia (temperature $\geq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ and absolute neutrophil count $< 1,000/\mu\text{L}$)

- Active viral, bacterial or fungal infection (i.e., requiring intravenous anti-infectives or extensive supportive care)

- Haemorrhage (gastrointestinal, genito-urinary, pulmonary with platelets $< 25,000/\mu\text{L}$ or any central nervous system haemorrhage)

Treatment with Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial may be resumed once these conditions have improved or have been stabilized with adequate treatment (anti-infective therapy, transfusions, or growth factors).

In clinical studies, approximately one-third of patients receiving Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial required a dose-delay. Dose reduction is not recommended.

In MDS

3-Day Dosing Regimen

Dose Regimen Modifications in the First 3 Cycles

The use of treatment, Grade 3-4 cytopenias are common and may not represent progression of MDS. Pre-treatment cytopenias may not improve until after Cycle 3.

For the first 3 cycles, to optimize patient benefit in the setting of moderate neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count $< 1,000/\mu\text{L}$), all attempts should be made to maintain full dose treatment at the standard treatment cycle interval. Concomitant antimicrobial prophylaxis as per institutional guidelines can be administered until recovery of granulocytes to above 500/ μL . Clinicians should also consider the need for early administration of growth factors during this time for the prevention or treatment of infections in patients with MDS.

Similarly, to optimize patient benefit in the setting of moderate thrombocytopenia (platelet count $< 25,000/\mu\text{L}$), all attempts should be made to maintain full dose treatment at the standard treatment cycle interval with concomitant administration of platelet transfusions in case of bleeding events.

Dose Modifications After Cycle 3

If hematologic recovery (absolute neutrophil count $\geq 1,000/\mu\text{L}$ and platelets $\geq 50,000/\mu\text{L}$) from a previous Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial treatment cycle with persistent cytopenia(s) being considered related to drug administration, requires more than 8 weeks, then the next cycle of Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial therapy should be delayed and dosing reduced by the algorithm below. All dose reductions that occur should remain in effect for the duration of the chemotherapy; there should be no dose re-escalation.

- Recovery requiring more than 6, but less than 8 weeks – Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial dosing to be delayed for up to 2 weeks and the dose reduced to 11 mg/m² every 8 hours (33 mg/m²/day, 99 mg/m²/cycle) upon restarting therapy.

- Recovery requiring more than 8, but less than 10 weeks – the Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial dose should be delayed up to 2 more weeks and the dose reduced to 11 mg/m² every 8 hours (33 mg/m²/day, 99 mg/m²/cycle) upon restarting therapy, then maintained in subsequent cycles as clinically indicated.

- Recovery requiring more than 10 weeks – Patient should be discontinued from the treatment of the drug and assessed for disease progression (by bone marrow aspirate) within 7 days after the end of 10 weeks. However, for patients who have been treated for at least 6 cycles, and who continue to derive benefit from the therapy, a prolonged delay beyond 10 weeks can be allowed, in the absence of progression at the direction of the treating physician.

5-Day Dosing Regimen

Dose reduction is not recommended in this clinical setting to optimize patient benefit, dose should be delayed as follows:

- Recovery requiring more than 6, but less than 8 weeks – Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial therapy should be delayed for up to 2 weeks and the dose reduced to 11 mg/m² every 8 hours (33 mg/m²/day, 99 mg/m²/cycle) upon restarting therapy, then maintained in subsequent cycles as clinically indicated.

- Recovery requiring more than 8, but less than 10 weeks – Patient should be discontinued from the treatment of the drug and assessed for disease progression (by bone marrow aspirate) within 7 days after the end of 10 weeks. However, for patients who have been treated for at least 6 cycles, and who continue to derive benefit from the therapy, a prolonged delay beyond 10 weeks can be allowed, in the absence of progression at the direction of the treating physician.

Dose Regimen Modifications in the First 3 Cycles

During the first cycles of treatment, Grade 3 and -4 cytopenias are common and may not represent progression of MDS. Pre-treatment cytopenias may not improve until after Cycle 3.

For the first 3 cycles, to optimize patient benefit in the setting of moderate neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count $< 1,000/\mu\text{L}$), all attempts should be made to maintain full dose treatment at the standard treatment cycle interval. Concomitant antimicrobial prophylaxis as per institutional guidelines can be administered until recovery of granulocytes to above 500/ μL . Clinicians should also consider the need for early administration of growth factors during this time for the prevention or treatment of infections in patients with MDS.

Similarly, to optimize patient benefit in the setting of moderate thrombocytopenia (platelet count $< 25,000/\mu\text{L}$), all attempts should be made to maintain full dose treatment at the standard treatment cycle interval with concomitant administration of platelet transfusions in case of bleeding events.

Dose Regimen Modifications after Cycle 3

The use of treatment, Grade 3-4 cytopenias are common and may not represent progression of MDS. Pre-treatment cytopenias may not improve until after Cycle 3.

- Severe myelosuppression-associated complications (infections not resolving with adequate anti-infective therapy, bleeding not resolving with adequate treatment).

- Prolonged myelosuppression defined as a hypocellular marrow (5% or less cellularity) without evidence of disease progression for 6 weeks or more after the start of a therapy.

If recovery (absolute neutrophil count $> 1,000/\mu\text{L}$ and platelets $> 50,000/\mu\text{L}$) requires more than 8 weeks, the patient should be discontinued from the treatment of drug and assessed for disease progression (by bone marrow aspirate) within 7 days after the end of 8 weeks. For patients who have been treated for at least 6 cycles, and who continue to derive benefit from the therapy, a prolonged delay beyond 8 weeks can be allowed, in the absence of progression, at the discretion of the treating physician.

Special Populations:

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial in children aged < 18 years have not yet been established. No data are available.

Hepatic impairment

Studies in patients with hepatic impairment have not been conducted. The need for dose adjustment in patients with hepatic impairment has not been evaluated. Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial should be used with caution in these patients. If worsening hepatic function occurs, patients should be carefully monitored (see sections 4.4 and 5.2).

Renal impairment

Studies in patients with renal impairment have not been conducted. Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial should be used with caution in these patients.

The need for dose adjustment in patients with renal impairment has not been evaluated (see sections 4.4, 4 and 5.2).

The use of Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial in patients with renal or hepatic impairment has not been established. Caution should be exercised in the administration of Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial to patients with hepatic or renal impairment and patients should be monitored closely for signs of toxicity.

Of the total number of MDS patients exposed to Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial in the controlled clinical trial, 61 of 83 patients were age 65 and over, while 21 of 83 patients were age 75 and over. No overall differences in safety or effectiveness were observed between these subjects and younger subjects, and other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

Method of Administration

Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial is administered by intravenous infusion. A central venous catheter is not required. For instructions on reconstitution and dilution of the medicinal product before administration, see section 9.2.

4.3. Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to decitabine or to any of the excipients, listed in section 6.1.

- Breast feeding (see warnings and precautions)

4.4. Special Warnings and Special Precautions for Use

Myelosuppression

Myelosuppression and complications of myelosuppression, including infections and bleeding that occur in patients with MDS or AML may be exacerbated with Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial treatment. Therefore, patients are at increased risk for severe infections (due to any pathogen such as bacterial, fungal and viral), with potentially fatal outcome (see section 4.8). Patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of infection and treated promptly.

In AML clinical studies, the majority of patients had baseline Grade 3/4 myelosuppression. In patients with baseline Grade 2 abnormalities, worsening of myelosuppression was seen in most patients and more frequently than in patients with baseline Grade 1 or 0 abnormalities. Myelosuppression caused by Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial is reversible. Cytopenias, and blood and platelet counts should be performed regularly, as clinically indicated and prior to each treatment cycle. In the presence of myelosuppression or its complications, treatment with Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial may be interrupted and/or supportive measures instituted (see sections 4.2 and 4.8).

In MDS studies, Fatal and serious myelosuppression occurs in decitabine 50 mg/vial-treated patients. Myelosuppression (anaemia, neutropenia, and thrombocytopenia) is the most frequent cause of decitabine 50 mg/vial dose reduction, delay, and discontinuation. Neutropenia of any grade occurred in 90% of decitabine 50 mg/vial-treated patients with grade 3 or 4 occurring in 87% of patients. Grade 3 or 4 febrile neutropenia occurred in 23% of patients. Thrombocytopenia of any grade occurred in 89% of patients with grade 3 or 4 occurring in 85% of patients. Anaemia of any grade occurred in 82% of patients. Perform complete blood count with platelets at baseline, prior to each cycle, and as needed to monitor response and toxicity. Manage toxicity using dose-delay, dose-reduction, growth factors, and anti-infective therapies as needed (see *Posology and Method of Administration*).

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Embryo-Fetal Toxicity

In Mice Based on findings from human data, animal studies and its mechanism of action, decitabine 50 mg/vial can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman [see Preclinical Safety Data (5.3)]. In preclinical studies in mice and rats, decitabine caused adverse developmental outcomes including embryo-fetal lethality and malformations. Advise pregnant women of the potential risk to a fetus. Advise females of reproductive potential to use effective contraception while receiving Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial and for 6 months following the last dose. Advise males with female partners of reproductive potential to use effective contraception while receiving treatment with Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial and for 3 months following the last dose [see *Fertility, Pregnancy and lactation 4.6*].

