

## **SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

### **1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Meloxicam 15 mg Orodispersible Tablets

### **2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

Meloxicam 15 mg

Excipients with known effect:

E 421: Mannitol 252.6 mg,

E 420: Sorbitol 40 mg,

E 951: Aspartame 8 mg

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

### **3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Orodispersible Tablet

Round light yellow, flat, scored tablet (400 mg/ tbl, diameter 12 mm) embossed with AX5 on one side, which can be divided into equal halves.

### **4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

#### **4.1 Therapeutic indications**

Short-Term Symptomatic Treatment of Exacerbations of Osteoarthritis.

Long Term Symptomatic Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis or Ankylosing Spondylitis.

Meloxicam 15 mg is indicated in adults and adolescents aged 16 to 18 years.

## 4.2 Posology and method of administration

### Posology

Adults and adolescent over 16 years:

#### Oral Use

- Exacerbations of Osteoarthritis: 7.5 mg/day (half a 15 mg tablet); if necessary, in the absence of improvement, the dose may be increased to 15 mg/day.
- Rheumatoid arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis: 15 mg/day (one 15 mg tablets).

(See also 'Special Populations')

According to the therapeutic response, the dose may be reduced to 7.5 mg/day (half a 15 mg tablet).

Undesirable effects may be minimised by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms (see section 4.4). The patient's need for symptomatic relief and response to therapy should be re-evaluated periodically, especially in patients with osteoarthritis.

**DO NOT EXCEED THE DOSE OF 15 MG/DAY.**

### Method of administration

Precautions to be taken before handling or administering the medicinal product

Meloxicam Orodispersible Tablets should be placed in the mouth on the tongue and allowed to dissolve slowly for five minutes (the tablet should not be chewed and should not be swallowed undissolved), before swallowing with a drink of 240 ml of water.

Water may be used to moisten the buccal mucosa in patients with a dry mouth.

### Special Populations

Elderly patients and patients with increased risks for adverse reaction (see section 5.2):

The recommended dose for long term treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis in elderly patients is 7.5 mg (half a 15 mg tablet) per day. Patients with increased risks for adverse reactions should start treatment with 7.5 mg per day (see section 4.4).

Renal impairment (see section 5.2):

In dialysis patients with severe renal failure, the dose should not exceed 7.5 mg (half a 15 mg tablet) per day.

No dose reduction is required in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment (i.e. patients with a creatinine clearance of greater than 25 ml/min). (For patients with non-dialysed severe renal failure, see section 4.3).

Hepatic Impairment (See Section 5.2):

No dose reduction is required in patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment (for patients with severely impaired liver function, see section 4.3).

Children and adolescents:

Meloxicam Orodispersible Tablets is contraindicated in children and adolescents aged under 16 years (see section 4.3).

### **4.3 Contraindications**

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

This medicinal product is contra-indicated in the following situations:

- Third trimester of pregnancy (see section 4.6 'Pregnancy and lactation');
- Children and adolescents aged under 16 years;
- Hypersensitivity to substances with a similar action, e.g. NSAIDs, aspirin. Meloxicam should not be given to patients who have developed signs of asthma, nasal polyps, angioneurotic oedema or urticaria following the administration of aspirin or other NSAIDs;
- History of gastrointestinal bleeding or perforation, related to previous NSAIDs therapy;
- Active, or history of recurrent peptic ulcer/haemorrhage (two or more distinct episodes of proven ulceration or bleeding);
- Active intestinal inflammatory disease (Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis);
- Severely impaired liver function;
- Non-dialysed severe renal failure;
- Gastrointestinal bleeding, cerebrovascular bleeding or other bleeding disorders;
- Severe heart failure;
- Meloxicam is contraindicated in treatment of perioperative pain after coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG).

### **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

Undesirable effects may be minimised by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms (see section 4.2, and GI and cardiovascular risks below).

The recommended maximum daily dose should not be exceeded in case of insufficient therapeutic effect, nor should an additional NSAID be added to the therapy because this may increase the toxicity while therapeutic advantage has not been proven. The use of Meloxicam Orodispersible Tablets with concomitant NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors should be avoided.

