SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

APPROVED
By namita at 6:08 am, Feb 13, 2020

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Ondansetron 8 mg Film-coated Tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains 8 mg of ondansetron as the hydrochloride dihydrate.
Excipient with known effect: Also contains 165.00mg of Lactose anhydrous

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film-coated tablet

Yellow coloured, oval, biconvex tablets debossed with BL on one face and 8 on the other.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Adults:
Ondansteron is indicated for the management of nausea and vomiting induced by cytotoxic chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and for the prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting (PONV). For treatment of established PONV, administration by injection is recommended.

Paediatric Population:
Management of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) in children aged ≥6 months.
No studies have been conducted on the use of orally administered ondansetron in the prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting in children aged ≥ 1 month.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Chemotherapy and radiotherapy induced nausea and vomiting
Adults

The emetogenic potential of cancer treatment varies according to the doses and combinations of chemotherapy and radiotherapy regimens used. The selection of dose regimen should be determined by the severity of the emetogenic challenge.

Emetogenic Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy: Ondansetron can be given either by rectal, oral (tablets or syrup), intravenous or intramuscular administration.

For oral administration: 8 mg 1-2 hours before chemotherapy or radiation treatment, followed by 8 mg every 12 hours for a maximum of 5 days to protect against delayed or prolonged emesis.

Highly Emetogenic Chemotherapy: A single dose of up to 24mg ondansetron taken with 12mg oral dexamethasone sodium phosphate, 1 to 2 hours before chemotherapy, may be used.
To protect against delayed or prolonged emesis after the first 24 hours, oral or rectal treatment with ondansetron should be continued for up to 5 days after a course of treatment.
The recommended dose for oral administration is 8 mg to be taken twice daily.

Paediatric Population:

Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in children aged ≥6 months and adolescents:
The dose for chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting can be calculated based on body surface area (BSA) or weight – see below. In paediatric clinical studies, ondansetron was given by IV infusion diluted in 25 to 50 mL of saline or other compatible infusion fluid and infused over not less than 15 minutes. Weight-based dosing results in higher total daily doses compared to BSA-based dosing –(see sections 4.4)
There are no data from controlled clinical trials on the use of Ondansetron in the prevention of chemotherapy-induced delayed or prolonged nausea and vomiting. There are no data from controlled clinical trials on the use of Ondansetron for radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in children.

Dosing by BSA:
Ondansetron should be administered immediately before chemotherapy as a single intravenous dose of 5mg/m^2. The single intravenous dose must not exceed 8mg.
Oral dosing can commence twelve hours later and may be continued for up to 5 days. See Table 1 below.
The total dose over 24 hours (given as divided doses) must not exceed adult dose of 32mg

Table 1: BSA-based dosing for Chemotherapy - Children aged ≥6 months and adolescents

BSA	*Day 1*[a,b]	*Day 2-6*[b]

< 0.6m^2	*5mg/m^2 i.v. plus 2mg syrup after 12 hours*	*2 mg syrup every 12 hours*
≥ 0.6m^2	*5mg/m^2 i.v. plus 4 mg syrup or tablet after 12 hours*	*4 mg syrup or tablet after 12 hours*
>1.2m^2	*5mg/m2 or 8mg IV plus 8mg syrup or tablet after 12 hours*	*8mg syrup or tablet every 12 hours.*

a. The intravenous dose must not exceed 8mg.
b. The total dose over 24 hours (given as divided doses) must not exceed adult dose of 32 mg.

Dosing by bodyweight:
Weight-based dosing results in higher total daily doses compared to BSA-based dosing – see sections 4.4 and 5.1.
Ondansetron should be administered immediately before chemotherapy as a single intravenous dose of 0.15mg/Kg. The single intravenous dose must not exceed 8mg.
Two further intravenous doses may be given in 4-hourly intervals.
The total daily dose (given as divided doses) must not exceed adult dose of 32mg
Oral dosing can commence twelve hours later and may be continued for up to 5 days. See Table 2 below.

Table 2: Weight-based dosing for Chemotherapy - Children aged ≥6 months and adolescents

Weight	*Day 1[a,b]*	*Day 2-6[b]*
≤ 10kg	*Up to 3 doses of 0.15mg/kg at 4-hourly intervals.*	*2 mg syrup every 12 hours*
> 10kg	*Up to 3 doses of 0.15mg/kg at 4-hourly intervals.*	*4 mg syrup or tablet after 12 hours*

a. The intravenous dose must not exceed 8mg
b. The total daily dose over 24 hours (given as divided doses) must not exceed adult dose of 32 mg

Elderly:
No alteration of dosage, dosing frequency or route of administration are required.

