

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Salofalk 250mg Gastro-Resistant Tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains 250 mg of mesalazine.

Excipient: Each tablet contains 48mg sodium.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Gastro-resistant tablet
Round, biconvex, yellow tablets.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

As an anti-inflammatory in the management of ulcerative colitis, and in the treatment of Crohn's disease.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Adults and elderly:

When symptoms of acute inflammation are present, 2 Salofalk 250mg tablets should be taken, with ample fluid in the morning, afternoon and evening after meals, unless otherwise prescribed. In severe cases of the diseases the dosage may be doubled.

As maintenance therapy to prevent recurrence, 2 tablets should be taken in the morning, afternoon and evening.

Paediatric population: There is only limited documentation for an effect in children (age 6 -18 years).

Children 6 years of age and older:

Active disease: To be determined individually, starting with 30-50mg/kg/day in divided doses. Maximum dose: 75mg/kg/day. The total dose should not exceed the maximum dose for adults.

Maintenance treatment: To be determined individually, starting with 15-30mg/kg/day in divided doses. The total dose should not exceed the recommended dose for adults.

It is generally recommended that half the adult dose may be given to children up to a body weight of 40kg and the normal adult dose to those above 40kg.

Duration of treatment

The treatment of acute episodes of ulcerative colitis usually lasts 8 weeks. The duration of use is determined by the physician.

Method of administration

Salofalk 250mg tablets are for oral administration.
Take after meals with ample fluid.

4.3 Contraindications

Salofalk is contraindicated in cases of:

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

Severe impairment of hepatic or renal function.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Blood tests (differential blood count; liver function parameters such as ALT or AST; serum creatinine) and urinary status (dip sticks) should be determined prior to and during treatment, at the discretion of the treating physician. As a guideline, follow up tests are recommended 14 days after commencement of treatment, then a further two to three tests at intervals of 4 weeks.

If the findings are normal, follow up tests should be carried out every 3 months. If additional symptoms occur, these tests should be performed immediately.

Caution is recommended in patients with impaired hepatic function.

Mesalazine should not be used in patients with impaired renal function. Mesalazine-induced renal toxicity should be considered if renal function deteriorates during treatment. If this is the case, Salofalk 250mg tablets should be discontinued immediately.

Cases of nephrolithiasis have been reported with the use of mesalazine including stones with a 100% mesalazine content. It is recommended to ensure adequate fluid intake during treatment.

Mesalazine may produce red-brown urine discoloration after contact with sodium hypochlorite bleach (e.g., in toilets cleaned with sodium hypochlorite contained in certain bleaches).

Serious blood dyscrasias have been reported very rarely with mesalazine. Hematological investigations should be performed if patients suffer from unexplained haemorrhages, bruises, purpura, anaemia, fever or pharyngolaryngeal pain. Salofalk 250mg tablets should be discontinued in case of suspected or confirmed blood dyscrasia.

Cardiac hypersensitivity reactions (myocarditis, and pericarditis) induced by mesalazine have been rarely reported. Salofalk 250mg tablets should then be discontinued immediately.

Patients with pulmonary disease, in particular asthma, should be very carefully monitored during a course of treatment with mesalazine.

Severe cutaneous adverse reactions

Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs), including drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), have been reported in association with mesalazine treatment. Mesalazine should be discontinued, at the first appearance of signs and symptoms of severe skin reactions, such as skin rash, mucosal lesions, or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

Idiopathic intracranial hypertension

Idiopathic intracranial hypertension (pseudotumor cerebri) has been reported in patients receiving mesalazine. Patients should be warned for signs and symptoms of idiopathic intracranial hypertension, including severe or recurrent headache, visual disturbances or tinnitus. If idiopathic intracranial hypertension occurs, discontinuation of mesalazine should be considered.

Patients with a history of adverse drug reactions to preparations containing sulfasalazine should be kept under close medical surveillance on commencement of a course of treatment with mesalazine. Should Salofalk 250mg tablets cause acute intolerance reactions such as abdominal cramps, acute abdominal pain, fever, severe headache and rash, therapy should be discontinued immediately.

This medicinal product contains 48 mg sodium per tablet, equivalent to 2.4% of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake for sodium. The maximum daily dose of this product is equivalent to 29% of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake for sodium.

Salofalk 250mg tablets are considered high in sodium. This should be particularly taken into account for those on a low salt diet.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No interaction studies have been performed.

In patients who are concomitantly treated with azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine or thioguanine, a possible increase in the myelosuppressive effects of azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine or thioguanine should be taken into account.

There is weak evidence that mesalazine might decrease the anticoagulant effect of warfarin.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There are no adequate data from the use of mesalazine in pregnant women. However, data on a limited number of exposed pregnancies indicate no adverse effect of mesalazine on pregnancy or on the health of the foetus/newborn child. To date no other relevant epidemiologic data are available. In one single case after long-term use of a high dose mesalazine (2-4g, orally) during pregnancy, renal failure in a neonate was reported.

Animal studies on oral mesalazine do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to pregnancy, embryonic/foetal development, parturition or postnatal development.

Salofalk tablets should only be used during pregnancy if the potential benefit outweighs the possible risk.

Breastfeeding

N-acetyl-5-aminosalicylic acid and to a lesser degree mesalazine are excreted in breast milk. Only limited experience during lactation in women is available to date. Hypersensitivity reactions such as diarrhoea in the infant cannot be excluded. Therefore, Salofalk tablets should only be used during breast-feeding if the potential benefit outweighs the possible risk. If the infant develops diarrhoea, breast-feeding should be discontinued.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Mesalazine has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Organ Class System	Frequency according to MedDRA convention			
	Common ($\geq 1/100$; $< 1/10$)	Rare ($\geq 1/10,000$; $< 1/1,000$)	Very rare ($< 1/10,000$)	Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data)
Blood and lymphatic system disorders			Altered blood counts (aplastic anaemia, agranulocytosis, pancytopenia, neutropenia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia)	
Nervous system disorders		Headache, dizziness	Peripheral neuropathy	Idiopathic intracranial hypertension (see section 4.4)
Cardiac disorders		Myocarditis, pericarditis		
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders			Allergic and fibrotic lung reactions (including dyspnoea, cough, bronchospasm, alveolitis, pulmonary eosinophilia,	

			lung infiltration, pneumonitis)	
Gastrointestinal disorders		Abdominal pain, diarrhoea, flatulence, nausea, vomiting, constipation	Acute pancreatitis	
Renal and urinary disorders			Impairment of renal function including acute and chronic interstitial nephritis and renal insufficiency	Nephrolithiasis*
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Rash, pruritus	Photosensitivity	Alopecia	Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN)
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders			Myalgia, arthralgia	
Immune system disorders			Hypersensitivity reactions such as allergic exanthema, drug fever, lupus erythematosus syndrome, pancolitis	
Hepatobiliary disorders			Changes in liver function parameters (increase in transaminases and parameters of cholestasis), hepatitis, cholestatic hepatitis	
Reproductive system disorders			Oligospermia (reversible)	

* see section 4.4 for further information

Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs), including drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), have been reported in association with mesalazine treatment (see section 4.4).

Photosensitivity

More severe reactions are reported in patients with pre-existing skin conditions such as atopic dermatitis and atopic eczema.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting of suspected 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:

HPRA Pharmacovigilance

Website: www.hpra.ie

4.9 Overdose

There are rare data on overdosage (e.g., intended suicide with high oral doses of mesalazine), which do not indicate renal or hepatic toxicity. There is no specific antidote and treatment is symptomatic and supportive.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Intestinal anti-inflammatory agent
ATC code: A07EC02

The mechanism of the anti-inflammatory action is unknown. The results of *in vitro* studies indicate that inhibition of lipoxygenase may play a role.

Effects on prostaglandin concentrations in the intestinal mucosa have also been demonstrated. Mesalazine (5-aminosalicylic acid/5-ASA) may also function as a radical scavenger of reactive oxygen compounds.

Mesalazine, orally administered, acts predominantly locally at the gut mucosa and in the submucous tissue from the luminal side of the intestine. It is important, therefore, that mesalazine is available at the regions of inflammation. Systemic bioavailability/plasma concentrations of mesalazine therefore are of no relevance for therapeutic efficacy, but rather a factor for safety. In order to fulfil these criteria Salofalk tablets are coated with Eudragit L; they are thus gastro-resistant and release of mesalazine is pH dependent.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

General considerations of mesalazine:

Absorption:

Mesalazine absorption is highest in proximal gut regions and lowest in distal gut areas.

Biotransformation:

Mesalazine is metabolised both pre-systemically by the intestinal mucosa and the liver to the pharmacologically inactive N-acetyl-5-aminosalicylic acid (N-Ac-5-ASA). The acetylation seems to be independent of the acetylator phenotype of the patient. Some acetylation also occurs through the action of colonic bacteria. Protein binding of mesalazine and N-Ac-5-ASA is 43 % and 78 %, respectively.

Elimination:

Mesalazine and its metabolite N-Ac-5-ASA are eliminated via the faeces (major part), renally (varies between 20 and 50 %, dependent on kind of application, pharmaceutical preparation and route of mesalazine release, respectively), and biliary (minor part). Renal excretion predominantly occurs as N-Ac-5-ASA. About 1 % of total orally administered mesalazine dose is excreted into the breast milk mainly as N-Ac-5-ASA.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Preclinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, genotoxicity, carcinogenicity (rat) or toxicity to reproduction.

Kidney toxicity (renal papillary necrosis and epithelial damage in the proximal convoluted tubule or the whole nephron) has been seen in repeat-dose toxicity studies with high oral doses of mesalazine. The clinical relevance of this finding is unknown.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Sodium carbonate (E500)
Glycine
Povidone K25
Cellulose, microcrystalline
Silica, Colloidal anhydrous
Calcium stearate (Ph.Eur.)
Hypromellose
Methacrylic acid-methyl methacrylate copolymer (1:1) (Ph.Eur.) ((rel. molar mass: approx. 135000)) (= Eudragit L)
Talc
Titanium dioxide (E171)
Hydrated iron(III) oxide (E172)
Basic butylated methacrylate copolymer (Ph.Eur.) (rel. molar mass: approx. 150000) [Eudragit E]
Macrogol 6000

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

3 years.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25°C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

PVC/PE/PVDC/aluminium blister packs packed in cardboard cartons containing 100 or 300 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

Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH
Leinenweberstrasse 5
79108 Freiburg
Germany

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA0573/004/003

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 11 October 1989

Date of last renewal: 11 October 2009

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

May 2025