

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Distaclor 500mg capsules
Cefaclor 500mg capsules

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each capsule contains as the active ingredient, cefaclor monohydrate Ph.Eur. equivalent to 500mg of cefaclor base.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Capsule, Size 0 with opaque purple cap and opaque grey body

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Distaclor is indicated for the treatment of the following infections due to susceptible micro-organisms:

Respiratory tract infections, including pneumonia, bronchitis, exacerbations of chronic bronchitis, pharyngitis and tonsillitis, and as part of the management of sinusitis

Otitis media

Skin and soft tissue infections

Urinary tract infections, including pyelonephritis and cystitis

Distaclor has been found to be effective in both acute and chronic urinary tract infections.

Cefaclor is generally effective in the eradication of streptococci from the nasopharynx, however, data establishing efficacy in the subsequent prevention of either rheumatic fever or bacterial endocarditis are not available.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Adults: The usual adult dosage is 250mg every eight hours. For more severe infections or those caused by less susceptible organisms, doses may be doubled. Doses of 4g per day have been administered safely to normal subjects for 28 days, but the total daily dosage should not exceed this amount.

Distaclor may be administered in the presence of impaired renal function. Under such conditions dosage is usually unchanged (see 'Special Warning and Special Precautions for Use').

Patients undergoing haemodialysis: Haemodialysis shortens serum half-life by 25-30%. In patients undergoing regular haemodialysis, a loading dose of 250mg-1g administered prior to dialysis and a therapeutic dose of 250-500mg every six to eight hours maintained during interdialytic periods is recommended.

The elderly: As for adults.

Paediatric population

The usual recommended daily dosage for children is 20mg/kg/day in divided doses every eight hours, as indicated. For bronchitis and pneumonia, the dosage is 20mg/kg/day in divided doses administered 3 times daily. For otitis media and pharyngitis, the total daily dosage may be divided and administered every 12 hours. Safety and efficacy have not been established for use in infants aged less than one month.

Distaclor Suspension

	125mg/5ml	250mg/5ml
<1 year (9kg)	2.5ml tid	
1-5 years (9-18kg)	5.0ml tid	
Over 5 years		5.0ml tid

In more serious infections, otitis media, sinusitis and infections caused by less susceptible organisms, 40mg/kg/day in divided doses is recommended, up to a daily maximum of 1g.

In the treatment of beta-haemolytic streptococcal infections, therapy should be continued for at least 10 days.

Method of administration

Distaclor is administered orally.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

Hypersensitivity to other cephalosporins.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Warnings

Before instituting therapy with cefaclor, every effort should be made to determine whether the patient has had previous hypersensitivity reactions to cefaclor, cephalosporins, penicillins or other drugs. Cefaclor should be given cautiously to penicillin-sensitive patients, because cross-hypersensitivity, including anaphylaxis, among beta-lactam antibiotics has been clearly documented.

If an allergic reaction to cefaclor occurs, the drug should be discontinued and the patient treated with the appropriate agents.

Pseudomembranous colitis has been reported with virtually all broad-spectrum antibiotics, including macrolides, semi-synthetic penicillins and cephalosporins. It is important, therefore, to consider its diagnosis in patients who develop diarrhoea in association with the use of antibiotics. Such colitis may range in severity from mild to life-threatening. Mild cases usually respond to drug discontinuance alone. In moderate to severe cases, appropriate measures should be taken.

Precautions

Reports of neurotoxicity have been identified in association with cephalosporin treatment. Symptoms may include encephalopathy, myoclonus and seizures. Elderly patients, patients with severe renal impairment or central nervous system disorders are particularly at risk. Cefaclor should be administered with caution in the presence of markedly impaired renal function. Since the half-life of cefaclor in anuric patients is 2.3 to 2.8 hours (compared to 0.6-0.9 hours in normal subjects), dosage adjustments for patients with moderate or severe renal impairment are not usually required. Clinical experience with cefaclor under such conditions is limited; therefore, careful clinical observation and laboratory studies should be made. If cefaclor associated neurotoxicity is suspected, discontinuation of cefaclor should be considered.

Broad-spectrum antibiotics should be prescribed with caution in individuals with a history of gastro-intestinal disease, particularly colitis.

Prolonged use of cefaclor may result in the overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms. If superinfection occurs during therapy, appropriate measures should be taken.

Positive direct Coombs' tests have been reported during treatment with the cephalosporin antibiotics. In haematological studies or in transfusion cross-matching procedures, when anti-globulin tests are performed on the minor side, or in Coombs' testing of newborns whose mothers have received cephalosporin antibiotics before parturition, it should be recognised that a positive Coombs' test may be due to the drug.

A false-positive reaction for glucose in the urine may occur with Benedict's or Fehling's solutions or with copper sulphate test tablets.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interactions

There have been rare reports of increased prothrombin time, with or without clinical bleeding, in patients receiving cefaclor and warfarin concomitantly. It is recommended that in such patients, regular monitoring of prothrombin time should be considered, with adjustment of dosage if necessary.

The renal excretion of cefaclor is inhibited by probenecid.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Animal studies have shown no evidence of impaired fertility or teratogenicity. However, since there are no adequate or well- controlled studies in pregnant women, caution should be exercised when prescribing for the pregnant patient.

