

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Lemsip Max Cold and Flu Blackcurrant 1000 mg Powder for Oral Solution

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Active Constituents **mg/Sachet**

Paracetamol	1000.0
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Excipient(s) with known effect:

Aspartame 61.5 mg/sachet

Sodium 128.71 mg (5.6 mmol) / sachet

Sucrose 2.11 g/sachet

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Powder for oral solution.

A lilac unit-dose powder for oral solution with the odour and flavour of blackcurrants.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

For the relief of the symptoms associated with the common cold or influenza, including fever, headache, sore throat, body aches and pains.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Paracetamol should be used at the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible time. The maximum daily dose must not be exceeded.

Posology

Adults, the elderly and adolescents aged 16 years and over: The usual dose is 1 sachet up to 4 times daily. The dose may be repeated in 4 hours with a maximum of four doses in a 24 hour period.

In all patients over 16 years of age, the maximum daily dose of paracetamol should not exceed 60 mg/kg/day (up to a maximum of 2 g per day) in the following situations, unless directed by a physician: (see section 4.4)

- Weight less than 50kg
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Chronic alcoholism

Renal impairment

Paracetamol should be used with caution in patients with renal impairment as a reduced dose and/or prolonged dosing interval may be necessary (see section 4.4).

Hepatic impairment

Paracetamol should be used with caution in patients with hepatic impairment as a reduced dose or prolonged dosing interval may be necessary (see section 4.4).

The elderly

Experience has indicated that normal adult dosage of paracetamol is usually appropriate. However, in frail, immobile elderly subjects or in elderly patients with renal or hepatic impairment, a reduction in the amount or frequency of dosing may be appropriate (see section 4.4).

Paediatric population under 16 years:

Do not give to children under 16 years of age.

For children under 16 years, other formulations and dosage strengths are available which may be more appropriate.

Method of administration

For oral administration after dissolution in water. Contents of one sachet dissolved by stirring in hot, not boiling water, and sweetened to taste.

For instructions on reconstitution of the medicinal product before administration, see section 6.6.

4.3 Contraindications

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

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Serious skin reactions, including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, and acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis, have been reported very rarely in association with paracetamol. These severe hypersensitivity reactions are potentially life threatening. The product should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash, mucosal lesions, or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

Patients with hepatitis, non-cirrhotic alcoholic liver disease, hepatic insufficiency or renal insufficiency are at an increased risk of adverse reactions associated with paracetamol use. These patients should seek the advice of a doctor before taking this product.

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Label warnings: Do not exceed the stated dose. Keep out of the reach of children. Contains paracetamol (panel). If symptoms persist, consult your doctor. Do not take any other paracetamol-containing products. Total sugars 2.2 g. Contains aspartame (E951) which contains a source of phenylalanine. May be harmful to people with phenylketonuria. Immediate medical advice should be sought in the event of overdosage even if you feel well. Please read the enclosed leaflet carefully.

Leaflet: Immediate medical advice should be sought in the event of overdosage, because of the risk of irreversible liver damage.

Paracetamol should be administered with caution under the following circumstances (see section 4.2 where relevant):

- Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency
- Haemolytic anaemia
- Glutathione deficiency
- Dehydration
- Elderly

Cases of paracetamol induced hepatotoxicity, including fatal cases, have been reported in patients taking paracetamol at doses within the therapeutic range. These cases were reported in patients with one or more risk factors for hepatotoxicity including low body weight (<50 kg), renal and hepatic impairment, chronic alcoholism, concomitant intake of hepatotoxic drugs, and in acute and chronic malnutrition (low reserves of hepatic glutathione). Paracetamol should be administered with caution to patients with these risk factors. Caution is also advised in patients on concomitant treatment with drugs that induce hepatic enzymes and in conditions which may predispose to glutathione deficiency (see sections 4.2 and 4.9). Doses of paracetamol should be reviewed at clinically appropriate intervals and patients should be monitored for emergence of new risk factors for hepatotoxicity which may warrant dosage adjustment.

In general, medicinal products containing paracetamol should be taken for only a few days without the advice of a physician or dentist and not at high doses.

If high fever or signs of secondary infection occur or if symptoms persist for longer than 3 days, a physician should be consulted.

Prolonged or frequent use is discouraged. Patients should be advised not to take other paracetamol containing products concurrently. Taking multiple daily doses in one administration can severely damage the liver; in such case medical assistance should be sought immediately.

Use with caution in patients with diabetes. Each sachet contains approximately 2.11 g of sucrose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance, glucose-galactose malabsorption or sucrase-isomaltase insufficiency should not take this medicine.

This medicinal product contains 128.71 mg sodium per sachet, equivalent to 6.4% of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake of 2 g sodium for an adult.

This product is considered high in sodium. This should be taken into account for those on a low salt diet.

This medicine contains 61.5 mg aspartame in each sachet.

Aspartame is a source of phenylalanine. It may be harmful if you have phenylketonuria (PKU), a rare genetic disorder in which phenylalanine builds up because the body cannot remove it properly.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Paracetamol may falsely elevate continuous blood glucose monitor (CGM) readings compared to finger stuck (BG meter) readings.

Antiemetics: The speed of absorption of Paracetamol may be increased by metoclopramide or domperidone.

Anticoagulants: Large doses or prolonged regular daily use of paracetamol may potentiate anticoagulant the effects of warfarin and other coumarin anticoagulants with increased risk of bleeding.

Cholestyramine: Paracetamol absorption may be reduced by cholestyramine.

The hepatotoxicity of paracetamol may be potentiated by other drugs that affect the liver.

Concurrent use of paracetamol and flucloxacillin is associated with an increased risk of metabolic acidosis, especially in patients with severe renal impairment, hepatic impairment, sepsis, malnutrition and chronic alcoholism.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

A large amount of data on pregnant women indicate neither malformative, nor feto/neonatal toxicity. Epidemiological studies on neurodevelopment in children exposed to paracetamol in utero show inconclusive results. If clinically needed, Paracetamol can be used during pregnancy if clinically needed however it should be used at the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible time and at the lowest possible frequency.

Breast-feeding

Paracetamol is excreted in breast milk, but not in a clinically significant amount. Product use is compatible with breast-feeding.

Fertility

No known effects.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

None.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Side-effects are rare when the product is used correctly.

Skin rashes and other allergic reactions occur occasionally with paracetamol.

Adverse events which have been associated with paracetamol are given below, tabulated by system organ class and frequency. Frequencies are defined as: 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 ($< 1/10,000$); Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data). Within each frequency grouping, adverse events are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

System Organ Class	Frequency	Adverse Events
Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders	Not known	Thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders	Not known	Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis ¹ Skin rash

Description of Selected Adverse Reactions

¹ Very rare cases of serious skin reactions have been reported (see section 4.4).

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 HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Website: www.hpra.ie

4.9 Overdose

Paracetamol overdose can result in liver damage which may be fatal.

Symptoms generally appear within the first 24 hours and may comprise: nausea, vomiting, anorexia, pallor, and abdominal pain, or patients may be asymptomatic.

Overdose of paracetamol can cause liver cell necrosis likely to induce complete and irreversible necrosis, resulting in hepatocellular insufficiency, metabolic acidosis and encephalopathy which may lead to coma and death. Simultaneously, increased levels of hepatic transaminases (AST, ALT), lactate dehydrogenase and bilirubin are observed together with increased prothrombin levels that may appear 12 to 48 hours after administration.

Liver damage is likely in patients who have taken more than the recommended amounts of paracetamol. It is considered that excess quantities of toxic metabolite become irreversibly bound to liver tissue.

Some patients may be at increased risk of liver damage from paracetamol toxicity:

Risk factors include;

- Patients with liver disease
- Elderly patients
- Young children
- Patients receiving long-term treatment with carbamazepine, phenobarbitone, phenytoin, primidone, rifampicin, St John's Wort or other drugs that induce liver enzymes.
- Patients who regularly consume ethanol in excess of recommended amounts
- Patients with glutathione depletion e.g. eating disorders, cystic fibrosis, HIV infection, starvation, cachexia

Acute renal failure with acute tubular necrosis may also develop.

Cardiac arrhythmias and pancreatitis have also been reported.

Emergency Procedure:

Immediate transfer to hospital.

Blood sampling to determine initial paracetamol plasma concentration. In the case of a single acute overdose, paracetamol plasma concentration should be measured 4 hours post ingestion. Administration of activated charcoal should be considered if the overdose of paracetamol has been ingested within the previous hour.

The antidote N-acetylcysteine, should be administered as soon as possible in accordance with national treatment guidelines.

Symptomatic treatment should be implemented.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharcotherapeutic Group: Analgesics, Anilides; **ATC Code:** N02BE01

Paracetamol has both analgesic and antipyretic activity which is believed to be mediated principally through its inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis within the central nervous system.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Paracetamol is absorbed rapidly and completely mainly from the small intestine producing peak plasma levels after 15-20 minutes following oral dosing.

The systemic availability is subject to first-pass metabolism and varies with dose between 70% and 90%. The drug is rapidly and widely distributed throughout the body and is eliminated from plasma with a $T_{1/2}$ of approximately 2 hours. The major metabolites are glucuronide and sulphate conjugates (>80%) which are excreted in urine.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Conventional studies using the currently accepted standards for the evaluation of toxicity to reproduction and development are not available.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Sucrose (pulverized)
Sucrose (caster)
Ascorbic acid
Citric acid anhydrous
Sodium citrate
Blackcurrant flavour
Aspartame (E951)
Enocyanin (E163)
Saccharin sodium

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

Two years.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25°C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Heat-sealed sachet of paper/polyethylene/aluminium foil/polyethylene laminate in an outer cardboard carton containing 5 or 10 sachets.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special precautions.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Reckitt Benckiser Ireland Ltd
7 Riverwalk
Citywest Business Campus
Dublin 24
Ireland

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA0979/021/003

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 23rd November 2007

Date of last renewal: 23rd November 2012

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

May 2023