CLINICAL RATIONALE

Ribavirin is a synthetic nucleoside analog (purine analog) with antiviral activity. The mechanism by which the combination of ribavirin and an interferon product exerts its effect against Hepatitis C virus (HCV) has not been fully established. Ribavirin has direct antiviral activity in tissue culture against many RNA virus. Ribavirin increases the mutation frequency in the genomes of several viruses, and ribavirin tri-phosphate inhibits HCV polymerase in a biochemical reaction. 1, 2, 3, 4

There are significant adverse reactions caused by ribavirin tablets / peginterferon alfa-2a therapy and by ribavirin capsules / interferon alfa-2b or peginterferon alfa-2b therapy, including severe depression and suicidal thoughts, hemolytic anemia, suppression of bone marrow function, autoimmune and infectious disorders, pulmonary dysfunction, pancreatitis, and diabetes. 1, 2, 3, 4

References