# Xocova – Mechanism Causing Asymptomatic Hemoglobin Declines

This medical response contains information in addition to that provided in the XOCOVA® (ensitrelvir) tablets, for oral use Full Prescribing Information approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This document is being provided in response to an unsolicited request for medical information from a healthcare professional. Shionogi does not recommend the use of XOCOVA in any manner other than as described in the Full Prescribing Information. **Please read the attached XOCOVA Full Prescribing Information.**

## 1. OVERVIEW

In the Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled SCORPIO-PEP clinical trial, 1190 participants received ensitrelvir and 1187 participants received placebo.[1] Mild decreases in hemoglobin levels were observed but were not associated with symptomatic anemia or withdrawal from the trial.[2]

As stated in **Section 6.1** of the **XOCOVA Full Prescribing Information**, asymptomatic hemoglobin declines from baseline of >2 g/dL occurred in 3% of XOCOVA recipients versus 1% of placebo recipients.[1]

The mechanism causing the asymptomatic decline from baseline and its clinical significance is currently unknown.[3,4]

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.[1]

## 2. RELEVANT PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### Indications and Usage

XOCOVA is indicated for post-exposure prophylaxis of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older following contact with an individual who has COVID-19.[1]

### Contraindications

XOCOVA is contraindicated in patients with a history of clinically significant hypersensitivity reactions to ensitrelvir or any other components of the product.[1]

XOCOVA is contraindicated in patients taking drugs that are:

- Primarily metabolized by CYP3A for which elevated concentrations may be associated with serious and/or life-threatening reactions and
- Strong CYP3A inducers because they may significantly reduce ensitrelvir plasma concentrations, leading to the potential loss of virologic response.[1]

**As stated in Section 6.1 of the XOCOVA Full Prescribing Information:**

Laboratory Abnormalities:

Asymptomatic hemoglobin declines from baseline of >2 g/dL occurred in 3% of XOCOVA recipients versus 1% of placebo recipients.[1]

Please read the attached **XOCOVA Full Prescribing Information**. The use of XOCOVA in any manner other than as described in the Full Prescribing Information approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is not recommended.

**REFERENCES**


1. XOCOVA® (ensitrelvir) tablets, for oral use [Prescribing Information]. Shionogi Inc.
2. Ensitrelvir Data on File 30. Shionogi Inc.
3. Hayden FG, Shinkai M, Clark TW, et al. Ensitrelvir for Covid-19 postexposure prophylaxis in household contacts. *N Engl J Med*. 2026;394(19):1905-1915. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2509306.
4. Ensitrelvir Data on File 8. Shionogi Inc.


**Enclosure**

XOCOVA® (ensitrelvir) tablets, for oral use [Prescribing Information]. Shionogi Inc.