

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Flursil Relief Sugar Free 8.75 mg lozenges

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each lozenge contains 8.75 mg Flurbiprofen.

Excipient(s) with known effect

Isomalt 2160 mg/lozenge

Maltitol 383 mg/lozenge

Butylated hydroxyanisole (E320) 0.013 mg/lozenge

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Lozenge

Round, orange lozenge with typical line marking and without debossment, orange flavour.

Diameter: Approximately 19 mm

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Flursil Relief Sugar Free 8.75 mg lozenges are indicated for the short term symptomatic relief of sore throat in adults and children over the age of 12 years.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Adults, the elderly and children over the age of 12 years

One lozenge sucked/dissolved slowly in the mouth every 3-6 hours as required. Maximum 5 lozenges in a 24 hour period.

It is recommended that this product should be used for a maximum of three days.

Pediatric population

Not indicated for children under 12 years.

Elderly

A general dose recommendation cannot be given, since to date clinical experience is limited. The elderly are at increased risk of the serious consequences of adverse reactions.

Hepatic impairment

In patients with mild to moderate impairment of hepatic function no dose reduction is required. In patients with severe hepatic insufficiency flurbiprofen is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Renal impairment

In patients with mild to moderate impairment of renal function no dose reduction is required. In patients with severe renal insufficiency flurbiprofen is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Method of administration

For oromucosal administration and short-term use only.

As with all lozenges, to avoid local irritation, Flursil Relief Sugar Free should be moved around the mouth whilst sucking.

The lowest effective dose should be administered for the shortest duration necessary to relieve symptoms (see section 4.4).

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1
- Patients who have previously shown hypersensitivity reactions (e.g. asthma, bronchospasm, rhinitis, angioedema or urticaria) in response to acetylsalicylic acid or other NSAIDs.
- Active or history of recurrent peptic ulcer/haemorrhage (two or more distinct episodes of proven ulceration) and intestinal ulceration.
- History of gastrointestinal bleeding or perforation, severe colitis, haemorrhagic or haematopoietic disorders related to previous NSAID therapy.
- Last trimester of pregnancy (See section 4.6)
- Severe heart failure, severe renal failure or severe hepatic failure (see section 4.4).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Undesirable effects may be minimised by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms.

Elderly population

The elderly have an increased frequency of adverse reactions to NSAIDs, especially gastrointestinal bleeding and perforation, which may be fatal.

Respiratory

Bronchospasm may be precipitated in patients suffering from or with a previous history of bronchial asthma or allergic disease. Flurbiprofen lozenges should be used with caution in these patients.

Other NSAIDs

The use of flurbiprofen lozenges with concomitant NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors should be avoided (see section 4.5).

Systemic lupus erythematosus and mixed connective tissue disease

Patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and mixed connective tissue disease may have an increased risk of aseptic meningitis (see section 4.8), however this effect is not usually seen with short term limited use products such as flurbiprofen lozenges

Cardiovascular, Renal and Hepatic Impairment

NSAIDs have been reported to cause nephrotoxicity in various forms including interstitial nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and renal failure. The administration of an NSAID may cause a dose dependent reduction in prostaglandin formation and precipitate renal failure. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with impaired renal function, cardiac impairment, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics and the elderly, however, this effect is not usually seen with short term, limited use products such as flurbiprofen lozenges.

Renal function should be monitored in these patients (see also section 4.3).

Flurbiprofen should be given with care to patients with a history of heart failure or hypertension since oedema has been reported in association with flurbiprofen administration.

Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular effects

Appropriate monitoring and advice are required for patients with a history of hypertension and/or mild to moderate congestive heart failure as fluid retention and oedema have been reported in association with flurbiprofen administration and NSAID therapy.

Clinical trial and epidemiological data suggest that the use of NSAIDs (particularly at high doses and in long term treatment) may be associated with a small increased risk of arterial thrombotic events (for example myocardial infarction or stroke). There are insufficient data to exclude such a risk for flurbiprofen when given at a daily dose of no more than 5 lozenges.

Hepatic impairment

Mild to moderate hepatic dysfunction (see sections 4.3 and 4.8).

