

## SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

### 1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Allopurinol 300mg Tablets

### 2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains allopurinol 300mg

Excipient with known effect: Also contains Lactose monohydrate 70.80 mg

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1

### 3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Tablet.

White, round, biconvex, uncoated tablets marked with '300' on one face and 'BL' on the other

### 4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

#### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

Allopurinol is indicated for reducing urate/uric acid formation in conditions where urate/uric acid deposition has already occurred (e.g. gouty arthritis, skin tophi, nephrolithiasis) or is a predictable clinical risk (e.g. treatment of malignancy potentially leading to acute uric acid nephropathy). The main clinical conditions where urate/uric acid deposition may occur are: idiopathic gout; uric acid lithiasis; acute uric acid nephropathy; neoplastic disease and myeloproliferative disease with high cell turnover rates, in which high urate levels occur either spontaneously, or after cytotoxic therapy; certain enzyme disorders which lead to overproduction of urate, for example: hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase, including Lesch-Nyhan syndrome; glucose-6-phosphatase including glycogen storage disease; phosphoribosylpyrophosphate synthetase, phosphoribosylpyrophosphate amidotransferase; adenine phosphoribosyltransferase.

Allopurinol is indicated for the management of 2,8-dihydroxyadenine (2,8-DHA) renal stones related to deficient activity of adenine phosphoribosyltransferase.

Allopurinol is indicated for the management of recurrent mixed calcium oxalate renal stones in the presence of hyperuricosuria, when fluid, dietary and similar measures have failed.

## 4.2 Posology and method of administration

### Posology

#### Adults:

Allopurinol should be introduced at low dosage e.g. 100 mg/day to reduce the risk of adverse reactions and increased only if the serum urate response is unsatisfactory. Extra caution should be exercised if renal function is poor (*see section 4.2 Renal impairment*). The following dosage schedules are suggested:

100 to 200 mg daily in mild conditions,  
300 to 600 mg daily in moderately severe conditions,  
700 to 900 mg daily in severe conditions.

If dosage on a mg/kg bodyweight basis is required, 2 to 10 mg/kg bodyweight/day should be used.

#### Paediatric population:

Children under 15 years: 10 to 20 mg/kg bodyweight/day up to maximum of 400 mg daily. Use in children is rarely indicated, except in malignant conditions (especially leukaemia), and certain enzyme disorders (eg Lesch-Nyhan syndrome).

#### Use in the elderly:

In the absence of specific data, the lowest dosage which produces satisfactory urate reduction should be used. Particular attention should be paid to advice in *Patients with renal impairment* and section 4.4.

#### Renal impairment:

Since allopurinol and its metabolites are excreted by the kidney, impaired renal function may lead to retention of the drug and/or its metabolites with consequent prolongation of plasma half-lives. In severe renal insufficiency, it may be advisable to use less than 100 mg per day or to use single doses of 100 mg at longer intervals than one day. If facilities are available to monitor plasma oxipurinol concentrations, the dose should be adjusted to maintain plasma oxipurinol levels below 100 micromol/litre (15.2 mg/litre). Allopurinol and its metabolites are removed by renal dialysis. If frequent dialysis is required, an alternative schedule of 300-400mg after each dialysis, with none in the interim, should be considered.

#### Hepatic impairment:

Reduced doses should be used in patients with hepatic impairment. Periodic liver function tests are recommended during the early stages of therapy.

Treatment of high urate turnover conditions, e.g. neoplasia, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome

It is advisable to correct existing hyperuricaemia and/or hyperuricosuria with allopurinol before starting cytotoxic therapy. It is important to ensure adequate hydration to maintain optimum diuresis and to attempt alkalinisation of urine to increase solubility of urinary urate/uric acid. Dosage of allopurinol should be at the lower end of the recommended dosage schedule.

If urate nephropathy or other pathology has compromised renal function, the advice given in section 4.2 *Renal impairment* should be followed.

These steps may reduce the risk of xanthine and/or oxipurinol deposition complicating the clinical situation. See also section 4.5 and section 4.8.

#### Monitoring Advice

The dosage should be adjusted by monitoring serum urate concentrations and urinary urate/uric acid levels at appropriate intervals.

#### **Method of Administration**

Allopurinol may be taken orally once a day after a meal. It is well tolerated, especially after food. Should the daily dosage exceed 300 mg and gastrointestinal intolerance be manifested, a divided doses regimen may be appropriate.

### **4.3 Contraindications**

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

### **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

#### **Hypersensitivity syndrome, SJS and TEN**

Allopurinol hypersensitivity reactions can manifest in many different ways, including maculopapular exanthema, hypersensitivity syndrome (also known as DRESS) and Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS)/toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) (see section 4.8). These reactions are clinical diagnoses, and their clinical presentations remain the basis for decision making. If such reactions occur at any time during treatment, allopurinol should be withdrawn immediately. Rechallenge should not be undertaken in patients with hypersensitivity syndrome and SJS/TEN. Corticosteroids may be beneficial in overcoming hypersensitivity skin reactions.

#### **Chronic renal impairment**

Patients with chronic renal impairment and concomitant diuretic use, in particular thiazide, may be at increased risk of developing hypersensitivity reactions including SJS/TEN associated with allopurinol. Extra vigilance for the signs of hypersensitivity syndrome or SJS/TEN is required and the patient

should be informed of the need to stop treatment immediately and permanently at the first appearance of symptoms (see section 4.8).

#### HLA-B\*5801 allele

The HLA-B\*5801 allele has been shown to be associated with the risk of developing allopurinol related hypersensitivity syndrome and SJS/TEN. The frequency of the HLA-B\*5801 allele varies widely between ethnic populations: up to 20% in Han Chinese population, 8-15% in the Thai, about 12% in the Korean population and 1-2% in individuals of Japanese or European origin.

Screening for HLA-B\*5801 should be considered before starting treatment with allopurinol in patient subgroups where the prevalence of this allele is known to be high. Chronic kidney disease may increase the risk in these patients additionally. In case that no HLA-B\*5801 genotyping is available for patients with Han Chinese, Thai or Korean descent the benefits should be thoroughly assessed and considered outweigh the possible higher risks before starting therapy. The use of genotyping has not been established in other patient populations.

If the patient is a known carrier of HLA-B\*5801 (especially in those who are from Han Chinese, Thai or Korean descent), allopurinol should not be started unless there are no other reasonable therapeutic options and the benefits are thought to exceed risks. Extra vigilance for signs of hypersensitivity syndrome or SJS/TEN is required and the patient should be informed of the need to stop treatment immediately at the first appearance of symptoms.

SJS/TEN can still occur in patients who are found to be negative for HLA-B\*5801 irrespective of their ethnic origin.

Life-threatening cutaneous reactions Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) have been reported with the use of Allopurinol. Patients should be advised of the signs and symptoms and monitored closely for skin reactions. The highest risk for occurrence of SJS or TEN is within the first weeks of treatment. If symptoms or signs of SJS or TEN (e.g. progressive skin rash often with blisters or mucosal lesions) are present, Allopurinol treatment should be discontinued. The best results in managing SJS and TEN come from early diagnosis and immediate discontinuation of any suspect drug. Early withdrawal is associated with a better prognosis. If the patient has developed SJS or TEN with the use of Allopurinol tablets, Allopurinol tablets must not be re-started in this patient at any time.

#### Hepatic or renal impairment

Reduced doses should be used in patients with hepatic or renal impairment (see Section 4.2). Patients under treatment for hypertension or cardiac insufficiency, for example with diuretics or ACE inhibitors, may have some concomitant impairment of renal function and allopurinol should be used with care in this group.

#### Asymptomatic hyperuricaemia

Asymptomatic hyperuricaemia per se is generally not considered an indication for use of allopurinol. Fluid and dietary modification with management of the underlying cause may correct the condition.

