

**IRISH MEDICINES BOARD ACTS 1995 AND 2006**

**MEDICINAL PRODUCTS(CONTROL OF PLACING ON THE MARKET)REGULATIONS,2007**

**(S.I. No.540 of 2007)**

**PA0035/045/001**

Case No: 2031359

The Irish Medicines Board in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the above mentioned Regulations hereby grants to

**Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited**

**Hertford Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 9BU, United Kingdom**

an authorisation, subject to the provisions of the said Regulations, in respect of the product

**Periactin Tablets 4mg**

The particulars of which are set out in Part I and Part II of the attached Schedule. The authorisation is also subject to the general conditions as may be specified in the said Regulations as listed on the reverse of this document.

This authorisation, unless previously revoked, shall continue in force from **24/11/2008** until **31/03/2009**.

Signed on behalf of the Irish Medicines Board this

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A person authorised in that behalf by the said Board.

## Part II

### Summary of Product Characteristics

#### 1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

PERIACTIN<sup>®</sup> Tablets 4mg

#### 2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each 'Periactin' tablet contains cyproheptadine hydrochloride equivalent to 4 mg anhydrous cyproheptadine hydrochloride.

For excipients, see 6.1

#### 3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Tablets .

Flat, white tablets with bevelled edges with a breakline on one side and marked 'MSD 62' on the other side.

#### 4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

##### 4.1 Therapeutic Indications

'Periactin' is used in the treatment of allergic conditions and reactions. (see section 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties).

##### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

For treatment of allergy:

*Adults:*

usually 4 mg to 20 mg (1-5 tablets) daily in divided doses to be adjusted according to the patient's weight. If necessary this may be increased to a daily dose of up to 32 mg, but dosing should not exceed 250 micrograms/kg/day.

*Children:*

2-6 years: usually 2mg three times daily. This may be adjusted according to the clinical response but should not exceed 12mg/day. If an additional dose is required, it should be given at bedtime.

7-14 years: usually 4 mg (1 tablet) three times daily. This may be adjusted according to the clinical response but should not exceed 16mg/day (4 tablets) daily. If an additional dose is required, it should be given at bedtime.

*Elderly:*

This product is not recommended for elderly debilitated patients (see section 4.3 'contra-indications').

### 4.3 Contraindications

‘Periactin’ is contra-indicated in:

1. Patients hypersensitive to cyproheptadine, or to drugs with a similar chemical structure.
2. Glaucoma.
3. Patients receiving, or who have received within 14 days monoamine oxidase inhibitors. (See section 4.5 'Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction').
4. Patients with pyloro-duodenal obstruction or a stenosing peptic ulcer, predisposition to urinary retention, bladder neck obstruction or symptomatic prostatic hypertrophy.
5. Patients undergoing therapy for an acute asthmatic attack.
6. Children under two years of age.
7. Elderly or debilitated patients.
8. Breast-feeding mothers (see section 4.6 'Pregnancy and lactation').
9. Newborn or premature infants: Use in infants has been associated with apnoea, cyanosis and respiratory difficulty.

### 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Antihistamines should not be used to treat lower respiratory tract symptoms including those of acute asthma.

Antihistamines are more likely to cause dizziness, sedation, and hypotension in elderly patients.

rarely, prolonged therapy with antihistamines may cause blood dyscrasias.

Cyproheptadine has an atropine-like action and, therefore, should be used with caution in patients with:

- History of bronchial asthma
- Increased intraocular pressure
- Hyperthyroidism
- Cardiovascular disease
- Hypertension

This medical product contains lactose (see section 6.1). Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactose deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

Like other antihistamines, ‘Periactin’ may diminish mental alertness (see section 4.7 ‘Effects on ability to drive and operate machinery’).

#### *Use in Children:*

Safety and effectiveness in children below two years of age has not been established.

‘Periactin’ should be used with caution in young children above the age of two years. Such children may potentially experience stimulation/excitation including insomnia, nervousness, fever and tremors and should be carefully observed to prevent mishap.

Overdosage of antihistamines, particularly in infants and children may produce hallucinations, central nervous system

depression, convulsions, respiratory and cardiac arrest, and death.

'Periactin' should be used with caution in patients suffering from epilepsy.

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

The effects of anticholinergic drugs, e.g. atropine and some psychotropic drugs, may be potentiated by this product, and may produce tachycardia, mouth dryness, gastro-intestinal disturbances, e.g. colic, urinary retention and headache.

This product may have additive effects with alcohol and other central nervous system (CNS) depressants (e.g. hypnotics, sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-anxiety agents).