Nervous System effects

Analgesic induced headache - In the event of prolonged use of analgesics or use beyond the regulations headache may occur, which must not be treated with increased doses of the medicinal product.

Gastrointestinal

NSAIDs should be given with care to patients with a history of gastrointestinal disease (ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease) as these conditions may be exacerbated (see section 4.8).

Gastrointestinal bleeding, ulceration or perforation, which can be fatal, has been reported with all NSAIDs at any time during treatment, with or without warning symptoms or a previous history of serious GI events.

The risk of GI bleeding, ulceration or perforation is higher with increasing NSAID doses, in patients with a history of ulcer, particularly if complicated with haemorrhage or perforation (see section 4.3), and in the elderly, however this effect is not usually seen with short term limited use products such as flurbiprofen lozenges. Patients with a history of GI toxicity, particularly the elderly, should report any unusual abdominal symptoms (especially GI bleeding) to their healthcare professional.

Caution should be advised in patients receiving concomitant medications which could increase the risk of ulceration or bleeding, such as oral corticosteroids, anticoagulants such as warfarin, selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors or anti-platelet agents such as acetylsalicylic acid (see section 4.5).

If GI bleeding or ulceration occurs in patients receiving flurbiprofen, the treatment should be withdrawn.

Dermatological

Serious skin reactions, some of them fatal, including exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens- Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis, have been reported very rarely in association with the use of NSAIDs (see section 4.8). Flurbiprofen lozenges should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash, mucosal lesions, or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

Infections

Since in isolated cases an exacerbation of infective inflammations (e.g. development of necrotising fasciitis) has been described in temporal association with the use of systemic NSAIDs as a class, the patient is advised to consult a physician immediately if signs of a bacterial infection occur or worsen during the flurbiprofen lozenges therapy. It should be considered whether initiation of an anti-infective antibiotic therapy is indicated.

Impaired female fertility

The use of flurbiprofen may impair female fertility and is not recommended in women attempting to conceive. In women who have difficulties conceiving or who are undergoing investigation of infertility, withdrawal of flurbiprofen should be considered.

Other warnings

If the symptoms get worse or if new symptoms occur, the treatment should be re-evaluated.

If mouth irritation occurs, treatment should be withdrawn.

Warnings on excipients

Patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance should not take this medicine.

Contains Isomalt and Maltitol which may have a mild laxative effect.
Isomalt and Maltitol have a calorific value of 2.3 kcal/g.

Contains butylated hydroxyanisole (E320) which may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis), or irritation to the eyes and mucous membranes.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interactions

Flurbiprofen should be avoided in combination with:	
Other NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors	Avoid concomitant use of two or more NSAIDs as this may increase the risk of adverse effects (esp. gastrointestinal adverse events such as ulcers and bleeding, see section 4.4).
Acetylsalicylic acid (low dose)	Unless low-dose aspirin (not above 75mg daily) has been advised by a doctor, as this may increase the risk of adverse reactions (see section 4.4).

Flurbiprofen should be used with caution in combination with:	
Anticoagulants	NSAIDs may enhance the effects of anti-coagulants, such as warfarin (see section 4.4).
Anti-platelet Agents	Increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or bleeding (see section 4.4).
Antihypertensive drugs (Diuretics, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin-II-antagonists)	NSAIDs may reduce the effect of diuretics and other antihypertensive drugs. In some patients with compromised renal function (e.g. dehydrated patients or elderly patients with compromised renal function) the co-administration of an ACE inhibitor or Angiotensin II antagonist and agents that inhibit cyclo-oxygenase may result in further deterioration of renal function, including possible acute renal failure, which is usually reversible. These interactions should be considered in patients taking flurbiprofen concomitantly with ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II antagonists. Therefore, the combination should be administered with caution, especially in the elderly. Patients should be adequately hydrated and consideration should be given to monitoring of renal function after initiation of concomitant therapy, and periodically thereafter.
Alcohol	May increase the risk of adverse reactions, especially of bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract.
Cardiac glycosides	NSAIDs may exacerbate cardiac failure, reduce GFR and increase plasma glycoside levels - adequate control and, if necessary, dose adjustment is recommended.
Ciclosporin	Increased risk of nephrotoxicity.
Corticosteroids	May increase the risk of adverse reactions, especially of the gastrointestinal tract (see section 4.3)
Lithium	May increase serum levels of lithium – adequate control and, if necessary, dose adjustment is recommended.
Methotrexate	The administration of NSAIDs within 24 hours before or after administration of methotrexate may lead to elevated concentrations of methotrexate and an increase in its toxic effect.
Mifepristone	NSAIDs should not be used for 8 – 12 days after mifepristone administration as NSAIDs can reduce the effect of mifepristone.
Oral antidiabetics	Alteration of blood glucose levels reported (increased check rate recommended).
Phenytoin	May increase serum levels of phenytoin – adequate control and, if necessary, dose adjustment is recommended.
Potassium sparing diuretics	Concomitant use may cause hyperkalaemia.

Probenecid Sulfipyrazone	Medicinal products that contain probenecid or sulfipyrazone may delay the excretion of flurbiprofen.
Quinolone antibiotics	Animal data indicate that NSAIDs can increase the risk of convulsions associated with quinolone antibiotics. Patients taking NSAIDs and quinolones may have an increased risk of developing convulsions.
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's)	Increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or bleeding (see section 4.4).
Tacrolimus	Possible increased risk of nephrotoxicity when NSAIDs are given with tacrolimus.
Zidovudine	Increased risk of haematological toxicity when NSAIDs are given with zidovudine.

No studies so far have revealed any interactions between flurbiprofen and tolbutamide or antacids.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may adversely affect the pregnancy and/or the embryo/foetal development. Data from epidemiological studies suggest an increased risk of miscarriage and of cardiac malformation and gastroschisis after use of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor in early pregnancy. The absolute risk for cardiovascular malformation was increased from less than 1%, up to approximately 1.5 %. The risk is believed to increase with dose and duration of therapy. In animals, administration of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor has been shown to result in increased pre- and post-implantation loss and embryo-foetal lethality. In addition, increased incidences of various malformations, including cardiovascular, have been reported in animals given a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor during the organogenetic period. During the first and second trimester of pregnancy, flurbiprofen should not be given unless clearly necessary. If flurbiprofen is used by a woman attempting to conceive, or during the first and second trimester of pregnancy, the dose should be kept as low and duration of treatment as short as possible.

During the third trimester of pregnancy, all prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors may expose the foetus to:

- cardiopulmonary toxicity (with premature closure of the ductus arteriosus and pulmonary hypertension);
- renal dysfunction, which may progress to renal failure with oligo-hydroamniosis;

the mother and the neonate, at the end of pregnancy, to:

- possible prolongation of bleeding time, an anti-aggregating effect which may occur even at very low doses.
- inhibition of uterine contractions resulting in delayed or prolonged labour.

Consequently, flurbiprofen is contraindicated during the third trimester of pregnancy.

Breast-feeding

In the limited studies so far available, NSAIDs can appear in the breast milk in very low concentrations. NSAIDs should, if possible, be avoided when breastfeeding.

Fertility

There is some evidence that drugs which inhibit cyclo-oxygenase/prostaglandin synthesis may cause impairment of female fertility by an effect on ovulation. This is reversible on withdrawal of treatment (see also section 4.4).

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use of machines have been performed. Dizziness is a possible undesirable side effect after taking flurbiprofen. If affected, the patient should not drive or operate machinery.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Hypersensitivity reactions to NSAIDs have been reported and these may consist of:

- (a) Non-specific allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- (b) Respiratory tract reactivity, e.g. asthma, aggravated asthma, bronchospasm, dyspnoea
- (c) Various skin reactions, e.g. rashes of various types, pruritus, urticaria, purpura, angioedema and more rarely exfoliative and bullous dermatoses (including epidermal necrolysis and erythema multiforme).

Oedema, hypertension and cardiac failure have been reported in association with NSAID treatment.

Clinical trial and epidemiological data suggest that use of some NSAIDs, (particularly at high doses and in long term treatment) may be associated with an increased risk of arterial thrombotic events (for example myocardial infarction or stroke), (see section 4.4). There is insufficient data to exclude such a risk for flurbiprofen lozenges.

