

## CYP2D6: flecainide

1592/1593/1594

AUC = area under the concentration-time curve,  $Cl_{or}$  = oral clearance, CTCAE = Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, IM = intermediate metaboliser (gene dose 0.25-1) (reduced CYP2D6 enzyme activity), MR = metabolic ratio, NM = normal metaboliser (gene dose 1.25-2.5) (normal CYP2D6 enzyme activity), NS = non-significant, PM = poor metaboliser (gene dose 0) (absent CYP2D6 enzyme activity), S = significant, SmPC = Summary of Product Characteristics, UM = ultra-rapid metaboliser (gene dose  $\geq 2.75$ ) (elevated CYP2D6 enzyme activity)

**Disclaimer:** The Pharmacogenetics Working Group of the KNMP formulates the optimal recommendations for each phenotype group based on the available evidence. If this optimal recommendation cannot be followed due to practical restrictions, e.g. therapeutic drug monitoring or a lower dose is not available, the healthcare professional should consider the next best option.

### Brief summary and justification of choices:

Flecainide is primarily converted by CYP2D6 to inactive metabolites. Flecainide has a relatively narrow therapeutic range (plasma concentration 200-1000 ng/mL).

Some studies found a significant increase in the plasma concentration of flecainide for patients with reduced CYP2D6 activity (IM and PM) (Doki 2006, Gross 1991, Gross 1989, and Mikus 1989). A patient with a PM genotype in combination with reduced renal function died due to flecainide toxicity following use of flecainide 100 mg/day (Palmieri 2012). A preterm neonate with an IM genotype developed heart block with widened QRS complex after using oral flecainide 2 mg/kg twice daily (Poh 2020). In addition, the response to a flecainide provocation test always occurs within 30 minutes for IM (Calvo 2015). However, this earlier response cannot be readily explained by the slower clearance in IM, because response is dependent on the flecainide peak concentration and administration was by continuous infusion. There are no studies into the kinetic and clinical consequences for UM. Standard dosing may be ineffective for UM.

Although there is only limited evidence for clinical consequences of the gene-drug interaction, action is nevertheless recommended for all three genotype groups (yes/yes-interactions), considering the relatively narrow therapeutic range. Monitoring of the plasma concentration and the ECG is recommended for UM, or an alternative should be selected. Examples of anti-arrhythmic drugs that are not metabolised by CYP2D6 (or to a lesser extent) include sotalol, disopyramide, quinidine and amiodarone. A dose reduction in combination with monitoring is recommended for PM and IM.

An overview of the observed clinical and kinetic effects per phenotype is provided in the background information text of the gene-drug interactions in the KNMP Kennisbank. You may also have access to this background information text via your pharmacy or physician electronic decision support system. A justification of the dose recommendation for PM and IM is provided below.

#### *Justification of dose recommendation*

Dose adjustments have been calculated on the basis of the AUC or  $C_{ss}$  of flecainide.

If the effect is only known versus NM + IM + UM (as is the case in Mikus 1989 and Gross 1991), then it is assumed – given the much higher prevalence of NM – that NM + IM + UM is approximately equal to NM.

If possible, the difference in AUC or  $C_{ss}$  was calculated relative to gene dose 2 instead of relative to NM (gene dose 2 + gene dose 1.25-1.5) for Asian studies. The reason for this is that most European NMs have gene dose 2. The frequency of gene dose 1.25-1.5 is very low here.

**PM:** Based on three studies with a total of 15 PM (Gross 1991, Gross 1989, and Mikus 1989), the weighted mean of the calculated dose adjustment is a reduction to 58% of the normal dose (48%-66%; median 59%). This was rounded off to 50% to be more achievable in clinical practice. Flecainide has a narrow therapeutic range, which is why it is advisable to record an ECG and monitor the plasma concentration in the case of dose adjustment. Each method separately does not provide sufficient information.

**IM:** Based on three studies with a total of 23 IM (Hu 2012, Lim 2008, and Doki 2006), the weighted mean of the calculated dose adjustment is a reduction to 74% of the normal dose (58%-93%; median 81%). This was rounded off to 75% to be more achievable in clinical practice. Flecainide has a narrow therapeutic range, which is why it is advisable to record an ECG and monitor the plasma concentration in the case of dose adjustment. Each method separately does not provide sufficient information.