#### Acute gouty attacks:

Allopurinol treatment should not be started until an acute attack of gout has been completely subsided, as further attacks may be precipitated.

In the early stages of treatment with allopurinol, as with uricosuric agents, an acute attack of gouty arthritis may be precipitated. Therefore it is advisable to give prophylaxis with a suitable anti-inflammatory agent or colchicine for at least one month. The literature should be consulted for details of appropriate dosage and precautions and warnings.

If acute attacks develop in patients receiving allopurinol, treatment should continue at the same dosage while the attack is treated with a suitable anti-inflammatory agent.

#### Xanthine deposition:

In conditions where the rate of urate formation is greatly increased (e.g. malignant disease and its treatment, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome) the absolute concentration of xanthine in urine could, in rare cases, rise sufficiently to allow deposition in the urinary tract. This risk may be minimised by adequate hydration to achieve optimal urine dilution.

#### Impaction of uric acid renal stones:

Adequate therapy with allopurinol will lead to dissolution of large uric acid renal pelvic stones, with the remote possibility of impaction in the ureter.

#### Thyroid disorders

Increased TSH values ( $>5.5$   $\mu\text{IU/mL}$ ) were observed in patients on long-term treatment with allopurinol (5.8%) in a long term open label extension study. Caution is required when allopurinol is used in patients with alteration of thyroid function.

## **Important information regarding the ingredients of this medicine**

### **Lactose intolerance**

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

### **Sodium**

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

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

6-mercaptopurine and azathioprine: Azathioprine is metabolised to 6-mercaptopurine which is inactivated by the action of xanthine oxidase. When 6-mercaptopurine or azathioprine is given concurrently with Allopurinol, only one-quarter of the usual dose of 6-mercaptopurine or azathioprine should be given because inhibition of xanthine oxidase will prolong their activity.

Vidarabine (Adenine Arabinoside): Evidence suggests that the plasma half-life of vidarabine is increased in the presence of allopurinol. When the two products are used concomitantly extra vigilance is necessary, to recognise enhanced toxic effects.

Salicylates and uricosuric agents: Oxipurinol, the major metabolite of allopurinol and itself therapeutically active, is excreted by the kidney in a similar way to urate. Hence, drugs with uricosuric activity such as probenecid or large doses of salicylate may accelerate the excretion of oxipurinol. This may decrease the therapeutic activity of Allopurinol, but the significance needs to be assessed in each case.

Chlorpropamide: If allopurinol is given concomitantly with chlorpropamide when renal function is poor, there may be an increased risk of prolonged hypoglycaemia activity because allopurinol and chlorpropamide may compete for excretion in the renal tubule.

Ampicillin/Amoxicillin: An increase in frequency of skin rash has been reported among patients receiving ampicillin or amoxicillin concurrently with allopurinol compared to patients who are not receiving both drugs. The cause of the reported association has not been established. However, it is recommended that in patients receiving allopurinol an alternative to ampicillin or amoxicillin is used where available.

Coumarin Anticoagulants: There have been rare reports of increased effect of warfarin and other coumarin anticoagulants when co-administered with allopurinol, therefore, all patients receiving anticoagulants must be carefully monitored.

Didanosine: In healthy volunteers and HIV patients receiving didanosine, plasma didanosine  $C_{\max}$  and AUC values were approximately doubled with concomitant allopurinol treatment (300 mg daily) without affecting terminal half life. Co-administration of these 2 drugs is generally not recommended. If concomitant use is unavoidable, a dose reduction of didanosine may be required, and patients should be closely monitored.

Ciclosporin: Reports suggest that the plasma concentration of ciclosporin (risk of nephrotoxicity) may be increased during concomitant treatment with allopurinol. The possibility of enhanced ciclosporin toxicity should be considered if the drugs are co-administered.

