Part II

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Nolgen Tablets 10 mg (Tamoxifen Tablets BP 10 mg).

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains Tamoxifen Citrate equivalent to 10 mg of Tamoxifen.

For excipients, see 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Tablets.

White, round uncoated tablets marked T/10 on one side and the company logo on the reverse.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

In the palliative management of breast cancer particularly in those which are oestrogen receptor positive.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Nolgen tablets are for oral use.

Adults: The usual daily dosage is 20 to 40mg given as a single or divided dose.

4.3 Contraindications

Use during pregnancy.

Use in women at risk of pregnancy.

Premenopausal women should have pregnancy excluded prior to commencing therapy.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Fluid retention may occur.

In the premenopausal patient, menses may be suppressed or the cycle altered. Reversible cystic ovarian swellings have been reported at dosage higher than that recommended.

Hypercalcaemia has appeared on initiation of therapy in a few patients with bony metastases.

Excessive and prolonged therapy may result in corneal macular deposits with blurring of vision.

Tamoxifen should be used under the supervision of the appropriate specialist in hormonal cancer chemotherapy.

Investigations in different in vivo and in vitro systems have shown that tamoxifen has a genotoxic potential following hepatic activation.

Gonadal tumours in mice and liver tumours in rats receiving tamoxifen have been reported in long term studies. The clinical relevance of these findings has not been established.

Although the risk of developing endometrial cancer in patients is low, symptoms of endometrial pathology (abnormal vaginal bleeding including menstrual irregularities, post menopausal bleeding, vaginal discharge) in patients treated with tamoxifen should be promptly investigated.

Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

A significant increase in anti-coagulant effects may occur when tamoxifen is used in combination with coumarin-type anti-coagulants.

4.6 Pregnancy and lactation

Tamoxifen is contra-indicated in pregnancy and premenopausal women should be examined, carefully, to exclude the possibility of pregnancy before commencing therapy with tamoxifen.

It is not known if tamoxifen is excreted in breast milk and therefore the drug is not recommended during lactation.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Although use of tamoxifen is unlikely to result in any impairment of the ability to drive or operate machinery, visual disturbances and dizziness have been reported and patients should be advised not to drive or to operate machinery if affected.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Possible side effects include those which are related to the anti-oestrogen action, such as hot flushes, vaginal bleeding and pruritis vulvae, and more general effects, e.g. gastro-intestinal intolerance, thrombophlebitis, dizziness, rashes and tumour pain. Transient thrombocytopenia has been reported and fluid retention may occur.

There have been occasional reports of cystic ovarian swelling occurring in premenopausal women receiving tamoxifen.

Visual disturbances, including corneal opacities and retinopathy, have been reported, usually following administration of very high doses.

Hypercalcaemia has occurred in a few patients with bony metastases, on initiation of tamoxifen therapy.

There is evidence of an increased incidence of thrombo-embolic events including deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, and stroke during tamoxifen treatment.

In the premenopausal patient; menses may be suppressed or the cycle may be altered.

Tamoxifen has been associated with changes in liver enzyme levels and on rare occasions with a spectrum of more severe liver abnormalities including fatty liver, cholestasis and hepatitis.

An increased incidence of endometrial cancer and uterine sarcoma has been reported in association with “tamoxifen” treatment.

4.9 Overdose

Overdosage might be expected to increase the anti-oestrogenic side-effects referred to above.
There is no specific antidote and treatment of overdosage is symptomatic and supportive.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Nolgen tablets contain tamoxifen citrate, a non-steroidal anti-oestrogen. The anti-oestrogen effects of tamoxifen may be related to its ability to compete with oestrogen for binding sites in target tissues such as the breast, resulting in a diminished amount of oestrogen receptor available for endogenous hormone.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Following oral administration, peak plasma concentrations of tamoxifen occur after 4 to 7 hours. The drug is extensively protein bound. Tamoxifen is extensively metabolised, the major serum metabolite being N-desmethyl-tamoxifen, and is excreted slowly in the faeces; urinary excretion is minimal.

The decline in plasma concentration is biphasic and the terminal half-life is about 7 days.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

No further relevant information other than that which is included in the other sections of the Summary of Product Characteristics.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Lactose monohydrate
Maize starch
Magnesium stearate

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf Life

3 years.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25°C.
Keep container in the outer carton.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Blister packs which consist of 2 strips made from hard P.V.C with a foil lid and packed in cardboard cartons to contain 28 tablets (2x 14 tablets) or 7 strips packed in cardboard cartons to contain 98 tablets (7 x 14 tablets).

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

Antigen Pharmaceuticals Limited
Roscrea
County Tipperary

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA 0073/093/001

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorization: 15/12/1987

Date of last renewal: 15/12/2002

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

May 2007