

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

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

ONCASPAR (pegaspargase) injection, for intramuscular or intravenous use
Initial U.S. Approval: 1994

RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

Dosage and Administration, Recommended Dosage (2.1) 01/2019
Dosage and Administration, Dose Modifications (2.2) 01/2019
Contraindications (4) 01/2019

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ONCASPAR is an asparagine specific enzyme indicated as a component of a multi-agent chemotherapeutic regimen for treatment of pediatric and adult patients with:

- First-line acute lymphoblastic leukemia (1.1)
- Acute lymphoblastic leukemia and hypersensitivity to asparaginase (1.2)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Administered intramuscularly or intravenously no more frequently than every 14 days. (2.1)
- Patients ages 21 years and younger: 2,500 International Units/m². (2.1)
- Patients ages over 21 years: 2,000 International Units/m². (2.1)
- For intramuscular administration, limit the volume at a single injection site to 2 mL; if greater than 2 mL, use multiple injection sites. (2.3)
- For intravenous administration, give over a period of 1 to 2 hours in 100 mL of 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP or 5% Dextrose Injection, USP through an infusion that is already running. (2.3)
- Do not administer ONCASPAR if drug has been frozen, stored at room temperature for more than 48 hours, or shaken or vigorously agitated. (16)

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

- Injection: 3,750 International Units/5 mL (750 International Units/mL) solution in a single-dose vial. (3)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- History of serious hypersensitivity reactions to ONCASPAR. (4)
- History of serious thrombosis with prior L-asparaginase therapy. (4)
- History of pancreatitis with prior L-asparaginase therapy. (4)
- History of serious hemorrhagic events with prior L-asparaginase therapy. (4)
- Severe hepatic impairment. (4)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Anaphylaxis or serious hypersensitivity reactions: Observe patients for one hour after administration. Discontinue ONCASPAR in patients with serious hypersensitivity reactions. (5.1)
- Thrombosis: Discontinue ONCASPAR in patients with serious thrombotic events. (5.2)
- Pancreatitis: Evaluate patients with abdominal pain for pancreatitis. Discontinue ONCASPAR in patients with pancreatitis. (5.3)
- Glucose intolerance: Monitor serum glucose. (5.4)
- Hemorrhage: Discontinue ONCASPAR for severe or life-threatening hemorrhage. Evaluate for etiology and treat. (5.5)
- Hepatotoxicity: Monitor for toxicity through recovery from cycle.. (5.6)

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The most common (>5%) grade ≥ 3 adverse reactions with ONCASPAR included hypoalbuminemia, elevated transaminase, febrile neutropenia, hypertriglyceridemia, hyperglycemia, bilirubin increased, pancreatitis, abnormal clotting studies, embolic and thrombotic events, and hypersensitivity. (6.1)

USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

Lactation: Advise women not to breastfeed. (8.2)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Baxalta US Inc., at 1-800-999-1785 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION.

Revised: 01/2019

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FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

1.1 First-Line Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)

ONCASPAR® is indicated as a component of a multi-agent chemotherapeutic regimen for the first-line treatment of pediatric and adult patients with ALL.

1.2 Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and Hypersensitivity to Asparaginase

ONCASPAR is indicated as a component of a multi-agent chemotherapeutic regimen for the treatment of pediatric and adult patients with ALL and hypersensitivity to native forms of L-asparaginase.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Recommended Dosage

Patients ≤21 years of age

The recommended dose of ONCASPAR for patients up to and including 21 years of age is 2,500 International Units/m² intramuscularly or intravenously no more frequently than every 14 days.

Patients >21 years of age

The recommended dose for adult patients more than 21 years of age is 2000 International Units/m² intramuscularly or intravenously no more frequently than every 14 days.

2.2 Dose Modifications

Monitor patients at least weekly, with bilirubin, transaminases, glucose and clinical examinations until recovery from the cycle of therapy. If an adverse reaction should occur, modify treatment according to Table 1.

