PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

ABACAVIR SULFATE AND LAMIVUDINE TABLETS

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet since you may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor
- This medicine has been prescribed for you personally and you should not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects get serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor.

HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTION

Since abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets contains abacavir some patients taking abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets may develop a hypersensitivity reaction (serious allergic reaction) which can be life-threatening if you continue to take abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets. It is essential you read the information on this reaction under "Take special care with abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets" in section 2 of this leaflet. There is also an Alert Card included in the abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets pack, to remind you and medical staff about abacavir hypersensitivity. This card should be removed and kept with you at all times.

CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY for advice on whether you should stop taking abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets if:

1) You get a skin rash OR
2) You get one or more symptoms from at least TWO of the following groups
    - fever
    - shortness of breath, sore throat or cough
    - nausea or vomiting or diarrhoea or abdominal pain
    - severe tiredness or achiness or generally ill feeling

If you have discontinued abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets due to a hypersensitivity reaction, YOU MUST NEVER TAKE abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets, or any other medicine containing abacavir again as within hours you may experience a life-threatening lowering of your blood pressure or death.

If you are hypersensitive to abacavir you should return all of your unused abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets for disposal. Ask your doctor for advice.

In this leaflet:

6. Further information

Abacavir sulfate 600mg and lamivudine 300mg tablets
Each film coated abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablet contains 600mg of abacavir (as abacavir sulfate) and 300mg of lamivudine USP.

The other ingredients are microcrystalline cellulose, sodium starch glycolate, magnesium stearate, hypromellose, titanium dioxide, polysorbate 80, macrogol and FD&C yellow (sunset yellow aluminum lake).

Abacavir sulfate 600mg and lamivudine 300mg tablets are available as orange colored, modified capsule shaped, film-coated tablets debossed with 'H' on one side and '27' on other side.

Abacavir sulfate 60mg and lamivudine 30mg tablets
Each film coated abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablet contains 60mg of abacavir (as abacavir sulfate) and 30mg of lamivudine USP.

The other ingredients are microcrystalline cellulose, sodium starch glycolate, magnesium stearate, hypromellose, titanium dioxide, polysorbate 80, macrogol and FD&C yellow (sunset yellow aluminum lake).

Abacavir sulfate 60mg and lamivudine 30mg tablets are available as orange colored, modified capsule shaped, film-coated tablets debossed with 'H' and '38' on either side of the deep break line on one side and deep break line on the other side.

The Marketing Authorisation Holder for abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets are:
M/s Aurobindo Pharma Ltd
Plot No.: 2, Maitrivihar
Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500 038
India.

Abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets are manufactured by:
M/s Aurobindo Pharma Limited,
Unit III, Survey No. 313 & 314,
Bachupally, Quthubullapur Mandal,
Hyderabad, Telangana State
INDIA
ZIP Code – 500 090

1. What abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets are and what they are used for
Abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets containsabacavir and lamivudine. These are also available as separate medicines. They belong to a group of antiretrovirals, which are medicines used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection, called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). They are used in combination with other antiretrovirals to treat HIV infection. Abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets reduces the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load), and keeps it low. It also increases the number of CD4 blood cells. CD4 cells are a

type of white blood cell that play an important role in keeping the immune system healthy to help fight infection. Response to treatment with abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets varies between patients. Your doctor will be monitoring the effectiveness of your treatment.

2. Before you take abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets

Do not take abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets:

If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to the active substance abacavir, or any other medicine containing abacavir sulfate.

If you are allergic to the active substance lamivudine or any of the other ingredients in abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets.

If you have serious liver disease

If you are not sure whether you should be taking abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets, please discuss with your doctor before taking this medicine.

Take special care with abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets

Hypersensitivity reaction (serious allergic reaction): About 5 in every 100 patients, who are treated with abacavir, develop a hypersensitivity reaction.

The most common symptoms of this reaction are high temperature (fever) and a skin rash. Other frequently observed signs are nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and severe tiredness.

Other symptoms may include joint or muscle pain, swelling of the neck, shortness of breath, sore throat, cough and headache. Occasionally inflammation of the eye (conjunctivitis), mouth ulcers or low blood pressure may occur.

The symptoms of this allergic reaction can occur at any time during treatment with abacavir. However they usually occur in the first six weeks of treatment. The symptoms worsen with continued treatment and may be life-threatening if treatment is continued.

CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY for advice on whether you should stop taking abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets if:

1) You get a skin rash OR

2) You get one or more symptoms from at least TWO of the following groups

fever

shortness of breath, sore throat or cough

nausea or vomiting or diarrhoea or abdominal pain

severe tiredness or achiness or generally ill feeling

If you have discontinued abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets due to a hypersensitivity reaction, **YOU MUST NEVER TAKE** abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets or any other medicine containing abacavir sulfate again as **within hours** you may experience a life-threatening lowering of your blood pressure or death.

If you have stopped taking abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets for any reason, particularly because you think you are having side effects or for other illness, it is important that you contact your doctor before restarting. Your doctor will check whether any symptoms you had may be

related to this hypersensitivity reaction. If your doctor thinks there is a possibility that they were related, you will be instructed **never to take abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets or any other abacavir containing medicine again**. It is important that you follow this advice.

Occasionally life-threatening hypersensitivity reactions have occurred when abacavir was restarted in patients who reported **only one** of the symptoms on the Alert Card before stopping.

On very rare occasions hypersensitivity has been reported when abacavir was restarted in patients who had no symptoms of hypersensitivity before stopping.
If you are hypersensitive to abacavir, return all of your unused abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets for disposal. Ask your doctor for advice.

Research has found that people with a gene called HLA-B (type 5701) are more likely to have a hypersensitivity reaction to abacavir. However, even if you do not have this gene type it is still possible for you to get this reaction.

Lactic acidosis: The class of medicines to which abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets belongs (NRTIs) can cause a condition called lactic acidosis (excess of lactic acid in your blood), together with an enlarged liver. Lactic acidosis, if it occurs, usually develops after a few months of treatment. Deep, rapid breathing, drowsiness, and non-specific symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and stomach pain might indicate the development of lactic acidosis. This rare but serious side effect occurs more often in women, particularly if very overweight. If you have liver disease you may also be more at risk of getting this condition. While you are being treated with abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets, your doctor will monitor you closely for any signs that you may be developing lactic acidosis.

Fat distribution: Redistribution, accumulation or loss of body fat may occur in patients receiving combination antiretroviral therapy. Contact your doctor if you notice changes in body fat.

Liver disease/hepatitis: Please speak with your doctor if you have a history of liver disease. Patients with chronic hepatitis B or C and treated with antiretroviral agents are at increased risk of severe and potentially fatal liver adverse events and may require blood tests for monitoring of liver function. If you have hepatitis B infection, you should not stop abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets without instructions from your doctor, as you may have a recurrence of your hepatitis. This may occur due to you suddenly stopping lamivudine. This recurrence may be more severe in patients with serious liver disease.

Pancreatitis: Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) has been reported in some patients treated with abacavir and lamivudine, although it was not clear whether this was due to these medicines or the HIV infection itself.

Immune Reactivation Syndrome: In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) and a history of opportunistic infection, signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body's immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may

have been present with no obvious symptoms. If you notice any symptoms of infection, please inform your doctor immediately.

Bone problems: Some patients taking combination antiretroviral therapy may develop a bone disease called osteonecrosis (death of bone tissue caused by loss of blood supply to the bone). The length of combination antiretroviral therapy, corticosteroid use, alcohol consumption, severe immunosuppression, higher body mass index, among others, may be some of the many risk factors for developing this disease. Signs of osteonecrosis are joint stiffness, aches and pains (especially of the hip, knee and shoulder) and difficulty in movement. If you notice any of these symptoms please inform your doctor.

General: Abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets helps to control your condition but is not a cure for HIV infection. Treatment with antiretroviral medicines has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV infection on to others by sexual contact or by blood transfer. You should continue to use appropriate precautions to prevent this. You may continue to develop other infections and other illnesses associated with HIV disease. You should therefore keep in regular contact with your doctor while taking abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets.

Taking other medicines
Please tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. Abacavir or lamivudine in abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets may interact with certain other medicines. Abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets should not be taken with zalcitabine (used to treat HIV), high doses of co-trimoxazole (for infections caused by *Pneumocystis carinii*), injections of ganciclovir or foscarnet (used to treat infections caused by cytomegalo virus). Alcohol does increase the amount of abacavir in your blood. As abacavir increases the rate at which methadone is removed from the body, patients taking methadone will be checked for any withdrawal symptoms, and may have their methadone dose changed.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
Abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets are not recommended during pregnancy. If you become pregnant, or are planning to become pregnant, you must contact your doctor to discuss the potential adverse effects and the benefits and risks of your antiretroviral therapy to you and your child.

If you have taken abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets during your pregnancy, your doctor may request regular visits to monitor the development of your child. Such visits may include blood tests and other diagnostic tests.

