

**CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND
RESEARCH**

APPLICATION NUMBER:

215192Orig1s000

PRODUCT QUALITY REVIEW(S)



Title:	NDA Executive Summary		
Document ID:	OPQ-ALL-TEM-0013		
Effective Date:	31 May 2022	Revision:	00
Total Pages:	3		



Template Revision: 03

NDA Executive Summary

1. Application/Product Information

NDA Number.	215192		
Applicant Name	Akebia Therapeutics		
Drug Product Name	VAFSEO (vadadustat)		
Dosage Form.	Tablet		
Proposed Strength(s)	150 mg, 300 mg, 450 mg		
Route of Administration	Oral		
Maximum Daily Dose	600 mg		
Rx/OTC Dispensed	Rx		
Proposed Indication	Treatment of anemia due to chronic kidney disease		
Drug Product Description	Film-coated immediate release tablets		
Co-packaged product information	N/A		
Device information:	N/A		
Storage Temperature/ Conditions	20 °C to 25°C		
Review Team	Discipline	Primary	Secondary
	<i>Drug Substance</i>	N/A	
	<i>Drug Product/ Labeling</i>	Dan Berger	Theodore Carver
	<i>Manufacturing</i>	Liya Tang	Feiyan Jin
	<i>Biopharmaceutics</i>	N/A	
	<i>Microbiology</i>	N/A	



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	<i>Other (specify):</i>	N/A	
	<i>RBPM</i>	Mikee Aguirre	
	<i>ATL</i>	Theodore Carver	
Consults	N/A		

2. Final Overall Recommendation - Approval

3. Action Letter Information

a. Expiration Dating:

A shelf life of 36 months is granted for the drug product when stored at 20°C to 25°C.

b. Additional Comments for Action

None

4. Basis for Recommendation:

a. Summary of Rationale for Recommendation:

Akebia Therapeutics has submitted NDA 215192 for the marketing approval of Vadadustat Immediate Release (IR) Tablets under the 505(b)(1) regulatory pathway. Vadadustat is a hypoxia-inducible factor prolyl hydroxylase inhibitor that increases cellular levels of hypoxia-inducible factor, thereby stimulating endogenous erythropoietin (EPO) production, increasing iron mobilization, Hb, and red blood cell production.

This application was previously recommended for approval by the Office of Pharmaceutical Quality (refer to Integrated Quality Review of NDA 215192 dated January 18th, 2022). To confirm that the drug product labeling and facilities remain adequate, drug product and manufacturing teams were assigned to review this resubmission. No new information was submitted for any OPQ discipline, and all labeling comments that were previously identified by the drug product reviewer have been addressed., Therefore, no new CMC reviews were required for this resubmission and the CMC information remains adequate. OPQ recommends approval of NDA 215192.



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b. Is the overall recommendation in agreement with the individual discipline recommendations? Yes

Recommendation by Subdiscipline:

Drug Substance - Adequate
Drug Product - Adequate
Quality Labeling - Adequate
Manufacturing - Adequate
Biopharmaceutics - Adequate
Microbiology - Adequate

Environmental Assessment: Categorical Exclusion - Adequate
QPA for EA(s): No

5. Life-Cycle Considerations

Established Conditions per ICH Q12: No
Comments:

Comparability Protocols (PACMP): No
Comments:

Additional Lifecycle Comments:
None



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Carver

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THEODORE E CARVER
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RECOMMENDATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval
<input type="checkbox"/> Approval with Post-Marketing Commitment
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Response

NDA 215192 Assessment #01

Drug Product Name	VAFSEO (vadadustat)
Dosage Form	Tablets
Strength	150 mg, 300 mg, 450 mg
Route of Administration	Oral
Rx/OTC Dispensed	Rx
Applicant	Akebia Therapeutics
US agent, if applicable	N/A

Submission(s) Assessed	Document Date	Discipline(s) Affected
Original CMC submission	03/29/2021	All
Amendment	06/28/2021	Drug Product, Manufacturing
Amendment	07/30/2021	Drug Product
Amendment	08/16/2021	Drug Substance, Drug Product
Amendment	08/23/2021	Biopharm
Amendment	09/09/2021	Drug Product
Amendment	09/15/2021	Manufacturing
Amendment	11/03/2021	Drug Product
Amendment	12/10/2021	Manufacturing
Amendment	12/22/2021	Manufacturing

QUALITY ASSESSMENT TEAM

Discipline	Primary Assessment	Secondary Assessment
Drug Substance	Ben Zhang	Zhengfu Wang
Drug Product	Dan Berger	Mohan Sapru
Manufacturing	Liya Tang	Feiyan Jin
Microbiology	NA	NA
Biopharmaceutics	Nadia Ahmed	Poonam Delvadia
Regulatory Business Process Manager	Grafton Adams	
Application Technical Lead	Dan Berger	
Laboratory (OTR)	NA	NA
Environmental	NA	NA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION ON APPROVABILITY

OPQ recommends approval of NDA 215192 for marketing of VAFSEO (vadadustat) tablets at 150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg strengths. The applicant provided adequate information to ensure the identity, strength, purity, and quality of the proposed product. All facilities are in good standing.

II. SUMMARY OF QUALITY ASSESSMENTS

A. Product Overview

Akebia Therapeutics has submitted NDA 215192 for the marketing approval of Vadadustat Immediate Release (IR) Tablets under the 505(b)(1) regulatory pathway. Vadadustat is a hypoxia-inducible factor prolyl hydroxylase inhibitor that increases cellular levels of hypoxia-inducible factor, thereby stimulating endogenous erythropoietin (EPO) production, increasing iron mobilization, Hb, and red blood cell production. The Applicant seeks an approval of Vafseo (vadadustat) tablets for the treatment of anemia due to chronic kidney disease (CKD) in adult patients who are on dialysis or not. The proposed maximum dose is 600 mg once daily for all patients. Although there are existing treatments for anemia of CKD, the Applicant contends that the current standard of care (typically injectables) has significant limitations such as increased risk of cardiovascular events, and that alternative treatments may be useful to treat renal anemia. Safety and effectiveness of Vafseo tablets have not been established in pediatric patients.

The proposed drug product is a film-coated, immediate release tablet at 150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg strengths which are derived from a (b) (4) (b) (4). OPQ provided advice on the adequacy of the NME drug substance and drug product submission at a Type C meeting on June 17, 2020. The different tablet strengths are differentiated by color, size, shape (round or oval) and debossing. Tablets used for phase 3 clinical studies were (b) (4) while the commercial formulation differs by (b) (4). The formulation differences between the phase 3 tablets and proposed commercial tablets were assessed and determined to be adequately bridged during review. Additionally, comparative dissolution studies were performed to bridge drug product manufactured with API from clinical and commercial suppliers, as well as drug product manufactured at geographically separate commercial sites (b) (4) and (b) (4). All manufacturing sites have been adequately bridged. Although a potential risk for the presence of (b) (4) impurities in the drug product was initially

determined, confirmatory testing on 14 batches of drug product at all 3 strengths verified the absence of any (b) (4). Following a Pre-Approval Inspection (PAI) of the (b) (4) manufacturing site, it was established that all manufacturing sites are considered to be adequate. The stability data submitted provides adequate support for the proposed expiry dating period of 36 months at 25°C and 30°C, based on extension of shelf-life as per ICH Q1E. Based on the review of NDA 215192, Vafseo (vadadustat) tablets are determined to be of acceptable quality, with minimal risks to patients identified from a CMC perspective when used as directed.

Proposed Indication(s) including Intended Patient Population	(b) (4)
Duration of Treatment	
Maximum Daily Dose	
Alternative Methods of Administration	Oral tablets.

B. Quality Assessment Overview

Drug Substance: Adequate

Vadadustat is a synthetic small molecule with no chirality and no counterion. The (b) (4) (b) (4), (b) (4) and (b) (4) (b) (4) vadadustat, which is referred to as (b) (4) has been chosen for the development and commercial production of the drug substance and drug product. The manufacturing process of the drug substance has been sufficiently described and the regulatory starting materials are adequately justified as per ICH Q11. The drug substance structure is characterized with various analytical methods, and the ICH M7 risk assessment on the impurities in the drug substance has been found adequate. In response to an Information Request, the Applicant provided purge factor calculations to confirm that levels of (b) (4) (b) (4) are sufficiently controlled so that (b) (4) formation in the drug product presents minimal risks. The specification of the drug substance is supported by release and stability data.

The stability data support a (b) (4)-month re-test period under long-term storage conditions (b) (4). Polymorphism and particle sizes of the drug substance are routinely tested in the release specification.

Drug Product: Adequate

Vadadustat tablets are available at three strengths – 150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg, to be dosed at up to 600 mg once daily orally. All excipients are compendial, present in safe quantities and BSE/TSE free. The commercial formulation includes debossment, color, size and shape differences that adequately distinguish the tablet strengths. The specifications are adequate to ensure drug product quality and all drug product batches meet specified acceptance criteria. The key analytical method is the HPLC method used to assess identification, assay, and degradants. No degradation products were detected at release or on stability under tested conditions. In an initial risk assessment, the drug product was considered potentially at risk for containing (b) (4) impurities. However, testing of 14 batches of drug product at all 3 strengths verified the absence of any (b) (4), thereby confirming that these potential impurities present minimal risks to patient safety. Adequacy of the (b) (4) testing methods and validation was confirmed following consultation with the Office of Testing and Research (OTR). Drug product packaging consists of three sizes of induction sealed HDPE bottles (60 count) enclosed with (b) (4) closures, (b) (4). The primary packaging and bulk packaging components that contact the drug product are suitable for pharmaceutical or food contact per 21 CFR regulations. Registration drug product batches manufactured at (b) (4) and (b) (4) meet all acceptance criteria per long-term and accelerated stability studies, with no significant changes or increases in degradants. Vadadustat tablets meet specifications after exposure to intense UV and visible light per prescribed Q1B ICH conditions, as well as 24 months of storage at 25°C/60%RH, 30°C/75%RH (for batches manufactured by (b) (4)) and 6 months at 40°C/75%RH. The overall stability data submitted provides adequate support for a shelf-life of 36 months at 25°C and 30°C, based on extension of shelf-life as per ICH Q1E. In summary, vadadustat tablets are of acceptable quality, with minimal risks to patients identified.

Labeling: Adequate

All labeling deficiencies have been addressed. The Prescribing Information, Medication Guide and labels comply with all regulatory requirements from a CMC perspective.

Manufacturing: Adequate

The proposed drug product is an immediate release tablet with a (b) (4) (b) (4) coating, presented in three strengths (150 mg, 300 mg, 450 mg) with the same drug loading of (b) (4)%. All three dosage strengths are

made from a (b) (4). The major unit operations for manufacturing are (b) (4). Two facilities are proposed as the manufacturing sites for the drug product. Three registration batches for each dosage strength were made from both manufacturing sites at (b) (4) kg scale. Commercial batch sizes are proposed based on the manufacturing equipment capabilities at each site, (b) (4) kg at (b) (4) and (b) (4) kg at (b) (4). Three validation batches at commercial scale ((b) (4) kg) were manufactured at (b) (4) for 150 mg and 300 mg strengths. Each of these batches were made by (b) (4).

One of the drug product manufacturers, (b) (4) is recommended for approval based on the recent on-site PAI inspection. Other manufacturing facilities are approved based on the compliance history and district recommendation.

