

May, 2026 No.26-01

IMPORTANT

Dear Healthcare Professionals Letter of Rapid Safety Communication BLUE LETTER

Serious Hepatic Dysfunction caused by TAVNEOS® Capsules 10 mg

Hepatic dysfunction has been clearly listed in the “Clinically significant adverse reactions” section for precautions in the package insert of TAVNEOS® Capsules 10 mg for health care professionals since its launch in 2022. Cases of serious hepatic dysfunction, including vanishing bile duct syndrome, have been reported in patients using this drug, and 20 fatal cases have been reported in Japan ^{Note 1)} (the estimated number of patients using this drug in Japan is 8,503^{Note 2)}). To address the situation, it has been decided that a “Warnings” section should be newly added for precautions to the package insert of this drug to revise the “Important Precautions.”

Note 1) Number of cases based on our company safety database as of April 27, 2026, including those with an unknown causal relationship to this drug

Note 2) Estimated annual number of users of this drug from February 2025 to January 2026

For both newly initiated patients and those continuing treatment, healthcare professionals are requested to pay careful attention to the following points when using this drug.

Please pay attention to the development of serious hepatic dysfunction including vanishing bile duct syndrome.

In most cases, hepatic dysfunction has been reported in the first 3 months of treatment. For early detection of hepatic dysfunction and prevention of worsening of symptoms, please pay careful attention to the following points.

- Perform hepatic function tests at the following timings:
 - Before the start of treatment
 - During the first 3 months of treatment: at least once every 2 weeks
 - During the next 3 months: at least once every 4 weeks
 - After 6 months of treatment: Periodically
- Take appropriate actions if any of the following findings are observed. Immediately discontinue treatment with this drug if vanishing bile duct syndrome is suspected.

Finding	Action
ALT or AST >3 times upper limit of normal	Discontinue treatment with this drug
ALT or AST >8 times upper limit of normal	
ALT or AST >5 times upper limit of normal for more than 2 weeks	
Total bilirubin >2 times upper limit of normal	
ALP ≥2 times upper limit of normal	
Presence of signs or symptoms of hepatic dysfunction such as jaundice and pruritus	

- Carefully observe the patient’s condition and pay attention to the development of subjective and objective symptoms. Instruct the patient to consult a physician or pharmacist immediately if noticing any abnormalities.

Note: “Warnings”, “Careful Administration”, “Important Precautions”, and “Adverse Reactions” have been revised.

Refer to the last page for contact information.

【Summary of Vanishing Bile Duct Syndrome 1 (Recovering case)】

Patient Background		Clinical course and treatment	
Sex Age Weigh	Reason for use [complication]		
Female 70's 34.4 kg	Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Remission induction) [Hypertension] [Spinal osteoarthritis] [Sudden hearing loss]	Day 1 of administration	Started to receive this drug (30 mg twice daily).
		Less than 1 month of administration	Noticed subjective symptoms such as malaise, but observed them at home.
		Day 34 of administration: (date of onset, date of discontinuation) Day 6 of onset	Had increases in bilirubin and hepatobiliary enzymes, which suggested drug-induced liver disorder. Had jaundice and malaise. Discontinued this drug and sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim. Still had increased bilirubin, with prominent jaundice. Started to receive ursodeoxycholic acid 900 mg/day for drug-induced liver disorder.
		Day 8 of onset	Had no dilation of the bile duct on contrast-enhanced CT. Underwent liver biopsy. Started to receive STRONGER NEO-MINOPHAGEN C Inj. Syringe 60 mL/day for the above condition.
		Day 10 of onset	Underwent simple plasma exchange (FFP 24 units) due to prolonged high bilirubin levels (Total bilirubin: 23.0 mg/dL). Completed with no adverse events.
		Day 13 of onset	Total bilirubin level was improved from 23.0 to 16.3 mg/dL with plasma exchange. Jaundice and pruritus slightly improved.
		Day 15 of onset	Liver biopsy results: Presence of cholestasis in hepatocytes or bile canaliculi. Presence of inflammatory cell infiltration mainly consisting of lymphocytes, with disappearance of the interlobular bile duct and bile duct-like reaction, in the portal region. These findings are consistent with cholestatic drug-induced liver injury when the medical history is taken into consideration, and disappearance of the interlobular bile duct suggests the pathology of vanishing bile duct syndrome. No neoplastic lesions cannot be found, with no findings suggestive of malignancy.
		Day 16 of onset	The diagnosis of vanishing bile duct syndrome was made based on the liver biopsy results.
		Day 17 of onset	Continued to receive prednisolone for the treatment of drug-induced liver disorder, at a dose of 30 mg/day, which was decreased to 20 mg/day. Underwent simple plasma exchange (FFP 24 units). Completed with no adverse events.
		Day 20 of onset	Total bilirubin level was improved from 16.3 to 8.2 mg/dL with plasma exchange. Jaundice, pruritus, and malaise also tended to improve.
		Day 23 of onset	Discontinued STRONGER NEO-MINOPHAGEN C Inj. Syringe because of further improvement of total bilirubin. Continued ursodeoxycholic acid only.
		Day 32 of onset Day 37 of onset	Prednisolone dose was reduced to 15 mg/day. Total bilirubin level was improved to 2.4 mg/dL. The next day, ursodeoxycholic acid dose was reduced from 900 mg to 300 mg/day.
		Less than 2 months of onset	

