APPROVED PRODUCT INFORMATION

OLMETEC®
(Olmesartan medoxomil)

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Olmetec 20 mg film-coated tablet
Olmetec 40 mg film-coated tablet

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each film-coated tablet contains 20 mg olmesartan medoxomil
Each film-coated tablet contains 40 mg olmesartan medoxomil

Excipient with known effect:

Olmetec 20 mg film-coated tablets: each film-coated tablet contains 123.2 mg lactose monohydrate
Olmetec 40 mg film-coated tablets: each film-coated tablet contains 246.4 mg lactose monohydrate
For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film-coated tablet.

20 mg tablet: White, circular film coated tablet with characteristic odour approximately 8.5 mm in diameter, with C14 embossed on one side.

40 mg tablet: White, oval film coated tablet with characteristic odour approximately 15 x 7 mm in size, with C15 embossed on one side.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1. Therapeutic Indications

Olmetec® is indicated for the treatment of essential hypertension.

4.2. Posology and Method of Administration

Posology

Adults

Dosage must be individualized. The usual recommended starting dose of olmesartan medoxomil is 20 mg once daily when used as monotherapy in patients who are not volume-contracted. If additional blood pressure reduction is required, olmesartan medoxomil dose

may be increased to a maximum of 40 mg daily or hydrochlorothiazide therapy may be added.

The antihypertensive effect of olmesartan medoxomil is substantially present within 2 weeks of initiating therapy and is maximal by about 8 weeks after initiating therapy. This should be borne in mind when considering changing the dose regimen for any patient.

Elderly (65 years or over)

No adjustment of dosage is generally required in elderly people (see below for dose recommendations in patients with renal impairment). If up-titration to the maximum dose of 40 mg daily is required, blood pressure should be closely monitored.

Renal impairment

Dosage of olmesartan medoxomil should be individualized in patients with renal impairment.

The maximum dose in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance of 20 – 60 mL/min) is 20 mg olmesartan medoxomil once daily, owing to limited experience of higher dosages in this patient group. The use of olmesartan medoxomil in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <20 mL/min) is not recommended, since there is only limited experience in this patient group (see sections 4.4 and 5.2).

There is no experience in the use of olmesartan medoxomil in patients requiring dialysis.

Hepatic impairment

No adjustment of dosage recommendations is required for patients with mild hepatic impairment. In patients with moderate hepatic impairment, an initial dose of 10 mg olmesartan medoxomil once daily is recommended and the maximum dose should not exceed 20 mg once daily. Close monitoring of blood pressure and renal function is advised in hepatically-impaired patients who are already receiving diuretics and/or other antihypertensive agents. There is no experience of olmesartan medoxomil in patients with severe hepatic impairment, therefore use is not recommended in this patient group (see sections 4.4 and 5.2). Olmesartan medoxomil should not be used in patients with biliary obstruction (see section 4.3).

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of olmesartan medoxomil in children and adolescents below 18 years has not been established.

Currently available data are described in sections 4.8, 5.1 and 5.2 but no recommendations on a posology can be made.

Olmesartan medoxomil should not be used in children below 1 years of age because of safety concerns and lack of data in this age group.

Method of administration

In order to assist compliance, it is recommended that olmesartan medoxomil tablets be taken at about the same time each day, with or without food, for example at breakfast time.

The tablet should be swallowed with a sufficient amount of fluid (e.g. one glass of water). The tablet should not be chewed.

4.3. Contraindications

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

Second and third trimesters of pregnancy (see sections 4.4 and 4.6).

Biliary obstruction (see section 5.2).

The concomitant use of Olmetec with aliskiren-containing products is contraindicated in patients with diabetes mellitus or renal impairment (GFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m^2) (see sections 4.5 and 5.1).

4.4. Special Warnings and Precautions for Use

Intravascular volume depletion

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 olmesartan medoxomil.

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 other drugs that affect this system has been associated with acute hypotension, azotaemia, oliguria or, rarely, acute renal failure. The possibility of similar effects cannot be excluded with angiotensin II receptor antagonists.

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

When olmesartan medoxomil is used in patients with impaired renal function, periodic monitoring of serum potassium and creatinine levels is recommended. Use of olmesartan medoxomil is not recommended in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <20 mL/min) (see sections 4.2, 5.2). There is no experience of the administration of olmesartan medoxomil in patients with a recent kidney transplant or in patients with end-stage renal impairment (i.e. creatinine clearance <12 mL/min).