The following list of adverse effects relates to those experienced with flurbiprofen at OTC doses for short-term use.

Very common ($\geq 1/10$), Common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$), Uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$), Rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$), Very rare ($< 1/10,000$), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Not known: anaemia, thrombocytopenia

Immune System disorders

Rare: anaphylactic reaction

Psychiatric disorders

Uncommon: insomnia

Nervous System disorders

Common: headache, dizziness, paraesthesia

Uncommon: somnolence

Cardiac disorders

Not known: oedema, hypertension and cardiac failure

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Common: throat irritation

Uncommon: exacerbation of asthma and bronchospasm, dyspnoea, wheezing, oropharyngeal blistering, pharyngeal hypoaesthesia

Gastrointestinal disorders

Common: diarrhoea, mouth ulceration, nausea, oral pain, paraesthesia oral, oropharyngeal pain, oral discomfort (warm or burning feeling or tingling of the mouth)

Uncommon: abdominal distension, abdominal pain, constipation, dry mouth, dyspepsia, flatulence, glossodynia, dysgeusia, oral dysaesthesia, vomiting

Hepatobiliary disorders

Not known: hepatitis

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Uncommon: various skin rashes, pruritus

Not known: severe forms of skin reactions such as bullous reactions, including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis

General disorders and administration site conditions

Uncommon: pyrexia, pain

The following list of adverse effects relates to those experienced with flurbiprofen at other pharmaceutical forms and strengths, i.e. 150 to 200 mg daily given in divided doses (with exception of modified release formulations), with severe symptoms up to 300 mg:

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Not known: neutropenia, haemolytic anemia

Psychiatric disorders

Not known: depression, confusional state, hallucination

Nervous System disorders

Not known: cerebrovascular accident, optic neuritis, aseptic meningitis (especially in patients with existing autoimmune disorders, such as systemic lupus erythematosus and mixed connective tissue disease) with symptoms of stiff neck, headache, nausea, vomiting, fever or disorientation) (see section 4.4).

Eye disorders

Not known: visual disturbance

Ear and labyrinth disorders

Not known: tinnitus, vertigo

Hepatobiliary disorders

Not known: abnormal liver function, jaundice

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Not known: photosensitivity reaction

Renal and urinary disorders

Not known: toxic nephropathy in various forms, including interstitial nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and renal failure.

General disorders and administration site conditions

Not known: malaise, fatigue

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 HPRA 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

Most patients who have ingested clinically important amounts of NSAIDs will develop no more than nausea, vomiting, epigastric pain, or more rarely diarrhoea. Tinnitus, headache, and gastrointestinal bleeding are also possible. In more serious poisoning with NSAIDs, toxicity is seen in the central nervous system, manifesting as drowsiness, occasionally excitation, blurred vision and disorientation or coma. Occasionally patients develop convulsions. In serious poisoning with NSAIDs metabolic acidosis may occur and the prothrombin time/INR may be prolonged, probably due to interference with the actions of circulating clotting factors. Acute renal failure and liver damage may occur. Exacerbation of asthma is possible in asthmatics.

Management

Management should be symptomatic and supportive and include the maintenance of a clear airway and monitoring of cardiac and vital signs until stable. Consider oral administration of activated charcoal or gastric lavage and if necessary correction of serum electrolytes and if the patient presents within 1 hour of ingestion or a potentially toxic amount. If frequent or prolonged, convulsions should be treated with intravenous diazepam or lorazepam. Give bronchodilators for asthma. There is no specific antidote to flurbiprofen.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Throat preparations, other throat preparations

ATC Code: R02AX01

Mechanism of action

Flurbiprofen is a propionic acid derivative NSAID which acts through inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis. In humans flurbiprofen has potent analgesic, antipyretic and anti-inflammatory properties and the 8.75 mg dose dissolved in artificial saliva has been shown to reduce prostaglandin synthesis in cultured human respiratory cells. According to studies using the whole blood assay, flurbiprofen is a mixed COX-1/COX-2 inhibitor with some selectivity towards COX-1.

Pharmacodynamic effects

Pre-clinical studies suggest that the R (-) enantiomer of flurbiprofen and related NSAIDs may act on the central nervous system; the suggested mechanism is by inhibition of induced COX-2 at the level of the spinal cord.

