

Actual/Potential Drug Interactions Between Directly Acting Antivirals (DAAs) and Anticonvulsants

Anticonvulsant (route of metabolism)	Boceprevir (Victrelis®, BOC, SCH 503034) Merck Substrate of CYP3A4, CYP3A5 and aldoketoreductases. ¹ Strong, reversible inhibitor of CYP3A4 and p-glycoprotein in vitro. ²	Telaprevir (Incivek®, TVR, VX-950) Vertex Pharmaceuticals Substrate and strong inhibitor of CYP3A4 and p-glycoprotein. ³
Carbamazepine (Parent: CYP3A>> 2C8, 1A2) Inducer of CYP3A, 2C9, 2C19, UGT and possibly 1A2	Potential for ↓ DAA concentration and/or ↓ anticonvulsant concentration. ⁴ Carbamazepine is contraindicated with boceprevir. ⁵	Potential for ↓ DAA concentration and/or ↑ anticonvulsant concentration. ⁴ Use combination with caution. Clinical or laboratory monitoring of carbamazepine concentrations and dose titration are recommended to achieve the desired clinical response. ³ Consider an alternate agent with non-inducing metabolic properties.
Gabapentin (Renal)	No interaction expected based on known pharmacologic characteristics. Monitor and titrate dose according to clinical response.	
Lamotrigine (UGT)	No interaction expected based on known pharmacologic characteristics. Monitor and titrate dose according to clinical response. Caution re: risk of rash, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome with lamotrigine, since DAAs may also be associated with rash.	
Levetiracetam (24% enzymatic hydrolysis, 66% renal)	No interaction expected based on known pharmacologic characteristics. Monitor and titrate dose according to clinical response. NB: No data exist for levetiracetam for treating psychiatric disorders in the context of HCV.	
Lithium (renal)	No interaction expected based on known pharmacologic characteristics. Monitor and titrate dose according to clinical response and serum levels.	
Oxcarbazepine (parent - UGT) Inhibitor of CYP3A4 Potent inducer of CYP3A4. Relative to carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine inducing effect is 54% lower ⁶	Potential for ↓ DAA concentrations and decreased efficacy. Avoid combination if possible, and consider an alternate anticonvulsant with non-inducing metabolic properties. ⁷	
Phenobarbital (parent - 2C9/19) Potent inducer of CYP3A4, 1A2, 2C9/19, UGT	Potential for ↓ DAA concentrations and/or ↑/↓ anticonvulsant concentrations. Phenobarbital is contraindicated with boceprevir. ⁵	Potential for ↓ DAA concentrations and/or ↑/↓ anticonvulsant concentrations. Use combination with caution. Clinical or laboratory monitoring

Anticonvulsant (route of metabolism)	Boceprevir (Victrelis®, BOC, SCH 503034) Merck	Telaprevir (Incivek®, TVR, VX-950) Vertex Pharmaceuticals
		of phenobarbital concentrations and dose titration are recommended to achieve the desired clinical response. ³ Consider an alternate agent with non-inducing metabolic properties.
Phenytoin (parent - 70% CYP2C9, minor 2C19) Potent inducer of CYP3A4, 2C9/19, UGT	Potential for ↓ DAA concentrations and/or ↑/↓ anticonvulsant concentrations. Phenytoin is contraindicated with boceprevir. ⁵	Potential for ↓ DAA concentrations and/or ↑/↓ anticonvulsant concentrations. Use combination with caution. Clinical or laboratory monitoring of phenobarbital concentrations and dose titration are recommended to achieve the desired clinical response. ³ Consider an alternate agent with non-inducing metabolic properties.
Pregabalin (renal)	No interaction expected based on known pharmacologic characteristics. Monitor and titrate dose according to clinical response.	
Topiramate (renal) Induces 3A4 (mild), inhibits 2C19	Potential for ↓ DAA concentrations. Monitor and titrate dose according to clinical response. NB: No data exist for topiramate for treating psychiatric disorders in the context of HCV.	
Valproic acid, divalproex (Parent – 50% UGT, <10% CYP) Inhibitor of UGT,CYP2C9/19	No interaction expected based on known pharmacologic characteristics. Monitor and titrate dose according to clinical response and serum levels. Monitor for potential hepatotoxicity. ⁸	

Legend: CYP = cytochrome P450, P-gp = p-glycoprotein, UGT = Uridine 5'-diphospho-glucuronosyltransferases

References:

1. Ghosal A, Yuan Y, Tong W, et al. Characterization of human liver enzymes involved in the biotransformation of boceprevir, a hepatitis C virus protease inhibitor. *Drug Metab Dispos* 2011;39(3):510-21.
2. Kasserra C, Hughes E, Treitel M, et al. Clinical pharmacology of boceprevir: metabolism, excretion, and drug-drug interactions [abstract 118]. 18th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Feb 27-Mar 2, 2011, Boston, USA.
3. Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. Incivek (telaprevir) Product Monograph. Laval, QC February 20, 2013.
4. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. Tegretol (Carbamazepine) Product Monograph. Dorval, Que. 2011.
5. Merck Canada Inc. Victrelis (boceprevir) Product Monograph. Kirkland, QC May 13, 2013.

6. Andreasen AH, Brosen K, Damkier P. A comparative pharmacokinetic study in healthy volunteers of the effect of carbamazepine and oxcarbazepine on CYP3A4. *Epilepsia* 2007 Mar;48(3):490-6.
7. Hachad H, Ragueneau-Majlessi I, Levy RH. New antiepileptic drugs: review on drug interactions. *Ther Drug Monit.* [Review] 2002 Feb;24(1):91-103.
8. Powell-Jackson PR, Tredger JM, Williams R. Hepatotoxicity to sodium valproate: a review. *Gut.* [Review] 1984 Jun;25(6):673-81.