Laboratory test value

Test item	(unit)	14 days after administration	34 days after administration (Date of onset/discontinuation)	Day 4 of onset	Day 8 of onset	Day 13 of onset	Day 23 of onset	Day 37 of onset
AST	[IU]/L	17	215	174	119	57	29	24
ALT	[IU]/L	15	635	401	345	122	50	30
γ-GTP	[IU]/L	29	1126	1339	1373	316	278	361
ALP	[IU]/L	71	536	487	537	202	188	243
T-Bil	mg/dL	-	5.5	9.9	23.8	16.3	6.3	2.4

-: No data available

Concomitant drugs (Suspected drug) : sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim, prednisolone, alfacalcidol, vonoprazan fumarate, amlodipine besylate, lemborexant, amphotericin B

[Summary of Vanishing Bile Duct Syndrome 2 (Fatal case)]

Patient Background									
Sex Age Weigh	Reason for use [complication]	Clinical course and treatment							
Male 60's 59 kg	Microscopic polyangiitis (Re-induction of remission at relapse) [Hypertension] [Dyslipidemia]	Day 1 of administration	Started to receive this drug (30 mg twice daily).						
		Day 46 of administration	Had orange urine.						
		Day 50 of administration (Date of onset/discontinuation)	Originally had normal hepatobiliary enzymes, but had increased biliary enzymes. Had minimal inflammatory response. Complained of hematuria. Developed drug-induced liver injury. Admitted to the hospital due to bilirubinuria and severe jaundice. Discontinued administration of this drug due to suspected drug-induced liver injury. Given the possibility of concurrent cholangitis, received ENBD drainage under ERCP. Started to receive cefoperazone sodium/sulbactam sodium.						
		Day 4 of onset	Started to receive ursodeoxycholic acid 300 mg three times daily for drug-induced liver injury.						
		Day 7 of onset	Underwent liver biopsy.						
		Day 8 of onset	Started to receive Inchinkoto (Japanese traditional herbal medicine) 2.5 g three times daily for drug-induced liver injury.						
		Day 18 of onset	Liver biopsy results: Presence of inflammation in the portal area, with decreased bile duct and cholestasis around the central vein. These findings are consistent with drug-induced liver injury, but other causes cannot be ruled out. Presence of bile duct loss. These findings are clinically and pathologically consistent with vanishing bile duct syndrome caused by TAVNEOS Capsules, which has been reported previously.						
		Day 20 of onset	Prednisolone dose was increased to 40 mg/day for drug-induced liver injury.						
		Day 28 of onset	Prednisolone dose was reduced to 30 mg/day due to suspected lung abscess.						
		Day 40 of onset	Supportive therapy with phenobarbital 120 mg once daily was added for drug-induced liver injury.						
		Day 48 of onset	Complications such as infections caused by Nocardia, etc. Prednisolone dose was reduced to 15 mg/day.						
		Day 53 of onset	Tested positive for cytomegalovirus antigen. Had pyrexia and diarrhea.						
		Day 56 of onset	Completed phenobarbital.						
		Day 59 of onset	Completed Inchinkoto.						
		Day 61 of onset	Switched prednisolone to prednisolone sodium succinate for injection 20 mg/day.						
		Day 62 of onset	Tested positive for cytomegalovirus antigen. Started to receive ganciclovir.						
		Day 63 of onset	Completed ursodeoxycholic acid.						
		Day 68 of onset	Despite supportive therapy, the condition continued to be aggravated, with an increased bilirubin level to approximately 20.						
		Day 71 of onset	Tested negative for cytomegalovirus antigen.						
		Day 83 of onset	Started to receive palliative care intervention, with administration of fentanyl citrate.						
			Liver disorder did not improve, and died from progressive multiple organ failure. Autopsy was performed. It revealed marked organ jaundice. This suggested decreased circulating blood flow due to hepatic failure.						
Laboratory test value									
Test item	(unit)	18 days after administration	41 days after administration	50 days after administration (Date of onset/discontinuation)	Day 18 of onset	Day 46 of onset	Day 67 of onset	Day 78 of onset	
AST	[IU]/L	17	-	134	36	84	86	57	
ALT	[IU]/L	42	25	442	91	92	30	31	
γ-GTP	[IU]/L	43	-	597	270	316	411	395	
ALP	[IU]/L	59	-	353	244	500	539	401	
T-Bil	mg/dL	0.8	-	7.9	19.4	27.6	24	20.1	
-: No data available									
Concomitant drugs (<u>Suspected drug</u>) : <u>prednisolone</u> , rituximab (recombinant), atovaquone, lansoprazole, repaglinide, alendronate sodium hydrate, lemborexant, ifenprodil tartrate, rosuvastatin calcium, mirabegron									