Patients with renal impairment:
No alteration of daily dosage or frequency of dosing, or route of administration are required.

Patients with hepatic impairment:

Clearance of ondansetron is significantly reduced and serum half-life significantly prolonged in subjects with moderate or severe impairment of hepatic function. In such patients a total daily dose of 8 mg should not be exceeded.

Post operative nausea and vomiting (PONV):

Adults:
For the prevention of PONV: Ondansetron can be administered orally or by intravenous or intramuscular injection.

For oral administration: 16 mg one hour prior to anaesthesia.
For the treatment of established PONV: Intravenous or intramuscular administration is recommended.

Paediatric population:

Post-operative nausea and vomiting in children aged ≥ 1 month and adolscents

No studies have been conducted on the use of orally administered ondansetron in the prevention or treatment of post operative nausea and vomiting; slow i.v. injection (not less than 30 seconds) is recommended for this purpose.

Elderly:

There is limited experience in the use of ondansetron in the prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting in the elderly, however ondansetron is well tolerated in patients over 65 years receiving chemotherapy.

Patients with renal impairment:

No alteration of daily dosage or frequency of dosing, or route of administration are required.

Patients with hepatic impairment:

Clearance of ondansetron is significantly reduced and serum half life significantly prolonged in subjects with moderate or severe impairment of hepatic function. In such patients a total daily dose of 8 mg should not be exceeded.

Patients with poor sparteine/debrisoquine metabolism:

The elimination half-life of ondansetron is not altered in subjects classified as poor metabolisers of sparteine and debrisoquine. Consequently in such patients repeat dosing will give drug exposure levels no different from those of the general population. No alteration of daily dosage or frequency of dosing is required.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1

Based on reports of profound hypotension and loss of consciousness when ondansetron was administered with apomorphine hydrochloride, concomitant use with apomorphine is contraindicated.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Hypersensitivity reactions have been reported in patients who have exhibited hypersensitivity to other selective $5HT_3$ receptor antagonists.

Respiratory events should be treated symptomatically and clinicians should pay particular attention to them as precursors of hypersensitivity reactions.

Ondansetron prolongs the QT interval in a dose-dependent manner(See section 5.1). In addition, post-marketing cases of Torsade de Pointes have been reported in patients using ondansetron. Avoid ondansetron in patients with congenital long QT syndrome. Ondansetron should be administered with caution to patients who have or may develop prolongation of QTc. These conditions include patients with electrolyte abnormalities, congestive heart failure, bradyarrhythmias or patients taking other medicinal products that lead to QT prolongation or electrolyte abnormalities.

Hypokalaemia and hypomagnesaemia should be corrected prior to ondansetron administration.

There have been post-marketing reports describing patients with serotonin syndrome (including altered mental status, autonomic instability and neuromuscular abnormalities) following the concomitant use of ondansetron and other serotonergic drugs (including selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) and serotonin noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs)). If concomitant treatment with ondansetron and other serotonergic drugs is clinically warranted, appropriate observation of the patient is advised.

As ondansetron is known to increase large bowel transit time, patients with signs of subacute intestinal obstruction should be monitored following administration.

In patients with adenotonsillar surgery prevention of nausea and vomiting with ondansetron may mask occult bleeding. Therefore, such patients should be followed carefully after ondansetron.

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

Paediatric Population:
Paediatric patients receiving ondansetron with hepatotoxic chemotherapeutic agents should be monitored closely for impaired hepatic function.

Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting:
When calculating the dose on a mg/Kg basis and administering three doses at 4 hourly intervals, the total daily dose will be higher than if one single dose of $5mg/m^2$ followed by an oral dose is given. The comparative efficacy of these two different dosing regimens has not been investigated in clinical trials. Cross trial comparing indicate similar efficacy for both regimens (see section 5.1).

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

There is no evidence that ondansetron either induces or inhibits the metabolism of other drugs commonly coadministered with it. Specific studies have shown that there are no interactions when ondansetron is administered with alcohol, temazepam, frusemide, alfentanil, tramadol, morphine, lignocaine, thiopental or propofol.

