

## Drug-drug interaction profile of the all-oral anti-hepatitis C virus regimen of paritaprevir/ritonavir, ombitasvir, and dasabuvir

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**Background & Aims:** Paritaprevir (administered with ritonavir, PTV/r), ombitasvir (OBV), and dasabuvir (DSV) are direct-acting antiviral agents (DAAs) for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. Thirteen studies were conducted to characterize drug-drug interactions for the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV and various medications in healthy volunteers to inform dosing recommendations in HCV-infected patients.

**Methods:** Mechanism-based drug-drug interactions were evaluated for gemfibrozil, ketoconazole, carbamazepine, warfarin, omeprazole, digoxin, pravastatin, and rosuvastatin. Drug-drug interactions with medications commonly used in HCV-infected patients were evaluated for amlodipine, furosemide, alprazolam, zolpidem, duloxetine, escitalopram, methadone, buprenorphine/naloxone, and oral contraceptives. Ratios of geometric means with 90% confidence intervals for maximum plasma concentration ( $C_{max}$ ) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) were used to determine the magnitude of interaction.

**Results:** Coadministration with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV resulted in a <2-fold change in mean  $C_{max}$  and AUC for most medications and the DAAs, indicating minimal to modest interactions. Carbamazepine decreased PTV, ritonavir, and DSV exposures substantially, while gemfibrozil increased DSV exposures substantially. Although coadministration with ethinyl estradiol-containing contraceptives resulted in elevated alanine aminotransferase levels, coadministration with a progestin-only contraceptive did not.

**Conclusions:** The majority of medications can be coadministered with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV without dose adjustment, or with clinical monitoring or dose adjustment. Although no dose adjustment is necessary for the 3D regimen when coadministered with 17 of the 20 medications, coadministration with gemfibrozil, carbamazepine, or ethinyl estradiol-containing contraceptives is contraindicated.

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### Introduction

The risk of morbidity and mortality related to chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is markedly reduced in patients who achieve a sustained virologic response (SVR) with antiviral therapy [1–4]. Recently, development of direct-acting antiviral agents (DAAs) targeting various steps in the HCV life cycle has led to substantial improvements in efficacy and reductions in toxicity compared to prior interferon-based therapies. However, judicious use of these DAAs requires strict attention to drug-drug interactions because all HCV combination regimens interact with drug metabolizing enzymes, drug transporters, or both [5]. Knowledge of drug-drug interactions is important for appropriate clinical management, which sometimes requires dose adjustments or discontinuation of contraindicated medications [6,7].

Paritaprevir (ABT-450, PTV) is a nonstructural (NS) protein 3/4A protease inhibitor. PTV is metabolized primarily by cytochrome P450 (CYP) 3A and is given with a low dose of the CYP3A inhibitor, ritonavir, as a pharmacokinetic enhancer to achieve higher peak, trough, and overall PTV exposures. This enables once daily (QD) administration and use of lower PTV doses than would be necessary without ritonavir. The use of ritonavir also limits the potential for further interaction of PTV with other CYP3A inhibitors. Ombitasvir (ABT-267, OBV) is a potent NS5A inhibitor and dasabuvir (ABT-333, DSV) is an NS5B non-nucleoside polymerase inhibitor. Phase 3 clinical trials of the combination of these three DAAs (3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV) with and without ribavirin have demonstrated SVR rates 12 weeks after the end of treatment of 92% to 100%, in cirrhotic and noncirrhotic HCV genotype 1-infected subjects [8–11].

*In vitro* data indicate PTV and ritonavir are primarily metabolized by CYP3A, while DSV is primarily metabolized by CYP2C8 [12]. DSV may also undergo metabolism by CYP3A. Ombitasvir

Keywords: Paritaprevir; Ritonavir; Ombitasvir; Dasabuvir; Drug-drug interactions; Hepatitis C virus.

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**Abbreviations:** PTV/r, paritaprevir/ritonavir; OBV, ombitasvir; DSV, dasabuvir; DAA, direct-acting antiviral agent; HCV, hepatitis C virus;  $C_{max}$ , maximum observed plasma concentration; AUC, area under the plasma concentration-time curve; SVR, sustained virologic response; NS, nonstructural; CYP, cytochrome P450; QD, once daily; OATP, organic anion transporting polypeptide; P-gp, P-glycoprotein; BCRP, breast cancer resistance protein; EE, ethinyl estradiol; BID, twice daily; LLOQ, lower limit of quantitation;  $T_{max}$ , time to maximum observed plasma concentration ( $C_{max}$ );  $C_{trough}$ , trough concentration;  $t_{1/2}$ , terminal phase elimination half-life; GMR, geometric mean ratio; CI, confidence interval; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase.



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## Research Article

is predominantly metabolized by amide hydrolysis followed by oxidative metabolism. Ritonavir is a CYP3A inhibitor, while the DAAs do not inhibit CYP enzymes. *In vitro* data also suggest that at clinically relevant concentrations, PTV is an organic anion transporting polypeptide (OATP) 1B1/B3 inhibitor and PTV, ritonavir, and DSV are potential inhibitors of P-glycoprotein (P-gp) and breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP) [12]. The DAAs and ritonavir are *in vitro* substrates of P-gp and BCRP, and PTV is also a substrate of OATP1B1/B3.

A broad drug-drug interaction program was conducted in healthy volunteers to evaluate the potential for interactions with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV. These studies characterized mechanism-based interactions and interactions that may occur with medications commonly used in HCV-infected patients. Mechanism-based interactions, which characterize interactions associated with specific enzymes or transporters, were evaluated using standard probe substrates, inhibitors, or inducers. Results from these interactions can be used to predict interactions and provide dosing recommendations for other medications that share the same metabolic and transporter pathways.

