VELCADE® (bortezomib) for Injection

PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

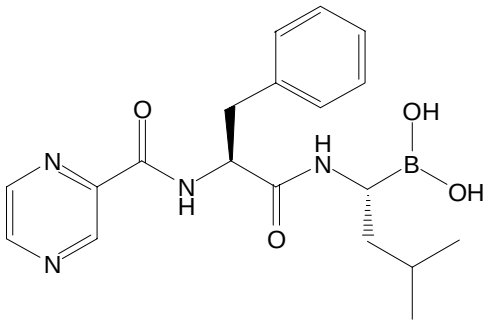
DESCRIPTION

VELCADE® (bortezomib) for Injection is an antineoplastic agent available for intravenous injection (IV) use only. Each single dose vial contains 3.5 mg of bortezomib as a sterile lyophilized powder. Inactive ingredient: 35 mg mannitol, USP.

Bortezomib is a modified dipeptidyl boronic acid. The product is provided as a mannitol boronic ester which, in reconstituted form, consists of the mannitol ester in equilibrium with its hydrolysis product, the monomeric boronic acid. The drug substance exists in its cyclic anhydride form as a trimeric boroxine.

The chemical name for bortezomib, the monomeric boronic acid, is [(1R)-3-methyl-1-[[(2S)-1-oxo-3-phenyl-2-[(pyrazinylcarbonyl) amino]propyl]amino]butyl] boronic acid.

Bortezomib has the following chemical structure:



The molecular weight is 384.24. The molecular formula is $C_{19}H_{25}BN_4O_4$. The solubility of bortezomib, as the monomeric boronic acid, in water is 3.3 to 3.8 mg/mL in a pH range of 2 to 6.5.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

Bortezomib is a reversible inhibitor of the chymotrypsin-like activity of the 26S proteasome in mammalian cells. The 26S proteasome is a large protein complex that degrades ubiquitinated proteins. The ubiquitin-proteasome pathway plays an essential role in regulating the intracellular concentration of specific proteins, thereby maintaining homeostasis within cells. Inhibition of the 26S proteasome prevents this targeted proteolysis, which can affect multiple signaling cascades within the cell. This disruption of normal homeostatic mechanisms can lead to cell death. Experiments have demonstrated that bortezomib is cytotoxic to a variety of cancer cell

types *in vitro*. Bortezomib causes a delay in tumor growth *in vivo* in nonclinical tumor models, including multiple myeloma.

Pharmacokinetics

Following intravenous administration of a 1.3 mg/m^2 dose, the median estimated maximum plasma concentration of bortezomib was 509 ng/mL (range=109 to 1300 ng/mL) in 8 patients with multiple myeloma and creatinine clearance values ranging from 31 to 169 mL/min. The mean elimination half-life of bortezomib after first dose ranged from 9 to 15 hours at doses ranging from 1.45 to 2.00 mg/m^2 in patients with advanced malignancies. The pharmacokinetics of bortezomib as a single agent have not been fully characterized at the recommended dose in multiple myeloma patients.

Distribution

The distribution volume of bortezomib as a single agent was not assessed at the recommended dose in patients with multiple myeloma. The binding of bortezomib to human plasma proteins averaged 83% over the concentration range of 100 to 1000 ng/mL.

Metabolism

In vitro studies with human liver microsomes and human cDNA-expressed cytochrome P450 isozymes indicate that bortezomib is primarily oxidatively metabolized via cytochrome P450 enzymes 3A4, 2C19, and 1A2. Bortezomib metabolism by CYP 2D6 and 2C9 enzymes is minor. The major metabolic pathway is deboronation to form 2 deboronated metabolites that subsequently undergo hydroxylation to several metabolites. Deboronated bortezomib metabolites are inactive as 26S proteasome inhibitors. Pooled plasma data from 8 patients at 10 min and 30 min after dosing indicate that the plasma levels of metabolites are low compared to the parent drug.

Elimination

The pathways of elimination of bortezomib have not been characterized in humans.

Special Populations

Age, Gender, and Race: The effects of age, gender, and race on the pharmacokinetics of bortezomib have not been evaluated.

Hepatic Impairment: No pharmacokinetic studies were conducted with bortezomib in patients with hepatic impairment **(see PRECAUTIONS)**.

Renal Impairment: No pharmacokinetic studies were conducted with bortezomib in patients with renal impairment. Clinical studies included patients with creatinine clearance values as low as 13.8 mL/min **(see PRECAUTIONS)**.

Pediatric: There are no pharmacokinetic data in pediatric patients.

Drug Interactions

No formal drug interaction studies have been conducted with bortezomib.

In vitro studies with human liver microsomes indicate that bortezomib is primarily a substrate of cytochrome P450 3A4, 2C19, and 1A2 **(see PRECAUTIONS)**.
Bortezomib is a poor inhibitor of human liver microsome cytochrome P450 1A2, 2C9, 2D6, and 3A4, with IC_{50} values of >30µM (>11.5µg/mL). Bortezomib may inhibit 2C19 activity (IC_{50} = 18 µM, 6.9 µg/mL) and increase exposure to drugs that are substrates for this enzyme.

Bortezomib did not induce the activities of cytochrome P450 3A4 and 1A2 in primary cultured human hepatocytes.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Randomized, Open-Label Clinical Study in Relapsed Multiple Myeloma

A prospective phase 3, international, randomized (1:1), stratified, open-label clinical trial enrolling 669 patients was designed to determine whether VELCADE resulted in improvement in time to progression (TTP) compared to high-dose dexamethasone in patients with progressive multiple myeloma following 1 to 3 prior therapies. Patients considered to be refractory to prior high-dose dexamethasone were excluded as were those with baseline grade ≥ 2 peripheral neuropathy or platelet counts < 50, 000/µL. A total of 627 patients were evaluable for response.

Stratification factors were based on the number of lines of prior therapy the patient had previously received (1 previous line versus more than 1 line of therapy), time of progression relative to prior treatment (progression during or within 6 months of stopping their most recent therapy versus relapse >6 months after receiving their most recent therapy), and screening β_2-microglobulin levels (≤2.5 mg/L versus >2.5 mg/L).

Baseline patient and disease characteristics are summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Summary of Baseline Patient and Disease Characteristics in the Phase 3 Trial

Patient Characteristics	VELCADE N=333	Dexamethasone N=336
Median age in years (range)	62.0 (33, 84)	61.0 (27, 86)
Gender: male/female	56% / 44%	60% / 40%
Race: Caucasian/black/other	90% / 6% / 4%	88% / 7% / 5%
Karnofsky performance status score ≤70	13%	17%
Hemoglobin <100 g/L	32%	28%
Platelet count <75 x 10^9/L	6%	4%
Disease Characteristics		
Type of myeloma (%): IgG/IgA/Light chain	60% / 23% / 12%	59% / 24% / 13%
Median β_2-microglobulin (mg/L)	3.7	3.6
Median albumin (g/L)	39.0	39.0
Creatinine clearance ≤30 mL/min [n (%)]	17 (5%)	11 (3%)
Median Duration of Multiple Myeloma Since Diagnosis (Years)	3.5	3.1
Number of Prior Therapeutic Lines of Treatment		
Median	2	2
1 prior line	40%	35%
> 1 prior line	60%	65%
All Patients	(N=333)	(N=336)
Any prior steroids, e.g., dexamethasone, VAD	98%	99%
Any prior anthracyclines, e.g., VAD, mitoxantrone	77%	76%
Any prior alkylating agents, e.g., MP, VBMCP	91%	92%
Any prior thalidomide therapy	48%	50%
Vinca alkaloids	74%	72%
Prior stem cell transplant/other high-dose therapy	67%	68%
Prior experimental or other types of therapy	3%	2%

Patients in the VELCADE treatment group were to receive eight 3-week treatment cycles followed by three 5-week treatment cycles of VELCADE. Within each 3-week treatment cycle, VELCADE 1.3 mg/m^2/dose alone was administered by IV bolus twice weekly for 2 weeks on Days 1, 4, 8, and 11 followed by a 10-day rest period (Days 12 to 21). Within each 5-week treatment cycle, VELCADE 1.3 mg/m^2/dose alone was administered by IV bolus once weekly for 4 weeks on Days 1, 8, 15, and 22 followed by a 13-day rest period (Days 23 to 35) (**see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)**.

Patients in the dexamethasone treatment group were to receive four 5-week treatment cycles followed by five 4-week treatment cycles. Within each 5-week treatment cycle, dexamethasone 40 mg/day PO was administered once daily on Days 1 to 4, 9 to 12, and 17 to 20 followed by a 15-day rest period (Days 21-35). Within each 4-week treatment cycle, dexamethasone 40 mg/day PO was administered once daily on Days 1 to 4 followed by a 24-day rest period (Days 5 to 28). Patients with documented progressive disease on dexamethasone were offered VELCADE at a standard dose and schedule on a companion study.

Following a preplanned interim analysis of time to progression, the dexamethasone arm was halted and all patients randomized to dexamethasone were offered VELCADE, regardless of

disease status. At this time of study termination, a final statistical analysis was performed. Due to this early termination of the study, the median duration of follow-up for surviving patients (n=534) is limited to 8.3 months.

In the VELCADE arm, 34% of patients received at least one VELCADE dose in all 8 of the 3-week cycles of therapy, and 13% received at least one dose in all 11 cycles. The average number of VELCADE doses during the study was 22, with a range of 1 to 44. In the dexamethasone arm, 40% of patients received at least one dose in all 4 of the 5-week treatment cycles of therapy, and 6% received at least one dose in all 9 cycles.

The time to event analyses and response rates from the phase 3 trial are presented in **Table 2**. Response and progression were assessed using the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) criteria.[1] Complete response (CR) required < 5% plasma cells in the marrow, 100% reduction in M-protein, and a negative immunofixation test (IF^-). Partial Response (PR) requires ≥50% reduction in serum myeloma protein and ≥90% reduction of urine myeloma protein on at least 2 occasions for a minimum of at least 6 weeks along with stable bone disease and normal calcium. Near complete response (nCR) was defined as meeting all the criteria for complete response including 100% reduction in M-protein by protein electrophoresis, however M-protein was still detectable by immunofixation (IF^+).

Table 2: Summary of Efficacy Analyses in the Randomized Phase 3 Study

	All Patients		1 Prior Line of Therapy		> 1 Prior Line of Therapy	
	VELCADE	**Dex**	**VELCADE**	**Dex**	**VELCADE**	**Dex**
Efficacy Endpoint	**n=333**	**n=336**	**n=132**	**n=119**	**n=200**	**n=217**
Time to Progression – Events n (%)	147(44)	196(58)	55(42)	64(54)	92(46)	132(61)
Median [a] (95% CI)	6.2 mo (4.9, 6.9)	3.5 mo (2.9, 4.2)	7.0 (6.2, 8.8)	5.6 (3.4, 6.3)	4.9 (4.2, 6.3)	2.9 (2.8, 3.5)
Hazard ratio [b] (95% CI)	0.55 (0.44, 0.69)		0.55 (0.38, 0.81)		0.54 (0.41, 0.72)	
p-value [c]	< 0.0001		0.0019		<0.0001	
Overall Survival Events (deaths) n (%)	51(15)	84(25)	12(9)	24(20)	39(20)	60(28)
Hazard ratio [b] (95% CI)	0.57 (0.40, 0.81)		0.39 (0.19, 0.81)		0.65 (0.43, 0.97)	
p-value [c,d]	<0.05		<0.05		<0.05	
Response Rate population[e] n = 627	n=315	n=312	n=128	n=110	n=187	n=202
CR[f] n (%)	20(6)	2(<1)	8(6)	2(2)	12(6)	0(0)
PR[f] n(%)	101(32)	54(17)	49(38)	27(25)	52(28)	27(13)
nCR[f,g] n(%)	21(7)	3(<1)	8(6)	2(2)	13(7)	1(<1)
CR + PR[f] n (%)	121 (38)	56 (18)	57(45)	29(26)	64(34)	27(13)
p-value [h]	<0.0001		0.0035		<0.0001	
Median Response Duration						
CR[f]	9.9 mo	NE[i]	9.9 mo	NE	6.3 mo	NA[j]
nCR[f]	11.5 mo	9.2 mo	NE	NE	11.5 mo	9.2 mo
CR + PR[f]	8.0 mo	5.6 mo	8.1 mo	6.2 mo	7.8 mo	4.1 mo

[a] Kaplan-Meier estimate.

[b] Hazard ratio is based on Cox proportional-hazard model with the treatment as single independent variable. A hazard ratio less than 1 indicates an advantage for VELCADE.

[c] p-value based on the stratified log-rank test including randomization stratification factors.

[d] Precise p-value cannot be rendered

[e] Response population includes patients who had measurable disease at baseline and received at least 1 dose of study drug.

[f] EBMT criteria[1]; nCR meets all EBMT criteria for CR but has positive IF. Under EBMT criteria. nCR is in the PR category.

[g] In 2 patients the IF was unknown.

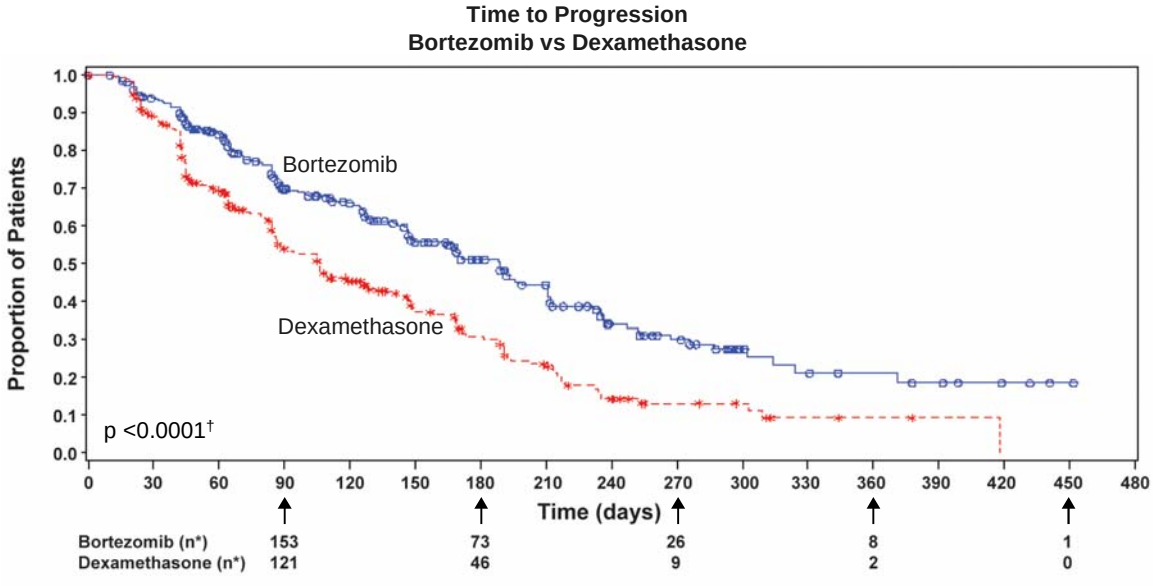
[h] p-value for Response Rate (CR + PR) from the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square test adjusted for the stratification factors;

[i] Not Estimable.

[j] Not Applicable, no patients in category.

TTP was statistically significantly longer on the VELCADE arm (see Fig. 1).

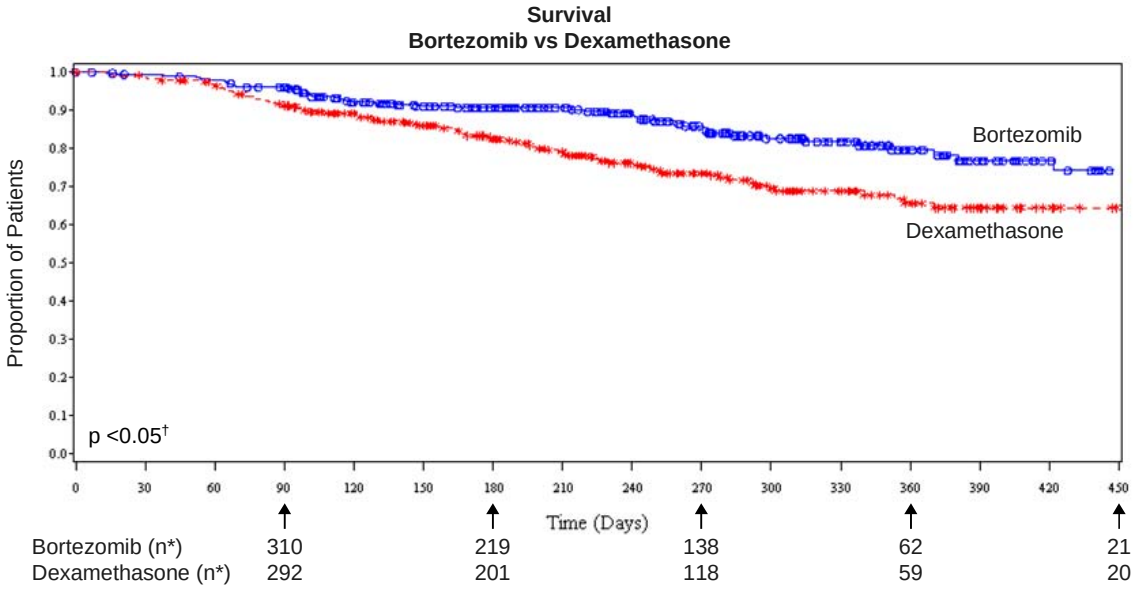
Figure 1: Time to Progression



* Patients remaining after the indicated timepoint
† p-value from log-rank test

As shown in Figure 2, VELCADE had a significant survival advantage relative to dexamethasone (p<0.05). The median follow-up was 8.3 months.

Figure 2: Overall Survival



* Patients remaining after the indicated timepoint
† p-value from log-rank test

For the 121 patients achieving a response (CR or PR) on the VELCADE arm, the median duration was 8.0 months (95% CI: 6.9, 11.5 months) compared to 5.6 months (95% CI: 4.8, 9.2 months) for the 56 responders on the dexamethasone arm. The response rate was significantly higher on the VELCADE arm regardless of β_2-microglobulin levels at baseline.

Phase 2 Single-arm Clinical Study in Relapsed Multiple Myeloma

The safety and efficacy of VELCADE in relapsed multiple myeloma were evaluated in an open-label, single-arm, multicenter study of 202 patients who had received at least 2 prior therapies and demonstrated disease progression on their most recent therapy. The median number of prior therapies was 6. Baseline patient and disease characteristics are summarized in **Table 3**.

An IV bolus injection of VELCADE 1.3 mg/m^2/dose was administered twice weekly for 2 weeks on Days 1, 4, 8, and 11 followed by a 10-day rest period (Days 12 to 21) for a maximum of 8 treatment cycles. The study employed dose modifications for toxicity **(see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)**. Patients who experienced a response to VELCADE were allowed to continue VELCADE treatment in an extension study.

Table 3: Summary of Baseline Patient and Disease Characteristics in a Single-arm Phase 2 Study*

	N = 202
Patient Characteristics	
Median age in years (range)	59 (34, 84)
Gender: male/female	60% / 40%
Race: Caucasian/Black/Other	81% / 10% /8%
Karnofsky Performance Status score ≤70	20%
Hemoglobin <100 g/L	44%
Platelet count <75 x 10^9/L	21%
Disease Characteristics	
Type of myeloma (%): IgG/IgA/Light chain	60% / 24% / 14%
Median β2-microglobulin (mg/L)	3.5
Median creatinine clearance (mL/min)	73.9
Abnormal cytogenetics	35%
Chromosome 13 deletion	15%
Median Duration of Multiple Myeloma Since Diagnosis in Years	4.0
Previous Therapy	
Any prior steroids, e.g., dexamethasone, VAD	99%
Any prior alkylating agents, e.g., MP, VBMCP	92%
Any prior anthracyclines, e.g., VAD, mitoxantrone	81%
Any prior thalidomide therapy	83%
Received at least 2 of the above	98%
Received at least 3 of the above	92%
Received all 4 of the above	66%
Any prior stem cell transplant/other high-dose therapy	64%
Prior experimental or other types of therapy	44%

* Based on number of patients with baseline data available

Responses to VELCADE alone are shown in **Table 4**. Response rates to VELCADE alone were determined by an independent review committee (IRC) based on EBMT criteria.[1] Response rates using the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) criteria[2] are also shown. SWOG response required a ≥75% reduction in serum myeloma protein and/or ≥90% urine protein. A total of 188 patients were evaluable for response; 9 patients with nonmeasurable disease could not be evaluated for response by the IRC, and 5 patients were excluded from the efficacy analyses because they had had minimal prior therapy. The mean number of cycles administered was 6. The median time to response was 38 days (range 30 to 127 days). The median survival of all patients enrolled was 17 months (range <1 to 36+ months).

Table 4: Summary of Disease Outcomes (Phase 2 study)

Response Analyses (VELCADE monotherapy) N = 188	N (%)	(95% CI)
Overall Response Rate (EBMT) (CR + PR)	52 (28%)	(21, 35)
Complete Response (CR)	5 (3%)	(1, 6)
Partial Response (PR)	47 (25%)	(19, 32)
Clinical Remission (SWOG)[a]	33 (18%)	(12, 24)
Kaplan-Meier Estimated Median Duration of Response (95% CI)	385 Days	(245, 538)

[a] **Clinical Remission (SWOG)** required ≥75% reduction in serum myeloma protein and/or ≥90% reduction of urine myeloma protein on at least 2 occasions for a minimum of at least 6 weeks, stable bone disease and normal calcium.[2]

Of the 202 patients enrolled, 35% were 65 years of age or older. Nineteen percent (19%) of patients aged 65 years or older experienced CR or PR.

In this study, the response rate to VELCADE, based on a univariate analysis, was independent of the number and types of prior therapies. There was a decreased likelihood of response in patients with either >50% plasma cells or abnormal cytogenetics in the bone marrow. Responses were seen in patients with chromosome 13 abnormalities.

