IPAR

PUBLIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A MEDICINAL PRODUCT FOR HUMAN USE

Scientific discussion

Ursofalk 500mg Film-coated Tablets

URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID

PA 573/5/3

The Public Assessment Report reflects the scientific conclusion reached by the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) at the end of the evaluation process and provides a summary of the grounds for approval of a marketing authorisation for a specific medicinal product for human use. It is made available by the IMB for information to the public, after deletion of commercially sensitive information. The legal basis for its creation and availability is contained in Article 21 of Directive 2001/83/EC, as amended. It is a concise document which highlights the main parts of the documentation submitted by the applicant and the scientific evaluation carried out by the IMB leading to the approval of the medicinal product for marketing in Ireland.

I INTRODUCTION

Based on the review of the data on quality, safety and efficacy, the IMB has granted a marketing authorisation for Ursofalk 500mg Film-coated Tablets, from Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH on 19th August 2011 for the dissolution of cholesterol gallstones in the gall bladder and for the treatment of primary biliary cirrhosis. (PBC).

This application for a marketing authorisation was submitted in accordance with Article 10c of Directive 2001/83/EC and is referred to as an 'informed consent' application. It is a so called line extension of the company's already approved 250 mg capsules.

The Summary of Product Characteristics for (SPC) for this medicinal product is available on the IMB's website at www.imb.ie

Name of the product	Ursofalk 500mg Film-coated Tablets
Name(s) of the active substance(s) (INN)	URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID
Pharmacotherapeutic classification (ATC code)	A05AA, A05B
Pharmaceutical form and strength(s)	Film coated tablet 500mg
Marketing Authorisation Number(s) in Ireland (PA)	PA0573/005/003
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH

II QUALITY ASPECTS

II.1. Introduction

This application is for Ursofalk 500mg Film-coated Tablets.

II.2 Drug substance

The active substance is Ursodeoxycholic acid, an established active substance described in the European Pharmacopoeia, and is manufactured in accordance with the principles of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)

The active substance specification is considered adequate to control the quality and meets current pharmacopoeial requirements. Batch analytical data demonstrating compliance with this specification has been provided.

II.3 Medicinal product

P.1 Composition

Ursofalk 500mg Film-coated Tablets are film-coated tablets. Each tablet is white, oval, biconvex with a breakline on both sides. The tablets contain 500mg of ursodeoxycholic acid. The other excipients in the tablets are Microcrystalline Cellulose, Povidone, Crospovidone Type A, Talc, Magnesium Stearate, Collioidal Anhydrous Silica, Polysorbate 80, Hypromellose, Macrogol 6000.

P.2 Pharmaceutical Development

The product is an established pharmaceutical form and its development is adequately described in accordance with the relevant European guidelines.

P.3 Manufacture of the Product

The product is manufactured in accordance with the principles of good manufacturing practice (GMP) at suitably qualified manufacturing sites.

The manufacturing process has been validated according to relevant European and ICH guidelines and the process is considered to be sufficiently validated.

P.4 Control of Other Substances (Excipients)

All ingredients comply with Ph. Eur.

P.5 Control of Finished Product

The Finished Product Specification is based on the pharmacopoeial monograph for Tablets, and the tests and control limits are considered appropriate for this type of product.

The analytical methods used are described in sufficient detail and are supported by validation data.

Batch analytical data for a number of batches from the proposed production site have been provided, and demonstrate the ability of the manufacturer to produce batches of finished product of consistent quality.

P.6 Packaging material

The product is presented in PVC/PVDC blister strips in pack sizes of 50 and 100 tablets.

Evidence has been provided that the blister strips comply with Ph. Eur./EU legislation for use with foodstuffs requirements.

P.7 Stability of the Finished Product

Stability data on the finished product in the proposed packaging have been provided in accordance with EU guidelines demonstrating the stability of the product for 4 years with no special storage conditions.

II.4 Discussion on Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Biological Aspects

The important quality characteristics of the product are well-defined and controlled. Satisfactory chemical and pharmaceutical documentation has been provided, assuring consistent quality of Ursofalk 500mg Film-coated Tablets.

III NON-CLINICAL ASPECTS

III.1 Introduction

Not applicable

IV CLINICAL ASPECTS

IV.1 Introduction

Ursodeoxycholic acid is a well known active substance with established efficacy and tolerability.

The content of the SPC approved during the national procedure is in accordance with that accepted for the approved product Ursofalk 250 mg capsules marketed by Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH.

For this generic application, the applicant has submitted a bioequivalence study in which the pharmacokinetic profile of the test product Ursofalk 500 mg Film Coated Tablets is compared with the pharmacokinetic profile of the reference product Ursofalk 250 mg capsules (x2).

A single-dose, randomised, two-period, two-treatment, two-sequence, crossover bioequivalence study was carried out. A single Ursofalk 500 mg Film Coated Tablet, was compared to the reference product Ursofalk 250 mg capsules (x2). Based on the pharmacokinetic parameters of the active substance, ursodeoxycholic acid, the reference formulation and test formulation are bioequivalent with extent to the rate and extent of absorption and fulfil the bioequivalence requirements outlined in the relevant CHMP Note for Guidance.

The Marketing Authorisation Holder submitted a set of documents describing the Pharmacovigilance System, including information on the availability of an EU Qualified Person for Pharmacovigilance (EU-QPPV) and the means for notification of adverse reaction reports in the EU or from a Third Country.

V OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Ursofalk 500 mg Film Coated Tablets is a line extension to the already approved product Ursofalk 250 mg capsules.

Bioequivalence has been shown to be in compliance with the CHMP guidance documents. The SPC is consistent with that of the approved product.

The MAH has provided written confirmation that systems and services are in place to ensure compliance with their pharmacovigilance obligations.

The IMB, on the basis of the data submitted considered that Ursofalk 500 mg Film Coated Tablets demonstrated bioequivalence with the reference product as well as a satisfactory risk/benefit profile and therefore granted a marketing authorisation.

VI REVISION DATE

August 2011