Table 1. Dose Modifications

Adverse Reaction	Severity*	Action
Infusion Reaction/ Hypersensitivity Reaction	Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the infusion rate by 50%
	Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interrupt the infusion of ONCASPAR• Treat the symptoms• When symptoms resolve, resume the infusion and reduce the infusion rate by 50%
	Grade 3 to 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discontinue ONCASPAR permanently
Hemorrhage	Grade 3 to 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold ONCASPAR.• Evaluate for coagulopathy and consider clotting factor replacement as needed.• Resume ONCASPAR with the next scheduled dose if bleeding is controlled.
Pancreatitis	Grades 3 to 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold ONCASPAR for elevations in lipase or amylase >3 x ULN until enzyme levels stabilize or are declining• Discontinue ONCASPAR permanently if clinical pancreatitis is confirmed.
Thromboembolism	Uncomplicated deep vein thrombosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold ONCASPAR.• Treat with appropriate antithrombotic therapy• Upon resolution of symptoms consider resuming ONCASPAR, while continuing antithrombotic therapy.

	Severe or life-threatening thrombosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinue ONCASPAR permanently. Treat with appropriate antithrombotic therapy.
Hepatotoxicity	Total bilirubin more than 3 times to no more than 10 times the upper limit of normal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold ONCASPAR until total bilirubin is ≤ 1.5 times the upper limit of normal
	Total bilirubin more than 10 times the upper limit of normal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinue ONCASPAR and do not make up for missed doses
*Grade 1 is mild, grade 2 is moderate, grade 3 is severe, and grade 4 is life-threatening		

2.3 Preparation and Administration

Administer ONCASPAR in a healthcare setting with appropriate medical support and resuscitation equipment to manage hypersensitivity reactions, should they occur [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].

ONCASPAR is a clear and colorless solution. Visually inspect parenteral drug products for particulate matter, cloudiness, or discoloration prior to administration. If any of these are present, discard the vial.

When ONCASPAR is administered intramuscularly:

- Limit the volume at a single injection site to 2 mL.
- If the volume to be administered is greater than 2 mL, use multiple injection sites.

When ONCASPAR is administered intravenously:

- Dilute ONCASPAR with 100 mL of 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP or 5% Dextrose Injection, USP, using aseptic technique.
- After dilution, administer immediately into a running infusion of either 0.9% Sodium Chloride, USP or 5% Dextrose Injection, USP, respectively.
- Administer over a period of 1-2 hours.
- Do not infuse other drugs through the same intravenous line during administration of ONCASPAR.
- The diluted solution should be used immediately. If immediate use is not possible, the diluted solution should be stored refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F) for up to 48 hours. Protect infusion bags from direct sunlight.

ONCASPAR does not contain a preservative. Use only one dose per vial; discard unused product.

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Injection: 3,750 International Units/5 mL (750 International Units/mL) clear, colorless solution in a single-dose vial.

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

ONCASPAR is contraindicated in patients with a:

- History of serious hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylaxis, to ONCASPAR or to any of the excipients [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].
- History of serious thrombosis with prior L-asparaginase therapy [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#)].

- History of pancreatitis, including pancreatitis related to prior L-asparaginase therapy [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.3\)](#)].
- History of serious hemorrhagic events with prior L-asparaginase therapy [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)].
- Severe hepatic impairment [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)].

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Anaphylaxis and Serious Hypersensitivity Reactions

Anaphylaxis and serious hypersensitivity reactions can occur in patients receiving ONCASPAR. The risk of serious hypersensitivity reactions is higher in patients with known hypersensitivity to *E. coli* derived L-asparaginase formulations. Other hypersensitivity reactions can include angioedema, lip swelling, eye swelling, erythema, blood pressure decreased, bronchospasm, dyspnea, pruritus, and rash.

Observe patients for 1 hour after administration of ONCASPAR in a setting with resuscitation equipment and other agents necessary to treat anaphylaxis (for example, epinephrine, oxygen, intravenous steroids, antihistamines). Discontinue ONCASPAR in patients with serious hypersensitivity reactions [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#)].

5.2 Thrombosis

Serious thrombotic events, including sagittal sinus thrombosis can occur in patients receiving ONCASPAR. Discontinue ONCASPAR in patients with serious thrombotic events [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#)].

5.3 Pancreatitis

Pancreatitis can occur in patients receiving ONCASPAR. Hemorrhagic or necrotizing pancreatitis with fatal outcomes have been reported.

Inform patients of the signs and symptoms of pancreatitis, which, if left untreated, could be fatal. Assess serum amylase and/or lipase levels to confirm early signs of pancreatic inflammation. Discontinue ONCASPAR in patients where pancreatitis is suspected. If pancreatitis is confirmed, do not resume ONCASPAR [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#)].

5.4 Glucose Intolerance

Glucose intolerance can occur in patients receiving ONCASPAR. In some cases, glucose intolerance is irreversible. Monitor serum glucose.

5.5 Hemorrhage

Increased prothrombin time, increased partial thromboplastin time, and hypofibrinogenemia can occur in patients receiving ONCASPAR. Evaluate patients with signs and symptoms of hemorrhage with coagulation parameters including PT, PTT, fibrinogen. Consider appropriate replacement therapy in patients with severe or symptomatic coagulopathy [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#)].

5.6 Hepatotoxicity

Hepatotoxicity and abnormal liver function, including elevations of transaminase, bilirubin (direct and indirect), reduced serum albumin, and plasma fibrinogen can occur. Evaluate bilirubin and transaminases at least weekly during cycles of treatment that include ONCASPAR through at least 6 weeks after the last dose of ONCASPAR. In the event of serious liver toxicity, discontinue treatment with ONCASPAR and provide supportive care [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#)].

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following serious adverse reactions are described in greater detail in other sections of the labeling:

- Anaphylaxis and serious hypersensitivity reactions [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)]
- Thrombosis [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#)]
- Pancreatitis [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.3\)](#)]
- Glucose intolerance [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.4\)](#)]
- Hemorrhage [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)]
- Hepatotoxicity [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)]

6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

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

The most common grade 3 and 4 adverse reactions (>5%) included: hypoalbuminemia, elevated transaminase, febrile neutropenia, hypertriglyceridemia, hyperglycemia, bilirubin increased, pancreatitis abnormal clotting studies, embolic and thrombotic events, and hypersensitivity.

First-Line Treatment of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)

Study CCG-1962 was a randomized (1:1), active-controlled study that enrolled 118 patients, with a median age of 4.7 years (1.1-9.9 years), of whom 54% were males and 65% White, 14% Hispanic, 8% Black, 8% Asian, and 6% other race. Of the 59 patients in Study 1 who were randomized to ONCASPAR, 48 patients (81%) received all 3 planned doses of ONCASPAR, 6 (10%) received 2 doses, 4 (7%) received 1 dose, and 1 patient (2%) did not receive the assigned treatment.

In Study CCG-1962, detailed safety information was collected for pre-specified adverse reactions identified as asparaginase-induced adverse reactions and for grade 3 and 4 nonhematologic adverse reactions according to the Children's Cancer Group (CCG) Toxicity and Complication Criteria. The per-patient incidence, by treatment arm, for these selected adverse reactions occurring at a severity of grade 3 or 4 are presented in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Incidence of Selected Grades 3 and 4 Adverse Reactions in Study CCG-1962

	ONCASPAR (n=58)	Native <i>E. coli</i> L-Asparaginase (n=59)
Abnormal Liver Tests	3 (5%)	5 (8%)
Elevated Transaminases*	2 (3%)	4 (7%)
Hyperbilirubinemia	1 (2%)	1 (2%)
Hyperglycemia	3 (5%)	2 (3%)
Central Nervous System Thrombosis	2 (3%)	2 (3%)
Coagulopathy†	1 (2%)	3 (5%)
Pancreatitis	1 (2%)	1 (2%)
Allergic Reactions to Asparaginase	1 (2%)	0

* Aspartate aminotransferase, alanine aminotransferase.

† Prolonged prothrombin time or partial thromboplastin time; or hypofibrinogenemia.

The safety of ONCASPAR was investigated in Study DFCI 11-001, an open-label, randomized, active-controlled multicenter clinical trial that included 119 children and adolescents with newly-diagnosed ALL or lymphoblastic lymphoma treated with ONCASPAR in combination with the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) ALL Consortium backbone therapy. The median age on enrollment was 4 years (range, 1-18) years. The majority of patients were male (60%) and white (75%). Most patients were considered standard risk ALL (59%) and had B-cell lineage ALL (87%).