Hepatic impairment

There is no experience in patients with severe hepatic impairment and therefore use of olmesartan medoxomil in this patient group is not recommended (see section 4.2 for dosage recommendations in patients with mild or moderate hepatic impairment).

Hyperkalaemia

The use of medicinal products that affect the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system may cause hyperkalaemia.

The risk, that may be fatal, is increased in elderly people, in patients with renal insufficiency and in diabetic patients, in patients concomitantly treated with other medicinal products that may increase potassium levels, and/or in patients with intercurrent events.

Before considering the concomitant use of medicinal products that affect the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, the benefit risk ratio should be evaluated and other alternatives considered (see also below section “Dual blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS)”).

The main risk factors for hyperkalaemia to be considered are:

- Diabetes, renal impairment, age (>70 years)
- Combination with one or more other medicinal products that affect the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system and/or potassium supplements. Some medicinal products or therapeutic class of medicinal products may provoke a hyperkalaemia: salt substitutes containing potassium, potassium-sparing diuretics, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin II receptors antagonists, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (including selective COX-2 inhibitors), heparin, immunosuppressor as ciclosporin or tacrolimus, trimethoprim.
- Intercurrent events, in particular dehydration, acute cardiac decompensation, metabolic acidosis, worsening of renal function, sudden worsening of the renal condition (e.g. infectious diseases), cellular lysis (e.g. acute limb ischemia, rhabdomyolysis, extended trauma).

Close monitoring of serum potassium in at risk patients is recommended (see section 4.5).

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.

Lithium

As with other angiotensin-II receptor antagonists, the combination of lithium and olmesartan medoxomil is not recommended (see section 4.5).

Aortic or mitral valve stenosis; obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

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

Primary aldosteronism

Patients with primary aldosteronism generally will not respond to antihypertensive drugs acting through inhibition of the renin-angiotensin system. Therefore, the use of olmesartan medoxomil is not recommended in such patients.

Sprue-like enteropathy

In very rare cases severe, chronic diarrhoea with substantial weight loss has been reported in patients taking olmesartan few months to years after drug initiation, possibly caused by a localized delayed hypersensitivity reaction. Intestinal biopsies of patients often demonstrated villous atrophy. If a patient develops these symptoms during treatment with olmesartan, and in the absence of other apparent etiologies, olmesartan treatment should be immediately discontinued and should not be restarted. If diarrhoea does not improve during the week after the discontinuation, further specialist (e.g. a gastro-enterologist) advice should be considered.

Intestinal angioedema

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

Ethnic differences

As with all other angiotensin II antagonists, the blood pressure lowering effect of olmesartan medoxomil is somewhat less in black patients than in non-black patients, possibly because of a higher prevalence of low-renin status in the black hypertensive population.

Pregnancy

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

Other

As with any antihypertensive agent, excessive blood pressure decrease in patients with ischaemic heart disease or ischaemic cerebrovascular disease could result in a myocardial infarction or stroke.

This medicinal product contains lactose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp-lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicinal product.

4.5. Interaction with Other Medicinal Products and Other Forms of Interaction

Effects of other medicinal products on olmesartan medoxomil

Other antihypertensive medications

The blood pressure lowering effect of olmesartan medoxomil can be increased by concomitant use of other antihypertensive medications.

ACE-inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers or aliskiren

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, syncope 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).

Potassium supplements and potassium sparing diuretics

Based on experience with the use of other drugs that affect the renin-angiotensin system, concomitant use of potassium-sparing diuretics, potassium supplements, salt substitutes containing potassium or other drugs that may increase serum potassium levels (e.g. heparin) may lead to increases in serum potassium (see section 4.4). Such concomitant use is therefore not recommended.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

NSAIDs (including acetylsalicylic acid at doses >3 g/day and also COX-2 inhibitors) and angiotensin-II receptor antagonists may act synergistically by decreasing glomerular filtration. The risk of the concomitant use of NSAIDs and angiotensin II antagonists is the occurrence of acute renal failure. Monitoring of renal function at the beginning of treatment should be recommended as well as regular hydration of the patient.

