

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Crescent 40mg/12.5mg Tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains 40 mg of telmisartan converted in situ to telmisartan sodium, and 12.5 mg of hydrochlorothiazide.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Tablet.

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets are white to off-white, oblong tablets of approximately 12.5 x 6.5 mm, debossed with “H4” on one side.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Treatment of essential hypertension.

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets fixed dose combination (40 mg telmisartan/12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide) is indicated in adults whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled on telmisartan alone.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets should be taken in patients whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled by telmisartan alone. Individual dose titration with each of the two components is recommended before changing to the fixed dose combination. When clinically appropriate, direct change from monotherapy to the fixed combination may be considered.

- Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide 40mg/12.5mg Tablets may be administered once daily in patients whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled by Telmisartan 40 mg.
- Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide 80mg/12.5mg Tablets may be administered once daily in patients whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled by Telmisartan 80 mg.

Renal impairment

Experience in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment is modest but has not

suggested adverse renal effects and dose adjustment is not considered necessary. Periodic monitoring of renal function is advised (see section 4.4).

Due to the hydrochlorothiazide component, the fixed dose combination is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30 mL/min) (see section 4.3).

Telmisartan is not removed from blood by haemofiltration and is not dialysable

Hepatic impairment

In patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment the posology should not exceed Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets 40 mg/12.5 mg once daily. Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets are not indicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment. Thiazides should be used with caution in patients with impaired hepatic function (see section 4.4).

Elderly

No dose adjustment is necessary.

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets in children and adolescents aged below 18 have not been established. No data are available.

Method of administration

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets are for once-daily oral administration and should be taken with liquid, with or without food.

Precautions to be taken before handling or administering the medicinal product

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets should be kept in the sealed blister due to the hygroscopic property of the tablets. Tablets should be taken out of the blister shortly before administration (see section 6.6).

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to the active substances or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- Hypersensitivity to other sulphonamide-derived substances (since hydrochlorothiazide is a sulphonamide-derived medicinal product).
- Second and third trimesters of pregnancy (see sections 4.4 and 4.6).
- Cholestasis and biliary obstructive disorders.
- Severe hepatic impairment.
- Severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30 ml/min), Anuria.
- Refractory hypokalaemia, hypercalcaemia.

The concomitant use of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets with aliskiren-containing products is contraindicated in patients with diabetes mellitus or renal impairment (GFR < 60 ml/min/1.73 m²) (see sections 4.5 and 5.1).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Pregnancy

Angiotensin II receptor blockers should not be initiated during pregnancy. Unless continued angiotensin II receptor blockers therapy is considered essential, patients planning pregnancy should be changed to alternative antihypertensive treatments which have an established safety profile for use in pregnancy. When pregnancy is diagnosed, treatment with angiotensin II receptor blockers should be stopped immediately, and, if appropriate, alternative therapy should be started (see sections 4.3 and 4.6).

Hepatic impairment

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets should not be given to patients with cholestasis, biliary obstructive disorders or severe hepatic insufficiency (see section 4.3) since telmisartan is mostly eliminated with the bile. These patients can be expected to have reduced hepatic clearance for telmisartan.

In addition, Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets should be used with caution in patients with impaired hepatic function or progressive liver disease, since minor alterations of fluid and electrolyte balance may precipitate hepatic coma. There is no clinical experience with Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets in patients with hepatic impairment.

Renovascular hypertension

There is an increased risk of severe hypotension and renal insufficiency when patients with bilateral renal artery stenosis or stenosis of the artery to a single functioning kidney are treated with medicinal products that affect the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system.

Renal impairment and kidney transplantation

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets should not be used in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30 ml/min) (see section 4.3). There is no experience regarding the administration of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets in patients with recent kidney transplantation. Experience with Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets is modest in the patients with mild to moderate renal impairment, therefore periodic monitoring of potassium, creatinine and uric acid serum levels is recommended. Thiazide diuretic-associated azotaemia may occur in patients with impaired renal function.

Intravascular hypovolaemia (Volume and/or sodium depleted patients)

Symptomatic hypotension, especially after the first dose, may occur in patients who are volume and/or sodium depleted by vigorous diuretic therapy, dietary salt restriction, diarrhoea or vomiting. Such conditions should be corrected before the administration of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets. Isolated cases of hyponatraemia accompanied by neurological symptoms (nausea, progressive disorientation, apathy) have been observed with the use of HCTZ.

Dual blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS)

There is evidence that the concomitant use of ACE-inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers or aliskiren increases the risk of hypotension, hyperkalaemia and decreased renal function (including acute renal failure). Dual blockade of RAAS through the combined use of ACE-inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers or aliskiren is therefore not recommended (see sections 4.5 and 5.1). If dual blockade therapy is considered absolutely necessary, this should only occur under specialist supervision and subject to frequent close monitoring of renal function, electrolytes and blood pressure. ACE-inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers should not be used concomitantly in patients with diabetic nephropathy.

Other conditions with stimulation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system

In patients whose vascular tone and renal function depend predominantly on the activity of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (e.g. patients with severe congestive heart failure or underlying renal disease, including renal artery stenosis), treatment with medicinal products that affect this system has been associated with acute hypotension, hyperazotaemia, oliguria, or rarely acute renal failure (see section 4.8).

Primary aldosteronism

Patients with primary aldosteronism generally will not respond to antihypertensive medicinal products acting through inhibition of the renin-angiotensin system. Therefore, the use of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets is not recommended.

Aortic and mitral valve stenosis, obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

As with other vasodilators, special caution is indicated in patients suffering from aortic or mitral stenosis, or obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Metabolic and endocrine effects

Thiazide therapy may impair glucose tolerance, whereas hypoglycaemia may occur in diabetic patients under insulin or antidiabetic therapy and telmisartan treatment. Therefore, in these patients blood glucose monitoring should be considered; a dose adjustment of insulin or antidiabetics may be required, when indicated. Latent diabetes *mellitus* may become manifest during thiazide therapy.

An increase in cholesterol and triglyceride levels has been associated with thiazide diuretic therapy; however, at the 12.5 mg dose contained in Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets, minimal or no effects were reported.

Hyperuricaemia may occur or frank gout may be precipitated in some patients receiving thiazide therapy.

Intestinal angioedema

Intestinal angioedema has been reported in patients treated with angiotensin II receptor blockers (see section 4.8). These patients presented with abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Symptoms resolved after discontinuation of angiotensin II receptor blockers. If intestinal angioedema is diagnosed, telmisartan should be discontinued and appropriate monitoring should be initiated until complete resolution of symptoms has occurred.

Electrolyte imbalance

As for any patient receiving diuretic therapy, periodic determination of serum electrolytes should be performed at appropriate intervals.

Thiazides, including hydrochlorothiazide, can cause fluid or electrolyte imbalance (including hypokalaemia, hyponatraemia and hypochloraemic alkalosis). Warning signs of fluid or electrolyte imbalance are dryness of mouth, thirst, asthenia, lethargy, drowsiness, restlessness, muscle pain or cramps, muscular fatigue, hypotension, oliguria, tachycardia, and gastrointestinal disturbances such as nausea or vomiting (see section 4.8).

- **Hypokalaemia**
Although hypokalaemia may develop with the use of thiazide diuretics, concurrent therapy with telmisartan may reduce diuretic-induced hypokalaemia. The risk of hypokalaemia is greater in patients with cirrhosis of liver, in patients experiencing brisk diuresis, in patients who are receiving inadequate oral intake of electrolytes and in patients receiving concomitant therapy with corticosteroids or Adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) (see section 4.5).
- **Hyperkalaemia**
Conversely, due to the antagonism of the angiotensin II (AT1) receptors by the telmisartan component of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets, hyperkalaemia might occur. Although clinically significant hyperkalaemia has not been documented with Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets, risk factors for the development of hyperkalaemia include renal insufficiency and/or heart failure, and diabetes mellitus. Potassium-sparing diuretics, potassium supplements or potassium-containing salt substitutes should be co-administered cautiously with Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets (see section 4.5).
- **Hyponatraemia and hypochloraemic alkalosis**
There is no evidence that Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets would reduce or prevent diuretic-induced hyponatraemia. Chloride deficit is generally mild and usually does not require treatment.
- **Hypercalcaemia**
Thiazides may decrease urinary calcium excretion and cause an intermittent and slight elevation of serum calcium in the absence of known disorders of calcium metabolism. Marked hypercalcaemia may be evidence of hidden hyperparathyroidism. Thiazides should be discontinued before carrying out tests for parathyroid function.
- **Hypomagnesaemia**
Thiazides have been shown to increase the urinary excretion of magnesium, which may result in hypomagnesaemia (see section 4.5).

Ethnic differences

As with all other angiotensin II receptor blockers, telmisartan is apparently less effective in lowering blood pressure in black patients than in non blacks, possibly because of higher prevalence of low renin states in the black hypertensive population.

Ischaemic heart diseaseAs with any antihypertensive agent, excessive reduction of blood pressure in patients with ischaemic cardiopathy or

ischaemic cardiovascular disease could result in a myocardial infarction or stroke.

Non-melanoma skin cancer

An increased risk of non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) [basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)] with increasing cumulative dose of hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) exposure has been observed in two epidemiological studies based on the Danish National Cancer Registry. Photosensitizing actions of HCTZ could act as a possible mechanism for NMSC.

Patients taking HCTZ should be informed of the risk of NMSC and advised to regularly check their skin for any new lesions and promptly report any suspicious skin lesions. Possible preventive measures such as limited exposure to sunlight and UV rays and, in case of exposure, adequate protection should be advised to the patients in order to minimize the risk of skin cancer. Suspicious skin lesions should be promptly examined potentially including histological examinations of biopsies. The use of HCTZ may also need to be reconsidered in patients who have experienced previous NMSC (see also section 4.8).

General

Hypersensitivity reactions to hydrochlorothiazide may occur in patients with or without a history of allergy or bronchial asthma, but are more likely in patients with such a history.

Exacerbation or activation of systemic lupus erythematosus has been reported with the use of thiazide diuretics, including hydrochlorothiazide.

Cases of photosensitivity reactions have been reported with thiazide diuretics (see section 4.8). If a photosensitivity reaction occurs during treatment, it is recommended to stop the treatment. If a re-administration of the diuretic is deemed necessary, it is recommended to protect exposed areas to the sun or to artificial UVA.

Choroidal Effusion, Acute Myopia and Angle-Closure Glaucoma

Hydrochlorothiazide, a sulfonamide, can cause an idiosyncratic reaction, resulting in choroidal effusion with visual field defect, acute transient myopia and acute angle-closure glaucoma. Symptoms include acute onset of decreased visual acuity or ocular pain and typically occur within hours to weeks of drug initiation. Untreated acute angle-closure glaucoma can lead to permanent vision loss. The primary treatment is to discontinue hydrochlorothiazide as rapidly as possible. Prompt medical or surgical treatments may need to be considered if the intraocular pressure remains uncontrolled. Risk factors for

developing acute angle-closure glaucoma may include a history of sulfonamide or penicillin allergy

Acute Respiratory toxicity

Very rare severe cases of acute respiratory toxicity, including acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) have been reported after taking hydrochlorothiazide. Pulmonary oedema typically develops within minutes to hours after Hydrochlorothiazide intake. At the onset, symptoms include dyspnoea, fever, pulmonary deterioration and hypotension. If diagnosis of ARDS is suspected, Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets should be withdrawn and appropriate treatment given.

Hydrochlorothiazide should not be administered to patients who previously experienced ARDS following hydrochlorothiazide intake

Sodium

Each tablet 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

Lithium

Reversible increases in serum lithium concentrations and toxicity have been reported during concomitant administration of lithium with angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors. Rare cases have also been reported with angiotensin II receptor blockers (including Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets). Co-administration of lithium and Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets is not recommended (see section 4.4). If this combination proves essential, careful monitoring of serum lithium level is recommended during concomitant use.

Medicinal products associated with potassium loss and hypokalaemia (e.g. other kaliuretic diuretics, laxatives, corticosteroids, ACTH, amphotericin, carbenoxolone, penicillin G sodium, salicylic acid and derivatives).

If these substances are to be prescribed with the hydrochlorothiazide-telmisartan combination, monitoring of potassium plasma levels is advised. These medicinal products may potentiate the effect of hydrochlorothiazide on serum potassium (see section 4.4).

Medicinal products that may increase potassium levels or induce hyperkalaemia (e.g. ACE inhibitors, potassium-sparing diuretics, potassium supplements, salt substitutes containing potassium, cyclosporin or other medicinal products such as heparin sodium).

If these medicinal products are to be prescribed with the hydrochlorothiazide-telmisartan combination, monitoring of potassium plasma levels is advised. Based on the experience with the use of other medicinal products that blunt the renin-angiotensin system, concomitant use of the above medicinal products may lead to increases in serum potassium and is, therefore, not recommended (see section 4.4).

Iodinated contrast products

In the event of dehydration caused by diuretics, there is an increased risk of acute functional renal failure, particularly during use of high doses of iodinated contrast products. Rehydration before administration of the iodinated product is required.

Medicinal products affected by serum potassium disturbances

Periodic monitoring of serum potassium and ECG is recommended when Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets is administered with these medicinal products affected by serum potassium disturbances (e.g. digitalis glycosides, antiarrhythmics) and the following torsades de pointes inducing medicinal products (which include some antiarrhythmics), hypokalaemia being a predisposing factor to *torsades de pointes*.

- class Ia antiarrhythmics (e.g. quinidine, hydroquinidine, disopyramide)
- class III antiarrhythmics (e.g. amiodarone, sotalol, dofetilide, ibutilide)
- some antipsychotics (e.g. thioridazine, chlorpromazine, levomepromazine, trifluoperazine, cyamemazine, sulpiride, sultopride, amisulpride, tiapride, pimozide, haloperidol, droperidol)
- others (e.g. bepridil, cisapride, diphemanil, erythromycin IV, halofantrin, mizolastin, pentamidine, sparfloxacin, terfenadine, vincamine IV.)

Digitalis glycosides

Thiazide-induced hypokalaemia or hypomagnesaemia favours the onset of digitalis-induced arrhythmia (see section 4.4).

Digoxin

When telmisartan was co-administered with digoxin, median increases in digoxin peak plasma concentration (49%) and in trough concentration (20%) were observed. When initiating, adjusting, and discontinuing telmisartan, monitor digoxin levels in order to maintain levels within the therapeutic range.

Other antihypertensive agents

Telmisartan may increase the hypotensive effect of other antihypertensive agents.

Clinical trial data has shown that dual blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone-system (RAAS) through the combined use of ACE-inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers or aliskiren is associated with a higher frequency of adverse events such as hypotension, hyperkalaemia and decreased renal function (including acute renal failure) compared to the use of a single RAAS-acting agent (see sections 4.3, 4.4 and 5.1).

Antidiabetic medicinal products (oral agents and insulin)

Dosage adjustment of the antidiabetic medicinal products may be required (see section 4.4).

Metformin

Metformin should be used with precaution: risk of lactic acidosis induced by a possible functional renal failure linked to hydrochlorothiazide.

Cholestyramine and colestipol resins

Absorption of hydrochlorothiazide is impaired in the presence of anionic exchange resins.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicinal products

NSAIDs (i.e. acetylsalicylic acid at anti-inflammatory dosage regimens, COX-2 inhibitors and non-selective NSAIDs) may reduce the diuretic, natriuretic and antihypertensive effects of thiazide diuretics and the antihypertensive effects of angiotensin II receptor blockers. In some patients with compromised renal function (e.g. dehydrated patients or elderly patients with compromised renal function) the co-administration of angiotensin II receptor blockers 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.

In one study the co-administration of telmisartan and ramipril led to an increase of up to 2.5 fold in the AUC_{0-24} and C_{max} of ramipril and ramiprilat. The clinical relevance of this observation is not known.

Pressor amines (e.g. noradrenaline)

The effect of pressor amines may be decreased.

Nondepolarizing skeletal muscle relaxants (e.g. tubocurarine)

The effect of nondepolarizing skeletal muscle relaxants may be potentiated by hydrochlorothiazide.

Medicinal products used in the treatment for gout (e.g. probenecid, sulfinpyrazone and allopurinol)

Dosage adjustment of uricosuric medications may be necessary as hydrochlorothiazide may raise the level of serum uric acid. Increase in dosage of probenecid or sulfinpyrazone may be necessary. Co-administration of thiazide may increase the incidence of hypersensitivity reactions of allopurinol.

Calcium salts

Thiazide diuretics may increase serum calcium levels due to the decreased excretion. If calcium supplements or calcium sparing medicinal product (e.g.

vitamin D therapy) must be prescribed, serum calcium levels should be monitored and calcium dosage adjusted accordingly.

Beta-blockers and diazoxide

The hyperglycaemic effect of beta-blockers and diazoxide may be enhanced by thiazides.

Anticholinergic agents (e.g. atropine, biperiden) may increase the bioavailability of thiazide-type diuretics by decreasing gastrointestinal motility and stomach emptying rate.

Amantadine

Thiazides may increase the risk of adverse effects caused by amantadine.

Cytotoxic agents (e.g. cyclophosphamide, methotrexate)

Thiazides may reduce the renal excretion of cytotoxic medicinal products and potentiate their myelosuppressive effects.

Based on their pharmacological properties it can be expected that the following medicinal products may potentiate the hypotensive effects of all antihypertensives including telmisartan: Baclofen, amifostine.

Furthermore, orthostatic hypotension may be aggravated by alcohol, barbiturates, narcotics or antidepressants.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy:

The use of angiotensin II receptor blockers is not recommended during the first trimester of pregnancy (see section 4.4). The use of angiotensin II receptor blockers is contraindicated during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy (see sections 4.3 and 4.4).

There are no adequate data from the use of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3).

Epidemiological evidence regarding the risk of teratogenicity following exposure to ACE inhibitors during the first trimester of pregnancy has not been conclusive; however a small increase in risk cannot be excluded. Whilst there is no controlled epidemiological data on the risk with Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (AIIRAs), similar risks may exist for this class of drugs. Unless continued angiotensin II receptor blockers therapy is considered essential, patients planning pregnancy should be changed to alternative antihypertensive treatments which have an established safety profile for use in pregnancy. When pregnancy is diagnosed, treatment with

angiotensin II receptor blockers should be stopped immediately, and, if appropriate, alternative therapy should be started.

Exposure to angiotensin II receptor blockers therapy during the second and third trimesters is known to induce human fetotoxicity (decreased renal function, oligohydramnios, skull ossification retardation) and neonatal toxicity (renal failure, hypotension, hyperkalaemia) (see section 5.3). Should exposure to angiotensin II receptor blockers have occurred from the second trimester of pregnancy, ultrasound check of renal function and skull is recommended.

Infants whose mothers have taken angiotensin II receptor blockers should be closely observed for hypotension (see sections 4.3 and 4.4).

There is limited experience with hydrochlorothiazide during pregnancy, especially during the first trimester. Animal studies are insufficient. Hydrochlorothiazide crosses the placenta. Based on the pharmacological mechanism of action of hydrochlorothiazide its use during the second and third trimester may compromise foeto-placental perfusion and may cause foetal and neonatal effects like icterus, disturbance of electrolyte balance and thrombocytopenia.

Hydrochlorothiazide should not be used for gestational oedema, gestational hypertension or preeclampsia due to the risk of decreased plasma volume and placental hypoperfusion, without a beneficial effect on the course of the disease.

Hydrochlorothiazide should not be used for essential hypertension in pregnant women except in rare situations where no other treatment could be used.

Breast-feeding:

Because no information is available regarding the use of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets during breast-feeding, Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets are not recommended and alternative treatments with better established safety profiles during breast-feeding are preferable, especially while nursing a newborn or preterm infant.

Hydrochlorothiazide is excreted in human milk in small amounts. Thiazides in high doses causing intense diuresis can inhibit the milk production. The use of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets during breast feeding is not recommended. If Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets are used during breast feeding, doses should be kept as low as possible.

Fertility:

No studies on fertility in humans with the fixed dose combination or with the individual components have been performed. In preclinical studies, no effects of telmisartan and hydrochlorothiazide on male and female fertility were observed.

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

When driving vehicles or operating machinery it should be taken into account that dizziness or drowsiness, synope or vertigo may occasionally occur when taking antihypertensive therapy such as Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets.

If patients experience these adverse events, they should avoid potentially hazardous tasks such as driving or operating machinery.

4.8 **Undesirable effects**

Summary of the safety profile

The most commonly reported adverse reaction is dizziness. Serious angioedema may occur rarely ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$).

The overall incidence of adverse reactions reported with Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets was comparable to those reported with telmisartan alone in randomised controlled trials involving 1471 patients randomised to receive telmisartan plus hydrochlorothiazide (835) or telmisartan alone (636). Dose-relationship of adverse reactions was not established and they showed no correlation with gender, age or race of the patients.

Tabulated summary of adverse reactions

Adverse reactions reported in all clinical trials and occurring more frequently ($p \leq 0.05$) with telmisartan plus hydrochlorothiazide than with placebo are shown below according to system organ class. Adverse reactions known to occur with each component given singly but which have not been seen in clinical trials may occur during treatment with Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets.

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

Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Infections and infestations

Rare: Bronchitis, pharyngitis, sinusitis

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Uncommon: Hypokalaemia

Rare: Hyperuricaemia, hyponatraemia

Psychiatric disorders

Uncommon: Anxiety
Rare: Depression, insomnia, sleep disorders

Nervous system disorders

Common: Dizziness
Uncommon: Syncope, paraesthesia

Eye disorders

Rare: Visual disturbance/ impairment, vision blurred

Ear and labyrinth disorders

Uncommon: Vertigo

Cardiac disorders

Uncommon: Tachycardia, arrhythmias

Vascular disorders

Uncommon: Hypotension, orthostatic hypotension

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Uncommon: Dyspnoea
Rare: Respiratory distress (including pneumonitis and pulmonary oedema)

Gastrointestinal disorders

Uncommon: Diarrhoea, dry mouth, flatulence
Rare: Abdominal pain, constipation, dyspepsia, vomiting, gastritis

Hepatobiliary disorders

Rare: Abnormal hepatic function/liver disorder²

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Rare: Angioedema (also with fatal outcome), erythema, pruritus, rash, hyperhidrosis, urticaria

Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders

Uncommon: Back pain, muscle spasms (cramps in leg), myalgia
Rare: Arthralgia, muscle cramps, pain in limb/leg and extremity, systemic lupus erythematosus

Reproductive system and breast disorders

Uncommon: Erectile dysfunction

General disorders and administration site conditions

Uncommon: Chest pain
Rare: Influenza-like illness, pain

Investigations

Uncommon: Blood uric acid increased
Rare: Blood creatinine increased, blood creatine phosphokinase increased, hepatic enzyme increased

2: For further description, please see sub-section “*Description of selected adverse reactions*”

Additional information on individual components

Adverse reactions previously reported with one of the individual components may be potential adverse reactions with Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets, even if not observed in clinical trials with this product.

Telmisartan:

Adverse reactions occurred with similar frequency in placebo and telmisartan treated patients.

The overall incidence of adverse reactions reported with telmisartan (41.4 %) was usually comparable to placebo (43.9 %) in placebo controlled trials. The following adverse reactions listed below have been accumulated from all clinical trials in patients treated with telmisartan for hypertension or in patients 50 years or older at high risk of cardiovascular events.

Infections and infestations

Uncommon:	Upper respiratory tract infection, urinary tract infection including cystitis
Rare:	Sepsis including fatal outcome ³

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Uncommon:	Anaemia
Rare:	Eosinophilia, thrombocytopenia

Immune system disorders

Rare:	Hypersensitivity, anaphylactic reactions
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Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Uncommon:	Hyperkalaemia
Rare:	Hypoglycaemia (in diabetic patients) Hyponatraemia

Cardiac disorders

Uncommon:	Bradycardia
Rare:	Tachycardia

Psychiatric disorders

Uncommon	Insomnia, Depression
Rare:	Anxiety

Nervous system disorders

Rare:	Somnolence
Uncommon:	Syncope

Eye disorders

Rare:	Visual impairment
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Ear and labyrinth disorders

Uncommon: Vertigo

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Uncommon: Cough, dyspnea
Very rare: Interstitial lung disease³

Vascular disorders

Uncommon Hypotension, orthostatic hypotension

Gastrointestinal disorders

Rare: Stomach discomfort, dry mouth
Uncommon: Diarrhoea, Flatulence, abdominal pain, dyspepsia, vomiting

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Rare: Eczema, drug eruption, toxic skin eruption, urticaria, erythema, Angioedema (including fatal outcome)
Uncommon: Pruritus, rash, Hyperhidrosis

Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders

Rare: Arthralgia, tendon pain (tendonitis like symptoms), pain in extremity (leg pain)
Uncommon: Back pain, muscle spasm (cramp in leg), myalgia

Renal and urinary disorders

Uncommon: Renal impairment (including acute renal failure)

Hepatobiliary disorders

Rare: Abdominal hepatic function/liver disorder²

General disorders and administration site conditions

Uncommon: Asthenia (weakness), chest pain
Rare: Influenza-like illness

Investigations

Rare: Haemoglobin decreased, blood uric acid increased, Blood creatine phosphokinase increase, hepatic enzyme increased
Uncommon: Blood creatinine increased

3: For further description, please see sub-section “*Description of selected adverse reactions*”

Hydrochlorothiazide:

Hydrochlorothiazide may cause or exacerbate hypovolaemia which could lead to electrolyte imbalance (see section 4.4).

Adverse reactions of unknown frequency reported with the use of hydrochlorothiazide alone include:

Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (incl cysts and polyps)

Not known: Non-melanoma skin cancer (Basal cell carcinoma and Squamous cell carcinoma)

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Rare: Thrombocytopenia (sometimes with purpura)

Not known: Aplastic anaemia, Haemolytic anaemia, bone marrow failure,

Very Rare: Leukopenia, Agranulocytosis

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Very common: Hypokalaemia, Hyperlipidaemia
Common: Hypomagnesaemia, Hypouricaemia, hyponatraemia, decreased appetite
Rare: Hypercalcaemia, hyperglycaemia,

Dibetes

Very rare:

mellitus inadequet control
Hypochloraemic alkalosis

Psychiatric disorders

Rare: Depression, sleep disorders

Nervous system disorders

Rare: dizziness, paraesthesia

Respiratory Thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Very rare Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
Pneumonitis, pulmonary oedema
(See section 4.4)

Eye disorders

Not known acute angle-closure glaucoma, choroidal effusion

Rare Visual impairment

Vascular disorders

Very Rare: Vasculitis necrotising
Common: Orthostatic hypotension

Gastrointestinal disorders

Common: Nausea
Very Rare: Pancreatitis
Rare: Constipation, abdominal discomfort

Hepatobiliary disorders

Rare: jaundice, cholestasis

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Not known: erythema multiforme
Lupus like syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis
Very Rare: Photosensitivity reaction
Rare: Rash, urticaria
Common:

Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders

Not known: Muscle spasm (cramps in leg)
Very Rare: Systemic lupus erythematosus

Renal and urinary disorders

Not known: renal dysfunction/ impairment, acute renal failure
Rare: glycosuria

General disorders and administration site conditions

Not known: Pyrexia, Asthenia (weakness)

Reproductive system and breast disorders

Common: Erectile dysfunction

*Description of selected adverse reactions*Hepatic function abnormal / liver disorder

Most cases of hepatic function abnormal / liver disorder from post-marketing experience with telmisartan occurred in Japanese patients. Japanese patients are more likely to experience these adverse reactions.

Sepsis

In the PRoFESS trial, an increased incidence of sepsis was observed with telmisartan compared with placebo. The event may be a chance finding or related to a mechanism currently not known (see section 5.1).

Interstitial lung disease

Cases of interstitial lung disease have been reported from post-marketing experience in temporal association with the intake of telmisartan. However, a causal relationship has not been established.

Non-melanoma skin cancer

Based on available data from epidemiological studies, cumulative dose-dependent association between HCTZ and NMSC has been observed (see also sections 4.4 and 5.1).

Intestinal angioedema

Cases of intestinal angioedema have been reported after the use of angiotensin II receptor blockers (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 at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard, or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

4.9 Overdose

There is limited information available for telmisartan with regard to overdose in humans. The degree to which hydrochlorothiazide is removed by haemodialysis has not been established.

Symptoms

The most prominent manifestations of telmisartan overdose were hypotension and tachycardia; bradycardia, dizziness, vomiting, increase in serum creatinine, and acute renal failure have also been reported. Overdose with hydrochlorothiazide is associated with electrolyte depletion (hypokalaemia, hypochloraemia) and hypovolaemia resulting from excessive diuresis. The most common signs and symptoms of overdose are nausea and somnolence. Hypokalaemia may result in muscle spasms and/or accentuate arrhythmia associated with the concomitant use of digitalis glycosides or certain anti-arrhythmic medicinal products.

Treatment

Telmisartan is not removed by haemofiltration/ haemodialysis (it is not dialysable). The patient should be closely monitored, and the treatment should be symptomatic and supportive. Management depends on the time since

ingestion and the severity of the symptoms. Suggested measures include induction of emesis and/or gastric lavage. Activated charcoal may be useful in the treatment of overdose. Serum electrolytes and creatinine should be monitored frequently. If hypotension occurs, the patient should be placed in a supine position, with salt and volume replacements given quickly.

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Angiotensin II blockers and diuretics

ATC code: C09DA07

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets is a combination of an angiotensin II receptor blocker, telmisartan, and a thiazide diuretic, hydrochlorothiazide. The combination of these ingredients has an additive antihypertensive effect, reducing blood pressure to a greater degree than either component alone. Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets once daily produces effective and smooth reductions in blood pressure across the therapeutic dose range.

Mechanism of action

Telmisartan is an orally effective and specific angiotensin II receptor subtype 1 (AT₁) blockers. Telmisartan displaces angiotensin II with very high affinity from its binding site at the AT₁ receptor subtype, which is responsible for the known actions of angiotensin II. Telmisartan does not exhibit any partial agonist activity at the AT₁ receptor. Telmisartan selectively binds the AT₁ receptor. The binding is long-lasting. Telmisartan does not show affinity for other receptors, including AT₂ and other less characterised AT receptors. The functional role of these receptors is not known, nor is the effect of their possible overstimulation by angiotensin II, whose levels are increased by telmisartan. Plasma aldosterone levels are decreased by telmisartan.

Telmisartan does not inhibit human plasma renin or block ion channels. Telmisartan does not inhibit angiotensin converting enzyme (kininase II), the enzyme which also degrades bradykinin. Therefore, it is not expected to potentiate bradykinin-mediated adverse effects.

An 80 mg dose of telmisartan administered to healthy volunteers almost completely inhibits the angiotensin II evoked blood pressure increase. The inhibitory effect is maintained over 24 hours and still measurable up to 48 hours.

Hydrochlorothiazide is a thiazide diuretic. The mechanism of the antihypertensive effect of thiazide diuretics is not fully known. Thiazides have an effect on the renal tubular mechanisms of electrolyte reabsorption, directly

increasing excretion of sodium and chloride in approximately equivalent amounts. The diuretic action of hydrochlorothiazide reduces plasma volume, increases plasma renin activity, increases aldosterone secretion, with consequent increases in urinary potassium and bicarbonate loss, and decreases in serum potassium. Presumably through blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, co-administration of telmisartan tends to reverse the potassium loss associated with these diuretics. With hydrochlorothiazide, onset of diuresis occurs in 2 hours, and peak effect occurs at about 4 hours, while the action persists for approximately 6-12 hours.

Pharmacodynamic effects

Treatment of essential hypertension

After the first dose of telmisartan, the antihypertensive activity gradually becomes evident within 3 hours. The maximum reduction in blood pressure is generally attained 4-8 weeks after the start of treatment and is sustained during long-term therapy. The antihypertensive effect persists constantly over 24 hours after dosing and includes the last 4 hours before the next dose as shown by ambulatory blood pressure measurements. This is confirmed by measurements made at the point of maximum effect and immediately prior to the next dose (through to peak ratios consistently above 80 % after doses of 40 and 80 mg of telmisartan in placebo controlled clinical studies).

In patients with hypertension telmisartan reduces both systolic and diastolic blood pressure without affecting pulse rate. The antihypertensive efficacy of telmisartan is comparable to that of agents representative of other classes of antihypertensive medicinal products (demonstrated in clinical trials comparing telmisartan to amlodipine, atenolol, enalapril, hydrochlorothiazide, and lisinopril).

Upon abrupt cessation of treatment with telmisartan, blood pressure gradually returns to pre-treatment values over a period of several days without evidence of rebound hypertension.

The incidence of dry cough was significantly lower in patients treated with telmisartan than in those given angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors in clinical trials directly comparing the two antihypertensive treatments.

Clinical efficacy and safety

Cardiovascular prevention

ONTARGET (ONgoing Telmisartan Alone and in Combination with Ramipril Global Endpoint Trial) compared the effects of telmisartan, ramipril and the combination of telmisartan and ramipril on cardiovascular outcomes in 25620 patients aged 55 years or older with a history of coronary artery disease, stroke, TIA, peripheral arterial disease, or type 2 diabetes mellitus

accompanied by evidence of end-organ damage (e.g. retinopathy, left ventricular hypertrophy, macro- or microalbuminuria), which is a population at risk for cardiovascular events.

Patients were randomized to one of the three following treatment groups: telmisartan 80mg (n = 8542), ramipril 10mg (n = 8576), or the combination of telmisartan 80mg plus ramipril 10 mg (n = 8502), and followed for a mean observation time of 4.5 years.

Telmisartan showed a similar effect to ramipril in reducing the primary composite endpoint of cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke, or hospitalization for congestive heart failure. The incidence of the primary endpoint was similar in the telmisartan (16.7 %) and ramipril (16.5 %) groups. The hazard ratio for telmisartan vs. ramipril was 1.01 (97.5 % CI 0.93 - 1.10, p (non-inferiority) = 0.0019 at a margin of 1.13). The all-cause mortality rate was 11.6 % and 11.8 % among telmisartan and ramipril treated patients, respectively.

Telmisartan was found to be similarly effective to ramipril in the pre-specified secondary endpoint of cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, and non-fatal stroke [0.99 (97.5 % CI 0.90 - 1.08), p (non-inferiority) = 0.0004], the primary endpoint in the reference study HOPE (The Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation Study), which had investigated the effect of ramipril vs. placebo.

TRANSCEND randomized ACE-I intolerant patients with otherwise similar inclusion criteria as ONTARGET to telmisartan 80 mg (n=2954) or placebo (n=2972), both given on top of standard care. The mean duration of follow up was 4 years and 8 months. No statistically significant difference in the incidence of the primary composite endpoint (cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke, or hospitalization for congestive heart failure) was found [15.7 % in the telmisartan and 17.0 % in the placebo groups with a hazard ratio of 0.92 (95 % CI 0.81 - 1.05, p = 0.22)]. There was evidence for a benefit of telmisartan compared to placebo in the pre-specified secondary composite endpoint of cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, and non-fatal stroke [0.87 (95 % CI 0.76 - 1.00, p = 0.048)]. There was no evidence for benefit on cardiovascular mortality (hazard ratio 1.03, 95 % CI 0.85 - 1.24).

Cough and angioedema were less frequently reported in patients treated with telmisartan than in patients treated with ramipril, whereas hypotension was more frequently reported with telmisartan.

Combining telmisartan with ramipril did not add further benefit over ramipril or telmisartan alone. CV mortality and all cause mortality were numerically higher with the combination. In addition, there was a significantly higher incidence of hyperkalaemia, renal failure, hypotension and syncope in the combination arm. Therefore the use of a combination of telmisartan and ramipril is not recommended in this population.

In the "Prevention Regimen For Effectively avoiding Second Strokes" (PRoFESS) trial in patients 50 years and older, who recently experienced stroke, an increased incidence of sepsis was noted for telmisartan compared with placebo, 0.70 % vs. 0.49 % [RR 1.43 (95 % confidence interval 1.00 - 2.06)]; the incidence of fatal sepsis cases was increased for patients taking telmisartan (0.33 %) vs. patients taking placebo (0.16 %) [RR 2.07 (95 % confidence interval 1.14 - 3.76)]. The observed increased occurrence rate of sepsis associated with the use of telmisartan may be either a chance finding or related to a mechanism not currently known.

Two large randomised, controlled trials (ONTARGET (ONgoing Telmisartan Alone and in combination with Ramipril Global Endpoint Trial) and VA NEPHRON-D (The Veterans Affairs Nephropathy in Diabetes)) have examined the use of the combination of an ACE-inhibitor with an angiotensin II receptor blocker.

ONTARGET was a study conducted in patients with a history of cardiovascular or cerebrovascular disease, or type 2 diabetes mellitus accompanied by evidence of end-organ damage. For more detailed information see above under the heading "Cardiovascular prevention".

VA NEPHRON-D was a study in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and diabetic nephropathy. These studies have shown no significant beneficial effect on renal and/or cardiovascular outcomes and mortality, while an increased risk of hyperkalaemia, acute kidney injury and/or hypotension as compared to monotherapy was observed. Given their similar pharmacodynamic properties, these results are also relevant for other ACE-inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers.

ACE-inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers should therefore not be used concomitantly in patients with diabetic nephropathy.

ALTITUDE (Aliskiren Trial in Type 2 Diabetes Using Cardiovascular and Renal Disease Endpoints) was a study designed to test the benefit of adding aliskiren to a standard therapy of an ACE-inhibitor or an angiotensin II receptor blocker in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and chronic kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, or both. The study was terminated early because of an increased risk of adverse outcomes. Cardiovascular death and stroke were both numerically more frequent in the aliskiren group than in the placebo group and adverse events and serious adverse events of interest (hyperkalaemia, hypotension and renal dysfunction) were more frequently reported in the aliskiren group than in the placebo group.

Epidemiological studies have shown that long-term treatment with hydrochlorothiazide reduces the risk of cardiovascular mortality and morbidity.

The effects of fixed dose combination of telmisartan/HCTZ on mortality and cardiovascular morbidity are currently unknown.

Non-melanoma skin cancer:

Based on available data from epidemiological studies, cumulative dose-dependent association between HCTZ and NMSC has been observed. One study included a

population comprised of 71,533 cases of BCC and of 8,629 cases of SCC matched to 1,430,833 and 172,462 population controls, respectively. High HCTZ use ($\geq 50,000$ mg cumulative) was associated with an adjusted OR of 1.29 (95% CI: 1.23-1.35) for BCC and 3.98 (95% CI: 3.68-4.31) for SCC. A clear cumulative dose response relationship was observed for both BCC and SCC. Another study showed a possible association between lip cancer (SCC) and exposure to HCTZ: 633 cases of lip-cancer were matched with 63,067 population controls, using a risk-set sampling strategy. A cumulative dose-response relationship was demonstrated with an adjusted OR 2.1 (95% CI: 1.7-2.6) increasing to OR 3.9 (3.0-4.9) for high use ($\sim 25,000$ mg) and OR 7.7 (5.7-10.5) for the highest cumulative dose ($\sim 100,000$ mg) (see also section 4.4).

Paediatric population

The European Medicines Agency has waived the obligation to submit the results of studies with Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide in all subsets of the paediatric population in hypertension (see section 4.2 for information on paediatric use).

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Concomitant administration of hydrochlorothiazide and telmisartan has no effect on the pharmacokinetics of either medicinal product.

Absorption

Telmisartan:

Following oral administration peak concentrations of telmisartan are reached in 0.5 – 1.5 h after dosing. The absolute bioavailability of telmisartan at 40mg and 160mg was 42 % and 58 %, respectively. Food slightly reduces the bioavailability of telmisartan with a reduction in the area under the plasma concentration time curve (AUC) of about 6 % with the 40mg tablet and about 19 % after a 160mg dose. By 3 hours after administration plasma concentrations are similar whether telmisartan is taken fasting or with food. The small reduction in AUC is not expected to cause a reduction in the therapeutic efficacy. Telmisartan does not accumulate significantly in plasma on repeated administration.

Hydrochlorothiazide:

Following oral administration of Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets peak concentrations of hydrochlorothiazide are reached in approximately 1.0 - 3.0 hours after dosing. Based on cumulative renal excretion of hydrochlorothiazide the absolute bioavailability was about 60 %.

Distribution

Telmisartan is highly bound to plasma proteins (>99.5 %) mainly albumin and alpha 1- acid glycoprotein. The apparent volume of distribution for telmisartan is approximately 500 litres indicating additional tissue binding.

Hydrochlorothiazide is 64 % protein bound in the plasma and its apparent volume of distribution is 0.8 ± 0.3 L/kg.

Biotransformation

Telmisartan is metabolised by conjugation to form a pharmacologically inactive acylglucuronide. The glucuronide of the parent compound is the only metabolite that has been identified in humans. After a single dose of ¹⁴C-labelled telmisartan the glucuronide represents approximately 11 % of the measured radioactivity in plasma. The cytochrome P450 isoenzymes are not involved in the metabolism of telmisartan.

Hydrochlorothiazide is not metabolised in man.

Elimination

Telmisartan:

Following either intravenous or oral administration of ¹⁴C-labelled telmisartan most of the administered dose (>97 %) was eliminated in faeces via biliary excretion. Only minute amounts were found in urine. Total plasma clearance of telmisartan after oral administration is >1500 ml/min. Terminal elimination half-life was >20 hours.

Hydrochlorothiazide is excreted almost entirely as unchanged substance in urine. About 60 % of the oral dose is eliminated within 48 hours. Renal clearance is about 250 - 300 ml/min. The terminal elimination half-life of hydrochlorothiazide is 10 - 15 hours.

Linearity/non-linearity

The pharmacokinetics of orally administered telmisartan are non-linear over doses from 20 – 160mg with greater than proportional increases of plasma concentrations (C_{max} and AUC) with increasing doses. Telmisartan does not accumulate significantly in plasma on repeated administration.

Hydrochlorothiazide exhibits linear pharmacokinetics.

Pharmacokinetics in specific populations

Elderly

Pharmacokinetics of telmisartan does not differ between the elderly and those younger than 65 years.

Gender

Plasma concentrations of telmisartan are generally 2 – 3 times higher in females than in males. In clinical trials however, no significant increases in blood pressure response or in the incidence of orthostatic hypotension were found in women. No dosage adjustment is necessary. There was a trend towards higher plasma concentrations of hydrochlorothiazide in female than in male subjects. This is not considered to be of clinical relevance.

Renal impairment

Renal excretion does not contribute to the clearance of telmisartan. Based on modest experience in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance of 30 - 60 ml/min, mean about 50 ml/min) no dosage adjustment is necessary in patients with decreased renal function. Telmisartan is not removed from blood by haemodialysis. In patients with impaired renal function the rate of hydrochlorothiazide elimination is reduced. In a typical study in patients with a mean creatinine clearance of 90 ml/min the elimination half-life of hydrochlorothiazide was increased. In functionally anephric patients the elimination half-life is about 34 hours.

Hepatic impairment

Pharmacokinetic studies in patients with hepatic impairment showed an increase in absolute bioavailability up to nearly 100 %. The elimination half-life is not changed in patients with hepatic impairment.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

In preclinical safety studies performed with co-administration of telmisartan and hydrochlorothiazide in normotensive rats and dogs, doses producing exposure comparable to that in the clinical therapeutic range caused no additional findings not already observed with administration of either substance alone. The toxicological findings observed appear to have no relevance to human therapeutic use.

Toxicological findings also well known from preclinical studies with angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers were: a reduction of red cell parameters (erythrocytes, haemoglobin, haematocrit), changes of renal haemodynamics (increased blood urea nitrogen and creatinine), increased plasma renin activity, hypertrophy/hyperplasia of the juxtaglomerular cells and gastric mucosal injury. Gastric lesions could be prevented/ameliorated by oral saline supplementation and group housing of animals. In dogs renal tubular dilation and atrophy were observed. These findings are considered to be due to the pharmacological activity of telmisartan.

No clear evidence of a teratogenic effect was observed, however at toxic dose levels of telmisartan an effect on the postnatal development of the offsprings such as lower body weight and delayed eye opening was observed.

No effects of telmisartan on male or female fertility were observed.

Telmisartan showed no evidence of mutagenicity and relevant clastogenic activity in in vitro studies and no evidence of carcinogenicity in rats and mice. Studies with hydrochlorothiazide have shown equivocal evidence for a genotoxic or carcinogenic effect in some experimental models.

For the foetotoxic potential of the telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide combination see section 4.6.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Sodium hydroxide

Mannitol

Maize starch

Cellulose microcrystalline

Carmellose calcium

Povidone (K-29/32)

Silicon dioxide

Sodium stearyl fumarate

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

36 months.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store in the original package in order to protect from light and moisture.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets are packed in oPA/Al/PVC-Aluminium blisters of 28 tablets.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

Telmisartan and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets should be kept in the sealed blister due to the hygroscopic property of the tablets. Tablets should be taken out of the blister shortly before administration.

Occasionally, the outer layer of the blister pack has been observed to separate from the inner layer between the blister pockets. No action needs to be taken if this is observed.

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

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

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Basingstoke,
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8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

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10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

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