The median number of doses of ONCASPAR during the study was 16 doses (one dose during induction therapy then administered every two weeks during post induction therapy). The median duration of exposure to ONCASPAR was 8 months. Table 3 summarizes the incidence of selected Grades ≥ 3 adverse reactions that occurred in 8 or more patients receiving ONCASPAR. Because not all grade 1 and 2 adverse reactions were collected prospectively, only grade 3 and 4 adverse reactions are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Incidence of Selected Grades ≥ 3 Adverse Reactions in Patients Receiving ONCASPAR With Multi-Agent Chemotherapy in Study DFCI 11-001

Adverse Reaction [†]	ONCASPAR 2500 IU/m ² N=119 Grade ≥ 3 [‡] n (%)
Elevated transaminase [†]	79 (66)
Febrile neutropenia	48 (40)
Hypertriglyceridemia	36 (30)
Hypoalbuminemia	33 (28)
Bilirubin increased [†]	30 (25)
Hyperglycemia	29 (24)
Pancreatitis [†]	29 (24)
Abnormal clotting studies [†]	25 (21)
Embolic and thrombotic events [†]	10 (8)
Hypersensitivity [†]	8 (7)

[†] Grouped terms: **Elevated transaminase**: Alanine aminotransferase increased, Aspartate aminotransferase increased; **Pancreatitis**: Amylase increased, Lipase increased, Pancreatitis, Pancreatitis relapsing; **Bilirubin increased**: Bilirubin conjugated increased, Blood bilirubin increased; **Abnormal clotting studies**: Activated partial thromboplastin time prolonged, Blood fibrinogen decreased; **Febrile neutropenia**: Febrile neutropenia; **Embolic and thrombotic events**: Embolism, Pulmonary embolism, Thrombosis in device, Venous thrombosis, Venous thrombosis limb; **Hypersensitivity**: Hypersensitivity, Anaphylactic reaction, Drug hypersensitivity.

[‡] Grading is based on the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE) v4.0.

Previously Treated ALL

Adverse reaction information was obtained from 5 clinical trials that enrolled a total of 174 patients with relapsed ALL who received ONCASPAR as a single agent or in combination with multi-agent chemotherapy [see [Clinical Studies \(14.2\)](#)]. The toxicity profile of ONCASPAR in patients with previously treated relapsed ALL is similar to that reported above with the exception of clinical allergic reactions (see Table 3). The most common adverse reactions of ONCASPAR were clinical allergic reactions, elevated transaminases, hyperbilirubinemia, and coagulopathies. The most common serious adverse events due to ONCASPAR treatment were thrombosis (4%), hyperglycemia requiring insulin therapy (3%), and pancreatitis (1%).

Allergic Reactions

Allergic reactions include the following: bronchospasm, hypotension, laryngeal edema, local erythema or swelling, systemic rash, and urticaria.

Among 58 ONCASPAR-treated patients enrolled in Study CCG-1962, clinical allergic reactions were reported in 2 patients (3%). One patient experienced a grade 1 allergic reaction and the other grade 3 hives; both occurred during the first delayed intensification phase of the study (see Table 4).

Among 62 patients with relapsed ALL and prior hypersensitivity reactions to asparaginase, 35 patients (56%) had a history of clinical allergic reactions to native *Escherichia (E.) coli* L-asparaginase, and 27 patients (44%) had a history of clinical allergic reactions to both native *E. coli* and native *Erwinia* L-asparaginase. Twenty (32%) of these 62 patients experienced clinical allergic reactions to ONCASPAR (see Table 4).

Among 112 patients with relapsed ALL with no prior hypersensitivity reactions to asparaginase, 11 patients (10%) experienced clinical allergic reactions to ONCASPAR (see Table 4).

Table 4. Incidence of Clinical Allergic Reactions, Overall and by Severity Grade

Patient Status	Toxicity Grade, n (%)				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Previously Hypersensitive Patients (n=62)	7 (11)	8 (13)	4 (6)	1 (2)	20 (32)
Non-Hypersensitive Patients (n=112)	5 (4)	4 (4)	1 (1)	1 (1)	11 (10)
First-Line (n=58)	1 (2)	0	1 (2)	0	2 (3)

6.2 Immunogenicity

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity. The detection of antibody formation is highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assay. Additionally, the observed incidence of antibody (including neutralizing antibody) positivity in an assay may be influenced by several factors, including assay methodology, sample handling, timing of sample collection, concomitant medications, and underlying disease. For these reasons, comparison of the incidence of antibodies to pegaspargase with the incidence of antibodies in other studies or to other products may be misleading.