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Cases of interstitial lung disease (ILD) (including pulmonary infiltrates, organizing pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis) without signs of infectious etiology have been reported in patients receiving decitabine. Careful assessment of patients with an acute onset or unexplained worsening of pulmonary symptoms should be performed to exclude ILD. If ILD is confirmed, appropriate treatment should be initiated (see section 4.8).

Hepatic impairment

Use in patients with hepatic impairment has not been established. Caution should be exercised in the administration of Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial to patients with hepatic impairment and in patients who develop signs or symptoms of hepatic impairment. Liver function tests should be performed prior to initiation of therapy and prior to each treatment cycle, and as clinically indicated (see sections 4.2 and 5.2).

Renal impairment

Use in patients with renal impairment has not been studied. Caution should be exercised in the administration of Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial to patients with severe renal impairment (Creatinine Clearance < 30 mL/min) and those patients with renal impairment or growth factors (see section 4.2). Renal function tests should be performed prior to initiation of therapy and prior to each treatment cycle, and as clinically indicated (see section 4.2).

Cardiac disease

Patients with a history of severe congestive heart failure or clinically unstable cardiac disease were excluded from clinical studies and therefore the safety and efficacy of Decitabine-Trima 50 mg/vial in these patients has not been established. Cases of cardiomyopathy with cardiac decompensation, in some cases reversible after treatment discontinuation, dose reduction or corrective treatment, have been reported in the post-marketing setting. Patients, especially those with cardiac disease history, should be monitored for signs and symptoms of heart failure.

Differentiation syndrome

Cases of differentiation syndrome (also known as retinoic acid syndrome) of growth and younger subjects, and other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

Diffusion of Adverse Reactions Information

The safety of decitabine 50 mg/vial was studied in 3 single-arm studies (N = 66, N = 98, N = 99) and 1 controlled supportive care study (N = 83 decitabine 50 mg/vial, N = 81 supportive care). The data described below reflect exposure to decitabine 50 mg/vial in 83 patients in the MDS trial. In the trial, patients received 15 mg/m² intravenously every 8 hours for 3 days every 6 weeks. The median number of decitabine 50 mg/vial cycles was 3 (range 1 to 9).

Table 1 presents all adverse events regardless of causality occurring in at least 5% of patients in the decitabine 50 mg/vial group and at a rate greater than supportive care.

Table 2 presents all adverse events regardless of causality occurring in at least 5% of patients in the decitabine 50 mg/vial group and at a rate greater than supportive care.

Table 3 presents all adverse events regardless of causality occurring in at least 5% of patients in the decitabine 50 mg/vial group and at a rate greater than supportive care.

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Table 15 presents all adverse events regardless of causality occurring in at least 5% of patients in the decitabine 50 mg/vial group and at a rate greater than supportive care.

Table 16 presents all adverse events regardless of causality occurring in at least 5% of patients in the decitabine 50 mg/vial group and at a rate greater than supportive care.

Table 17 presents all adverse events regardless of causality occurring in at least 5% of patients in the decitabine 50 mg/vial group and at a rate greater than supportive care.

Table 18 presents all adverse events regardless

Table 3: Adverse Drug Reactions Identified with decitabine 50 mg/vial^a

System Organ Class	Frequency (all Grades)	Adverse Drug Reaction	Frequency	
			All Grades ^b (%)	Grades 3-4 ^c (%)
Infections and infestations	Very common	pneumonia*	24	20
		urinary tract infection*	15	7
	All other infections (viral, bacterial, fungal) ^{b,c,d}	63	39	
	Common	septic shock*	6	4
		sepsis*	9	8
		sinusitis	3	1
Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (incl. cysts and polyps)	Not known	differentiation syndrome	Not known	Not known
Blood and lymphatic disorders	Very common	febrile neutropenia*	34	32
		neutropenia*	32	30
		thrombocytopenia**	41	38
		anaemia	38	31
		leukopenia	20	18
	Uncommon	Pancytopenia*	<1	<1
Immune system disorders	Common	Hypersensitivity including anaphylactic reaction ^f	1	<1
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Very common	hyperglycaemia	13	3
Nervous system disorders	Very common	headache	16	1
Cardiac disorders	Uncommon	cardiomyopathy	<1	<1
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Very common	epistaxis	14	2
		Not known	Not known	Not known
Gastrointestinal disorders	Very common	diarrhoea	31	2
		vomiting	18	1
		nausea	33	<1
	Common	stomatitis	7	1
		Not known	Not known	Not known
Hepatobiliary disorders	Very common	hepatic function abnormal	11	3
		Common	hyperbilirubinaemia ^g	5
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Uncommon	acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis (Sweet's syndrome)	<1	NA
		Very common	pyrexia	48

