CONTRAINDICATIONS

Use with caution. Didanosine capsules should not be used in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh class C), during concurrent administration with zidovudine, with hydroxyurea, or with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance less than 30 mL/min). Do not use with agents with well documented risk of lactic acidosis and/or severe hepatomegaly with steatosis such as nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs) such as efavirenz and nevirapine. Use with caution in patients with anemia, in whom the risk of lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly may be greatest.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Drug interactions may occur in the presence of concurrent administration of didanosine with ritonavir, stavudine, or stavudine plus zidovudine. The pharmacokinetics of didanosine have not been studied in the presence of concomitant use with other HIV protease inhibitors, efavirenz, nevirapine, or hydroxyurea. Use didanosine with caution in patients on concomitant therapy with these drugs and monitor for signs of toxicity.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Patients should not share their medications with others.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Nucleoside-related adverse reactions including nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain have been noted with the use of didanosine. Nausea and vomiting may be decreased by taking didanosine with a meal or snack. Hematologic toxicity including anemia, neutropenia, and thrombocytopenia may occur in patients treated with didanosine. Patients should be monitored for these adverse reactions and the dose of didanosine should be reduced or treatment discontinued in patients experiencing severe hematologic toxicity.

URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

Urinary tract infections may occur with the use of didanosine. Patients should be monitored for symptoms of urinary tract infections and treated appropriately.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Didanosine capsules should be stored at room temperature, 15° to 30°C (59° to 86°F), and protected from light. didanosine capsules should be protected from exposure to light and humidity and not frozen. didanosine capsules should be stored in a dry, cool place and exposed to direct sunlight or excessive heat should be used with caution.

Table: Nucleoside-Related Adverse Reactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse Reaction</th>
<th>Incidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vomiting</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal pain</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Hematologic Toxicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse Reaction</th>
<th>Incidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombocytopenia</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Urinary Tract Infections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse Reaction</th>
<th>Incidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urinary tract infection</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Recommendations

Didanosine capsules should be stored at room temperature, 15° to 30°C (59° to 86°F), and protected from light. didanosine capsules should be protected from exposure to light and humidity and not frozen. didanosine capsules should be stored in a dry, cool place and exposed to direct sunlight or excessive heat should be used with caution.
**Headache**

A single 400 mg dose of didanosine is effective for headache.

**Vision**

Sulfonamides, ketoconazole, and allopurinol are known to interact with didanosine.

**Elimination Half-life (h)**

Creatinine clearance is not a factor in didanosine elimination half-life.

**Use**

Didanosine is used to slow or prevent the growth of HIV in the body.

**Formulation**

Didanosine is available as capsules and oral solution.

**Dosing**

- **Didanosine Fumarate**: 375 mg every 8 hours. For capsules, take with a light meal.

**Side Effects**

- 11% of patients show delayed onset of HIV-

**HIV RNA copies**

- AUC of Didanosine is decreased by 40% in the presence of food.

**Interactions**

- The fumaric acid of didanosine can decrease the release of tenofovir.

**Recommendations**

- Dosage adjustments are not necessary for patients with a body mass index (BMI) of 20 kg or less.

**Adults**

- At least 60 kg of weight is recommended for didanosine use.

**Female Patients**

- In females, the AUC of didanosine may be increased.

**Children**

- Didanosine is not recommended for children under the age of 12 years.

**Monitoring**

- Monitor patients for delayed onset of HIV.

**Dosage Adjustments**

- The use of didanosine may be increased in certain patient groups.