Biopharmaceutics: Adequate

Akebia Therapeutics has submitted NDA 215192 for the marketing approval of Vadadustat Immediate Release (IR) Tablets (450 mg, 300 mg, and 150 mg strengths) under the 505(b)(1) regulatory pathway. Vadadustat is a hypoxia-inducible factor prolyl hydroxylase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of anemia associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in adults on dialysis and not on dialysis. Vadadustat increases cellular levels of hypoxia-inducible factor thereby stimulating endogenous erythropoietin (EPO) production, increasing iron mobilization, Hb, and red blood cell production.

The Applicant has conducted 4 pivotal global phase 3 clinical trials [in non-dialysis dependent CKD patients (NDD-CKD; CI-0014, CI-0015) and dialysis dependent CKD patients (DD-CKD; CI-0016, CI-0017] to support the proposed indication. The recommended starting dose is 300 mg once daily with or without food, with dose adjustment in increments of 150 mg within the range of 150 mg to 600 mg to achieve or maintain hemoglobin levels (10 to 11 g/dL).

Vadadustat is claimed to be a low solubility and highly permeable compound which can be classified as a BCS Class II drug substance. The Applicant has evaluated various dissolution method parameters to determine the optimal dissolution method. Additionally, they have demonstrated the discriminating ability of the proposed dissolution

method towards the critical process parameters: (b) (4) time and (b) (4) amount. All commercial batches consistently demonstrate complete release ($> (b) (4) \%$) at 30 minutes. Additionally, the proposed acceptance criteria would be able to reject aberrant batches. The proposed dissolution methods (USP II, 50 RPM, 900 mL of potassium phosphate buffer pH 6.8, at 37°C) and acceptance criterion ($Q = (b) (4) \%$ in 30 minutes) for all strengths are acceptable.

Akebia has studied 6 formulations throughout development (Formulations A through F). The Applicant has adequately bridged the Formulation B through C with comparative in vitro dissolution studies. However, the remainder of the formulations studied during development (Formulations A through B and C through F) were bridged via in vivo relative BA/BE studies.

The Applicant conducted comparative dissolution studies to bridge the proposed API suppliers, demonstrating similarity ($> (b) (4) \%$ release in 15 minutes) between products manufactured using API from pre-change and post-change API suppliers. Additionally, the API supplier used for the Phase 3 clinical batches (b) (4) has been adequately bridged to the proposed commercial API suppliers (b) (4).

Akebia also conducted comparative dissolution studies to bridge the proposed drug product manufacturing sites, demonstrating similarity ($> (b) (4) \%$ release in 15 minutes) for products manufactured at pre-change and postchange drug product manufacturing sites. The drug product manufacturing sites proposed for commercial production (b) (4) have been adequately bridged.

The Applicant requested a waiver of the in vivo bioavailability and bioequivalence studies for the proposed intermediate 300 mg strength. The supportive information/data included a comparative BE study using the 150 mg and 450 mg strengths, pharmacokinetic linearity in the range of 80 to 1200 mg, (b) (4) across strengths, and comparative dissolution in multi-pH media. It was confirmed with the clinical pharmacology reviewer that the in vivo BE study and PK linearity data are adequate. Based on the assessment of the information/data, biowaiver for 300 mg strength is granted.

Microbiology: Choose an item.

NA

C. Risk Assessment

From Initial Risk Identification			Assessment		
Attribute/ CQA	Factors that can impact the CQA	Initial Risk Ranking	Risk Mitigation Approach	Final Risk Evaluation	Lifecycle Considerati ons/ Comments
Assay	Drug product formulation, stability	Low	-	Acceptable	-
Physical Stability	Container closure, process parameters	Medium	(b) (4)	Acceptable	-
Content Uniformity	Process parameters, drug load	Low	-	Acceptable	-
Microbial Content	Formulation, container closure	Low	-	Acceptable	-
Dissolution	Drug substance solubility, polymorphism	Medium	(b) (4)	Acceptable	-
Particle Size	Manufacturing process	Medium	(b) (4)	Acceptable	-

D. List of Deficiencies for Complete Response

- Overall Quality Deficiencies (Deficiencies that affect multiple sub-disciplines)

None

- Drug Substance Deficiencies

None

3. Drug Product Deficiencies

None

4. Labeling Deficiencies

None

5. Manufacturing Deficiencies

None

6. Biopharmaceutics Deficiencies

None

7. Microbiology Deficiencies

None

8. Other Deficiencies (Specify discipline, such as Environmental)

None

Application Technical Lead Name and Date:

Dan Berger

January 18, 2022

QUALITY ASSESSMENT DATA SHEET

[IQA NDA Assessment Guide Reference](#)

1. RELATED/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A. DMFs:

DMF #	Type	Holder	Item Referenced	Status	Date Assessment Completed	Comments
(b) (4)	III	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	Active	N/A	Sufficient information in NDA
	III			Active	N/A	
	III			Active	N/A	
	III			Active	N/A	

B. OTHER DOCUMENTS: IND, RLD, RS, Approved NDA

Document	Application Number	Description
IND	102465	Tablets for treatment of anemia associated with chronic kidney disease and chronic kidney failure.

2. CONSULTS

The Office of Testing and Research (OTR) was consulted to confirm the adequacy of the (b) (4) impurity testing methods and validation. These were confirmed to be acceptable (via email on August 27, 2021), but with an additional requirement for the Applicant to perform intermediate precision experiments. Intermediate precision experiments were subsequently submitted and found acceptable during review of the drug product, thereby completing the requirements for compliance with ICH Q2.



Dan
Berger

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CHAPTER IV: LABELING

1.0 PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Assessment of Product Quality Related Aspects of the Prescribing Information:

Section 11 has been edited to alphabetize excipients and to add chemical properties of the API. Section 16 has been edited to add corrected language for USP storage conditions. With these edits, the prescribing information meet all regulatory requirements from a CMC perspective.

1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
Product Title in Highlights		
Proprietary name	Vafseo	Adequate
Established name(s)	Vadadustat	Adequate
Route(s) of administration	Oral	Adequate
Dosage Forms and Strengths Heading in Highlights		
Summary of the dosage form(s) and strength(s) in metric system.	150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg	Adequate
Assess if the tablet is scored. If product meets guidelines and criteria for a scored tablet, state "functionally scored"	NA	NA
For injectable drug products for parental administration, use appropriate package type term (e.g., single-dose, multiple-dose, single-patient-use). Other package terms include pharmacy bulk package and imaging bulk package.	NA	NA

1.2 FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1.2.1 Section 2 (DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section		
Special instructions for product preparation (e.g., reconstitution and resulting concentration, dilution, compatible diluents, storage conditions needed to maintain the stability of the reconstituted or diluted product)	NA	NA

1.2.2 Section 3 (DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS section		
Available dosage form(s)	Tablets	Adequate
Strength(s) in metric system	150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg	Adequate
If the active ingredient is a salt, apply the USP Salt Policy per FDA Guidance	NA	NA
A description of the identifying characteristics of the dosage forms, including shape, color, coating, scoring, and imprinting	round/white, oval/ yellow, oval/pink tablet debossed with "150", "300", or "450" on one side and "VDT" on the other side	Adequate
Assess if the tablet is scored. If product meets guidelines and criteria for a scored tablet, state "functionally scored"	NA	NA
For injectable drug products for parental administration, use appropriate labeling term (e.g., single-dose, multiple-dose, single-patient-use). Other package type terms include pharmacy bulk package and imaging bulk package.	NA	NA

1.2.3 Section 11 (DESCRIPTION)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
DESCRIPTION section		
Proprietary and established name(s)	Vafseo, vadadustat	Adequate
Dosage form(s) and route(s) of administration	150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg, oral administration	Adequate
If the active ingredient is a salt, apply the USP Salt Policy and include the equivalency statement per FDA Guidance.	NA	NA
List names of all inactive ingredients. Use USP/NF names. Avoid Brand names.	Colloidal silicon dioxide, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose & sodium starch glycolate. Coating: PEG, polyvinyl alcohol, talc, ferrousferrous oxide, red & yellow iron oxide, titanium dioxide.	Adequate, with edits to alphabetize the inactive ingredients, remove (b) (4)
For parenteral injectable dosage forms, include name and quantities of all inactive ingredients. For ingredients added to adjust the pH or make isotonic, include the name and statement of effect.	NA	NA
If alcohol is present, must provide the amount of alcohol in terms of percent volume of absolute alcohol	NA	NA
Statement of being sterile (if applicable)	NA	NA
Pharmacological/ Therapeutic class	HIF-prolyl hydroxylase inhibitor	Adequate
Chemical name, structural formula, molecular weight	Chemical name*, C ₁₄ H ₁₁ ClN ₂ O ₄ , 306.70.	Adequate
If radioactive, statement of important nuclear characteristics.	NA	NA
Other important chemical or physical properties (such as pKa or pH)	White to off-white solid practically insoluble in water.	Adequate, with edits made.

*2-[[5-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-hydroxypyridine-2-carbonyl]amino]acetic acid.

Section 11 (DESCRIPTION) Continued

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
For oral prescription drug products, include gluten statement if applicable	NA	NA
Remove statements that may be misleading or promotional (e.g., "synthesized and developed by Drug Company X," "structurally unique molecular entity")	NA	NA

1.2.4 Section 16 (HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING section		
Available dosage form(s)	Tablets	Adequate
Strength(s) in metric system	150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg	Adequate
Available units (e.g., bottles of 100 tablets)	Bottles of 60 tablets	Adequate, with DMEPA recommended edits.
Identification of dosage forms, e.g., shape, color, coating, scoring, imprinting, NDC number	Shape, size, imprinting, NDC 59922-641-60, 59922-642-60, 59922-643-60.	Adequate, with DMEPA recommended edits
Assess if the tablet is scored. If product meets guidelines and criteria for a scored tablet, state "functionally scored"	NA	NA
For injectable drug products for parental administration, use appropriate package type term (e.g., single-dose, multiple-dose, single-patient-use). Other package terms include pharmacy bulk package and imaging bulk package.	NA	NA

Section 16 (HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING) (Continued)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
Special handling about the supplied product (e.g., protect from light, refrigerate). If there is a statement to "Dispense in original container," provide reason why (e.g., to protect from light or moisture, to maintain stability, etc.)	NA	NA
If the product contains a desiccant, ensure the size and shape differ from the dosage form and desiccant has a warning such as "Do not eat."	NA	NA
Storage conditions. Where applicable, use USP storage range rather than storage at a single temperature.	Store at 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F); excursions permitted between 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F)	Adequate, with DMEPA recommended edits
Latex: If product does not contain latex and manufacturing of product and container did not include use of natural rubber latex or synthetic derivatives of natural rubber latex, state: "Not made with natural rubber latex. Avoid statements such as "latex-free."	NA	NA
Include information about child-resistant packaging	Not present	NA

1.2.5 Other Sections of Labeling

No other sections of the labeling contain product quality information.

1.2.6 Manufacturing Information After Section 17 (for drug products)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
Manufacturing Information After Section 17		
Name and location of business (street address, city, state, and zip code) of the manufacturer, distributor, and/or packer	Manufactured for: Akebia Therapeutics®, Inc. Cambridge, MA 02142	Adequate.

