SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Colchicine 500 microgram Tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains 500 micrograms of colchicine
Excipient(s) with known effect:
Each tablet contains 51.70mg of lactose monohydrate
For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Tablet
White, round, biconvex, 5.5mm uncoated tablets, plain on both sides.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Adults

Treatment of acute gout

Prophylaxis of gout attack during initiation of therapy with allopurinol and uricosuric drugs

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Adults

Treatment of acute gout attack:
One 500 microgram tablet two to four (2-4) times daily until symptoms are relieved. The course of treatment should end when symptoms are relieved or when a total of 6 mg (twelve 500 microgram tablets) have been taken. No more than 6 mg of colchicine tablets should be taken as a course of treatment. After completion of a course, another course should not be started for at least three days (72 hours).

Prophylaxis of gout attack during initiation of therapy with allopurinol and uricosuric drugs:

500 micrograms twice daily.

The treatment duration should be decided after factors such as flare frequency, gout duration and the presence and size of tophi have been assessed.

Patients with renal impairment

Use with caution in patients with mild renal impairment. For patients with moderate renal impairment, reduce dose or increase interval between doses. Such patients should be carefully monitored for adverse effects of colchicine (see also section 5.2).

For patients with severe renal impairment, see section 4.3.

Patients with hepatic impairment

Use with caution in patients with mild/moderate hepatic impairment. Such patients should be carefully monitored for adverse effects of colchicine.

For patients with severe hepatic impairment, see section 4.3.

Elderly

Use with caution.

Method of administration

For oral use.
Tablets should be swallowed whole with a glass of water.

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1
- Patients with blood dyscrasias
- Pregnancy
- Breastfeeding
- Women of childbearing potential unless using effective contraceptive measures
- Patients with severe renal impairment
- Patients with severe hepatic impairment
- Colchicine should not be used in patients undergoing haemodialysis since it cannot be removed by dialysis or exchange transfusion.
- Colchicine is contraindicated in patients with renal or hepatic impairment who are taking a P-glycoprotein (P-gp) inhibitor or a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor (see section 4.5)

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Colchicine is potentially toxic so it is important not to exceed the dose prescribed by a physician with the necessary knowledge and experience.

Colchicine has a narrow therapeutic window. The administration should be discontinued if toxic symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea occur.

Colchicine may cause severe bone marrow depression (agranulocytosis, aplastic anaemia, thrombocytopenia). The change in blood counts may be gradual or very sudden. Aplastic anaemia in particular has a high mortality rate. Periodic checks of the blood picture are essential.

If patients develop signs or symptoms that could indicate a blood cell dyscrasia, such as fever, stomatitis, sore throat, prolonged bleeding, bruising or skin disorders, treatment with colchicine should be immediately discontinued and a full haematological investigation should be conducted straight away.

Caution is advised in case of:

- liver or renal impairment
- cardiovascular disease
- gastrointestinal disorders
- elderly and debilitated patients
- patients with abnormalities in blood counts

Patients with liver or renal impairment should be carefully monitored for adverse effects of colchicine (see section 5.2).

Co-administration with P-gp inhibitors and/or moderate or strong CYP3A4 inhibitors will increase the exposure to colchicine, which may lead to colchicine induced toxicity including fatalities. If treatment with a P-gp inhibitor or a moderate or strong CYP3A4 inhibitor is required in patients with normal renal and hepatic function, a reduction in colchicine dosage or interruption of colchicine treatment is recommended (see section 4.5)

Cochicine 500 micrograms tablets contain lactose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Colchicine is a substrate for both CYP3A4 and the transport protein P-gp. In the presence of CYP3A4 or P-gp inhibitors, the concentrations of colchicine in the blood increase. Toxicity, including fatal cases, have been reported during concurrent use of CYP3A4 or P-gp inhibitors such as macrolides (clarithromycin and erythromycin), ciclosporin, ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, HIV protease inhibitors, calcium channel blockers (verapamil and diltiazem) and disulfiram (see section 4.4).

Colchicine is contraindicated in patients with renal or hepatic impairment who are taking a P-gp inhibitor (e.g. ciclosporin, verapamil or quinidine) or a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor (e.g. ritonavir, atazanavir, indinavir, clarithromycin, telithromycin, itraconazole or ketaconazole) (see section 4.3).

A reduction in colchicine dosage or an interruption of colchicine treatment is recommended in patients with normal renal or hepatic function if treatment with a P-gp inhibitor or strong CYP3A4 inhibitor is required (see section 4.4).

A 4-fold reduction in colchicine dosage is recommended when co-administered with a P-gp inhibitor and/or a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor. A 2-fold reduction in colchicine dosage is recommended when co-administered with a moderate CYP3A4 inhibitor.

The magnitude of interactions with strong and moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors as well as with P-gp inhibitors from performed *in vivo* studies is summarised in the table below:

Single dose of 0.6 mg colchicine without or with:	**Number of subjects**	**% change in colchicine pharmacokinetic parameters**		**Guidance for dose reduction:**
		C_{max}	**AUC_{o-t}**	
Strong CYP3A4 inhibitors				4-fold

Clarithromycin 250mg twice daily for 7 days	N=23	297	339	Acute gout regimen to be repeated no earlier than 3 days.
Ketoconazole 200mg twice daily for 5 days	N=24	190	287	
Ritonavir 100mg twice daily for 5 days	N=18	267	345	
Moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors				2-fold Acute gout regimen to be repeated no earlier than 3 days.
Verapamil ER 240mg once daily for 5 days	N=24	130	188	
Diltiazem ER 240mg once daily for 7 days	N=20	129	177	
Grapefruit juice 240ml twice daily for 4 days	N=21	93	95	
Potent P-gp inhibitors				4-fold Acute gout regimen to be repeated no earlier than 3 days.
Ciclosporin 100mg single dose	N=23	324	317	

Given the nature of the side effects, caution is advised with concomitant administration of drugs that can affect the blood count or have a negative effect on hepatic and/or renal function.

In addition, substances such as cimetidine and tolbutamide reduce metabolism of colchicine and thus plasma levels of colchicine increase.

Grapefruit juice may increase plasma levels of colchicine. Grapefruit juice should therefore not be taken together with colchicine.

Reversible malabsorption of cyanocobalamin (vitamin B12) may be induced by an altered function of the intestinal mucosa.

The risk of myopathy and rhabdomyolysis is increased by a combination of colchicine with statins, fibrates, ciclosporin or digoxin.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Fertility

Colchicine administration in animals induces significant reductions in fertility.

Pregnancy

Colchicine is genotoxic in vitro and in vivo, and is teratogenic in animal studies (see section 5.3). Colchicine is therefore contraindicated in pregnancy (see section 4.3).

Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment.

Breastfeeding

Colchicine is excreted in breast milk. Therefore, use of colchicine is contraindicated in women who are breastfeeding (see section 4.3).

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No details are available regarding the influence of colchicine on the ability to drive or use machinery. However, the possibility of drowsiness and dizziness should be taken into account.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The following adverse reactions have been observed.

The frequencies are listed under one of the following classifications:

Very common (≥1/10)

Common (≥ 1/100 to <1/10)

Uncommon (≥1/1,000 to <1/100)

Rare (≥ 1/10,000 to <1/1,000)

Very Rare (< 1/10,000)

Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data)

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Not known: bone marrow depression with agranulocytosis, aplastic anaemia and thrombocytopenia.

Nervous system disorders

Not known: peripheral neuritis, neuropathy.

Gastrointestinal system disorders

Common: abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Not known: gastrointestinal haemorrhage.

Hepatobiliary disorders

Not known: hepatotoxicity

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Not known: alopecia, rash.

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

Not known: myopathy and rhabdomyolysis.

Renal and urinary disorders

Not known: renal damage.

Reproductive system and breast disorders

Not known: amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea, oligospermia, azoospermia.

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 Yellow Card Scheme Website: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

4.9 Overdose

Colchicine has a narrow therapeutic window and is extremely toxic in overdose. Patients at particular risk of toxicity are those with renal or hepatic impairment, gastrointestinal or cardiac disease, and patients at extremes of age.

Following colchicine overdose, all patients, even in the absence of early symptoms, should be referred for immediate medical assessment.

Clinical:

Symptoms of acute overdosage may be delayed (3 hours on average): nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, haemorrhagic gastroenteritis, volume depletion, electrolyte abnormalities, leukocytosis, hypotension in severe cases. The second phase with life threatening complications develops 24 to 72 hours after drug administration: multisystem organ dysfunction, acute renal failure, confusion, coma, ascending peripheral motor and sensory neuropathy, myocardial depression, pancytopenia, dysrhythmias, respiratory failure, consumption coagulopathy. Death is usually a result of respiratory depression and cardiovascular collapse. If the patient survives, recovery may be accompanied by rebound leukocytosis and reversible alopecia starting about one week after the initial ingestion.

Treatment:

No antidote is available.

Elimination of toxins by gastric lavage within one hour of acute poisoning.

Consider oral activated charcoal in adults who have ingested more than 0.1mg/kg bodyweight within 1 hour of presentation and in children who have ingested any amount within 1 hour of presentation.

Haemodialysis has no efficacy (high apparent distribution volume).

Close clinical and biological monitoring in hospital environment.

Symptomatic and supportive treatment: control of respiration, maintenance of blood pressure and circulation, correction of fluid and electrolytes imbalance.

The lethal dose varies widely (7-65mg single dose) for adults but is generally about 20mg.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: drugs for gout, with no effect on uric acid metabolism. ATC code: M04AC01

In the AGREE (Acute Gout Flare Receiving Colchicine Evaluation) study low- and high-dose colchicine were compared using a randomized, placebo controlled design. The high-dose prolonged colchicine regimen (4.8mg total over 6 hours) was compared with a placebo and a low-dose abbreviated regimen (1.8mg total over 1

hour, i.e. 1.2mg followed by 0.6mg in 1 hour). Both colchicine regimens were significantly more effective than placebo, with 32.7% responders in the high dose group, 37.8% responders in the low-dose group, and 15.5% responders in the placebo group (P = 0.034 and P = 0.005, respectively, versus placebo). The results at the primary 24hour end point demonstrate superior safety of low dose colchicine, without loss of efficacy, relative to high dose colchicine for early acute gout flare (self-administered within 12 hours of flare onset). The pharmacokinetic analysis performed in this study showed that the colchicine plasma concentration was decreased substantially from about 12 hours after administration in healthy volunteers.

Colchicine prophylaxis (0.6mg twice daily) during initiation of allopurinol for chronic gouty arthritis reduced the frequency and severity of acute flares, and reduced the likelihood of recurrent flares. Treatment may be continued for up to 6 months, based on clinical data. Prospective randomized controlled trials are needed to further evaluate flare prophylaxis for up to 6 months, after 6 months, and over time.

The mechanism of action of colchicine in the treatment of gout is not clearly understood. Colchicine is considered to act against the inflammatory response to urate crystals, by possibly inhibiting the migration of granulocytes into the inflamed area. Other properties of colchicine, such as interaction with the microtubules, could also contribute to the operation. Onset of action is approximately 12 hours after oral administration and is maximal after 1 to 2 days.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Colchicine is rapidly and almost completely absorbed after oral administration. Maximum plasma concentrations are met usually after 30 to 120 minutes. The terminal half-life is 3 to 10 hours. Plasma protein binding is approximately 30%. Colchicine is partially metabolised in the liver and then in part via the bile. It accumulates in leucocytes. Colchicine is largely excreted (80%) in unchanged form and as metabolites in the faeces. 10-20% is excreted in the urine.

Renal impairment

Colchicine is significantly excreted in urine in healthy subjects. Clearance of colchicine is decreased in patients with impaired renal function. Total body clearance of colchicine was reduced by 75% in patients with end-stage renal disease undergoing dialysis.

The influence of renal impairment on the pharmacokinetics of colchicine was assessed in a study in patients with familial Mediterranean fever (FMF), 5 women and 4 men, with (n=4) and without (n=5) renal impairment. The mean age was 30 years (range 19-42 years). All 5 patients with renal impairment had biopsy-proven amyloidosis; 4 were on routine haemodialysis and 1 had a serum creatinine CL of 15 ml/min. They could therefore be classified as having severe renal impairment. Subjects received 1 mg colchicine except for 1 subject with cirrhosis who received 500 micrograms. A 4-fold decrease in colchicine CL was observed in subjects with renal impairment compared to those with normal renal function (0.168 ± 0.063 l/h/kg vs. 0.727 ± 0.110 l/h/kg). The terminal half-life was 18.8 ± 1.2 h for subjects with severe renal impairment and 4.4 ± 1.0 h for those with normal renal function. The volume of distribution was similar between groups. The patient with cirrhosis had a 10-fold lower CL compared to the subjects with normal renal function.

Paediatric population

No pharmacokinetics data are available in children.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Genotoxicity

In one study, a bacterial test indicated that colchicine has a slight mutagenic effect.

However, two other bacterial tests and a test in *Drosophila melanogaster* found that colchicine was not mutagenic.

Tests have shown that colchicine induces chromosomal aberrations and micronuclei, and causes some DNA damage.

Teratogenicity

Tests in animals have shown that colchicine is teratogenic.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Lactose monohydrate
Starch pregelatinised
Stearic acid
Talc

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

PVC/PVDC-Aluminium Blister of 10, 14, 20, 28, 30, 56, 60 and 100 tablets
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements

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

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

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UK

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

PL 14251/0100

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

14/08/2025

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

14/08/2025