

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

TAMSU 0.4 mg modified-release capsules, hard

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each capsule contains 0.4 mg of tamsulosin hydrochloride.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Hard modified-release capsule.

Orange/olive-green capsules filled with white to off-white pellets.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) associated with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

4.2 Posology and method of administration

One capsule a day after breakfast or the first meal of the day. The capsule is swallowed whole with a glass of water while standing or sitting (not lying down). The capsule should not be broken or pulled apart as this may have an effect on the release of the long-acting active ingredient.

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of tamsulosin in children <18 years have not been established. Currently available data are described in section 5.1.

No dose adjustment is warranted in renal impairment. No dose adjustment is warranted in patients with mild to moderate hepatic insufficiency (see also 4.3.).

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to tamsulosin, including drug-induced angio-oedema, or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
Orthostatic hypotension observed earlier (history of orthostatic hypotension).
Severe hepatic insufficiency.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

As with other alpha 1-adrenoceptor antagonists, the use of tamsulosin may lower blood pressure, which in rare cases may cause fainting. If initial symptoms of orthostatic hypotension start to appear (dizziness, weakness), then the patient should sit or lie down until the symptoms have gone.

The patient should be examined before commencement of therapy with tamsulosin to exclude the presence of other conditions that can produce similar symptoms to those of BPH. The prostate should be examined via the rectum and, if necessary, the prostate specific antigen (PSA) count determined prior to commencement of treatment and again later at regular intervals.

The treatment of severely renally impaired patients (creatinine clearance of < 10 ml/min) should be approached with caution as these patients have not been studied.

Angio-oedema has been rarely reported after the use of tamsulosin. Treatment should be discontinued immediately, the patient should be monitored until disappearance of the oedema, and tamsulosin should not be re-administered.

The "Intraoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome" (IFIS, a variant of small pupil syndrome) has been observed during cataract and glaucoma surgery in some patients on or previously treated with tamsulosin. IFIS may increase the risk of eye complications during and after the operation. The initiation of therapy with tamsulosin in patients for whom cataract or glaucoma surgery is scheduled is not recommended.

Discontinuing tamsulosin 1-2 weeks prior to cataract or glaucoma surgery is anecdotally considered helpful, but the benefit of treatment discontinuation has not yet been established. IFIS has also been reported in patients who had discontinued tamsulosin for a longer period prior to surgery.

During pre-operative assessment, surgeons and ophthalmic teams should consider whether patients scheduled for cataract or glaucoma surgery are being or have been treated with tamsulosin in order to ensure that appropriate measures will be in place to manage the IFIS during surgery.

Tamsulosin should not be given in combination with strong inhibitors of CYP3A4 (e.g. ketoconazole) in patients with poor metaboliser CYP2D6 phenotype.

Tamsulosin should be used with caution in combination with strong (e.g. ketoconazole) and moderate (e.g. erythromycin) inhibitors of CYP3A4 (see section 4.5).

Tamsu contains sodium

This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per hard modified-release capsule, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interactions

Interaction studies have only been performed in adults. No interactions have been observed when tamsulosin has been given concomitantly with atenolol, enalapril, or theophylline. Concomitant cimetidine raises, and concomitant furosemide lowers, plasma concentrations of tamsulosin but, as the concentration of tamsulosin remains within the normal range, posology need not be altered.

In vitro, neither diazepam nor propranolol, trichlormethiazide, chlormadinon, amitriptyline, diclofenac, glibenclamide, simvastatin and warfarin change the free fraction of tamsulosin in human plasma. Neither does tamsulosin change the free fractions of diazepam, propranolol, trichlormethiazide and chlormadinon.

No interactions at the level of hepatic metabolism have been seen during *in vitro* studies with liver microsomal fractions (representative of the cytochrome P450-linked drug metabolising enzyme system) involving amitriptyline, salbutamol, glibenclamide and finasteride.

Diclofenac and warfarin, however, may increase the elimination rate of tamsulosin.

Concomitant administration of tamsulosin with strong inhibitors of CYP3A4 may lead to increased exposure to tamsulosin. Concomitant administration with ketoconazole (a known strong CYP3A4 inhibitor) resulted in an increase in AUC and C_{max} of tamsulosin by a factor of 2.8 and 2.2, respectively.

Tamsulosin should not be given in combination with strong inhibitors of CYP3A4 (e.g. ketoconazole) in patients with poor metaboliser CYP2D6 phenotype.

Tamsulosin should be used with caution in combination with strong (e.g. ketoconazole) and moderate (e.g. erythromycin) inhibitors of CYP3A4.

Concomitant administration of tamsulosin with paroxetine, a strong inhibitor of CYP2D6, resulted in a C_{max} and AUC of tamsulosin that had increased by a factor of 1.3 and 1.6, respectively, but these increases are not considered clinically relevant.

Concurrent administration with another α_1 -adrenoreceptor antagonist may lower blood pressure.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Tamsulosin is not indicated for use in women.

Ejaculation disorders have been observed in short and long term clinical studies with tamsulosin. Events of ejaculation disorder, retrograde ejaculation and ejaculation failure have been reported in the post authorization phase.

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 patients should be aware of the fact that dizziness can occur.

4.8 Undesirable effects

	Common (>1/100, <1/10)	Uncommon (>1/1 000, <1/100)	Rare (>1/10 000, <1/1 000)	Very rare (<1/10 000)	Not known
Nervous system disorders	Dizziness (1.3%)	Headache	Syncope		
Eye disorders					Vision blurred*, visual impairment*
Cardiac disorders		Palpitations			
Vascular disorders		Orthostatic hypotension			
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders		Rhinitis			Epistaxis*
Gastrointestinal disorders		Constipation, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting			Dry mouth*
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders		Rash, Pruritus, urticaria	Angio-oedema	Stevens-Johnson syndrome	Erythema multiforme*, dermatitis exfoliative*

Reproductive systems and breast disorders	Ejaculation disorders, including retrograde ejaculation and ejaculation failure			Priapism	
General disorders and administration site conditions		Asthenia			

*observed post-marketing

During cataract and glaucoma surgery a small pupil situation, known as Intraoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome (IFIS), has been associated with therapy of tamsulosin during post-marketing surveillance (see also section 4.4).

Post-marketing experience: In addition to the adverse events listed above, atrial fibrillation, arrhythmia, tachycardia and dyspnoea have been reported in association with tamsulosin use. Because these spontaneously reported events are from the worldwide post marketing experience, the frequency of events and the role of tamsulosin in their causation cannot be reliably determined

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 HPRC Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517. Website: www.hpra.ie; e-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms

Acute overdose with 5 mg tamsulosin hydrochloride has been reported. Acute hypotension (systolic blood pressure 70 mm Hg), vomiting and diarrhoea were observed, which were treated with fluid replacement and the patient could be discharged the same day.

Treatment

In case of acute hypotension occurring after overdosage cardiovascular support should be given. Blood pressure can be restored and heart rate brought back to normal by lying the patient down. If this does not help then volume expanders and, when necessary, vasopressors could be employed. Renal function should be monitored and general supportive measures applied. Dialysis is unlikely to be of help as tamsulosin is very highly bound to plasma proteins.

Measures, such as emesis, can be taken to impede absorption. When large quantities are involved, gastric lavage can be applied and activated charcoal and an osmotic laxative, such as sodium sulphate, can be administered.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Tamsulosin is an α_{1A} adrenoreceptor antagonist. The medicinal product is only used for the treatment of prostatic conditions.

ATC code: G04CA02

Mechanism of action

Tamsulosin binds selectively and competitively to postsynaptic α_{1A} adrenoreceptors, which convey smooth muscle contraction, thereby relaxing prostatic and urethral smooth muscle.

Pharmacodynamic effects

Tamsulosin increases the maximum urinary flow rate by relaxing prostatic and urethral smooth muscle, thus relieving obstruction.

The medicinal product also improves the irritative and obstructive symptoms in which the contraction of smooth muscle in the lower urinary tract plays an important role.

Alpha-blockers can reduce blood pressure by lowering peripheral resistance. No reduction in blood pressure of any clinical significance was observed during studies with tamsulosin in normotensive patients.

The medicinal product's effect on storage and voiding symptoms are also maintained during long-term therapy, as a result of which the need for surgical treatment is significantly postponed.

Paediatric population

A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, dose ranging study was performed in children with neuropathic bladder. A total of 161 children (with an age of 2 to 16 years) were randomized and treated at 1 of 3 dose levels of tamsulosin (low [0.001 to 0.002 mg/kg], medium [0.002 to 0.004 mg/kg], and high [0.004 to 0.008 mg/kg]), or placebo. The primary endpoint was number of patients who decreased their detrusor leak point pressure (LPP) to <40 cm H₂O based upon two evaluations on the same day. Secondary endpoints were: Actual and percent change from baseline in detrusor leak point pressure, improvement or stabilization of hydronephrosis and hydroureter and change in urine volumes obtained by catheterisation and number of times wet at time of catheterisation as recorded in catheterisation diaries. No statistically significant difference was found between the placebo group and any of the 3 tamsulosin dose groups for either the primary or any secondary endpoints. No dose response was observed for any dose level.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Tamsulosin is rapidly absorbed from the intestines and its bioavailability is almost complete. Absorption is slowed down if a meal has been eaten before taking the medicinal product. Uniformity of absorption can be assured by always taking tamsulosin after breakfast. Tamsulosin shows linear kinetics.

Peak plasma levels are achieved at approximately six hours after a single dose of tamsulosin taken after a full meal. The steady state is reached by day five of multiple dosing, when C_{max} in patients is about two-thirds higher than that reached after a single dose. Although this has been demonstrated only in the elderly, the same result would also be expected in younger patients. There are huge inter-patient variations in plasma levels of tamsulosin, both after single as well as multiple dosing.

Distribution

In humans, tamsulosin is more than 99% bound to plasma proteins and the volume of distribution is small (about 0.2 l/kg).

Biotransformation

Tamsulosin has a low first pass metabolic effect. Most tamsulosin is found unaltered in plasma. The substance is metabolised in the liver.

In studies on rats, tamsulosin was found to cause only a slight induction of microsomal liver enzymes.

The metabolites are not as effective and toxic as the active medicinal product itself.

Elimination

Tamsulosin and its metabolites are mainly excreted in the urine with about 9% of the dose being present in unchanged form.

The elimination half-life of tamsulosin in patients is approximately 10 hours (when taken after a meal) and 13 hours in the steady state.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Toxicity after a single dose and multiple dosing has been investigated in mice, rats and dogs. Reproductive toxicity has also been investigated in rats, carcinogenicity in mice and rats, and genotoxicity *in vivo* and *in vitro*.

The common toxicity profile found with large doses of tamsulosin is equivalent to the pharmacological effect associated with alpha adrenergic antagonists.

Changes in ECG readings were found with very large doses in dogs. This is not, however, assumed to be of any clinical significance. Tamsulosin has not been found to have any significant genotoxic properties.

Greater proliferative changes in the mammary glands of female rats and mice have been discovered on exposure to tamsulosin. These findings, which are probably indirectly linked to hyperprolactinaemia and only occur as a result of large doses having been taken, are considered clinically insignificant.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Content of capsule

Microcrystalline cellulose
Methacrylic acid-ethyl acrylate copolymer (1:1)
Polysorbate 80
Sodium laurilsulfate
Triethyl citrate
Talc

Capsule body

Gelatin
Indigo carmine (E132)
Titanium dioxide (E171)
Yellow iron oxide (E172)
Red iron oxide (E172)
Black iron oxide (E172)

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Blister:

Store in the original package.

Bottle:

Keep the bottle tightly closed.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

The hard modified-release capsules are packed in PVC/PE/PVDC/Aluminium blisters or are packed in a HDPE bottle with PP child-resistant closure and inserted in a carton, or are packed in HDPE bottle with PP child-resistant closure.

Pack sizes:

Blister: 10, 14, 20, 28, 30, 50, 56, 60, 90, 100, 200 hard modified-release capsules

Bottle: 10, 14, 20, 28, 30, 50, 56, 60, 90, 100, 200 hard modified-release capsules

14 January 2020

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Page 6 of 7

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Rowex Ltd
Newtown
Bantry
Co. Cork
Ireland

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA0711/079/001

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 2nd December 2005

Date of last renewal: 23rd March 2010

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

January 2020