SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Medoprazole, 20 mg, hard capsules.

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each capsule contains 20 mg omeprazole.

Excipient with known effect: sucrose.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Gastro-resistant capsules, hard.

Capsules: white hard gelatin capsules size "2" with opaque white cap and opaque white body.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1. Therapeutic indications

Medoprazole is indicated in:

Adults:

- Treatment of duodenal ulcers
- Prevention of relapse of duodenal ulcers
- Treatment of gastric ulcers
- Prevention of relapse of gastric ulcers
- In combination with appropriate antibiotics, *Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)* eradication in peptic ulcers disease
- Treatment of NSAID-associated gastric and duodenal ulcers
- Prevention of NSAID-associated gastric and duodenal ulcers in patients at risk
- Treatment of reflux oesophagitis
- Long-term management of patients with healed reflux oesophagitis
- Treatment of symptomatic gastro-oesophageal reflux disease
- Treatment of Zollinger – Ellison syndrome.

Children:

Children over 1 year of age and ≥ 10kg:

- Treatment of reflux oesophagitis.
- Symptomatic treatment of heartburn and acid regurgitation in gastro-esophageal reflux disease.

Children and adolescents over 4 years of age:

- In combination with antibiotics in treatment of duodenal ulcer caused by *H. pylori*.

4.2. Posology and method of administration

Posology

Adults:

Treatment of duodenal ulcers

The recommended dose in patients with an active duodenal ulcer is omeprazole 20 mg once daily. In most patients healing occurs within two weeks. For those patients who may not be fully healed after the initial course, healing usually occurs during a further two weeks treatment period. In patients with poorly responsive duodenal ulcer omeprazole 40 mg once daily is recommended and healing is usually achieved within four weeks.

Prevention of relapse of duodenal ulcers

For the prevention of relapse of duodenal ulcer in *H. pylori* negative patients or when *H. pylori* eradication is not possible the recommended dose is omeprazole 20 mg once daily. In some patients a daily dose of 10 mg may be sufficient. In case of therapy failure, the dose can be increased to 40 mg.

Treatment of gastric ulcers

The recommended dose is omeprazole 20 mg once daily. In most patients healing occurs within four weeks. For those patients who may not be fully healed after the initial course, healing usually occurs during a further four weeks treatment period. In patients with poorly responsive gastric ulcer omeprazole 40 mg once daily is recommended and healing is usually achieved within eight weeks.

Prevention of relapse of gastric ulcers

For the prevention of relapse in patients with poorly responsive gastric ulcer the recommended dose is omeprazole 20 mg once daily. If needed, the dose can be increased to omeprazole 40 mg once daily.

H. pylori eradication in peptic ulcer disease

For the eradication of *H. pylori* the selection of antibiotics should consider the individual

patient's drug tolerance, and should be undertaken in accordance with national, regional and local resistance patterns and treatment guidelines.

• Omeprazole 20 mg + clarithromycin 500 mg + amoxicillin 1,000 mg, each twice daily for one week, or

• Omeprazole 20 mg + clarithromycin 250 mg (alternatively 500 mg) + metronidazole 400 mg (or 500 mg or tinidazole 500 mg), each twice daily for one week or

• Omeprazole 40 mg once daily with amoxicillin 500 mg and metronidazole 400 mg (or 500 mg or tinidazole 500 mg), both three times a day for one week.

In each regimen, if the patient is still *H. pylori* positive, therapy may be repeated.

Treatment of NSAID-associated gastric and duodenal ulcers

For the treatment of NSAID-associated gastric and duodenal ulcers, the recommended dose is omeprazole 20 mg once daily. In most patients healing occurs within four weeks. For those patients who may not be fully healed after the initial course, healing usually occurs during a further four weeks treatment period.

Prevention of NSAID-associated gastric and duodenal ulcers in patients at risk

For the prevention of NSAID-associated gastric ulcers or duodenal ulcers in patients at risk (age> 60, previous history of gastric and duodenal ulcers, previous history of upper GI bleeding) the recommended dose is omeprazole 20 mg once daily.

Treatment of reflux oesophagitis

The recommended dose is omeprazole 20 mg once daily. In most patients healing occurs within four weeks. For those patients who may not be fully healed after the initial course, healing usually occurs during a further four weeks treatment period.