Phenytoin: Allopurinol may inhibit hepatic oxidation of phenytoin but the clinical significance has not been demonstrated.

Cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, bleomycin, procarbazine, mechloroethamine: Enhanced bone marrow suppression by cyclophosphamide and other cytotoxic agents has been reported among patients with neoplastic disease (other than leukaemia), in the presence of allopurinol. However, in a well-controlled study of patients treated with cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, bleomycin, procarbazine and/or mechloroethamine (chlormethine hydrochloride) allopurinol did not appear to increase the toxic reaction of these cytotoxic agents.

Theophylline: Inhibition of the metabolism of theophylline has been reported. The mechanism of the interaction may be explained by xanthine oxidase being involved in the biotransformation of theophylline in man. Theophylline levels should be monitored in patients starting or increasing allopurinol therapy.

Antacids: Allopurinol may fail to reduce the blood-uric-acid concentrations when given at the same time as aluminium hydroxide. Intake of antacids and allopurinol should be separated by 3 hours.

ACE inhibitors:

An increased risk of hypersensitivity has been reported when allopurinol is given with ACE inhibitors especially in renal impairment.

### Diuretics

An interaction between allopurinol and furosemide that results in increased serum urate and plasma oxypurinol concentrations has been reported.

An increased risk of hypersensitivity has been reported when allopurinol is given with diuretics, in particular thiazides, especially in renal impairment.

### Cytostatics

With administration of allopurinol and cytostatics (e.g. cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, bleomycin, procarbazine, alkyl halogenides), blood dyscrasias occur more frequently than when these active substances are administered alone.

Blood count monitoring should therefore be performed at regular intervals.

### Aluminium hydroxide

If aluminium hydroxide is taken concomitantly, allopurinol may have an attenuated effect. There should be an interval of at least 3 hours between taking both medicines.

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

### Pregnancy

There is inadequate evidence of safety of allopurinol in human pregnancy, although it has been in wide use for many years without apparent ill consequence.

Use in pregnancy only when there is no safer alternative and when the disease itself carries risk for the mother or unborn child.

### Breast-feeding

Reports indicate that allopurinol and its metabolite oxipurinol are excreted in human breast milk. Concentrations of 1.4mg/litre allopurinol and 53.7 mg/litre oxipurinol have been demonstrated in breast milk from woman taking Allopurinol 300 mg/day. However, there are no data concerning the effects of allopurinol or its metabolites on the breast-fed baby.

Allopurinol during breastfeeding is not recommended.

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

Since adverse reactions such as somnolence, vertigo, nausea and ataxia have been reported in patients receiving allopurinol, patients should exercise caution before driving, using machinery or participating in dangerous activities until they are reasonably certain that allopurinol does not adversely affect performance.



#### 4.8 Undesirable effects

For this product there is no modern clinical documentation which can be used as support for determining the frequency of undesirable effects. Undesirable effects may vary in their incidence depending on the dose received and also when given in combination with other therapeutic agents.

The frequency categories assigned to the adverse drug reactions below are estimates: for most reactions, suitable data for calculating incidence are not available. Adverse drug reactions identified through post-marketing surveillance were considered to be rare or very rare. The following convention has been used for the classification of frequency:

Very common	$\geq 1/10$
Common	$\geq 1/100$ and $<1/10$
Uncommon	$\geq 1/1000$ and $<1/100$
Rare	$\geq 1/10,000$ and $<1/1000$
Very rare	$<1/10,000$ ( $<0.01\%$ )

Adverse reactions in association with Allopurinol are rare in the overall treated population and mostly of a minor nature. The incidence is higher in the presence of renal and/or hepatic disorder.

<b>Table 1 Tabulated summary of adverse reactions</b>		
<b>System Organ Class</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Adverse reaction</b>
<b>Infections and infestations</b>	Very Rare	Furuncle
<b>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</b>	Very Rare	Agranulocytosis <sup>1</sup> Aplastic anaemia <sup>1</sup> Thrombocytopenia <sup>1</sup>
<b>Immune system disorders</b>	Uncommon Very Rare	Hypersensitivity <sup>2</sup> Angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma <sup>3</sup> Anaphylactic reaction
<b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>	Very Rare	Diabetes mellitus Hyperlipidaemia
<b>Psychiatric disorders</b>	Very Rare	Depression

<b>Nervous system disorders</b>	Very Rare	Coma Paralysis Ataxia Neuropathy peripheral Paraesthesia Somnolence Headache Dysguesia
	Not Known	Aseptic meningitis
<b>Eye disorders</b>	Very rare	Cataract Visual impairment Maculopathy
<b>Ear and labyrinth disorders</b>	Very rare	Vertigo
<b>Cardiac disorders</b>	Very rare	Angina pectoris Bradycardia
<b>Vascular disorders</b>	Very Rare	Hypertension
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>	Uncommon	Vomiting <sup>4</sup> Nausea <sup>4</sup> Diarrhoea
	Very Rare	Haematemesis Steatorrhoea Stomatitis Change of bowel habit
<b>Hepatobiliary disorders</b>	Uncommon	Liver function test abnormal <sup>5</sup>
	Rare	Hepatitis (including hepatic necrosis and granulomatous hepatitis) <sup>5</sup>
<b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>	Common	Rash
	Rare	Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs): Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal

	Very Rare	Necrolysis <sup>6</sup> (see section 4.4)  Angioedema <sup>7</sup> Drug eruption Alopecia Hair colour changes
<b>Renal and urinary disorders</b>	Very rare	Haematuria  Azotaemia
<b>Reproductive system and breast disorders</b>	Very rare	Infertility male Erectile dysfunction Gynaecomastia
<b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>	Very rare	Oedema Malaise Asthenia Pyrexia <sup>8</sup>
<b>Investigations</b>	Common	Blood thyroid stimulating hormone increased <sup>9</sup>

1. Very rare reports have been received of thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis and aplastic anaemia, particularly in individuals with impaired renal and/or hepatic function, reinforcing the need for particular care in this group of patients.

2. A delayed multi-organ hypersensitivity disorder (known as hypersensitivity syndrome or DRESS) with fever, rashes, vasculitis, lymphadenopathy, pseudo lymphoma, arthralgia, leucopenia, eosinophilia, hepato-splenomegaly, abnormal liver function tests, and vanishing bile duct syndrome (destruction and disappearance of the intrahepatic bile ducts) occurring in various combinations. Other organs may also be affected (e.g. liver, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, myocardium, and colon). If such reactions do occur, it may be at any time during treatment. Allopurinol should be withdrawn *immediately and permanently*.

Rechallenge should not be undertaken in patients with hypersensitivity syndrome and SJS/TEN. Corticosteroids may be beneficial in overcoming hypersensitivity skin reactions. When generalised hypersensitivity reactions have occurred, renal and/or hepatic disorder has usually been present particularly when the outcome has been fatal.

3. Angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma has been described very rarely following biopsy of a generalised lymphadenopathy. It appears to be reversible on withdrawal of Allopurinol.

4. In early clinical studies, nausea and vomiting were reported. Further reports suggest that this reaction is not a significant problem and can be avoided by taking Allopurinol after meals.