Additionally, concomitant treatment can reduce the antihypertensive effect of angiotensin II receptor antagonists, leading to their partial loss of efficacy.

Bile acid sequestering agent colesevelam

Concurrent administration of the bile acid sequestering agent colesevelam hydrochloride reduces the systemic exposure and peak plasma concentration of olmesartan and reduces $t_{1/2}$. Administration of olmesartan medoxomil at least 4 hours prior to colesevelam hydrochloride decreased the drug interaction effect. Administering olmesartan medoxomil at least 4 hours before the colesevelam hydrochloride dose should be considered (see section 5.2).

Other compounds

After treatment with antacid (aluminium magnesium hydroxide), a modest reduction in bioavailability of olmesartan was observed. Co-administration of warfarin and digoxin had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of olmesartan.

Effects of olmesartan medoxomil on other medicinal products:

Lithium

Reversible increases in serum lithium concentrations and toxicity have been reported during concomitant administration of lithium with angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin II antagonists. Therefore use of olmesartan medoxomil and lithium in combination is not recommended (see section 4.4). If use of the combination proves necessary, careful monitoring of serum lithium levels is recommended.

Other compounds

Compounds which have been investigated in specific clinical studies in healthy volunteers include warfarin, digoxin, an antacid (magnesium aluminium hydroxide), hydrochlorothiazide and pravastatin. No clinically relevant interactions were observed and in particular olmesartan medoxomil had no significant effect on the pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics of warfarin or the pharmacokinetics of digoxin.

Olmesartan had no clinically relevant inhibitory effects on *in vitro* human cytochrome P450 enzymes 1A1/2, 2A6, 2C8/9, 2C19, 2D6, 2E1 and 3A4, and had no or minimal inducing effects on rat cytochrome P450 activities. Therefore *in vivo* interaction studies with known cytochrome P450 enzyme inhibitors and inducers were not conducted, and no clinically relevant interactions between olmesartan and drugs metabolised by the above cytochrome P450 enzymes are expected.

Paediatric population

Interaction studies have only been performed in adults.

It is not known if the interactions in children are similar to those in adults.

4.6. Fertility, Pregnancy and Lactation

Pregnancy

The use of angiotensin II antagonists is not recommended during the first trimester of pregnancy (see section 4.4). The use of angiotensin II antagonists is contra-indicated during the 2nd and 3rd trimester of pregnancy (see sections 4.3 and 4.4).

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 antagonists, similar risks may exist for this class of drugs.* Unless continued angiotensin receptor blocker therapy is considered essential, patients planning pregnancy should be changed to alternative anti-hypertensive treatments which have an established safety profile for use in pregnancy. When pregnancy is diagnosed, treatment with angiotensin II antagonists should be stopped immediately, and, if appropriate, alternative therapy should be started.

Angiotensin II antagonists therapy exposure 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 also 5.3 “Preclinical Safety Data”.)

Should exposure to angiotensin II antagonists have occurred from the second trimester of pregnancy, ultrasound check of renal function and skull is recommended. Infants whose mothers have taken angiotensin II antagonists should be closely observed for hypotension (see also sections 4.3 and 4.4).

Breast-feeding

Olmesartan is excreted in the milk of lactating rats but it is not known whether olmesartan is excreted in human milk. Because no information is available regarding the use of Olmetec during breast-feeding, Olmetec is not recommended and alternative treatments with better established safety profiles during breast-feeding are preferable, especially while nursing a newborn or preterm infant.

4.7. Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines

Olmetec has minor or moderate influence on the ability to drive and use machines. Dizziness or fatigue may occasionally occur in patients taking antihypertensive therapy, which may impair the ability to react.

4.8. Undesirable Effects

Summary of the safety profile

The most commonly reported adverse reactions during treatment with Olmetec are headache (7.7%), influenza-like symptoms (4.0%) and dizziness (3.7%).

In placebo-controlled monotherapy studies, the only adverse drug reaction that was unequivocally related to treatment was dizziness (2.5% incidence on olmesartan medoxomil and 0.9% on placebo).

The incidence was also somewhat higher on olmesartan medoxomil compared with placebo for hypertriglyceridaemia (2.0% versus 1.1%) and for raised creatine phosphokinase (1.3% versus 0.7%).

