SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Pinefeld XL 10mg Tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each prolonged release tablet contains 10mg felodipine

Excipients with known effect: Each prolonged release tablet contains 92mg of lactose (as lactose monohydrate)

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Prolonged release tablet.

Grey-red, round, biconvex tablets with an approximate diameter of 9mm, with the imprint F10 on one side.

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Essential hypertension and prophylaxis of chronic stable angina pectoris.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Hypertension

The dose should be adjusted individually. Treatment can be started with 5 mg once daily. Depending on the patient's response, the dosage can, where applicable, be decreased to 2.5 mg or increased to 10 mg daily. If necessary, another antihypertensive agent may be added. Dose increases should occur at intervals of at least 2 weeks. The standard maintenance dose is 5-10 mg once daily. Doses higher than 20 mg daily are not usually required.

Angina pectoris

The dose should be adjusted individually. Treatment should be initiated with 5 mg once daily and, if needed, increased to 10 mg once daily.

Pinefeld XL can be used in combination with β-blockers, ACE inhibitors or diuretics. Combination therapy will usually enhance the antihypertensive effect. Care should be taken to avoid hypotension.

Different prolonged-release preparations do not necessarily have the same effect. When changing therapy from different prolonged-release preparations of felodipine to Pinefeld XL, blood pressure should be checked and the dosage changed as appropriate (see section 5.2).

Elderly population
Initial treatment with lowest available dose should be considered.

Renal impairment
Caution should be taken in patients with severe renal impairment (see section 5.2). Dose adjustment is not needed in patients with impaired renal function.

Hepatic impairment
Patients with impaired hepatic function may have elevated plasma concentrations of felodipine and may respond to lower doses (see section 4.4). In mild to moderate hepatic impairment, the recommended starting dose should be lowered to the minimum therapeutic effective dose. The dose should only be increased after balancing the benefits against the risks (see section 5.2). Felodipine is contraindicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

Paediatric population
There is limited clinical trial experience of the use of felodipine in hypertensive paediatric patients (see sections 5.1 and 5.2). Felodipine should not be used in children.

Method of Administration
The tablets should be taken in the morning and be swallowed with water. In order to keep the prolonged release properties, the tablets must not be divided, crushed or chewed. The tablets can be administered without food or following a light meal not rich in fat or carbohydrate. Pinefeld XL should NOT be taken with grapefruit juice (see section 4.5).

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to felodipine or any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- Unstable angina pectoris
- Acute myocardial infarction
- Decompensated heart failure
- Pregnancy
- Haemodynamically significant cardiac valvular obstruction
- Dynamic cardiac outflow obstruction

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

The efficacy and safety of felodipine in the treatment of hypertensive emergencies has not been studied.

Felodipine may cause significant hypotension with subsequent tachycardia. This may lead to myocardial ischaemia in susceptible patients.

Felodipine is cleared by the liver. Consequently, higher therapeutic concentrations

and response can be expected in patients with clearly reduced liver function (see section 4.2).

Concomitant administration of drugs that strongly induce or inhibit CYP3 A4 enzymes result in extensively decreased or increased plasma levels of felodipine, respectively. Therefore, such combinations should be avoided (see section 4.5).

Mild gingival enlargement has been reported in patients with pronounced gingivitis/periodontitis. The enlargement can be avoided or reversed by careful dental hygiene.

Pinefeld XL contains lactose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take Felodipine.

Pinefeld XL contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Felodipine is metabolised in the liver by cytochrome P450 3A4 (CYP3A4). Concomitant administration of substances which interfere with CYP3A4 enzyme system may affect plasma concentrations of felodipine.

Enzyme interactions
Enzyme inhibiting and enzyme inducing substances of cytochrome P450 isoenzyme 3A4 may exert an influence on the plasma level of felodipine.

Interactions leading to increased plasma concentration of felodipine
CYP3A4 enzyme inhibitors have been shown to cause an increase in felodipine plasma concentrations. Felodipine Cmax and AUC increased 8-fold and 6-fold, respectively, when felodipine was co-administered with the strong CYP3A4 inhibitor itraconazole. When felodipine and erythromycin were co-administered, the Cmax and AUC of felodipine were increased by about 2.5-fold. Cimetidine increased the felodipine Cmax and AUC by approximately 55%. The combination with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors should be avoided.

In case of clinically significant adverse events due to elevated felodipine exposure when combined with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors, adjustment of felodipine dose and/or discontinuation of the CYP3A4 inhibitor should be considered.

Examples: cimetidine, erythromycin, itraconazole, ketoconazole, anti-HIV/protease inhibitors (e.g. ritonavir), certain flavonoids present in grapefruit juice.

Felodipine tablets should not be taken together with grapefruit juice.

Interactions leading to decreased plasma concentration of felodipine
Enzyme inducers of the cytochrome P450 3A4 system have been shown to cause a decrease in plasma concentrations of felodipine. When felodipine was co-administered with carbamazepine, phenytoin or phenobarbital, the Cmax and AUC of felodipine were decreased by 82% and 96% respectively. The combination with strong CYP3A4 inducers should be avoided.

In case of lack of efficacy due to decreased felodipine exposure when combined with potent inducers of CYP3A4, adjustment of felodipine dose and/or discontinuation of the CYP3A4 inducer should be considered.

Examples: phenytoin, carbamazepine, rifampicin, barbiturates, efavirenz, nevirapine, hypericum perforatum (St. John's wort).

Additional interactions
Tacrolimus: Felodipine may increase the concentration of tacrolimus. When used together, the tacrolimus serum concentration should be followed and the tacrolimus dose may need to be adjusted.

Cyclosporin: Felodipine does not affect plasma concentrations of cyclosporin.

4.6 Pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy
Felodipine should not be given during pregnancy. In non-clinical reproductive toxicity studies, there were foetal developmental effects, which are considered to be due to the pharmacological action of felodipine.

Breast-feeding
Felodipine has been detected in breast milk, and due to insufficient data on potential effect on the infant, treatment is not recommended during breast-feeding.

Fertility
There is no data on the effects of felodipine on patient fertility. In a non-clinical reproductive study in the rat (see section 5.3), there were effects on foetal development but no effect on fertility at doses approximating to therapeutic.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Felodipine has minor or moderate influence on the ability to drive and use machines. If patients taking felodipine suffer from headache, nausea, dizziness or fatigue, ability to react may be impaired. Caution is recommended especially at the start of treatment.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

Felodipine can cause flushing, headache, palpitations, dizziness and fatigue. Most of these reactions are dose-dependent and appear at the start of treatment or after a dose increase. Should such reactions occur, they are usually transient and diminish with time.

Dose-dependent ankle swelling can occur in patients treated with felodipine. This results from precapillary vasodilatation and is not related to any generalised fluid retention.

Mild gingival enlargement has been reported in patients with pronounced gingivitis/periodontitis. The enlargement can be avoided or reversed by careful oral hygiene.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions
The adverse reactions listed below have been identified from clinical trials and from post marketing surveillance.

The following definitions of frequencies are used:
Very common ≥1/10
Common ≥1/100 and <1/10
Uncommon ≥1/1000 and <1/100
Rare ≥1/10000 and <1/1000
Very rare <1/10000

Table 1 Undesirable effects

System Organ Class	Frequency	Adverse reaction
General disorders and administration site conditions	Very common Uncommon Very rare	Peripheral oedema Fatigue Hypersensitivity reactions e.g. angio-oedema, fever
Nervous system disorders	Common Uncommon	Headache Dizziness, paraesthesia
Vascular disorders	Common Uncommon Rare	Flushing Hypotension Syncope
Cardiac disorders	Uncommon	Tachycardia, palpitations
Gastrointestinal disorders	Uncommon Rare Very rare	Abdominal pain, nausea, Vomiting Gingival hyperplasia, gingivitis
Skin and subcutaneous system disorders	Uncommon Rare Very rare	Rash, pruritus Urticaria Photosensitivity reactions, leukocytoclastic vasculitis
Reproductive system and breast disorders	Rare	Impotence/sexual dysfunction
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Rare	Myalgia, arthralgia
Hepatobilliary disorders	Very rare	Increased liver enzymes
Renal and urinary disorders	Very rare	Pollakisuria

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued 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 at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms

Overdose may cause excessive peripheral vasodilatation with marked hypotension and sometimes bradycardia.

