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RESEARCH**

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MAXIPIME®

(Cefepime Hydrochloride) for Injection

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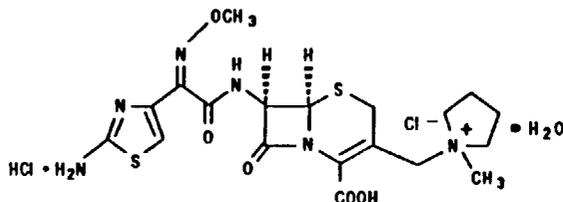
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MAXIPIME® (Cefepime Hydrochloride) for Injection

For Intravenous or Intramuscular Use

DESCRIPTION

Cefepime hydrochloride is a semi-synthetic, broad spectrum, cephalosporin antibiotic for parenteral administration. The chemical name is 1-[[[(6R,7F)-7-[2-(2-amino-4-thiazolyl)-glyoxyamido]-2-carboxy-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0] oct-2-en-3-yl]methyl]-1-methylpyrrolidinium chloride, 7²-(Z)- (O-methyloxime), monohydrochloride, monohydrate, which corresponds to the following structural formula:



Cefepime hydrochloride is a white to pale yellow powder with a molecular formula of $C_{19}H_{25}ClN_4O_5S_2 \cdot HCl \cdot H_2O$ and a molecular weight of 571.5. It is highly soluble in water.

MAXIPIME® (cefepime hydrochloride) for injection, is supplied for intramuscular or intravenous administration in strengths equivalent to 500 mg, 1 g and 2 g of cefepime. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.) MAXIPIME is a sterile, dry mixture of cefepime hydrochloride and L-arginine. The L-arginine, at an approximate concentration of 725 mg/g of cefepime, is added to control the pH of the constituted solution at 4.0-6.0. Freshly constituted solutions of MAXIPIME will range in color from colorless to amber.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Pharmacokinetics

The average plasma concentrations of cefepime observed in healthy adult male volunteers (n=9) at various times following single 30-minute infusions (IV) of cefepime 500 mg, 1 g, and 2 g are summarized in Table 1. Elimination of cefepime is principally via renal excretion with an average (\pm SD) half-life of 2.0 (\pm 0.3) hours and total body clearance of 120.0 (\pm 8.0) mL/min in healthy volunteers. Cefepime pharmacokinetics are linear over the range 250 mg to 2 g. There is no evidence of accumulation in healthy adult male volunteers (n=7) receiving clinically relevant doses for a period of 9 days.

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Absorption

The average plasma concentrations of cefepime and its derived pharmacokinetic parameters after intravenous administration are portrayed in Table 1.

TABLE 1
Average Plasma Concentrations in µg/mL of Cefepime and Derived Pharmacokinetic Parameters (± SD), Intravenous Administration

Parameter	MAXIPIME		
	500 mg IV	1 g IV	2 g IV
0.5 hr	38.2	78.7	163.1
1.0 hr	21.6	44.5	85.8
2.0 hr	11.6	24.3	44.8
4.0 hr	5.0	10.5	19.2
8.0 hr	1.4	2.4	3.9
12.0 hr	0.2	0.6	1.1
C _{max} , µg/mL	39.1 (3.5)	81.7 (5.1)	163.9 (25.3)
AUC, hr•µg/mL	70.8 (6.7)	148.5 (15.1)	284.8 (30.6)
Number of subjects (male)	9	9	9

Following intramuscular (IM) administration, cefepime is completely absorbed. The average plasma concentrations of cefepime at various times following a single IM injection are summarized in Table 2. The pharmacokinetics of cefepime are linear over the range of 500 mg to 2 g IM and do not vary with respect to treatment duration.

TABLE 2
Average Plasma Concentrations in µg/mL of Cefepime and Derived Pharmacokinetic Parameters (± SD), Intramuscular Administration

Parameter	MAXIPIME		
	500 mg IM	1 g IM	2 g IM
0.5 hr	8.2	14.8	36.1
1.0 hr	12.5	25.9	49.9
2.0 hr	12.0	26.3	51.3
4.0 hr	8.9	16.0	31.5
8.0 hr	1.9	4.5	8.7
12.0 hr	0.7	1.4	2.3
C _{max} , µg/mL	13.9 (3.4)	29.6 (4.4)	57.5 (9.5)
T _{max} , hr	1.4 (0.9)	1.6 (0.4)	1.5 (0.4)
AUC, hr•µg/mL	60.0 (8.0)	137.0 (11.0)	262.0 (23.0)
Number of subjects (male)	6	6	12

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Distribution

The average steady state volume of distribution of cefepime is 18.0 (± 2.0) L. The serum protein binding of cefepime is approximately 20% and is independent of its concentration in serum.

Cefepime is excreted in human milk. A nursing infant consuming approximately 1000 mL of human milk per day would receive approximately 0.5 mg of cefepime per day. (See PRECAUTIONS, Nursing Mothers.)

Concentrations of cefepime achieved in specific tissues and body fluids are listed in Table 3.

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TABLE 3
Average Concentrations of Cefepime in Specific Body Fluids (µg/mL) or Tissues (µg/g)

Tissue or Fluid	Dose/Route	# of Patients	Average Time of Sample Post-Dose (hr)	Average Concentration
Blister Fluid	2 g IV	6	1.5	81.4 µg/mL
Bronchial Mucosa	2 g IV	20	4.8	24.1 µg/g
Sputum	2 g IV	5	4.0	7.4 µg/mL
Urine	500 mg IV	8	0-4	292 µg/mL
	1 g IV	12	0-4	926 µg/mL
	2 g IV	12	0-4	3120 µg/mL
Bile	2 g IV	26	9.4	17.8 µg/mL
Peritoneal Fluid	2 g IV	19	4.4	18.3 µg/mL
Appendix	2 g IV	31	5.7	5.2 µg/g
Gallbladder	2 g IV	38	8.9	11.9 µg/g
Prostate	2 g IV	5	1.0	31.5 µg/g

Data suggest that cefepime does cross the inflamed blood-brain barrier. The clinical relevance of these data are uncertain at this time.

Metabolism and Excretion

Cefepime is metabolized to N-methylpyrrolidine (NMP) which is rapidly converted to the N-oxide (NMP-N-oxide). Urinary recovery of unchanged cefepime accounts for approximately 85% of the administered dose. Less than 1% of the administered dose is recovered from urine as NMP, 6.8% as NMP-N-oxide, and 2.5% as an epimer of cefepime. Because renal excretion is a significant pathway of elimination, patients with renal dysfunction and patients undergoing hemodialysis require dosage adjustment. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

Special Populations

Geriatric patients: Cefepime pharmacokinetics have been investigated in elderly (65 years of age and older) men (n=12) and women (n=12) whose creatinine clearance was 74.0 (± 15.0) mL/min. There appeared to be a decrease in cefepime total body clearance as a function of creatinine clearance. Therefore, dosage administration of cefepime in the elderly should be adjusted as appropriate if the patient's creatinine clearance is 60 mL/min or less. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

Renal insufficiency: Cefepime pharmacokinetics have been investigated in patients with various degrees of renal insufficiency (n=30). The average half-life in patients requiring hemodialysis was 13.5 (± 2.7) hours and in patients requiring continuous peritoneal dialysis was 19.0 (± 2.0) hours. Cefepime total body clearance decreased proportionally with creatinine clearance in patients with abnormal renal function, which serves as the basis for dosage adjustment recommendations in this group of patients. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

Hepatic insufficiency: The pharmacokinetics of cefepime were unaltered in patients with impaired hepatic function who received a single 1 g dose (n=11).

Microbiology

Cefepime is a bactericidal agent that acts by inhibition of bacterial cell wall synthesis. Cefepime has a broad spectrum of *in vitro* activity that encompasses a wide range of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. Cefepime has a low affinity for chromosomally-encoded beta-lactamases. Cefepime is highly resistant to hydrolysis by most beta-lactamases and exhibits rapid penetration into gram-negative bacterial cells. Within bacterial cells, the molecular targets of cefepime are the penicillin binding proteins (PBP).

Cefepime has been shown to be active against most strains of the following microorganisms, both *in vitro* and in clinical infections as described in the INDICATIONS AND USAGE section.

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Pediatric patients: Cefepime pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in pediatric patients from 2 months to 11 years of age following single and multiple doses on q8h (n = 29) and q12h (n =13) schedules. Following a single IV dose, total body clearance and the steady state volume of distribution averaged 3.3 (±1.0) mL/min/kg and 0.3 (±0.1) L/kg, respectively. The urinary recovery of unchanged cefepime was 60.4 (±30.4)% of the administered dose, and the average renal clearance was 2.0 (±1.1) mL/min/kg. There were no significant effects of age or gender (25 male vs. 17 female) on total body clearance or volume of distribution, corrected for body weight. No accumulation was seen when cefepime was given at 50 mg/kg q12h (n=13), while C_{max} , AUC, and $t_{1/2}$ were increased about 15% at steady state after 50 mg/kg q8h. The exposure to cefepime following a 50 mg/kg IV dose in a pediatric patient is comparable to that in an adult treated with a 2 g IV dose. The absolute bioavailability of cefepime after an IM dose of 50 mg/kg was 82.3 (±15)% in eight patients.

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Aerobic Gram-Negative Microorganisms:

- Enterobacter*
- Escherichia coli*
- Klebsiella pneumoniae*
- Proteus mirabilis*
- Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Aerobic Gram-Positive Microorganisms:

- Staphylococcus aureus* (methicillin-susceptible strains only)
- Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- Streptococcus pyogenes* (Lancefield's Group A streptococci)

The following *in vitro* data are available, but their clinical significance is unknown. Cefepime has been shown to have *in vitro* activity against most strains of the following microorganisms; however, the safety and effectiveness of cefepime in treating clinical infections due to these microorganisms have not been established in adequate and well-controlled trials.

Aerobic Gram-Positive Microorganisms:

- Staphylococcus epidermidis* (methicillin-susceptible strains only)
- Staphylococcus saprophyticus*
- Streptococcus agalactiae* (Lancefield's Group B streptococci)
- Viridans group streptococci

NOTE: Most strains of enterococci, e.g. *Enterococcus faecalis*, and methicillin-resistant staphylococci are resistant to cefepime.

Aerobic Gram-Negative Microorganisms:

- Acinetobacter calcoaceticus* subsp. *Anoff*
- Citrobacter diversus*
- Citrobacter freundii*
- Enterobacter agglomerans*
- Haemophilus influenzae* (including beta-lactamase producing strains)
- Hafnia alvei*
- Klebsiella oxytoca*
- Moraxella catarrhalis* (including beta-lactamase producing strains)
- Morganella morganii*
- Proteus vulgaris*
- Providencia rettgeri*
- Providencia stuartii*
- Serratia marcescens*

NOTE: Cefepime is inactive against many strains of *Stenotrophomonas* (formerly *Xanthomonas maltophilia* and *Pseudomonas maltophilia*).