Clinical efficacy and safety

A single dose of flurbiprofen 8.75mg delivered locally to the throat in a lozenge has been demonstrated to relieve sore throat, including swollen and inflamed sore throats through a significant reduction (LS Mean Difference) in sore throat pain intensity from 22 minutes (-5.5mm), reaching a maximum at 70 minutes (-13.7mm) and remaining significant for up to 240 minutes (-3.5mm) including patients with streptococcal and non-streptococcal infections, reduction in difficulty swallowing from 20 minutes (-6.7mm), reaching a maximum at 110 minutes (-13.9mm) and for up to 240 minutes (-3.5mm) and reduction in the feeling of a swollen throat at 60 minutes (-9.9mm), reaching a maximum at 120 minutes (-11.4mm) and for up to 210 minutes (-5.1mm).

Multiple dose efficacy measured using Sum of Pain Intensity Differences (SPID) over 24 hours has demonstrated significant reduction in sore throat pain intensity (-473.7mm*h to -529.1mm*h), difficulty swallowing (-458.4mm*h to -575.0mm*h) and swollen throat (-482.4mm*h to -549.9mm*h) with statistically significant greater summed reduction in pain at each hourly interval over 23 hours for all three measures and statistically significantly greater sore throat relief each hour over the 6 hour assessment time. Efficacy of multiple doses after 24 hours and over 3 days has also been demonstrated.

For those patients taking antibiotics for streptococcal infection, there was statistically significant greater relief of sore throat pain intensity for flurbiprofen 8.75mg from 7 hours and onwards after antibiotics were taken. The analgesic effect of flurbiprofen 8.75 mg was not reduced by the administration of antibiotics to treat patients with streptococcal sore throat.

At 2 hours post first dose, flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges provided significant resolution of some of the associated symptoms of sore throat present at baseline including coughing (50% vs 4%), loss of appetite (84% vs 57%) and feverishness (68% vs 29%). The lozenge format dissolves in the mouth over 5 - 12 minutes and provides a measurable soothing and coating effect at 2 minutes.

Paediatric population

No specific studies in children have been undertaken. Efficacy and safety studies on flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges have included children aged 12 – 17 years, although small sample size means that no statistical conclusions can be drawn.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Flurbiprofen 8.75 mg lozenges dissolve over 5 – 12 minutes and the flurbiprofen is readily absorbed, with detection in the blood at 5 minutes and plasma concentrations peaking at 40 - 45 minutes after administration but remaining at a mean low level of 1.4 microgram/mL which is approximately 4.4 times lower than a 50 mg tablet dose. Absorption of flurbiprofen can occur from the buccal cavity by passive diffusion.

Rate of absorption is dependent on pharmaceutical form with peak concentrations achieved more rapidly than, but of similar magnitude to, those achieved after an equivalent swallowed dose.

Distribution

Flurbiprofen is rapidly distributed throughout the body and is extensively bound to plasma proteins.

Biotransformation / Elimination

Flurbiprofen is mainly metabolised by hydroxylation and excreted via the kidneys. It has an elimination half-life of 3 to 6 hours. Flurbiprofen is excreted in very small amounts in human milk (less than 0.05 microgram/ml). Approximately 20-25% of a flurbiprofen oral dose is excreted unchanged.

Elderly and paediatric population

No difference in pharmacokinetic parameters between elderly and young adult volunteers has been reported following oral administration of flurbiprofen tablets. No pharmacokinetic data have been generated in children below 12 years of age following administration of flurbiprofen 8.75 mg however administration of both flurbiprofen syrup and suppository formulations indicate no significant differences in pharmacokinetic parameters compared with adults.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

There are no preclinical data of relevance additional to information already included in other relevant sections.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Isomalt (E953)
Maltitol (E965)
Sucralose
Potassium hydroxide
Macrogol 300
Orange oil flavour
Butylated hydroxyanisole (E320)
Blood orange flavour
Levomenthol
Betacarotene

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25°C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Opaque PVC/PVDC/Alu blister

Pack sizes: 8, 10, 16, 24 lozenges

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

PA0711/257/001

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 28th October 2016

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

November 2019