

## **SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

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

Cetirizine Hydrochloride 10mg film-coated Tablets

Bell's Healthcare Allergy Relief 10mg film-coated Tablets

Wilko Hayfever & Allergy Relief 10mg film-coated Tablets

OptiPharma Allergy Relief 10mg Film-Coated Tablets

ASDA Allergy Relief 10mg Film-Coated Tablets

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

One film-coated tablet contains cetirizine hydrochloride 10 mg.

Excipients with known effect:

Cetirizine 10mg tablets contain 100.20 mg of lactose monohydrate.

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1

### **3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Film-coated tablet.

White coloured, circular, biconvex film-coated tablet. Marked with 'A' on one side and a breakline on the other.

### **4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

#### **4.1 Therapeutic indications**

Cetirizine hydrochloride 10 mg film-coated tablets are indicated in adults and paediatric patients 6 years and above:

- For the relief of nasal and ocular symptoms of seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis.
- For the relief of symptoms of chronic idiopathic urticaria.

#### **4.2 Posology and method of administration**

Posology:

Adults and adolescents over 12 years of age: 1 tablet (10 mg) once daily.

If drowsiness occurs, the tablet can be administered in the evening.

Children aged from 6 to 12 years: 5mg twice daily (a half tablet twice daily).

*For children weighing less than 30 kg:*

½ tablet (5mg) taken once daily.

Clinical trials in children have not exceeded four weeks.

Elderly subjects: data do not suggest that the dose needs to be reduced in elderly subjects provided that the renal function is normal. The duration of the treatment may vary depending on the symptoms.

Cetirizine is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment.

Patients with moderate to severe renal impairment: the dosing intervals must be individualized according to renal function. Refer to the following table and adjust the dose as indicated. To use this dosing table, an estimate of the patient's creatinine clearance (CL<sub>cr</sub>) in ml/min is needed. The CL<sub>cr</sub> (ml/min) may be estimated from serum creatinine (mg/dl) determination using the following formula:

$$CL_{cr} = \frac{[140 - \text{age}(\text{years})] \times \text{weight}(\text{kg})}{72 \times \text{serum creatinine}(\text{mg} / \text{dl})} (\times 0.85 \text{ for women})$$

Dosing adjustments for adult patients with impaired renal function

Group	Creatinine clearance (ml/min)	Dosage and frequency
Normal	≥80	10 mg once daily
Mild	50 – 79	10 mg once daily
Moderate	30 – 49	5 mg once daily
Severe	<30	5 mg once every 2 days
End-stage renal disease – Patients undergoing dialysis	<10	Contra-indicated

In pediatric patients suffering from renal impairment, the dose will have to be adjusted on an individual basis taking into account the renal clearance of the patient, his age and his body weight.

Patients with hepatic impairment: no dose adjustment is needed in patients with solely hepatic impairment.

Patients with hepatic impairment and renal impairment: dose adjustment is recommended (see Patients with moderate to severe renal impairment above).

Method of administration  
For oral use

### 4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance, to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1, to hydroxyzine or to any piperazine derivatives.

Patients with end-stage renal disease with an eGFR (estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate) below 15 ml/min.

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

At therapeutic doses, no clinically significant interactions have been demonstrated with alcohol (for a blood alcohol level of 0.5 g/L). Nevertheless, precaution is recommended if alcohol is taken concomitantly.

Caution should be taken in patients with predisposition factors of urinary retention (e.g. spinal cord lesion, prostatic hyperplasia) as cetirizine may increase the risk of urinary retention.

Caution is recommended in epileptic patients and patients at risk of convulsions.

Response to allergy skin tests are inhibited by antihistamines and a wash-out period (of 3 days) is required before performing them.

Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take cetirizine film-coated tablets.

Pruritus and/or urticaria may occur when cetirizine is stopped, even if those symptoms were not present before treatment initiation. In some cases, the symptoms may be intense and may require treatment to be restarted. The symptoms should resolve when the treatment is restarted.