Anaerobic Microorganisms:

NOTE: Cefepime is inactive against most strains of *Clostridium difficile*.

Susceptibility Tests

Dilution Techniques:

Quantitative methods are used to determine antimicrobial minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC's). These MIC's provide estimates of the susceptibility of bacteria to antimicrobial compounds. The MIC's should be determined using a standardized procedure. Standardized procedures are based on a dilution method¹ (broth or agar) or equivalent with standardized inoculum concentrations and standardized concentrations of cefepime powder. The MIC values should be interpreted according to the following criteria:

TABLE 4

Microorganism	MIC (µg/mL)		
	Susceptible (S)	Intermediate (I)	Resistant (R)
Microorganisms other than <i>Haemophilus</i> spp.* and <i>S. pneumoniae</i> *	≤8	16	≥32
<i>Haemophilus</i> spp.*	≤2	—*	—*
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> *	≤0.5	1	≥2

*NOTE: Isolates from these species should be tested for susceptibility using specialized dilution testing methods.¹ Also, strains of *Haemophilus* spp. with MIC's greater than 2 µg/mL should be considered equivocal and should be further evaluated.

A report of "Susceptible" indicates that the pathogen is likely to be inhibited if the antimicrobial compound in the blood reaches the concentrations usually achievable. A report of "Intermediate" indicates that the result should be considered equivocal, and, if the microorganism is not fully susceptible to alternative, clinically feasible drugs, the test should be repeated. This category implies possible clinical applicability in body sites where the drug is physiologically concentrated or in situations where high dosage of drug can be used. This category also provides a buffer zone which prevents small uncontrolled technical factors from causing major discrepancies in interpretation. A report of "Resistant" indicates that the pathogen is not likely to be inhibited if the antimicrobial compound in the blood reaches the concentrations usually achievable; other therapy should be selected.

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Standardized susceptibility test procedures require the use of laboratory control microorganisms to control the technical aspects of the laboratory procedures. Laboratory control microorganisms are specific strains of microbiological assay organisms with intrinsic biological properties relating to resistance mechanisms and their genetic expression within bacteria; the specific strains are not clinically significant in their current microbiological status. Standard cefepime powder should provide the following MIC values (Table 5) when tested against the designated quality control strains:

TABLE 5

Microorganism	ATCC	MIC (µg/mL)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	25922	0.015-0.06
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	29213	1-4
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	27853	1-4
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	49247	0.5-2
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	49619	0.06-0.25

Diffusion Techniques:

Quantitative methods that require measurement of zone diameters also provide reproducible estimates of the susceptibility of bacteria to antimicrobial compounds. One such standardized procedure² requires the use of standardized inoculum concentrations. This procedure uses paper disks impregnated with 30 µg of cefepime to test the susceptibility of microorganisms to cefepime. Interpretation is identical to that stated above for results using dilution techniques.

Reports from the laboratory providing results of the standard single-disk susceptibility test with a 30-µg cefepime disk should be interpreted according to the following criteria:

TABLE 6

Microorganism	Zone Diameter (mm)		
	Susceptible (S)	Intermediate (I)	Resistant (R)
Microorganisms other than <i>Haemophilus</i> spp.* and <i>S. pneumoniae</i> *	≥18	15-17	≤14
<i>Haemophilus</i> spp.*	≥26	-*	-*

*NOTE: Isolates from these species should be tested for susceptibility using specialized diffusion testing methods². Isolates of *Haemophilus* spp. with zones smaller than 26 mm should be considered equivocal and should be further evaluated. Isolates of *S. pneumoniae* should be tested against a 1 µg oxacillin disk; isolates with oxacillin zone sizes larger than or equal to 20 mm may be considered susceptible to cefepime.

As with standardized dilution techniques, diffusion methods require the use of laboratory control microorganisms to control the technical aspects of the laboratory procedures. Laboratory control microorganisms are specific strains of microbiological assay organisms with intrinsic biological properties relating to resistance mechanisms and their genetic expression within bacteria; the specific strains are not clinically significant in their current microbiological status. For the diffusion technique, the 30-µg cefepime disk should provide the following zone diameters in these laboratory test quality control strains (Table 7):

TABLE 7

Microorganism	ATCC	Zone Size Range (mm)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	25922	29-35
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	25923	23-29
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	27853	24-30
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	49247	25-31

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

MAXIPIME is indicated in the treatment of the following infections caused by susceptible strains of the designated microorganisms:

Pneumonia (moderate to severe) caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, including cases associated with concurrent bacteremia, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, or *Enterobacter* species.

Empiric Therapy for Febrile Neutropenic Patients. Cefepime as monotherapy is indicated for empiric treatment of febrile neutropenic patients. In patients at high risk for severe infection (including patients with a history of recent bone marrow transplantation, with hypotension at presentation, with an underlying hematologic malignancy, or with severe or prolonged neutropenia), antimicrobial monotherapy may not be appropriate. Insufficient data exist to support the efficacy of cefepime monotherapy in such patients. (See CLINICAL STUDIES.)

(see also PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric Use and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION):

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Uncomplicated and Complicated Urinary Tract Infections (including pyelonephritis) caused by *Escherichia coli* or *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, when the infection is severe, or caused by *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, or *Proteus mirabilis*, when the infection is mild to moderate, including cases associated with concurrent bacteremia with these microorganisms.

Uncomplicated Skin and Skin Structure Infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* (methicillin-susceptible strains only) or *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

Complicated Intra-abdominal Infections (used in combination with metronidazole) caused by *Escherichia coli*, viridans group streptococci, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Enterobacter* species, or *Bacteroides fragilis*. (See CLINICAL STUDIES.)

Culture and susceptibility testing should be performed where appropriate to determine the susceptibility of the causative microorganism(s) to cefepime.

Therapy with MAXIPIME may be instituted before results of susceptibility studies are known; however, once these results become available, the antibiotic treatment should be adjusted accordingly.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Febrile Neutropenic Patients

The safety and efficacy of empiric cefepime monotherapy of febrile neutropenic patients have been assessed in two multicenter, randomized trials, comparing cefepime monotherapy (at a dose of 2 g IV q8h) to ceftazidime monotherapy (at a dose of 2 g IV q8h). These studies comprised 317 evaluable patients. Table 8 describes the characteristics of the evaluable patient population.

TABLE 8
Demographics Of Evaluable Patients (First Episodes Only)

Total	Cefepime	Ceftazidime
	164	153
Median age (yr)	56.0 (range, 18-82)	55.0 (range, 16-84)
Male	86 (52%)	85 (56%)
Female	78 (48%)	68 (44%)
Leukemia	65 (40%)	52 (34%)
Other hematologic malignancies	43 (26%)	36 (24%)
Solid tumor	54 (33%)	56 (37%)
Median ANC nadir (cells/ μ L)	20.0 (range, 0-500)	20.0 (range, 0-500)
Median duration of neutropenia (days)	6.0 (range, 0-39)	6.0 (range, 0-32)
Indwelling venous catheter	97 (59%)	86 (56%)
Prophylactic antibiotics	62 (38%)	64 (42%)
Bone marrow graft	9 (5%)	7 (5%)
SBP <90 mm Hg at entry	7 (4%)	2 (1%)

ANC = absolute neutrophil count; SBP = systolic blood pressure

Table 9 describes the clinical response rates observed. For all outcome measures, cefepime was therapeutically equivalent to ceftazidime.

TABLE 9
Pooled Response Rates for Empiric Therapy of
Febrile Neutropenic Patients

Outcome Measures	% Response	
	Cefepime (N=164)	Ceftazidime (N=153)
Primary episode resolved with no treatment modification, no new febrile episodes or infection, and oral antibiotics allowed for completion of treatment	51	55
Primary episode resolved with no treatment modification, no new febrile episodes or infection and no post-treatment oral antibiotics	34	39
Survival, any treatment modification allowed	93	97
Primary episode resolved with no treatment modification and oral antibiotics allowed for completion of treatment	62	67
Primary episode resolved with no treatment modification and no post-treatment oral antibiotics	46	51

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Insufficient data exist to support the efficacy of cefepime monotherapy in patients at high risk for severe infection (including patients with a history of recent bone marrow transplantation, with hypotension at presentation, with an underlying hematologic malignancy, or with severe or prolonged neutropenia). No data are available in patients with septic shock.

Complicated Intra-abdominal Infections

Patients hospitalized with complicated intra-abdominal infections participated in a randomized, double-blind, multicenter trial comparing the combination of cefepime (2 g q12h) plus intravenous metronidazole (500 mg q6h) versus imipenem/cilastatin (500 mg q6h) for a maximum duration of 14 days of therapy. The study was designed to demonstrate equivalence of the two therapies. The primary analyses were conducted on the protocol-valid population, which consisted of those with a surgically confirmed complicated infection, at least one pathogen isolated pretreatment, at least 5 days of treatment, and a 4-8 week follow-up assessment for cured patients. Subjects in the imipenem/cilastatin arm had higher APACHE II scores at baseline. The treatment groups were otherwise generally comparable with regard to their pretreatment characteristics. The overall clinical cure rate among the protocol-valid patients was 81% (51 cured/63 evaluable patients) in the cefepime plus metronidazole group and 66% (62/94) in the imipenem/cilastatin group. The observed differences in efficacy may have been due to a greater proportion of patients with high APACHE II scores in the imipenem/cilastatin group.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

MAXIPIME is contraindicated in patients who have shown immediate hypersensitivity reactions to cefepime or the cephalosporin class of antibiotics, penicillins or other beta-lactam antibiotics.

WARNINGS

BEFORE THERAPY WITH MAXIPIME (CEFEPIME HYDROCHLORIDE) FOR INJECTION IS INSTITUTED, CAREFUL INQUIRY SHOULD BE MADE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PATIENT HAS HAD PREVIOUS IMMEDIATE HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTIONS TO CEFEPIME, CEPHALOSPORINS, PENICILLINS, OR OTHER DRUGS. IF THIS PRODUCT IS TO BE GIVEN TO PENICILLIN-SENSITIVE PATIENTS, CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED BECAUSE CROSS-HYPERSENSITIVITY AMONG BETA-LACTAM ANTIBIOTICS HAS BEEN CLEARLY DOCUMENTED AND MAY OCCUR IN UP TO 10% OF PATIENTS WITH A HISTORY OF PENICILLIN ALLERGY. IF AN ALLERGIC REACTION TO MAXIPIME OCCURS, DISCONTINUE THE DRUG. SERIOUS ACUTE HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTIONS MAY REQUIRE TREATMENT WITH EPINEPHRINE AND OTHER EMERGENCY MEASURES INCLUDING OXYGEN, CORTICOSTEROIDS, INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS, INTRAVENOUS ANTIHISTAMINES, PRESSOR AMINES, AND AIRWAY MANAGEMENT, AS CLINICALLY INDICATED.

Pseudomembranous colitis has been reported with nearly all antibacterial agents, including MAXIPIME, and may range in severity from mild to life-threatening. Therefore, it is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhea subsequent to the administration of antibacterial agents.