A Randomized Phase 2 Dose-Response Study in Relapsed Multiple Myeloma

An open-label, multicenter study randomized 54 patients with multiple myeloma who had progressed or relapsed on or after front-line therapy to receive VELCADE 1.0 mg/m^2 or 1.3 mg/m^2 IV bolus twice weekly for 2 weeks on Days 1, 4, 8, and 11 followed by a 10-day rest period (Days 12 to 21). The median duration of time between diagnosis of multiple myeloma and first dose of VELCADE on this trial was 2.0 years, and patients had received a median of 1 prior line of treatment (median of 3 prior therapies). A single complete response was seen at each dose. The overall response rates (CR + PR) were 30% (8/27) at 1.0 mg/m^2 and 38% (10/26) at 1.3 mg/m^2.

A Phase 2 Open-Label Extension Study

Patients from the two phase 2 studies who in the investigators' opinion would experience additional clinical benefit continued to receive VELCADE beyond 8 cycles on an extension study. Sixty-three (63) patients from the phase 2 multiple myeloma studies were enrolled and received a median of 7 additional cycles of VELCADE therapy for a total median of 14 cycles (range 7 to 32). The overall median dosing intensity was the same in both the parent protocol and extension study. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of patients initiated the extension study at the same or higher dose intensity at which they completed the parent protocol, and 89% of patients maintained the standard 3-week dosing schedule during the extension study. No new cumulative or new long-term toxicities were observed with prolonged VELCADE treatment **(see ADVERSE EVENTS)**.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

VELCADE® (bortezomib) for Injection is indicated for the treatment of multiple myeloma patients who have received at least 1 prior therapy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

VELCADE is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to bortezomib, boron, or mannitol.

WARNINGS

VELCADE should be administered under the supervision of a physician experienced in the use of antineoplastic therapy.

Pregnancy Category D

Women of childbearing potential should avoid becoming pregnant while being treated with VELCADE.

Bortezomib was not teratogenic in nonclinical developmental toxicity studies in rats and rabbits at the highest dose tested (0.075 mg/kg; 0.5 mg/m^2 in the rat and 0.05 mg/kg; 0.6 mg/m^2 in the rabbit) when administered during organogenesis. These dosages are approximately half the clinical dose of 1.3 mg/m^2 based on body surface area.

Pregnant rabbits given bortezomib during organogenesis at a dose of 0.05mg/kg (0.6 mg/m^2) experienced significant post-implantation loss and decreased number of live fetuses. Live fetuses from these litters also showed significant decreases in fetal weight. The dose is approximately 0.5 times the clinical dose of 1.3 mg/m^2 based on body surface area.

No placental transfer studies have been conducted with bortezomib. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. If VELCADE is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while receiving this drug, the patient should be apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus.

PRECAUTIONS

Peripheral Neuropathy: VELCADE treatment causes a peripheral neuropathy that is predominantly sensory, although cases of motor neuropathy have also been reported. Patients with preexisting symptoms (numbness, pain or a burning feeling in the feet or hands) and/or signs of peripheral neuropathy may experience worsening peripheral neuropathy (including ≥ Grade 3) during treatment with VELCADE. Patients should be monitored for symptoms of neuropathy, such as a burning sensation, hyperesthesia, hypoesthesia, paresthesia, discomfort or neuropathic pain. Patients experiencing new or worsening peripheral neuropathy may require changes in the dose and schedule of VELCADE **(see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)**. Following dose adjustments, improvement in or resolution of peripheral neuropathy was reported in 51% of patients

with ≥ Grade 2 peripheral neuropathy in phase 3 study. Improvement in or resolution of peripheral neuropathy was reported in 73% of patients who discontinued due to Grade 2 neuropathy or who had ≥ Grade 3 peripheral neuropathy in the phase 2 studies **(also see ADVERSE REACTIONS)**.

Hypotension: In phase 2 and 3 studies, the incidence of hypotension (postural, orthostatic, and hypotension NOS) was 11% to 12%. These events are observed throughout therapy. Caution should be used when treating patients with a history of syncope, patients receiving medications known to be associated with hypotension, and patients who are dehydrated. Management of orthostatic/postural hypotension may include adjustment of antihypertensive medications, hydration, and administration of mineralocorticoids and/or sympathomimetics **(see ADVERSE REACTIONS).**

Cardiac Disorders: The acute development or exacerbation of congestive heart failure has been seen in patients with risk factors for, or existing heart disease. Such patients should be closely monitored. In the phase 3 study, the incidence of any treatment-emergent cardiac disorder was 15% and 13% in the VELCADE and dexamethasone groups, respectively. The incidence of heart failure events (acute pulmonary edema, cardiac failure, congestive cardiac failure, cardiogenic shock, pulmonary edema) was similar in the VELCADE and dexamethasone groups, 5% and 4%, respectively. There have been isolated cases of QT-interval prolongation in clinical studies; causality has not been established.

Laboratory Tests: Complete blood counts (CBC) should be frequently monitored throughout treatment with VELCADE.

Gastrointestinal Adverse Events: VELCADE treatment can cause nausea, diarrhea, constipation, and vomiting **(see ADVERSE REACTIONS)** sometimes requiring use of antiemetic and antidiarrheal medications. Fluid and electrolyte replacement should be administered to prevent dehydration.

Thrombocytopenia: VELCADE is associated with thrombocytopenia **(see ADVERSE EVENTS)**. Platelets were lowest at Day 11 of each cycle of VELCADE treatment and typically recovered to baseline by the next cycle. The cyclical pattern of platelet count decrease and recovery remained consistent over the 8 cycles of twice weekly dosing, and there was no evidence of cumulative thrombocytopenia. The mean platelet count nadir measured was approximately 40% of baseline. The severity of thrombocytopenia related to pretreatment platelet count is shown in **Table 5** for the phase 3 study. In the phase 3 study, the incidence of significant bleeding events (≥ Grade 3) was similar on both the VELCADE (4%) and dexamethasone (5%) arms. Platelet counts should be monitored prior to each dose of VELCADE. VELCADE therapy should be held when the platelet count is <25,000/μL and reinitiated at a reduced dose **(see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and ADVERSE REACTIONS)**. There have been reports of gastrointestinal and intracerebral hemorrhage in association with VELCADE. Transfusions may be considered.

Table 5: Severity of Thrombocytopenia Related to Pretreatment Platelet Count in the Phase 3 Study

Pretreatment Platelet Count*	Number of Patients (N=331)**	Number (%) of Patients with Platelet Count <10,000/µL	Number (%) of Patients with Platelet Count 10,000-25,000/µL
≥ 75,000/µL	309	8 (3%)	36 (12%)
≥ 50,000/µL- <75,000/µL	14	2 (14%)	11 (79%)
≥10,000/µL-<50,000/µL	7	1 (14%)	5 (71%)

* A baseline platelet count of 50,000/uL was required for study eligibility.

**Data were missing at baseline for 1 patient.

Thrombocytopenia was reported in 43% of patients in the phase 2 studies.

Tumor Lysis Syndrome: Because VELCADE is a cytotoxic agent and can rapidly kill malignant cells, the complications of tumor lysis syndrome may occur. Patients at risk of tumor lysis syndrome are those with high tumor burden prior to treatment. These patients should be monitored closely and appropriate precautions taken.

Patients with Hepatic Impairment: Bortezomib is metabolized by liver enzymes and bortezomib's clearance may decrease in patients with hepatic impairment. These patients should be closely monitored for toxicities when treated with VELCADE **(see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY/Pharmacokinetics-Special Populations)**.