a Worst National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events Grade
b Excluding pneumonia, urinary tract infection, sepsis, septic shock and sinusitis.
c The most frequently reported "other infections" in study DACO-016 were: oral herpes, oral candidiasis, pharyngitis, upper respiratory tract infection, cellulitis, bronchitis, nasopharyngitis.
d Including enterocolitis infectiosus.
e Including haemorrhage associated with thrombocytopenia, including fatal cases.
f Including preferred terms hypersensitivity, drug hypersensitivity, anaphylactic reaction, anaphylactic shock, anaphylactoid reaction, anaphylactoid shock.
g In clinical studies in AML and myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), the reporting frequency for hyperbilirubinaemia was 11% for All Grades and 2% for Grade 3-4.
* Includes events with a fatal outcome.
NA=Not applicable

Description of selected adverse drug reactions

Hematologic adverse drug reactions

The most commonly reported hematologic adverse drug reactions associated with decitabine 50 mg/vial treatment included febrile neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, anaemia and leukopenia. Serious bleeding-related adverse drug reactions, some of which lead to a fatal outcome, such as central nervous system (CNS) hemorrhage (2%) and gastrointestinal (GI) hemorrhage (2%) in the context of severe thrombocytopenia, were reported in patients receiving decitabine. Hematologic adverse drug reactions should be managed by routine monitoring of complete blood counts and early administration of supportive treatments as required. Supportive treatments include administration of prophylactic antibiotics and/or growth factor support (e.g., G-CSF) for neutropenia and transfusions for anaemia or thrombocytopenia according to institutional guidelines. For situations where decitabine administration should be delayed, see section 4.2.

Infections and infestations adverse drug reactions

Serious infection related adverse drug reactions, with potentially fatal outcome, such as septic shock, sepsis, pneumonia, and other infections (viral, bacterial and fungal) were reported in patients receiving decitabine.

Gastrointestinal disorders

Occurrences of enterocolitis, including neutropenic colitis, ceecities have been reported during treatment with decitabine. Enterocolitis may lead to septic complications and may be associated with fatal outcome.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Cases of interstitial lung disease and organizing pneumonia, organizing pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis without signs of infectious etiology have been reported in patients receiving decitabine.

Differentiation syndrome

Cases of differentiation syndrome (also known as retinoic acid syndrome) have been reported in patients receiving decitabine. Differentiation syndrome may be fatal and symptoms and clinical findings include respiratory distress, pulmonary infiltrates, fever, rash, pulmonary oedema, peripheral oedema, rapid weight gain, pleural effusions, pericardial effusions, hypertension and renal dysfunction. Differentiation syndrome may occur with or without concomitant leucocytosis. Capillary leak syndrome and coagulopathy can also occur (see section 4.4). 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. Any suspected adverse events should be reported to the Ministry of Health according to the National Regulation by using an online form <https://sideeffects.health.gov.sg>. Side effects can also be reported to the following email: safety@trima.co.il

4.9. Overdose

There is no direct experience of human overdose and no specific antidote. However, early clinical study data in published literature at doses greater than 20 times higher than the current therapeutic doses, reported increased myelosuppression including prolonged neutropenia and thrombocytopenia. Toxicity is likely to manifest as exacerbations of adverse drug reactions, primarily myelosuppression. Treatment for overdose should be supportive.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1. Pharmacodynamic Properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antineoplastic agents, antimetabolites, pyrimidine analogues; ATC Code: L01BC08
Mechanism of action
Decitabine (5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine) is a cytidine deoxynucleoside analogue that selectively inhibits DNA methyltransferases at low doses, resulting in gene promoter hypomethylation that can result in reactivation of tumour suppressor genes, induction of cellular differentiation or cellular senescence followed by programmed cell death.