##### **Paediatric Population**

The use of the film-coated tablet formulation is not recommended in children aged less than 6 years since this formulation does not allow for appropriate dose adaptation. It is recommended to use a paediatric formulation of cetirizine.

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

Due to the pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic and tolerance profile of cetirizine, no interactions are expected with this antihistamine. Actually, neither pharmacodynamic nor significant pharmacokinetic interaction was reported in drug-drug interactions studies performed, notably with pseudoephedrine or theophylline (400 mg/day).

The extent of absorption of cetirizine is not reduced with food, although the rate of absorption is decreased.

In sensitive patients, the concurrent use of alcohol or other CNS depressants may cause additional reductions in alertness and impairment of performance, although cetirizine does not potentiate the effect of alcohol (0.5 g/L blood levels).

#### **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

##### **Pregnancy:**

For cetirizine prospectively collected data on pregnancy outcomes do not suggest potential for maternal or foetal/embryonic toxicity above background rates.

Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to pregnancy, embryonal/foetal development, parturition or post-natal development. Caution should nevertheless be exercised when prescribing to pregnant women.

##### **Breast-feeding:**

Cetirizine passes into breast milk. A risk of side effects in breastfed infants cannot be excluded. Cetirizine is excreted in human milk at concentrations representing 25% to 90% those measured in plasma, depending on sampling time after administration. Therefore, caution should be exercised when prescribing cetirizine to lactating women.

##### **Fertility:**

Limited data is available on human fertility but no safety concern has been identified.

Animal data show no safety concern for human reproduction.

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

Objective measurements of driving ability, sleep latency and assembly line performance have not demonstrated any clinically relevant effects at the recommended dose of 10 mg. However, patients who experience somnolence should refrain from driving, engaging in potentially hazardous activities or operating machinery. They should not exceed the recommended dose and should take their response to the medicinal product into account.

#### **4.8 Undesirable effects**

##### **Clinical studies**

##### **Overview**

Clinical studies have shown that cetirizine at the recommended dosage has minor undesirable effects on the CNS, including somnolence, fatigue, dizziness and headache. In some cases, paradoxical CNS stimulation has been reported.

Although cetirizine is a selective antagonist of peripheral H<sub>1</sub>-receptors and is relatively free of anticholinergic activity, isolated cases of micturition difficulty, eye accommodation disorders and dry mouth have been reported.

Instances of abnormal hepatic function with elevated hepatic enzymes accompanied by elevated bilirubin have been reported. Mostly this resolves upon discontinuation of the treatment with cetirizine hydrochloride.

##### **Listing of ADRs**

Double blind controlled clinical or pharmacoclinical trials comparing cetirizine to

placebo or other antihistamines at the recommended dosage (10 mg daily for cetirizine), of which quantified safety data are available, included more than 3200 subjects exposed to cetirizine.

From this pooling, the following adverse events were reported for cetirizine 10 mg in the placebo-controlled trials at rates of 1.0 % or greater:

<b>Adverse event (WHO-ART)</b>	<b>Cetirizine 10 mg (n=3260)</b>	<b>Placebo (n= 3061)</b>
General disorders and administration site conditions Fatigue	1.63 %	0.95 %
Nervous system disorders Dizziness Headache	1.10% 7.42%	0.98% 8.07%
Gastro-intestinal disorders Abdominal pain Dry mouth Nausea	0.98% 2.09% 1.07%	1.08% 0.82% 1.14%
Psychiatric disorders Somnolence	9.63%	5.00%
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders Pharyngitis	1.29%	1.34%

Although statistically more common than under placebo, somnolence was mild to moderate in the majority of cases. Objective tests as demonstrated by other studies have demonstrated that usual daily activities are unaffected at the recommended daily dose in healthy young volunteers.

