

5.21.189

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	July 1, 2022
Subsection:	Antineoplastic Agents	Original Policy Date:	March 25, 2022
Subject:	Vonjo	Page:	1 of 4

Last Review Date: June 16, 2022

Vonjo

Description

Vonjo (pacritinib)

Background

Vonjo (pacritinib) is an oral kinase inhibitor with activity against wild type Janus associated kinase 2 (JAK2), mutant JAK2^{V617F}, and FMS-like tyrosine kinase 3 (FLT3), which contribute to signaling several cytokines and growth factors that are important for hematopoiesis and immune function. Myelofibrosis is often associated with dysregulated JAK2 signaling (1).

Myelofibrosis is a disease in which the bone marrow is replaced by scar tissue resulting in blood cells being made in organs such as the liver and the spleen. This disease is marked by an enlarged spleen, anemia, decreased white blood cells and platelets, and myelofibrosis-related symptoms (2).

Polycythemia vera occurs when too many red blood cells are made in the bone marrow. Patients may also experience an increase in white blood cells and platelets. An overabundance of blood cells can cause the spleen to swell, bleeding problems and blood clots in the veins near the skin surface (phlebitis). In addition, it puts patients at increased risk of stroke or heart attack (2).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indication: Vonjo is a kinase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of adults with intermediate or high-risk primary or secondary (post-polycythemia vera or post-essential thrombocythemia) myelofibrosis with a platelet count below 50 x 10⁹/L (1).

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	July 1, 2022
Subsection:	Antineoplastic Agents	Original Policy Date:	March 25, 2022
Subject:	Vonjo	Page:	2 of 4

Prior to starting Vonjo, a complete blood count (CBC; including white blood cell count differential and platelet count), coagulation testing (prothrombin time, partial thromboplastin time, thrombin time, and international normalized ratio), and a baseline electrocardiogram (ECG) should be performed. These should also be monitored as clinically indicated while the patient is on treatment (1).

Vonjo should be discontinued 7 days prior to elective surgery or invasive procedures because of the risk of hemorrhage and should be restarted only after hemostasis is assured (1).

Vonjo carries warnings regarding the following: hemorrhage; diarrhea; thrombocytopenia; prolonged QT interval; major adverse cardiac events (MACE); thrombosis; secondary malignancies; risk of infection; and interactions with CYP3A4 inhibitors or inducers (1).

The safety and effectiveness of Vonjo in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1).

Related policies

Inrebic, Jakafi

Policy

This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.

Vonjo may be considered **medically necessary** in patients age 18 years of age and older with primary or secondary myelofibrosis, post-polycythemia vera myelofibrosis, or post-essential thrombocythemia myelofibrosis and if the conditions indicated below are met.

Vonjo may be considered **investigational** in patients less than 18 years of age and for all other indications.

Prior-Approval Requirements

Age 18 years of age and older

Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Primary myelofibrosis
2. Secondary myelofibrosis
3. Post-polycythemia vera myelofibrosis

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	July 1, 2022
Subsection:	Antineoplastic Agents	Original Policy Date:	March 25, 2022
Subject:	Vonjo	Page:	3 of 4

4. Post-essential thrombocythemia myelofibrosis

AND ALL of the following:

- a. Patient is considered intermediate risk or high-risk
- b. Platelet count < 50 x 10⁹/L
- c. Prescriber agrees to perform a CBC, coagulation testing, and a baseline ECG prior to starting Vonjo
- d. Prescriber agrees to counsel patient to discontinue Vonjo 7 days prior to elective surgery due to the risk of hemorrhage

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Age 18 years of age and older

Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Primary myelofibrosis
2. Secondary myelofibrosis
3. Post-polycythemia vera myelofibrosis
4. Post-essential thrombocythemia myelofibrosis

AND ALL of the following:

- a. Patient has had symptomatic improvement
- b. Platelet count < 50 x 10⁹/L
- c. Prescriber agrees to counsel patient to discontinue Vonjo 7 days prior to elective surgery due to the risk of hemorrhage

Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance

None

Prior - Approval Limits

Quantity 360 capsules per 90 days

Duration 6 months

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	July 1, 2022
Subsection:	Antineoplastic Agents	Original Policy Date:	March 25, 2022
Subject:	Vonjo	Page:	4 of 4

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

Rationale

Summary

Vonjo (pacritinib) is an oral kinase inhibitor with activity against JAK2. Abnormal activation of JAK2 is associated with myeloproliferative neoplasms, including myelofibrosis and polycythemia vera. Vonjo carries warnings regarding the following: hemorrhage; diarrhea; thrombocytopenia; prolonged QT interval; major adverse cardiac events (MACE); thrombosis; secondary malignancies; risk of infection; and interactions with CYP3A4 inhibitors or inducers. The safety and effectiveness of Vonjo in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost-effective use of Vonjo while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. Vonjo [package insert]. Seattle, WA: CTI BioPharma Corp.; February 2022.
2. Clinical manifestations and diagnosis of primary myelofibrosis. UpToDate. Accessed on April 27, 2022.
3. NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium[®] Pacritinib 2022. National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Accessed on April 27, 2022.

Policy History

Date	Action
March 2022	Addition to PA
June 2022	Annual review and reference update

Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP[®] Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on June 16, 2022 and is effective on July 1, 2022.