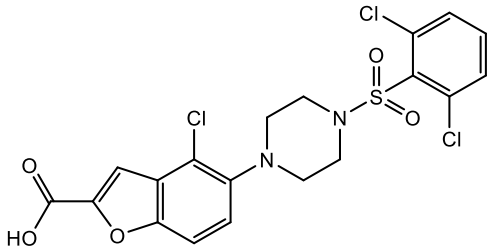
Vonafexor (EYP001), towards new therapies to cure chronic hepatitis B infections – Now in Clinical Phase II.

In the frame of the FUI AAP8-funded program NATHEB, **Edelris, and its partners Inserm and Poxel** identified the farnesoid X receptor (FXR) as a therapeutic target to treat HBV infections. The program led to the discovery of a **new synthetic FXR agonist**, Vonafexor (EYP001), inhibiting viral HBV DNA and viral antigen production.[1]



Vonafexor (EYP001)

The compound was out-licensed to Enyo Pharma, a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing novel treatments for acute and chronic viral infections[2]. Enyo is currently developing Vonafexor as a new treatment to cure Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection. Vonafexor has a **favorable profile for oral therapy**. Ex-vivo data showed that the compound **inhibits HBV replication** in hepatocytes derived from a mouse model of chronic HBV infection[3]. The first clinical evaluation in Chronic Hepatitis B patients revealed that **Vonafexor administration is safe and well tolerated**, and the compound is currently evaluated in **clinical phase II** in patients with chronic hepatitis B[4].

Contrary to lifelong standards of care that target essentially virus replication, Vonafexor targets the cccDNA ('virus reservoir') and therefore aims for a real HBV cure.

1: Methods and pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection, 2014, EP3043865.
2: http://www.enyopharma.com
3: Robin Erken et al. First clinical evaluation in Chronic Hepatitis B patients of the synthetic Farnesoid X Receptor agonist EYP001, EASL 2018.
4: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?term=EYP001&age_v=&gndr=&type=&rslt=&phase=1&Search=Apply