List of Fatal Cases of Hepatic Dysfunction

No.	Onset year/month	Age	Sex	Reason for use	Hepatic dysfunction-related adverse reaction (PT)	No. of days to onset	Other adverse events (PT) (<u>Underlined</u> : Events not related to this drug)
1	2022.10	70's	Female	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	45 days	Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia
2	2023.5	70's	Female	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	36 days	Hypercholesterolaemia, Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia, *multiple organ dysfunction syndrome
3	2023.7	70's	Female	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	28 days	*Shock haemorrhagic, ascites
4	2023.7	70's	Female	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	49 days	*Septic shock
5	2023.10	70's	Female	MPA	*Hepatic function abnormal	72 days	*Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, *acute kidney injury, <u>COVID-19</u>
6	2024.3	80's	Male	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	42 days	*Klebsiella bacteraemia, cytomegalovirus infection, emphysematous cystitis
7	2024.1	80's	Female	GPA	*Hepatic function abnormal	245 days	Pneumonia, gastrointestinal inflammation, hyperlipidaemia, *general physical health deterioration, *bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, *renal failure, *cytomegalovirus infection reactivation, *granulomatosis with polyangiitis, steroid diabetes, hyponatraemia, cognitive disorder, white blood cell count decreased
8	2022.11	90's	Female	MPA	*Hepatitis fulminant	27 days	<u>Herpes zoster</u>
9	2024.11	80's	Female	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	42 days	
10	2023.11	70's	Male	GPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	54 days	*Infection
11	2024.12	80's	Female	MPA	*Acute hepatic failure	27 days	*Sepsis
12	2025.1	70's	Female	MPA	*Drug-induced liver injury	43 days	*Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia
13	2024.12	70's	Male	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	78 days	*Pneumonia
14	2025.3	60's	Male	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	43 days	*Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome
15	2025.4	70's	Male	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome *Acute hepatic failure	77 days	Herpes zoster, *pneumonia
16	2025.5	80's	Female	MPA	*Drug-induced liver injury	28 days	*Staphylococcal infection, <u>neutrophil count decreased</u> , *peptic ulcer, *haematemesis, *bacterial sepsis, *cytomegalovirus infection
17	2025.7	80's	Male	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	55 days	
18*	2025.9	60's	Male	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	50 days	*Nocardiosis, *cytomegalovirus infection
19	2025.9	70's	Male	MPA	*Cholestasis	49 days	<u>Interstitial lung disease</u>
20	2025.8	70's	Male	MPA	*Vanishing bile duct syndrome	31 days	*Intestinal perforation, *pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia, *peritonitis

* Outcome: Death

MPA = microscopic polyangiitis, GPA = granulomatosis with polyangiitis

Adverse reaction/adverse event terms are described in preferred terms (PT) according to MedDRA/J Version 28.1.

*Case listed on Page 3

Revision of Precautions

Revision by the instruction from MHLW

Revised language is underlined.