### Recommendation concerning pre-emptive genotyping, including justification of choices:

The KNMP Pharmacogenetics Working Group considers genotyping before starting flecainide to be potentially beneficial for the prevention of side effects and drug effectiveness. Genotyping can be considered on an individual

The clinical implication of the gene-drug interaction scores 2 out of the maximum of 10 points (with pre-emptive genotyping considered to be potentially beneficial for scores ranging from 0 to 2 points) (see also the clinical implication score tables at the end of this risk analysis):

A severe clinical effect (severity code  $\geq D$ , corresponding to CTCAE grade  $\geq 3$ ) was only found in two cases (Poh 2020 and Palmiere 2012). There were no studies showing an increase in severe clinical effects in patients with a CYP2D6 gene variant. This results in a score of 0 of the maximum of 3 points for the second criterion of the clinical implication score: the level of evidence supporting an associated clinical effect grade  $\geq 3$  (only points for at least one study showing an association with a clinical effect grade  $\geq 3$ ).

The Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) Tambocor (flecainide) 26 June 2020 does not mention a CYP2D6 genotype or phenotype. This results in 0 out of the maximum of 2 points for the fourth and last criterion of the clinical implication score, the pharmacogenetics information in the SmPC (only points for at least one genotype/phenotype mentioned in the SmPC).

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subjects. Clin Ther 2010;32:659-66. PubMed PMID: 20435235.		There were no severe side effects.	
<b>ref. 6</b> Lim KS et al. Pharmacokinetic interaction of flecainide and paroxetine in relation to the CYP2D6*10 allele in healthy Korean subjects. Br J Clin Pharmacol 2008;66:660-6.	3          IM: A	21 healthy volunteers, 7x gene dose 2 (5x *1/*1, 2x *1/*2), 7x gene dose 1.25 (*1/*10), 7x gene dose 0.25-0.5 (6x *10/*10, 1x *10/*36), single dose of 200 mg flecainide, no co-medication, no smokers.  Gene dose 0.25-0.5 versus gene dose 2: - increase in the AUC by 23% (NS, from 5715.5 to 7034.9 ng.h/mL). - increase in t <sub>1/2</sub> by 25% (S, from 10.0 to 12.5 h).  Gene dose 1.25 versus gene dose 2: - increase in the AUC by 18% (NS, from 5715.5 to 6719.2 ng.h/mL). - increase in t <sub>1/2</sub> by 16% (NS, from 10.0 to 11.6 h).  NOTE: genotyping was performed for *2, *4, *5, *10, *14, *21, *36, *41 and *2xN.	Authors' conclusion: 'In this study, we have shown that elimination half-life and MRT were significantly different among the three genotypic groups.'  AUC flecainide versus gene dose 2: IM: 123%
<b>ref. 7</b> Doki K et al. Effect of CYP2D6 genotype on flecainide pharmacokinetics in Japanese patients with supraventricular tachyarrhythmia. Eur J Clin Pharmacol 2006;62:919-26.	3          IM: A	58 patients with normal kidney and liver function, 17x NM (9x *1/*1, 6x *1/*2, 2x *2/*2), 28x NM + IM (20x *1/*10, 5x *2/*10, 1x *1/*5, 1x *1/*21, 1x *2/*5), 13x IM (10x *10/*10, 1x *10/*36, 1x *5/*36, 1x *21/*36), who used flecainide 1.4-5.0 mg/kg per day for a period of 1-91 months for supraventricular tachyarrhythmia, no strong CYP2D6 inhibitors as co-medication. 33 patients, 8x NM, 15x NM + IM, 10x IM, were men younger than 70 years.  IM versus NM, men younger than 70: - increase in the dose-corrected trough concentration by 72% (S, from 67 to 115 ng/mL per mg/kg). - decrease in the percentage of patients for whom the low clinical doses in Japan resulted in sub-therapeutic plasma concentrations (< 300 ng/mL) by 70% (NS, from 100% to 30%).  (NM + IM) versus NM, men younger than 70: - increase in the dose-corrected trough concentration by 36% (NS, from 67 to 91 ng/mL per mg/kg). - decrease in the percentage of patients for whom the low clinical doses in Japan resulted in sub-therapeutic plasma concentrations (< 300 ng/mL) by 27% (NS, from 100% to 73%).  NOTE: genotyping was performed for *2, *4, *5, *10, *14, *21, *36 and gene duplication.	Authors' conclusion: 'CYP2D6 genotype, even in IMs, as well as body weight, age, sex, and Scr influence flecainide pharmacokinetics in Japanese patients with supraventricular tachyarrhythmia.'  dose-corrected trough concentration of flecainide versus gene dose 2: IM: 172%
<b>ref. 8</b> Tenneze L et al. Pharmacokinetics and electrocardiographic effects of a new controlled-release form of flecainide acetate: comparison with the standard form and influence of	4	24 healthy study subjects, 4x PM and 20x NM <sup>#</sup> (phenotyped with dextromethorphan), no co-medication, various dosing regimens; - normal preparation 100 mg and 200 mg, single dose and multiple dosing 7 days - preparation with controlled release 100 mg and 200 mg, single dose and multiple dosing 7 days;  <i>kinetic endpoints</i> - PM: the only parameter that differs significantly	Authors' conclusion: 'The CYP2D6 polymorphism did not appear to influence flecainide disposition kinetics or electrocardiographic effects at steady state.'