#### **Paediatric population**

Adverse drug reactions at rates of 1 % or greater in children aged from 6 months to 12 years, included in placebo-controlled clinical or pharmacoclinical trials are:

<b>Adverse drug reactions (WHO-ART)</b>	<b>Cetirizine (n=1656)</b>	<b>Placebo (n=1294)</b>
Gastro-intestinal system disorders Diarrhoea	1.0%	0.6%
Psychiatric disorders Somnolence	1.8%	1.4%
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders Rhinitis	1.4%	1.1%
General disorders and administrative site conditions Fatigue	1.0%	0.3%

#### **Post-marketing experience**

In addition to the adverse effects reported during clinical studies and listed above, isolated cases of the following adverse drug reactions have been reported in post-

marketing experience.

Undesirable effects are described according to MedDRA System Organ Class and by estimated frequency based on post-marketing experience.

Frequencies are defined as follows: Very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ); Common ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ ); Uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$  to  $< 1/100$ ); Rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$  to  $< 1/1,000$ ); Very rare ( $< 1/10,000$ ), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

**Blood and lymphatic system disorders:**

Very rare: thrombocytopenia

**Immune system disorders:**

Rare: hypersensitivity,

Very rare: anaphylactic shock

**Metabolism and nutritional disorders:**

Not known: increased appetite

**Psychiatric disorders:**

Uncommon: agitation

Rare: aggression, confusion, depression, hallucination, insomnia

Very rare: tics

Not known: suicidal ideation, nightmare

**Nervous system disorders:**

Uncommon: paraesthesia.

Rare: convulsions,

Very rare: dysgeusia, dyskinesia, dystonia, syncope, tremor

Not known: amnesia, memory impairment

**Eye disorders:**

Very rare: accommodation disorder, blurred vision, oculogyration

**Ear and labyrinth disorders:**

Not known: vertigo

**Cardiac disorders:** Rare: tachycardia

**Gastrointestinal disorders:** Uncommon: diarrhoea

**Hepatobiliary disorders:**

Rare: abnormal hepatic function (increased transaminases, alkaline phosphatase,  $\gamma$ -GT and bilirubin)

Not known: hepatitis

**Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:**

Uncommon: skin rash, pruritus

Rare: urticaria

Very rare: angioedema, fixed drug eruption.

Not known: acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis

**Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:**

Not known: arthralgia, myalgia

**Renal and urinary disorders:**

Very rare: dysuria, enuresis,

Not known: urinary retention

**General disorders and administration site conditions:**

Uncommon: asthenia, malaise

Rare: oedema

**Investigations:**

Rare: weight increased

**Description of selected adverse drugs reaction**

After discontinuation of cetirizine, pruritus (intense itching) and /or urticaria have been reported.

**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](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in Google Play or Apple App store.

**4.9 Overdose****Symptoms**

Symptoms observed after an overdose of cetirizine are mainly associated with CNS effects or with effects that could suggest an anticholinergic effect.

Adverse events reported after an intake of at least 5 times the recommended daily dose are: confusion, diarrhoea, dizziness, fatigue, headache, malaise, mydriasis, pruritus, restlessness, sedation, somnolence, stupor, tachycardia, tremor, and urinary retention.

**Management**

There is no known specific antidote to cetirizine.

Should overdose occur, symptomatic or supportive treatment is recommended.

Gastric lavage should be considered shortly after ingestion of the drug.

Cetirizine is not effectively removed by haemodialysis.

**5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES****5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antihistamine for systemic use, Piperazine derivatives,  
ATC code: R06A E07

**Mechanism of action**

Cetirizine, a human metabolite of hydroxyzine, is a potent and selective antagonist of peripheral H<sub>1</sub>-receptors. In vitro receptor binding studies have shown no measurable affinity for receptors other than H<sub>1</sub>-receptors.

### **Pharmacodynamic effects**

In addition to its anti-H<sub>1</sub> effect, cetirizine was shown to display anti- allergic activities: at a dose of 10 mg once or twice daily, it inhibits the late phase recruitment of eosinophils, in the skin and conjunctiva of atopic subjects submitted to allergen challenge.

### **Clinical efficacy and safety**

Studies in healthy volunteers show that cetirizine, at doses of 5 and 10 mg strongly inhibits the wheal and flare reactions induced by very high concentrations of histamine into the skin, but the correlation with efficacy is not established.