Meloxicam Orodispersible Tablets is not appropriate for the treatment of patients requiring relief from acute pain.

In the absence of improvement after several days, the clinical benefit of the treatment should be reassessed.

Any history of oesophagitis, gastritis and/or peptic ulcer must be sought in order to ensure their total cure before starting treatment with meloxicam. Attention should routinely be paid to the possible onset of a recurrence in patients treated with meloxicam and with a past history of this type.

Aspartame is hydrolysed in the gastrointestinal tract when orally ingested. One of the major hydrolysis products is phenylalanine. Neither non-clinical nor clinical data are available to assess aspartame use in infants below 12 weeks of age.

The additive effect of concomitantly administered products containing sorbitol (or fructose) and dietary intake of sorbitol (or fructose) should be taken into account.

The content of sorbitol in medicinal products for oral use may affect the bioavailability of other medicinal products for oral use administered concomitantly.

#### Gastrointestinal effects

GI bleeding, ulceration or perforation, which can be fatal, has been reported with all NSAIDs at anytime during treatment, with or without warning symptoms or a previous history of serious GI events.

The risk of GI bleeding, ulceration or perforation is higher with increasing NSAID doses, in patients with a history of ulcer, particularly if complicated with haemorrhage or perforation (see section 4.3), and in the elderly. These patients should commence treatment on the lowest dose available. Combination therapy with protective agents (e.g. misoprostol or proton pump inhibitors) should be considered for these patients, and also for patients requiring concomitant low dose aspirin, or other drugs likely to increase gastrointestinal risk (see below and 4.5).

Patients with a history of GI toxicity, particularly when elderly, should report any unusual abdominal symptoms (especially GI bleeding) particularly in the initial stages of treatment.

Caution is advised in patients receiving concomitant medications which could increase the risk of ulceration or bleeding, such as heparin as curative treatment or given in geriatrics, anticoagulants such as warfarin, or other non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, including acetylsalicylic acid given at anti-inflammatory doses ( $\geq 1\text{g}$  as single intake or  $\geq 3\text{g}$  as total daily amount)(see section 4.5).

When GI bleeding or ulceration occurs in patients receiving Meloxicam orodispersible tablets the treatment should be withdrawn.

#### Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular effects

Appropriate monitoring and advice are required for patients with a history of hypertension and/or mild to moderate congestive heart failure as fluid retention and oedema have been reported in association with NSAID therapy.

Clinical monitoring of blood pressure for patients at risk is recommended at baseline and especially during treatment initiation with Meloxicam Orodispersible Tablets.

Clinical trial and epidemiological data suggest that use of some NSAIDs (particularly at high doses and in long term treatment) may be associated with a small increased risk of arterial thrombotic events (for example myocardial infarction or stroke). There are insufficient data to exclude such a risk for meloxicam.

Patients with uncontrolled hypertension, congestive heart failure, established ischaemic heart disease, peripheral arterial disease, and/or cerebrovascular disease should only be treated with meloxicam orodispersible tablets after careful consideration. Similar consideration should be made before initiating longer-term treatment of patients with risk factors for cardiovascular disease (e.g. hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes mellitus, smoking).

#### Skin reactions

Serious skin reactions, some of them fatal, including exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and toxic epidermal necrolysis, have been reported very rarely in association with the use of NSAIDs (see 4.8). Patients appear to be at highest risk for these reactions early in the course of therapy: The onset of the reaction occurring in the majority of cases within the first month of treatment. Meloxicam should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash, mucosal lesions, or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

#### Parameters of liver and renal function

As with most NSAIDs, occasional increases in serum transaminase levels, increases in serum bilirubin or other liver function parameters, as well as increases in serum creatinine and blood urea nitrogen as well as other laboratory disturbances, have been reported. The majority of these instances involved transitory and slight abnormalities. Should any such abnormality prove significant or persistent, the administration of Meloxicam should be stopped and appropriate investigations undertaken.