5. Hepatic dysfunction has been reported without overt evidence of more generalised hypersensitivity.

6 Skin reactions are the most common reactions and may occur at any time during treatment. They may be pruritic, maculopapular, sometimes scaly, sometimes purpuric and rarely exfoliative, such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis (SJS/TEN). The highest risk for SJS and TEN, or other serious hypersensitivity reactions, is within the first weeks of treatment. The best results in managing such reactions come from early diagnosis and immediate discontinuation of any suspect drug. Allopurinol should be withdrawn immediately should such reactions occur. After recovery from mild reactions, Allopurinol may, if desired, be re-introduced at a small dose (e.g. 50 mg/day) and gradually increased. The HLA-B\*5801 allele has been shown to be associated with the risk of developing allopurinol related hypersensitivity syndrome and SJS/TEN. The use of genotyping as a screening tool to make decisions about treatment with allopurinol has not been established. If the rash recurs, Zyloric should be permanently withdrawn as more severe hypersensitivity may occur (see section 4.8 *Immune system disorders*). If SJS/TEN, or other serious hypersensitivity reactions cannot be ruled out, DO NOT re-introduce allopurinol due to the potential for a severe or even fatal reaction. The clinical diagnosis of SJS/TEN remains the basis for decision making. If such reactions occur at any time during treatment, allopurinol should be withdrawn immediately and permanently.

7. Angioedema has been reported to occur with and without signs and symptoms of a more generalised hypersensitivity reaction.

8. Fever has been reported to occur with and without signs and symptoms of a more generalised Allopurinol hypersensitivity reaction (see section 4.8 *Immune system disorders*).

9. The occurrence of increased thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) in the relevant studies did not report any impact on free T4 levels or had TSH levels indicative of subclinical hypothyroidism.

### **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 Website: [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

## **4.9 Overdose**

### Symptoms

Ingestion of up to 22.5 g allopurinol without adverse effect has been reported. Symptoms and signs including nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and dizziness have been reported in a patient who ingested 20g allopurinol. Recovery followed general supportive measures.

Massive absorption of allopurinol may lead to considerable inhibition of xanthine oxidase activity, which should have no untoward effects unless affecting concomitant medication, especially with 6-mercaptopurine, adenine arabinoside, and/or azathioprine is being taken concurrently. In this case, the risk of increased activity of these drugs must be recognised.

### Management

Adequate hydration to maintain optimum diuresis facilitates excretion of allopurinol and its metabolites. Other measures as indicated by the patient's clinical condition. Haemodialysis is unlikely to be required. Haemodialysis may be considered in patients with severe renal or hepatic impairment.

## **5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Preparations inhibiting uric acid production

ATC CODE: M04AA01

Allopurinol is a xanthine-oxidase inhibitor. Allopurinol and its main metabolite oxipurinol lower the level of uric acid in plasma and urine by inhibition of xanthine oxidase, the enzyme catalyzing the oxidation of hypoxanthine to xanthine and xanthine to uric acid. In addition to the inhibition of purine catabolism in some but not all hyperuricaemic patients, de novo purine biosynthesis is depressed via feedback inhibition of hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase. Other metabolites of allopurinol include allopurinol-riboside and oxipurinol-7-riboside.

### **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

#### Absorption

Allopurinol is active when given orally and is rapidly absorbed from the upper gastrointestinal tract. Studies have detected allopurinol in the blood 30-60 minutes after dosing. Estimates of bioavailability vary from 67% to 90%. Peak plasma levels of allopurinol generally occur approximately 1.5 hours after oral administration of Allopurinol, but fall rapidly and are barely detectable after 6 hours. Peak plasma levels of oxipurinol generally occur after 3-5 hours after oral administration of Allopurinol and are much more sustained.

### **Distribution**

Allopurinol is negligibly bound by plasma proteins and therefore variations in protein binding are not thought to significantly alter clearance. The apparent volume of distribution of allopurinol is approximately 1.6 litre/kg which, suggests relatively extensive uptake by tissues. Tissue concentrations of allopurinol have not been reported in humans, but it is likely that allopurinol and oxipurinol will be present in the highest concentrations in the liver and intestinal mucosa where xanthine oxidase activity is high.

### **Biotransformation**

The main metabolite of allopurinol is oxipurinol. Other metabolites of allopurinol include allopurinol-riboside and oxipurinol-7-riboside.

### **Elimination**

Approximately 20% of the ingested allopurinol is excreted in the faeces. Elimination of allopurinol is mainly by metabolic conversion to oxipurinol by xanthine oxidase and aldehyde oxidase, with less than 10% of the unchanged drug excreted in the urine. Allopurinol has a plasma half-life of about 0.5 to 1.5 hours.