Ondansetron is metabolised by multiple hepatic cytochrome P-450 enzymes: CYP3A4, CYP2D6 and CYP1A2. Due to the multiplicity of metabolic enzymes capable of metabolising ondansetron, enzyme inhibition or reduced activity of one enzyme (e.g. CYP2D6 genetic deficiency) is normally compensated by other enzymes and should result in little or no significant change in overall ondansetron clearance or dose requirement.

Caution should be exercised when ondansetron is coadministered with drugs that prolong the QT interval and/or cause electrolyte abnormalities (see section 4.4).

Use of ondansetron with QT prolonging drugs may result in additional QT prolongation. Concomitant use of ondansetron with cardiotoxic drugs (e.g. anthracyclines (such as doxorubicin, daunorubicin or trastuzumab), antibiotics (such as erythromycin), antifungals (such as ketoconazole), antiarrhythmics (such as amiodarone) and beta blockers (such as atenolol or timolol) may increase the risk of arrhythmias (See section 4.4)
Apomorphine:
Based on reports of profound hypotension and loss of consciousness when ondansetron was administered with apomorphine hydrochloride, concomitant use with apomorphine is contraindicated.

Phenytoin, Carbamazepine and Rifampicin:
In patients treated with potent inducers of CYP3A4 (i.e. phenytoin, carbamazepine, and rifampicin), the oral clearance of ondansetron was increased and ondansetron blood concentrations were decreased.

Tramadol:
Data from small studies indicate that ondansetron may reduce the analgesic effect of tramadol.

Serotonergic Drugs (e.g. SSRIs and SNRIs):
There have been post-marketing reports describing patients with serotonin syndrome (including altered mental status, autonomic instability and neuromuscular abnormalities) following the concomitant use of ondansetron and other serotonergic drugs (including SSRIs and SNRIs). (See section 4.4)

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Women of childbearing potential

Women of childbearing potential should consider the use of contraception.

Pregnancy

Based on human experience from epidemiological studies, ondansetron is suspected to cause orofacial malformations when administered during the first trimester of pregnancy.

In one cohort study including 1.8 million pregnancies, first trimester ondansetron use was associated with an increased risk of oral clefts (3 additional cases per 10 000 women treated; adjusted relative risk, 1.24, (95% CI 1.03-1.48)).

The available epidemiological studies on cardiac malformations show conflicting results. Animal studies does not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity.

Ondansetron should not be used during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Breast-feeding

Tests have shown that ondansetron passes into the milk of lactating animals. It is therefore recommended that mothers receiving ondansetron should not breast-feed their babies.

Fertility

There is no information on the effects of ondansetron on human fertility.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

In psychomotor testing ondansetron does not impair performance nor cause sedation. No detrimental effects on such activities are predicted from the pharmacology of ondansetron

4.8 Undesirable effects

Adverse events are listed below by system organ class and frequency. Frequencies are defined as: very common (≥1/10), common (≥1/100 to <1/10),

uncommon (≥1/1000 to <1/100), rare (≥1/10,000 to <1/1000) and very rare (<1/10,000). Very common, common and uncommon events were generally determined from clinical trial data. The incidence in placebo was taken into account. Rare and very rare events were generally determined from post-marketing spontaneous data.

The following frequencies are estimated at the standard recommended doses of ondansetron according to indication and formulation.

Immune system disorders

Rare: Immediate hypersensitivity reactions sometimes severe, including anaphylaxis.

Nervous system disorders

Very common: Headache.

Uncommon: Seizures, movement disorders (including extrapyramidal reactions such as dystonic reactions, oculogyric crisis and dyskinesia) have been observed without definitive evidence of persistent clinical sequelae.

Rare: Dizziness predominantly during rapid IV administration

Eye disorders

Rare: Transient visual disturbances (e.g. blurred vision) predominantly during IV administration.

Very rare: Transient blindness predominantly during intravenous administration.

The majority of the blindness cases reported resolved within 20 minutes. Most patients had received chemotherapeutic agents, which included cisplatin. Some cases of transient blindness were reported as cortical in origin.

Cardiac disorders

Uncommon: Arrhythmias, chest pain with or without ST segment depression, bradycardia.

Rare: QTc prolongation (including Torsade de Pointes)

Vascular disorders

Common: Sensation of warmth or flushing.

Uncommon: Hypotension.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Uncommon: Hiccups.

Gastrointestinal disorders

Common: Constipation.