#### Functional renal failure

NSAIDs, by inhibiting the vasodilating effect of renal prostaglandins, may induce a functional renal failure by reduction of glomerular filtration. This adverse event is dose-dependant. At the beginning of the treatment, or after dose increase, careful monitoring of diuresis and renal function is recommended in patients with the following risk factors:

- Elderly
- Concomitant treatments such as ACE inhibitors, angiotensin-II antagonists, sartans, diuretics (see section 4.5. Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction)
- Hypovolemia (whatever the cause)

- Congestive heart failure
- Renal failure
- Nephrotic syndrome
- Lupus nephropathy
- Severe hepatic dysfunction (serum albumin <25 g/l or Child-Pugh score 10)

In rare instance NSAIDs may be the cause of interstitial nephritis, glomerulonephritis, renal medullary necrosis or nephrotic syndrome.

The dose of Meloxicam in patients with end-stage renal failure on haemodialysis should not be higher than 7.5 mg. No dose reduction is required in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment (i.e. patients with a creatinine clearance of greater than 25 ml/min).

#### Sodium, potassium and water retention

Induction of sodium, potassium and water retention and interference with the natriuretic effects of diuretics may occur with NSAIDs. Furthermore, a decrease of the antihypertensive effect of antihypertensive drugs can occur (see section 4.5). Consequently, oedema, cardiac failure or hypertension may be precipitated or exacerbated in susceptible patients as a result. Clinical monitoring is therefore necessary for patients at risk (see sections 4.2 and 4.3).

#### Hyperkalaemia

Hyperkalaemia can be favoured by diabetes or concomitant treatment known to increase kalaemia (see section 4.5.). Regular monitoring of potassium values should be performed in such cases.

Adverse reactions are often less well tolerated in elderly, fragile or weakened individuals, who therefore require careful monitoring. As with other NSAIDs, particular caution is required in the elderly, in whom renal, hepatic and cardiac functions are frequently impaired. The elderly have an increased frequency of adverse reactions to NSAIDs especially gastrointestinal bleeding and perforation which may be fatal (see section 4.2).

Meloxicam orodispersible tablet, as any other NSAID may mask symptoms of an underlying infectious disease.

The use of meloxicam orodispersible tablet, as with any drug known to inhibit cyclooxygenase / prostaglandin synthesis, may impair fertility and is not recommended in women attempting to conceive. In women who have difficulties conceiving, or who are undergoing investigation of infertility, withdrawal of meloxicam should be considered.

Meloxicam orodispersible tablet contains a source of phenylalanine: Aspartame (E951) and may be harmful for people with phenylketonuria.

Meloxicam orodispersible tablet contains Sorbitol (E420): Patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance should not take this medicine.

#### **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

Interaction studies have only been performed in adults.

Meloxicam is metabolised in liver, mostly by CYP 2C9 and CYP 3A4. Possibility of pharmacokinetic interactions between meloxicam and drugs inhibiting or being metabolised by CYP 2C9 and CYP 3A4 has to be considered.

##### Pharmacodynamic Interactions:

Other non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and acetylsalicylic acid  $\geq 3\text{g/d}$ : combination (see section 4.4) with other non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, including acetylsalicylic acid given at anti-inflammatory doses ( $\geq 1\text{g}$  as single intake or  $\geq 3\text{g}$  as total daily amount) is not recommended.

Corticosteroids (e.g. Glucocorticoids):

The concomitant use with corticosteroids requests caution because of an increased risk of bleeding or gastrointestinal ulceration.

Anticoagulant or heparin administered in geriatrics or at curative doses:

Considerably increased risk of bleeding, via inhibition of platelet function and damage to the gastroduodenal mucosa. NSAIDs may enhance the effects of anti-coagulants, such as warfarin (see section 4.4). The concomitant use of NSAIDs and anticoagulants or heparin administered in geriatrics or at curative dose is not recommended (see section 4.4).

In remaining cases of heparin use caution is necessary due to an increased bleeding risk. Careful monitoring of the INR is required if it proves impossible to avoid such combination.

Thrombolytics and antiplatelet drugs:

Increased risk of bleeding, via inhibition of platelet function and damage to the gastroduodenal mucosa.

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs):

Increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding (see section 4.4).