In children whose mother took nucleoside and nucleotide analogues during pregnancy, the benefit from the reduced chance of being infected with HIV is greater than the risk of suffering from side effects.
If you are breast-feeding you must inform your doctor. It is recommended that HIV infected women do not breast-feed their infants under any circumstances in order to avoid transmission of HIV from mother to child.

Driving and using machines
No studies on the effects of abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. However, you should take into account the state of your health and the possible side effects of abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets before considering driving or using machines.

Important information about some of the other ingredients of abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets
Abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets contains a colouring called sunset yellow aluminium lake, this may cause allergic reactions in some people.

3. How to take abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets
Always take abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor if you are not sure. Take great care not to miss any doses if at all possible.

The usual dose in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age is one tablet of abacavir sulfate 600 mg/lamivudine 300 mg tablets once a day.

Abacavir sulfate 60mg / lamivudine 30mg tablets are to be given as directed by your doctor.

Swallow the tablet whole with water.
For children and patients unable to swallow the tablet, the following procedure can be used:

1. Place the tablet in a container and add two teaspoonfuls (10 mL) of water per tablet.
2. Swirl the container until tablet gets dispersed.
3. Drink the dispersion within 1 hour.
4. Rinse the container with additional small amount of water and drink the contents to assure that the entire dosage is taken.

DO NOT MIX ABACAVIR SULFATE AND LAMIVUDINE TABLET WITH ANY LIQUID OTHER THAN WATER.

Abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets can be taken with or without food.

If you take more abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets than you should If you accidentally take too much you should tell your doctor, or contact your nearest hospital emergency department for further advice.

If you forget to take abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets
It is important to take abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets as prescribed to ensure you get maximum benefit. If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember, and then continue as before. Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten individual doses. It is

important to take abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets regularly because irregular intake may increase the risk of hypersensitivity reactions.

If you stop taking abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets
If you have stopped taking abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets for any reason, particularly if you think you are having side effects or for other illness, you must contact your doctor before restarting. In some cases your doctor will ask you to restart abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets in a place where you will be able to get ready access to medical care if needed.

4. Possible side effects
Like all medicines, abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. When treating HIV infection, it is not always possible to tell whether some of the side effects that occur are caused by abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets, by other medicines you are taking at the same time or by the HIV disease. For this reason it is very important that you inform your doctor about any changes in your health. Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects of abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets, you may not experience them. Abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets contains both abacavir and lamivudine, the side effects reported for each of these medicines are listed below.

A hypersensitivity reaction (serious allergic reaction) has been reported in about 5 in every 100 patients who have been treated with abacavir. This is described in section 2 of this leaflet under "Take special care with abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets".

It is important that you read and understand the information about this serious reaction.

Common side effects (reported in 1 to 10 out of 100 patients)
- Abacavir hypersensitivity, skin rash (without any other illness)
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain
- Headache, joint pain, muscle disorders
- Cough, nasal symptoms (irritation, runny nose), high temperature
- Lethargy, tiredness, difficulty in sleeping, general feeling of being unwell, loss of appetite, hair loss.

Uncommon side effects (reported in 1 to 10 out of 1,000 patients)
- Increases in enzymes produced by the liver
- Anaemia (low red blood cell count), neutropenia (low white blood cell count) and reduction in the number of platelets (blood cells important for blood clotting).

If the production of red blood cells is reduced, you may have symptoms of tiredness or breathlessness. A reduction in your white blood cell count can make you more prone to infection. If you have a low platelet count, you may notice that you bruise more easily.

Rare side effects (reported in less than 1 in 1,000 patients)
- Breakdown of muscle tissue
- Increases of an enzyme called amylase
- Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis).

Very rare side effects (reported in less than 1 in 10,000 patients)

- Serious skin reactions
- Numbness, tingling sensation or sensation of weakness in the limbs
- Severe anaemia and neutropenia.

Combination antiretroviral therapy may cause changes in body shape due to changes in fat distribution. These may include loss of fat from legs, arms and face, increased fat in the abdomen (belly) and other internal organs, breast enlargement and fatty lumps on the back of the neck ('buffalo hump'). The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Combination antiretroviral therapy may also cause raised lactic acid and sugar in the blood, hyperlipaemia (increased fats in the blood) and resistance to insulin.

Cases of a condition called lactic acidosis, which is a build up of lactic acid in the body have been reported in some patients taking NRTIs (see “Take special care with abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets” under section 2 for more information).

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor.

5. How to store abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets

Do not store above 30°C.

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not use abacavir sulfate / lamivudine tablets after the expiry date stated on the packaging. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Medicines should not be disposed of via waste water or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Further information

For any information about this medicinal product, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder.