

## **SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

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

ALMERG 180 mg film-coated tablets

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

Each film-coated tablet contains 180 mg of fexofenadine hydrochloride, which is equivalent to 168 mg of fexofenadine.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

### **3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Film-coated tablet.

Yellow coloured, oblong, biconvex, film coated tablets, plain on one side and with a central breakline on the reverse side. The score line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

### **4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

#### **4.1 Therapeutic indications**

ALMERG 180 mg tablet is indicated in adults and children 12 years and older for the relief of symptoms associated with chronic idiopathic urticaria.

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

Posology

Adults

The recommended dose of fexofenadine hydrochloride for adults is 180 mg once daily taken before a meal.

Fexofenadine is a pharmacologically active metabolite of terfenadine.

#### Paediatric population

##### *Adolescents aged 12 years and over*

The recommended dose of fexofenadine hydrochloride for adolescents aged 12 years and over is 180 mg once daily taken before a meal.

##### *Children under 12 years of age*

The efficacy and safety of fexofenadine hydrochloride 180 mg has not been studied in children under 12.

#### Special populations

Studies in special risk groups (elderly, renally or hepatically impaired patients) indicate that it is not necessary to adjust the dose of fexofenadine hydrochloride in these patients.

#### Method of administration

ALMERC tablet is for oral use.

### **4.3 Contraindications**

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

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

As with most new medicinal products there is only limited data in the elderly and renally or hepatically impaired patients.

Fexofenadine hydrochloride should only be administered in these special groups on the advice of a doctor.

Patients with a history of or ongoing cardiovascular disease should be warned that, antihistamines as a medicine class, have been associated with the adverse reactions, tachycardia and palpitations (see section 4.8) and should use fexofenadine hydrochloride only on the advice of their doctor.

#### Excipient

This medicine 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**

Fexofenadine does not undergo hepatic biotransformation and therefore will not interact with other medicinal products through hepatic mechanisms. Fexofenadine is a P-glycoprotein (P-gp) and organic-anion-transporting polypeptide (OATP) substrate. Concomitant use of fexofenadine with P-gp inhibitors or inducers can affect the exposure to fexofenadine. Co-administration of fexofenadine hydrochloride with P-gp inhibitors erythromycin or ketoconazole has been found to result in a 2-3 times increase in the level of fexofenadine in plasma. The changes were not accompanied by any effects on the QT interval and were not associated with any increase in adverse reactions compared to the medicinal products given singly.

A clinical drug-drug interaction study showed that co-administration of apalutamide (a weak inducer of P-gp) and a single oral dose of 30 mg fexofenadine resulted in a 30 % decrease in AUC of fexofenadine.

No interaction between fexofenadine and omeprazole was observed. However, the administration of an antacid containing aluminium and magnesium hydroxide gels 15 minutes prior to fexofenadine hydrochloride caused a reduction in bioavailability, most likely due to binding in the gastrointestinal tract. It is advisable to leave 2 hours between administration of fexofenadine hydrochloride and aluminium and magnesium hydroxide containing antacids.

#### **4.6 Fertility, Pregnancy and lactation**

##### Pregnancy

There are no adequate data from the use of fexofenadine hydrochloride in pregnant women.

Limited animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to effects on pregnancy, embryonal/foetal development, parturition or postnatal development (see section 5.3). Fexofenadine hydrochloride should not be used during pregnancy unless on the advice of a doctor.

##### Breast-feeding

There are no data on the content of human milk after administering fexofenadine hydrochloride. However, when terfenadine was administered to nursing mothers fexofenadine was found to cross into human breast milk. Therefore fexofenadine hydrochloride is not recommended for mothers breast-

feeding their babies. Breast-feeding women should only use fexofenadine hydrochloride if advised to do so by a doctor.

### Fertility

No human data on the effect of fexofenadine hydrochloride on fertility are available. In mice, there was no effect on fertility with fexofenadine hydrochloride treatment (see section 5.3).

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

On the basis of the pharmacodynamic profile and reported adverse reactions it is unlikely that fexofenadine hydrochloride tablets will produce an effect on the ability to drive or use machines. In objective tests, fexofenadine has been shown to have no significant effects on central nervous system function. This means that patients may drive or perform tasks that require concentration. However, in order to identify sensitive people who have an unusual reaction to medicinal products, it is advisable to check the individual response before driving or performing complicated tasks.

## **4.8 Undesirable effects**

The following frequency rating has been used, when applicable

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 (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data).

Within each frequency grouping, undesirable effects are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

In adults, the following undesirable effects have been reported in clinical trials, with an incidence similar to that observed with placebo

### Nervous system disorders

*Common:* headache, drowsiness, dizziness

*Eye disorders*

*Not known:* vision blurred

*Gastrointestinal disorders*

*Common:* nausea

*General disorders and administration site conditions*

*Uncommon:* fatigue

In adults, the following undesirable effects have been reported in post-marketing surveillance. The frequency with which they occur is not known (can not be estimated from available data)

*Immune system disorders*

Hypersensitivity reactions with manifestations such as angioedema, chest tightness, dyspnoea, flushing and systemic anaphylaxis

*Psychiatric disorders*

Insomnia, nervousness, sleep disorders or nightmares/excessive dreaming (paroniria)

*Cardiac disorders*

Tachycardia, palpitations

*Gastrointestinal disorders*

Diarrhoea

*Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders*

Rash, urticaria, pruritus

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: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store

## 4.9 Overdose

Dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue and dry mouth have been reported with overdose of fexofenadine hydrochloride. Single doses up to 800 mg, and doses up to 690 mg twice daily for 1 month, or 240 mg once daily for 1 year have been administered to healthy subjects without the development of clinically significant adverse reactions as compared with placebo. The maximum tolerated dose of fexofenadine hydrochloride has not been established.