AML Clinical experience

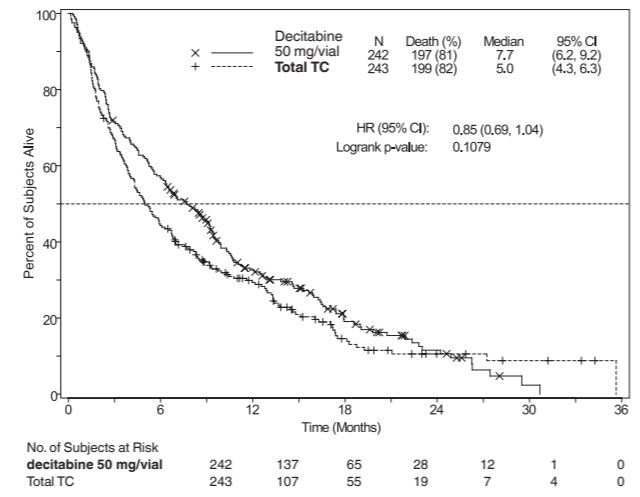
The use of decitabine 50 mg/vial was studied in an open-label, randomised, multicentre Phase III study (DACO-016) in subjects with newly diagnosed de novo or secondary AML according to the WHO classification. Decitabine 50 mg/vial (n=242) was compared to treatment choice (TC, n=243) which consisted of patient's choice with physician's advice of either supportive care alone (n=28, 11.5%) or 20 mg/m² cytarabine subcutaneously once daily for 10 consecutive days repeated every 4 weeks (n=215, 88.5%). Decitabine 50 mg/vial was administered as a 1-hour intravenous infusion of 20 mg/m² once daily for 5 consecutive days repeated every 4 weeks.

Subjects who were considered candidates for standard induction chemotherapy were not included in the study as shown by the following baseline characteristics. The median age for the intent-to-treat (ITT) population was 73 years (range 64 to 91 years). Thirty-six percent of subjects had poor-risk cytogenetics at baseline. The remainder of the subjects had intermediate-risk cytogenetics. Patients with favourable cytogenetics were not included in the study. Twenty-five percent of subjects had an ECOG performance status ≥ 2 . Eighty-one percent of subjects had significant comorbidities (e.g., infection, cardiac impairment, pulmonary impairment). The number of patients treated with decitabine 50 mg/vial by racial group was White 209 (86.4%) and Asian 33 (13.6%).

The primary endpoint of the study was overall survival. The secondary endpoint was complete remission rate that was assessed by independent expert review. Progression-free survival and Event-free survival were tertiary endpoints.

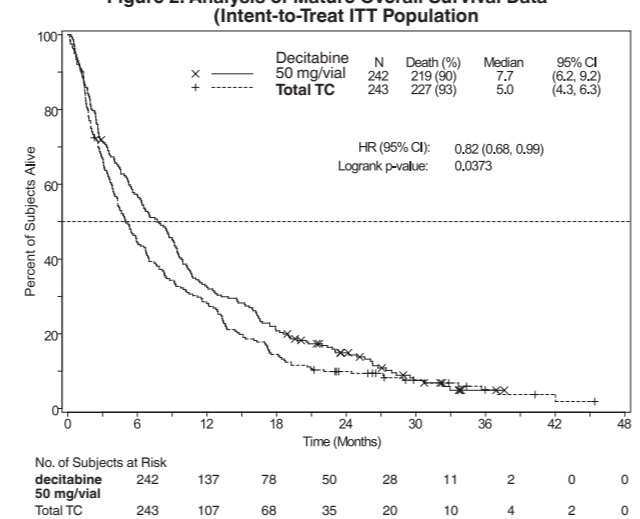
The median overall survival in the intent-to-treat ITT population was 7.7 months in subjects treated with decitabine 50 mg/vial compared to 5.0 months for subjects in the TC arm (hazard ratio 0.85; 95% CI: 0.69, 1.04, p = 0.1079). The difference did not reach statistical significance, however, there was improvement in survival with a 15% reduction in the risk of death for subjects in the decitabine 50 mg/vial arm (Figure 1). When censored for potentially disease modifying subsequent therapy (i.e., induction chemotherapy or hypomethylating agent) the analysis for overall survival showed a 20% reduction in the risk of death for subjects in the decitabine 50 mg/vial arm [HR = 0.80, (95% CI: 0.64, 0.99), p-value = 0.0437].

Figure 1. Overall Survival (Intent-to-Treat ITT Population)



In an analysis with an additional 1 year of mature survival data, the effect of decitabine 50 mg/vial on overall survival demonstrated a clinical improvement compared to the TC arm (7.7 months vs. 5.0 months, respectively, hazard ratio = 0.82, 95% CI: 0.68, 0.99, nominal p-value = 0.0373, Figure 2)

Figure 2. Analysis of Mature Overall Survival Data (Intent-to-Treat ITT Population)



Based on the initial analysis in the Intent-to-Treat ITT population, a statistically significant difference in complete remission rate (CR + CRp) was achieved in favour of subjects in the decitabine 50 mg/vial arm, 17.8% (43/242) compared to the TC arm, 7.8% (19/243); treatment difference 9.9% (95% CI: 4.07; 15.83), p = 0.0011. The median time to best response and median duration of best response in patients who achieved a CR or CRp were 4.3 months and 8.3 months, respectively. Progression-free survival was significantly longer for subjects in the decitabine 50 mg/vial arm, 3.7 months (95% CI: 2.7, 4.6) compared with subjects in the TC arm, 2.1 months (95% CI: 1.9, 3.1); hazard ratio 0.75 (95% CI: 0.62, 0.91), p = 0.0031. These results as well as other endpoints are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Other efficacy endpoints for Study DACO-016 (ITT population).

Outcomes	decitabine 50 mg/vial n=242	TC (combined group) n= 243	p-value
CR + CRp	43 (17.8%)	19 (7.8%)	0.0011
OR	2.5 (1.40, 4.78) ^a		
CR	38 (15.7%)	18 (7.4%)	-
EFS ^a	3.5 (2.5, 4.1) ^b	2.1 (1.9, 2.8) ^b	0.0025
HR	0.75 (0.62, 0.90) ^b		
PFS ^a	3.7 (2.7, 4.6) ^b	2.1 (1.9, 3.1) ^b	0.0031
HR	0.75 (0.62, 0.91) ^b		

CR = complete remission; CRp = complete remission with incomplete platelet recovery; EFS = event-free survival; PFS = progression-free survival; OR = odds ratio; HR = hazard ratio
- = Not evaluable
^a Reported as median months
^b 95% confidence intervals

Overall survival and complete remission rates in pre-specified disease-related sub-groups (i.e., cytogenetic risk, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group [ECOG] score, age, type of AML, and baseline bone marrow blast count) were consistent with results for the overall study population.

The use of decitabine 50 mg/vial as initial therapy was also evaluated in an open-label, single-arm, Phase II study (DACO-017) in 55 subjects > 60 years with AML according to the WHO classification. The primary endpoint was complete remission (CR) rate that was assessed by independent expert review. The secondary endpoint of the study was overall survival. Decitabine 50 mg/vial was administered as a 1-hour intravenous infusion of 20 mg/m² once daily for 5 consecutive days repeated every 4 weeks. In the Intent-to-Treat ITT analysis, a CR rate of 23.6% (95% CI: 13.2, 37) was observed in 13/55 subjects treated with decitabine 50 mg/vial. The median time to CR was 4.1 months, and the median duration of CR was 18.2 months. The median overall survival in the Intent-to-Treat ITT population was 7.6 months (95% CI: 5.7, 11.5). The efficacy and safety of decitabine 50 mg/vial has not been evaluated in patients with acute promyelocytic leukaemia or CNS leukaemia.

MDS Clinical experience

A randomized open-label, multicenter, controlled trial evaluated 170 adult patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) meeting French-American-British (FAB) classification criteria and International Prognostic Scoring System (IPSS) High-Risk, Intermediate-2 and Intermediate-1 prognostic scores. Eighty-nine patients were randomized to decitabine 50 mg/vial therapy plus supportive care (only 83 received decitabine 50 mg/vial), and 81 to Supportive Care (SC) alone. Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) were not intended to be included. Of the 170 patients included in the study, independent review (adjudicated diagnosis) found that 12 patients (9 in the decitabine 50 mg/vial arm and 3 in the SC arm) had the diagnosis of AML at baseline. Baseline demographics and other patient characteristics in the Intent-to-Treat (ITT) population were similar between the 2 groups, as shown in Table 7.

Table 7 Baseline Demographics and Other Patient Characteristics (ITT)

Demographic or Other Patient Characteristic	decitabine 50 mg/vial N = 89	Supportive Care N = 81
Age (years)		
Mean (±SD)	69±10	67±10
Median (IQR)	70 (65-76)	70 (62-74)
(Range: min-max)	(31-85)	(30-82)
Sex n (%)		
Male	59 (66)	57 (70)
Female	30 (34)	24 (30)
Race n (%)		
White	83 (93)	76 (94)
Black	4 (4)	2 (2)
Other	2 (2)	3 (4)

Patients randomized to the decitabine 50 mg/vial arm received decitabine 50 mg/vial intravenously infused at a dose of 15 mg/m² over a 3-hour period, every 8 hours, for 3 consecutive days. This cycle was repeated every 6 weeks, depending on the patient's clinical response and toxicity. Supportive care consisted of blood and blood product transfusions, prophylactic antibiotics, and hematopoietic growth factors. The study endpoints were overall response rate (complete response + partial response) and time to AML or death. Responses were classified using the MDS International Working Group (IWG) criteria; patients were required to be RBC and platelet transfusion independent during the time of response. Response criteria are given in Table 8.