In Study CCG-1962, ONCASPAR-treated patients were assessed for evidence of binding antibodies using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method. The incidence of protocol-specified “high-titer” antibody formation was 2% in Induction (n=48), 10% in Delayed Intensification 1 (n=50), and 11% in Delayed Intensification 2 (n=44).

There is insufficient information to determine whether the development of antibodies is associated with an increased risk of clinical allergic reactions or altered pharmacokinetics (i.e., loss of asparaginase activity).

6.3 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post approval use of ONCASPAR. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Blood and lymphatic system disorders: Coagulopathy.

Gastrointestinal disorders: Hepatic impairment, pancreatic cyst, pancreatitis.

Immune system disorders: Anaphylactic shock, hypersensitivity reaction.

Investigations: Blood cholesterol increased.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: Hyperglycemia, hyperammonemia.

Vascular disorders: Hemorrhage including central nervous system hemorrhage, thrombosis including superior sagittal sinus thrombosis.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Risk summary

There are no available data on the use of ONCASPAR in pregnant women to inform a drug-associated risk of major birth defects and miscarriage. Published literature studies in pregnant animals suggest asparagine depletion may cause harm to the animal offspring (see [Data](#)). Advise patients of the potential risk to a fetus.

The background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss or other adverse outcomes. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies are 2%-4% and 15%-20%, respectively.

Data

Animal Data

Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with ONCASPAR to evaluate its effect on reproduction and fetal development. Published literature studies in which pregnant rabbits were administered L-asparaginase or pregnant rats were deprived of dietary asparagine suggested harm to the animal offspring.

8.2 Lactation

Risk summary

There are no data on the presence of pegaspargase in human milk, the effects on the breastfed child, or the effects on milk production. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for adverse reactions in a breastfed child, advise lactating women not to breastfeed while receiving ONCASPAR and for 3 months after the last dose.

8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential

Based on published literature studies in pregnant animals, ONCASPAR can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.1\)](#)].

Pregnancy Testing

Conduct pregnancy testing in females of reproductive potential prior to starting treatment with ONCASPAR.

Contraception

Advise females of reproductive potential to avoid becoming pregnant while receiving ONCASPAR. Females should use effective contraceptive methods, including a barrier method, during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last dose of ONCASPAR. Since there is a potential for an indirect interaction between ONCASPAR and oral contraceptives, the concomitant use of ONCASPAR and oral contraceptives is not recommended. Another, non-oral contraceptive method should be used in women of childbearing potential.

8.4 Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of ONCASPAR in the treatment of ALL have been established in pediatric patients. Use of ONCASPAR in these age groups is supported by evidence of efficacy as first-line treatment from one adequate and well-controlled trial, and evidence of efficacy for treatment of patients with hypersensitivity to asparaginase from four adequate and well-controlled trials [see [Clinical Studies \(14.1\)](#)], and safety data from 7 total trials. The pediatric patients treated with ONCASPAR 2,500 International Units/m² on these trials included 26 infants (1 month to <2 years old), 165 children (2 years to <12 years old), and 39 adolescents (12 to 17 years old).

8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of ONCASPAR did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 years and older to determine whether they respond differently than younger subjects.

10 OVERDOSAGE

Three patients received 10,000 International Units/m² of ONCASPAR as an intravenous infusion. One patient experienced a slight increase in liver enzymes. A second patient developed a rash 10 minutes after the start of the infusion, which was controlled with the administration of an antihistamine and by slowing down the infusion rate. A third patient did not experience any adverse reactions.

There is no specific antidote for ONCASPAR overdose. In case of overdose, monitor patients closely for signs and symptoms of adverse reactions, and appropriately manage with symptomatic and supportive treatment.

11 DESCRIPTION

Pegaspargase is a conjugate of monomethoxypolyethylene glycol (mPEG) and L-asparaginase (L-asparagine amidohydrolase), an asparagine specific enzyme. L-asparaginase is a tetrameric enzyme that is produced endogenously by *E. coli* and consists of identical 34.5 kDa subunits. Approximately

69 to 82 molecules of mPEG are linked to L-asparaginase; the molecular weight of each mPEG molecule is about 5 kDa. ONCASPAR activity is expressed in International Units.

ONCASPAR (pegaspargase) injection is supplied as a clear, colorless, preservative-free, isotonic sterile solution in phosphate-buffered saline, pH 7.3, for intramuscular use or for dilution prior to intravenous infusion. Each vial of ONCASPAR contains 3,750 International Units of pegaspargase in 5 mL of solution. Each milliliter contains 750 International Units of pegaspargase, dibasic sodium phosphate, USP (5.58 mg), monobasic sodium phosphate, USP (1.20 mg), and Sodium Chloride, USP (8.50 mg) in Water for Injection, USP.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

L-asparaginase is an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of the amino acid L-asparagine into aspartic acid and ammonia. The pharmacological effect of ONCASPAR is thought to be based on selective killing of leukemic cells due to depletion of plasma L-asparagine. Leukemic cells with low expression of asparagine synthetase have a reduced ability to synthesize L-asparagine and therefore depend on an exogenous source of L-asparagine for survival.

12.2 Pharmacodynamics

Pharmacodynamic activity was assessed through serial measurements of asparagine in sera and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

In Study CCG-1962, pharmacodynamics were assessed in 57 newly diagnosed pediatric patients with standard-risk ALL who received three intramuscular doses of ONCASPAR (2,500 International Units/m²), one each during induction and two delayed intensification treatment phases [see [Clinical Studies \(14.1\)](#)].

In Study AALL07P4, the pharmacodynamic response of pegaspargase was assessed in 47 evaluable patients with newly diagnosed high risk B-precursor ALL. Asparagine concentrations in plasma (N=42) were maintained below the assay limit of quantification for at least 11 days following a single dose of ONCASPAR 2,500 International Units/m² during the induction phase. CSF asparagine concentration was decreased from a mean pretreatment concentration of 0.6 µg/mL (N=20) to 0.2 µg/mL on Day 4 (N=41) and remained decreased at 0.2 µg/mL (N=39) 25 days after the administration of a single dose of ONCASPAR in the induction phase.

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Pharmacokinetic assessments were based on an enzymatic assay measuring asparaginase activity after intramuscular (IM, CCG-1962) and intravenous (IV, AALL07P4) administration of 2,500 International Units/m² in patients with ALL.

Absorption

The mean maximum asparaginase activity (C_{max}) was reached at approximately 1 IU/mL (n=45-52) on Day 5 after a single IM injection. The mean half-life of absorption from the IM site was 1.7 days. The relative bioavailability was 82% following the first IM dose and 98% following repeat dosing.

The mean C_{max} and the area under the curve (AUC_{0-inf}) was 1.6 IU/mL and 16.6 IU/mL*day, respectively, after a single IV infusion (n=47) during the induction phase.

Distribution

The mean volume of distribution at steady state was estimated to be 1.86 L/m² after a single IM injection and approximately 2 L after a single IV infusion based on non-compartmental analysis.

Elimination

The mean elimination half-life was approximately 5.8 days following a single IM injection and 5.3 days following a single IV infusion. The clearance was 0.17 L/m²/day and 0.2 L/day, respectively, for a single IM and IV dose.

Specific Populations

The impact of renal and hepatic impairment on the pharmacokinetics of ONCASPAR is unknown.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and impairment of fertility studies have not been conducted with pegaspargase.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