Treatment with antibacterial agents alters the normal flora of the colon and may permit overgrowth of clostridia. Studies indicate that a toxin produced by *Clostridium difficile* is a primary cause of "antibiotic-associated colitis".

After the diagnosis of pseudomembranous colitis has been established, therapeutic measures should be initiated. Mild cases of pseudomembranous colitis usually respond to drug discontinuation alone. In moderate-to-severe cases, consideration should be given to management with fluids and electrolytes, protein supplementation, and treatment with an antibacterial drug clinically effective against *Clostridium difficile* colitis.

PRECAUTIONS

General

As with other antimicrobials, prolonged use of MAXIPIME may result in overgrowth of nonsusceptible microorganisms. Repeated evaluation of the patient's condition is essential. Should superinfection occur during therapy, appropriate measures should be taken.

Many cephalosporins, including cefepime, have been associated with a fall in prothrombin activity. Those at risk include patients with renal or hepatic impairment, or poor nutritional state, as well as patients receiving a protracted course of antimicrobial therapy. Prothrombin time should be monitored in patients at risk, and exogenous vitamin K administered as indicated.

Positive direct Coombs' tests have been reported during treatment with MAXIPIME. In hematologic studies or in transfusion cross-matching procedures when antiglobulin tests are performed on the minor side or in Coombs' testing of newborns whose mothers have received cephalosporin antibiotics before parturition, it should be recognized that a positive Coombs' test may be due to the drug.

MAXIPIME should be prescribed with caution in individuals with a history of gastrointestinal disease, particularly colitis.

Arginine has been shown to alter glucose metabolism and elevate serum potassium transiently when administered at 33 times the amount provided by the maximum recommended human dose of MAXIPIME. The effect of lower doses is not presently known.

In patients with impaired renal function (creatinine clearance ≤ 60 mL/min), the dose of MAXIPIME should be adjusted to compensate for the slower rate of renal elimination. Because high and prolonged serum antibiotic concentrations can occur from usual dosages in patients with renal insufficiency or other conditions that may compromise renal function, the maintenance dosage should be reduced when cefepime is administered to such patients. Serious adverse events including encephalopathy, myoclonus, seizures, and/or renal failure have been reported post-marketing in patients with renal impairment treated with unadjusted doses of cefepime (see ADVERSE REACTIONS: In Postmarketing Experience and OVERDOSAGE). Continued dosage should be determined by degree of renal impairment, severity of infection, and susceptibility of the causative organisms. (See specific recommendations for dosing adjustment in DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

Drug Interactions

Renal function should be monitored carefully if high doses of aminoglycosides are to be administered with MAXIPIME because of the increased potential of nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity of aminoglycoside antibiotics. Nephrotoxicity has been reported following concomitant administration of other cephalosporins with potent diuretics such as furosemide.

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Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions

The administration of cefepime may result in a false-positive reaction for glucose in the urine when using Clinistix® tablets. It is recommended that glucose tests based on enzymatic glucose oxidase reactions (such as Clinistix® or Tes-Tape®) be used.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility

No long-term animal carcinogenicity studies have been conducted with cefepime. A battery of *in vivo* and *in vitro* genetic toxicity tests, including the Ames Salmonella reverse mutation assay, CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assay, chromosomal aberration and sister chromatid exchange assays in human lymphocytes, CHO fibroblast clastogenesis assay, and cytogenetic and micronucleus assays in mice were conducted. The overall conclusion of these tests indicated no definitive evidence of genotoxic potential. No untoward effects on fertility or reproduction have been observed in rats, mice, and rabbits when cefepime is administered subcutaneously at 1 to 4 times the recommended maximum human dose calculated on a mg/m² basis.

Usage in Pregnancy—Teratogenic effects—Pregnancy Category B

Cefepime was not teratogenic or embryocidal when administered during the period of organogenesis to rats at doses up to 1000 mg/kg/day (4 times the recommended maximum human dose calculated on a mg/m² basis) or to mice at doses up to 1200 mg/kg (2 times the recommended maximum human dose calculated on a mg/m² basis) or to rabbits at a dose level of 100 mg/kg (approximately equal to the recommended maximum human dose calculated on a mg/m² basis).

There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies of cefepime use in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Cefepime is excreted in human breast milk in very low concentrations [0.5 µg/mL]. Caution should be exercised when cefepime is administered to a nursing woman.

Labor and Delivery

Cefepime has not been studied for use during labor and delivery. Treatment should only be given if clearly indicated.

Pediatric Use

~~The safety and efficacy of MAXIPIME (cefepime hydrochloride) in pediatric patients below the age of 12 years have not been established. This product is intended for use in patients 12 years of age and older.~~

Geriatric Use

In clinical studies, when geriatric patients received the usual recommended adult dose, clinical efficacy and safety were comparable to clinical efficacy and safety in non-geriatric adult patients.

In elderly patients, dosage and administration of cefepime should be adjusted in the presence of renal insufficiency. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Clinical Trials:

In clinical trials using multiple doses of cefepime, 4137 patients were treated with the recommended dosages of cefepime (500 mg to 2 g IV q12h). There were no deaths or permanent disabilities thought related to drug toxicity. Sixty-four (1.5%) patients discontinued medication due to adverse events thought by the investigators to be possibly, probably, or almost certainly related to drug toxicity. Thirty-three (51%) of these 64 patients who discontinued therapy did so because of rash. The percentage of cefepime-treated patients who discontinued study drug because of drug-related adverse events was very similar at daily doses of 500 mg, 1 g and 2 g q12h (0.8%, 1.1%, and 2.0%, respectively). However, the incidence of discontinuation due to rash increased with the higher recommended doses.

