

Serotonin syndrome

There have been reports of serotonin syndrome with the use of 5-HT3 antagonists either alone, but mostly in combination with other serotonergic drugs (including selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), and serotonin noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs). Appropriate observation of patients for serotonin syndrome-like symptoms is advised.

This medicinal product contains lactose monohydrate. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

Granisetron Film-coated Tablets are essentially ‘sodium free’ as they contain less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dose of 2 mg (when taken as two 1 mg tablets, or individually as one 2 mg tablet).

Paediatric population

There is insufficient clinical evidence to recommend administration of these tablets to children.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

As for other 5-HT3 antagonists, cases of ECG modifications including QT prolongation have been reported with granisetron. In patients concurrently treated with medicinal products known to prolong QT interval and/or which are arrhythmogenic, this may lead to clinical consequences (see section 4.4).

In studies in healthy subjects, no evidence of any interaction has been indicated between granisetron and benzodiazepines (lorazepam), neuroleptics (haloperidol) or anti-ulcer medicinal products (cimetidine). Additionally, granisetron has not shown any apparent medicinal product interaction with emetogenic cancer chemotherapies.

Serotonergic Drugs (e.g. SSRIs and SNRIs):

There have been reports of serotonin syndrome following concomitant use of 5-HT3 antagonists and other serotonergic drugs (including SSRIs and SNRIs).

4.6 pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There is limited amount of data from the use of granisetron in pregnant women. As a precautionary measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of granisetron during pregnancy.

Breastfeeding

It is unknown whether granisetron or its metabolites are excreted in human milk. As a precautionary measure, breast-feeding should not be advised during treatment with Granisetron Film coated tablets.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Granisetron Film coated tablets have no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The most frequently reported adverse reactions for Granisetron Film-coated Tablets are headache and constipation, which may be transient. ECG changes including QT prolongation have been reported with Granisetron Film-coated Tablets (see sections 4.4 and 4.5).

The following table of listed adverse reactions is derived from clinical trials and post-marketing data associated with Granisetron Film-coated Tablets and other 5-HT3 antagonists.

Frequency categories are as follows:

Very common: ≥1/10;

Common ≥1/100 to <1/10;

Uncommon ≥1/1,000 to <1/100

Rare ≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000

Very rare <1/10,000

Immune system disorders

Uncommon Hypersensitivity reactions e.g. anaphylaxis, urticaria

Psychiatric disorders

Common Insomnia Nervous system disorders

Very common Headache

Uncommon Extrapyramidal reactions,

Serotonin Syndrome (see also sections 4.4 and 4.5)

Cardiac disorders

Uncommon QT prolongation

Gastrointestinal disorders

Very common Constipation

Common Diarrhoea

Hepatobiliary disorders

Common Elevated hepatic transaminases*

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Uncommon Rash

*Occurred at a similar frequency in patients receiving comparator therapy

Description of selected adverse reactions

As for other 5-HT3 antagonists, ECG changes including QT prolongation have been reported with granisetron (see sections 4.4 and 4.5).

As with other 5-HT3 antagonists, cases of serotonin syndrome (including altered mental status, autonomic dysfunction and neuromuscular abnormalities) have been reported following the concomitant use of Granisetron Film-coated Tablets and other serotonergic drugs (see sections 4.4 and 4.5).

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 Egyptian Pharmacovigillance centre Email: PV.followup@edaegypt.gov.eg

4.9 Overdose

There is no specific antidote for Granisetron Film coated Tablets. In the case of overdose with the tablets, symptomatic treatment should be given. Doses of up to 38.5 mg of granisetron as a single injection have been reported, with symptoms of mild headache but no other reported sequelae.

5-PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antiemetics and antinauseants, serotonin (5HT3) antagonists.

Neurological mechanisms, serotonin-mediated nausea and vomiting

Serotonin is the main neurotransmitter responsible for emesis after chemo- or radio-therapy. The 5-HT3 receptors are located in three sites: vagal nerve terminals in the gastrointestinal tract and chemoreceptor trigger zones located in the area postrema and the nucleus tractus solitarius of the vomiting center in the brainstem. The chemoreceptor trigger zones are located at the caudal end of the fourth ventricle (area postrema). This structure lacks an effective blood-brain barrier, and will detect emetic agents in both the systemic circulation and the cerebrospinal fluid. The vomiting centre is located in the brainstem medullary structures. It receives major inputs from the chemoreceptor trigger zones, and a vagal and sympathetic input from the gut. Following exposure to radiation or catotoxic substances, serotonin (5-HT) is released from enterochromaffine cells in the small intestinal mucosa, which are adjacent to the vagal afferent neurons on which 5-HT3 receptors are located. The released serotonin activates vagal neurons via the 5-HT3 receptors which lead ultimately to a severe emetic response mediated via the chemoreceptor trigger zone within the area postrema.