Revision	Current
<p>1. Warnings <u>Serious hepatic dysfunction, including vanishing bile duct syndrome, may occur, and fatal cases have been reported. Patients should be carefully monitored through periodic hepatic function tests before and during treatment with this drug. If serious hepatic dysfunction is observed during treatment with this drug, appropriate measures, such as discontinuation of treatment with this drug, should be taken. [See 8.2, 9.3.1, and 11.1.1.]</u></p> <p>8. IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS</p> <p>8.1 (omitted)</p> <p>8.2 Since hepatic dysfunction may occur, <u>careful attention should be paid to the following points. In most cases, hepatic dysfunction has been reported in the first 3 months of treatment with this drug. [See 1., 9.3.1, and 11.1.1.]</u></p> <p>8.2.1 Patients should be closely monitored through hepatic function tests before the start of treatment with this drug, at least once every 2 weeks during the first 3 months of treatment, at least once every 4 weeks during the next 3 months of treatment, and periodically during treatment thereafter.</p> <p>8.2.2 If ALT or AST >3 times upper limit of normal is observed during treatment with this drug, treatment should be interrupted and patients should be assessed immediately. In addition, treatment with this drug should be discontinued in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ALT or AST >8 times upper limit of normal - ALT or AST >5 times upper limit of normal for more than 2 weeks - Total bilirubin >2 times upper limit of normal - ALP ≥2 times upper limit of normal - Presence of signs or symptoms of hepatic dysfunction such as jaundice and pruritus <p><u>Treatment with this drug should be discontinued immediately if vanishing bile duct syndrome is suspected.</u></p> <p>8.3 (omitted)</p> <p>9. PRECAUTIONS CONCERNING PATIENTS WITH SPECIFIC BACKGROUNDS</p> <p>9.3 Patients with Hepatic Impairment</p> <p>9.3.1 Patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh classification C)</p> <p>Since hepatic impairment may worsen, this drug should be administered with care while closely monitoring the patient's condition. This drug is mainly metabolized in the liver. No clinical studies have been conducted in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh classification C). [See 1., 8.2, 11.1.1, and 16.4.]</p> <p>11. ADVERSE REACTIONS</p> <p>11.1 Clinically Significant Adverse Reactions</p> <p>11.1.1 Hepatic dysfunction</p> <p>Serious hepatobiliary disorders (2.4%), such as hepatocellular injury (0.6%) and hepatitis cholestatic (0.6%), serious liver function test increased (1.2%), and vanishing bile duct syndrome (frequency unknown) may occur. [See 1., 8.2, and 9.3.1.]</p>	<p>(N/A)</p> <p>8. IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS</p> <p>8.1 (omitted)</p> <p>8.2 Since hepatic dysfunction may occur, <u>patients should be closely monitored through hepatic function tests before the start of treatment with this drug and periodically during treatment. [See 9.3.1 and 11.1.1.]</u></p> <p>(N/A)</p> <p>8.3 (omitted)</p> <p>9. PRECAUTIONS CONCERNING PATIENTS WITH SPECIFIC BACKGROUNDS</p> <p>9.3 Patients with Hepatic Impairment</p> <p>9.3.1 Patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh classification C)</p> <p>Since hepatic impairment may worsen, this drug should be administered with care while closely monitoring the patient's condition. This drug is mainly metabolized in the liver. No clinical studies have been conducted in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh classification C). [See 8.2, 11.1.1, and 16.4.]</p> <p>11. ADVERSE REACTIONS</p> <p>11.1 Clinically Significant Adverse Reactions</p> <p>11.1.1 Hepatic dysfunction</p> <p>Serious hepatobiliary disorders (2.4%), such as hepatocellular injury (0.6%) and hepatitis cholestatic (0.6%), serious liver function test increased (1.2%), and vanishing bile duct syndrome (frequency unknown) may occur. [See 8.2 and 9.3.1.]</p>

N/A: Not Applicable, because the section is not included in the current package insert or no corresponding language is included in the section.

The latest electronic package insert will be posted on the company's website "KISSEI Medical Navi" (<https://med.kissei.co.jp/>) and the PMDA's website "Pharmaceutical Information" (<https://www.pmda.go.jp/safety/info-services/drugs/0001.html>). It can also be accessed via the "Package Insert Navigation" application from the GS1 barcode on the right.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Drug Information Center, Kissei Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Toll-free number: 0120-007-622

Reception hours*: 9:00 to 17:40 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and our company holidays)

*Outside of the above hours, incoming calls will go to voicemail.