In patients with severe oesophagitis omeprazole 40 mg once daily is recommended and healing is usually achieved within eight weeks.

Long-term management of patients with healed reflux oesophagitis

For the long-term management of patients with healed reflux oesophagitis the recommended dose is omeprazole 10 mg once daily. If needed, the dose can be increased to omeprazole 20-40 mg once daily.

Treatment of symptomatic gastro-oesophageal reflux disease

The recommended dose is omeprazole 20 mg daily. Patients may respond adequately to 10

mg daily, and therefore individual dose adjustment should be considered.
If symptom control has not been achieved after four weeks treatment with omeprazole 20 mg daily, further investigation is recommended.

Treatment of Zollinger-Ellison syndrome
In patients with Zollinger-Ellison syndrome the dose should be individually adjusted and treatment continued as long as clinically indicated. The recommended initial dose is omeprazole 60 mg daily. All patients with severe disease and inadequate response to other therapies have been effectively controlled and more than 90% of the patients maintained on doses of omeprazole 20-120 mg daily. When dose exceed 80 mg daily, the dose should be divided and given twice daily.

Paediatric population:
Children over 1 year of age and 10 kg

Treatment of reflux oesophagitis

Symptomatic treatment of heartburn and acid regurgitation in gastro-oesophageal reflux disease

Dosage recommendations:

Age	Weight	Dosage
≥ 1 year of age	10-20 Kg	10mg once daily. The dosage can be increased to 20mg once daily if needed
≥ 2 year of age	>20Kg	20mg once daily. The dosage can be increased to 40mg once daily if needed

Reflux oesophagitis: The treatment time is 4-8 weeks.
Symptomatic treatment of heartburn and acid regurgitation in gastro-oesophageal reflux disease: The treatment time is 2–4 weeks. If symptom control has not been achieved after 2–4 weeks the patient should be investigated further.

Children and adolescents over 4 years of age
Treatment of duodenal ulcer caused by Helicobacter pylori.
When selecting appropriate combination therapy, consideration should be given to official national, regional and local guidance regarding bacterial resistance, duration of treatment (most

commonly 7 days but sometimes up to 14 days) and appropriate use of antibacterial agents. The treatment should be supervised by a specialist.

The posology recommendations are as follows:

Weight	*Dosage*
15 - 30Kg	*Combination with two antibiotics: Omeprazole 10mg, amoxicillin 25mg/kg body weight and clarithromycin 7.5mg/Kg body weight are all administrated together 2 times daily for 1 week*
30 - 40Kg	*Combination with two antibiotics: Omeprazole 20mg, amoxicillin 750mg and clarithromycin 7.5mg/kg body weight are all administered 2 times daily for 1 week*
>40Kg	*Combination with two antibiotics: Omeprazole 20mg, amoxicillin 1g and clarithromycin 500mg are all administrated 2 times daily for 1 week*

Special populations:

Impaired renal function:

Dosage adjustment is not needed in patients with impared in renal function (see section 5.2).

Impaired hepatic function:

In patients with impaired hepatic function a daily dose of 10–20 mg may be sufficient (see section 5.2).

Elderly (> 65 years old)

Dose adjustment is not needed in the elderly (see section 5.2).

Method of administration

It is recommended to take Medoprazole capsules in the morning, preferably without food, swallowed whole with half a glass of water. The capsules must not be chewed or crushed.

For patients with swallowing difficulties and for children who can drink or swallow semi-solid food

Patients can open the capsule and swallow the contents with half a glass of water or after mixing the contents in a slightly acidic fluid e.g., fruit juice or applesauce, or in non-carbonated water. Patients should be advised that the dispersion should be taken immediately

(or within 30 minutes) and always be stirred just before drinking and rinsed down with half a glass of water.
Alternatively patients can suck the capsule and swallow the pellets with half a glass of water. The enteric-coated pellets must not be chewed.

4.3. Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to omeprazole, substituted benzimidazoles or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

Omeprazole, like other PPIs (proton pump inhibitors) must not be used concomitantly with nelfinavir (see section 4.5).