Diuretics, ACE inhibitors and Angiotensin-II Antagonists:

NSAIDs may reduce the effect of diuretics and other antihypertensive drugs. In some patients with compromised renal function (e.g. dehydrated patients or elderly patients with compromised renal function) the co-administration of an ACE inhibitor or Angiotensin-II antagonists and agents that inhibit cyclo-oxygenase may result in

further deterioration of renal function, including possible acute renal failure, which is usually reversible. Therefore, the combination should be administered with caution, especially in the elderly. Patients should be adequately hydrated and consideration should be given to monitoring of renal function after initiation of concomitant therapy, and periodically thereafter (see also section 4.4).

Other antihypertensive drugs (e.g. Beta-blockers):

As for the latter, a decrease of the antihypertensive effect of beta-blockers (due to inhibition of prostaglandins with vasodilatory effect) can occur.

Calcineurin inhibitors (e.g. cyclosporin, tacrolimus)::

Nephrotoxicity of calcineurin inhibitors may be enhanced by NSAIDs via renal prostaglandin mediated effects. During combined treatment renal function is to be measured. A careful monitoring of the renal function is recommended, especially in the elderly.

Intrauterine devices:

NSAIDs have been reported to decrease the efficacy of intrauterine devices. A decrease of the efficacy of intrauterine devices by NSAIDs has been previously reported but needs further confirmation.

#### Pharmacokinetic Interactions (Effect of meloxicam on the pharmacokinetics of other drugs)

Lithium:

NSAIDs have been reported to increase blood lithium levels (via decreased renal excretion of lithium), which may reach toxic values. The concomitant use of lithium and NSAIDs is not recommended (see section 4.4). If this combination appears necessary, lithium plasma concentrations should be monitored carefully during the initiation, adjustment and withdrawal of meloxicam treatment.

Methotrexate:

NSAIDs can reduce the tubular secretion of methotrexate thereby increasing the plasma concentrations of methotrexate. For this reason, for patients on high dosages of methotrexate (more than 15 mg/week) the concomitant use of NSAIDs is not recommended (see section 4.4).

The risk of an interaction between NSAID preparations and methotrexate, should be considered also in patients on low dosage of methotrexate, especially in patients with impaired renal function. In case combination treatment is necessary blood cell count and the renal function should be monitored. Caution should be taken in case both NSAID and methotrexate are given within 3 days, in which case the plasma level of methotrexate may increase and cause increased toxicity.

Although the pharmacokinetics of methotrexate (15mg/week) were not relevantly affected by concomitant meloxicam treatment, it should be considered that the haematological toxicity of methotrexate can be amplified by treatment with NSAID drugs (see above). (See section 4.8)

Cholestyramine:

Cholestyramine accelerates the elimination of meloxicam by interrupting the enterohepatic circulation so that clearance for meloxicam increases by 50% and the half-life decreases to 13+3 hrs. This interaction is of clinical significance.

No clinically relevant pharmacokinetic drug-drug interactions were detected with respect to the concomitant administration of antacids, cimetidine and digoxin.

## 4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

### Pregnancy

Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may adversely affect the pregnancy and/or the embryo/foetal development. Data from epidemiological studies suggest an increased risk of miscarriage and of cardiac malformation and gastroschisis after use of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor in early pregnancy. The absolute risk for cardiovascular malformation was increased from less than 1%, up to approximately 1.5 %. The risk is believed to increase with dose and duration of therapy. In animals, administration of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor has been shown to result in increased pre- and post-implantation loss and embryo-foetal lethality.

In addition, increased incidences of various malformations, including cardiovascular, have been reported in animals given a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor during the organogenetic period.

