

IRISH MEDICINES BOARD ACTS 1995 AND 2006

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

(S.I. No.540 of 2007)

PA0585/033/001

Case No: 2041277

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

Pliva Pharma Limited

Vision House, Bedford Road, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3QB, United Kingdom

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

Bicalutamide 50mg Film-Coated Tablets

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 **14/11/2008** until **13/11/2013**.

Signed on behalf of the Irish Medicines Board this

A person authorised in that behalf by the said Board.

Part II

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Bicalutamide 50mg Film-Coated Tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each film-coated tablet contains 50mg of bicalutamide

Excipients:

Each tablet contains 1.04mg of lactose (as lactose monohydrate)

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film-coated tablet

White or almost white round, biconvex, film-coated tablet, imprinted with 'BC' on one side and '50' on the other side.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Treatment of advanced prostate cancer in combination with luteinising hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) analogue therapy or surgical castration.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Adult males including the elderly: one tablet (50 mg) to be taken orally once a day.

Route: oral

The tablets should be swallowed whole with liquid.

Treatment with bicalutamide should be started at least 3 days before commencing treatment with an LHRH analogue, or at the same time as surgical castration.

Children and adolescents: Bicalutamide is not indicated in children and adolescents.

Renal impairment: no dose adjustment is necessary for patients with renal impairment. There is no experience with the use of bicalutamide in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30 ml/min) (see section 4.4)

Hepatic impairment: no dose adjustment is necessary for patients with mild hepatic impairment. The medicinal product may accumulate in patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment (see section 4.4).

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to bicalutamide or any of the excipients.

Bicalutamide is contraindicated in women and children.

Co-administration of terfenadine, astemizole or cisapride with bicalutamide is contraindicated (see section 4.5).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Bicalutamide is metabolised in the liver. Research results suggest that bicalutamide's elimination may be slower in patients with severe hepatic impairment and this could lead to increased accumulation of bicalutamide. Therefore, bicalutamide should be used with caution in patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment.

Severe hepatic damages have been rarely observed with bicalutamide (see section 4.8). Bicalutamide therapy should be discontinued if changes are severe.

Periodic liver function testing is warranted in order to find out about possible hepatic changes. The majority of changes are expected to occur within the first 6 months of bicalutamide therapy.

As there is no experience with the use of bicalutamide in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30 ml/min), bicalutamide should only be used with caution in these patients.

Periodical monitoring of cardiac function is advisable in patients with heart disease.

Initiation of treatment should be under the direct supervision of a specialist and subsequently patients should be kept under regular surveillance.

The product contains lactose. 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

No pharmacodynamic or pharmacokinetic interactions have been demonstrated between bicalutamide and LHRH analogues.

In vitro studies have shown that R-enantiomer of bicalutamide is an inhibitor of CYP 3A4, with lesser inhibitory effects on CYP 2C9, 2C19 and 2D6 activity.

Although *in vitro* studies have indicated the possibility of bicalutamide inhibiting cytochrome 3A4, a number of clinical studies show that the scale of this inhibition for most drugs metabolised by cytochrome P450 is probably not clinically significant.

Nonetheless, for drugs with a narrow therapeutic index metabolised in the liver, the CYP 3A4 inhibition caused by bicalutamide could be of relevance. As such, concomitant use of terfenadine, astemizole and cisapride is contraindicated. Caution should be exercised with the co-administration of bicalutamide with compounds such as ciclosporin and calcium channel blockers. Dosage reduction may be required for these drugs particularly if there is evidence of enhanced or adverse drug effect. For ciclosporin, it is recommended that plasma concentrations and clinical condition are closely monitored following initiation or cessation of bicalutamide therapy.

Caution should be exercised when administering bicalutamide to patients taking medicinal products that inhibit the oxidation process in the liver e.g. cimetidine and ketoconazole. This could result in increased plasma concentrations of bicalutamide which theoretically could lead to an increase in side effects.

In vitro studies have shown that bicalutamide can displace the coumarin anticoagulant, warfarin, from its protein binding sites. It is therefore recommended that prothrombin time is closely monitored if bicalutamide is started in patients who are already receiving coumarin anticoagulants.

4.6 Pregnancy and lactation

Not applicable, since this medicinal product is not used in women.

Fertility

Reversible impairment of male fertility has been observed in animal studies (see section 5.3). A period of subfertility or infertility should be assumed in man.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

However, it should be noted that occasionally dizziness and somnolence may occur (see section 4.8). Any affected patients should exercise caution.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Adverse events observed with bicalutamide are classified in body systems and listed below as:

Very common ($\geq 1/10$)

Common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$)

Uncommon ($\geq 1/1000$ to $< 1/100$)

Rare ($\geq 1/10000$ to $< 1/1000$)

Very rare ($< 1/10000$), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

Immune system disorders

Uncommon: Hypersensitivity reactions, including angio-oedema and urticaria

Psychiatric disorders

Uncommon: Depression

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Uncommon: Interstitial lung disease

Gastrointestinal disorders

Common: Diarrhoea, nausea

Rare: Vomiting

Hepatobiliary disorders

Common: Hepatic changes (elevated levels of transaminases, cholestasis and jaundice)¹

Very rare: Hepatic failure²

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Common: Pruritus

Rare: Dry skin

Renal and urinary disorders

Uncommon: Haematuria

Reproductive system and breast disorders

Very common: Breast tenderness³, gynaecomastia³

General disorders and administration site conditions

Very common: Hot flushes³

Common: Asthenia

¹ Hepatic changes are rarely severe and were frequently transient, resolving or improving with continued therapy or following cessation of therapy (see section 4.4).

² Hepatic failure has occurred very rarely in patients treated with bicalutamide, but a casual relationship has not been established with certainty. Periodic liver function testing should be considered (see also section 4.4).

³ May be reduced by concomitant castration.

In addition, the following adverse experiences were reported in clinical trials during treatment with bicalutamide with/without a LHRH analogue:

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Common: Anaemia

Very rare: Thrombocytopenia

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Common: Diabetes mellitus, weight gain

Uncommon: Anorexia, hyperglycaemia, weight loss

Nervous system disorders

Common: Dizziness, insomnia

Uncommon: Somnolence

Cardiac disorders

Very rare: Heart failure, angina, conduction defects including PR and QT interval prolongations, arrhythmias and non-specific ECG changes

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Uncommon: Dyspnoea

Gastrointestinal disorders

Common: Constipation

Uncommon: Dry mouth, dyspepsia, flatulence

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Common: Rash, sweating, hirsutism

Uncommon: Alopecia

Renal and urinary disorders

Uncommon: Nocturia

Reproductive system and breast disorders

Very common: Decreased libido, erectile dysfunction, impotence

General disorders and administration site conditions

Common: Oedema, general pain, pelvic pain, chills

Uncommon: Abdominal pain, chest pain, headache, pain in the back, neck pain

4.9 Overdose

No case of overdose has been reported. Since bicalutamide belongs to the anilide compounds there is a theoretical risk of the development of methaemoglobinaemia. Methaemoglobinaemia has been observed in animals after an overdose. Accordingly, a patient with an acute intoxication can be cyanotic. There is no specific antidote; treatment should be symptomatic. Dialysis is unlikely to be helpful, since bicalutamide is highly protein bound and is not recovered unchanged in the urine. General supportive care, including frequent monitoring of vital signs, is indicated.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Anti-androgens, ATC Code: L02B B03

Bicalutamide is a non-steroidal antiandrogen, devoid of other endocrine activity. It binds to androgen receptors without activating gene expression, and thus inhibits the androgen stimulus. Regression of prostatic tumours results from this inhibition. Clinically, discontinuation of bicalutamide can result in antiandrogen withdrawal syndrome in a subset of patients.

Bicalutamide is a racemate with its antiandrogenic activity being almost exclusively in the (R)-enantiomer.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Bicalutamide is well absorbed following oral administration. There is no evidence of any clinically relevant effect of food on bioavailability.

The (S)-enantiomer is rapidly cleared relative to the (R)-enantiomer, the latter having a plasma elimination half-life of about 1 week.

Following a long-term administration of bicalutamide, the peak concentration of the (R)-enantiomer in the plasma is about 10 fold, as compared to the levels measured after a single dose of 50mg bicalutamide.

A dosing scheme of 50 mg bicalutamide daily will result in a steady-state concentration of the R-enantiomer of 9 µg/ml and as a consequence of its long half-life, steady state is reached after approximately 1 month of therapy.

The pharmacokinetics of the (R)-enantiomer are unaffected by age, renal impairment or mild to moderate hepatic impairment. There is evidence that the (R)-enantiomer is more slowly eliminated from plasma in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

Bicalutamide is highly protein bound (racemate 96%, (R)-enantiomer >99%) and extensively metabolised (by oxidation and glucuronidation): Its metabolites are eliminated via the kidneys and bile in approximately equal proportions.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Bicalutamide is a pure and potent androgen receptor antagonist in experimental animals and humans. The main secondary pharmacological action is induction of CYP450 dependent mixed function oxidases in the liver. Enzyme induction has not been observed in humans. Target organ changes in animals are clearly related to the primary and secondary pharmacological action of bicalutamide. These comprise involution of androgen-dependent tissues; thyroid follicular adenomas, hepatic and Leydig cell hyperplasias and neoplasias or cancer; disturbance of male offspring sexual differentiation; reversible impairment of fertility in males.

Atrophy of seminiferous tubules is a predicted class effect with antiandrogens and has been observed for all species examined. Full reversal of testicular atrophy was 24 weeks after a 12-month repeated dose toxicity study in rats, although functional reversal was evident in reproduction studies 7 weeks after the end of an 11 week dosing period. A period of subfertility or infertility should be assumed in man.

Genotoxicity studies did not reveal any mutagenic potential of bicalutamide.

All adverse effects observed in animal studies are considered to have no relevance to the treatment of patients with advanced prostate cancer.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Tablet core:

Cellulose, Microcrystalline
Povidone
Sodium laurilsulfate
Croscarmellose sodium
Sodium starch glycolate (Type C)
Magnesium stearate

Coating:

Opadry II 31F58914 white
Contains Hypromellose E464
 Lactose monohydrate
 Titanium dioxide E171
 Macrogol 4000
 Sodium citrate dihydrate E331(c)

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf Life

2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 30°C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

PVC//Aluminium blister
Pack sizes: 28, 30, 40, 90

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Pliva Pharma Limited.
Vision House
Bedford Road
Petersfield
Hampshire
GU32 3QB
United Kingdom

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA 585/33/1

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of First Authorisation: 14th November 2008

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT