Vapreotide

Also called: RC-160; BMY 41606; Sanvar; Octastatin

What it is

A somatostatin analogue tested for variceal bleeding (RC-160, Sanvar); not FDA-approved.

Approval status

In Clinical Trials. No FDA approval: an openFDA Drugs@FDA search for vapreotide returned no records (October 3, 2026). Developed by Debiopharm under licence from Tulane University, with phase 3 trials in variceal bleeding (PubMed 16047258, 12952505).

Dosing, as printed in the page's Recommended Dosing box

Used in human trials

No manufacturer dose exists for this use: these are amounts given in published trials, not recommendations.

Protocol and source	Dose	Frequency	Duration	Route
Trial: acute variceal bleeding in cirrhosis, before endoscopy **[Human study]** PMID 11136956	50 µg bolus, then 50 µg/h	Continuous infusion	5 days	Intravenous
Trial: healthy volunteers **[Human study]** PMID 10190655	1.5 mg a day	Continuous infusion	1 week	Subcutaneous

Educational information, not medical advice. Each dose above is tagged with its source: an approved label, a published human study, animal data, or amounts reported by users. None is a recommendation for you. An unapproved compound has no established safe or effective human dose, and products sold for "research use only" are not made or tested for people. Talk to a doctor before acting on anything on this site, including before you start, stop or change any medicine or dose.

Key human evidence

The first 3 of the 7 human studies carded on the page (13 study cards in all):

• **Early vapreotide for variceal bleeding** (Human, 2001). In 196 patients with cirrhosis, active bleeding at endoscopy was 31% on vapreotide against 46% on placebo (P = 0.03), and survival with bleeding control over 5 days was 66% against 50% (P = 0.02). **PMID 11136956**

• **No benefit after pancreatectomy** (Human, 2003). In a double-blind trial of 275 patients having elective pancreatic resection, pancreas-related complications occurred in 30.4% on vapreotide and 26.4% on placebo, and other complications in 40% and 42%; neither difference was significant. **PMID 12691930**

• **Gut effects in healthy volunteers** (Human, 1999). In a crossover trial in 10 healthy men, a week of continuous vapreotide (1.5 mg a day under the skin) cut meal-stimulated gallbladder ejection to 18-20% against 57-62% on placebo; its rise in gastric pH faded from day 2 to day 7, and gastrin did not change. **PMID 10190655**

Interactions

A PubMed search for interaction studies of this compound with any drug (October 3, 2026, 6 records) found none in people. That is not evidence that it is safe to combine with anything.

Side effects and cautions

Reported side effects	Contraindications and cautions
• Few side effects, usually minor • Reduced gallbladder emptying during a week of continuous infusion	• Not approved by FDA

Five questions to ask

1. Vapreotide is listed here as "In Clinical Trials". What does the evidence on this sheet mean for someone in my situation, and is there an approved treatment I should consider instead?
2. Here are the medicines and supplements I take. Do any of them interact with Vapreotide? This sheet records none published, which does not mean none exist.
3. Which side effects should make me stop and call you, for example few side effects?
4. Do any of the cautions on this sheet apply to me, such as: Not approved by FDA?
5. What should we check before I start and while I am on it (blood tests, blood pressure, weight), and how often?

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