4.4. Special warnings and precautions for use

In the presence of any alarm symptom (e.g. significant unintentional weight loss, recurrent vomiting, dysphagia, haematemesis or melena) and when gastric ulcer is suspected or present, malignancy should be excluded, as treatment may alleviate symptoms and delay diagnosis.
Co-administration of atazanavir with proton pump inhibitors is not recommended (see section 4.5). If the combination of atazanavir with a proton pump inhibitor is judged unavoidable, close clinical monitoring (e.g virus load) is recommended in combination with an increase in the dose of atazanavir to 400 mg with 100 mg of ritonavir; omeprazole 20 mg should not be exceeded.
Omeprazole, as all acid-blocking medicines, may reduce the absorption of vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin) due to hypo- or achlorhydria. This should be considered in patients with reduced body stores or risk factors for reduced vitamin B12 absorption on long-term therapy.
Omeprazole is a CYP2C19 inhibitor. When starting or ending treatment with omeprazole, the potential for interactions with drugs metabolised through CYP2C19 should be considered. An interaction is observed between clopidogrel and omeprazole (see section 4.5). The clinical relevance of this interaction is uncertain. As a precaution, concomitant use of omeprazole and clopidogrel should be discouraged.
Some children with chronic illnesses may require long term treatment although it is not recommended.
Treatment with proton pump inhibitors may lead to slightly increased risk of gastrointestinal infections such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* (see section 5.1).
As in all long-term treatments, especially when exceeding a treatment period of 1 year,

patients should be kept under regular surveillance.

Renal impairment

Acute tubulointerstitial nephritis (TIN) has been observed in patients taking omeprazole and may occur at any point during omeprazole therapy (see section 4.8). Acute tubulointerstitial nephritis can progress to renal failure.

Omeprazole should be discontinued in case of suspected TIN, and appropriate treatment should be promptly initiated.

Hypomagnesaemia

Severe hypomagnesaemia has been reported in patients treated with PPIs like omeprazole for at least three months, and in most cases for a year. Serious manifestations of hypomagnesaemia such as fatigue, tetany, delirium, convulsions, dizziness and ventricular arrhythmia can occur but they may begin insidiously and be overlooked. In most affected patients, hypomagnesaemia improved after magnesium replacement and discontinuation of the PPI.

For patients expected to be on prolonged treatment or who take PPIs with digoxin or drugs that may cause hypomagnesaemia (e.g., diuretics), health care professionals should consider measuring magnesium levels before starting PPI treatment and periodically during treatment.

Proton pump inhibitors, especially if used in high doses and over long durations (>1 year), may modestly increase the risk of hip, wrist and spine fracture, predominantly in the elderly or in presence of other recognised risk factors. Observational studies suggest that proton pump inhibitors may increase the overall risk of fracture by 10–40%. Some of this increase may be due to other risk factors. Patients at risk of osteoporosis should receive care according to current clinical guidelines and they should have an adequate intake of vitamin D and calcium.

Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE)

Proton pump inhibitors are associated with very infrequent cases of SCLE. If lesions occur, especially in sun-exposed areas of the skin, and if accompanied by arthralgia, the patient should seek medical help promptly and the health care professional should consider stopping Medoprazole. SCLE after previous treatment with a proton pump inhibitor may increase the risk of SCLE with other proton pump inhibitors.

Medoprazole contains sucrose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take

this medicine.

4.5. Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Effects of omeprazole on the pharmacokinetics of other active substances

Active substances with pH dependent absorption

The decreased intragastric acidity during treatment with omeprazole might increase or decrease the absorption of active substances with a gastric pH dependent absorption.

Nelfinavir, atazanavir

The plasma levels of nelfinavir and atazanavir are decreased in case of co-administration with omeprazole.

Concomitant administration of omeprazole with nelfinavir is contraindicated (see section 4.3). Co- administration of omeprazole (40 mg once daily) reduced mean nelvinavir exposure by ca. 40% and the mean exposure of the pharmacologically active metabolite M8 was reduced by ca. 75 –90%. The interaction may also involve CYP2C19 inhibition.

Concomitant administration of omeprazole with atazanavir is not recommended (see section 4.4). Concomitant administration of omeprazole (40 mg once daily) and atazanavir 300 mg/ritonavir 100 mg to healthy volunteers resulted in a 75% decrease of the atazanavir exposure. Increasing the atazanavir dose to 400 mg did not compensate for the impact of omeprazole on atazanavir exposure. The co-administration of omeprazole (20 mg once daily) with atazanavir 400 mg/ritonavir 100 mg to healthy volunteers resulted in a decrease of approximately 30% in the atazanavir exposure as compared to atazanavir 300 mg/ritonavir 100 mg once daily.

Digoxin

Concomitant treatment with omeprazole (20 mg daily) and digoxin in healthy subjects increased the bioavailability of digoxin by 10%. Digoxin toxicity has been rarely reported. However caution should be exercised when omeprazole is given at high doses in elderly patients. Therapeutic drug monitoring of digoxin should be then be reinforced.

Clopidogrel

In a crossover clinical study, clopidogrel (300 mg loading dose followed by 75 mg/day) alone and with omeprazole (80 mg at the same time as clopidogrel) were administered for 5

days. The exposure to the active metabolite of clopidogrel was decreased by 46% (Day 1) and 42% (Day 5) when clopidogrel and omeprazole were administered together. Mean inhibition of platelet aggregation (IPA) was diminished by 47% (24 hours) and 30% (Day 5) when clopidogrel and omeprazole were administered together. In another study it was shown that administering clopidogrel and omeprazole at different times did not prevent their interaction that is likely to be driven by the inhibitory effect of omeprazole on CYP2C19. Inconsistent data on the clinical implications of this PK/PD interaction in terms of major cardiovascular events have been reported from observational and clinical studies.

Other active substances

The absorption of posaconazole, erlotinib, ketoconazol and itraconazol is significantly reduced and thus clinical efficacy may be impaired. For posaconazol and erlotinib concomitant use should be avoided.

Active substances metabolised by CYP2C19

Omeprazole is a moderate inhibitor of CYP2C19, the major omeprazole metabolising enzyme. Thus, the metabolism of concomitant active substances also metabolised by CYP2C19, may be decreased and the systemic exposure to these substances increased. Examples of such drugs are R- warfarin and other vitamin K antagonists, cilostazol, diazepam and phenytoin.

Cilostazol

Omeprazole, given in doses of 40 mg to healthy subjects in a cross-over study, increased Cmax and AUC for cilostazol by 18% and 26% respectively, and one of its active metabolites by 29% and 69% respectively.

Phenytoin

Monitoring phenytoin plasma concentration is recommended during the first two weeks after initiating omeprazole treatment and, if a phenytoin dose adjustment is made, monitoring and a further dose adjustment should occur upon ending omeprazole treatment.

<u>Unknown mechanism:</u>

Saquinavir

Concomitant administration of omeprazole with saquinavir/ritonavir resulted in increased

plasma levels up to approximately 70% for saquinavir associated with good tolerability in HIV-infected patients.

Tacrolimus

Concomitant administration of omeprazole has been reported to increase the serum levels of tacrolimus. A reinforced monitoring of tacrolimus concentrations as well as renal function (creatinine clearance) should be performed, and dosage of tacrolimus adjusted if needed.

Effects of other active substances on the pharmacokinetics of omeprazole

Inhibitors CYP2C19 and/or CYP3A4

Since omeprazole is metabolised by CYP2C19 and CYP3A4, active substances known to inhibit CYP2C19 or CYP3A4 (such as clarithromycin and voriconazole) may lead to increased omeprazole serum levels by decreasing omeprazole's rate of metabolism. Concomitant voriconazole treatment resulted in more than doubling of the omeprazole exposure. As high doses of omeprazole have been well-tolerated adjustment of the omeprazole dose is not generally required. However, dose adjustment should be considered in patients with severe hepatic impairment and if long-term treatment is indicated.

Inducers of CYP2C19 and/or CYP3A4

Active substances known to induce CYP2C19 or CYP3A4 or both (such as rifampicin and St John's wort) may lead to decreased omeprazole serum levels by increasing omeprazole's rate of metabolism.

4.6. Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Results from three prospective epidemiological studies (more than 1000 exposed outcomes) indicate no adverse effects of omeprazole on pregnancy or on the health of the foetus/newborn child. Omeprazole can be used during pregnancy.

Omeprazole is excreted in breast milk but is not likely to influence the child when therapeutic doses are used.