Patients with Renal Impairment: No clinical information is available on the use of VELCADE in patients with creatinine clearance values less than 13 mL/min and patients on hemodialysis. Patients with renal impairment should be closely monitored for toxicities when treated with VELCADE **(see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY/Pharmacokinetics-Special Populations).**

Animal Toxicity Findings

Cardiovascular toxicity

Studies in monkeys showed that administration of dosages approximately twice the recommended clinical dose resulted in heart rate elevations, followed by profound progressive hypotension, bradycardia, and death 12 to 14 hours post dose. Doses ≥1.2 mg/m^2 induced dose-proportional changes in cardiac parameters. Bortezomib has been shown to distribute to most tissues in the body, including the myocardium. In a repeated dosing toxicity study in the monkey, myocardial hemorrhage, inflammation, and necrosis were also observed.

Chronic Administration

In animal studies at a dose and schedule similar to that recommended for patients (twice weekly dosing for 2 weeks followed by 1-week rest), toxicities observed included severe anemia and thrombocytopenia, and gastrointestinal, neurological and lymphoid system toxicities. Neurotoxic effects of bortezomib in animal studies included axonal swelling and degeneration in peripheral nerves, dorsal spinal roots, and tracts of the spinal cord. Additionally, multifocal hemorrhage and necrosis in the brain, eye, and heart were observed.

Information for Patients

Physicians are advised to discuss the PATIENT INFORMATION section with patients prior to treatment with VELCADE **(see PATIENT INFORMATION)**.

Ability to Drive or Operate Machinery or Impairment of Mental Ability:
Since VELCADE may be associated with fatigue, dizziness, syncope, orthostatic/postural hypotension, diplopia or blurred vision, patients should be cautious when operating machinery, including automobiles.

Dehydration/Hypotension: Since patients receiving VELCADE therapy may experience vomiting and/or diarrhea, patients should be advised regarding appropriate measures to avoid dehydration. Patients should be instructed to seek medical advice if they experience symptoms of dizziness, light headedness or fainting spells.

Drug Interactions

No formal drug interaction studies have been conducted with VELCADE.

In vitro studies with human liver microsomes indicate that bortezomib is primarily a substrate for cytochrome P450 3A4, 2C19, and 1A2. Patients who are concomitantly receiving VELCADE and drugs that are inhibitors or inducers of cytochrome P450 3A4 should be closely monitored for either toxicities or reduced efficacy **(see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY/Pharmacokinetics-Drug Interactions)**.

During clinical trials, hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia were reported in diabetic patients receiving oral hypoglycemics. Patients on oral antidiabetic agents receiving VELCADE treatment may require close monitoring of their blood glucose levels and adjustment of the dose of their antidiabetic medication.

Drug Laboratory Test Interactions

None known.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenicity studies have not been conducted with bortezomib.

Bortezomib showed clastogenic activity (structural chromosomal aberrations) in the *in vitro* chromosomal aberration assay using Chinese hamster ovary cells. Bortezomib was not genotoxic when tested in the *in vitro* mutagenicity assay (Ames test) and *in vivo* micronucleus assay in mice.

Fertility studies with bortezomib were not performed but evaluation of reproductive tissues has been performed in the general toxicity studies. In the 6-month rat toxicity study, degenerative effects in the ovary were observed at doses ≥ 0.3 mg/m^2 (one-fourth of the recommended clinical dose), and degenerative changes in the testes occurred at 1.2 mg/m^2. VELCADE could have a potential effect on either male or female fertility.

Pregnancy Category D (see WARNINGS)

Pregnancy/Nursing: Patients should be advised to use effective contraceptive measures to prevent pregnancy.

Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether bortezomib is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from VELCADE, women should be advised against breast feeding while being treated with VELCADE.

Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of VELCADE in children has not been established.

Geriatric Use

Of the 669 patients enrolled, 245 (37%) were 65 years of age or older: 125 (38%) on the VELCADE arm and 120 (36%) on dexamethasone arm. Median time to progression and median duration of response for patients ≥65 were longer on VELCADE compared to dexamethasone [5.5 mo versus 4.3 mo, and 8.0 mo versus 4.9 mo, respectively]. On the VELCADE arm, 40% (n=46) of evaluable patients aged ≥65 experienced response (CR+PR) versus 18% (n=21) on the dexamethasone arm. The incidence of Grade 3 and 4 events was 64%, 78% and 75% for VELCADE patients ≤50, 51-64 and ≥65 years old, respectively **(see CLINICAL STUDIES)**.

In the phase 2 clinical study of 202 patients, 35% of patients were 65 years of age or older, the incidence of Grade ≥ 3 events was 74%, 80%, and 85% for VELCADE patients ≤50, 51 to 65, and >65 years old, respectively **(see CLINICAL STUDIES)**.

No overall differences in safety or effectiveness were observed between patients ≥ age 65 and younger patients receiving VELCADE; but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Randomized Open-Label Phase 3 Clinical Study

Among the 331 VELCADE treated patients, the most commonly reported events overall were asthenic conditions (61%), diarrhea and nausea (each 57%), constipation (42%), peripheral neuropathy NEC (36%), vomiting, pyrexia, thrombocytopenia,, and psychiatric disorders (each 35%), anorexia and appetite decreased (34%), paresthesia and dysesthesia (27%),, anemia and headache (each 26%), and cough (21%). The most commonly reported adverse events reported among the 332 patients in the dexamethasone group were psychiatric disorders (49%), asthenic conditions (45%), insomnia (27%), anemia (22%) and diarrhea and lower respiratory/lung infections (each 21%). Fourteen percent (14%) of patients in the VELCADE treated arm experienced a Grade 4 adverse event; the most common toxicities were thrombocytopenia (4%), neutropenia (2%) and hypercalcemia (2%). Sixteen percent (16%) of dexamethasone treated patients experienced a Grade 4 adverse event; the most common toxicity was hyperglycemia (2%).

Serious Adverse Events (SAEs)

Serious adverse events are defined as any event, regardless of causality, that results in death, is life-threatening, requires hospitalization or prolongs a current hospitalization, results in a significant disability, or is deemed to be an important medical event. A total of 144 (44%) patients from the VELCADE treatment arm experienced an SAE during the study, as did 144 (43%) dexamethasone-treated patients. The most commonly reported SAEs in the VELCADE treatment arm were pyrexia (6%), diarrhea (5%), dyspnea and pneumonia (4%), and vomiting (3%). In the dexamethasone treatment group, the most commonly reported SAEs were pneumonia (7%), pyrexia (4%), and hyperglycemia (3%).

A total of 145 patients, including 84 (25%) of 331 patients in the VELCADE treatment group and 61 (18%) of 332 patients in the dexamethasone treatment group were discontinued from treatment due to adverse events assessed as drug-related by the investigators. Among the 331 VELCADE treated patients, the most commonly reported drug-related event leading to discontinuation was peripheral neuropathy (8%). Among the 332 patients in the dexamethasone group, the most commonly reported drug-related events leading to treatment discontinuation were psychotic disorder and hyperglycemia (2% each).

Four deaths were considered to be VELCADE related in the phase 3 study: 1 case each of cardiogenic shock, respiratory insufficiency, congestive heart failure and cardiac arrest. Four deaths were considered dexamethasone-related: 2 cases of sepsis, 1 case of bacterial meningitis, and 1 case of sudden death at home.

The most common adverse events from the phase 3 study are shown in **Table 6**. All adverse events with incidence ≥10% in the VELCADE arm are included.

