

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Amgesic Muscle & Back Pain Relief 1% Gel
Diclofenac Sodium 1% Gel

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each gram of gel contains 10 mg of diclofenac sodium (equivalent to 11.6 mg of diclofenac diethylammonium).

Excipient(s) with known effect:

Each gram of gel contains 0.5 mg of propylhydroxybenzoate, 0.5 mg of methylhydroxybenzoate and 80 mg of propylene glycol.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Gel.

White, smooth, homogeneous gel, with a slight characteristic odour.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

For the local symptomatic relief of pain and inflammation in:

- trauma of the tendons, ligaments, muscles and joints, e.g. due to sprains, strains and bruises
- localised forms of soft tissue rheumatism

For the relief of pain of non-serious arthritic conditions.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

For cutaneous use only

Adults and children 14 years and over: The gel should be rubbed gently into the skin 3-4 times daily. Depending on the size of the affected site to be treated, 2-4g (a circular shaped mass approximately 2.0-2.5cm in diameter) of gel should be applied 3-4 times a day. The maximum daily dose is 16g. Therefore the maximum weekly dose is 112g.

For arthritis pain it may be necessary to apply the gel for up to 7 days (to allow its effect to build up on the joint) before an improvement in pain is noticed. The gel can be used for up to 14 days under pharmacy supervision.

After application, the hands should be washed unless they are the site being treated.

If symptoms do not improve by day 7, or if they worsen within the first 7 days, a consultation with a doctor is recommended. Consultation with a doctor is recommended if more than two major joints in the body are affected. Do not use for more than 14 days unless recommended by a doctor.

Use in the elderly: The usual adult dosage may be used.

Children and adolescents: There are insufficient data on efficacy and safety available for the children and adolescents below 14 years of age (see also contraindications section 4.3). In children aged 14 years and over, if this product is required for more than 7 days for pain relief or if the symptoms worsen the patient/parents of the adolescent is/are advised to consult a doctor.

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to diclofenac, acetylsalicylic acid, other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or any of the excipients.
- Patients with or without chronic asthma in whom attacks of asthma, urticaria or acute rhinitis are precipitated by acetylsalicylic acid or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
- The use in children and adolescents aged less than 14 years is contraindicated.
- Third trimester of pregnancy.
- Patients with renal impairment.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

The occurrence of systemic undesirable effects with the topical use of diclofenac is low when compared with the frequency of undesirable effects with the oral use of diclofenac.

The possibility of systemic adverse events from application of topical diclofenac cannot be excluded if the preparation is used on large areas of skin and over a prolonged period (see the product information on systemic forms of diclofenac).

Cutaneous safety of NSAIDs: Serious skin reactions, some of them fatal, have been reported very rarely, including exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and

toxic epidermal necrolysis, associated with the administration of NSAIDs (see section 4.8.). Apparently the risk of occurrence of these reactions is higher at the beginning of the treatment and in most cases these reactions are manifested during the first month of treatment. Concomitant use of oral NSAID's should be cautioned as the incidence of untoward effects, particularly systemic side effects, may increase.

Diclofenac Sodium 1% Gel should be discontinued at the first signs of rash, mucosal injuries or other hypersensitivity manifestations.

Topical diclofenac should be applied only to intact non-diseased skin, and not to skin wounds or open injuries. It should not be allowed to come into contact with the eyes or mucous membranes and should not be ingested.

The area treated with Diclofenac Sodium 1% Gel should not be exposed to sunlight.

Topical diclofenac can be used with non-occlusive bandages but should not be used with an airtight occlusive dressing.

Diclofenac Sodium 1% Gel contains propylhydroxybenzoate (E216) and methylhydroxybenzoate (E218), which may cause allergic reactions (possibly delayed).

Diclofenac Sodium 1% Gel also contains propylene glycol which may cause skin irritation.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Diuretics, Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACE inhibitors) and Angiotensin II Antagonists (AII): NSAIDs may decrease the effectiveness of diuretics and other antihypertensive medicinal products. In some patients with impaired renal function (e.g., dehydrated patients or elderly with impaired renal function) the co-administration of an ACEI or AIIA and cyclooxygenase inhibitor agents may result in the progression of renal function deterioration, including the possibility of acute renal insufficiency, which is usually reversible. The occurrence of these interactions should be considered in patients applying diclofenac, particularly if in large areas of the skin and for prolonged periods, in combination with ACEI or AIIA. Consequently, this drug combination should be used with caution, especially in elderly patients. Patients should be properly hydrated and the need to monitor the renal function after the beginning of the concomitant therapy and periodically thereafter should be analysed.

Since systemic absorption of diclofenac from a topical application is very low such interactions are very unlikely.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There are no clinical data from the use of Diclofenac 1% Gel during pregnancy. Even if systemic exposure is lower compared with oral administration, it is not known if the systemic Diclofenac 1% Gel exposure reached after topical administration can be harmful to an embryo/fetus. During the first and second trimester of pregnancy, Diclofenac 1% Gel should not be used unless clearly necessary. If used,

the dose should be kept as low and duration of treatment as short as possible.

During the third trimester of pregnancy, systemic use of prostaglandin synthetase inhibitors including diclofenac may induce cardiopulmonary and renal toxicity in the fetus. At the end of the pregnancy prolonged bleeding time in both mother and child may occur, and labour can be delayed. Therefore, Diclofenac 1% Gel is contraindicated during the last trimester of pregnancy (see Section 4.3).

The systemic concentration of diclofenac is lower after topical administration, compared to oral formulations. With reference to experience from treatment with NSAIDs with systemic uptake, the following is recommended

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. During the first and second trimester of pregnancy, diclofenac should not be given unless clearly necessary. If diclofenac 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.

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

- the foetus to:
 - cardiopulmonary toxicity (with premature closure of the ductus arteriosus and pulmonary hypertension);
 - renal dysfunction, which may progress to renal failure with oligo- hydroamniosis;
- 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, diclofenac is contraindicated during the third trimester of pregnancy (see section 4.3).

Breast-feeding

Like other NSAIDs, diclofenac passes into breast milk in small amounts. However, at therapeutic doses of topical diclofenac no effects on the suckling child are anticipated. Because of a lack of controlled studies in lactating women, the product should only be used during lactation under advice from a healthcare professional. Under this circumstance, this medicinal product should not be applied on the breasts of nursing mothers, nor elsewhere on large areas of skin or for a prolonged period of time (see section 4.4).

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Cutaneous application of topical diclofenac has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Adverse reactions (Table 1) are ranked under heading of frequency, the most frequent first, using the following convention: very common (> 1/10); common \geq (1/100, <1/10); uncommon \geq (1/1,000, < 1/100); rare (\geq 1/10,000, < 1/1,000); very rare (<1/10,000), not known: cannot be estimated from the available data.

Table 1

Immune system disorder:

Very rare: Hypersensitivity (including urticaria), angioneurotic oedema. Infections and infestations:

Very rare: Rash pustular.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Very rare: Asthma.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Common: Rash, eczema, erythema, dermatitis (including dermatitis contact), pruritus

Rare: Dermatitis bullous

Very rare:	Photosensitivity reaction
Not known:	Burning sensation at the application site
	Dry skin

Although less likely with the topical administration, some side effects normally associated with systemically administered diclofenac may also occur.

The prolonged use of diclofenac in a relatively extensive area can cause systemic side effects such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea or epigastric pain.

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

4.9 Overdose

The low systemic absorption of topical diclofenac renders overdose very unlikely.

However, undesirable effects similar to those observed following an overdose of Diclofenac tablets can be expected if Topical diclofenac is inadvertently ingested (1 tube of 100 g contains the equivalent of 1,000 mg diclofenac sodium).

In the event of accidental ingestion resulting in significant systemic adverse effects, general therapeutic measures normally adopted to treat poisoning with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines should be used. Gastric decontamination and the use of activated charcoal should be considered, especially within a short time of ingestion.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Topical products for joint and muscular pain, Antiinflammatory preparations, non-steroids for topical use, ATC code: M02AA15

Diclofenac is a phenylacetic acid derivative. It leads to the inhibition of cyclooxygenase activity, which then leads to the inhibition of the synthesis of prostaglandin and other mediators of inflammation. Diclofenac acts as anti-inflammatory and analgesic agent in the treatment of topical symptoms of rheumatic and non-rheumatic pains of the locomotor apparatus.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

After topical application, diclofenac is well-absorbed into the subcutaneous layers of the skin. In healthy volunteers, the maximum level of diclofenac after a 7.5 g dose of 1% of concentration was, on average, approximately 3.9 ng/ml. After several days of treatment, the concentration on skin and soft tissues of patients with arthrosis reached values 30 to 40 times higher than the ones from plasma. The diclofenac absorption in the 1% concentration applied on the healthy skin reached 6 to 7% in healthy individuals.

Distribution

The diclofenac concentration was measured on plasma and tissue and synovial fluid after topical administration in the hands and knees joints. Maximum plasma concentration was about 100 times lower than after oral administration. Diclofenac binds 99.7% to plasma proteins, mainly albumin (99.5%).

Biotransformation

Biotransformation of diclofenac involves partly glucuronidation of the intact molecule, and mainly single and multiple hydroxylations, most of which are converted to glucuronide conjugates (hydroxyl-gluconates). The main metabolite is 4-hydroxy-diclofenac (30%-40%). All the metabolites are biologically active, but to a much smaller extent than diclofenac.

Elimination

Diclofenac and its metabolites are excreted mainly in the urine. Total clearance of diclofenac from plasma is 263 ± 56 ml/min. The terminal plasma half-life is of 1-2 hours. Its metabolites have similar plasma half-lives of 1-3 hours. Approximately 60% of the dose administered is eliminated in the urine in the form of metabolites, only 1% in the form of diclofenac. The remaining is eliminated as metabolites by bile and in faeces.

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 and reproductive toxicity, at the intended therapeutic doses.

At high systemic levels of diclofenac, not observed following topical application of Diclofenac Sodium 1% Gel, toxicity of diclofenac took the form mainly of lesions and ulcers in the gastro-intestinal tract. Increased duration of gestation, dystocia and increased resorptions were observed at maternally toxic doses.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Sodium hydroxide
Hydroxyethylcellulose
Carbomers
Propylene glycol
Medium chain triglycerides
Propylhydroxybenzoate (E216)
Methylhydroxybenzoate (E218)
Purified water

6.2 Incompatibilities

None stated.

6.3 Shelf life

30 months.

Shelf-life after first opening: 6 months.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 25°C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Aluminium tube sealed by a membrane, with high density polyethylene cap, containing 60 g or 100 g of gel for topical application, or

Aluminium tube sealed by a membrane, with polypropylene cap, containing 30 g or 50 g of gel for topical application.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements for disposal.

The active substance diclofenac occurs frequently in surface water, any unused product or waste should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Amdeepcha Limited
85 Yarmouth Road, Blofield, Norwich Norfolk
NR13 4LQ
United Kingdom

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

PL 19255/0021

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

07/09/2021

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

24/07/2024