Management
If justified: activated charcoal, gastric lavage if performed within one hour after ingestion.

If severe hypotension occurs, symptomatic treatment should be instituted. The patient should be placed supine with the legs elevated.

In case of accompanying bradycardia, atropine (0.5–1mg) should be administered intravenously. If this is not sufficient, plasma volume should be increased by infusion of e.g. glucose, saline or dextran. Sympathomimetic medicinal products with predominant effect on the (α1-adrenoceptor may be given if the above-mentioned measures are insufficient.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group:
Dihydropyridine derivative/calcium channel blocker

ATC code:
C08C A02

Mechanism of action
Felodipine is a vascular selective calcium antagonist, which lowers arterial blood pressure by decreasing systemic vascular resistance. Due to the high degree of selectivity for smooth muscle in the arterioles, felodipine in therapeutic doses has no direct effect on cardiac contractility or conduction. Because there is no effect on venous smooth muscle or adrenergic vasomotor control, felodipine is not associated with orthostatic hypotension.

Felodipine possesses a mild natriuretic/diuretic effect and fluid retention does not occur.

Pharmacodynamic effects
Felodipine is effective in all grades of hypertension. It can be used as monotherapy or in combination with other antihypertensive medicinal products, e.g. ß-adrenoceptor blockers, diuretics or ACE-inhibitors, in order to achieve an increased antihypertensive effect. Felodipine reduces both systolic and diastolic blood pressure and can be used in isolated systolic hypertension.

Felodipine has anti-anginal and anti-ischaemic effects due to improved myocardial oxygen supply/demand balance.

Coronary vascular resistance is decreased and coronary blood flow and myocardial oxygen supply are increased by felodipine due to dilatation of both epicardial arteries and arterioles. The reduction in systemic blood pressure caused by felodipine leads to decreased left ventricular afterload and myocardial oxygen demand.

Felodipine improves exercise tolerance and reduces anginal attacks in patients with stable effort-induced angina pectoris. Felodipine can be used as monotherapy or in combination with β-adrenoceptor blockers in patients with stable angina pectoris.

Haemodynamic effects
The primary haemodynamic effect of felodipine is a reduction of total peripheral vascular resistance, which leads to a decrease in blood pressure. These effects are dose-dependent. Generally, a reduction in blood pressure is evident two hours after the first oral dose and lasts for at least 24 hours and the trough/peak ratio is usually well above 50%.

Plasma concentrations of felodipine are positively correlated to the decrease in total peripheral resistance and blood pressure.

Cardiac effects
Felodipine in therapeutic doses has no effect on cardiac contractility or atrioventricular conduction or refractoriness.

Antihypertensive treatment with felodipine is associated with significant regression of pre-existing left ventricular hypertrophy.

Renal effects
Felodipine has a natriuretic and diuretic effect due to reduced tubular reabsorption of filtered sodium. Felodipine does not affect daily potassium excretion. The renal vascular resistance is decreased by felodipine. Felodipine does not influence urinary albumin excretion.

In cyclosporin-treated renal transplant recipients, felodipine reduces blood pressure and improves both the renal blood flow and the glomerular filtration rate. Felodipine may also improve early renal graft function.

Clinical efficacy
In the HOT (Hypertension Optimal Treatment) study, the effect on major cardiovascular events (i.e. acute myocardial infarction, stroke and cardiovascular death) was studied in relation to diastolic blood pressure targets <90 mmHg, <85 mmHg and <80 mmHg and achieved blood pressure, with felodipine as baseline therapy.

A total of 18,790 hypertensive patients (DBP 100-115 mmHg), aged 50-80 years were followed for a mean period of 3.8 years (range 3.3-4.9). Felodipine was given as monotherapy or in combination with a betablocker, and/or an ACE inhibitor and/or a diuretic. The study showed benefits of lowering SBP and DBP down to 139 and 83 mmHg, respectively.

According to the STOP-2 (Swedish Trial in Old Patients with Hypertension-2 study), performed in 6614 patients, aged 70-84 years, dihydropyridine calcium antagonists (felodipine and isradipine) have shown the same preventive effect on cardiovascular mortality and morbidity as other commonly used classes of antihypertensive medicinal products – ACE inhibitors, beta-blockers and diuretics.

Paediatric population
There is limited clinical trial experience of the use of felodipine in hypertensive paediatric patients. In a randomised, double-blind, 3-week, parallel group study in children aged 6-16 years with primary hypertension, the antihypertensive effects of once daily felodipine 2.5 mg (n=33), 5 mg (n=33) and 10 mg (n=31) were compared

with placebo (n=35). The study failed to demonstrate the efficacy of felodipine in lowering blood pressure in children aged 6-16 years (see section 4.2).

The long-term effects of felodipine on growth, puberty and general development have not been studied. The long-term efficacy of antihypertensive therapy as therapy in childhood to reduce cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in adulthood has also not been established.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption
Felodipine is administered as prolonged release tablets, from which it is completely absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract. The systemic availability of felodipine is approximately 15% and is independent of dose in the therapeutic dose range. The prolonged release tablets produce a prolonged absorption phase of felodipine. This results in even felodipine plasma concentrations within the therapeutic range for 24 hours. Maximum blood plasma levels (t_{max}) are achieved with the prolonged-release form after 3 to 5 hours. The rate but not the extent of absorption of felodipine is **increased** when taken simultaneously with food with a high fat content.

Distribution
The plasma protein binding of felodipine is approximately 99%. It is bound predominantly to the albumin fraction. The volume of distribution at steady state is 10 L/kg.

Biotransformation
Felodipine is extensively metabolised in the liver by cytochrome P450 3A4 (CYP3A4) and all identifiable metabolites are inactive. Felodipine is a high clearance medicinal product with an average blood clearance of 1200 ml/min. There is no significant accumulation during long-term treatment.

Elderly patients and patients with reduced liver function have on average higher plasma concentrations of felodipine than younger patients. The pharmacokinetics of felodipine is not changed in patients with renal impairment, including those treated with haemodialysis.

Elimination
The half-life of felodipine in the elimination phase is approximately 25 hours and steady state is reached after 5 days. There is no risk of accumulation during long-term treatment. About 70% of a given dose is excreted at metabolites in the urine; the remaining fraction is excreted in the faeces. Less than 0.5% of a dose is recovered unchanged in urine.

Linearity/non-linearity
Plasma concentrations are directly proportional to dose within the therapeutic dose range 2.5–10 mg.

Paediatric population
In a single dose (felodipine prolonged release 5 mg) pharmacokinetic study with a limited number of children aged between 6 and 16 years (n=12) there was no apparent relationship between the age and AUC, C_{max} or half-life of felodipine.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Reproductive toxicity
In a study on fertility and general reproductive performance in rats treated with felodipine, a prolongation of parturition resulting in difficult labour/increased foetal deaths and early postnatal deaths was observed in the medium and high dose groups. These effects were attributed to the inhibitory effect of felodipine in high doses on uterine contractility). No disturbances of fertility were observed when doses within the therapeutic range were given to rats.

Reproduction studies in rabbits have shown a dose-related reversible enlargement of the mammary glands of the parent animals and dose-related digital anomalies in the foetuses. The anomalies in the foetuses were induced when felodipine was administered during early foetal development (before day 15 of pregnancy). In a reproduction study in monkeys, an abnormal position of the distal phalange(s) was noticed.

There were no other pre-clinical findings considered to be of concern and the reproductive findings are considered to be related to the pharmacological action of felodipine, when given to normotensive animals. The relevance of these findings for patients receiving felodipine is unknown. However, there have been no reported clinical incidences of phalangeal changes in foetus/neonate exposed to felodipine in-utero, from the information maintained within the internal patient safety databases.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Tablet core:
Cellulose microcrystalline
Lactose monohydrate
Sodium laurilsulfate
Hypromellose
Magnesium stearate

Tablet coating:
Lactose monohydrate
Hypromellose
Macrogol 4000
Colouring agents: iron oxide (E172), titanium dioxide (E171)

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions

6.5 Nature and contents of container

The prolonged-release film-coated tablets are packed in a polyvinylchloride / aluminium blister and inserted into a carton.

Original packages containing 7, 14, 28, 98 prolonged-release film-coated tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

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

Tillomed Laboratories Limited
220 Butterfield
Great Marlings
Luton
LU2 8DL
UK

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PL 11311/0342

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

28/10/2024

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

28/10/2024