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

Adverse reactions from Olmetec in clinical trials, post-authorisation safety studies and spontaneous reporting are summarized in the below table.

The following terminologies have been used in order to classify the occurrence of adverse reactions: very common (≥1/10); common (≥1/100 to <1/10); uncommon (≥1/1,000 to <1/100); rare (≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000); very rare (<1/10,000).

MedDRA System Organ Class	Adverse Reactions	Frequency
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Thrombocytopenia	Uncommon
Immune system disorders	Anaphylactic reaction	Uncommon
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Hypertriglyceridaemia	Common
	Hyperuricaemia	Common
	Hyperkalaemia	Rare
Nervous system disorders	Dizziness	Common

MedDRA System Organ Class	Adverse Reactions	Frequency
	Headache	Common
Ear and labyrinth disorders	Vertigo	Uncommon
Cardiac disorders	Angina pectoris	Uncommon
Vascular disorders	Hypotension	Rare
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Bronchitis	Common
	Pharyngitis	Common
	Cough	Common
	Rhinitis	Common
Gastrointestinal disorders	Gastroenteritis	Common
	Diarrhoea	Common
	Abdominal pain	Common
	Nausea	Common
	Dyspepsia	Common
	Vomiting	Uncommon
	Intestinal angioedema (see section 4.4)	Rare
	Sprue-like enteropathy (see section 4.4)	Very rare
Hepatobiliary disorders	Autoimmune hepatitis*	Not Known
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Exanthema	Uncommon
	Allergic dermatitis	Uncommon
	Urticaria	Uncommon
	Rash	Uncommon
	Pruritus	Uncommon
	Angioedema	Rare
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Arthritis	Common
	Back pain	Common
	Skeletal pain	Common
	Myalgia	Uncommon
	Muscle spasm	Rare
Renal and urinary disorders	Haematuria	Common
	Urinary tract infection	Common
	Acute renal failure	Rare
	Renal insufficiency	Rare
General disorders and administration site conditions	Pain	Common
	Chest pain	Common
	Peripheral oedema	Common
	Influenza-like symptoms	Common
	Fatigue	Common
	Face oedema	Uncommon

MedDRA System Organ Class	Adverse Reactions	Frequency
	Asthenia	Uncommon
	Malaise	Uncommon
	Lethargy	Rare
Investigations	Hepatic enzymes increased	Common
	Blood urea increased	Common
	Blood creatine phosphokinase increased	Common
	Blood creatinine increased	Rare

*Cases of autoimmune hepatitis with a latency of few months to years have been reported post-marketing, that were reversible after the withdrawal of olmesartan.

Single cases of rhabdomyolysis have been reported in temporal association with the intake of angiotensin II receptor blockers.

Additional information on special populations

Paediatric population

The safety of olmesartan medoxomil was monitored in 361 children and adolescents, aged 1-17 years old during 2 clinical trials. Whilst the nature and severity of the adverse events are similar to that of the adults, the frequency of the following is higher in the children:

- Epistaxis is a common adverse event in children (i.e. ≥1/100 to <1/10) that has not been reported in adults.
- During the 3 weeks of double blind study, the incidence of treatment emergent dizziness and headache nearly doubled in children 6-17 years of age in the high olmesartan medoxomil dose group.

The overall safety profile for olmesartan medoxomil in paediatric patients does not differ significantly from the safety profile in adults.

Elderly (age 65 years or over)

In elderly people the frequency of hypotension is slightly increased from rare to uncommon.

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 national reporting system]*.

4.9. Overdose

Only limited information is available regarding overdosage in humans. The most likely effect of overdosage is hypotension. In the event of overdosage, the patient should be carefully monitored and treatment should be symptomatic and supportive.

No information is available regarding the dialysability of olmesartan.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1. Pharmacodynamic Properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group

Angiotensin II antagonists, ATC code: C09C A 08.

Mechanism of action/Pharmacodynamic effects

Olmesartan medoxomil is a potent, orally active, selective angiotensin II receptor (type AT_1) antagonist. It is expected to block all actions of angiotensin II mediated by the AT_1 receptor, regardless of the source or route of synthesis of angiotensin II. The selective antagonism of the angiotensin II (AT_1) receptors results in increases in plasma renin levels and angiotensin I and II concentrations, and some decrease in plasma aldosterone concentrations.