Table 6: Most Commonly Reported Adverse Events (≥10% in VELCADE arm), with Grades 3 and 4 Intensity in the Phase 3 Randomized Study (N=663)

	Treatment Group					
	VELCADE (n=331) [n (%)]			Dexamethasone (n=332) [n (%)]		
	All Events	Grade 3 Events	Grade 4 Events	All Events	Grade 3 Events	Grade 4 Events
Adverse Event	**331 (100)**	**203 (61)**	**45 (14)**	**327 (98)**	**146 (44)**	**52 (16)**
Asthenic conditions	201 (61)	39 (12)	1 (<1)	148 (45)	20 (6)	0
Diarrhea	190 (57)	24 (7)	0	69 (21)	6(2)	0
Nausea	190 (57)	8 (2)	0	46 (14)	0	0
Constipation	140 (42)	7 (2)	0	49 (15)	4 (1)	0
Peripheral neuropathy[a]	120 (36)	24 (7)	2 (<1)	29 (9)	1 (<1)	1 (<1)
Vomiting	117 (35)	11 (3)	0	20 (6)	4 (1)	0
Pyrexia	116 (35)	6 (2)	0	54 (16)	4 (1)	1 (<1)
Thrombocytopenia	115 (35)	85 (26)	12 (4)	36 (11)	18 (5)	4 (1)
Psychiatric disorders	117 (35)	9 (3)	2 (<1)	163 (49)	35 (5)	5 (1)
Anorexia and appetite decreased	112 (34)	9 (3)	0	31 (9)	1 (<1)	0
Paresthesia and dysesthesia	91 (27)	6 (2)	0	38 (11)	1 (<1)	0
Anemia	87 (26)	31 (9)	2 (<1)	74 (22)	32 (10)	3 (<1)
Headache	85 (26)	3 (<1)	0	43 (13)	2 (<1)	0
Cough	70 (21)	2 (<1)	0	35 (11)	1 (<1)	0
Dyspnea	65 (20)	16 (5)	1 (<1)	58 (17)	9 (3)	2 (<1)
Neutropenia	62 (19)	40 (12)	8 (2)	5 (2)	4 (1)	0
Rash	61 (18)	4 (1)	0	20 (6)	0	0
Insomnia	60 (18)	1 (<1)	0	90 (27)	5 (2)	0
Abdominal pain	53 (16)	6 (2)	0	12 (4)	1 (<1)	0
Bone pain	52 (16)	12 (4)	0	50 (15)	9 (3)	0
Lower respiratory/lung infections	48 (15)	12 (4)	2 (<1)	69 (21)	36 (5)	3 (<1)
Pain in limb	50 (15)	5 (2)	0	24 (7)	2 (<1)	0
Back pain	46 (14)	10 (3)	0	33 (10)	4 (1)	0
Arthralgia	45 (14)	3 (<1)	0	35 (11)	5 (2)	0
Dizziness (excl. vertigo)	45 (14)	3 (<1)	0	34 (10)	0	0
Nasopharyngitis	45 (14)	1 (<1)	0	22 (7)	0	0
Herpes zoster	42 (13)	6 (2)	0	15 (5)	4 (1)	1 (<1)
Muscle cramps	41 (12)	0	0	50 (15)	3 (<1)	0
Myalgia	39 (12)	1 (<1)	0	18 (5)	1 (<1)	0
Rigors	37 (11)	0	0	8 (2)	0	0
Edema lower limb	35 (11)	0	0	43 (13)	1 (<1)	0

[a] Peripheral neuropathy includes all terms under peripheral neuropathy NEC, (peripheral neuropathy NOS, peripheral neuropathy aggravated, peripheral sensory neuropathy, and peripheral motor neuropathy, and neuropathy NOS).

Non-randomized Phase 2 Clinical Studies

The two phase 2 studies described **(see CLINICAL STUDIES)** evaluated 228 patients with multiple myeloma receiving VELCADE 1.3 mg/m^2/dose twice weekly for 2 weeks followed by a 10-day rest period (21-day treatment cycle length) for a maximum of 8 treatment cycles.

The most commonly reported adverse events were asthenic conditions (including fatigue, malaise, and weakness) (65%), nausea (64%), diarrhea (51%), appetite decreased (including anorexia), constipation, and thrombocytopenia (each 43%), peripheral neuropathy (including peripheral sensory neuropathy and peripheral neuropathy aggravated) (37%), pyrexia and vomiting (each 36%), and anemia (32%). Fourteen percent (14%) of patients experienced at least 1 episode of Grade 4 toxicity; the most common toxicities were thrombocytopenia (3%) and neutropenia (3%).

Serious Adverse Events (SAEs)

A total of 113 (50%) of the 228 patients in the phase 2 studies experienced SAEs during the studies. The most commonly reported SAEs included pyrexia and pneumonia (each 7%), diarrhea (6%), vomiting and dehydration (each 5%), and nausea (4%).

In the phase 2 clinical studies, adverse events thought by the investigator to be drug-related and leading to discontinuation occurred in 18% of patients. The reasons for discontinuation included peripheral neuropathy (5%), thrombocytopenia (4%), and diarrhea and fatigue (each 2%).

Two deaths were reported and considered by the investigator to be possibly related to study drug: 1 case of cardiopulmonary arrest and 1 case of respiratory failure.

The most common adverse events are shown in **Table 7**. All adverse events occurring at ≥10% are included. In the single-arm studies conducted, it is often not possible to distinguish between adverse events that are drug-caused and those that reflect the patient's underlying disease. Please see the discussion of specific adverse reactions that follows.

Table 7: Most Commonly Reported (≥10% Overall) Adverse Events in the Phase 2 Studies using the 1.3 mg/m^2 dose (N = 228)

	All Patients (N = 228) [n (%)]		
Adverse Event	**All Events**	**Grade 3 Events**	**Grade 4 Events**
Asthenic conditions	149 (65)	42 (18)	1 (<1)
Nausea	145 (64)	13 (6)	0
Diarrhea	116 (51)	16 (7)	2 (<1)
Appetite decreased	99 (43)	6 (3)	0
Constipation	97 (43)	5 (2)	0
Thrombocytopenia	97 (43)	61 (27)	7 (3)
Peripheral neuropathy	84 (37)	31 (14)	0
Pyrexia	82 (36)	9 (4)	0
Vomiting	82 (36)	16 (7)	1 (<1)
Anemia	74 (32)	21 (9)	0
Headache	63 (28)	8 (4)	0
Insomnia	62 (27)	3 (1)	0
Arthralgia	60 (26)	11 (5)	0
Pain in limb	59 (26)	16 (7)	0
Edema	58 (25)	3 (1)	0
Neutropenia	55 (24)	30 (13)	6 (3)
Paresthesia and dysesthesia	53 (23)	6 (3)	0
Dyspnea	50 (22)	7 (3)	1 (<1)
Dizziness (excluding vertigo)	48 (21)	3 (1)	0
Rash	47 (21)	1 (<1)	0
Dehydration	42 (18)	15 (7)	0
Upper respiratory tract infection	41 (18)	0	0
Cough	39 (17)	1 (<1)	0
Bone pain	33 (14)	5 (2)	0
Anxiety	32 (14)	0	0
Myalgia	32 (14)	5 (2)	0
Back pain	31 (14)	9 (4)	0
Muscle cramps	31 (14)	1 (<1)	0
Dyspepsia	30 (13)	0	0
Abdominal pain	29 (13)	5 (2)	0
Dysgeusia	29 (13)	1 (<1)	0
Hypotension	27 (12)	8 (4)	0
Rigors	27 (12)	1 (<1)	0
Herpes zoster	26 (11)	2 (<1)	0
Pruritus	26 (11)	0	0
Vision blurred	25 (11)	1 (<1)	0
Pneumonia	23 (10)	12 (5)	0

The Phase 2 Open-Label Extension Study

In the phase 2 extension study of 63 patients noted above **(see CLINICAL STUDIES)** no new cumulative or new long term toxicities were observed with prolonged VELCADE treatment.

Description of Selected Adverse Events from the Phase 3 and Phase 2 Studies

Gastrointestinal Events

In the phase 3 trial, 89% of patients on the VELCADE arm and 54% of patients on the dexamethasone arm experienced at least one GI disorder. The most common GI disorders in VELCADE patients included nausea, diarrhea, constipation, vomiting, and anorexia. Grade 3 GI events occurred in 18% of patients on the VELCADE arm and 6% of patients on the dexamethasone arm; Grade 4 events were rare (<1%) in both groups. GI events were considered serious in 9% and 5% of the VELCADE and dexamethasone patients, respectively. Six percent (6%) of patients on the VELCADE arm and 2% of patients on the dexamethasone arm discontinued due to a GI event. The majority of patients also experienced GI events during the phase 2 studies. These events were Grade 3 or 4 in 21% of patients and serious in 13% of patients.

Thrombocytopenia

In both the phase 3 and phase 2 studies, VELCADE associated thrombocytopenia was characterized by a decrease in platelet count during the dosing period (days 1 to 11) and a return toward baseline during the 10-day rest period during each treatment cycle. In the phase 3 trial, thrombocytopenia was reported in 35% and 11% of patients on the VELCADE and dexamethasone arms, respectively. On the VELCADE arm thrombocytopenia was reported as Grade 3 in 26%, Grade 4 in 4%, and serious in 2% of patients, and the event resulted in VELCADE discontinuation in 2% of patients. In the phase 2 studies, thrombocytopenia was reported in 43% of patients, and 4% of those patients discontinued VELCADE treatment due to thrombocytopenia **(see PRECAUTIONS)**.

Peripheral Neuropathy

In the phase 3 trial, peripheral neuropathy NEC occurred in 36% of patients on the VELCADE arm and in 9% of patients on the dexamethasone arm. Peripheral neuropathy was Grade 3 for 7% of patients and Grade 4 for <1% of patients on the VELCADE arm. Eight percent (8%) of patients discontinued VELCADE due to peripheral neuropathy. Of the 87 patients who experienced ≥ Grade 2 peripheral neuropathy, 51% had improved or resolved with a median of 3.5 months from first onset.

In the phase 2 studies, 81% of patients (173 of 214) starting at the 1.3 mg/m^2 dose and with data available, had symptoms or signs of peripheral neuropathy at baseline evaluation. In 62% of these patients (108 of 173), no new onset or worsening of neuropathy was reported during treatment with VELCADE. New or worsening peripheral neuropathy NEC among all patients in the phase 2 studies treated with the 1.3mg/m^2 dose was Grade 3 in 14% (31 of 228), and there were no Grade 4 events. Six percent (6%) of patients (13 of 228) discontinued VELCADE due to peripheral neuropathy. Among the patients with peripheral neuropathy that was Grade 2 and led to discontinuation or was ≥ Grade 3, 73% (24 of 33) reported improvement or resolution following VELCADE dose adjustment, with a median time to improvement of one Grade or more from the last dose of VELCADE of 33 days **(see PRECAUTIONS)**.

Hypotension

In the phase 3 study, the incidence of hypotension (postural hypotension, orthostatic hypotension and hypotension NOS) was 11% on the VELCADE arm compared to 2% on the dexamethasone arm. Hypotension was Grade 1 or 2 in the majority of patients and Grade 3 in <1%. Two percent (2%) of patients on the VELCADE arm had hypotension reported as an SAE, and <1% discontinued due to hypotension. Similar incidences were reported in the phase 2 studies. In addition, 4% of patients in phase 2 experienced hypotension and had a concurrent syncopal event. Doses of antihypertensive medications may need to be adjusted in patients receiving VELCADE.

Neutropenia

In the phase 3 study, neutrophil counts decreased during the VELCADE dosing period (days 1 to 11) and returned toward baseline during the 10-day rest period during each treatment cycle. Neutropenia occurred in 19% and 2% of patients in the VELCADE and dexamethasone arms respectively. In the VELCADE arm, neutropenia was Grade 3 in 12% of patients and Grade 4 in 2%. No patient discontinued due to Grade 4 neutropenia. In the phase 2 trials, neutropenia occurred in 24% of patients and was Grade 3 in 13% and Grade 4 in 3%. The incidence of febrile neutropenia was <1% in both the phase 3 and phase 2 trials.

Asthenic conditions (Fatigue, Malaise, Weakness)

In the phase 3 trial, asthenia was reported in 61% and 45% of patients on the VELCADE and dexamethasone arms respectively. Asthenia was ≥ Grade 3 for 12% and 6% of patients on the VELCADE and dexamethasone arms respectively. Three percent (3%) of patients in the VELCADE group and 2% of patients in the dexamethasone group discontinued treatment due to asthenia. Similar results were reported in the phase 2 trials.

Pyrexia

Pyrexia (>38ºC) was reported as an adverse event for 35% of patients on the VELCADE arm and 16% of patients on the dexamethasone arm in the phase 3 trial. On the VELCADE arm this event was Grade 3 in 2%; no Grade 4 pyrexia was reported. Similar results were reported in the phase 2 trials.

Additional Serious Adverse Events from Clinical Studies and Post-Marketing

The following clinically important SAEs that are not described above have been reported in clinical trials in patients treated with VELCADE administered as monotherapy or in combination with other chemotherapeutics. These studies were conducted in patients with hematological malignancies and in solid tumors.

Blood and lymphatic system disorders: Disseminated intravascular coagulation

Cardiac disorders: Angina pectoris, atrial fibrillation aggravated, atrial flutter, bradycardia, ,sinus arrest, cardiac amyloidosis, complete atrioventricular block, myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, pericarditis, pericardial effusion, Torsades de pointes, ventricular tachycardia

Ear and labyrinth disorders: Hearing impaired, vertigo

Eye disorders: Diplopia

Gastrointestinal disorders: Ascites, dysphagia, fecal impaction, gastroenteritis, gastritis hemorrhagic, hematemesis, hemorrhagic duodenitis, ileus paralytic, large intestinal obstruction, paralytic intestinal obstruction, peritonitis, small intestinal obstruction, large intestinal perforation, stomatitis, melena, pancreatitis acute, oral mucosal petechiae

General disorders and administration site conditions: Injection site erythema, neuralgia

Hepatobiliary disorders: Cholestasis**,** hepatic hemorrhage, hyperbilirubinemia, portal vein thrombosis, hepatitis

Immune system disorders: Anaphylactic reaction, drug hypersensitivity, immune complex mediated hypersensitivity

Infections and infestations: Aspergillosis, bacteremia, urinary tract infection,, herpes viral infection, listeriosis, septic shock, toxoplasmosis, oral candidiasis

Injury, poisoning and procedural complications: Skeletal fracture, subdural hematoma

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: Hypocalcemia, hyperuricemia, hypokalemia, hyperkalemia, hyponatremia, hypernatremia

Nervous system disorders**:** Ataxia, coma, dysarthria, dysautonomia, encephalopathy, cranial palsy, grand mal convulsion, hemorrhagic stroke, motor dysfunction, spinal cord compression, paraplegia, transient ischemic attack

Psychiatric disorders: Agitation, confusion, mental status change, psychotic disorder, suicidal ideation

Renal and urinary disorders**:** Calculus renal, bilateral hydronephrosis, bladder spasm, hematuria, hemorrhagic cystitis, urinary incontinence, urinary retention, renal failure (acute and chronic), glomerular nephritis proliferative

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: Acute respiratory distress syndrome, aspiration pneumonia, atelectasis, chronic obstructive airways disease exacerbated,

dysphagia, dyspnea, dyspnea exertional, epistaxis, hemoptysis, hypoxia, lung infiltration, pleural effusion, pneumonitis, respiratory distress

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: Urticaria, face edema

Vascular disorders: Cerebrovascular accident, cerebral hemorrhage, deep venous thrombosis, peripheral embolism, pulmonary embolism, pulmonary hypertension

Post-Marketing Experience

Clinically significant adverse events are listed here if they have been reported during post-approval use of VELCADE and either they have not been reported in clinical trials, or they have been reported in clinical trials, but their occurrence in the post-approval setting is considered meaningful:

Atrioventricular block complete, cardiac tamponade, ischemic colitis, encephalopathy, dysautonomia, deafness bilateral, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hepatitis and acute pancreatitis.