The following adverse events were thought to be probably related to cefepime during evaluation of the drug in clinical trials conducted in North America (n=3125 cefepime-treated patients).

TABLE 10
Adverse Clinical Reactions
Cefepime Multiple-Dose Dosing Regimens
Clinical Trials—North America

INCIDENCE EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 1%	Local reactions (3.0%), including phlebitis (1.3%), pain and/or inflammation (0.6%); rash (1.1%)
INCIDENCE LESS THAN 1% BUT GREATER THAN 0.1%	Colitis (including pseudomembranous colitis), diarrhea, fever, headache, nausea, oral moniliasis, pruritus, urticaria, vaginitis, vomiting

*Local reactions, irrespective of relationship to cefepime in those patients who received intravenous infusion (n = 3048).

At the higher dose of 2 g q8h, the incidence of probably-related adverse events was higher among the 795 patients who received this dose of cefepime. They consisted of rash (4%), diarrhea (3%), nausea (2%), vomiting (1%), pruritus (1%), fever (1%), and headache (1%).

The following adverse laboratory changes, irrespective of relationship to therapy with cefepime, were seen during clinical trials conducted in North America.

The safety and effectiveness of cefepime in the treatment of uncomplicated and complicated urinary tract infections (including pyelonephritis), uncomplicated skin and skin structure infections, pneumonia, and as empiric therapy for febrile neutropenic patients have been established in the age groups 2 months up to 16 years. Use of MAXIPIME in these age groups is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of cefepime in adults with additional pharmacokinetic and safety data from pediatric trials (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients below the age of 2 months have not been established. There are insufficient clinical data to support the use of MAXIPIME in pediatric patients under 2 months of age or for the treatment of serious infections in the pediatric population where the suspected or proven pathogen is *Haemophilus influenzae* type b.

IN THOSE PATIENTS IN WHOM MENINGEAL SEEDING FROM A DISTANT INFECTION SITE OR IN WHOM MENINGITIS IS SUSPECTED OR DOCUMENTED, AN ALTERNATE AGENT WITH DEMONSTRATED CLINICAL EFFICACY IN THIS SETTING SHOULD BE USED.

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TABLE 11
Adverse Laboratory Changes
Cefepime Multiple-Dose Dosing Regimens
Clinical Trials—North America

INCIDENCE EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 1%	Positive Coombs' test (without hemolysis) (16.2%); decreased phosphorus (2.8%); increased ALT/SGPT (2.8%), AST/SGOT (2.4%), eosinophils (1.7%); abnormal PTT (1.6%), PT (1.4%)
INCIDENCE LESS THAN 1% BUT GREATER THAN 0.1%	Increased alkaline phosphatase, BUN, calcium, creatinine, phosphorus, potassium, total bilirubin; decreased calcium*, hematocrit, neutrophils, platelets, WBC

*Hypocalcemia was more common among elderly patients. Clinical consequences from changes in either calcium or phosphorus were not reported.

In Postmarketing Experience:
 In addition to the events reported during North American clinical trials with cefepime, the following adverse experiences have been reported during worldwide postmarketing experience. Because of the uncontrolled nature of spontaneous reports, a causal relationship to MAXIPIME treatment has not been determined.

Encephalopathy, myoclonus, and seizures have been reported in renally impaired patients treated with unadjusted dosing regimens of cefepime. Several cephalosporins have been implicated in triggering seizures, particularly in patients with renal impairment when the dosage was not reduced. (See **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** and **OVERDOSAGE**.) If seizures associated with drug therapy occur, the drug should be discontinued. Anticonvulsant therapy can be given if clinically indicated. Precautions should be taken to adjust daily dosage in patients with renal insufficiency or other conditions that may compromise renal function to reduce antibiotic concentrations that can lead or contribute to these and other serious adverse events, including renal failure. As with other cephalosporins, transient leukopenia, neutropenia, agranulocytosis and thrombocytopenia have been reported.

Cephalosporin-class adverse reactions:

In addition to the adverse reactions listed above that have been observed in patients treated with cefepime, the following adverse reactions and altered laboratory tests have been reported for cephalosporin-class antibiotics:

Stevens-Johnson syndrome, erythema multiforme, toxic epidermal necrolysis, renal dysfunction, toxic nephropathy, aplastic anemia, hemolytic anemia, hemorrhage, hepatic dysfunction including cholestasis, and pancytopenia.

OVERDOSAGE

Patients who receive an overdose should be carefully observed and given supportive treatment. In the presence of renal insufficiency, hemodialysis, not peritoneal dialysis, is recommended to aid in the removal of cefepime from the body.

Accidental overdosing might occur if large doses are given to patients with reduced renal function. In clinical trials, MAXIPIME overdose occurred in a patient with renal failure (creatinine clearance <11 mL/min) who received 2 g q24h for 7 days. The patient exhibited seizures, encephalopathy, and neuromuscular excitability. (See **PRECAUTIONS**, **ADVERSE REACTIONS**, and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**.)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The recommended adult dosages and routes of administration are outlined in the following table. MAXIPIME should be administered intravenously over approximately 30 minutes.

A similar safety profile was seen in clinical trials of pediatric patients (see **PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric Use**).

The recommended adult and pediatric dosages and routes of administration are outlined in the following table. MAXIPIME should be administered intravenously over approximately 30 minutes.

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TABLE 12
Recommended Dosage Schedule for MAXIPIME

Site and Type of Infection	Dose	Frequency	Duration (days)
Moderate to Severe Pneumonia due to <i>S. pneumoniae</i> *, <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , or <i>Enterobacter</i> species	1-2 g IV	q12h	10
Empiric therapy for febrile neutropenic patients (See INDICATIONS AND USAGE and CLINICAL STUDIES.)	2 g IV	q8h	7**
Mild to Moderate Uncomplicated or Complicated Urinary Tract Infections, including pyelonephritis, due to <i>E. coli</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , or <i>P. mirabilis</i> *	0.5-1 g IV/IM***	q12h	7-10
Severe Uncomplicated or Complicated Urinary Tract Infections, including pyelonephritis, due to <i>E. coli</i> or <i>K. pneumoniae</i> *	2 g IV	q12h	10
Moderate to Severe Uncomplicated Skin and Skin Structure Infections due to <i>S. aureus</i> or <i>S. pyogenes</i>	2 g IV	q12h	10
Complicated Intra-abdominal Infections (used in combination with metronidazole) caused by <i>E. coli</i> , viridans group streptococci, <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>Enterobacter</i> species, or <i>B. fragilis</i> . (See CLINICAL STUDIES.)	2 g IV	q12h	7-10

Adults

Pediatric Patients (2 months up to 16 years)

The maximum dose for pediatric patients should not exceed the recommended adult dose. The usual recommended daily dosage in pediatric patients up to 40 kg in weight for uncomplicated and complicated urinary tract infections (including pyelonephritis), uncomplicated skin and skin structure infections, pneumonia, and as empiric therapy for febrile neutropenic patients is 50 mg/kg, administered q12h (q8h for febrile neutropenic patients), for durations as given above.

*Including cases associated with concurrent bacteremia
 **or until resolution of neutropenia. In patients whose fever resolves but who remain neutropenic for more than 7 days, the need for continued antimicrobial therapy should be re-evaluated frequently.
 ***IM route of administration is indicated only for mild to moderate, uncomplicated or complicated UTI's due to *E. coli* when the IM route is considered to be a more appropriate route of drug administration.

Impaired Hepatic Function - No adjustment is necessary for patients with impaired hepatic function.

Impaired Renal Function - In patients with impaired renal function (creatinine clearance \leq 60 mL/min), the dose of MAXIPIME should be adjusted to compensate for the slower rate of renal elimination. The recommended initial dose of MAXIPIME should be the same as in patients with normal renal function. The recommended maintenance doses of MAXIPIME in patients with renal insufficiency are presented in Table 13.

TABLE 13
Recommended Maintenance Schedule in Adult Patients with Renal Impairment Relative to Normal Recommended Dosing Schedule

Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)	Recommended Maintenance Schedule			
	500 mg q12h	1 g q12h	2 g q12h	2 g q8h
>60 Normal recommended dosing schedule	500 mg q12h	1 g q12h	2 g q12h	2 g q8h
30-60	500 mg q24h	1 g q24h	2 g q24h	2 g q12h
11-29	500 mg q24h	500 mg q24h	1 g q24h	2 g q24h
<11	250 mg q24h	250 mg q24h	500 mg q24h	1 g q24h

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When only serum creatinine is available, the following formula (Cockcroft and Gault equation)³ may be used to estimate creatinine clearance. The serum creatinine should represent a steady state of renal function:

$$\text{Males: Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)} = \frac{\text{Weight (kg)} \times (140 - \text{age})}{72 \times \text{serum creatinine (mg/dL)}}$$

Females: 0.85 x above value

In patients undergoing hemodialysis, approximately 68% of the total amount of cefepime present in the body at the start of dialysis will be removed during a 3-hour dialysis period. A repeat dose, equivalent to the initial dose, should be given at the completion of each dialysis session.

In patients undergoing continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, MAXIPIME may be administered at normally recommended doses at a dosage interval of every 48 hours.

Administration:

For intravenous infusion, constitute the 1 g or 2 g piggyback (100 mL) bottle with 50 or 100 mL of a compatible IV fluid listed in the Compatibility and Stability subsection. Alternatively, constitute the 500 mg, 1 g, or 2 g vial, and add an appropriate quantity of the resulting solution to an IV container with one of the compatible IV fluids. **THE RESULTING SOLUTION SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED OVER APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES.**

Intermittent IV infusion with a Y-type administration set can be accomplished with compatible solutions. However, during infusion of a solution containing cefepime, it is desirable to discontinue the other solution.

ADD-Vantage[®] vials are to be constituted only with 50 or 100 mL of 5% Dextrose Injection or 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection in Abbott ADD-Vantage[®] flexible diluent containers. (See ADD-Vantage[®] Vial Instructions for Use.)

Intramuscular Administration: For IM administration, MAXIPIME (cefepime hydrochloride) should be constituted with one of the following diluents: Sterile Water for Injection, 0.9% Sodium Chloride, 5% Dextrose Injection, 0.5% or 1.0% Lidocaine Hydrochloride, or Sterile Bacteriostatic Water for Injection with Parabens or Benzyl Alcohol (refer to Table 14).

Preparation of MAXIPIME solutions is summarized in Table 14.