2.0 PATIENT LABELING

Assessment of Product Quality Related Aspects of Patient Labeling (e.g., Medication Guide, Patient Information, Instructions for Use):

The medication guide is acceptable, following edits made to alphabetize excipients.

3.0 CARTON AND CONTAINER LABELING

3.1 Container Label



3.2 Carton Labeling

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Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments about Blister, Carton and Bottle Labeling
Proprietary name, established name, and dosage form (font size and prominence)	Vafseo, vadadustat	Adequate
Dosage strength	150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg	Adequate
Route of administration	Oral	Adequate
If the active ingredient is a salt, include the equivalency statement per FDA Guidance	NA	NA
Net contents (e.g., tablet count)	Bottles of 60 tablets, blisters of 10 tablets (physician samples)	Adequate
"Rx only" displayed on the principal display	Present	Adequate
NDC number	59922-641-60, 59922-642-60, 59922-643-60, (b) (4) (b) (4)	Adequate
Lot number and expiration date	Present	Adequate
Storage conditions. If applicable, include a space on the carton labeling for the user to write the new BUD.	Store at room temperature 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F); excursions permitted between 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F)	Adequate
For injectable drug products for parental administration, use appropriate package type term (e.g., single-dose, multiple-dose, single-patient-use)	NA	NA
Other package terms include pharmacy bulk package and imaging bulk package which require "Not for direct infusion" statement.	NA	NA
If alcohol is present, must provide the amount of alcohol in terms of percent volume of absolute alcohol	NA	NA
Bar code	Present	Adequate

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments about Carton Labeling
Name of manufacturer/distributor	Manufactured for Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. Cambridge, MA 02142	Adequate
Medication Guide (if applicable)	Storage conditions and inactive ingredients.	Adequate, with edits made to inactive ingredients list.
No text on Ferrule and Cap overseal	NA	NA
When a drug product differs from the relevant USP standard of strength, quality, or purity, as determined by the application of the tests, procedures, and acceptance criteria set forth in the relevant compendium, its difference shall be plainly stated on its label.	NA	NA
And others, if space is available	NA	NA

Assessment of Carton and Container Labeling: Adequate

The labels are acceptable and comply with all regulatory requirements from a CMC perspective.

ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT

None

Overall Assessment and Recommendation:

All labeling deficiencies have been addressed. The Prescribing Information and labels comply with all regulatory requirements from a CMC perspective.

Primary Labeling Assessor Name and Date:

Dan Berger January 10, 2022

Secondary Assessor Name and Date (and Secondary Summary, as needed):

Mohan Sapru January 10, 2022



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Berger

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CHAPTER VI: BIOPHARMACEUTICS

[IQA NDA Assessment Guide Reference](#)

Product Information	Vadadustat Tablets
NDA Number	215192
Assessment Cycle Number	1
Drug Product Name/ Strength	Vadadustat Tablets/150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg
Route of Administration	Oral
Applicant Name	Akebia Therapeutics
Therapeutic Classification/ OND Division	CDER/OCHEN/DNH
RLD/RS Number	New Molecular Entity
Proposed Indication	Treatment of anemia associated with chronic kidney disease in adults on dialysis and not on dialysis.

Assessment Recommendation: Adequate

Assessment Summary: The Applicant, Akebia Therapeutics, under the 505(b)(1) regulatory pathway, has submitted NDA 215192 for the marketing approval of Vadadustat Immediate Release (IR) Tablets. Vadadustat is a hypoxia-inducible factor prolyl hydroxylase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of anemia associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in adults on dialysis and not on dialysis. Vadadustat increases cellular levels of hypoxia-inducible factor thereby stimulating endogenous erythropoietin (EPO) production, increasing iron mobilization, Hb, and red blood cell production.

The Applicant conducted 4 pivotal global phase 3 clinical trials [in non-dialysis dependent CKD patients (NDD-CKD; CI-0014, CI-0015) and dialysis dependent CKD patients (DD-CKD; CI-0016, CI-0017)] to support the proposed indication. The Applicant has proposed three strengths: 450 mg, 300 mg, and 150 mg. The recommended starting dose is 300 mg once daily with or without food. The proposed dose adjustment is in increments of 150 mg within the range of 150 mg to 600 mg to achieve or maintain hemoglobin levels (10 to 11 g/dL).

The Applicant has claimed that Vadadustat is a low solubility and highly permeable compound which can be classified as a BCS Class II drug substance. The Applicant has evaluated various dissolution method parameters to determine the optimal dissolution method. Additionally, they have demonstrated the discriminating ability of the proposed dissolution method towards the critical process parameters: (b) (4) time and (b) (4) amount. All commercial batches consistently demonstrate complete release (> (b) (4) %) at 30 minutes. Additionally, the proposed acceptance criteria would be able to reject aberrant batches. The

Applicant's proposed dissolution method (USP II, 50 RPM, 900 mL of potassium phosphate buffer pH 6.8, at 37°C) and acceptance criterion (Q= $\frac{(b)(4)}{(4)}$ % in 30 minutes) for all strengths are acceptable.

The Applicant has studied 6 formulations throughout development (Formulations A through F). The Applicant has adequately bridged the Formulation B through C with comparative in vitro dissolution studies. However, the remainder of the formulations studied during development (Formulations A through B and C through F) were bridged via in vivo relative BA/BE studies.

The Applicant conducted comparative dissolution studies to bridge the proposed API suppliers, demonstrating similarity ($> \frac{(b)(4)}{(4)}$ % release in 15 minutes) between products manufactured using API from pre-change and post-change API suppliers. The Applicant has adequately bridged the API supplier used for the Phase 3 clinical batches ($\frac{(b)(4)}{(4)}$) to the proposed commercial API suppliers $\frac{(b)(4)}{(4)}$.

The Applicant also conducted comparative dissolution studies to bridge the proposed drug product manufacturing sites, demonstrating similarity ($> \frac{(b)(4)}{(4)}$ % release in 15 minutes) for products manufactured at pre-change and post-change drug product manufacturing sites. The Applicant has adequately bridged the drug product manufacturing sites proposed for commercial production $\frac{(b)(4)}{(4)}$.

The Applicant requested a waiver of the in vivo bioavailability and bioequivalence studies for the proposed intermediate 300 mg strength. The supportive information/data included a comparative BE study using the 150 mg and 450 mg strengths, pharmacokinetic linearity in the range of 80 to 1200 mg, $\frac{(b)(4)}{(4)}$ across strengths, and comparative dissolution in multi-pH media. It was confirmed with the clinical pharmacology reviewer that the in vivo BE study and PK linearity data are adequate. Based on the assessment of the information/data, biowaiver for 300 mg strength is granted.

Table 1: CQAs and Rankings

CQAs	Initial Risk Ranking	Comments	Updated Risk Ranking after Assessment Cycle #	Comments
Particle Size Distribution	Medium	For a BCS Class II drug substance dissolution is $\frac{(b)(4)}{(4)}$	Low	$\frac{(b)(4)}{(4)}$

List Submissions Assessed:

Table 2: Documents Assessed in this Review

Document(s) Assessed	Date Received
NDA-215192-ORIG-1 (Seq 0001)	03/29/21
NDA-215192-ORIG-1 (Seq 0017)	08/23/21

Highlight Key Issues from Last Cycle and Their Resolution: N/A

Concise Description of Outstanding Issues (List bullet points with key information and update as needed): N/A

B.1 BCS DESIGNATION

Assessment: The Applicant has claimed that Vadadustat is a low solubility and highly permeable compound which can be classified as a BCS Class II drug substance.

Solubility: Vadadustat is soluble at neutral/basic conditions but has low solubility in acidic conditions. It is noted that the highest strength of the product is not soluble in less than 250 mL at any condition between pH 1.2 and pH 5.5. At pH 6.8 and above, the solubility of Vadadustat increases.

Permeability: Based on Caco-2 cell culture study, Vadadustat demonstrates high permeability.

B.2 DISSOLUTION METHOD AND ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

Assessment: {Adequate}

During the course of drug product development, the Applicant studied 4 different dissolution methods, as shown in Table 3. The proposed dissolution method and acceptance criterion are shown in Table 4.



Table 4: Proposed Dissolution Method and Acceptance Criterion for Finished Drug Product Batch Release and Stability Testing (150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg)

USP Apparatus	Speed	Medium	Volume/ Temperature	Proposed Acceptance Criterion
II (Paddles)	50 RPM	Potassium Phosphate Buffer pH 6.8	90 mL/37°C	Q ^(b) ₍₄₎ % in 30 minutes

The Applicant has noted that the drug substance, Vadadustat, has higher solubility at neutral and basic conditions and low solubility at acidic pH.

(b) (4)

^(b)₍₄₎ It is noted that though the proposed dissolution method is not discriminating towards changes in some process parameters or API and formulation attributes, the method is acceptable since these attributes are controlled which mitigates the Biopharmaceutics risk. The proposed dissolution method is therefore acceptable.

All pivotal phase 3 clinical batches, pivotal in vivo BE study batches, and commercial batches (at both proposed manufacturing sites) consistently demonstrate complete release (> ^(b)₍₄₎%) at 30 minutes. It is noted that the proposed acceptance criterion of NLT ^(b)₍₄₎% (Q) in 30 min would be able to reject aberrant batches that represented changes in ^(b)₍₄₎ time and ^(b)₍₄₎ amount. Therefore, the Applicant's proposed acceptance criterion, "NLT ^(b)₍₄₎% (Q) in 30 minutes" is acceptable.



B.3 CLINICAL RELEVANCE OF DISSOLUTION METHOD & ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA (e.g., IVIVR, IVIVC, In Silico Modeling, small scale in vivo)

Assessment: There are no in vivo data from the drug development program that can be applied to demonstrate the clinical relevancy of the proposed dissolution method and acceptance criterion.

B.12 BRIDGING OF FORMULATIONS

Assessment: {Adequate}

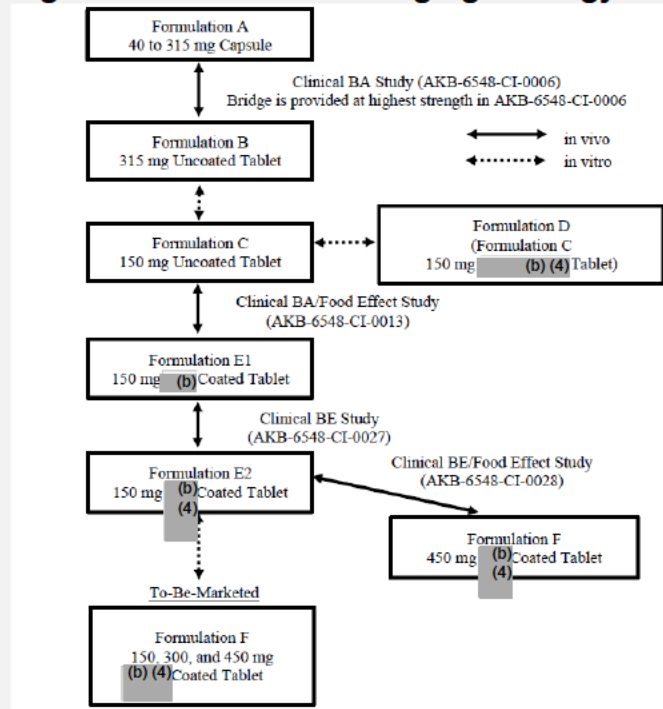
Bridging of Formulations Used in Development:

The Applicant has studied 6 Formulations (A through F) throughout the development (Table 5 and Figure 3).