OVERDOSAGE

Cardiovascular safety pharmacology studies in monkeys show that lethal IV doses are associated with decreases in blood pressure, increases in heart rate, increases in contractility, and ultimately terminal hypotension. In monkeys, doses of 3.0 mg/m^2 and greater (approximately twice the recommended clinical dose) resulted in progressive hypotension starting at 1 hour and progressing to death by 12 to 14 hours following drug administration.

Overdosage more than twice the recommended dose has been associated with the acute onset of symptomatic hypotension and thrombocytopenia with fatal outcomes.

There is no known specific antidote for VELCADE overdosage. In the event of an overdosage, the patient's vital signs should be monitored and appropriate supportive care given to maintain blood pressure (such as fluids, pressors, and/or inotropic agents) and body temperature (**see PRECAUTIONS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The recommended dose of VELCADE is 1.3 mg/m^2/dose administered as a 3 to 5 second bolus intravenous injection twice weekly for 2 weeks (Days 1, 4, 8, and 11) followed by a 10-day rest period (Days 12-21). For extended therapy of more than 8 cycles, VELCADE may be administered on the standard schedule or on a maintenance schedule of once weekly for 4 weeks (Days 1, 8, 15, and 22) followed by a 13-day rest period (Days 23 to 35) **(see CLINICAL STUDIES section for a description of dose administration during the trials)**. At least 72 hours should elapse between consecutive doses of VELCADE.

Dose Modification and Re-initiation of Therapy

VELCADE therapy should be withheld at the onset of any Grade 3 non-hematological or Grade 4 hematological toxicities excluding neuropathy as discussed below **(see PRECAUTIONS)**. Once the symptoms of the toxicity have resolved, VELCADE therapy may be reinitiated at a 25% reduced dose (1.3 mg/m^2/dose reduced to 1.0 mg/m^2/dose; 1.0 mg/m^2/dose reduced to 0.7 mg/m^2/dose).

Table 8 contains the recommended dose modification for the management of patients who experience VELCADE related neuropathic pain and/or peripheral neuropathy. Patients with preexisting severe neuropathy should be treated with VELCADE only after careful risk-benefit assessment.

Table 8: Recommended Dose Modification for VELCADE related Neuropathic Pain and/or Peripheral Sensory Neuropathy

Severity of Peripheral Neuropathy Signs and Symptoms	Modification of Dose and Regimen
Grade 1 (paresthesias and/or loss of reflexes) without pain or loss of function	No action
Grade 1 with pain or Grade 2 (interfering with function but not with activities of daily living)	Reduce VELCADE to 1.0 mg/m^2
Grade 2 with pain or Grade 3 (interfering with activities of daily living)	Withhold VELCADE therapy until toxicity resolves. When toxicity resolves reinitiate with a reduced dose of VELCADE at 0.7 mg/m^2 and change treatment schedule to once per week.
Grade 4 (disabling)	Discontinue VELCADE

Grading based on NCI Common Toxicity Criteria CTCAE v3.0 -

Administration Precautions: VELCADE is an antineoplastic. Caution should be used during handling and preparation. Proper aseptic technique should be used. Use of gloves and other protective clothing to prevent skin contact is recommended. In clinical trials, local skin irritation was reported in 5% of patients, but extravasation of VELCADE was not associated with tissue damage.

Reconstitution/Preparation for Intravenous Administration: Prior to use, the contents of each vial must be reconstituted with 3.5 mL of normal (0.9%) saline, Sodium Chloride Injection, USP. The reconstituted product should be a clear and colorless solution.

Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration whenever solution and container permit. If any discoloration or particulate matter is observed, the reconstituted product should not be used.

Stability: Unopened vials of VELCADE are stable until the date indicated on the package when stored in the original package protected from light.

VELCADE contains no antimicrobial preservative. When reconstituted as directed, VELCADE may be stored at 25ºC (77ºF). Reconstituted VELCADE should be administered within 8 hours of preparation. The reconstituted material may be stored in

the original vial and/or the syringe prior to administration. The product may be stored for up to 8 hours in a syringe; however total storage time for the reconstituted material must not exceed 8 hours when exposed to normal indoor lighting.

HOW SUPPLIED

VELCADE® (bortezomib) for Injection is supplied as individually cartoned 10 mL vials containing 3.5 mg of bortezomib as a white to off-white cake or powder.

NDC 63020-049-01
3.5 mg single dose vial

STORAGE

Unopened vials may be stored at controlled room temperature 25ºC (77ºF); excursions permitted from 15 to 30ºC (59 to 86ºF) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature]. Retain in original package to protect from light.

Caution: Rx only

U.S. Patents: 5,780,454; 6,083,903; 6,297,217; 6,617,317; 6,713, 446; 6,747,150 B2

Distributed and Marketed by:
Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
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Issued March 2005

Rev 2: March 2005

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VELCADE® (bortezomib) for Injection

PATIENT INFORMATION

VELCADE is intended for use under the guidance and supervision of a healthcare professional. Please discuss the possibility of the following side effects with your doctor:

***Effects on Ability to Drive or Operate Machinery or Impairment of Mental Ability*:** VELCADE may cause low blood pressure that may lead to tiredness, dizziness, fainting, or blurred vision. Do not drive any vehicle or operate any dangerous tools or machinery if you experience these side effects. Even if you have not felt these effects previously, you must still be cautious.

***Pregnancy/Nursing*:** Please use effective contraceptive measures to prevent pregnancy during treatment with VELCADE. It is advised that you are not given VELCADE if you are pregnant. You must make sure that you do not become pregnant while receiving VELCADE, but if you do, inform your doctor immediately. It is advised that you do not breast feed while you are receiving VELCADE. If you wish to restart breast feeding after your VELCADE treatment, you must discuss this with your doctor or nurse, who will tell you when it is safe to do so.

***Dehydration/Hypotension*:** Following the use of VELCADE therapy, you may experience vomiting and/or diarrhea. Drink plenty of fluids. Speak with your doctor if these symptoms occur about what you should do to control or manage these symptoms. If you experience symptoms of dizziness or light-headedness, consult a healthcare professional. Seek immediate medical attention if you experience fainting spells.

***Concomitant Medications*:** Please speak with your doctor about any other medication you are currently taking. Your doctor will want to be aware of any other medications.

Diabetic Patients: If you are a patient on oral antidiabetic medication while receiving VELCADE treatment, please check your blood sugar level frequently. Please call your doctor if you notice an unusual change.

***Peripheral Neuropathy*:** Contact your doctor if you experience new or worsening symptoms of peripheral neuropathy such as tingling, numbness, pain, or a burning feeling in the feet or hands.

Congestive Heart Failure: Contact your doctor if you experience shortness of breath or swelling of the feet, ankles, or legs.

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Issued March 2005 Rev 2