4.7. Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Medoprazole is not likely to affect the ability to drive or use machines. Adverse drug reactions such as dizziness and visual disturbances may occur (see section 4.8). If affected, patients should not drive or operate machinery.

4.8. Undesirable effects

The most common side effects (1-10% of patients) are headache, abdominal pain, constipation, diarrhoea, flatulence and nausea/vomiting.

The following adverse drug reactions have been identified or suspected in the clinical trials programme for omeprazole and post-marketing. None was found to be dose-related. Adverse reactions listed below are classified according to frequency and System Organ Class (SOC).

Frequency categories are defined according to the following convention: 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), Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

SOC/frequency	**Adverse reaction**
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	
Rare:	Leukopenia, thrombocytopenia
Very rare:	Agranulocytosis, pancytopenia
Immune system disorders	
Rare:	Hypersensitivity reactions e.g. fever, angioedema and anaphylactic reaction/shock
Metabolism and nutritional disorders	
Rare:	Hyponatraemia
Not known:	Hypomagnesaemia [See Special warnings and precautions for use (4.4)]
Psychiatric disorders	
Uncommon:	Insomnia
Rare:	Agitation, confusion, depression

Very rare:	Aggression, hallucinations
Nervous system disorders	
Common:	Headache
Uncommon:	Dizziness, paraesthesia, somnolence
Rare:	Taste disturbance
Eye disorders	
Rare:	Blurred vision
Ear and labyrinth disorders	
Uncommon:	Vertigo
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	
Rare:	Bronchospasm
Gastrointestinal disorders	
Common:	Abdominal pain, constipation, diarrhoea, flatulence, nausea/vomiting
Rare:	Dry mouth, stomatitis, gastrointestinal candidiasis
Hepatobiliary disorders	
Uncommon:	Increased liver enzymes
Rare:	Hepatitis with or without jaundice
Very rare:	Hepatic failure, encephalopathy in patients with pre-existing liver disease
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	

Uncommon:	Dermatitis, pruritus, rash, urticaria
Rare:	Alopecia, photosensitivity
Very rare:	Erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN)
Not known:	Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (see section 4.4).
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	
Uncommon:	Fracture of the hip, wrist or spine (see section 4.4).
Rare:	Arthralgia, myalgia
Very rare:	Muscular weakness
Renal and urinary disorders	
Rare:	Tubulointerstitial nephritis (with possible progression to renal failure)
Reproductive system and breast disorders	
Very rare:	Gynaecomastia
General disorders and administration site conditions	
Uncommon:	Malaise, peripheral oedema
Rare:	Increased sweating

Paediatric population

The safety of omeprazole has been assessed in a total of 310 children aged 0 to 16 years with acid- related disease. There are limited long term safety data from 46 children who received maintenance therapy of omeprazole during a clinical study for severe erosive oesophagitis for up to 749 days. The adverse event profile was generally the same as for adults in short-as well as in long term treatment. There are no long term data regarding the effects of omeprazole treatment on puberty and growth.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reaction after authorization of the medicinal product is important.

It allows continued monitoring or the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the ADR Reporting website: www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal

4.9. Overdose

There is limited information available on the effects of overdoses of omeprazole in humans. In the literature, doses of up to 560 mg have been described, and occasional reports have been received when single oral doses have reached up to 2,400 mg omeprazole (120 times the usual recommended clinical dose). Nausea, vomiting, dizziness, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and headache have been reported. Also apathy, depression and confusion have been described in single cases.

The symptoms described have been transient, and no serious outcome has been reported. The rate of elimination was unchanged (first order kinetics) with increased doses. Treatment, if needed, is symptomatic.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1. Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Proton pump inhibitor, ATC code: A02BC01.

Mechanism of action

Omeprazole, a racemic mixture of two enantiomers reduces gastric acid secretion through a highly targeted mechanism of action. It is a specific inhibitor of the acid pump in the parietal cell. It is rapidly acting and provides control through reversible inhibition of gastric acid secretion with once daily dosing.

Omeprazole is a weak base and is concentrated and converted to the active form in the highly acidic environment of the intracellular canaliculi within the parietal cell, where it inhibits the enzyme H^+ K^+-ATPase - the acid pump. This effect on the final step of the gastric acid formation process is dose-dependent and provides for highly effective inhibition of both basal acid secretion and stimulated acid secretion, irrespective of stimulus.