Oxipurinol is a less potent inhibitor of xanthine oxidase than allopurinol, but the plasma half-life of oxipurinol is far more prolonged. Estimates range from 13 to 30 hours in man. Therefore effective inhibition of xanthine oxidase is maintained over a 24 hour period with a single daily dose of allopurinol. Patients with normal renal function will gradually accumulate oxipurinol until a steady-state plasma oxipurinol concentration is reached. Such patients, taking 300 mg of allopurinol per day will generally have plasma oxipurinol concentrations of 5-10 mg/litre.

Oxipurinol is eliminated unchanged in the urine but has a long elimination half-life because it undergoes tubular reabsorption. Reported values for the elimination half-life range from 13.6 hours to 29 hours. The large discrepancies in these values may be accounted for by variations in study design and/or creatinine clearance in the patients.

#### **Pharmacokinetics in patients with renal impairment**

Allopurinol and oxipurinol clearance is greatly reduced in patients with poor renal function resulting in higher plasma levels in chronic therapy. Patients with renal impairment, where creatinine clearance values were between 10 and 20 ml/min, showed plasma oxipurinol concentrations of approximately 30 mg/litre after prolonged treatment with 300 mg allopurinol per day. This is approximately the concentration which would be achieved by doses of 600 mg/day in those with normal renal function. A reduction in the dose of allopurinol is therefore required in patients with renal impairment.

#### **Pharmacokinetics in elderly patients**

The kinetics of the drug are not likely to be altered other than due to deterioration in renal function (see *Pharmacokinetics in patients with renal impairment*).

### 5.3 Preclinical safety data

#### Mutagenicity

Cytogenetic studies show that allopurinol does not induce chromosome aberrations in human blood cells *in vitro* at concentrations up to 100 micrograms/ml and *in vivo* at doses up to 600 mg/day for a mean period of 40 months.

Allopurinol does not produce nitroso compounds *in vitro* or affect lymphocyte transformation *in vitro*.

Evidence from biochemical and other cytological investigations strongly suggests that allopurinol has no deleterious effects on DNA at any stage of the cell cycle and is not mutagenic.

#### Carcinogenicity

No evidence of carcinogenicity has been found in mice and rats treated with allopurinol for up to 2 years.

#### Teratogenicity

One study in mice receiving intraperitoneal doses of 50 or 100 mg/kg on days 10 or 13 of gestation resulted in foetal abnormalities, however in a similar study in rats at 120 mg/kg on day 12 of gestation no abnormalities were observed. Extensive studies of high oral doses of allopurinol in mice up to 100 mg/kg/day, rats up to 200 mg/kg/day and rabbits up to 150 mg/kg/day during days 8 to 16 of gestation produced no teratogenic effects.

An *in vitro* study using foetal mouse salivary glands in culture to detect embryotoxicity indicated that allopurinol would not be expected to cause embryotoxicity without also causing maternal toxicity.

## 6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

### 6.1 List of excipients

Lactose

Maize starch

Povidone

Magnesium stearate

Sodium starch glycolate

### 6.2 Incompatibilities

Not known.

### 6.3 Shelf life

60 months.

**6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Securitainers: Store in a cool, dry place and protect from light.

Blister packs: Do not store above 25°C. Keep the blister in the outer carton to protect from light and moisture.

**6.5 Nature and contents of container**

Allopurinol 300mg tablets:

Blister strips comprising 250µm PVC film and 20µm Aluminium foil packed into an outer carton.

Pack sizes: 28, 30, 56, 60, 100

Securitainer with polyethylene closures.

Pack sizes: 28, 30, 56, 60 and 100.

**6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

Not applicable.

**7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

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HP4 1EG

**8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

PL 17907/0140

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

12/03/2009

**10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

25/02/2022.