In a six-week, placebo-controlled study of 186 patients with allergic rhinitis and concomitant mild to moderate asthma, cetirizine 10 mg once daily improved rhinitis symptoms and did not alter pulmonary function. This study supports the safety of administering cetirizine to allergic patients with mild to moderate asthma.

In a placebo-controlled study, cetirizine given at the high daily dose of 60 mg for seven days did not cause statistically significant prolongation of QT interval.

At the recommended dosage, cetirizine has demonstrated that it improves the quality of life of patients with perennial and seasonal allergic rhinitis.

### **Paediatric population**

In a 35-day study in children aged 5 to 12, no tolerance to the antihistamine effect (suppression of wheal and flare) of cetirizine was found. When a treatment with cetirizine is stopped after repeated administration, the skin recovers its normal reactivity to histamine within 3 days.

## **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

### **Absorption**

The steady-state peak plasma concentrations is approximately 300 ng/ml and is achieved within  $1.0 \pm 0.5$  h. The distribution of pharmacokinetic parameters such as peak plasma concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) and area under curve (AUC), is unimodal.

The extent of absorption of cetirizine is not reduced with food, although the rate of absorption is decreased. The extent of bioavailability is similar when cetirizine is given as solutions, capsules or tablets.

### **Distribution**

The apparent volume of distribution is 0.50 l/kg. Plasma protein binding of cetirizine is  $93 \pm 0.3$  %. Cetirizine does not modify the protein binding of warfarin.

### **Biotransformation**

Cetirizine does not undergo extensive first pass metabolism.

### **Elimination**

The terminal half-life is approximately 10 hours and no accumulation is observed for cetirizine following daily doses of 10 mg for 10 days. About two third of the dose are excreted unchanged in urine.

### **Linearity/Nonlinearity**

Cetirizine exhibits linear kinetics over the range of 5 to 60 mg.

**Renal impairment:** The pharmacokinetics of the drug was similar in patients with mild impairment (creatinine clearance higher than 40 ml/min) and healthy volunteers. Patients with moderate renal impairment had a 3-fold increase in half-life and 70 % decrease in clearance compared to healthy volunteers.

Patients on hemodialysis (creatinine clearance less than 7 ml/min) given a single oral 10 mg dose of cetirizine had a 3-fold increase in half-life and a 70 % decrease in clearance compared to normals. Cetirizine was poorly cleared by haemodialysis. Dosing adjustment is necessary in patients with moderate or severe renal impairment (see section 4.2).

**Hepatic impairment:** Patients with chronic liver diseases (hepatocellular, cholestatic, and biliary cirrhosis) given 10 or 20 mg of cetirizine as a single dose had a 50 % increase in half-life along with a 40 % decrease in clearance compared to healthy subjects.

Dosing adjustment is only necessary in patients with hepatic impairment if concomitant renal impairment is present.

**Older people:** Following a single 10 mg oral dose, half-life increased by about 50 % and clearance decreased by 40 % in 16 elderly subjects compared to the younger subjects. The decrease in cetirizine clearance in these elderly volunteers appeared to be related to their decreased renal function.

**Paediatric population:** The half-life of cetirizine was about 6 hours in children of 6-12 years and 5 hours in children 2-6 years. In infants and toddlers aged 6 to 24 months, it is reduced to 3.1 hours.

## **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.

## **6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

#### Tablet core

Lactose monohydrate  
Microcrystalline cellulose  
Colloidal anhydrous silica  
Maize starch  
Talc  
Magnesium stearate

#### Coating

Titanium dioxide (E171)  
Hypromellose  
Lactose monohydrate  
Macrogol  
Sodium citrate

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

3 years.

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

No special precautions for storage.

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

Blister comprising of PVC/Aluminium foil with 7, 10, 14, 28, 30, 60 and 100 tablets.

Not all packs 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**

Relonchem Limited  
Cheshire House  
Gorse Lane  
Widnes  
Cheshire  
WA8 0RP  
UK

**8      MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

PL 20395/0129

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

17/06/2007

**10     DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

11/02/2025