Pharmacodynamic effects

All pharmacodynamic effects observed can be explained by the effect of omeprazole on acid secretion.

Effect on gastric acid secretion

Oral dosing with omeprazole once daily provides for rapid and effective inhibition of daytime and night-time gastric acid secretion with maximum effect being achieved within 4 days of treatment. With omeprazole 20 mg, a mean decrease of at least 80% in 24-hour intragastric acidity is then maintained in duodenal ulcer patients, with the mean decrease in peak acid output after pentagastrin stimulation being about 70% 24 hours after dosing.

Oral dosing with omeprazole 20 mg maintains an intragastric pH of 3 for a mean time of 17 hours of the 24-hour period in duodenal ulcer patients.

As a consequence of reduced acid secretion and intragastric acidity, omeprazole dose-dependently reduces/normalizes acid exposure of the oesophagus in patients with gastro-oesophageal reflux disease.

The inhibition of acid secretion is related to the area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) of omeprazole and not to the actual plasma concentration at a given time.

No tachyphylaxis has been observed during treatment with omeprazole.

Effect on H. pylori

H. pylori is associated with peptic ulcer disease, including duodenal and gastric ulcer disease. *H. pylori* is a major factor in the development of gastritis. *H. pylori* together with gastric acid are major factors in the development of peptic ulcer disease. *H. pylori* is a major factor in the development of atrophic gastritis which is associated with an increased risk of developing gastric cancer.

Eradication of *H. pylori* with omeprazole and antimicrobials is associated with, high rates of healing and long-term remission of peptic ulcers.

Dual therapies have been tested and found to be less effective than triple therapies. They could, however, be considered in cases where known hypersensitivity precludes use of any triple combination.

Other effects related to acid inhibition

During long-term treatment gastric glandular cysts have been reported in a somewhat increased frequency. These changes are a physiological consequence of pronounced inhibition of acid secretion, are benign and appear to be reversible.

Decreased gastric acidity due to any means including proton pump inhibitors, increases gastric counts of bacteria normally present in the gastrointestinal tract. Treatment with acid-reducing drugs may lead to slightly increased risk of gastrointestinal infections such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter.*

Also chromogranin A (CgA) increases due to decreased gastric acidity. The increased CgA level may interfere with investigations for neuroendocrine tumours. To avoid this interference the omeprazole treatment should be temporarily stopped five days before CgA measurements.

Paediatric population

In a non-controlled study in children (1 to 16 years of age) with severe reflux oesophagitis, omeprazole at doses of 0.7 to 1.4mg/kg improved oesophagitis level in 90% of the cases and significantly reduced reflux symptoms. In a single blind study, children aged 0-24 months with clinically diagnosed GERD were treated with 0.5, 1.0 or 1.5mg omeprazole/kg. The frequency of vomiting/regurgitation episodes decreased by 50% after 8 weeks of treatment irrespective of the dose.

Eradication of Helicobacter pylori in children:

A randomized, double blind clinical study (Heliot study) has concluded to the efficacy and an acceptable safety for omeprazole associated to two antibiotics (amoxicillin and clarithromycin) in the treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in children of 4 years old and above with gastritis: *Helicobacter pylory* eradication rate: 74.2% (23/31 patients) with omeprazole + amoxicillin + clarithromycin versus 9.4% (3/32 patients) with amoxicillin + clarithromycin. However, there was no evidence of clinical benefit demonstrated regarding dyspeptic symptoms. This study does not support any information for children aged less than 4 years old.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Omeprazole and omeprazole magnesium are acid labile and are therefore administered orally as enteric-coated granules in capsules or tablets. Absorption of omeprazole is rapid, with peak plasma levels occurring approximately 1-2 hours after dose. Absorption of omeprazole takes place in the small intestine and is usually completed within 3-6 hours. Concomitant intake of food has no influence on the bioavailability. The systemic availability (bioavailability) from a single oral dose of omeprazole is approximately 40%. After repeated once-daily administration, the bioavailability increases to about 60%.

Distribution

The apparent volume of distribution in healthy subjects is approximately 0.3 l/kg body weight. Omeprazole is 97% plasma protein bound.

Biotransformation

Omeprazole is completely metabolised by the cytochrome P450 system (CYP). The major part of its metabolism is dependent on the polymorphically expressed CYP2C19, responsible for the formation of hydroxyomeprazole, the major metabolite in plasma. The remaining part is dependent on another specific isoform, CYP3A4, responsible for the formation of omeprazole sulphone. As a consequence of high affinity of omeprazole to CYP2C19, there is a potential for competitive inhibition and metabolic drug-drug interactions with other substrates for CYP2C19. However, due to low affinity to CYP3A4, omeprazole has no potential to inhibit the metabolism of other CYP3A4 substrates. In addition, omeprazole lacks an inhibitory effect on the main CYP enzymes.

Approximately 3% of the Caucasian population and 15-20% of Asian populations lack a functional CYP2C19 enzyme and are called poor metabolisers. In such individuals the metabolism of omeprazole is probably mainly catalysed by CYP3A4. After repeated once-daily administration of 20 mg omeprazole, the mean AUC was 5 to 10 times higher in poor metabolisers than in subjects having a functional CYP2C19 enzyme (extensive metabolisers). Mean peak plasma concentrations were also higher, by 3 to 5 times. These findings have no implications for the posology of omeprazole.

Elimination

The plasma elimination half-life of omeprazole is usually shorter than one hour both after single and repeated oral once-daily dosing. Omeprazole is completely eliminated from plasma between doses with no tendency for accumulation during once-daily administration. Almost 80% of an oral dose of omeprazole is excreted as metabolites in the urine, the remainder in the faeces, primarily originating from bile secretion.

The AUC of omeprazole increases with repeated administration. This increase is dose-dependent and results in a non-linear dose-AUC relationship after repeated administration. This time- and dose-dependency is due to a decrease of first pass metabolism and systemic clearance probably caused by an inhibition of the CYP2C19 enzyme by omeprazole and/or its metabolites (e.g. the sulphone).

No metabolite has been found to have any effect on gastric acid secretion.

Special populations

Impaired hepatic function

The metabolism of omeprazole in patients with liver dysfunction is impaired, resulting in

an increased AUC. Omeprazole has not shown any tendency to accumulate with once daily dosing.

Impaired renal function

The pharmacokinetics of omeprazole, including systemic bioavailability and elimination rate, are unchanged in patients with reduced renal function.

Elderly

The metabolism rate of omeprazole is somewhat reduced in elderly subjects (75-79 years of age).

Paediatric patients

During treatment with the recommended doses to children from the age of 1 year, similar plasma concentrations were obtained as compared to adults. In children younger than 6 months, clearance of omeprazole is low due to low capacity to metabolise omeprazole.

5.3. Preclinical safety data

Gastric ECL-cell hyperplasia and carcinoids, have been observed in life-long studies in rats treated with omeprazole. These changes are the result of sustained hypergastrinaemia secondary to acid inhibition. Similar findings have been made after treatment with H2-receptor antagonists, proton pump inhibitors and after partial fundectomy. Thus, these changes are not from a direct effect of any individual active substance.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1. List of excipients

Sugar pellets (Manitol, Hydroxyl propyl methyl cellulose, Methacrylic acid copolymer dispersion, Sodium lauryl sulphate, Disodium hydrogen ortho phosphate, Diethyl phthalate, Sucrose, Titanium dioxide (E171), Povidone K-30, Calcium Carbonate, Talc, Polysorbate 80, Sodium hydroxide) gelatine and titanium dioxide (E171).

6.2. Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3. Shelf life

3 years

6.4. Special precautions for storage

Store below 25^{O}C in the original package in order to protect from light

6.5. Nature and contents of container:

PVC bottles, sealed with a PVC cap with 20 capsules. PVC/Al
blisters in carton boxes of 10, 20, 30 or 60 capsules.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6. Special precautions for disposal and other handling

A sachet containing desiccant is included into the bottles. Do not swallow it.
Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

MEDOCHEMIE LTD, 1-10 Constantinioupoleos Str.
P.O. Box 51409 CY-3505
Limassol, Cyprus

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

MA032/04501

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 13/03/2007
Date of latest renewal: 30/09/2012

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

02/2026