the CYP2D6 polymorphism. Clin Pharmacol Ther 2002;72:112-22.  <b>ref. 8, continuation</b>	PM: AA	versus NM <sup>#</sup> is t <sub>1/2</sub> after a single dose of 100 mg normal preparation flecainide.  <i>clinical endpoints</i> - PM: QRS elongation differs non-significantly versus NM <sup>#</sup> for none of the dosing regimens or preparations.  NOTE: genotype unknown.	
<b>ref. 9</b> Funck-Brentano C et al. Variable disposition kinetics and electrocardiographic effects of flecainide during repeated dosing in humans: contribution of genetic factors, dose-dependent clearance, and interaction with amiodarone. Clin Pharmacol Ther 1994;55:256-69.	4          PM: A	12 healthy study subjects, 5x PM and 7x NM <sup>#</sup> (phenotyped with dextromethorphan), 50-100 mg flecainide twice daily for 5 days, no co-medication;  <i>kinetic endpoints</i> - PM: t <sub>1/2</sub> is 15.7 hours at 50 mg twice daily and 17.6 hours at 100 mg twice daily, elevated for both doses versus NM <sup>#</sup> , by 26% and 44% respectively (both S). The C <sub>ss</sub> of S-flecainide, R-flecainide and the sum differ non-significantly versus NM <sup>#</sup> for both doses. The log MR-dextromethorphan is correlated to the t <sub>1/2</sub> , but not to Cl <sub>or</sub> or C <sub>ss</sub> for flecainide.  <i>clinical endpoints</i> (change in heart rate, QRS interval, PR interval, QT interval and JT interval): - PM: only PR interval differed significantly versus NM <sup>#</sup> , at 50 mg twice daily.  NOTE: genotype unknown.	Authors' conclusion: 'Overall, these findings indicate that small differences in flecainide disposition kinetics persist at steady state between normal metabolizer and poor metabolizer subjects, however, because mean plasma concentration and effect of flecainide do not differ among subjects with both phenotypes, no specific dosing recommendation can be made on the basis of phenotype identification.'
<b>ref. 10</b> Gross AS et al. Polymorphic flecainide disposition under conditions of uncontrolled urine flow and pH. Eur J Clin Pharmacol 1991;40:155-62.	3     PM: A	10 healthy study subjects, 5x PM and 5x NM <sup>#</sup> (phenotyped with sparteine), single dose of 50 mg flecainide, no co-medication;  - PM: increase in the AUC for R-flecainide from 507 to 1195 h/mL·ng versus NM <sup>#</sup> (S by 136%), decrease in Cl <sub>or</sub> from 783 to 313 mL/min (S by 60%), t <sub>1/2</sub> is 19.2 hours. Increase in the AUC for S-flecainide from 548 to 1000 h/mL·ng (S by 83%), decrease in Cl <sub>or</sub> from 828 to 379 mL/min (S by 54%), t <sub>1/2</sub> is 15.8 hours.  NOTE: genotype unknown	AUC R- + S-flecainide versus NM <sup>#</sup> : PM: 208%
<b>ref. 11</b> Gross AS et al. Stereoselective disposition of flecainide in relation to the sparteine/debrisoquine metaboliser phenotype. Br J Clin Pharmacol 1989;28:555-66.	3     PM: A	10 healthy study subjects, 5x PM and 5x NM (phenotyped with sparteine, genotyped with <i>Xba</i> I), single dose of 50 mg flecainide, no co-medication;  - PM: increase in the AUC for R-flecainide from 491 to 822 h/mL·ng versus NM (S by 67%), decrease in Cl <sub>or</sub> from 768 to 467 mL/min (NS by 39%), t <sub>1/2</sub> is 12.9 hours. Increase in the AUC for S-flecainide from 476 to 636 h/mL·ng (NS, by 34%), decrease in Cl <sub>or</sub> from 793 to 620 mL/min (NS by 22%), t <sub>1/2</sub> is 9.8 hours.	AUC R- + S-flecainide versus NM: PM: 151%
<b>ref. 12</b> Mikus G et al. The influence of the sparteine/debrisoquin phenotype on the disposition of flecainide. Clin Pharmacol Ther 1989;45:562-7.	3     PM: A	10 healthy study subjects, 5x PM and 5x NM <sup>#</sup> (phenotyped with sparteine), single dose of 50 mg flecainide, no co-medication;  - PM: increase in the AUC from 860 to 1462 h/mL·ng versus NM <sup>#</sup> (S by 70%), decrease in Cl <sub>or</sub> from 1041 to 600 mL/min (S by 42%), t <sub>1/2</sub> is 12 hours.  NOTE: urine production and pH remained constant	AUC flecainide versus NM <sup>#</sup> : PM: 170%

ref. 12, continuation	NOTE: genotype unknown
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NM#: It is not possible to distinguish between NM, IM and UM based on phenotyping. NM# is therefore equal to NM + IM + UM.