Standard measures should be considered to remove any unabsorbed medicinal product. Symptomatic and supportive treatment is recommended. Haemodialysis does not effectively remove fexofenadine hydrochloride from blood.

## 5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

### 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antihistamines for systemic use, ATC code: R06A X26.

#### Mechanism of action

Fexofenadine hydrochloride is a non-sedating H<sub>1</sub> antihistamine. Fexofenadine is a pharmacologically active metabolite of terfenadine.

#### Clinical efficacy and safety

Human histamine wheal and flare studies following single and twice daily doses of fexofenadine hydrochloride demonstrate that the medicinal products exhibits an antihistaminic effect beginning within one hour, achieving maximum at 6 hours and lasting 24 hours. There is no evidence of tolerance to these effects after 28 days of dosing. A positive dose-response relationship between doses of 10 mg to 130 mg taken orally was found to exist. In this model of antihistaminic activity, it was found that doses of at least 130 mg were required to achieve a consistent effect that was maintained over a 24 hour period. Maximum inhibition in skin wheal and flare areas was greater than 80%.

No significant differences in QT<sub>c</sub>, intervals were observed in seasonal allergic rhinitis patients given fexofenadine hydrochloride up to 240 mg

twice daily for 2 weeks when compared to placebo. Also, no significant change in QT<sub>c</sub> intervals was observed in healthy subjects given fexofenadine hydrochloride up to 60 mg twice daily for 6 months. 400 mg twice daily for 6.5 days and 240 mg once daily for 1 year, when compared to placebo.

Fexofenadine at concentrations 32 times greater than the therapeutic concentration in man had no effect on the delayed rectifier K<sup>+</sup> channel cloned from human heart.

Fexofenadine hydrochloride (5-10 mg/kg per orally) inhibited antigen induced bronchospasm in sensitised guinea pigs and inhibited histamine release at supra-therapeutic concentrations (10- 100 μM) from peritoneal mast cells.

## 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

### Absorption

Fexofenadine hydrochloride is rapidly absorbed into the body following oral administration, with T<sub>max</sub> occurring at approximately 1-3 hours post dose. The mean C<sub>max</sub> value was approximately 494 ng/ml following the administration of a 180 mg dose once daily.

### Distribution

Fexofenadine is 60-70% plasma protein bound.

### Biotransformation and elimination

Fexofenadine undergoes negligible metabolism (hepatic or non-hepatic), as it was the only major compound identified in urine and faeces of animals and man. The plasma concentration profiles of fexofenadine follow a bi-exponential decline with a terminal elimination half-life ranging from 11 to 15 hours after multiple dosing. The single and multiple dose pharmacokinetics of fexofenadine are linear for oral doses up to 120 mg BID. A dose of 240 mg BID produced slightly greater than proportional increase (8.8%) in steady state area under the curve, indicating that fexofenadine pharmacokinetics are practically linear at these doses between 40 mg and 240 mg taken daily. The major route of elimination is believed to be via biliary excretion while up to 10% of ingested dose is excreted unchanged through the urine.

## 5.3 Preclinical safety data

Dogs tolerated 450mg/kg administered twice daily for 6 months and showed no toxicity other than occasional emesis. Also, in single dose dog and rodent studies, no treatment-related gross findings were observed following necropsy.

Radiolabelled fexofenadine hydrochloride in tissue distribution studies of the rat indicated that fexofenadine did not cross the blood brain barrier.

Fexofenadine hydrochloride was found to be non-mutagenic in various *in vitro* and *in vivo* mutagenicity tests.

The carcinogenic potential of fexofenadine hydrochloride was assessed using terfenadine studies with supporting pharmacokinetic studies showing fexofenadine hydrochloride exposure (via plasma AUC values). No evidence of carcinogenicity was observed in rats and mice given terfenadine (up to 150mg/kg/day).

In a reproductive toxicity study in mice, fexofenadine hydrochloride did not impair fertility, was not teratogenic and did not impair pre- or postnatal development.

## **6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Tablet core

Microcrystalline cellulose,  
Maize starch,  
Magnesium stearate,  
Croscarmellose sodium,  
Povidone.

Film-coating

Hypromellose (E464),  
Macrogol (PEG 400),  
Macrogol (PEG 4000),  
Titanium dioxide (E171),  
Iron oxide yellow (E172),  
Iron oxide red (E172).

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable

### **6.3 Shelf life**

3 years

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

Store the tablets in the original package. This medicinal product does not require any special temperature storage conditions.

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

PVC/PVDC/Alu blister packs of 7, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 28 or 30 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

#### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

No special requirements for disposal.

### **7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

CIPLA (EU) Limited  
Dixcart House, Addlestone Road,  
Bourne Business Park,  
Addlestone, Surrey,  
KT15 2LE, United Kingdom

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

PLGB 36390/0344

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

06/01/2025

**10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

06/01/2025