Angiotensin II is the primary vasoactive hormone of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system and plays a significant role in the pathophysiology of hypertension via the type 1 (AT_1) receptor.

Clinical efficacy and safety

In hypertension, olmesartan medoxomil causes a dose-dependent, long-lasting reduction in arterial blood pressure. There has been no evidence of first-dose hypotension, of tachyphylaxis during long-term treatment, or of rebound hypertension after cessation of therapy.

Once daily dosing with olmesartan medoxomil provides an effective and smooth reduction in blood pressure over the 24 hour dose interval. Once daily dosing produced similar decreases in blood pressure as twice daily dosing at the same total daily dose.

With continuous treatment, maximum reductions in blood pressure are achieved by 8 weeks after the initiation of therapy, although a substantial proportion of the blood pressure lowering effect is already observed after 2 weeks of treatment. When used together with hydrochlorothiazide, the reduction in blood pressure is additive and co-administration is well tolerated.

The effect of olmesartan on mortality and morbidity is not yet known.

The Randomised Olmesartan and Diabetes Microalbuminuria Prevention (ROADMAP) study in 4447 patients with type 2 diabetes, normo-albuminuria and at least one additional cardiovascular risk factor, investigated whether treatment with olmesartan could delay the onset of microalbuminuria. During the median follow-up duration of 3.2 years, patients received either olmesartan or placebo in addition to other antihypertensive agents, except ACE inhibitors or ARBs.

For the primary endpoint, the study demonstrated a significant risk reduction in the time to onset of microalbuminuria, in favour of olmesartan. After adjustment for BP differences this risk reduction was no longer statistically significant. 8.2% (178 of 2160) of the patients in the olmesartan group and 9.8% (210 of 2139) in the placebo group developed microalbuminuria.

For the secondary endpoints, cardiovascular events occurred in 96 patients (4.3%) with olmesartan and in 94 patients (4.2%) with placebo. The incidence of cardiovascular

mortality was higher with olmesartan compared to placebo treatment (15 patients (0.7%) vs. 3 patients (0.1%)), despite similar rates for non-fatal stroke (14 patients (0.6%) vs. 8 patients (0.4%)), non-fatal myocardial infarction (17 patients (0.8%) vs. 26 patients (1.2%)) and non-cardiovascular mortality (11 patients (0.5%) vs. 12 patients (0.5%)). Overall mortality with olmesartan was numerically increased (26 patients (1.2%) vs. 15 patients (0.7%)), which was mainly driven by a higher number of fatal cardiovascular events.

The Olmesartan Reducing Incidence of End-stage Renal Disease in Diabetic Nephropathy Trial (ORIENT) investigated the effects of olmesartan on renal and cardiovascular outcomes in 577 randomized Japanese and Chinese type 2 diabetic patients with overt nephropathy. During a median follow-up of 3.1 years, patients received either olmesartan or placebo in addition to other antihypertensive agents including ACE inhibitors.

The primary composite endpoint (time to first event of the doubling of serum creatinine, end-stage renal disease, all-cause death) occurred in 116 patients in the olmesartan group (41.1%) and 129 patients in the placebo group (45.4%) (HR 0.97 (95% CI 0.75 to 1.24); p=0.791). The composite secondary cardiovascular endpoint occurred in 40 olmesartan-treated patients (14.2%) and 53 placebo-treated patients (18.7%). This composite cardiovascular endpoint included cardiovascular death in 10 (3.5%) patients receiving olmesartan versus 3 (1.1%) receiving placebo, overall mortality 19 (6.7%) versus 20 (7.0%), non-fatal stroke 8 (2.8%) versus 11 (3.9%) and non-fatal myocardial infarction 3 (1.1%) versus 7 (2.5%), respectively.