Table 8 Response Criteria for Phase 3 the controlled Trial in MDS*

Complete Response (CR) ≥ 8 weeks	Bone Marrow	On repeat aspirates:
		• < 5% myeloblasts
		• No dysplastic changes
Peripheral Blood	In all samples during response:	
	• Hgb > 11 g/dL (no transfusions or erythropoietin)	
	• ANC ≥ 1500/μL (no growth factor)	
	• Platelets ≥ 100,000/μL (no thrombopoietic agent)	
	• No blasts and no dysplasia	
Partial Response (PR) ≥ 8 weeks	Bone Marrow	On repeat aspirates:
		• ≥ 50% decrease in blasts over pretreatment values OR
		• Improvement to a less advanced MDS FAB classification
	Peripheral Blood	Same as for CR

* Cheson BD, Bennett JM, et al. Report of an International Working Group to Standardize Response Criteria for MDS. *Blood*. 2000; 96:3671-3674.

The overall response rate (CR+PR) in the ITT population was 17% in decitabine 50 mg/vial-treated patients and 0% in the SC group (p<0.001). (See Table 9) The overall response rate was 21% (12/56) in decitabine 50 mg/vial-treated patients considered evaluable for response (i.e., those patients with pathologically confirmed MDS at baseline who received at least 2 cycles of treatment). The median duration of response (range) for patients who responded to decitabine 50 mg/vial was 288 days (116-388) and median time to response (range) was 93 days (55-272). All but one of the decitabine 50 mg/vial-treated patients who responded did so by the fourth cycle. Benefit was seen in an additional 13% of decitabine 50 mg/vial-treated patients who had hematologic improvement, defined, as a response less than PR lasting at least 8 weeks, compared to 7% of SC patients. Decitabine 50 mg/vial treatment did not significantly delay the median time to AML or death versus supportive care.

Table 9 Analysis of Response (ITT)

Parameter	decitabine 50 mg/vial N=89	Supportive Care N=81
Overall Response Rate (CR+PR)[†]	15 (17%)**	0 (0%)
Complete Response (CR)	8 (9%)	0 (0%)
Partial Response (PR)	7 (8%)	0 (0%)
Duration of Response		
Median time to (CR+PR) response - Days (range)	93 (55-272)	NA
Median Duration of (CR+PR) response - Days (range)	288 (116-388)	NA
Previous MDS Therapy n (%)		
Yes	27 (30)	19 (23)
No	62 (70)	62 (77)
RBC Transfusion Status n (%)		
Independent	23 (26)	27 (33)
Dependent	66 (74)	54 (67)
Platelet Transfusion Status n (%)		
Independent	69 (78)	62 (77)
Dependent	20 (22)	19 (23)
IPSS Classification n (%)		
Intermediate-1	28 (31)	24 (30)
Intermediate-2	38 (43)	36 (44)
High Risk	23 (26)	21 (26)
FAB Classification n (%)		
RA	12 (13)	12 (15)
RARS	7 (8)	4 (5)
RAEB	47 (53)	43 (53)
RAEB-t	17 (19)	14 (17)
CMML	6 (7)	8 (10)

** p-value <0.001 from two-sided Fisher's Exact Test comparing decitabine 50 mg/vial vs. supportive care
[†] In the statistical analysis plan, a p-value of ≤ 0.024 was required to achieve statistical significance.

All patients with a CR or PR were RBC and platelet transfusion independent in the absence of growth factors. Responses occurred in patients with an adjudicated baseline diagnosis of AML. **Single-arm Studies**
Three open-label, single-arm, multicenter studies were conducted to evaluate the safety and efficacy of decitabine 50 mg/vial in MDS patients with any of the FAB subtypes. In one study conducted in North America, 99 patients with IPSS Intermediate-1, Intermediate-2, or high risk prognostic scores received decitabine 50 mg/vial 20 mg/m² as an intravenous infusion over 1-hour daily, on days 1-5 of week 1 every 4 weeks (1 cycle). The results were consistent with the results of the controlled trial and are summarized in Table 10.

Table 10 Baseline Demographics and Other Patient Characteristics (ITT)

Demographic or Other Patient Characteristic	decitabine 50 mg/vial N = 99
Age (years)	
Mean (±SD)	71±9
Median (Range: min-max)	72 (34-87)
Sex n (%)	
Male	71 (72)
Female	28 (28)
Race n (%)	

White 86 (87)
Black 6 (6)
Asian 4 (4)
Other 3 (3)
Days From MDS Diagnosis to First Dose
Mean (±SD) 444±626
Median (Range: min-max) 154 (7-3079)
Previous MDS Therapy n (%)
Yes 27 (27)
No 72 (73)
RBC Transfusion Status n (%)
Independent 33 (33)
Dependent 66 (67)
Platelet Transfusion Status n (%)
Independent 84 (85)
Dependent 15 (15)
IPSS Classification n (%)
Low Risk 1 (1)
Intermediate-1 52 (53)
Demographic or Other Patient

Characteristic
Intermediate-2 23 (23)
High Risk 23 (23)
FAB Classification n (%)
RA 20 (20)
RARS 17 (17)
RAEB 45 (45)
RAEB-t 6 (6)
CMML 11 (11)

Table 11 Analysis of Response (ITT)[†]

Parameter	decitabine 50 mg/vial N=99
Overall Response Rate (CR+PR)	16 (16%)
Complete Response (CR)	15 (15%)
Partial Response (PR)	1 (1%)
Duration of Response	
Median time to (CR+PR) response - Days (range)	162 (50-267)
Median Duration of (CR+PR) response - Days (range)	443 (72-722+)

+ indicates censored observation
[†] Cheson BD, Bennett JM, et al. Report of an International Working Group to Standardize Response Criteria for MDS. *Blood*. 2000; 96:3671-3674.

5.2. Pharmacokinetic Properties
The population pharmacokinetic (PK) parameters of decitabine were pooled from 3 clinical studies in 45 patients with AML or myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) utilizing the 5-day regimen in each study, decitabine PK was evaluated on the fifth day of the first treatment cycle.

Distribution
The pharmacokinetics of decitabine following intravenous administration as a 1-hour infusion were described by a linear two-compartment model, characterized by rapid elimination of the drug from the central compartment and by relatively slow distribution from the peripheral compartment. For a typical patient (weight 70 kg/body surface area 1.73 m²) the decitabine pharmacokinetic parameters are listed in Table 12 below.

Table 12 Summary of population PK analysis for a typical patient receiving daily 1-hour infusions of decitabine 50 mg/vial 20 mg/m² over 5 days every 4 weeks

Parameter ^a	Predicted Value	95% CI
C _{max} (ng/mL)	107	88.5-129
AUC _{0-24h} (ng.h/mL)	580	480-695
t _{1/2} (min)	68.2	54.2-79.6
V _d (L)	116	84.1-153
CL (L/h)	298	249-359

^a The total dose per cycle was 100 mg/m²

Decitabine exhibits linear PK and following the intravenous infusion, steady-state concentrations are reached within 0.5 hour. Based on model simulation, PK parameters were independent of time (i.e., did not change from cycle to cycle) and no accumulation was observed with this dosing regimen. Plasma protein binding of decitabine is negligible (<1%). Decitabine V_d in cancer patients is large indicating distribution into peripheral tissues. There was no evidence of dependence on age, creatinine clearance, total bilirubin, or disease.

Biotransformation

Intracellularly, decitabine is activated through sequential phosphorylation via phosphokinase activities to the corresponding triphosphate, which is then incorporated by the DNA polymerase. In vitro metabolism data and the human mass balance studies indicated that the cytochrome P450 system is not involved in the metabolism of decitabine. The primary route of metabolism is likely through deamination by cytidine deaminase in the liver, kidney, intestinal epithelium and blood. Results from the human mass-balance study showed that unchanged decitabine in plasma accounted for approximately 2.4% of total radioactivity in plasma. The major circulating metabolites are not believed to be pharmacologically active. The presence of these metabolites in urine together with the high total body clearance and low urinary excretion of unchanged decitabine in the urine (~4% of the dose) indicate that decitabine is appreciably metabolised *in vivo*. In vitro studies show that decitabine does not inhibit nor induce CYP 450 enzymes up to more than 20-fold of the therapeutic maximum observed plasma concentration (C_{max}). Thus, CYP-mediated metabolic drug interactions are not anticipated, and decitabine is unlikely to interact with agents metabolised in these pathways. In addition, in vitro data show that decitabine is a poor P-gp substrate.

Elimination
Mean plasma clearance following intravenous administration in cancer subjects was >200 L/h with moderate inter-subject variability (Coefficient of variation [CV] is approximately 50%). Excretion of unchanged drug appears to play only a minor role in the elimination of decitabine. Results from a mass balance study with radioactive ¹⁴C-decitabine in cancer patients showed that 90% of the administered dose of decitabine (4% unchanged drug) is excreted in the urine.

Additional information on special populations

The effects of renal or hepatic impairment, gender, age or race on the pharmacokinetics of decitabine have not been formally studied. Information on special populations was derived from pharmacokinetic data from the 3 studies noted above, and from one Phase I study in MDS subjects (N=14; 15 mg/m² X 3-hours qd X 3 days).

Elderly
Population pharmacokinetic analysis showed that decitabine pharmacokinetics is not dependent on age (range studied 40 to 87 years; median 70 years).
Gender
Population pharmacokinetics analysis of decitabine