Hepatobiliary disorders

Uncommon: Asymptomatic increases in liver function tests

These events were observed commonly in patients receiving chemotherapy with cisplatin.

Paediatric population

The adverse event profiles in children and adolescents were comparable to that seen in adults.

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 the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms and Signs
There is limited experience of ondansetron overdose. In the majority of cases, symptoms were similar to those already reported in patients receiving recommended doses (see section 4.8). Manifestations that have been reported include visual disturbances, severe constipation, hypotension and a vasovagal episode with transient second degree AV block.

Ondansetron prolongs the QT interval in a dose-dependent fashion. ECG monitoring is recommended in cases of overdose.

Paediatric population
Paediatric cases consistent with serotonin syndrome have been reported after inadvertent oral overdoses of ondansetron (exceeded estimated ingestion of 4 mg/kg) in infants and children aged 12 months to 2 years.

Treatment
There is no specific antidote for ondansetron, therefore in all cases of suspected overdose, symptomatic and supportive therapy should be given as appropriate.

Further management should be as clinically indicated or as recommended by the national poisons centre, where available.

The use of ipecacuanha to treat overdose with ondansetron is not recommended, as patients are unlikely to respond due to the anti-emitic action of ondansetron itself.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Anti-emetic

ATC Code: A04AA01N

Ondansetron is a potent, highly selective 5-HT_3 receptor-antagonist. Its precise mode of action in the control of nausea and vomiting is not known. Chemotherapeutic agents and radiotherapy may cause release of 5-HT in the small intestine initiating a vomiting reflex by activating vagal afferents via 5-HT_3 receptors. Ondansetron blocks the initiation of this reflex. Activation of vagal afferents may also cause a release of 5-HT in the area postrema, located on the floor of the fourth ventricle, and this may also promote emesis through a central mechanism. Thus, the effect of ondansetron in the management of the nausea and vomiting induced by cytotoxic chemotherapy and radiotherapy is probably due to antagonism of 5-HT_3 receptors on neurons located both in the peripheral and central nervous system. The mechanisms of action in post-operative nausea and vomiting are not known but there may be common pathways with cytotoxic induced nausea and vomiting.

Ondansetron does not alter plasma prolactin concentrations.
The role of ondansetron in opiate-induced emesis is not yet established.

<u>QT Prolongation</u>
The effect of ondansetron on the QTc interval was evaluated in a double blind, randomized, placebo and positive (moxifloxacin) controlled, crossover study in 58 healthy adult men and women. Ondansetron doses included 8 mg and 32 mg infused intravenously over 15 minutes. At the highest tested dose of 32 mg, the maximum mean (upper limit of 90% CI) difference in QTcF from placebo after baseline-correction was 19.6 (21.5) msec. At the lower tested dose of 8 mg, the maximum mean (upper limit of 90% CI) difference in QTcF from placebo after baseline-correction was 5.8 (7.8) msec. In this study, there were no QTcF measurements greater than 480 msec and no QTcF prolongation was greater than 60 msec.

Paediatric Population:

Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting

The efficacy of ondansetron in the control of emesis and nausea induced by cancer chemotherapy was assessed in a double-blind randomised trial in 415 patients aged 1 to 18 years (S3AB3006). On the days of chemotherapy, patients received either ondansetron 5 mg/m^2 intravenous + ondansetron 4 mg orally after 8-12 hrs or ondansetron 0.45 mg/kg intravenous + placebo orally after 8-12 hrs. Post-chemotherapy both groups received 4 mg ondansetron syrup twice daily for 3 days. Complete control of emesis on worst day of chemotherapy was 49% (5 mg/m^2 intravenous + ondansetron 4 mg orally) and 41% (0.45 mg/kg intravenous + placebo orally). Post-chemotherapy both groups received 4 mg ondansetron syrup twice daily for 3 days. There was no difference in the overall incidence or nature of adverse events between the two treatment groups.

A double-blind randomised placebo-controlled trial (S3AB4003) in 438 patients aged 1 to 17 years demonstrated complete control of emesis on worst day of chemotherapy in:

• 73% of patients when ondansetron was administered intravenously at a dose of 5 mg/m^2 intravenous together with 2 – 4 mg dexamethasone orally

• 71% of patients when ondansetron was administered as syrup at a dose of 8 mg + 2-4 mg dexamethasone orally on the days of chemotherapy.

Post-chemotherapy both groups received 4 mg ondansetron syrup twice daily for 2 days. There was no difference in the overall incidence or nature of adverse events between the two treatment groups.

The efficacy of ondansetron in 75 children aged 6 to 48 months was investigated in an open-label, non-comparative, single-arm study (S3A40320). All children received three 0.15 mg/kg doses of intravenous ondansetron, administered 30 minutes before the start of chemotherapy and then at four and eight hours after the first dose. Complete control of emesis was achieved in 56% of patients.

Another open-label, non-comparative, single-arm study (S3A239) investigated the efficacy of one intravenous dose of 0.15 mg/kg ondansetron followed by two oral ondansetron doses of 4 mg for children aged < 12 yrs and 8 mg for children aged ≥ 12 yrs (total no. of children n= 28). Complete control of emesis was achieved in 42% of patients.

Post-operative nausea and vomiting

The efficacy of a single dose of ondansetron in the prevention of post-operative nausea and vomiting was investigated in a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in 670 children aged 1 to 24 months (post-conceptual age ≥ 44 weeks, weight ≥ 3 kg). Included subjects were scheduled to undergo elective surgery under general anaesthesia and had an ASA status ≤ III. A single dose of ondansetron 0.1 mg/kg was administered within five minutes following induction of anaesthesia. The proportion of subjects who experienced at least one emetic episode during the 24-hour assessment period (ITT) was greater for patients on placebo than those receiving ondansetron ((28% vs. 11%, p <0.0001).

Four double-blind, placebo-controlled studies have been performed in 1469 male and female patients (2 to 12 years of age) undergoing general anaesthesia. Patients were randomised to either single intravenous doses of ondansetron (0.1 mg/kg for paediatric patients weighing 40 kg or less, 4 mg for paediatric patients weighing more than 40 kg; number of patients = 735)) or placebo (number of patients = 734). Study drug was administered over at least 30 seconds, immediately prior to or following anaesthesia induction. Ondansetron was significantly more effective than placebo in preventing nausea and vomiting. The results of these studies are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3 Prevention and treatment of PONV in Paediatric Patients – Treatment response over 24 hours

Study	Endpoint	Ondansetron %	Placebo %	p value
S3A380	CR	68	39	≤ 0.001
S3GT09	CR	61	35	≤ 0.001
S3A381	CR	53	17	≤ 0.001
S3GT11	no nausea	64	51	0.004
S3GT11	no emesis	60	47	0.004

CR = no emetic episodes, rescue or withdrawal

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Following oral administration, ondansetron is passively and completely absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract and undergoes first pass metabolism.

Peak plasma concentrations of about 30ng/ml are attained approximately 1.5 hours after an 8 mg dose. For doses above 8 mg the increase in ondansetron systemic exposure with dose is greater than proportional; this may reflect some reduction in first pass metabolism at higher oral doses. Mean bioavailability in healthy male subjects, following the oral administration of a single 8 mg tablet, is approximately 55 to 60%.Bioavailability, following oral administration, is slightly enhanced by the presence of food but unaffected by antacids.

The disposition of ondansetron following oral, intramuscular (IM) and intravenous (IV) dosing is similar with a terminal half life of about 3 hours and steady state volume of distribution of about 140 L. Equivalent systemic exposure is achieved after IM and IV administration of ondansetron.

A 4 mg intravenous infusion of ondansetron given over 5 minute's results in peak plasma concentrations of about 65 ng/ml. Following intramuscular administration of ondansetron, peak plasma concentrations of about 25 ng/ml are attained within 10 minutes of injection.

Following administration of ondansetron suppository, plasma ondansetron concentrations become detectable between 15 and 60 minutes after dosing. Concentrations rise in an essentially linear fashion, until peak concentrations of 20-30 ng/ml are attained, typically 6 hours after dosing. Plasma concentrations then fall, but at a slower rate than observed following oral dosing due to continued absorption of ondansetron. The absolute bioavailability of ondansetron from the suppository is approximately 60% and is not affected by gender. The half-life of the elimination phase following suppository administration is determined by the rate of ondansetron absorption, not systemic clearance and is approximately 6 hours. Females show a small, clinically insignificant, increase in half-life in comparison with males.

Ondansetron is not highly protein bound (70-76%). Ondansetron is cleared from the systemic circulation predominantly by hepatic metabolism through multiple enzymatic pathways. Less than 5% of the absorbed dose is excreted unchanged in the urine. The absence of the enzyme CYP2D6 (the debrisoquine polymorphism) has no effect on ondansetron's pharmacokinetics. The pharmacokinetic properties of ondansetron are unchanged on repeat dosing.