Paediatric population

The antihypertensive effects of olmesartan medoxomil in the paediatric population were evaluated in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in 302 hypertensive patients aged 6 to 17 years. The study population consisted of an all black cohort of 112 patients and a mixed racial cohort of 190 patients, including 38 blacks. The etiology of the hypertension was predominantly essential hypertension (87% of the black cohort and 67% of the mixed cohort). Patients who weighed 20 to <35 kg were randomized to 2.5 mg (low dose) or 20 mg (high dose) of olmesartan medoxomil once daily and patients who weighed ≥35 kg were randomized to 5 mg (low dose) or 40 mg (high dose) of olmesartan medoxomil once daily. Olmesartan medoxomil significantly reduced both systolic and diastolic blood pressure in a weight-adjusted dose-dependent manner. Olmesartan medoxomil at both low and high doses significantly reduced systolic blood pressure by 6.6 and 11.9 mmHg from the baseline, respectively. This effect was also observed during the 2 weeks randomized withdrawal phase, whereby both mean systolic and diastolic blood pressures demonstrated a statistically significant rebound in the placebo group compared to olmesartan group. The treatment was effective in both, paediatric patients with primary and secondary hypertension. As observed in adult populations, the blood pressure reductions were smaller in black patients.

In the same study, 59 patients aged 1 to 5 years who weighed ≥5 kg received 0.3 mg/kg of olmesartan medoxomil once daily for three weeks in an open label phase and then were randomized to receiving olmesartan medoxomil or placebo in a double-blind phase. At the end of the second week of withdrawal, the mean systolic/diastolic blood pressure at trough was 3/3 mmHg lower in the group randomized to olmesartan medoxomil; this difference in blood pressure was not statistically significant (95% C.I. -2 to 7/-1 to 7).

Other information

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. 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.

5.2. Pharmacokinetic Properties

Absorption and distribution

Olmesartan medoxomil is a prodrug. It is rapidly converted to the pharmacologically active metabolite, olmesartan, by esterases in the gut mucosa and in portal blood during absorption from the gastrointestinal tract.

No intact olmesartan medoxomil or intact side chain medoxomil moiety have been detected in plasma or excreta. The mean absolute bioavailability of olmesartan from a tablet formulation was 25.6%.

The mean peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) of olmesartan is reached within about 2 hours after oral dosing with olmesartan medoxomil, and olmesartan plasma concentrations increase approximately linearly with increasing single oral doses up to about 80 mg.

Food had minimal effect on the bioavailability of olmesartan and therefore olmesartan medoxomil may be administered with or without food.

No clinically relevant gender-related differences in the pharmacokinetics of olmesartan have been observed.

Olmesartan is highly bound to plasma protein (99.7%), but the potential for clinically significant protein binding displacement interactions between olmesartan and other highly bound co-administered drugs is low (as confirmed by the lack of a clinically significant interaction between olmesartan medoxomil and warfarin). The binding of olmesartan to blood cells is negligible. The mean volume of distribution after intravenous dosing is low (16 - 29 L).

Biotransformation and elimination

Total plasma clearance was typically 1.3 L/h (CV, 19%) and was relatively slow compared to hepatic blood flow (ca 90 L/h). Following a single oral dose of ^{14}C-labelled olmesartan medoxomil, 10 - 16% of the administered radioactivity was excreted in the urine (the vast majority within 24 hours of dose administration) and the remainder of the recovered radioactivity was excreted in the faeces. Based on the systemic availability of 25.6%, it can be calculated that absorbed olmesartan is cleared by both renal excretion (ca 40%) and hepato-biliary excretion (ca 60%). All recovered radioactivity was identified as olmesartan. No other significant metabolite was detected. Enterohepatic recycling of olmesartan is minimal. Since a large proportion of olmesartan is excreted via the biliary route, use in patients with biliary obstruction is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

The terminal elimination half-life of olmesartan varied between 10 and 15 hours after multiple oral dosing. Steady state was reached after the first few doses and no further accumulation was evident after 14 days of repeated dosing. Renal clearance was approximately 0.5 – 0.7 L/h and was independent of dose.

Pharmacokinetics in special populations

Paediatric population

The pharmacokinetics of olmesartan was studied in paediatric hypertensive patients aged 1 to 16 years. The clearance of olmesartan in paediatric patients was similar to that in adult patients when adjusted by the body weight.

There is no pharmacokinetic information available in renally impaired paediatric subjects.

Elderly (age 65 years or over)

In hypertensive patients, the AUC at steady state was increased by ca 35% in elderly people (65 – 75 years old) and by ca 44% in very elderly people (≥75 years old) compared with the younger age group. This may be at least in part related to a mean decrease in renal function in this group of patients.