14.1 First-Line Treatment of ALL

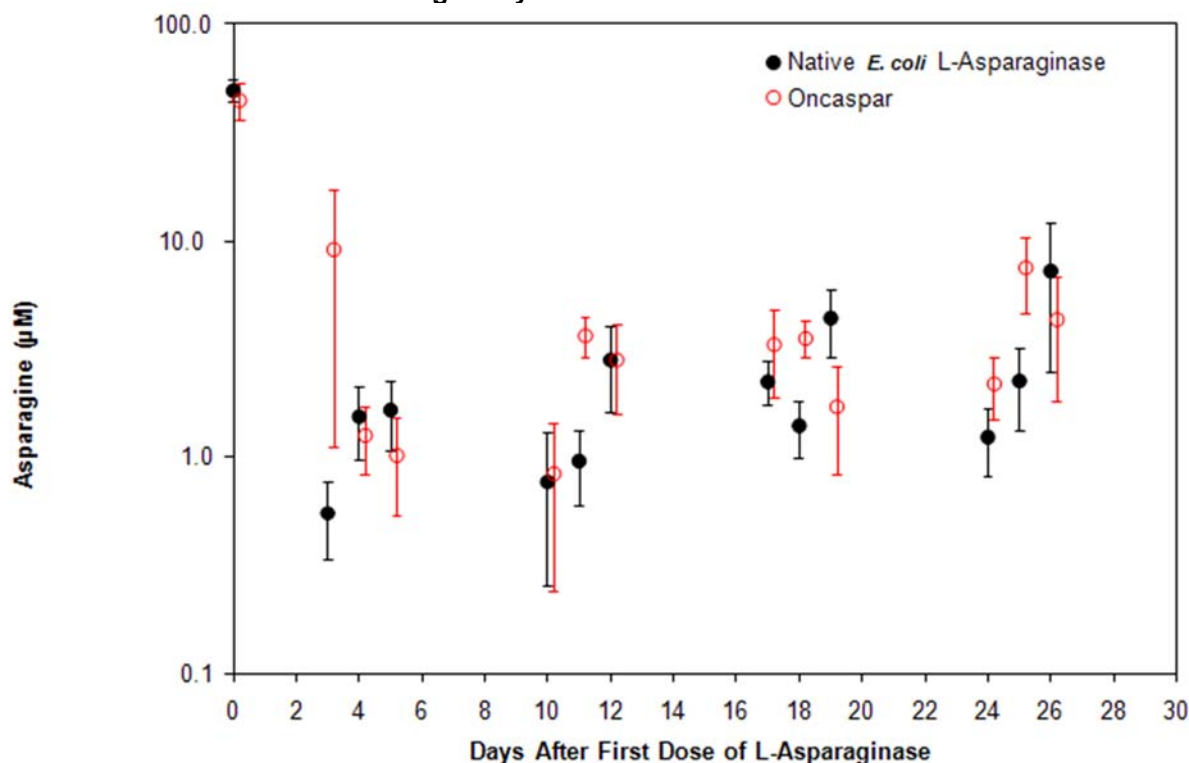
Study CCG-1962

The safety and effectiveness of ONCASPAR was evaluated in an open-label, multicenter, randomized, active-controlled study (Study CCG-1962). In this study, 118 pediatric patients aged 1 to 9 years with previously untreated standard-risk ALL were randomized 1:1 to ONCASPAR or native *E. coli* L-asparaginase as part of combination therapy. ONCASPAR was administered intramuscularly at a dose of 2,500 International Units/m² on Day 3 of the 4-week induction phase and on Day 3 of each of two 8-week delayed intensification phases. Native *E. coli* L-asparaginase was administered intramuscularly at a dose of 6,000 International Units/m² three times weekly for 9 doses during induction and for 6 doses during each delayed intensification phase.

The primary determination of effectiveness was based on demonstration of similar asparagine depletion (magnitude and duration) in the ONCASPAR and native *E. coli* L-asparaginase arms. The protocol-specified goal was achievement of asparagine depletion to a serum concentration of ≤ 1 μM . The proportion of patients with this level of depletion was similar between the 2 study arms during all 3 phases of treatment at the protocol-specified time points.

In all phases of treatment, serum asparagine concentrations decreased within 4 days of the first dose of asparaginase in the treatment phase and remained low for approximately 3 weeks for both ONCASPAR and native *E. coli* L-asparaginase arms. Serum asparagine concentrations during the induction phase are shown in Figure 1. The patterns of serum asparagine depletion in the 2 delayed intensification phases are similar to the pattern of serum asparagine depletion in the induction phase.

Figure 1. Mean (\pm Standard Error) Serum Asparagine Concentrations During Study CCG-1962 Induction Phase



Note: ONCASPAR (2,500 International Units/m² intramuscular) was administered on Day 3 of the 4-week induction phase. Native *E. coli* L-asparaginase (6,000 International Units/m² intramuscular) was administered 3 times weekly for 9 doses during induction.

CSF asparagine concentrations were determined in 50 patients during the induction phase. CSF asparagine decreased from a mean pre-treatment concentration of 3.1 μM to 1.7 μM on Day 4 \pm 1 and

1.5 µM at 25±1 days after administration of ONCASPAR. These findings were similar to those observed in the native *E. coli* L-asparaginase treatment arm.

Concentrations of asparaginase activities greater than 0.1 International Units/mL were observed in over 90% of the samples from patients treated with ONCASPAR during Induction, Delayed Intensification 1, and Delayed Intensification 2 for approximately 20 days.

While the 3-year Event-Free Survival (EFS) for the ONCASPAR and native *E. coli* L-asparaginase study arms were similar and in the range of 80%, Study CCG-1962 was not designed to evaluate for differences in EFS rates.

14.2 Patients with ALL Hypersensitive to Asparaginase

The safety and effectiveness of ONCASPAR was evaluated in 4 open-label studies enrolling a total of 42 patients with multiply-relapsed, acute leukemia [39 (93%) with ALL] with a history of prior clinical allergic reaction to asparaginase. Hypersensitivity to asparaginase was defined by a history of systemic rash, urticaria, bronchospasm, laryngeal edema, hypotension, or local erythema, urticaria, or swelling, greater than 2 centimeters, for at least 10 minutes following administration of any form of native *E. coli* L-asparaginase. All patients received ONCASPAR at a dose of 2,000 or 2,500 International Units/m² administered intramuscularly or intravenously every 14 days. Patients received ONCASPAR as a single agent or in combination with multi-agent chemotherapy. The re-induction response rate was 50% (95% confidence interval: 35%, 65%), based upon 36% complete remissions and 14% partial remissions. These results were similar to the overall response rates reported for patients with ALL receiving second-line, native *E. coli* L-asparaginase-containing re-induction chemotherapy. Anti-tumor activity was also observed with single-agent ONCASPAR. Three responses (1 complete remission and 2 partial remissions) were observed in 9 adult and pediatric patients with relapsed ALL and hypersensitivity to native *E. coli* L-asparaginase.

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

ONCASPAR (pegaspargase) Injection is supplied as a sterile, clear, colorless, preservative-free solution in Type I single-dose vials containing 3,750 International Units of pegaspargase per 5 mL (750 International Units per mL) solution (NDC 0944-3810-01).

Store ONCASPAR refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F) in the original carton to protect from light. *Do not shake or freeze product.* Unopened vials may be stored at room temperature (15°C to 25°C [59°F to 77°F]) for no more than 48 hours.

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise Patients/Caregivers of the following risks of ONCASPAR:

Anaphylaxis and Serious Hypersensitivity Reactions

Inform patients of the possibility of serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, and to seek immediate medical care for any swellings or difficulty breathing [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].

Thrombosis

Instruct patients on the risk of thrombosis and hemorrhage and to seek immediate medical attention if they experience severe headache, arm or leg swelling, shortness of breath, or chest pain [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#)].

Pancreatitis

Instruct patients on the signs and symptoms of pancreatitis and to seek immediate medical attention if they experience severe abdominal pain [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.3\)](#)].

Glucose Intolerance

Instruct patients on the risk of hyperglycemia and glucose intolerance. Advise patients to immediately report excessive thirst or increase in the volume or frequency of urination [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.4\)](#)].

Hemorrhage

Advise patients to report any unusual bleeding or bruising to their physician [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#)].

Hepatotoxicity

Advise patients to contact their healthcare provider immediately for jaundice, severe nausea or vomiting, or easy bruising or bleeding [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)].

Pregnancy and Lactation

Advise female patients of reproductive potential to use effective contraceptive methods while receiving ONCASPAR and for at least 3 months after the last dose. Advise patients to notify their healthcare provider immediately in the event of a pregnancy, or if pregnancy is suspected during ONCASPAR treatment. Since there is a potential for an indirect interaction between ONCASPAR and oral contraceptives, the concomitant use of ONCASPAR and oral contraceptives is not recommended [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.3\)](#)].

Advise lactating women not to breastfeed during treatment with ONCASPAR and for at least 3 months after the last dose [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.2\)](#)].

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