TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE:
Final text for addition to *The International Pharmacopoeia* (June 2010)

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![Chemical structure of Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate](image)

C_{19}H_{30}N_{5}O_{10}P,C_{4}H_{4}O_{4}

**Relative molecular mass.** 635.5

**Chemical name.** \[\{(1R)-2(6-Amino-9H-purin-9-yl)-1-methylethoxy\} methyl\] phosphonate, bis(isopropyloxy carbonyloxymethyl ester), fumarate (1:1); CAS Reg.No. 202138-50-9.

**Description.** White to almost-white, crystalline powder.

**Solubility.** Slightly soluble in water, soluble in methanol, very slightly soluble in dichloromethane.

**Category.** Antiretroviral (Nucleotide Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor).

**Storage.** Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate should be kept in a tightly closed container, protected from light, and stored at a temperature between 2 and 8°C.

**Additional information.** Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate may exhibit polymorphism.
Requirements

Definition. Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate contains not less than 98.5 percent and not more than 101.0 percent of tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (C_{19}H_{30}N_{5}O_{10}P,C_{4}H_{4}O_{4}), calculated with reference to the anhydrous substance.

Manufacture. The production method is validated to ensure that the substance, if tested, would comply with:

- a limit of not more than 5 ppm for the mutagenic impurity 9-propenyladenine (impurity K), which may be a synthesis related substance, using a suitable method, and

- a limit of not more than 1.0% for the tenofovir disoproxil (S)-enantiomer (impurity G), using a suitable chiral chromatographic method.

Identity tests

Either tests A, B and C or test D may be applied.

A. Carry out test A.1 or, where UV detection is not available, test A.2.

A.1 Carry out the test as described under 1.14.1 Thin-layer chromatography, using silica gel R6 as the coating substance and a mixture of 67 volumes of dichloromethane R, 20 volumes of acetonitrile R, 10 volumes of methanol R and 3 volumes of ammonia (~260 g/l) TS as the mobile phase. Apply separately to the plate 5 µl of each of 2 solutions in methanol containing (A) 10 mg of the test substance per ml and (B) 10 mg of tenofovir disoproxil fumarate RS per ml. After removing the plate from the chromatographic chamber, allow it to dry exhaustively in air or in a current of air. Examine the chromatogram in ultraviolet light (254 nm).

The principal spot obtained with solution A corresponds in position, appearance, and intensity with that obtained with solution B.

A.2 Carry out the test as described under 1.14.1 Thin-layer chromatography, using the conditions described above under test A.1 but using silica gel R5 as the coating substance. Stain the plate with iodine vapour and examine the chromatogram in daylight.

The principal spot obtained with solution A corresponds in position, appearance, and intensity with that obtained with solution B.

B. Carry out test B.1 or, where UV detection is not available, test B.2.
B.1 Carry out the test as described under 1.14.1 Thin-layer chromatography, using silica
gel R6 as the coating substance and a mixture of 50 volumes of heptane R, 30
volumes of glacial acetic acid R and 20 volumes of dichloromethane R as the mobile
phase. Apply separately to the plate 5 µl of each of the following 2 solutions in
ethanol R. For solution (A) use 10 mg of the test substance per ml and for solution
(B) use 2 mg of fumaric acid R per ml. Develop the plate in an unsaturated tank over
a path of 10 cm. After removing the plate from the chromatographic chamber, allow it
to dry exhaustively in air or in a current of air. Examine the chromatogram in
ultraviolet light (254 nm).

One of the principal spots obtained with solution A corresponds in position,
appearance, and intensity with that obtained with solution B.

B.2 Carry out the test as described under 1.14.1 Thin-layer chromatography, using the
conditions described above under test B.1 but using silica gel R5 as the coating
substance. Spray lightly with a 16 g/l solution of potassium permanganate R and
examine the chromatogram in daylight.

The principal spot obtained with solution A corresponds in position, appearance, and
intensity with that obtained with solution B.

C. The absorption spectrum (1.6) of a 25 µg/ml solution, when observed between 220 nm
and 320 nm, exhibits a maximum at about 261 nm; the specific absorbance (Å)
is 230 to 250.

D. Carry out the examination as described under 1.7 Spectrophotometry in the infrared
region. The infrared absorption spectrum is concordant with the spectrum obtained from
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate RS or with the reference spectrum of tenofovir disoproxil
fumarate. If the spectra thus obtained are not concordant, repeat the test using the
residues obtained by separately dissolving the test substance and tenofovir disoproxil
fumarate RS in a small amount of methanol R and evaporating to dryness. The infrared
absorption spectrum is concordant with the spectrum obtained from tenofovir disoproxil
fumarate RS.

**Specific optical rotation (1.4).** Use a 10.0 mg/ml solution in hydrochloric acid (0.1 mol/l) VS
and calculate with reference to the anhydrous substance; $[\alpha]_D^{20^\circ} = -20.0^\circ$ to $-26.0^\circ$.

**Water.** Determine as described under 2.8 Determination of water by the Karl Fischer method,
Method A. Use about 1.0 g of the substance; the water content is not more than 10 mg/g.
**Heavy metals.** Use 1.0 g in 30 ml of methanol R for the preparation of the test solution as described under 2.2.3 Limit test for heavy metals, Procedure 2; determine the heavy metals content according to Method A; not more than 20 µg/g.

**Sulfated ash (2.3).** Not more than 1.0 mg/g.

**Related substances.** Carry out the test as described under 1.14.4 High-performance liquid chromatography, using a stainless steel column (25 cm x 4.6 mm) packed with base-deactivated particles of silica gel the surface of which has been modified with chemically bonded octadecylsilyl groups (5 μm).\(^1\)

The mobile phases for the gradient elution consist of a mixture of Mobile phase A and Mobile phase B, using the following conditions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (min)</th>
<th>Mobile phase A (% v/v)</th>
<th>Mobile phase B (% v/v)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Isocratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-40</td>
<td>81 to 49</td>
<td>19 to 51</td>
<td>Linear gradient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-60</td>
<td>49 to 0</td>
<td>51 to 100</td>
<td>Linear gradient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-65</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Isocratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-70</td>
<td>0 to 81</td>
<td>100 to 19</td>
<td>Return to initial composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-80</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Re-equilibration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prepare the phosphates buffer pH 6.0 by dissolving 3.50 g of potassium dihydrogen phosphate R and 1.70 g of tetrabutyl ammonium hydrogen sulfate R in 800 ml of water R, adjust the pH to 6.0 by adding sodium hydroxide (1 mol/l) VS and dilute to 1000 ml with water R.

After preparation, keep the solutions at about 6°C, or use an injector with cooling.

Prepare the following solutions using water R as diluent. For solution (1) use 1.0 mg of the test substance per ml. For solution (2) dilute a suitable volume of solution (1) to obtain a concentration of 5 μg of tenofovir disoproxil fumarate per ml. For solution (3) use 0.2 mg of fumaric acid R per ml.

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\(^1\) Hypersil BDS column was found suitable.
For the system suitability test: prepare solution (4) by heating solution (1) carefully in a boiling water-bath for 20 minutes.

Operate with a flow rate of 1.0 ml per minute. As a detector use an ultraviolet spectrophotometer set at a wavelength of 260 nm.

Maintain the column temperature at 30 °C.

Inject 20 µl of solution (4). The test is not valid unless the resolution between the principal peak (retention time about 40 minutes) and the peak due to the tenofovir monoester (with a relative retention of about 0.5) is not less than 25.

Inject alternatively 20 µl each of solutions (1) and (2) and (3). In the chromatogram obtained with solution (1), the following peak is eluted at the following relative retention, with reference to tenofovir (retention time about 40 minutes): fumarate about 0.15.

In the chromatogram obtained with solution (1), the area of any peak due to the tenofovir monoester (impurity A) is not greater than twice the area of the principal peak obtained with solution (2) (1.0%); the area of any other impurity peak is not greater than the area of the principal peak obtained with solution (2) (0.5%) and the areas of not more than two such peaks are greater than 0.4 times the area of the principal peak obtained with solution (2) (0.2%). The sum of the areas of all peaks, other than the principal peak, is not greater than 5 times the area of the principal peak obtained with solution (2) (2.5%). Disregard any peak corresponding to the peak obtained in the chromatogram with solution (3) and any peak with an area less than 0.1 times the area of the principal peak in the chromatogram obtained with solution (2) (0.05%).

**Assay**

Dissolve 0.40 g, accurately weighed, in 30 ml of glacial acetic acid R1 and titrate with perchloric acid (0.1 mol/l) VS, determine the end point potentiometrically as described under 2.6 Non-aqueous titration Method A. Each ml of perchloric acid (0.1 mol/l) VS is equivalent to 63.55 mg of tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (C_{19}H_{30}N_{5}O_{10}P,C_{4}H_{4}O_{4}).

**Impurities**

A. [2-(6-amo-no-purin-9-yI)-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid monoisopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester (tenofovir monoester)

B. [2-(6-amo-no-purin-9-yI)-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid isopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester methyl ester and diastereomer
C. [2-(6-amino-purin-9-yl)-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid isopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester-methoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester, fumarate

D. [2-(6-amino-purin-9-yl)-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid isopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester isopropyl ester

E. [2-(6-isopropoxycarbonylamino-purin-9-yl)-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid monoisoisopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester

F. [2-[6-[[9-[2-(hydroxy-isopropoxycarbonyloxyphosphonylmethoxy)-propyl]-9H-purin-6ylamino]-methyl]-amino]-purin-9-yl]-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid monoisopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester

G. [(1S)-2-(6-Amino-9H-purin-9-yl)-1-methylthoxy] methyl] phosphonate, bis(isopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester) (tenofovir disoproxil (S)-enantiomer), [see under Manufacture]

H. [2-(6-amino-purin-9-yl)-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid isopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester propoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester, fumarate

I. [2-[6-[[9-[2-(Bis-isopropoxycarbonyloxy methoxy phosphonyl-methoxy)propyl]-9H-purin-6-ylamino]methyl]amino]-purin-9-yl]-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid monoisopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester (mixed dimer)


K. 6-amino-9(1-propenyl)-9H-purine (9-propenyl adenine), [see under Manufacture]

L. [2-(6-amino-purin-9-yl)-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid diethylcarbamoyloxymethylester isopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester, fumarate

M. [2-(6-amino-purin-9-yl)-1-methyl-ethoxymethyl]-phosphonic acid ethoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester isopropoxycarbonyloxymethyl ester, fumarate

[Note from the Secretariat: structures of impurities to be added and chemical names to be confirmed]

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