

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Clarityn 10 mg Tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains 10mg Loratadine

Excipient: Contains lactose monohydrate

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Tablet

Product imported from the UK

White to off-white, oval tablets with Schering trademark (flask and dish logo), score and '10' on one side, plain on the other side. The scoreline of the tablet is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Clarityn Tablets are indicated for the symptomatic treatment of allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Adults and children over 12 years of age: 10mg once daily (one tablet once daily). The tablet may be taken without regard to mealtime.

Children 2 to 12 years of age are dosed by weight:

Body weight more than 30Kg: 10mg once daily (one tablet once daily).

The 10mg tablet is not appropriate in children with a bodyweight less than 30kg.

Efficacy and safety of Clarityn Tablets in children under 2 years of age has not been established.

Patients with severe liver impairment should be administered a lower initial dose because they may have reduced clearance of loratadine. An initial dose of 10mg every other day is recommended for adults and children weighing more than 30Kg.

No dosage adjustments are required in the elderly or in patients with renal insufficiency.

4.3 Contraindications

Clarityn Tablets are contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to the active substance or to any of the excipients in these formulations.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Clarityn Tablets should be administered with caution in patients with severe liver impairment (see 4.2).

This medicinal product contains lactose: thus patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

The administration of Clarityn Tablets should be discontinued at least 48 hours before skin tests since antihistamines may prevent or reduce otherwise positive reactions to dermal reactivity index.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

When administered concomitantly with alcohol, Clarityn Tablets have no potentiating effects as measured by psychomotor performance studies.

Potential interaction may occur with all known inhibitors of CYP3A4 or CYP2D6 resulting in elevated levels of loratadine (see Section 5.2), which may cause an increase in adverse events.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Loratadine was not teratogenic in animal studies. The safe use of loratadine during pregnancy has not been established. The use of Clarityn Tablets during pregnancy is therefore not recommended.

Loratadine is excreted in breast milk, therefore the use of loratadine is not recommended in breast-feeding women.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

In clinical trials that assessed driving ability, no impairment occurred in patients receiving loratadine. However, patients should be informed that very rarely some people experience drowsiness, which may affect their ability to drive or use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

In clinical trials in a paediatric population children aged 2 through 12 years, common adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo were headache (2.7%), nervousness (2.3%) and fatigue (1%).

In clinical trials involving adults and adolescents in a range of indications including AR and CIU, at the recommended dose of 10mg daily, adverse reactions with loratadine were reported in 2% of patients in excess of those treated with placebo. The most frequent adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo were somnolence (1.2%), headache (0.6%), increased appetite (0.5%) and insomnia (0.1%). Other adverse reactions reported very rarely during the post-marketing period are listed in the following table.

Immune disorders	Anaphylaxis
Nervous system disorders	Dizziness
Cardiac disorders	Tachycardia, palpitation
Gastrointestinal disorders	Nausea, dry mouth, gastritis
Hepato-biliary disorders	Abnormal hepatic function
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Rash, alopecia
General disorders and administration site conditions	Fatigue

4.9 Overdose

Overdosage with loratadine increased the occurrence of anticholinergic symptoms. Somnolence, tachycardia and headache have been reported with overdoses.

In the event of overdosage, general symptomatic and supportive measures are to be instituted and maintained for as long as necessary.

Administration of activated charcoal as a slurry with water may be attempted. Gastric lavage may be considered. Loratadine is not removed by haemodialysis and it is not known if loratadine is removed by peritoneal dialysis. Medical monitoring of the patient is to be continued after emergency treatment.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: antihistamines – H₁ antagonist, ATC code: R06AX13.

Loratadine, the active ingredient in Clarityn Tablets, is a tricyclic antihistamine with selective, peripheral H₁-receptor activity.

Loratadine has no clinically significant sedative or anticholinergic properties in the majority of the population and when used at the recommended dosage.

During long-term treatment there were no clinically significant changes in vital signs, laboratory test values, physical examinations or electrocardiograms.

Loratadine has no significant H₂-receptor activity. It does not inhibit norepinephrine uptake and has practically no influence on cardiovascular function or on intrinsic cardiac pacemaker activity.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

After oral administration, loratadine is rapidly and well absorbed and undergoes an extensive first pass metabolism, mainly by CYP3A4 and CYP2D6. The major metabolite-desloratadine (DL)- is pharmacologically active and responsible for a large part of the clinical effect. Loratadine and DL achieve maximum plasma concentrations (T_{max}) between 1-1.5 hours and 1.5-3.7 hours after administration respectively.

Increase in plasma concentrations of loratadine has been reported after concomitant use with ketoconazole, erythromycin, and cimetidine in controlled trials, but without clinically significant changes (including electrocardiographic).

Loratadine is highly bound (97% to 99%) and its active metabolite moderately bound (73% to 76%) to plasma proteins.

In healthy subjects, plasma distribution half-lives of loratadine and its active metabolite are approximately 1 and 2 hours, respectively. The mean elimination half-lives in healthy adults subjects were 8.4 hours (range=3 to 20 hours) for loratadine and 28 hours (range=8.8 to 92 hours) for the major active metabolite.

Approximately 40% of the dose is excreted in urine and 42% in the faeces over a 10 day period and mainly in the form of conjugated metabolites. Approximately 27% of the dose is eliminated in the urine during the first 24 hours. Less than 1% of the active substance is excreted unchanged in active form, as loratadine or DL.

The bioavailability parameters of loratadine and of the active metabolite are dose proportional.

The pharmacokinetic profile of loratadine and its metabolites is comparable in healthy adult volunteers and in healthy geriatric volunteers.

Concomitant ingestion of food can delay slightly the absorption of loratadine but without influencing the clinical effect.

In patients with chronic renal impairment, both the AUC and peak plasma levels ($C_{\max}$) increased for loratadine and its metabolite as compared to the AUCs and peak plasma levels ($C_{\max}$) of patients with normal renal function. The mean elimination half-lives of loratadine and its metabolite were not significantly different from that observed in normal subjects. Haemodialysis does not have an effect on the pharmacokinetics of loratadine or its active metabolite in subjects with chronic renal impairment.

In patients with chronic alcoholic liver disease, the AUC and peak plasma levels ($C_{\max}$) of loratadine were double while the pharmacokinetic profile of the active metabolite was not significantly changed from that in patients with normal liver function. The elimination half-lives for loratadine and its metabolite were 24 hours and 37 hours, respectively, and increased with increasing severity of liver disease.

Loratadine and its active metabolite are excreted in the breast milk of lactating women.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Preclinical data reveal no special hazard based on conventional studies of safety, pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity and carcinogenic potential.

In reproductive toxicity studies, no teratogenic effects were observed. However, prolonged parturition and reduced viability of offspring were observed in rats at plasma levels (AUC) 10 times higher than those achieved with clinical doses.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Lactose monohydrate
Maize starch
Magnesium Stearate

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

The shelf life expiry date of this product is the date shown on the blister foil and outer carton of the product as marketed in the country of origin.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

This medicinal product does not require any special storage precautions.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Blister pack of 7 tablets in an over labelled carton

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7 PARALLEL PRODUCT AUTHORISATION HOLDER

G&A Licensing Ltd
Ballymurray
Co. Roscommon

8 PARALLEL PRODUCT AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PPA1447/77/1

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 17th December 2010

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT