

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Ferrograd 325mg Prolonged release Tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains Dried Ferrous Sulphate 325mg (elemental iron 105mg)

Excipients with known effect:

Each tablet contains 19.4mg lactose monohydrate and sunset yellow FCF (E110).

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Prolonged release tablet.

Circular, biconvex, red film-coated tablet.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

For the prevention and treatment of iron deficiency anaemias.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Adults: The recommended dosage is one tablet daily before food.

Children: Not recommended for children under 12 years. Above this age, as for adults.

Elderly: As for adults. The sustained release tablet and its plastic inert matrix may cause a safety hazard in some elderly or other patients suffering from delayed intestinal transit.

Method of administration:

The tablets should not be sucked, chewed or kept in the mouth, but swallowed whole with water. Tablets should be taken before meals or during meals, depending on gastrointestinal tolerance.

4.3 Contraindications

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

Use in patients with intestinal diverticular disease or any intestinal obstruction.

Use in patients with haemochromatosis and iron overload syndromes.

Use in patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

The label will state "Important warning: Contains iron. Keep out of reach and sight of children, as overdose may be fatal". This will appear on the front of the pack within a rectangle in which there is no other information.

As with all iron preparations, this product should be used with caution in patients with haemochromatosis, haemolytic anaemia or haemoglobinopathies. The sustained release tablet and its inert plastic matrix may cause a safety hazard in patients suffering from delayed intestinal transit. There may also be a further delay in release of the iron.

Caution is advised in individuals with a family history of haemochromatosis or iron overload syndromes. It should be noted these conditions may be underdiagnosed. Overdose may be fatal.

Ferrograd contains the colour E110, which may cause allergic type reactions including asthma; allergy is more common in those people who are allergic to aspirin.

This product should only be used for the prevention and treatment of iron deficiency anaemia diagnosed by laboratory testing under the supervision of a medical doctor.

Due to the risk of mouth ulcerations and tooth discolouration, tablets should not be sucked, chewed or kept in the mouth, but swallowed whole with water.

Aspiration of iron sulfate tablets can cause necrosis of the bronchial mucosa which may result in coughing, haemoptysis, bronchostenosis and/or pulmonary infection (even if aspiration happened days to months before these symptoms occurred). Elderly patients and patients who have difficulties swallowing should only be treated with iron sulfate tablets after a careful evaluation of the individual patient's risk of aspiration. Alternative formulations should be considered. Patients should seek medical attention in case of suspected aspiration.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Iron salts diminish the absorption of tetracyclines. Tetracycline antibiotics should be taken at least 2 hours before or 3 hours after taking Ferrograd.

Concurrent administration of oral iron preparations may interfere with the oral absorption of some quinolone anti-infective agents (e.g. ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin), resulting in decreased serum and urine concentrations of the quinolones. Therefore, oral iron preparations should not be ingested within one hour before or within four hours of a dose of an oral quinolone.

Thyroid hormones: Oral iron reduces the absorption of levothyroxine (thyroxine) thus should be given at least 2 hours apart.

Iron salts may reduce the bioavailability of metyldopa, the absorption of levodopa and penicillamine may also be reduced.

The absorption of iron salts is decreased in the presence of antacids and preparations containing zinc, calcium, phosphorus or when taken with tea, coffee, milk, eggs, wholegrain cereals and dietary fibre. Therefore, oral iron preparations should not be taken within one hour before or two hours after ingestion of these products. Iron absorption may be increased by ascorbic or citric acid.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Iron containing products if required, should be used during pregnancy after the first 13 weeks.

Iron is excreted in breast milk so consult your doctor if you intend breast feeding.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Ferrograd has no influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Those associated with conventional oral iron preparations, i.e. nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or discomfort, diarrhoea and/or constipation, are less likely to occur because of the sustained release nature of the formulation. Haematemesis and ileus have been reported.

Post marketing: The following ADRs have been reported during post-marketing surveillance. The frequency of these reactions is considered not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:

Bronchial stenosis (see section 4.4)

Gastrointestinal disorders:

mouth ulceration*

*in the context of incorrect administration, when the tablets are chewed, sucked, or kept in mouth. Elderly patients and patients with deglutition disorders may also be at risk of oesophageal lesions or of bronchial necrosis, in case of false route.

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 HPRC Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517.

Website: www.hpra.ie; E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie.

4.9 Overdose

Initial symptoms of iron overdosage include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, haematemesis, rectal bleeding. However, following a massive overdose, these initial symptoms may be absent due to the sustained release formulation. Therefore, if overdosage is suspected, treatment should not be delayed by the absence of symptoms. A latent phase, followed by a relapse 24-48 hours after ingestion manifested by hypotension, coma and hepatocellular necrosis may occur.

Treatment: The ingested Gradumet matrix cannot be readily aspirated through a stomach tube and there is no known chemical that will dissolve the gradumet without harming gastric mucosa. Accordingly when overdosage is discovered early, the following procedure is recommended.

1. Administer an emetic by stomach tube.
2. Withdraw the stomach tube and wait for the patient to vomit.
3. Keep the patient under constant surveillance to detect possible aspiration of vomitus; maintain suction apparatus and standby emergency oxygen in case of need.
4. Examine the vomitus for returned Gradumet tablets.
5. Administer a saline purgative. By the time toxic signs have appeared Gradumet tablets are in most cases past the pylorus so that emesis is of no value. Gastric lavage may be considered to remove amounts of the drug already released in the stomach. A saline purgative should then be given to speed the Gradumet tablets along the alimentary canal so as to minimise or prevent further absorption of the medication.
6. The use of an iron-chelating agent such as oral desferrioxamine should be considered. In severe cases parenteral desferrioxamine may be necessary.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Iron provided by Ferrograd aids haemoglobin regeneration. Once haemoglobin returns to normal, continuing with iron supplementation for 3 months will help replenish the iron stores within the body.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

The Gradumet device allows controlled release of ferrous sulphate over a number of hours, which increases iron utilisation and reduces gastro-intestinal intolerance. The device consists of an inert plastic matrix, honeycombed by thousands of narrow passages which contain ferrous sulphate together with a water soluble channelling agent. As the tablet passes down the gastro-intestinal tract the iron is leached out. The spent matrix is finally excreted in the stools.

Oral iron is absorbed better when administered between meals. However, conventional iron preparations often cause gastric irritation when taken on an empty stomach.

Studies with Gradumet iron have indicated that relatively little of the iron is released into the stomach, the major proportion being released in the upper intestinal tract.

Thus the possibility of gastric irritation is minimised when iron is administered in the Gradumet form in comparison with conventional oral iron preparations. Controlled release iron, therefore, is beneficial to patients who have a demonstrated intolerance to oral iron preparations.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

There are no pre-clinical data of relevance to the prescriber which are additional to information contained in other sections of the SPC.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Core

Methylacrylate methylmethacrylate copolymer
Lactose Monohydrate
Povidone
Magnesium stearate

Film coating

Hypromellose
Ethylcellulose
Sodium saccharin
Triethyl citrate
Sorbitan Oleate
Castor oil, virgin
Titanium dioxide (E171)
Erythrosine (E127)
Sunset Yellow FCF (E110)

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

5 years.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25°C. Store in the original package. Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Carton containing 30 (2 x 15) tablets in an AL/PVC blister.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal of a used medicinal product or waste materials derived from such medicinal product and other handling of the product

No special requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Teofarma S.R.L.
Valle Salimbene (PV)
Via F. LLI Cervi
8 CAP 27010
Italy

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA1235/001/001

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 01 April 1980

Date of last renewal: 01 April 2010

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

May 2023