

# Summary of Product Characteristics

## 1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Panadol Extra Film-coated tablets Paracetamol 500mg Caffeine 65mg

## 2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains Paracetamol 500 mg and Caffeine 65 mg.

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

## 3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film coated tablet (tablet)

White to off white oval shaped coated tablets debossed "xPx" with P inside a circle on one side, "- -" on the other side.

## 4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

The tablets are recommended for use as an analgesic in the relief of mild to moderate pain such as is associated with rheumatism, neuralgia, musculoskeletal disorders, headache and of discomfort associated with influenza, feverishness and feverish colds, toothache and dysmenorrhoea.

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

For oral administration.

Adults (including the elderly) and children aged 16 years and over:

2 tablets up to four times daily. Do not exceed 8 tablets in 24 hours.

Children aged 12 – 15 years:

1 tablet up to four times daily. Do not exceed 4 tablets in 24 hours.

Not recommended for children under 12 years of age.

Minimum dosing interval: 4 hours.

The lowest dose necessary to achieve efficacy should be used.

Should not be used with other paracetamol-containing products.

#### Renal Impairment

Patients who have been diagnosed with renal impairment must seek medical advice before taking this medication. The restrictions related to the use of paracetamol and caffeine products in patients with renal impairment are primarily a consequence of the paracetamol content of the drug.

#### Hepatic Impairment

Patients who have been diagnosed with liver impairment must seek medical advice before taking this medication. The restrictions related to the use of paracetamol and caffeine products in patients with hepatic impairment are primarily a consequence of the paracetamol content of the drug.

The maximum daily dose of paracetamol should not exceed 60mg/kg/day (up to a maximum of 2g per day) in the following situations, unless directed by a physician:

- Weight less than 50kg
- Chronic alcoholism

- Dehydration
- Chronic malnutrition

### 4.3 Contraindications

Known hypersensitivity to paracetamol, caffeine or any of the other ingredients.

### 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Contains paracetamol. Do not use with any other paracetamol-containing products. The concomitant use with other products containing paracetamol may lead to an overdose. Paracetamol overdose may cause liver failure which can lead to liver transplant or death.

Cases of paracetamol induced hepatotoxicity, including fatal cases, have been reported in patients taking paracetamol at doses within the therapeutic range. These cases were reported in patients with one or more risk factors for hepatotoxicity including low body weight (<50 Kg), renal and hepatic impairment, chronic alcoholism, concomitant intake of hepatotoxic drugs, sepsis and in acute and chronic malnutrition (low reserves of hepatic glutathione). Paracetamol should be administered with caution to patients with these risk factors.

Cases of high anion gap metabolic acidosis (HAGMA) due to pyroglutamic acidosis have been reported in patients with severe illness such as severe renal impairment and sepsis, or in patients with malnutrition or other sources of glutathione deficiency (e.g. chronic alcoholism) who were treated with paracetamol at therapeutic dose for a prolonged period or a combination of paracetamol and flucloxacillin. If HAGMA due to pyroglutamic acidosis is suspected, prompt discontinuation of paracetamol and close monitoring is recommended. The measurement of urinary 5-oxoproline may be useful to identify pyroglutamic acidosis as underlying cause of HAGMA in patients with multiple risk factors.

Caution is also advised in patients on concomitant treatment with drugs that induce hepatic enzymes and in conditions which may predispose to glutathione deficiency (see sections 4.2 and 4.9).

Doses of paracetamol should be reviewed at clinically appropriate intervals and patients should be monitored for emergence of new risk factors for hepatotoxicity which may warrant dosage adjustment. Underlying liver disease increases the risk of paracetamol related liver damage. Patients who have been diagnosed with liver or kidney impairment must seek medical advice before taking this medication.

Excessive intake of caffeine (e.g. coffee and some canned drinks) should be avoided while taking this product.

Contains Sodium methyl parahydroxybenzoate (E219), Sodium ethyl parahydroxybenzoate (E215) and Sodium propyl parahydroxybenzoate (E217) which may cause allergic reactions (possibly delayed).

Each tablet contains 0.446mg per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

Prolonged use except under medical supervision may be harmful. In general, medicinal products containing paracetamol should be taken for only a few days without the advice of a doctor or dentist and not at high doses.

Do not exceed the stated dose. Take only when necessary.

If high fever or signs of secondary infection occur or if symptoms persist for longer than 3 days, a physician should be consulted.

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

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

#### Paracetamol

Paracetamol may increase the elimination half-life of chloramphenicol. The absorption of paracetamol may be increased by metoclopramide and decreased by colestyramine. Oral contraceptives may increase the rate of clearance of paracetamol.

The anticoagulant effect of warfarin and other coumarins may be enhanced by prolonged regular daily use of paracetamol with increased risk of bleeding; occasional doses have no significant effect.

Caution should be taken when paracetamol is used concomitantly with flucloxacillin as concurrent intake has been associated with high anion gap metabolic acidosis due to pyroglutamic acidosis, especially in patients with risks factors (see section 4.4)

#### Caffeine

Caffeine can increase the elimination of lithium from the body. Concomitant use is therefore not recommended.

### 4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

#### Pregnancy

##### **Paracetamol**

A large amount of data on pregnant women indicate neither malformative, nor feto/neonatal toxicity. Epidemiological studies on neurodevelopment in children exposed to paracetamol in utero show inconclusive results.

##### **Caffeine**

Paracetamol-caffeine is not recommended for use during pregnancy due to the possible increased risk of spontaneous abortion associated with caffeine consumption.

#### Lactation

Paracetamol and caffeine are excreted in breast milk.

Not recommended for use during breastfeeding.

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

None.

### 4.8 Undesirable effects

Events reported from extensive post-marketing experience at therapeutic/labelled dose and considered attributable are tabulated below by System Organ Class and frequency.

Frequencies are defined as: very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ), common ( $\geq 1/100$ ,  $< 1/10$ ), uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$ ,  $< 1/100$ ), rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$ ,  $< 1/1000$ ), very rare ( $< 1/10,000$ ), not known (cannot be estimated from available data).

Adverse event frequencies have been estimated from spontaneous reports received through post marketing data.

Body System	Undesirable Effect	Frequency
<b>Paracetamol</b>		
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Thrombocytopaenia	Very rare
Immune System disorders	Anaphylaxis, Cutaneous hypersensitivity reactions, Angiodema, Stevens Johnson Syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis.	Very rare
	Very rare cases of serious skin reactions have been reported	
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	High anion gap metabolic acidosis*	Not known
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Bronchospasm in patients sensitive to aspirin and other NSAIDs	Very rare
Hepatobiliary disorders	Hepatic dysfunction	Very rare
<b>Caffeine</b>		
Central Nervous System	Nervousness, Dizziness	Unknown
Cardiac disorders	Palpitation	Not known
Psychiatric disorders	Insomnia, restlessness, anxiety and irritability	Not known
Gastrointestinal disorders	Gastrointestinal disturbances	Not known

\*Cases of high anion gap metabolic acidosis due to pyroglutamic acidosis have been observed in patients with risk factors using paracetamol (see section 4.4). Pyroglutamic acidosis may occur as a consequence of low glutathione levels in these patients.

When the recommended paracetamol-caffeine dosing regimen is combined with dietary caffeine intake, the resulting higher dose of caffeine may increase the potential for caffeine related adverse effects such as insomnia, restlessness, anxiety, irritability, headaches, gastrointestinal disturbances and palpitations.

## Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse 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 HPRAs Pharmacovigilance website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie)

## 4.9 Overdose

### Paracetamol

Paracetamol overdose may cause liver failure which can lead to liver transplant or death. Acute pancreatitis has been observed, usually with hepatic dysfunction and liver toxicity. There is a risk of poisoning with paracetamol particularly in elderly subjects, young children, patients with liver disease, cases of chronic alcoholism and in patients with chronic malnutrition. Overdosing may be fatal in these cases.

Symptoms generally appear within the first 24 hours and may comprise: nausea, vomiting, anorexia, pallor, and abdominal pain, or patients may be asymptomatic.

Overdose of paracetamol in a single administration in adults or in children can cause liver cell necrosis likely to induce complete and irreversible necrosis, resulting in hepatocellular insufficiency, metabolic acidosis and encephalopathy which may lead to coma and death. Simultaneously, increased levels of hepatic transaminases (AST, ALT), lactate dehydrogenase and bilirubin are observed together with increased prothrombin levels that may appear 12 to 48 hours after administration. Liver damage is likely in adults who have taken more than the recommended amounts of paracetamol. It is considered that excess quantities of toxic metabolite (usually adequately detoxified by glutathione when normal doses of paracetamol are ingested), become irreversibly bound to liver tissue.

Some patients may be at increased risk of liver damage from paracetamol toxicity.

Risk Factors include: If the patient;

- Is on long-term treatment with carbamazepine, phenobarbitone, phenytoin, primidone, rifampicin, St John's Wort or other drugs that induce liver enzymes.
- Regularly consumes ethanol in excess of recommended amounts
- Is likely to be glutathione depleted e.g. eating disorders, cystic fibrosis, HIV infection, starvation, cachexia

### Emergency Procedure:

Immediate transfer to hospital.

Blood sampling to determine initial paracetamol plasma concentration. In the case of a single acute overdose, paracetamol plasma concentration should be measured 4 hours post ingestion.

Administration of activated charcoal should be considered if >150mg/kg paracetamol has been taken within 1 hour.

The antidote N-acetylcysteine, should be administered as soon as possible in accordance with National treatment guidelines.

Symptomatic treatment should be implemented.

### Caffeine

Overdose of caffeine may result in epigastric pain, vomiting, diuresis, tachycardia or cardiac arrhythmia, CNS stimulation (insomnia, restlessness, excitement, agitation, jitteriness, tremors and convulsions).

It must be noted that for clinically significant symptoms of caffeine overdose to occur with this product, the amount ingested would be associated with serious paracetamol-related liver toxicity. No specific antidote is available, but supportive measures such as beta adrenergic antagonists to reverse the cardiotoxic effects may be used.

## 5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

### 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

The combination of paracetamol and caffeine is a well established analgesic combination.

### 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Paracetamol is rapidly and almost completely absorbed from the gastro-intestinal tract. Caffeine is absorbed readily after oral administration.

New Panadol Extra Tablets contain a disintegrant system that accelerates tablet dissolution compared to a standard paracetamol-caffeine combination tablet.

Human pharmacokinetic data demonstrate that with new Panadol Extra, the time to reach minimum therapeutic paracetamol concentration in the plasma (4µg/ml) is 10 minutes in the fasted state, and 22 minutes in the fed state.

The time to reach maximum plasma concentration ( $T_{max}$ ) of paracetamol is 15 minutes faster for new Panadol Extra compared to a standard paracetamol-caffeine combination tablet.

Human pharmacokinetic data demonstrate that with new Panadol Extra, the time to reach minimum therapeutic paracetamol concentration in the plasma (4µg/ml) is approximately 50% faster compared to a standard paracetamol-caffeine combination tablet.

Human pharmacokinetic data demonstrate that with new Panadol Extra, the paracetamol exposure in the first 30 minutes ( $AUC_{0-30}$ ) is increased 3-fold compared to a standard paracetamol-caffeine combination tablet; however, total exposure to both paracetamol and caffeine are no different from the standard paracetamol-caffeine combination tablet.

The total extent of absorption of both paracetamol and caffeine with new Panadol Extra is equivalent to that from a standard paracetamol-caffeine combination tablet.

Paracetamol is relatively uniformly distributed throughout most body fluids. It is metabolised in the liver and excreted in the urine mainly as glucuronide and sulphate conjugates. The half-life is 1 to 4 hours. Binding to the plasma proteins is minimal at therapeutic concentrations.

The plasma half life of caffeine is about 4-5 hours. Metabolized in liver and excreted in urine as various xanthine derivatives.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

Preclinical safety data on paracetamol in the literature have not revealed any pertinent and conclusive findings which are of relevance to the recommended dosage and use of the product and which have not been mentioned elsewhere in this Summary.

## **6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Starch Pregelatinised  
Povidone  
Calcium carbonate  
Crospovidone  
Alginic Acid  
Microcrystalline cellulose  
Magnesium Stearate  
Carnauba Wax  
Purified Water  
Opadry white (YS-1-7003) containing:  
Titanium dioxide (E171), Hypromellose, Macrogol, Polysorbate 80

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

3 years.

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

Store below 25°C. Store in the original package.

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

Opaque PVC/Aluminium foil blister strips or child resistant blisters of 250 µm or 300 µm polyvinylchloride (PVC) heat sealed to a bilayer of 20 µm Aluminium foil/ 8 µm polyethylene terephthalate (PET) packed into cardboard cartons containing 4, 6, 12, 24, 30, 48, 60 or 96 tablets or into cardboard wallets containing 12 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

#### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

No special requirements.

#### **7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Haleon Ireland Limited  
Clocherane  
Youghal Road  
Dungarvan  
X35 Y983  
Co. Waterford  
Ireland

#### **8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER**

PA0678/027/001

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

Date of first authorisation: 14 June 1994

Date of last renewal: 14 June 2009

#### **10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

April 2026