Renal impairment

In renally impaired patients, the AUC at steady state increased by 62%, 82% and 179% in patients with mild, moderate and severe renal impairment, respectively, compared to healthy controls (see sections 4.2, 4.4).

Hepatic impairment

After single oral administration, olmesartan AUC values were 6% and 65% higher in mildly and moderately hepatically impaired patients, respectively, than in their corresponding matched healthy controls. The unbound fraction of olmesartan at 2 hours post-dose in healthy subjects, in patients with mild hepatic impairment and in patients with moderate hepatic impairment was 0.26%, 0.34% and 0.41%, respectively. Following repeated dosing in patients with moderate hepatic impairment, olmesartan mean AUC was again about 65% higher than in matched healthy controls. Olmesartan mean C_{max} values were similar in hepatically-impaired and healthy subjects. Olmesartan medoxomil has not been evaluated in patients with severe hepatic impairment (see sections 4.2, 4.4).

Drug interactions

Bile acid sequestering agent colesevelam

Concomitant administration of 40 mg olmesartan medoxomil and 3750 mg colesevelam hydrochloride in healthy subjects resulted in 28% reduction in C_{max} and 39% reduction in AUC of olmesartan. Lesser effects, 4% and 15% reduction in C_{max} and AUC respectively, were observed when olmesartan medoxomil was administered 4 hours prior to colesevelam hydrochloride. Elimination half-life of olmesartan was reduced by 50 – 52% irrespectively of whether administered concomitantly or 4 hours prior to colesevelam hydrochloride (see section 4.5).

5.3. Preclinical Safety Data

In chronic toxicity studies in rats and dogs, olmesartan medoxomil showed similar effects to other AT_1 receptor antagonists and ACE inhibitors: raised blood urea (BUN) and creatinine (through functional changes to the kidneys caused by blocking AT_1 receptors); reduction in heart weight; a reduction of red cell parameters (erythrocytes, haemoglobin, haematocrit); histological indications of renal damage (regenerative lesions of the renal epithelium, thickening of the basal membrane, dilatation of the tubules). These adverse effects caused by the pharmacological action of olmesartan medoxomil have also occurred in preclinical trials on other AT_1 receptor antagonists and ACE inhibitors and can be reduced by simultaneous oral administration of sodium chloride.

In both species, increased plasma renin activity and hypertrophy/hyperplasia of the juxtaglomerular cells of the kidney were observed. These changes, which are a typical effect of the class of ACE inhibitors and other AT_1 receptor antagonists, would appear to have no clinical relevance.

Like other AT_1 receptor antagonists olmesartan medoxomil was found to increase the incidence of chromosome breaks in cell cultures *in vitro*. No relevant effects were observed in several *in vivo* studies using olmesartan medoxomil at very high oral doses of up to 2000 mg/kg. The overall data of a comprehensive genotoxicity testing suggest that olmesartan is very unlikely to exert genotoxic effects under conditions of clinical use.

Olmesartan medoxomil was not carcinogenic, neither in rats in a 2 year study nor in mice when tested in two 6 month carcinogenicity studies using transgenic models.

In reproductive studies in rats, olmesartan medoxomil did not affect fertility and there was no evidence of a teratogenic effect. In common with other angiotensin II antagonists, survival of offspring was reduced following exposure to olmesartan medoxomil and pelvic dilatation of the kidney was seen after exposure of the dams in late pregnancy and lactation. In common with other antihypertensive agents, olmesartan medoxomil was shown to be more toxic to pregnant rabbits than to pregnant rats, however, there was no indication of a fetotoxic effect.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1. List of Excipients

Tablet core
Cellulose, microcrystalline
Lactose monohydrate
Hydroxypropylcellulose

Low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose
Magnesium stearate

Tablet coat
Titanium dioxide (E 171)
Talc
Hypromellose

6.2. Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3. Shelf Life

Refer to outer carton for expiry date.

6.4. Special Precautions for Storage

Store below 30°C.

6.5. Nature and Contents of Container

Laminated polyamide/aluminium/polyvinyl chloride/aluminium blister pack.

Packs of 30 film-coated tablets.

Some product strengths or pack sizes may not be available in your country.

6.6. Special Precautions for Disposal and Other Handling

No special requirements.

7. MANUFACTURER

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