Mechanism-based interaction studies evaluated the following enzymes and transporters: CYP2C9 and 2C19 (substrates: warfarin, omeprazole), CYP2C8 (inhibitor: gemfibrozil), CYP3A and P-gp (inhibitor: ketoconazole; inducer: carbamazepine), P-gp (substrate: digoxin), OATP1B1/B3 (substrate: pravastatin), and OATP1B1/B3 plus BCRP (substrate: rosuvastatin). The substrates, inhibitors, and inducers chosen for evaluation were based on

regulatory guidance from the United States Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency [13,14].

Drug-drug interactions with commonly used medications representing the drug classes of antidepressants (escitalopram and duloxetine), antihypertensives (amlodipine), diuretics (furosemide), anxiolytics/sleep aids (alprazolam and zolpidem), and oral contraceptives (norethindrone, ethinyl estradiol [EE] plus norgestimate, and EE plus norethindrone) were studied to assess potential for drug interaction and to provide dosing recommendations for these drugs in patients taking the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV. Methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone, which are commonly used as opioid substitutions in patients with a history of drug addiction, were also evaluated.

### Materials and methods

#### Study designs

Thirteen open-label, Phase 1 clinical studies were conducted at five clinical study sites in accordance with Good Clinical Practice guidelines and ethical principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki. All study protocols and amendments were approved by the institutional review boards at each site and written informed consent was obtained from each subject before any study-related procedures were performed.

Enrolled subjects were healthy adult male or female volunteers, between the ages of 18 and 55 years, with a body mass index between 18 and 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Metabolic enzyme and drug transporter inhibitors or inducers were not allowed

**Table 1. Medications evaluated in drug-drug interaction studies with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV.**

Mechanism-based drug interactions			
Drug class	N	Medication (dose)	Mechanism
Antihyperlipidemics	12	Gemfibrozil* (600 mg BID)	Effect of CYP2C8 inhibition by gemfibrozil on PTV/r and DSV
Antifungals	12	Ketoconazole (400 mg QD)	Effect of CYP3A and P-gp inhibition by ketoconazole on 3D
Anticonvulsants	12	Carbamazepine (200 mg QD and BID)	Effect of CYP3A induction by carbamazepine on 3D
Anticoagulants	12	Warfarin (5 mg)	Effect of CYP2C9 inhibition/induction by 3D on warfarin
Acid reducing agents	12	Omeprazole (40 mg QD)	Effect of CYP2C19 inhibition/induction by 3D on omeprazole
Antiarrhythmics	12	Digoxin (0.5 mg)	Effect of P-gp inhibition by 3D on digoxin
Statins	12	Pravastatin (10 mg QD)	Effect of OATP1B1/B3 inhibition by 3D on pravastatin
	12	Rosuvastatin (5 mg QD)	Effect of OATP1B1/B3 + BCRP inhibition by 3D on rosuvastatin
Drug interactions with commonly used medications			
Drug class	N	Medication (metabolic pathway) (dose)	
Anti-addictives	12	Methadone (CYP3A4/CYP2B6 substrate) (individualized QD dosing 20 to 120 mg per physician's prescription)	
	13	Buprenorphine/naloxone (CYP3A4; UGT1A1 substrate/UGT substrate) (individualized QD dosing 4/1 mg to 24/6 mg per physician's prescription)	
Antidepressants	12	Escitalopram (CYP3A4/CYP2C19 substrate) (10 mg)	
	12	Duloxetine (CYP2D6/CYP1A2 substrate and CYP1A2 inhibitor) (60 mg)	
Antihypertensives	14	Amlodipine (CYP3A4 substrate) (5 mg)	
Anxiolytics/sleep aids	12	Alprazolam (CYP3A4 substrate) (0.5 mg)	
	12	Zolpidem (CYP3A4 substrate) (5 mg)	
Diuretics	12	Furosemide (UGT1A1 substrate) (20 mg)	
Oral contraceptives	12	Norethindrone (UGT/CYP3A4/sulfo-transferases substrate) (0.35 mg)	
	9	Ethinyl estradiol + norgestimate <sup>†</sup> (UGT/CYP3A4/sulfo-transferases substrate) (35 µg/0.250 mg)	
	12	Ethinyl estradiol + norethindrone (UGT/CYP3A4/sulfo-transferases substrate) (35 µg/0.4 mg)	

UGT, uridine diphospho-glucuronosyltransferase; QD, once daily; BID, twice daily.

<sup>†</sup>Evaluated with a PTV/r + DSV regimen only.

\*Evaluated with PTV/r, OBV ± DSV regimens.

I	Period 1	Washout	Period 2		
	Day 1		A	B	C
	DAA's		Interacting medication	DAA's + interacting medication	Interacting medication
II	Period 1	Washout	Period 2		
	Single dose		A	B	C
	Interacting medication		DAA's	DAA's + interacting medication	DAA's
III	Period 1	Washout	Period 2		
	Single dose		3 to 7 days of dosing*	B 14 days of dosing	C
	DAA's		Pravastatin or rosuvastatin	DAA's + pravastatin or rosuvastatin	
*3 days for pravastatin (study days 1-3); 7 days for rosuvastatin (study days 1-7)					
IV	Days 1-8	Days 9-22		Days 23-25	
	Methadone or buprenorphine + naloxone	DAA's + methadone or buprenorphine + naloxone		Methadone or buprenorphine + naloxone	
V	Period 1	Period 2			
	A	B	C		
	Oral contraceptives	DAA's + oral contraceptives	DAA's		

**Fig. 1. Study designs used for evaluating the 20 drug interactions.** For more details on the study designs, refer to [Table 2](#).

within one month of enrollment. Subjects enrolled in the methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone studies were on stable methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone maintenance therapy, respectively, for a minimum of 14 days before the screening visit.

Drug-drug interactions were evaluated for the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV using 20 drugs from a wide variety of drug classes ([Table 1](#)). The doses of PTV/r and OBV were 150 mg/100 mg and 25 mg, respectively and the dose of DSV was 250 mg or 400 mg (Phase 2 formulation), which provided comparable DSV exposures. The regimen evaluated in these studies is the same as that tested in Phase 3 clinical trials for treatment of HCV genotype 1 infection.

Most evaluations were conducted under multiple dosing conditions (PTV/r and OBV QD and DSV twice daily [BID]), although a few mechanism-based interactions were evaluated under single dosing conditions ([Fig. 1](#) and [Table 2](#)). For all evaluations, the 3D regimen was coadministered with the interacting drug after a moderate-fat meal (approximately 1900 to 2300 calories/day with 40% of calories from fat).

Key elements of the study designs are presented in [Fig. 1](#) and [Table 2](#). All evaluations were conducted with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV except for the study with gemfibrozil, which evaluated interactions only with PTV/r plus DSV. OBV and gemfibrozil are not expected to interact with each other as their metabolic pathways do not overlap.

#### Safety and tolerability assessments

Safety and tolerability were assessed throughout each study based on adverse event monitoring, vital signs measurements, physical examinations, electrocardiogram assessments, and laboratory tests.

#### Pharmacokinetic assessments

Blood samples for determination of plasma concentrations of PTV, ritonavir, OBV, DSV, DSV metabolite M1, and the interacting medications and their metabolites, if applicable, were collected by venipuncture. Plasma concentrations were determined using validated liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometric detection methods. The lower limits of quantitation (LLOQs) for PTV, ritonavir, OBV, DSV, and DSV M1 were approximately 0.6 ng/ml, 4.7 ng/ml, 0.4 ng/ml, 4.4 ng/ml, and 4.6 ng/ml, respectively. The LLOQs for the concomitant

**Table 2. Dosing days in different study periods in [Fig. 1](#).**

Study design*	Medication	Days of dosing		
		A	B	C
I	Gemfibrozil <sup>†</sup>	Days 4-5	Day 6	Days 7-8
I	Ketoconazole	Days 8-9	Day 10	Days 11-13
I	Carbamazepine	Days 1-3 (QD) Days 4-21 (BID)	Day 22	Days 23-24 (BID)
II	Digoxin	Days 11-24	Day 25	Days 26-29
II	Warfarin	Days 15-28	Day 29	Days 30-38
II	Furosemide	Days 3-16	Day 17	Day 18
II	Amlodipine	Days 11-24	Day 25	Days 26-34
II	Escitalopram	Days 7-20	Day 21	Days 22-26
II	Duloxetine	Days 7-20	Day 21	Day 22
II	Alprazolam	Days 4-17	Day 18	Days 19-21
II	Zolpidem	Days 3-16	Day 17	Day 18
II	Omeprazole	Days 6-19	Days 20-24	n.a.
V	EE/NGM <sup>‡</sup>	Days 1-9	Days 10-21	Days 22-28
V	EE/NET	Days 1-7	Days 8-21 <sup>§</sup>	Days 22-28
V	NET	Days 1-3	Days 4-17	Days 18-24

QD, once daily; BID, twice daily; EE/NGM, ethinyl estradiol and norgestimate; EE/NET, ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone; NET, norethindrone; n.a., not applicable.

<sup>†</sup>See [Fig. 1](#).

<sup>‡</sup>Evaluated with a PTV/r + DSV regimen only.

<sup>§</sup>Evaluated with PTV/r, OBV ± DSV regimens.

<sup>§</sup>Study drug discontinued on Day 15.

## Research Article

medications were 0.003 ng/ml (EE), 0.01 ng/ml (digoxin), 0.02 ng/ml (naloxone, norelgestromin, norgestrel), 0.05 ng/ml (amlodipine, S-desmethylcitalopram), 0.1 ng/ml (alprazolam, buprenorphine, norbuprenorphine, ketoconazole, norethindrone, rosuvastatin), 0.2 ng/ml (escitalopram), 0.25 ng/ml (zolpidem), 0.5 ng/ml (duloxetine, pravastatin), 1 ng/ml (R- and S-methadone, omeprazole), 5 ng/ml (R- and S-warfarin, furosemide), and 50 ng/ml (carbamazepine, carbamazepine-10-11-epoxide). For digoxin, urine was also collected and the excreted fraction of drug was measured (LLOQ of 2 ng/ml).

Pharmacokinetic analyses were performed by noncompartmental methods using Phoenix<sup>®</sup>WinNonlin<sup>®</sup>Version 6.0 or above (Certara<sup>®</sup>, St. Louis, MO). The primary pharmacokinetic parameters were maximum observed plasma concentration ( $C_{max}$ ) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) during a dosing interval (AUC<sub>12</sub> for BID administration; AUC<sub>24</sub> for QD administration) or from time zero to infinity (AUC<sub>∞</sub> for single dose). Additional pharmacokinetic parameters include: time to  $C_{max}$  ( $T_{max}$ ), trough concentration ( $C_{trough}$ ), and terminal phase elimination half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ).

### Pharmacodynamic assessments

For the methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone interaction studies, pharmacodynamic measurements were performed to monitor for signs of withdrawal triggered by possible changes in methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone exposures, during coadministration with OBV, PTV/r, and DSV. Pupil diameter and two self-administered instruments (short opiate withdrawal scale score and the desire for drugs questionnaire) were measured at various time points before and during coadministration.

### Statistical analyses

Statistical analyses were conducted using SAS, Version 9.2 (Cary, NC). Effects of the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV on the interacting medications and vice versa were estimated by analyzing log<sub>e</sub>-transformed  $C_{max}$  and AUC values under a repeated measures analysis framework. Geometric mean ratios (GMRs) and 90% confidence intervals (CIs) for  $C_{max}$  and AUC were calculated to quantify the magnitude of interaction.

## Results

### Subject demographics

A total of 228 subjects, 67% of whom were male, received at least one dose of study drug. Across studies, 64.0% of subjects were white, 31.6% were black, and 4.4% were other races. Demographics of subjects across the 13 studies were similar: the age of subjects ranged from 20 to 55 years, mean age ranged from 29.5 to 39.1 years, and median body weight ranged from 67.6 to 83.7 kg.

### Pharmacokinetics

#### Mechanism-based drug-drug interactions

Results from studies of mechanism-based interactions of substrates/inhibitors/inducers of CYPs and transporters on DAA and ritonavir exposures and vice versa are shown in Figs. 2 and 3 and discussed below.

#### CYP2C8 inhibitor (gemfibrozil)

Coadministration of PTV/r plus DSV with gemfibrozil did not affect exposures of ritonavir, but increased PTV  $C_{max}$  and AUC (21% and 38%, respectively) as well as DSV  $C_{max}$  and AUC (101% and 1030%, respectively). The mean  $t_{1/2}$  of DSV increased from approximately 5 to 90 h. In contrast to the increase in DSV exposures,  $C_{max}$  and AUC values of DSV metabolite M1 decreased, with 95% lower  $C_{max}$  and 78% lower AUC values.

#### CYP3A and P-gp inhibitor (ketoconazole)

In the presence of ketoconazole, increased  $C_{max}$  and AUC values were observed for PTV (37% and 98%, respectively) and ritonavir (27% and 57%, respectively) and an increased AUC value was observed for DSV (42%). DSV  $C_{max}$  (16% increase) and OBV  $C_{max}$  and AUC ( $\leq 17\%$  change) were not affected. The mean  $t_{1/2}$  of PTV was 2-fold longer (13.7 vs. 5.5 h) in the presence of ketoconazole.

Ketoconazole  $C_{max}$  was not affected (15% increase), but ketoconazole AUC increased by 117%. The mean  $t_{1/2}$  of ketoconazole was 4-fold longer (15.7 vs. 3.3 h) in the presence of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV.

#### CYP3A and P-gp inducer (carbamazepine)

When the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV was coadministered with carbamazepine, decreased  $C_{max}$  and AUC values were observed for PTV (66% and 70%, respectively), DSV (55% and 70%, respectively) and ritonavir (83% and 87%, respectively), and to a lesser extent, OBV (31% and 30%, respectively) and DSV metabolite M1 (36% lower AUC).

Carbamazepine  $C_{max}$  and AUC values were not affected ( $\leq 17\%$  change), but the metabolite carbamazepine-10, 11-epoxide AUC value decreased by 25%.

#### CYP2C9 substrate (warfarin)

Coadministration with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV did not affect R- or S-warfarin exposures ( $\leq 12\%$  change in  $C_{max}$  and AUC) or PTV, ritonavir, OBV, DSV exposures ( $\leq 7\%$  change in  $C_{max}$  and AUC).

#### CYP2C19 substrate (omeprazole)

In the presence of the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV, the  $C_{max}$  and AUC values of omeprazole were reduced by 38%, but PTV, ritonavir, OBV, and DSV exposures were relatively unchanged ( $\leq 19\%$  change in  $C_{max}$  and AUC).

#### P-gp substrate (digoxin)

During coadministration with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV, values for digoxin  $C_{max}$  and AUC ( $\leq 16\%$  increase),  $C_{24}$  (1% change), and the fraction of unchanged drug eliminated in the urine (ratio of fraction excreted: 0.98) were essentially unchanged, as were PTV, ritonavir, OBV, and DSV exposures ( $\leq 8\%$  change in  $C_{max}$  and AUC).

#### OATP1B1/B3 substrate (pravastatin)

Coadministration of pravastatin with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV increased pravastatin  $C_{max}$  and AUC values by 37% and 82%, respectively, but did not affect PTV, ritonavir, OBV, or DSV exposures ( $\leq 13\%$  change in  $C_{max}$  and AUC).

#### OATP1B1/B3 and BCRP substrate (rosuvastatin)

Rosuvastatin exposures increased in the presence of the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV:  $C_{max}$  increased by 613% and AUC increased by 159%. PTV  $C_{max}$  and AUC increased by 59% and 52%, respectively, but ritonavir, OBV, and DSV exposures were unaffected ( $\leq 11\%$  change in  $C_{max}$  and AUC).

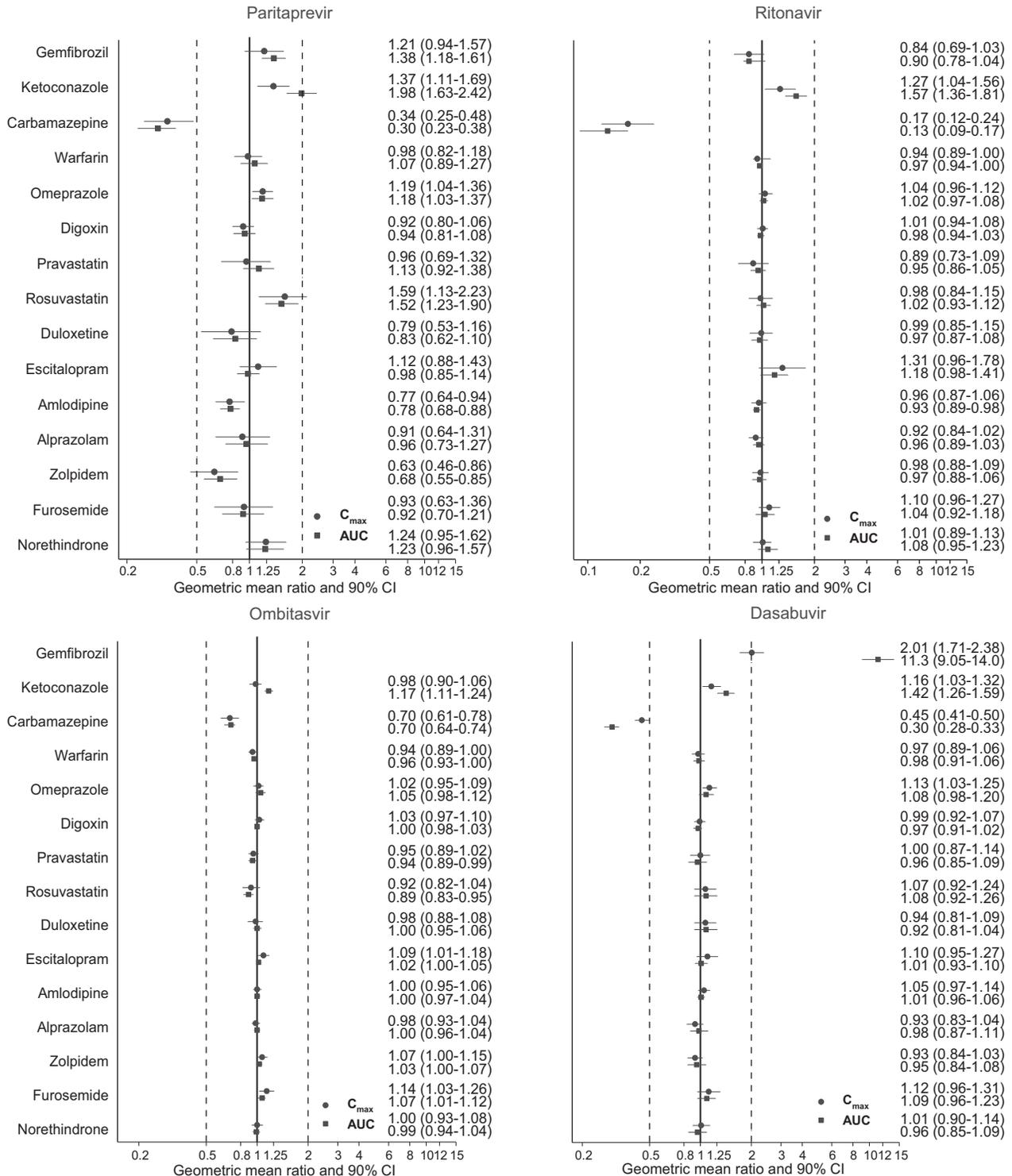


Fig. 2. Effect of concomitant medications on the C<sub>max</sub> and AUC values of PTV, ritonavir, OBV, and DSV (geometric mean ratio and 90% CI). GMR indicate C<sub>max</sub> and AUC values for coadministration of the medication with the 3D regimen vs. administration of the 3D regimen alone. For gemfibrozil, a PTV/r + DSV regimen was evaluated.

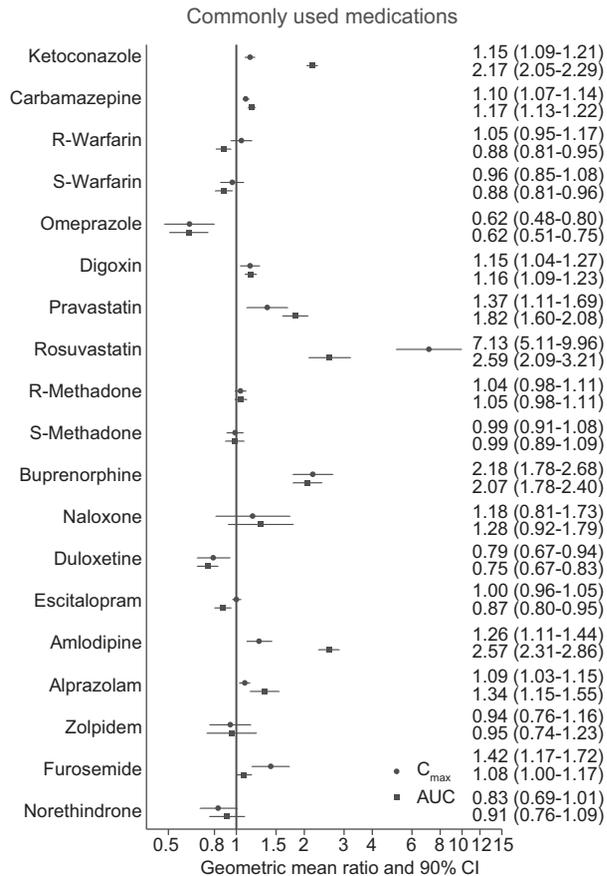
#### Interactions with commonly used medications

Effects of the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV on exposures of medications commonly used in HCV-infected patients are presented in Fig. 3, and effects of these commonly used medications on the exposures of the DAAs and ritonavir are presented in Fig. 2.

#### Addiction treatment medications (methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone)

Coadministration of the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV with methadone did not affect R- or S-methadone exposures ( $\leq 5\%$

## Research Article



**Fig. 3.** Effect of the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV on the C<sub>max</sub> and AUC values of concomitant medications (geometric mean ratio and 90% CI). GMR indicate C<sub>max</sub> and AUC values for coadministration of the medication with the 3D regimen vs. administration of the medication alone.

change in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC). Coadministration had a modest effect on naloxone exposures (18% and 28% increase in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC, respectively). In contrast, buprenorphine C<sub>max</sub> and AUC increased by 118% and 107%, respectively, and norbuprenorphine C<sub>max</sub> and AUC increased by 107% and 84%, respectively, upon coadministration. Results from pharmacodynamic measurements indicated no significant changes in pupil diameter, opioid withdrawal scale score, or desire for drug questionnaire score when methadone or buprenorphine/naloxone was administered with the 3D regimen, compared to methadone or buprenorphine/naloxone dosed alone.

Geometric mean values of C<sub>max</sub> and AUC for PTV, ritonavir, OBV, and DSV in these studies were comparable to those observed when the 3D regimen was administered alone in studies evaluating interactions with duloxetine, escitalopram, alprazolam, and furosemide.

#### Antidepressants (escitalopram and duloxetine)

In the presence of the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV, escitalopram exposures were not affected (no change in C<sub>max</sub> and 13% decrease in AUC); however, the AUC of metabolite S-desmethyl citalopram increased by 36%. Coadministration reduced duloxetine C<sub>max</sub> and AUC by 21% and 25%, respectively,

but did not affect DAA or ritonavir exposures, except for a 21% decrease in PTV C<sub>max</sub> in the presence of duloxetine and a 31% increase in ritonavir C<sub>max</sub> in the presence of escitalopram.

#### Antihypertensive calcium channel blocker (amlodipine)

Coadministration of amlodipine with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV increased amlodipine C<sub>max</sub> and AUC by 26% and 157%, respectively, and decreased PTV C<sub>max</sub> and AUC by 23% and 22%, respectively. Ritonavir, OBV, and DSV exposures were unaffected ( $\leq 7\%$  change in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC).

#### Anxiolytic/sleep aid (alprazolam and zolpidem)

When coadministered with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV, zolpidem exposures did not change ( $\leq 6\%$  decrease in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC), alprazolam C<sub>max</sub> was not affected (9% increase), and alprazolam AUC increased by 34%. DAA and ritonavir exposures were unaffected by alprazolam or zolpidem ( $\leq 9\%$  change in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC), except for 37% and 32% decreases in PTV C<sub>max</sub> and AUC, respectively, in the presence of zolpidem.

#### Diuretic (furosemide)

In the presence of the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV, furosemide C<sub>max</sub> increased by 42% though furosemide AUC was not affected (8% increase). Furosemide had minimal impact ( $\leq 14\%$  change in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC) on PTV, ritonavir, OBV, and DSV exposures.

#### Oral contraceptives

Three oral contraceptives were evaluated with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV in the same study: one containing progestin-only (norethindrone) and two containing a combination of EE and a progestin (norgestimate or norethindrone). EE plus norgestimate was also administered with PTV/r and OBV (without DSV). Enrollment in the EE plus norgestimate arms was stopped due to safety concerns after enrolling only three subjects in the OBV, PTV/r, and DSV regimen and six subjects in the regimen without DSV. Data from these nine subjects were combined for analyses.

Coadministration of the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV with norethindrone did not affect norethindrone, ritonavir, OBV, or DSV exposures ( $\leq 17\%$  change in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC), but increased PTV C<sub>max</sub> and AUC by 24% and 23%, respectively.

Norelgestromin, a metabolite of norgestimate, C<sub>max</sub> and AUC values increased by 101% and 160%, respectively, and norgestrel, another metabolite of norgestimate, C<sub>max</sub> and AUC values increased by 126% and 154%, respectively. Coadministration did not affect exposures of EE ( $\leq 16\%$  change in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC) or OBV ( $\leq 5\%$  change in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC), but decreased PTV and ritonavir exposures by up to 34% and decreased DSV exposures by approximately 52%.

For EE plus norethindrone, coadministration with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV did not affect EE C<sub>max</sub> (17% increase), but increased EE AUC by 22%. Similarly, norethindrone C<sub>max</sub> was not affected (12% increase), but AUC was increased by 29%. Since the study was stopped prior to availability of steady-state interaction data, these results are based on data available following the first day of co-dosing.

*T<sub>max</sub>, T<sub>1/2</sub> and DSV metabolite M1 pharmacokinetics*

Across the 13 studies,  $T_{max}$  and  $t_{1/2}$  (where calculated) values for the interacting drugs or DAAs were not affected in a meaningful way, except in the ketoconazole and gemfibrozil studies, as described earlier. In addition, DSV metabolite M1 exposures mirrored DSV exposures except for the interaction with gemfibrozil, in which DSV exposures increased and DSV M1 exposures decreased, and the interaction with carbamazepine, where DSV M1 exposures decreased to a lesser extent than DSV exposures.

*Safety*

There were no serious adverse events with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV in any of the studies. In studies other than the oral contraceptives study discussed below, 2 subjects discontinued study drug due to an adverse event: one due to aspartate aminotransferase (AST) elevation and one due to pruritus. The adverse event of AST elevation occurred in a subject who received a single 10 mg dose of escitalopram on Study Days 1 and 21 and the 3D regimen on Study Days 7 through 21. The maximum increase in AST (199 U/L) occurred on Day 21, at which time the subject was discontinued from study drug. AST levels returned to normal on Day 26. The adverse event of pruritus occurred on Study Day 1, 3 h after the subject received a single dose of PTV/r plus DSV in the gemfibrozil study. Study drug was discontinued, the subject was treated with oral diphenhydramine, and the event resolved on Study Day 6.

In the oral contraceptive study, among subjects who received the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV and norethindrone, no subject prematurely discontinued study drug or experienced Grade 2 or greater alanine aminotransferase (ALT) elevations. In subjects who received EE plus norgestimate or norethindrone, 5 of 21 subjects experienced Grade 3/4 ALT elevations. Four of the five subjects with these adverse events prematurely discontinued study drug and the fifth subject (on EE plus norethindrone) discontinued study drug when the study arm was stopped on Day 15. The ALT elevations in these subjects normalized after dosing was stopped. In all of these subjects, the ALT elevations were asymptomatic and there were no concurrent bilirubin elevations  $\geq 2$  times the upper limit of normal.

Across studies, no clinically meaningful changes in vital signs values, electrocardiogram parameters, or other laboratory values were observed.

**Discussion**

The potential for interactions with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV was ascertained from mechanistic, *in vivo* evaluations using probe substrates/inhibitors/inducers and evaluations of medications likely to be coprescribed in HCV-infected patients. Evaluations were conducted with the DAA combination regimen, rather than with the individual DAAs, to provide findings that would be clinically relevant.

Lower and higher doses of PTV, OBV, and DSV have been evaluated in HCV-infected subjects that confirm that the changes in exposures observed with comedications (except carbamazepine and gemfibrozil) in the current studies are not clinically meaningful. The maximum changes in PTV exposures were observed with ketoconazole (~100% higher) and zolpidem (~40% lower).

In Phase 2 studies, lower (100 mg) and higher (200 or 250 mg) doses of PTV have been shown to have comparable efficacy and acceptable safety profiles [15,16]. These doses provided exposures 55% lower (100 mg), 93% higher (200 mg), and 250% higher (250 mg) than those observed with the 150 mg PTV dose administered [17].

Changes in OBV exposures in the presence of the concomitant medications ranged from 11% lower with rosuvastatin to 17% higher with ketoconazole. OBV doses of 5 mg to 200 mg have been evaluated with peg-interferon plus ribavirin for 12 weeks [18]. The safety and efficacy profiles across this 5-fold lower and 8-fold higher range of exposures were comparable to those observed with the 25 mg dose of OBV.

Changes in DSV exposures ranged from 8% lower with duloxetine to 42% higher with ketoconazole. DSV doses of 300 mg BID to 800 mg BID have also been evaluated with peg-interferon plus ribavirin for 12 weeks [19,20]. DSV exposures across these doses ranged from 25% lower to 100% higher than those in the current studies and no changes in safety or efficacy were observed.

No dose adjustment is required for the DAAs based on the drug interactions discussed in this report. Carbamazepine and gemfibrozil are contraindicated with the OBV, PTV/r, and DSV regimen.

For the interacting medications, the clinical relevance of the magnitude of interaction was determined based on data from package inserts, regulatory documents, or literature. Dosing recommendations for medications evaluated in these studies and other medications with similar metabolic/transporter pathways were developed (Tables 3 and 4) and are discussed below.

*Mechanism-based drug interactions*

In the drug-drug interaction study with the potent CYP3A (and P-gp) inhibitor, ketoconazole, only minimal to modest increases in DAA or ritonavir exposures were observed. Though no dose adjustments for the DAAs are required, ketoconazole doses should be limited to 200 mg per day or less, as ketoconazole AUC values increased by 117%. The CYP2C8 inhibitor, gemfibrozil, significantly increased DSV exposures and coadministration of gemfibrozil and similar strong CYP2C8 inhibitors is contraindicated.

Carbamazepine, a CYP3A inducer, decreased PTV, ritonavir, and DSV exposures by 55% to 87%. Hence, carbamazepine and other strong CYP3A inducers are contraindicated with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV due to the potential for loss of antiviral efficacy.

Exposures of the CYP2C19 substrate, omeprazole, decreased when omeprazole was administered with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV, indicating the regimen had a mild inductive effect on CYP2C19. Though *a priori* dose modification is not required for omeprazole or other CYP2C19 substrates, higher doses should be considered if clinically indicated. Results from the study with the CYP2C9 substrate warfarin suggest that the 3D regimen does not induce or inhibit CYP2C9.

*In vitro* data suggest that PTV, ritonavir, and DSV are potential inhibitors of P-gp [12]. However, results from the study with digoxin suggest this is not the case *in vivo*.

*In vitro* data also indicate that PTV, ritonavir, and DSV are BCRP inhibitors, and that PTV is an OATP1B1/B3 inhibitor [12]. Accordingly, exposures of pravastatin (OATP1B1/B3 substrate) and rosuvastatin (OATP1B1/B3 plus BCRP substrate) showed

## Research Article

**Table 3. Dosing recommendations from mechanism-based drug-drug interactions.**

Mechanism evaluated	Probe substrate, inhibitor, or inducer	Recommendation when coadministered with the 3D regimen
CYP2C8 and OATP1B1 inhibition	Gemfibrozil*	Strong CYP2C8 inhibitor, gemfibrozil, is contraindicated
CYP3A and P-gp inhibition	Ketoconazole	Limit ketoconazole and itraconazole doses to $\leq 200$ mg per day. Lower doses are recommended for posaconazole
CYP3A and P-gp induction	Carbamazepine	Carbamazepine and other CYP3A inducers (e.g., phenytoin, phenobarbital, rifampin) are contraindicated
CYP2C9 inhibition	Warfarin	No dose adjustment required for warfarin. No interaction expected for other CYP2C9 substrates (e.g., NSAIDs including celecoxib and ibuprofen and antidiabetics including glimepiride, glipizide, and tolbutamide)
CYP2C19 inhibition/induction and effect of acid reducing agents	Omeprazole	No <i>a priori</i> dose adjustment required; increase dose if clinically indicated for omeprazole and other CYP2C19 substrates (e.g., lansoprazole, esomeprazole, pantoprazole)
P-gp inhibition	Digoxin	No dose adjustment required for digoxin. No interaction expected for other P-gp substrates (e.g., talinolol)
OATP1B1/B3 and BCRP inhibition	Pravastatin	Reduce pravastatin dose by half / do not exceed 40 mg/day; lower doses recommended for other OATP1B1/B3 substrates (e.g., angiotensin II receptor blockers including valsartan, olmesartan, and telmisartan and statins including pitavastatin and fluvastatin)
	Rosuvastatin	Limit rosuvastatin dose to $\leq 10$ mg per day; lower doses recommended for other BCRP substrates (e.g., sulfasalazine)

\*Evaluated with a PTV/r + DSV regimen only.