Special Patient Populations

Gender

Gender differences were shown in the disposition of ondansetron, with females having a greater rate and extent of absorption following an oral dose and reduced systemic clearance and volume of distribution (adjusted for weight).

Children and adolescents (aged 1 month to 17 years)

In paediatric patients aged 1 to 4 months (n=19) undergoing surgery, weight normalised clearance was approximately 30% slower than in patients aged 5 to

24 months (n=22) but comparable to the patients aged 3 to 12 years. The half-life in the patient population aged 1 to 4 months was reported to average 6.7 hours compared to 2.9 hours for the patients in the 5 to 24 months and 3 to 12 year age range. The differences in the pharmacokinetic parameters in the 1 to 4 months patient population can be explained in part by a higher percentage of total body water in neonates and infants and a higher volume of distribution for water soluble drugs like ondansetron.

In paediatric patients aged 3 to 12 years undergoing elective surgery with general anaesthesia, the absolute values for both the clearance and the volume of distribution of ondansetron were reduced in comparison to values with adult patients. Both parameters increased in a linear fashion with weight and by 12 years of age, the values were approaching those of young adults. When clearance and volume of distribution values were normalised by body weight, the values of these parameters were similar between the different age group populations. Use of weight base dosing compensates for age-related changes and is effective in normalising systemic exposure in paediatric patients.

Population pharmacokinetic analysis was performed on 428 subjects (cancer patients, surgery patients and healthy volunteers) aged 1 month to 44 years following intravenous administration of ondansetron. Based on this analysis, systemic exposure (AUC) of ondansetron following oral or IV dosing in children and adolescents was comparable to adults, with the exception of infants aged 1 to 4 months. Volume was related to age and was lower in adults than in infants and children. Clearance was related to weight but not to age with the exception of infants aged 1 to 4 months. It is difficult to conclude whether there was an additional reduction in clearance related to age in infant's 1 to 4 months or simply inherent variability due to the low number of subjects studied in this age group. Since patients less than 6 months of age will only receive a single dose in PONV a decreased clearance is not likely to be clinically relevant.

Renal impairment

In patients with renal impairment (creatinine clearance 15-60 ml/min), both systemic clearance and volume of distribution are reduced following IV administration of ondansetron, resulting in a slight, but clinically insignificant, increase in elimination half-life (5.4 h). A study in patients with severe renal impairment who required regular haemodialysis (studied between dialyses) showed ondansetron's pharmacokinetics to be essentially unchanged following IV administration.

Elderly

Early Phase I studies in healthy elderly volunteers showed a slight age-related decrease in clearance, and an increase in half-life of ondansetron. However, wide inter-subject variability resulted in considerable overlap in pharmacokinetic parameters between young (< 65 years of age) and elderly subjects (≥ 65 years of age) and there were no overall differences in safety or efficacy observed between young and elderly cancer patients enrolled in CINV clinical trials to support a different dosing recommendation for the elderly.

Based on more recent ondansetron plasma concentrations and exposure-response modelling, a greater effect on QTcF is predicted in patients ≥75 years of age compared to young adults. Specific dosing information is provided for patients over 65 years of age and over 75 years of age for intravenous dosing.

Hepatic impairment
Following oral, intravenous or intramuscular dosing in patients with severe hepatic impairment, ondansetron's systemic clearance is markedly reduced with prolonged elimination half-lives (15-32 h) and an oral bioavailability approaching 100% due to reduced pre-systemic metabolism. The pharmacokinetics of ondansetron following administration as a suppository have not been evaluated in patients with hepatic impairment.

5.3. Preclinical safety data

No additional data of relevance

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Tablet core:

Lactose anhydrous

Microcrystalline cellulose

Pregelatinised starch

Magnesium stearate

Film-coating:

Hypromellose

Titanium dioxide (E171)

Yellow ferric oxide (E172)

6.2. Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

4 years

6.4. Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25ºC

Store in the original package

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Aluminum/PVC blister containing 10 tablets. Blisters packaged into outer container to give total of 10, 30 or 100 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6. Instruction for use and handling

No special requirements

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Bristol Laboratories Ltd
Unit 3, Canalside,
Northbridge Road,
Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire HP4 1EG
United Kingdom

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

PL 17907/0059

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

20 August 2004

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11/02/2020