

Tekturna Safety Concerns, When Combined with ACE-inhibitors or ARB Medications

New study information suggests that aliskiren (Tekturna and various combination products) should not be given concurrently with ACE inhibitors (such as lisinopril) or with ARB medications (such as losartan).

Aliskiren is a direct-renin inhibitor, commonly used for hypertension. It is available as Tekturna, Tekturna HCT (a combination with hydrochlorothiazide), Valtorna (with Diovan), Tekamlo (with amlodipine), and Amturnide (with amlodipine and hydrochlorothiazide).

Safety concerns come from the Altitude Study, investigating Tekturna in patients with type 2 diabetes and renal impairment, receiving either Tekturna or placebo in addition to angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB). This study was stopped early because patients were unlikely to benefit from Tekturna, and there was a higher incidence of adverse events such as non-fatal stroke, renal complications, hyperkalemia and hypotension.

Providers are asked to avoid this combination, and to switch patients to alternatives as soon as medically feasible, consistent with patient safety and clinical judgment.

Patients using aliskiren (Tekturna) with an ACE inhibitor or an ARB medication are asked to contact their providers to discuss treatment. Patients should not stop their medications without talking to providers first.

HealthPartners is planning letters to affected providers and members, and reviewing the formulary status of these medications (currently step-therapy, from an ACE inhibitor or an ARB medication).

For more information, www.tekturna.com, or Pete Marshall PharmD.