Table 5: Formulations and Dosage Forms

Formulation	Dosage Form
Formulation A	(b) (4)
Formulation B	
Formulation C	
Formulation D	
Formulation E1 and E2	
Formulation F (intended commercial formulation)	Debossed film-coated tablet, 150, 300, and 450 mg

Figure 3: Formulation Bridging Strategy



(b) (4)

The Applicant has adequately bridged the Formulation B through C with comparative in vitro dissolution studies. However, the remainder of the formulations studied during development (Formulations A through B and C through F) were bridged via in vivo relative BA/BE studies, the assessment of which is under the Clinical Pharmacology Reviewer's purview.

Bridging of Drug Substance Manufacturers:

Per the Comparability Report, the Applicant has provided comparative dissolution between the two drug substance manufacturers (b) (4). However, it is noted that (b) (4) and (b) (4) are the two drug substance sources proposed for commercial manufacturing. Additionally, it is noted that the provided comparative dissolution results between the two API manufacturers are averages of registration batches rather than individual dissolution profiles of each batch. Therefore, the Applicant was asked to provide the individual dissolution profiles of one batch from each API supplier for comparison via an Information Request dated 08/09/21. The Applicant sufficiently responded to the IR.¹ The Applicant has adequately bridged the drug

¹ <\\CDSESUB1\evsprod\nda215192\0017\m1\us\111-info-amend\qual-info-amend-12-20210809.pdf>

product batches manufactured with API from (b) (4) to drug product batches manufactured with API from (b) (4) (Commercial API Supplier). Both of these drug product batches manufactured with API from (b) (4) and (b) (4) were used in pivotal phase 3 clinical studies (CI-0014, CI-0015, CI-0016, CI-0017). Both batches compared were manufactured at the same facility (b) (4) and both batches exhibit > (b) (4) % release in 15 minutes. Additionally, the Applicant has bridged drug product batches manufactured using API from (b) (4) API Supplier and the (b) (4) (Alternate Commercial API Supplier). These drug product batches were manufactured at different facilities (b) (4) but dissolution profiles exhibit > (b) (4) % release in 15 minutes. Therefore, the Applicant has adequately bridged both proposed commercial API suppliers (b) (4) to the API supplier for the phase 3 batches (b) (4)

Bridging of Drug Product Manufacturers:

The pivotal phase 3 clinical batches were manufactured at both (b) (4). It is noted that formulation E2 (Lot YZFT, 150 mg) and formulation F (Lot ZKFB, 450mg) studied in the pivotal BE study (CI-0028) were manufactured at (b) (4). The Applicant is proposing two manufacturing sites (b) (4) for commercial production.

The Applicant had originally provided comparative dissolution studies to bridge the two drug product manufacturing sites using the average of 4 registration batches at (b) (4) (pivotal phase 3 clinical batch manufacturing site and proposed commercial manufacturing site) and the average of 3 registration batches at (b) (4) (alternate proposed commercial manufacturing site). Averaging dissolution profiles of registration batches for comparison does not allow for dissolution profile comparisons between all registration batches. Additionally, it was noted that the Applicant had not provided complete dissolution profiles to support the bridging between the manufacturing sites which was requested via IR. In response to the IR¹, the Applicant provided complete dissolution profile data between these sites (b) (4) for comparison. The dissolution profiles between these two sites both exhibit > (b) (4) % release in 15 minutes indicating dissolution similarity. Thus, the Applicant has adequately bridged both drug product manufacturing sites proposed for commercial manufacturing.

B. 13 BIOWAIVER REQUEST

Assessment: {Adequate}

The Applicant is requesting a waiver of the in vivo bioavailability and bioequivalence studies for the 300 mg tablet. For the biowaiver request, the Applicant is relying on the in vivo BE study (CI-0028, 3X150 mg vs 1X450 mg), PK

linearity (80 mg-1200 mg), (b) (4) across strengths, and comparative multi-media dissolution.

In clinical study (AKB-6548-CI-0028), Vadadustat 150 mg (Formulation E1, (b) (4) (b) (4)) and 450 mg tablets (Formulation F, (b) (4) (b) (4)) were demonstrated to be bioequivalent to each other. Per the discussion with the Clinical Pharmacology Reviewer, it was confirmed that the in vivo BE study is adequate.

The Applicant noted that Vadadustat demonstrates linear pharmacokinetics (PK) profiles in the range of 80 mg to 1200 mg, which was also confirmed by the clinical pharmacology reviewer.

The proposed 300 mg tablet is bracketed by the highest and lowest proposed strengths (450 mg and 150 mg), and the formulations are all manufactured via a (b) (4)

(b) (4) Formulations for each strength are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: 150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg Formulations

Component	Function	Quality Standard	150 mg		300 mg		450 mg	
			Mass (mg)	%	Mass (mg)	%	Mass (mg)	%
Vadadustat Drug Substance	Active Ingredient	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)
Microcrystalline Cellulose	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)
Sodium Starch Glycolate	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)
Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)
Colloidal Silicon Dioxide	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)
Magnesium Stearate	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)
Total Weight of Core Tablets			(b) (4)					
			Film-coating Components					
(b) (4)	Tablet Coating for 150 mg	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)
(b) (4)	Tablet Coating for 300 mg	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)
(b) (4)	Tablet Coating for 450 mg	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)
Total Weight of Coated Tablets			(b) (4)					

The Applicant noted that since the 150 mg strength and the 450 mg strength bracket the 300 mg tablets, comparative dissolution was conducted only between the 150 mg and 300 mg tablets. However, the Applicant has provided two times the dose of 150 mg in single dissolution vessel for comparison rather than comparison of one dose of 150 mg vs 300 mg. It is also noted that no comparisons were originally made to the 450 mg strengths. Therefore, the Applicant was requested to provide rationale on why 2 units of the 150 mg strength were used to support the biowaiver and provide comparative dissolution profile data of the

150 mg vs 300 mg strengths and 300 mg vs 450 mg strengths using single units via IR. The Applicant responded that the dissolution comparisons of 2 units of 150 mg vs 1 unit of 300 mg strength was performed to provide comparisons at the same dose levels (Tables 7a and 7b).

As requested, the Applicant conducted comparative dissolution studies of single unit dosage across multiple pH levels (Tables 8a-8c). Comparisons at pH 1.2 and 4.5 did not demonstrate complete release for any strength, however, performance across strengths was similar. At pH 6.8, all but one lot of 300 mg (ZYXG) demonstrate \geq (b) (4) % dissolution in 15 minutes and dissolution performance of these batches is therefore considered to be similar to that of 150 mg BE batch (YZFT; CI-0028) that also showed $>$ (b) (4) % in 15 min. One 300 mg batch, ZYXG, had (b) (4) % dissolution in 15 minutes, which was compared to the 150 mg batch that had (b) (4) % dissolution in 15 minutes, indicating dissolution dissimilarity; however, this is not a concern as the dissolution profile of the batch ZYXG is similar to the 450 mg batch ZKFB ($f_2 = 56.94$) that was also evaluated in the in vivo BE study (Table 9). At pH 6.8, when the 300 mg batches were compared to the 450 mg BE batch (ZKFB; CI-0028) via f_2 test, the results indicated dissolution similarity (Table 9) except the batch ZXHF. However, this dissolution dissimilarity can be attributed to differences in dissolution at 5 min only since the dissolution performance at all other time points is comparable. Overall, from a Biopharmaceutics perspective, dissolution profile similarity is demonstrated for the 300 mg batches when compared to the in vivo BE study batches of the 150 mg and 450 mg strengths.

Table 7a: Comparative Dissolution Using Proposed QC Method- (1x300 mg vs 2x150 mg)

		Mean Data						
Batch names	Time	5	10	15	20	30	45	60
Phase 3 Batch 150 mg YZFT (CI-0028) (BE Batch)	(b) (4) 2x	44	87	96	99	101	101	102
Primary Stability Batch 300 mg ZYXF	(b) (4)	36	81	89	93	97	100	102

Table 7b: Comparative Dissolution Using Proposed QC Method- (1x450 mg vs 3x150 mg)

		Mean Data			
Batch names	Time	5	10	15	20
Primary Stability Batch 450 mg ZKFB (BE Batch)	(b) (4)	30	73	82	86
Phase 3 Batch 150 mg YZFT (CI-0028) (BE Batch)	(b) (4) REFERENCE_3x	51	89	97	98

**Table 8a: Comparative Dissolution Using Proposed QC Method Conditions
- pH 6.8 (1x150mg, 1x300mg, 1x450mg)**

		pH 6.8 Mean Data							
Batch names	Time	5	10	15	20	30	45	60	
Phase 3 Batch 150 mg YZFT (CI-0028) (BE Batch)	(b) (4)	46	87	99	101	102	103	103	
Primary Stability Batch 300 mg ZYXF	(b) (4)	36	81	89	93	97	100	102	
Primary Stability Batch 300 mg ZXHK		53	77	85	89	96	99	100	
Primary Stability Batch 300 mg ZYXG		16	72	78	87	96	101	102	
Primary Stability Batch 300 mg FP257203-C19004	(b) (4)	36	85	95	98	100	102	102	
Primary Stability Batch 450 mg ZKFB (BE Batch)		30	73	81	86	94	98	99	

**Table 8b: Comparative Dissolution Using Proposed QC Method Conditions
- pH 4.5 (1x150mg, 1x300mg, 1x450mg)**

		pH 4.5 Mean Data							
Batch names	Time	5	10	15	20	30	45	60	
Phase 3 Batch 150 mg YZFT (CI-0028) (BE Batch)	(b) (4)	13	29	37	41	46	51	53	
Primary Stability Batch 300 mg ZYXF	(b) (4)	12	22	26	27	28	29	30	
Primary Stability Batch 450 mg ZKFB (BE Batch)	(b) (4)	9	16	18	19	20	20	20	

**Table 8c: Comparative Dissolution Using Proposed QC Method Conditions
- pH 1.2 (1x150mg, 1x300mg, 1x450mg)**

		pH 1.2 Mean Data							
Batch names	Time	5	10	15	20	30	45	60	75
Phase 3 Batch 150 mg YZFT (CI-0028) (BE Batch)	(b) (4)	5	11	13	15	16	17	18	19
Primary Stability Batch 300 mg ZYXF	(b) (4)	7	8	9	9	10	10	10	10
Primary Stability Batch 450 mg ZKFB (BE Batch)	(b) (4)	4	6	6	7	7	7	7	7

Table 9. Dissolution Profile Similarity Results Comparing 300 mg test batches and 450 mg Reference In Vivo BE batch

Reference Batch (450mg)	Test Batch (300mg)	Time Points Used	f2
ZKFB	ZYXF	5, 10, and 15	56.36
	ZXHK	5, 10, 15, and 20	46.08
	ZYXG	5, 10, 15, and 20	56.94

Based on the overall information and data on the in vivo BE study (150 mg vs 450 mg), PK linearity (80 mg to 1200 mg), compositional proportionality, and comparative in vitro dissolution, the biowaiver request for the 300 mg strength is granted.

Primary Biopharmaceutics Assessor's Name and Date:

Nadia Ahmed, PharmD
10/20/21

Secondary Assessor Name and Date:

Poonam Delvadia, PhD
10/21/2021



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