**Table 4. Dosing recommendations based on drug-drug interactions with commonly used medications.**

Drug class	Medication	Recommendation when coadministered with the 3D regimen
Anti-addictives	Methadone	No dose adjustment
	Buprenorphine	No dose adjustment
	Naloxone	No dose adjustment
Antidepressants	Escitalopram	No dose adjustment for escitalopram or citalopram
	Duloxetine	No dose adjustment for duloxetine, fluoxetine, paroxetine or desipramine
Antihypertensives	Amlodipine	Reduce amlodipine dose by half. Decrease doses of other calcium channel blockers (e.g., nifedipine, verapamil, and diltiazem) with clinical monitoring. Avoid felodipine and nisoldipine
Anxiolytics/sleep aids	Zolpidem	No dose adjustment
	Alprazolam	No dose adjustment; clinical monitoring recommended
Diuretics	Furosemide	No dose adjustment; clinical monitoring recommended
Oral contraceptives	Norethindrone only	No dose adjustment
	Ethinyl estradiol containing*	Contraindicated

\*Ethinyl estradiol plus norgestimate interactions were evaluated with PTV/r, OBV  $\pm$  DSV regimens.

clinically significant increases. Greater increases in rosuvastatin exposures (159% to 613%) compared to pravastatin exposures (37% to 82%) are likely due to the combined effect of OATP1B1/B3 plus BCRP inhibition for rosuvastatin compared with OATP1B1/B3 inhibition for pravastatin. Based on the magnitude of the interactions, the pravastatin dose should be reduced by half or limited to 40 mg and the rosuvastatin dose should be limited to  $\leq 10$  mg per day when coadministered with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV.

#### Interactions with other commonly used medications

##### Addiction treatment medications

Patients receiving methadone or buprenorphine/naloxone do not require dose adjustments of these drugs when coadministered

with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV. Although increases in exposures of buprenorphine and its metabolite, norbuprenorphine, were observed, these increases did not translate into pharmacodynamics changes.

##### Antidepressants

Exposures of escitalopram were minimally affected upon coadministration and no dose modification is needed. The 21% to 25% decreases in duloxetine exposures do not necessitate dose adjustment, as decreases in duloxetine exposures of up to 30% are not expected to affect efficacy [21].

##### Antihypertensives

Coadministration of the calcium channel blocker, amlodipine, with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV increased

amlodipine exposures by 26% to 157%, consistent with ritonavir-mediated inhibition of the metabolism of this CYP3A substrate. A 50% reduction in amlodipine dose is recommended when administered with the 3D regimen.

#### Anxiolytic/sleep aid

Zolpidem exposures were not affected by coadministration, but alprazolam AUC showed a modest 34% increase when alprazolam was coadministered with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV. No *a priori* dose adjustments are needed for alprazolam, although clinical monitoring is recommended.

#### Diuretics

Although the total exposure (AUC) of furosemide was minimally affected by coadministration with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV, peak exposure ( $C_{max}$ ) increased by 42%. Based on this modest interaction and the well characterized safety profile of furosemide, no *a priori* dose adjustment is needed, but clinical monitoring is recommended.

#### Oral contraceptives

EE-containing products are contraindicated with the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV due to ALT elevations. The mechanism for this pharmacodynamic interaction is not clear. The progestin-only contraceptive, norethindrone, can be administered with the 3D regimen.

#### Conclusions

A comprehensive evaluation of drug-drug interactions for the 3D regimen of OBV, PTV/r, and DSV and 20 medications was conducted in 13 separate studies. These investigations revealed that the majority of the commonly used medications can be coadministered with the 3D regimen without dose adjustment. Gemfibrozil and carbamazepine are contraindicated with the 3D regimen because they alter exposures of the DAAs. Concomitant administration of EE-containing contraceptives is contraindicated due to safety reasons though progestin-based oral contraceptives can be coadministered. Finally, no dose adjustment is necessary for the 3D regimen when coadministered with any of the evaluated medications that are not otherwise contraindicated.

#### Conflict of interest

All authors are employees of AbbVie, Inc. and may hold stock or stock options.

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#### Authors' contributions

Rajeev M. Menon contributed to study concept and design, analysis and interpretation of the data, and drafting of the

manuscript. Prajakta S. Badri, Tianli Wang, Akshanth R. Polepally, JiuHong Zha, and Amit Khatri, contributed to study concept and design, analysis and interpretation of the data, and review of the manuscript. Haoyu Wang and Beibei Hu contributed to statistical analysis and interpretation of data and review of the manuscript. Eoin P. Coakley and Thomas J. Podsadecki contributed to study concept and design, interpretation of the data, and revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content. Walid M. Awni contributed to study concept and design, interpretation of the data, and revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content. Sandeep Dutta contributed to study concept and design, statistical analysis, interpretation of the data, drafting of the manuscript, and revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content.

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