**From the 20th week of pregnancy onward, Meloxicam use may cause oligohydramnios resulting from foetal renal dysfunction. This may occur shortly after treatment initiation and is usually reversible upon discontinuation. In addition, there have been reports of ductus arteriosus constriction following treatment in the second trimester, most of which resolved after treatment cessation. Therefore, during the first and second trimester of pregnancy, Meloxicam should not be given unless clearly necessary. If Meloxicam is used by a woman attempting to conceive, or during the first and second trimester of pregnancy, the dose should be kept as low and duration of treatment as short as possible. Antenatal monitoring for oligohydramnios and ductus arteriosus constriction should be considered after exposure to Meloxicam for several days from gestational week 20 onward. Meloxicam should be discontinued if oligohydramnios or ductus arteriosus constriction are found.**

During the third trimester of pregnancy, all prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors may expose the foetus to:

- cardiopulmonary toxicity (with premature **constriction**/closure of the ductus arteriosus and pulmonary hypertension);
- renal dysfunction (**see above**);

the mother and the neonate, at the end of pregnancy, to:

- possible prolongation of bleeding time, an anti-aggregating effect which may occur even at very low doses;

- inhibition of uterine contractions resulting in delayed or prolonged labour.

Consequently, Meloxicam is contraindicated during the third trimester of pregnancy (see sections 4.3 and 5.3).

## **Lactation**

While no specific experience exists for meloxicam, NSAIDs are known to pass into mother's milk. Administration therefore is not recommended in women who are breastfeeding.

## **4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

Meloxicam 15 has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

There are no specific studies on the ability to drive and use machinery.

However, on the basis of the pharmacodynamic profile and reported adverse drug reactions, meloxicam is likely to have no or negligible influence on these abilities.

However, when visual disturbances or drowsiness, vertigo or other central nervous system disturbances occur, it is advisable to refrain from driving and operating machinery.

## **4.8 Undesirable effect**

### **a) General Description**

Clinical trial and epidemiological data suggest that use of some NSAIDs (particularly at high doses and in long term treatment) may be associated with a small increased risk of arterial thrombotic events (for example myocardial infarction or stroke) (see section 4.4).

Oedema, hypertension, and cardiac failure, have been reported in association with NSAID treatment.

The most commonly-observed adverse events are gastrointestinal in nature. Peptic ulcers, perforation or GI bleeding, sometimes fatal, particularly in the elderly, may occur (see section 4.4). Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, flatulence, constipation, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, melaena, haematemesis, ulcerative stomatitis, exacerbation of colitis and Crohn's disease (see section 4.4 - Special warnings and precautions for use) have been reported following administration. Less frequently, gastritis has been observed.

The frequencies of adverse drug reactions given below are based on corresponding occurrences of reported adverse events in 27 clinical trials with a treatment duration of at least 14 days. The information is based on clinical trials involving 15197 patients who have been treated with daily oral doses of 7.5 or 15 mg meloxicam tablets or capsules over a period of up to one year.

Adverse drug reactions that have come to light as a result of reports received in relation to administration of the marketed product are included.

Adverse reactions have been ranked under headings of frequency using the following convention:

Very common ( $> 1/10$ ); common ( $> 1/100, < 1/10$ ); uncommon ( $> 1/1000, < 1/100$ ); rare ( $> 1/10000, < 1/1000$ ); very rare ( $< 1/10000$ )

***b) Table of adverse reactions***

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Uncommon:	Anaemia
Rare:	Blood count abnormal (including differential white cell count), leukopenia, thrombocytopenia

Very rare cases of agranulocytosis have been reported (see section c).

Immune system disorders

Uncommon:	Hypersensitivity, allergic reactions other than anaphylactic or anaphylactoid reactions
Not known:	Anaphylactic reaction, anaphylactoid reaction

Psychiatric disorders

Rare:	Mood altered, nightmares
Not known:	Confusional state, disorientation

Nervous system disorders

Common:	Headache
Uncommon:	Dizziness, somnolence

Eye disorders

Rare:	Visual disturbance including vision blurred; conjunctivitis
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#### Ear and labyrinth disorders

Uncommon:	Vertigo
Rare:	Tinnitus

#### Cardiac disorders

Rare:	Palpitations
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Cardiac failure has been reported in association with NSAID treatment.

#### Vascular disorders

Uncommon:	Blood pressure increased (see section 4.4), flushing
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#### Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Rare:	Asthma in individuals allergic to aspirin or other NSAIDs
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#### Gastrointestinal disorders

Very common:	Dyspepsia, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, constipation, flatulence, diarrhoea
Uncommon:	Occult or macroscopic gastrointestinal haemorrhage, stomatitis, gastritis, eructation
Rare:	Colitis, gastroduodenal ulcer, oesophagitis
Very rare:	Gastrointestinal perforation
Not known	Pancreatitis

Gastrointestinal haemorrhage, ulceration or perforation may sometimes be severe and potentially fatal, especially in elderly (see section 4.4).