TABLE 14
Preparation of Solutions of Maxipime

Single-Dose Vials for Intravenous/Intramuscular Administration	Amount of Diluent to be added (mL)	Approximate Available Volume (mL)	Approximate Cefepime Concentration (mg/mL)
Cefepime vial content			
500 mg (IV)	5.0	5.6	100
500 mg (IM)	1.3	1.8	280
1 g (IV)	10.0	11.3	100
1 g (IM)	2.4	3.6	280
2 g (IV)	10.0	12.5	160
Piggyback (100 mL)			
1 g bottle	50	50	20
1 g bottle	100	100	10
2 g bottle	50	50	40
2 g bottle	100	100	20
ADD-Vantage[®]			
1 g vial	50	50	20
1 g vial	100	100	10
2 g vial	50	50	40
2 g vial	100	100	20

Compatibility and Stability:

Intravenous: MAXIPIME is compatible at concentrations between 1 and 40 mg/mL with the following IV infusion fluids: 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, 5% and 10% Dextrose Injection, M/6 Sodium Lactate Injection, 5% Dextrose and 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, Lactated Ringers and 5% Dextrose Injection, Normosol-R[®], and Normosol-M[®] in 5% Dextrose Injection. These solutions may be stored up to 24 hours at controlled room temperature 20°-25° C (68°-77° F) or 7 days in a refrigerator 2°-8° C (36°-46° F). MAXIPIME in ADD-Vantage[®] vials is stable at concentrations of 10-40 mg/mL in 5% Dextrose Injection or 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection for 24 hours at controlled room temperature 20°-25° C or 7 days in a refrigerator 2°-8° C.

Data in pediatric patients with impaired renal function are not available; however, since cefepime pharmacokinetics are similar in adults and pediatric patients (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**), changes in dosing regimen similar to those in adults (see Table 13) are recommended for pediatric patients.

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MAXIPIME admixture compatibility information is summarized in Table 15.

TABLE 15
Cefepime Admixture Stability

MAXIPIME Concentration	Admixture and Concentration	IV Infusion Solutions	Stability Time for	
			RT/L (20°-25° C)	Refrigeration (2°-8° C)
40 mg/mL	Amikacin 6 mg/mL	NS or D5W	24 hours	7 days
40 mg/mL	Ampicillin 1 mg/mL	D5W	8 hours	8 hours
40 mg/mL	Ampicillin 10 mg/mL	D5W	2 hours	8 hours
40 mg/mL	Ampicillin 1 mg/mL	NS	24 hours	48 hours
40 mg/mL	Ampicillin 10 mg/mL	NS	8 hours	48 hours
4 mg/mL	Ampicillin 40 mg/mL	NS	8 hours	8 hours
4-40 mg/mL	Clindamycin Phosphate 0.25-6 mg/mL	NS or D5W	24 hours	7 days
4 mg/mL	Heparin 10-50 units/mL	NS or D5W	24 hours	7 days
4 mg/mL	Potassium Chloride 10-40 mEq/L	NS or D5W	24 hours	7 days
4 mg/mL	Theophylline 0.8 mg/mL	D5W	24 hours	7 days
1-4 mg/mL	na	Aminosyn® II 4.25% with electrolytes and calcium	8 hours	3 days
0.125-0.25 mg/mL	na	Imperso® with 4.25% dextrose	24 hours	7 days

NS = 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection
D5W = 5% Dextrose Injection
na = not applicable
RT/L = Ambient room temperature and light

Solutions of MAXIPIME, like those of most beta-lactam antibiotics, should not be added to solutions of ampicillin at a concentration greater than 40 mg/mL, and should not be added to metronidazole, vancomycin, gentamicin, tobramycin, netilmicin sulfate or aminophylline because of potential interaction. However, if concurrent therapy with MAXIPIME is indicated, each of these antibiotics can be administered separately.

Intramuscular: MAXIPIME (cefepime hydrochloride) constituted as directed is stable for 24 hours at controlled room temperature 20°-25° C (68°-77° F) or for 7 days in a refrigerator 2°-8° C (36°-46° F) with the following diluents: Sterile Water for Injection, 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, 5% Dextrose Injection, Sterile Bacteriostatic Water for Injection with Parabens or Benzyl Alcohol, or 0.5% or 1% Lidocaine Hydrochloride.

NOTE: PARENTERAL DRUGS SHOULD BE INSPECTED VISUALLY FOR PARTICULATE MATTER BEFORE ADMINISTRATION.
As with other cephalosporins, the color of MAXIPIME powder, as well as its solutions, tend to darken depending on storage conditions; however, when stored as recommended, the product potency is not adversely affected.

HOW SUPPLIED

MAXIPIME® (cefepime hydrochloride) for Injection is supplied as follows:
NDC 0003-7731-99 500 mg* 15 mL vial (tray of 10)
NDC 0003-7732-95 1 g* Piggyback bottle 100 mL (tray of 10)
NDC 0003-7732-89 1 g* ADD-Vantage® vial (tray of 10)
NDC 0003-7732-99 1 g* 15 mL vial (tray of 10)
NDC 0003-7733-95 2 g* Piggyback bottle 100 mL (tray of 10)
NDC 0003-7733-89 2 g* ADD-Vantage® vial (tray of 10)
NDC 0003-7733-99 2 g* 20 mL vial (tray of 10)

*Based on cefepime activity

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Storage

MAXPIME IN THE DRY STATE SHOULD BE STORED BETWEEN 2°-25° C (36°-77° F) AND PROTECTED FROM LIGHT.

U.S. Patent No. 4,406,899; 4,910,311; 4,994,451 and 5,244,891

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- (2) National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards. *Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Disk Susceptibility Tests—Fifth Edition*. Approved Standard NCCLS Document M2-A5, Vol. 13, No. 24, NCCLS, Villanova, PA, December, 1993.
- (3) Cockcroft DW, Gault MH. Prediction of creatinine clearance from serum creatinine. *Nephron*. 1976; 16:31-41.

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