Part II

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream.

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Aciclovir: 5.0% w/w (50 mg per g)

Excipients:
Cetyl alcohol: 1.5% w/w (15 mg per g)
Propylene glycol: 15.0% w/w (150 mg per g)

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Cream.
White to off-white, smooth cream without agglomerates, coarse lumps or contaminations and with characteristic odour.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream is indicated for the treatment of recurrent herpes labialis.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Dose:

Unless otherwise instructed, apply a thin layer of cream over the site of infection every four hours, five times a day.

Length of treatment:

The cream should be applied to the lesion or developing lesion as soon as possible after the start of the infection. Treatment with Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream is normally continued for five days. If the situation deteriorates or, if after ten days there is no clinical benefit (crusted vesicles, healing of lesions), treatment should be discontinued and patients should consult their physician.

Method of administration:

A cotton bud should be used to apply a sufficient quantity of Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream to cover all lesions. The cream should be applied to visibly infected sites (vesicles, swelling, erythema) and the adjoining areas. If hands are used to apply the cream, they should be thoroughly washed before and after application to prevent further infection of the lesions by bacteria and to prevent autoinoculation of the virus to other mucous membrane and cutaneous sites not yet infected.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to aciclovir, polyoxyethylene fatty acid esters, cetyl alcohol, dimethicone or propylene glycol.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream should not be used on mucous membranes (e.g. oral cavity, eyes, vagina) since local reactions may occur.

Severely immunocompromised patients should consult their physician before starting treatment with Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream. Immunocompromised patients may require oral dosing.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No interactions known.

4.6 Pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy:

Only about 0.1% of the aciclovir applied to the skin is detectable in the plasma. Concentrations are minimal so that no systemic effect should occur.

Lactation:

As there is only minimal systemic absorption of aciclovir, adverse effects on the infant during lactation are unlikely.

The use of Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream during pregnancy and lactation should be considered only when the potential benefits outweigh the possibility of unknown risks.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Within each frequency grouping, undesirable effects are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Immune system disorders:

Very rare (≤1/10,000): There have been reports of immediate hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema with topical aciclovir.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:

Common (≥1/100 to <1/10): Transient burning and itching or stinging may occur after application of Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream.

Erythema, dryness, pruritus and desquamation of cutaneous sites have also been observed.

Rare (≥1/10,000 to ≤1/1,000): Contact dermatitis has been reported after administration of Herpetad 5% w/w Cold Sore Cream. Examination showed that in most cases the contact dermatitis was caused by one of the excipients rather than by the active ingredient aciclovir. The contact dermatitis is characterized by the occurrence of the cutaneous reactions as described above, with a widespread distribution.

4.9 Overdose

As only 0.1% of the aciclovir applied to the skin is detectable in the plasma, overdose is unlikely.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Chemotherapeutics for topical use, Antivirals
ATC-Code: D06B B03

After penetrating into a cell infected by herpes simplex virus, aciclovir converts to aciclovir triphosphate. Viral replication is selectively inhibited by viral DNA polymerase.

Aciclovir does not eradicate latent virus.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

In patients with normal renal function aciclovir is renally eliminated as unchanged drug (62 – 91%) and as 9-carboxymethoxymethyl-guanine (10 – 15%). Plasma half-life ($t_{1/2ß}$) after intravenous administration of aciclovir is 2.87 ± 0.76 hours for adults and 4.1 ± 1.2 hours for new-born and infants under the age of three months. There is glomerular filtration as well as tubular secretion of aciclovir.
In patients suffering from chronic renal insufficiency, average plasma half-life is about 19.5 hours. Mean plasma half-life during haemodialysis is 5.7 hours. During haemodialysis a decrease of aciclovir plasma levels of about 60% occurs.

Concentrations in the plasma following topical administration are minimal so that there should be no or only minimal systemic effects.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Local effects:

Aciclovir cream was applied to guinea pig and rabbit skin (damaged and normal) once a day for 21 days. A mild irritation occurred after repeated application.

Since the amount of active ingredient absorbed from the cream does not lead to significant plasma levels (*see section 5.2, Pharmacokinetic properties*) there were no further studies on this form of administration.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Glycerol monostearate/polyoxyethylen-30-stearate (Arlatone 983S)
Dimeticone
Cetyl Alcohol
Liquid Paraffin
White Soft Paraffin
Propylene Glycol
Purified Water.

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf Life

3 years.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 25°C. Do not refrigerate.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Aluminium tube containing 2g of cream.
One tube is packed in a carton together with a patient information leaflet.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal of a used medicinal product or waste materials derived from such medicinal product and other handling of the product

No special requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

TAD Pharma GmbH
Heinz-Lohmann-Strasse 5
27472 Cuxhaven
Germany

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA 0876/002/001

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 22 January 1999
Date of last renewal: 22 November 2006

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

March 2007