Breast-feeding

Small amounts of cefaclor have been detected in breast milk following administration of single 500mg doses. Average levels of about 0.2 micrograms/ml or less were detected up to 5 hours later. Trace amounts were detected at one hour. As the effect on nursing infants is not known, caution should be exercised when cefaclor is administered to a nursing woman.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Not relevant.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Gastro-intestinal: The most frequent side-effect has been diarrhoea. It is rarely severe enough to warrant cessation of therapy. Colitis, including rare instances of pseudomembranous colitis, has been reported. Nausea and vomiting have also occurred.

Hypersensitivity: Allergic reactions such as morbilliform eruptions, pruritus and urticaria have been observed. These reactions usually subside upon discontinuation of therapy. Serum sickness-like reactions (erythema multiforme minor, rashes or other skin manifestations accompanied by arthritis/arthralgia, with or without fever) have been reported. Lymphadenopathy and proteinuria are infrequent, there are no circulating immune complexes and no evidence of sequelae. Occasionally, solitary symptoms may occur, but do not represent a serum sickness-like reaction. Serum sickness-like reactions are apparently due to

hypersensitivity and have usually occurred during or following a second (or subsequent) course of therapy with cefaclor. Such reactions have been reported more frequently in children than in adults. Signs and symptoms usually occur a few days after initiation of therapy and usually subside within a few days of cessation of therapy. Antihistamines and corticosteroids appear to enhance resolution of the syndrome. No serious sequelae have been reported.

There are rare reports of erythema multiforme major (Stevens-Johnson syndrome), toxic epidermal necrolysis, and anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis may be more common in patients with a history of penicillin allergy. Anaphylactoid events may present as solitary symptoms, including angioedema, asthenia, oedema (including face and limbs), dyspnoea, paraesthesias, syncope, or vasodilatation.

Rarely, hypersensitivity symptoms may persist for several months.

Haematological: Eosinophilia, positive Coombs' tests and, rarely, thrombocytopenia. Transient lymphocytosis, leucopenia and, rarely, haemolytic anaemia, aplastic anaemia, agranulocytosis and reversible neutropenia of possible clinical significance. See 'Interactions with other Medicaments and other forms of Interaction'.

Hepatic: Transient hepatitis and cholestatic jaundice have been reported rarely, slight elevations in AST, ALT or alkaline phosphatase values.

Renal: Reversible interstitial nephritis has occurred rarely, also slight elevations in blood urea or serum creatinine or abnormal urinalysis.

Central Nervous System: Reversible hyperactivity, agitation, nervousness, insomnia, confusion, hypertonia, dizziness, hallucinations and somnolence have been reported rarely. There have been reports of neurological sequelae including tremor, myoclonia, convulsions, encephalopathy with drugs belonging to the class of cephalosporins. Most cases occurred in patients with renal impairment who received doses that exceeded the recommended dose and resolved following discontinuation of treatment.

Miscellaneous: Genital pruritus, vaginitis and vaginal moniliasis.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continues monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Yellow Card Scheme Website: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms of nausea, vomiting, epigastric distress and diarrhoea would be anticipated.

Treatment: Unless 5 times the normal total daily dose has been ingested, gastrointestinal decontamination will not be necessary.

General management may consist of supportive therapy.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Second-generation cephalosporins antibiotics, ATC code: J01DC04

Mechanism of action

Cefaclor is active against the following organisms *in vitro*:

Alpha- and beta-haemolytic streptococci

Staphylococci; including coagulase-positive, coagulase-negative and penicillinase-producing strains

Streptococcus pneumoniae

Streptococcus pyogenes (group A beta-haemolytic streptococci)

Branhamella catarrhalis

Escherichia coli

Proteus

mirabilis Klebsiella species

Haemophilus influenzae, including ampicillin-resistant strains

Cefaclor has no activity against *Pseudomonas* species or *Acinetobacter* species. Methicillin-resistant staphylococci and most strains of enterococci (eg, *Str. faecalis*) are resistant to cefaclor. Cefaclor is not active against most strains of *Enterobacter* spp, *Serratia* spp, *Morganella morganii*, *Proteus vulgaris* and *Providencia rettgeri*.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Cefaclor is well absorbed after oral administration to fasting subjects. Total absorption is the same whether the drug is given with or without food; however, when it is taken with food, the peak concentration achieved is 50 - 75% of that observed when the drug is administered to fasting subjects and generally appears from $\frac{3}{4}$ to one hour later.

Linearity

Following administration of 250mg, 500mg and 1G doses to fasting subjects, average peak serum levels of approximately 7, 13 and 23 mg/L respectively were obtained within 30 - 60 minutes.

Biotransformation and Elimination

Approximately 60 - 85% of the drug is excreted unchanged in the urine within eight hours, the greater portion being excreted within the first two hours. During the eight hour period, peak urine concentrations following the 250mg, 500mg and 1G doses were approximately 600, 900 and 1,900 mg/L respectively. The serum half-life in normal subjects is 0.6 - 0.9 hours. In patients with reduced renal function, the serum half-life of cefaclor is slightly prolonged. In those with complete absence of renal function, the plasma half-life of the intact molecule is 2.3 - 2.8 hours. Excretion pathways in patients with markedly impaired renal function have not been determined. Haemodialysis shortens the half-life by 25 - 30%.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential, toxicity to reproduction and development.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Magnesium Stearate
Dimeticone
Starch Flowable
Erythrosine
Patent Blue V
Black Iron Oxide
Titanium Dioxide
Gelatin

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 25°C. Keep the containers tightly closed in order to protect from light.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

UPVC/Aluminium foil blister packs containing 14 or 21 capsules.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements for disposal.

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

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8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

PL 13621/0008

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 21 August 1978

Date of latest renewal: 30 September 2005

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

03/12/2025