MAO inhibitors prolong and intensify the anticholinergic effects of antihistamines (see section 4.3 'Contraindications'). Drugs with anti-serotonin activity, such as cyproheptadine, may interfere with serotonin-enhancing anti-depressant drugs.

Cyproheptadine may cause a false positive test result for tricyclic antidepressant drugs when evaluating a drug screen (e.g. urine, serum).

#### **4.6 Pregnancy and lactation**

This drug should not be used during pregnancy unless the benefits clearly outweigh any risk to the foetus.

*Breast-feeding:* It is not known whether 'Periactin' is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions to nursing infants, it is advised that consideration be given to either discontinuing the drug or discontinuing nursing. Such consideration should be dependent on the benefits of 'Periactin' to the mother. (See section 4.3 'Contraindications').

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

This product may cause drowsiness and patients receiving it should not drive or operate machinery unless it has been shown that their physical and mental capacity remains unaffected.

#### **4.8 Undesirable effects**

The side effects that appear frequently are drowsiness and somnolence. Many patients who initially complain of drowsiness may no longer do so after the first three to four days of continuous administration.

This product may act as a cerebral stimulant in children and occasionally in adults, producing insomnia, nervousness, fever, tremors.

Children receiving this product should be carefully supervised in order to avoid accidental mishap due to drowsiness.

Side effects reported with antihistamines are:

Central nervous system: Sedation, sleepiness (often transient), dizziness, disturbed co-ordination, confusion, restlessness, excitation, nervousness, tremor, irritability, aggressive behaviour, insomnia, paraesthesia, neuritis, convulsions, euphoria, hallucinations, hysteria, faintness.

Integumentary: Allergic manifestations of rash and oedema, excessive perspiration, urticaria, photosensitivity.

Special senses: Acute labyrinthitis, blurred vision, diplopia, vertigo, tinnitus.

Cardiovascular: Hypotension, palpitation, tachycardia, extrasystoles, anaphylactic shock.

Haematological: Haemolytic anaemia, leucopenia, agranulocytosis, thrombocytopenia.

Digestive system: Cholestasis, hepatic failure, hepatitis, hepatic function abnormality, dryness of mouth, epigastric distress, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, jaundice.

Genito-urinary: Frequency and difficulty of micturition, urinary retention, early menses.

Respiratory: Dryness of the nose and throat, thickening of bronchial secretions, tightness of chest and wheezing, nasal stuffiness, epistaxis.

Miscellaneous: Fatigue, fever, rigors, headache, increased appetite/weight gain.

## **4.9 Overdose**

The signs and symptoms of antihistamine overdosage may vary from CNS depression or stimulation to convulsions and death, especially in infants and children. Also atropine-like signs and symptoms (dry mouth, fixed-dilated pupils; flushing, etc) as well as gastro-intestinal symptoms may occur.

If vomiting has not occurred spontaneously, it should be induced in the conscious patient with syrup or ipecac. If the patient cannot vomit, gastric lavage with isotonic or half isotonic saline is indicated, followed by activated charcoal. Precautions against aspiration must be taken, especially in infants and children.

Life-threatening CNS signs and symptoms should be treated appropriately.

Saline cathartics, such as milk of magnesia, usefully draw water into the bowel by osmosis and therefore are valuable for their action in rapid dilution of bowel content.

Stimulants should not be used.

Vasopressors may be used to treat hypotension.

## **5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Cyproheptadine hydrochloride is a serotonin and histamine antagonist with anticholinergic and sedative effects. Antiserotonin and antihistamine drugs appear to compete with serotonin and histamine, respectively, for receptor sites.

### **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

No relevant information.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

No relevant information.

## **6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Calcium hydrogen phosphate (E341)  
Lactose monohydrate,  
Magnesium stearate (E572)  
Potato starch  
Pregelatinised maize starch.

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Shelf Life**

The shelf life expiry date for this product shall not exceed three years from the date of its manufacture.

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

Bottles  
Do not store above 25°C. Keep container tightly closed.

Blister Packs  
Do not store above 25°C. Store in original package.

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

60 tablets in HDPE bottles with cap-to-cap tamper evident closures.  
30 tablets in 250 micron, opaque PVC blisters with 20 micron hard-tamper aluminium. Each blister contains 10 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal of a used medicinal product or waste materials derived from such medicinal product and other handling of the product**

No special requirements.

## **7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited  
Hertford Road  
Hoddesdon  
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU  
UK

## **8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER**

PA 35/45/1

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

Date of first authorisation: 1<sup>st</sup> April 1979

Date of last renewal: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004

**10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

November 2008