#### Hepatobiliary disorders

Uncommon:	Liver function disorder (e.g. raised transaminases or bilirubin)
Very rare:	Hepatitis

#### Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Uncommon:	Angioedema, pruritus, rash
Rare:	Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, urticaria
Very rare:	Dermatitis bullous, erythema multiforme
Not known:	Photosensitivity reaction

#### Renal and urinary disorders

Uncommon:	Sodium and water retention, hyperkalaemia (see section 4.4.Special warnings and special precautions for use and section 4.5.), renal function test abnormal (increased serum creatinine and/or serum urea)
Very rare:	Acute renal failure in particular in patients with risk factors (see section 4.4.)

#### General disorders and administration site conditions

Uncommon:	Oedema including oedema of the lower limbs.
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#### ***c) Information Characterising Individual Serious and/or Frequently Occurring Adverse Reactions***

Very rare cases of agranulocytosis have been reported in patients treated with meloxicam and other potentially myelotoxic drugs (see section 4.5).

#### ***d) Adverse reactions which have not been observed yet in relation to the product, but which are generally accepted as being attributable to other compounds in the class***

Organic renal injury probably resulting in acute renal failure: very rare cases of interstitial nephritis, acute tubular necrosis, nephrotic syndrome, and papillary necrosis have been reported (see section 4.4).

#### **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](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard)

## **4.9 Overdose**

Symptoms following acute NSAID overdose are usually limited to lethargy, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting and epigastric pain, which are generally reversible with supportive care. Gastrointestinal bleeding can occur. Severe

poisoning may result in hypertension, acute renal failure, hepatic dysfunction, respiratory depression, coma, convulsions, cardiovascular collapse and cardiac arrest. Anaphylactoid reactions have been reported with therapeutic ingestion of NSAID and may occur following an overdose.

Patients should be managed with symptomatic and supportive care following an NSAID overdose. Accelerated removal of meloxicam by 4 g oral doses of cholestyramine given three times a day was demonstrated in a clinical trial.

## **5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Non steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, oxicams

ATC code: M01 AC06

#### Mechanism of action

Meloxicam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) of the oxicam family, with anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic properties.

The anti-inflammatory activity of meloxicam has been proven in classical models of inflammation. As with other NSAID, its precise mechanism of action remains unknown. However, there is at least one common mode of action shared by all NSAID (including meloxicam): inhibition of the biosynthesis of prostaglandins, known inflammation mediators.

### **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

#### *Absorption*

Meloxicam is well absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract, which is reflected by a high absolute bioavailability of 89% following oral administration (capsule).

Tablets, oral suspension and capsules were shown to be bioequivalent.

Following single dose administration of meloxicam, mean maximum plasma concentrations achieved within 2 hours for the suspension and within 5-6 hours with solid oral dosage forms (capsules and tablets).

With multiple dosing, steady state conditions were reached within 3 to 5 days. Once daily dosing leads to drug plasma concentrations with a relatively small peak-trough fluctuation in the range of 0.4 - 1.0 µg/ml for 7.5 mg doses and 0.8 - 2.0 µg/ml for 15 mg doses, respectively (c<sub>min</sub> and c<sub>max</sub> at steady state, respectively). Maximum plasma concentrations of meloxicam at steady state, are achieved within five to six hours for the tablet, capsule and the oral suspension, respectively. Extent of absorption for meloxicam following oral administration is not altered by concomitant food intake.

#### *Distribution*

Meloxicam is very strongly bound to plasma proteins, essentially albumin (99%). Meloxicam penetrates into synovial fluid to give concentrations approximately half of those in plasma.

Volume of distribution is low, on average 11 L. Inter-individual variation is the order of 30-40%.

#### *Biotransformation*

Meloxicam undergoes extensive hepatic biotransformation. Four different metabolites of meloxicam were identified in urine, which are all pharmacodynamically inactive. The major metabolite, 5'-carboxymeloxicam (60% of dose), is formed by oxidation of an intermediate metabolite 5'-hydroxymethylmeloxicam, which is also excreted to a lesser extent (9% of dose). In vitro studies suggest that CYP 2C9 plays an important role in this metabolic pathway, with a minor contribution from the CYP 3A4 isoenzyme. The patient's peroxidase activity is probably responsible for the other two metabolites, which account for 16% and 4% of the administered dose respectively.

#### *Elimination*

Meloxicam is excreted predominantly in the form of metabolites and occurs to equal extents in urine and faeces. Less than 5% of the daily dose is excreted unchanged in faeces, while only traces of the parent compound are excreted in urine.

The mean elimination half-life is about 20 hours. Total plasma clearance amounts on average 8 mL/min.

#### *Linearity/non-linearity*

Meloxicam demonstrates linear pharmacokinetics in the therapeutic dose range of 7.5 mg 15 mg following per oral or intramuscular administration.

#### *Special populations*

##### *Hepatic/renal insufficiency:*

Neither hepatic, nor mild nor moderate renal insufficiency has a substantial effect on meloxicam pharmacokinetics. In terminal renal failure, the increase in the volume of distribution may result in higher free meloxicam concentrations, and a daily dose of 7.5 mg must not be exceeded (see section 4.2).

##### *Elderly:*

Mean plasma clearance at steady state in elderly subjects was slightly lower than that reported for younger subjects.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

The toxicological profile of meloxicam has been found in preclinical studies to be identical to that of NSAID: Gastrointestinal ulcers and erosions, renal papillary necrosis at high doses during chronic administration in two animal species.

Oral reproductive studies in the rat have shown a decrease of ovulations and inhibition of implantations and embryotoxic effects (increase of resorptions) at maternotoxic dose levels at 1 mg/kg and higher. Studies of toxicity on reproduction in rats and rabbits did not reveal teratogenicity up to oral doses of 4 mg/kg in rats and 80 mg/kg in rabbits.

The affected dose levels exceeded the clinical dose (7.5-15 mg) by a factor of 10 to 5-fold on a mg/kg dose basis (75 kg person). Foetotoxic effects at the

end of gestation, shared by all prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors, have been described.

No evidence has been found of any mutagenic effect, either in vitro or in vivo. No carcinogenic risk has been found in the rat and mouse at doses far higher than those used clinically.

## **6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Mannitol (E421)  
Mannitol pregranulated (E421)  
Sorbitol (E420)  
Crospovidone (E1202)  
Citric Acid anhydrous (E330)  
Aspartame (E951)  
Talc (E553)  
Magnesium Stearate (E572)  
Povidone K30 (E1201)  
Sodium Lauryl Sulfate  
Yoghurt Flavour (Nature Identical Flavouring Substances, Flavouring Preparations, Natural Flavours, Maize Maltodextrin, Glycerol Triacetate EP )  
Forest fruit flavour (Nature Identical Flavouring Substances, Flavouring Preparations, Natural Flavours, Maize Maltodextrin, Glycerol Triacetate EP, Modified Starch)

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable

### **6.3 Shelf life**

3 years

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

The medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions

## **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

Meloxicam 15 mg tablets is a round light yellow, flat, scored tablet ( 400 mg/tbl, diameter 12 mm) embossed with AX5 on one side, which can be divided into equal doses.

Boxes containing 2 Alu/ PA-Alu-PVC blister packs of 10 tablet each

Boxes containing 3 Alu/ PA-Alu-PVC blister packs of 10 tablet each.

Boxes with one polyethylene bottle with polypropylene child-resistant tamper-evident screw cap with desiccant containing 30 tablets each.

Boxes with one polyethylene bottle with polypropylene child-resistant tamper-evident screw cap with desiccant containing 200 tablets each.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

## **6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

No special requirements.

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

## **7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Alpex Pharma (UK) Limited,

25a Becher Close,

Renhold, Bedford,

MK41 0LP-UK

Contact address:

PO BOX 849,

Bedford, MK45 9EG

## **8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

PL 31388/0004

**9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

Date of latest renewal:

10/08/2017

**10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

12/06/2023