Risk group	IMs with CYP2D6 inhibitors, IMs and PMs with reduced renal function
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#### Comments:

- For the period after 2008, kinetic studies were only included if the clearance or (dose-corrected) exposure was determined per phenotype and the number of PM or IM is greater than 1 or the number of UM is greater than 0. For this reason, Doki K et al. Effects of CYP2D6 genotypes on age-related change of flecainide metabolism: involvement of CYP1A2-mediated metabolism. Br J Clin Pharmacol 2009;68:89-96. PubMed PMID: 19660006 and Doki K et al. CYP2D6 genotype affects age-related decline in flecainide clearance: a population pharmacokinetic analysis. Pharmacogenet Genomics 2012;22:777-83. PubMed PMID: 22941032 were not included. The first study found reduced metabolite formation in patients from 70 years upwards compared to patients younger than 70 years for a group of 19 IM and 2 PM and for a group of 51x gene dose 1.5 and 5x gene dose 1, but not for a group with gene dose 2. However, the dose-corrected plasma concentration of flecainide did not differ significantly between the age groups for IM+PM. When creating a pharmacokinetic model, the second study found a reduced clearance for IM+PM at an age from 55 years upwards and for gene dose 1 + gene dose 1.5 at an age from 60 years upwards. The authors attributed this to a greater contribution of the metabolism of CYP1A2 at gene doses lower than 2. CYP1A2 metabolises flecainide *in vitro* and the activity of CYP1A2 decreases with age.

Date of literature search: 16 May 2022.

	Phenotype	Code	Gene-drug interaction	Action	Date
KNMP Pharmacogenetics Working Group decision	PM	4 F	yes	yes	12 September 2022
	IM	3 E	yes	yes	
	UM	--	yes	yes	

#### Mechanism:

The R-enantiomer of flecainide is metabolised by CYP2D6, the S-enantiomer is metabolised via other routes. This results in the formation of the pharmacologically inactive metabolites meta-O-desalkyl flecainide and meta-O-desalkyl lactam flecainide.

According to the NVZA, the therapeutic range of flecainide is 200-1000 ng/ml (trough concentrations) or 750-1250 ng/ml (peak concentrations), while trough concentrations > 1000 ng/ml are toxic.

#### Clinical Implication Score:

Table 1: Definitions of the available Clinical Implication Scores

<b>Potentially beneficial</b>	PGx testing for this gene-drug pair is potentially beneficial. Genotyping can be considered on an individual patient basis. If, however, the genotype is available, the DPWG recommends adhering to the gene-drug guideline	0-2 +
<b>Beneficial</b>	PGx testing for this gene-drug pair is beneficial. It is advised to consider genotyping the patient before (or directly after) drug therapy has been initiated to guide drug and dose selection	3-5 +
<b>Essential</b>	PGx testing for this gene-drug pair is essential for drug safety or efficacy. Genotyping must be performed before drug therapy has been initiated to guide drug and dose selection	6-10 +

Table 2: Criteria on which the attribution of Clinical Implication Score is based

Clinical Implication Score Criteria	Possible Score	Given Score
<b>Clinical effect associated with gene-drug interaction (drug- or diminished efficacy-induced)</b>		
• CTCAE Grade 3 or 4 (clinical effect score D or E)	+	
• CTCAE Grade 5 (clinical effect score F)	++	++
<b>Level of evidence supporting the associated clinical effect grade ≥ 3</b>		
• One study with level of evidence score ≥ 3	+	
• Two studies with level of evidence score ≥ 3	++	
• Three or more studies with level of evidence score ≥ 3	+++	

<b>Number needed to genotype (NNG) in the Dutch population to prevent one clinical effect grade <math>\geq 3</math></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 &lt; NNG <math>\leq</math> 1000</li> <li>• 10 &lt; NNG <math>\leq</math> 100</li> <li>• NNG <math>\leq</math> 10</li> </ul>	+ ++ +++	
<b>PGx information in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one genotype/phenotype mentioned</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation to genotype</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one genotype/phenotype mentioned as a contra-indication in the corresponding section</li> </ul>	+ ++ ++	
<b>Total Score:</b>	10+	2+
<b>Corresponding Clinical Implication Score:</b>		Potentially beneficial