Mechanism of action

Granisetron is a potent anti-emetic and highly selective antagonist of 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT3) receptors. Radio ligand binding studies have demonstrated that granisetron has negligible affinity for other receptor types including 5-HT and dopamine D2 binding sites.

Chemotherapy- and radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting

Granisetron administered orally has been shown to prevent nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy in adults.

Post-operative nausea and vomiting

Granisetron administered orally has been shown to be effective for prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting in adults.

Pharmacological properties of granisetron

Interaction with neurotropic and other active substances through its activity on P 450-cytochrome has been reported (see section 4.5).

Although QT-prolongation has been observed with 5-HT3 receptor antagonists(see section 4.4), this effect is of such occurrence and magnitude that it does not bear clinical significance in normal subjects. Nonetheless it is advisable to monitor both ECG and clinical abnormalities when treating patients concurrently with drugs known to prolong the QT (see section 4.5).

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Pharmacokinetics of the oral administration is linear up to 2.5-fold of the recommended dose in adults. It is clear from the extensive dose-finding programme that the antiemetic efficacy is not unequivocally correlated with either administered doses or plasma concentrations of granisetron. A fourfold increase in the initial prophylactic dose of granisetron made no difference in

terms of either the proportion of patient responding to treatment or in the duration of symptoms control.

Absorption

Absorption of granisetron is rapid and complete, though oral bioavailability is reduced to about 60% as a result of first pass metabolism. Oral bioavailability is generally not influenced by food.

Distribution

Granisetron is extensively distributed, with a mean volume of distribution of approximately 3 l/kg. Plasma protein binding is approximately 65%.

Biotransformation

Granisetron is metabolized primarily in the liver by oxidation followed by conjugation. The major compounds are 7-OH-granisetron and its sulphate and glucuronide conjugates. Although antiemetic properties have been observed for 7-OH-granisetron and indazoline N-desmethyl granisetron, it is unlikely that these contribute significantly to the pharmacological activity of granisetron in man. In vitro liver microsomal studies show that granisetron's major route of metabolism is inhibited by ketoconazole, suggestive of metabolism mediated by the cytochrome P-450 3A subfamily (see section 4.5).

Elimination

Clearance is predominantly by hepatic metabolism. Urinary excretion of unchanged granisetron averages 12% of dose while that of metabolites amounts to about 47% of dose. The remainder is excreted in faeces as metabolites. Mean plasma half-life in patients by the oral and intravenous route is approximately 9 hours, with a wide inter-subject variability.

Pharmacokinetics in special populations

Renal failure

In patients with severe renal failure, data indicate that pharmacokinetic parameters after a single intravenous dose are generally similar to those in normal subjects.

Hepatic impairment

In patients with hepatic impairment due to neoplastic liver involvement, total plasma clearance of an intravenous dose was approximately halved compared to patients without hepatic involvement. Despite these changes, no dosage adjustment is necessary (see section 4.2).

Paediatric population

These tablets are not recommended in children.

Elderly patients

In elderly subjects after single intravenous doses, pharmacokinetic parameters were within the range found for non-elderly subjects.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Povidone K30, Microcrystalline Cellulose (Avicel PH 102), Crospovidone, Lactose Monohydrate, Sodium Starch glycolate, Purified talc, Magnesium Stearate.

Film Coat: Opadry Green

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

Em-Ex® 1 mg Film Coated Tablets : 3years

Em-Ex® 2 mg Film Coated Tablets |: 2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store at temperature not exceeding 25°C, In dry place

6.5 Nature and content of Container:

Em-Ex® 2 mg

Carton box contains 2 strips of colorless (PVC/PVDC/AL) each of 5 film coated tablets with a pamphlet.

Em-Ex® 1 mg

Carton box contains 1 (Al/ Transparent colorless PVC/PVDC) Strip of 10 film coated tablets + insert leaflet.

Keep all medicaments out of reach of children



Product of:
AMOUN PHARMACEUTICAL Co.
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