

# Summary of Product Characteristics

## 1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Sevredol 10mg Film-Coated Tablets

## 2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains 10 mg Morphine Sulfate.

Also contains 207.5 mg lactose.

For a full list of excipients, see 6.1.

## 3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film-coated tablet

Blue, film coated, biconvex, capsule-shaped tablet, marked with a scoreline with " IR" to the left and "10" to the right with a plain reverse side.

The scoreline is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

## 4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

For the relief of severe pain.

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

#### Posology

Adults and children over 12 years.

The dosage of **Sevredol** tablets is dependent on the severity of pain and the patient's previous history of analgesic requirements. One tablet to be taken every four hours or as directed by a physician. Increasing severity of pain or tolerance to morphine will require increased dosage of **Sevredol** tablets using 10 mg or 20 mg alone or in combination to achieve the desired relief.

Patients receiving **Sevredol** tablets in place of parenteral morphine should be given a sufficiently increased dosage to compensate for any reduction in analgesic effects associated with oral administration. Usually such increased requirement is of the order of 100%. In such patients, individual dose adjustments are required.

#### Elderly

A reduction in adult dosage may be advisable.

#### Paediatric population

3-5 years 5mg 4-hourly

6-12 years 5-10mg 4-hourly

#### Route of administration

Oral.

#### Treatment goals and discontinuation

Before initiating treatment with **Sevredol** tablets, a treatment strategy including treatment duration and treatment goals, and a plan for end of the treatment, should be agreed together with the patient, in accordance with pain management guidelines. During treatment, there should be frequent contact between the physician and the patient to evaluate the need for continued treatment, consider discontinuation and to adjust dosages if needed. When a patient no longer requires therapy with **Sevredol** tablets, it may be advisable to taper the dose gradually to prevent symptoms of withdrawal. In absence of adequate pain control, the possibility of hyperalgesia, tolerance and progression of underlying disease should be considered (see section 4.4).

#### Duration of treatment

**Sevredol** tablets should not be used longer than necessary.

### 4.3 Contraindications

Morphine products are contraindicated in patients with:

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- Severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Severe bronchial asthma
- Severe respiratory depression with hypoxia and/or hypercapnia
- Paralytic ileus
- Head injury
- Acute abdomen
- Delayed gastric emptying
- Known morphine sensitivity
- Acute hepatic disease
- Concurrent administration of monoamine oxidase inhibitors or within two weeks of discontinuation of their use

Not recommended during pregnancy.

Not recommended for children below 3 years of age.

### 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

**Sevredol** tablets should be administered with caution in patients with:

- Severely impaired respiratory function
- Respiratory depression
- Severe cor pulmonale
- Sleep apnoea
- CNS depressants co-administration (see below and section 4.5)
- Tolerance, physical dependence and withdrawal (see below)
- Psychological dependence[addiction], abuse profile and history of substance and/or alcohol abuse (see below)
- Head injury, intracranial lesions or increased intracranial pressure, reduced level of consciousness of uncertain origin.
- hypotension with hypovolaemia
- hypothyroidism
- adrenocortical insufficiency
- convulsive disorders
- biliary tract disorders
- pancreatitis
- prostatic hypertrophy
- inflammatory bowel disorders
- severely impaired renal function
- severely impaired hepatic function
- severe bronchial asthma
- delirium tremens
- constipation

As with all narcotics, a reduction in dosage may be advisable in the elderly,

**Sevredol** tablets should not be used where there is a possibility of paralytic ileus occurring. Should paralytic ileus be suspected or occur during use, **Sevredol** tablets should be discontinued immediately.

#### Respiratory Depression

The major risk of opioid excess is respiratory depression.

Opioids may cause sleep-related breathing disorders including central sleep apnoea (CSA) and sleep-related hypoxemia. Opioid use may increase the risk of CSA in a dose-dependent manner in some patients. Opioids may also cause worsening of pre-existing sleep apnoea (see section 4.8). In patients who present with CSA, consider decreasing the total opioid dosage.

Morphine may lower the seizure threshold in patients with a history of epilepsy.

#### *Risk from concomitant use of sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs:*

Concomitant use of **Sevredol** tablets and sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs may result in sedation, respiratory depression, coma and death. Because of these risks, concomitant prescribing with these sedative medicines should be reserved for patients for whom alternative treatment options are not possible. If a decision is made to prescribe **Sevredol** tablets concomitantly with sedative medicines, the lowest effective dose should be used, and the duration of treatment should be as short as possible.

The patients should be followed closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation. In this respect, it is strongly recommended to inform patients and their caregivers to be aware of these symptoms (see section 4.5).

#### *Acute chest syndrome (ACS) in patients with sickle cell disease (SCD)*

Due to a possible association between ACS and morphine use in SCD patients treated with morphine during a vaso-occlusive crisis, close monitoring for ACS symptoms is warranted.

Patients about to undergo additional pain relieving procedures (e.g. surgery, plexus blockade) should not receive **Sevredol** tablets for 4 hours prior to the intervention. If further treatment with **Sevredol** tablets is indicated then the dosage should be adjusted to the new post-operative requirement. **Sevredol** tablets should be used with caution pre-operatively and within the first 24 hours post-operatively. **Sevredol** tablets should also be used with caution following abdominal surgery.

Hyperalgesia that does not respond to a further dose increase of morphine sulfate may occur, particularly in high doses. A morphine sulfate dose reduction or change in opioid may be required.

#### *Dependence and withdrawal (abstinence) syndrome*

Morphine has an abuse profile similar to other strong agonist opioids and should be used with particular caution in patients with a history of alcohol and drug abuse. Morphine may be sought and abused by people with latent or manifest addiction disorders. There is potential for development of physical and/or psychological dependence (addiction) or tolerance to opioid analgesics, including morphine. The risk increases with the time the drug is used, and with higher doses. Symptoms can be minimised with adjustments of dose or dosage form, and gradual withdrawal of morphine. For individual symptoms, see section 4.8.

#### *Adrenal insufficiency*

Opioid analgesics may cause reversible adrenal insufficiency requiring monitoring and glucocorticoid replacement therapy. Symptoms of adrenal insufficiency may include e.g. nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, fatigue, weakness, dizziness, or low blood pressure.

#### *Decreased sex hormones and increased prolactin*

Some changes that can be seen with long-term use of opioid analgesics include an increase in serum prolactin, and decreases in plasma cortisol, oestrogen and testosterone in association with inappropriately low or normal ACTH, LH or FSH levels. Clinical symptoms include decreased libido, impotence or amenorrhea which may be manifest from these hormonal changes.

Plasma concentrations of morphine may be reduced by rifampicin. The analgesic effect of morphine should be monitored and doses of morphine adjusted during and after treatment with rifampicin.

#### Oral P2Y12 inhibitor antiplatelet therapy

Within the first day of concomitant P2Y12 inhibitor and morphine treatment, reduced efficacy of P2Y12 inhibitor treatment has been observed (see section 4.5).

Abuse of oral dosage forms by parenteral administration can be expected to result in serious adverse events, which may be fatal.

Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

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

The concomitant use of opioids with sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs increases the risk of sedation, respiratory depression, coma and death because of additive CNS depressant effect. The dose and duration of concomitant use should be limited (see section 4.4).

Morphine should be used with caution in patients who are concurrently receiving other central nervous system depressants, which include, but are not limited to: other opioids, anxiolytics, sedatives and hypnotics (including benzodiazepines), antiepileptics (including gabapentinoids, e.g., pregabalin or gabapentin), general anaesthetics (including barbiturates), antipsychotics (including phenothiazines), other tranquilisers, antidepressants, muscle relaxants, antihypertensives, centrally acting anti-emetics and alcohol. Interactive effects resulting in respiratory depression, hypotension, profound sedation, or coma may result if these drugs are taken in combination with the usual doses of morphine.

Mixed agonist/antagonist opioid analgesics (e.g. buprenorphine, nalbuphine, pentazocine) should not be administered to a patient who has received a course of therapy with a pure opioid agonist analgesic.

Cimetidine inhibits the metabolism of morphine.

Monoamine oxidase inhibitors are known to interact with narcotic analgesics producing CNS excitation or depression with hyper- or hypotensive crisis. Morphine should not be co-administered with monoamine oxidase inhibitors or within two weeks of such therapy.

Plasma concentrations of morphine may be reduced by rifampicin (see section 4.4).

A delayed and decreased exposure to oral P2Y12 inhibitor antiplatelet therapy has been observed in patients with acute coronary syndrome treated with morphine. This interaction may be related to reduced gastrointestinal motility and apply to other opioids. The clinical relevance is unknown, but data indicate the potential for reduced P2Y12 inhibitor efficacy in patients co-administered morphine and a P2Y12 inhibitor (see section 4.4). In patients with acute coronary syndrome, in whom morphine cannot be withheld and fast P2Y12 inhibition is deemed crucial, the use of a parenteral P2Y12 inhibitor may be considered.

Although there are no pharmacokinetic data available for concomitant use of ritonavir with morphine, ritonavir induces the hepatic enzymes responsible for the glucuronidation of morphine, and may possibly decrease plasma concentrations of morphine.

#### **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

##### Pregnancy

**Sevredol** tablets are not recommended during pregnancy and labour due to the risk of neonatal respiratory depression. Newborns whose mothers received opioid analgesics during pregnancy should be monitored for signs of neonatal withdrawal (abstinence) syndrome. Treatment may include an opioid and supportive care.

##### Breast feeding

Administration to nursing mothers is not recommended as morphine is excreted in breast milk.

##### Fertility

Animal studies have shown that morphine may reduce fertility (see 5.3 Preclinical safety data).

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

Treatment with SEVREDOL tablets may cause sedation and it is not recommended that patients drive or use machines if they experience drowsiness.

**4.8 Undesirable effects**

In normal doses, the commonest side effects of morphine are nausea, vomiting, constipation and drowsiness. With chronic therapy, nausea and vomiting are unusual with **Sevredol** tablets but should they occur the tablets can be readily combined with an anti-emetic if required. Constipation may be treated with appropriate laxatives.

The following frequencies are the basis for assessing undesirable effects:

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)

|   | <b>Very Common</b>     | <b>Common</b>   | <b>Uncommon</b>   | <b>Not known</b>   |
|---|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Immune system disorders                         |                        |   | Hypersensitivity  | Anaphylactic reaction<br>Anaphylactoid reaction                            |
| Psychiatric disorders                           |                        | Confusion<br>Insomnia   | Agitation<br>Euphoria<br>Hallucinations<br>Mood altered           | Thinking disturbances<br>Drug dependence<br>Dysphoria                      |
| Nervous system disorders                        |                        | Dizziness<br>Headache<br>Hyperhidrosis<br>Involuntary muscle contractions<br>Somnolence | Convulsions<br>Hypertonia<br>Paraesthesia<br>Syncope<br>Myoclonus | Allodynia<br>Hyperalgesia (see section 4.4)                                |
| Eye disorders                                   |                        |   | Visual impairment   | Miosis   |
| Ear and labyrinth disorders                     |                        |   | Vertigo   |  |
| Cardiac disorders                               |                        |   | Palpitations  | Bradycardia<br>Tachycardia   |
| Vascular disorders                              |                        |   | Facial flushing<br>Hypotension                                    | Hypertension   |
| Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders |                        |   | Pulmonary oedema<br>Respiratory depression<br>Bronchospasm        | Cough decreased<br>Central sleep apnoea syndrome                           |
| Gastrointestinal disorders                      | Nausea<br>Constipation | Abdominal pain<br>Anorexia<br>Dry mouth<br>Vomiting                                     | Ileus<br>Taste perversion<br>Dyspepsia                            | Pancreatitis   |
| Hepatobiliary disorders                         |                        |   | Increased hepatic enzymes   | Biliary pain<br>Exacerbation of pancreatitis<br>Spasm of sphincter of Oddi |
| Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders          |                        | Rash  | Urticaria   | Acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP)                          |
| Renal and                                       |                        |   | Urinary   | Ureteric spasm   |

|  |  |  |                   |   |
|--|--|--|-------------------|---|
| urinary disorders                                    |  |  | retention         |   |
| Reproductive system and breast disorders             |  |  |                   | Amenorrhoea<br>Decreased libido<br>Erectile dysfunction   |
| General disorders and administration site conditions |  | Asthenia<br>Fatigue<br>Malaise<br>Pruritus | Peripheral oedema | Drug tolerance<br>Drug withdrawal (abstinence)syndrome<br>Drug withdrawal (abstinence)syndrome neonatal |

The effects of morphine have led to its abuse and dependence may develop with regular, inappropriate use. This is not a major concern in the treatment of patients with severe pain.

#### Drug dependence and withdrawal (abstinence) syndrome

Repeated use of **Sevredol** tablets can lead to drug dependence, even at therapeutic doses. The risk of drug dependence may vary depending on a patient's individual risk factors, dosage, and duration of opioid treatment (see section 4.4).

Use of opioid analgesics may be associated with the development of physical and/or psychological dependence or tolerance. An abstinence syndrome may be precipitated when opioid administration is suddenly discontinued or opioid antagonists administered, or can sometimes be experienced between doses. For management, see section 4.4.

Physiological withdrawal symptoms include: Body aches, tremors, restless legs syndrome, diarrhoea, abdominal colic, nausea, flu-like symptoms, tachycardia and mydriasis. Psychological symptoms include dysphoric mood, anxiety and irritability. In drug dependence, "drug craving" is often involved.

#### **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. Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie)

#### **4.9 Overdose**

Signs of morphine toxicity and overdose are drowsiness, pin-point pupils, skeletal muscle flaccidity, bradycardia, hypotension respiratory depression, pneumonia aspiration, somnolence and central nervous system depression which can progress to stupor or coma. Death may occur from respiratory failure. Circulatory failure and deepening coma may occur in more severe cases. Overdose can result in death. Rhabdomyolysis progressing to renal failure has been reported in opioid overdose.

Toxic leukoencephalopathy has been observed with morphine overdose.

#### Treatment of morphine overdose:

Primary attention should be given to the establishment of a patent airway and institution of assisted or controlled ventilation.

The pure opioid antagonists are specific antidotes against the effects of opioid overdose. Other supportive measures should be employed as needed.

In the case of massive overdose, administer naloxone 0.8 mg intravenously. Repeat at 2-3 minute intervals as necessary, or by an infusion of 2 mg in 500 ml of normal saline or 5% dextrose (0.004 mg/ml).

The infusion should be run at a rate related to the previous bolus doses administered and should be in accordance with the patient's response. However, because the duration of action of naloxone is relatively short, the patient must be carefully monitored until spontaneous respiration is reliably re-established.

For less severe overdose, administer naloxone 0.2 mg intravenously followed by increments of 0.1 mg every 2 minutes if required.

Naloxone should not be administered in the absence of clinically significant respiratory or circulatory depression secondary to morphine overdose. Naloxone should be administered cautiously to persons who are known, or suspected, to be physically dependent on morphine. In such cases, an abrupt or complete reversal of opioid effects may precipitate an acute withdrawal syndrome.

## 5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

### 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Natural opium alkaloid.

ATC code: N02A A01

Morphine acts as an agonist at opiate receptors in the CNS particularly mu and to a lesser extent kappa receptors. Mu receptors are thought to mediate supraspinal analgesia, respiratory depression, and euphoria, and kappa receptors, spinal analgesia, miosis and sedation.

#### Central Nervous System

The principal actions of therapeutic value of morphine are analgesia and sedation (i.e., sleepiness and anxiolysis).

Morphine produces respiratory depression by direct action on brain stem respiratory centres.

Morphine depresses the cough reflex by direct effect on the cough centre in the medulla. Antitussive effects may occur with doses lower than those usually required for analgesia. Morphine causes miosis, even in total darkness. Pinpoint pupils are a sign of narcotic overdose but are not pathognomonic (e.g., pontine lesions of haemorrhagic or ischaemic origin may produce similar findings). Marked mydriasis rather than miosis may be seen with hypoxia in the setting of morphine overdose.

#### Gastrointestinal Tract and Other Smooth Muscle

Morphine causes a reduction in motility associated with an increase in smooth muscle tone in the antrum of the stomach and duodenum. Digestion of food in the small intestine is delayed and propulsive contractions are decreased. Propulsive peristaltic waves in the colon are decreased, while tone is increased to the point of spasm resulting in constipation.

#### Cardiovascular System

Morphine may produce release of histamine with or without associated peripheral vasodilation. Manifestations of histamine release and/or peripheral vasodilation may include pruritus, flushing, red eyes, sweating, and/or orthostatic hypotension.

#### Endocrine System

Opioids may affect the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal and hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal system resulting in adrenal insufficiency or hypogonadism respectively (See section 4.4).

#### Other Pharmacological Effects

In vitro and animal studies indicate various effects of natural opioids, such as morphine, on components of the immune system; the clinical significance of these findings is unknown.

### 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Morphine is well absorbed from SEVREDOL tablets, however first pass metabolism does occur. Apart from the liver, metabolism also occurs in the kidney and intestinal mucosa. The major urinary metabolite is morphine-3-glucuronide but morphine-6-glucuronide is also formed. The half life for morphine in the plasma is approximately 2.5 - 3.0 hours.

### 5.3 Preclinical safety data

In male rats, reduced fertility and chromosomal damage in gametes have been reported. There are no further pre-clinical data of relevance to the prescriber which are additional to that already included in other sections of the SPC.

## 6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

### 6.1 List of excipients

#### Tablet Core

Lactose (anhydrous)

Pregelatinised maize starch

Povidone

Magnesium stearate

Talc

Film Coat

Opadry 06B20843, containing  
Hypromellose (E464)  
Macrogol 400  
Titanium dioxide (E171)  
Brilliant blue FCF lake (E133)

**6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

**6.3 Shelf life**

Three years.

**6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Do not store above 30°C.

**6.5 Nature and contents of container**

PVdC coated PVC blister packs and polypropylene containers with polyethylene lids containing 56 and 112 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**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**

Mundipharma Pharmaceuticals Limited  
United Drug House  
Magna Drive Magna Business Park  
Citywest Road  
Dublin 24  
D24 XKE5  
Ireland

**8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER**

PA1688/009/001

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

Date of first authorisation: 29<sup>th</sup> November 1989

Date of last renewal: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2006

**10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

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