

# Summary of Product Characteristics

## 1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets

## 2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Per tablet

Paracetamol 500mg

Codeine Phosphate Hemihydrate 15mg

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

## 3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Tablet.

Oblong, white uncoated tablets marked 'K1' both sides of a scoreline on one side, the other side is plain and unmarked. The score line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

## 4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic Indications

For the relief of moderate pain.

Codeine is indicated in patients older than 12 years of age for the treatment of acute moderate pain which is not considered to be relieved by other analgesics such as paracetamol or ibuprofen (alone).

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

*Adults:*

Two tablets to be taken every four hours as required, up to a maximum of eight tablets in any 24-hour period.

*Paediatric population:*

**Children aged 16 and over:**

Two tablets to be taken every six hours as required, up to a maximum of eight tablets in any 24-hour period.

**Children aged 12 to 15 years:**

One tablet to be taken every six hours as required, up to a maximum of four tablets in any 24-hour period.

**Children aged less than 12 years:**

Codeine should not be used in children below the age of 12 years because of the risk of opioid toxicity due to the variable and unpredictable metabolism of codeine to morphine (see sections 4.3 and 4.4).

*Elderly:*

The adult dose is usually appropriate, however, a reduced dose may be required (see section 4.4).

Renal impairment

Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets should be used with caution in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment as a reduced dose and/or prolonged dosing interval may be necessary. Use is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (see sections 4.3 and 4.4).

Hepatic impairment

Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets should be used with caution in patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment as a reduced dose and/or prolonged dosing interval may be necessary. Use is contraindicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment (see sections 4.3 and 4.4).

Codeine should be used at the lowest effective dose for the shortest period of time.

The duration of treatment should be limited to three days and if no effective pain relief is achieved the patients/carers should be advised to seek the views of a physician.

Dosage should be adjusted according to the severity of the pain and the response of the patient.

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

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

#### Method of administration

For oral use.

### **4.3 Contraindications**

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

Conditions where morphine and opioids are contraindicated, such as raised intracranial pressure or head injury, respiratory depression, obstructive airway disease, acute asthma, acute alcoholism and following biliary surgery.

This product is contraindicated in patients with severe renal or severe hepatic impairment (see sections 4.2 and 4.4).

Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets are also contraindicated in patients receiving monoamine oxidase inhibitors or who have received these agents within the previous two weeks (see section 4.5).

This product is contraindicated in women during breastfeeding (see section 4.6) and also in patients for whom it is known they are CYP2D6 ultra-rapid metabolisers.

Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets are contraindicated in all paediatric patients (0-18 years of age) who undergo tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy for obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome due to an increased risk of developing serious and life-threatening adverse reactions (see section 4.4).

Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets are not recommended for children under 12 years of age.

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

#### **CYP2D6 metabolism**

Codeine is metabolised by the liver enzyme CYP2D6 into morphine, its active metabolite. If a patient has a deficiency or is completely lacking this enzyme an adequate analgesic effect will not be obtained. Estimates indicate that up to 7% of the Caucasian population may have this deficiency. However, if the patient is an extensive or ultra-rapid metaboliser there is an increased risk of developing side effects of opioid toxicity even at commonly prescribed doses. These patients convert codeine into morphine rapidly resulting in higher than expected serum morphine levels.

General symptoms of opioid toxicity include confusion, somnolence, shallow breathing, small pupils, nausea, vomiting, constipation and lack of appetite. In severe cases this may include symptoms of circulatory and respiratory depression, which may be life-threatening and very rarely fatal. Estimates of prevalence of ultra-rapid metabolisers in different populations are summarised below:

Population	Prevalence %
African/Ethiopian	29%
African American	3.4% to 6.5%
Asian	1.2% to 2%
Caucasian	3.6% to 6.5%
Greek	6.0%
Hungarian	1.9%
Northern European	1% to 2%

#### **Risk from concomitant use of sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs**

Concomitant use of Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets and sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs may result in sedation, respiratory depression, coma and death. Because of these risks, concomitant prescribing with these sedative medicines should be reserved for patients for whom alternative treatment options are not possible. If a decision is made to prescribe Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets concomitantly with sedative medicines, the lowest effective dose should be used, and the duration of treatment should be as short as possible.

Patients should be followed closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation. In this respect, it is strongly recommended to inform patients and their caregivers to be aware of these symptoms (see section 4.5).

Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets should be used with caution in the elderly and debilitated as these patients may be more sensitive to the effects of opioids, those with prostatic hypertrophy, inflammatory or obstructive bowel disorders, convulsive disorders, hypothyroidism, myasthenia gravis, urethral stenosis or Addison's disease. Care is advised in the administration of paracetamol to patients with severe renal or severe hepatic impairment. The hazards of overdose are greater in those with non-cirrhotic alcoholic liver disease. Dependence of the morphine type may be produced especially with prolonged use of high doses of codeine.

There is a risk of hepatotoxicity in association with paracetamol use, even at doses within the normal therapeutic range, in patients who are at particular risk of such adverse effects. These include: patients who are underweight (adults or adolescents less than 50kg) or of low body mass index, malnourished, dehydrated, those with chronic alcoholism, co-existing renal or hepatic impairment, concomitantly taking hepatotoxic drugs and those with conditions that may predispose to glutathione deficiency or depletion. For some patients considered to be at higher risk, a lower starting dose, a reduction in dose and/or a reduced frequency of dosing may be appropriate. 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 (see section 4.2).

Caution is advised if paracetamol is administered concomitantly with flucloxacillin due to increased risk of high anion gap metabolic acidosis (HAGMA), particularly in patients with severe renal impairment, sepsis, malnutrition and other sources of glutathione deficiency (e.g. chronic alcoholism), as well as those using maximum daily doses of paracetamol. Close monitoring, including measurement of urinary 5-oxoproline, is recommended.

Prolonged regular use, except under medical supervision, may lead to physical and psychological dependence (addiction) and result in withdrawal symptoms such as restlessness and irritability, once the drug is stopped.

The risk-benefit of continued use should be assessed regularly by the prescriber.

Opioid analgesics should be given with caution or in reduced doses to patients with mild to moderate renal or hepatic impairment (and avoided if the impairment is severe). Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets are contraindicated in patients with severe renal or severe hepatic impairment (see sections 4.2 and 4.3).

Immediate medical advice should be sought in the event of an overdose, even if the patient feels well, because of the risk of delayed serious liver damage. Patients should be advised not to take opiate derivatives or other paracetamol- or codeine-containing products concurrently.

The leaflet will state in a prominent position in the 'before taking' section:

- Do not take for longer than directed by your prescriber
- Taking codeine regularly for a long time can lead to addiction, which might cause you to feel restless and irritable when you stop the tablets

- Taking a painkiller for headaches too often or for too long can make them worse. The label will state (to be displayed prominently on outer pack – not boxed):
- Do not take for longer than directed by your prescriber as taking codeine regularly for a long time can lead to addiction.

#### Paediatric population

#### **Post-operative use in children**

There have been reports in the published literature that codeine given post-operatively in children after tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy for obstructive sleep apnoea, led to rare, but life-threatening adverse events including death (see also section 4.3). All children received doses of codeine that were within the appropriate dose range; however there was evidence that these children were either ultra-rapid or extensive metabolisers in their ability to metabolise codeine to morphine.

#### **Children with compromised respiratory function**

Codeine is not recommended for use in children in whom respiratory function might be compromised including neuromuscular disorders, severe cardiac or respiratory conditions, upper respiratory or lung infections, multiple trauma or extensive surgical procedures. These factors may worsen symptoms of morphine toxicity.

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

Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets are contraindicated in patients receiving monoamine oxidase inhibitors or who have received these agents within the previous two weeks (see section 4.3).

The concomitant use of opioids with sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs (including anxiolytics, hypnotics, antidepressants and antipsychotics) increases the risk of sedation, respiratory depression, coma and death because of additive central nervous system (CNS) depressant effects. The dose and duration of concomitant use should be limited (see section 4.4). Alcohol should be avoided.

Concurrent use with centrally acting muscle relaxants (e.g. baclofen) may increase the risk of respiratory depression.

Codeine may delay the absorption of mexiletine and thus reduce the antiarrhythmic effect of the latter.

Concurrent use of codeine with CYP2D6 inhibitors, such as quinidine, fluoxetine and paroxetine, may result in a reduction or loss of analgesic effect of codeine.

Caution should be taken when paracetamol is used concomitantly with flucloxacillin as concurrent intake has been associated with high anion gap metabolic acidosis, especially in patients with risk factors (see section 4.4).

The speed of absorption of paracetamol may be increased by metoclopramide or domperidone and absorption reduced by colestyramine.

The metabolism of paracetamol is increased in patients taking enzyme-inducing antiepileptics (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone). Other substances with enzyme-inducing properties, e.g. rifampicin and St. John's wort (hypericum) are also suspected of causing lowered concentrations of paracetamol. In addition, the risk of liver damage during treatment with maximum recommended doses of paracetamol will be higher in patients being treated with enzyme-inducing agents.

The anticoagulant effect of warfarin and other coumarins may be enhanced by prolonged regular use of paracetamol with increased risk of bleeding; occasional doses have no significant effect.

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

##### Pregnancy

This product should not be used during pregnancy.

#### Breast-feeding

Codeine should not be used during breast-feeding (see section 4.3).

At normal therapeutic doses codeine and its active metabolite may be present in breast milk at very low doses and is unlikely to adversely affect the breast fed infant. However, if the patient is an ultra-rapid metaboliser of CYP2D6, higher levels of the active metabolite, morphine, may be present in breast milk and on very rare occasions may result in symptoms of opioid toxicity in the infant, which may be fatal.

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

Kapake 15mg/500mg Tablets may impair mental and/or physical abilities, therefore it may affect the ability to drive and operate machinery.

#### **4.8 Undesirable effects**

The following undesirable effects have been reported following the use of paracetamol: blood dyscrasias including thrombocytopenia, leucopenia, neutropenia and agranulocytosis, but these were not necessarily causally related to paracetamol. Hypersensitivity, including skin rash and angioedema, may also occur. Very rare cases of serious skin reactions have been reported. There have been cases of bronchospasm with paracetamol, but these are more likely in asthmatics sensitive to aspirin or other NSAIDs.

The following undesirable effects have been reported following the use of codeine: nausea, vomiting, dizziness and drowsiness. These effects are more likely to be experienced by the ambulatory patient and thus may be alleviated if the patient lies down. Other side effects of codeine, which may occur, include bradycardia, miosis, constipation, abdominal pain (rarely codeine-induced pancreatitis has been reported in patients with a history of cholecystectomy), allergic reactions, light-headedness, headache, respiratory depression (with high doses), dyspnoea, hallucination, confusion, euphoria, dysphoria, urinary retention, urticaria and pruritus.

Regular prolonged use of codeine is known to lead to addiction and tolerance. Symptoms of restlessness and irritability may result when treatment is then stopped.

Prolonged use of a painkiller for headaches can make them worse.

#### 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](http://www.hpra.ie).

#### **4.9 Overdose**

##### **Paracetamol Overdose**

Liver damage is possible in adults who have taken 10g or more of paracetamol. Ingestion of 5g or more of paracetamol may lead to liver damage if the patient has risk factors (see below).

##### **Risk factors**

If the patient

- (a) Is on long term treatment with carbamazepine, phenobarbitone, phenytoin, primidone, rifampicin, St John's Wort or other drugs that induce liver enzymes, or
- (b) Regularly consumes ethanol in excess of recommended amounts, or
- (c) Is likely to be glutathione deplete, e.g. eating disorders, cystic fibrosis, HIV infection, starvation, cachexia.

##### **Symptoms of Paracetamol Overdose**

Symptoms of paracetamol overdosage in the first 24 hours are pallor, nausea, vomiting, anorexia and abdominal pain. Liver damage may become apparent 12 to 48 hours after ingestion. Abnormalities of glucose metabolism and metabolic acidosis may occur. In severe poisoning, hepatic failure may progress to encephalopathy, haemorrhage, hypoglycaemia, cerebral oedema, and death.

Acute renal failure with acute tubular necrosis, strongly suggested by loin pain, haematuria and proteinuria, may develop even in the absence of severe liver damage. Cardiac arrhythmias and pancreatitis have been reported.

### **Management of Paracetamol Overdose**

Immediate treatment is essential in the management of paracetamol overdose. Despite a lack of significant early symptoms, patients should be referred to hospital urgently for immediate medical attention. Symptoms may be limited to nausea or vomiting and may not reflect the severity of overdose or the risk of organ damage. Management should be in accordance with established treatment guidelines.

Treatment with activated charcoal should be considered if the overdose has been taken within one hour. Plasma paracetamol concentration should be measured at 4 hours or later after ingestion (earlier concentrations are unreliable). Treatment with N-acetylcysteine may be used up to 24 hours after ingestion of paracetamol, however, the maximum protective effect is obtained up to 8 hours post-ingestion. The effectiveness of the antidote declines sharply after this time. If required the patient should be given intravenous N-acetylcysteine, in line with the established dosage schedule. If vomiting is not a problem, oral methionine may be a suitable alternative for remote areas, outside hospital. Management of patients who present with serious hepatic dysfunction beyond 24 hours from ingestion should be discussed with the National Poisons Information Centre (NPIC) or a liver unit.

### **Codeine Overdose**

The effects in overdosage will be potentiated by simultaneous ingestion of alcohol and psychotropic drugs.

### **Symptoms of Codeine Overdose**

Central nervous system depression, including respiratory depression, may develop but is unlikely to be severe unless other sedative agents have been co-ingested, including alcohol, or the overdose is very large. The pupils may be pin-point in size; nausea and vomiting are common. Hypotension and tachycardia are possible but unlikely.

### **Management of Codeine Overdose**

This should include general symptomatic and supportive measures including a clear airway and monitoring of vital signs until stable. Consider activated charcoal if an adult presents within one hour of ingestion of more than 350mg or a child more than 5mg/kg.

Give naloxone if coma or respiratory depression is present. Naloxone is a competitive antagonist and has a short half-life so large and repeated doses may be required in a seriously poisoned patient. Observe for at least four hours after ingestion, or eight hours if a sustained release preparation has been taken.

## **5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

**Pharmacotherapeutic group: Opioids in combination with non-opioid analgesics, ATC Code: N02AJ06**

Paracetamol has analgesic and antipyretic effects that do not differ significantly from those of aspirin. Its anti-inflammatory action is weak and it has practically no anti-platelet effect. The mechanism of action is unclear, although it is believed to exert its action by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis.

Codeine is a centrally acting weak analgesic. Codeine exerts its effects through  $\mu$  opioid receptors, although codeine has low affinity for these receptors, and its analgesic effect is due to its conversion to morphine. Codeine, particularly in combination with other analgesics such as paracetamol, has been shown to be effective in acute nociceptive pain.

### **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

Paracetamol is readily absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract with peak plasma concentrations occurring about 30 minutes to two hours after oral administration. 90-100% of administered drug can be recovered in the urine within the first day. Practically none is excreted unchanged, most is conjugated in the liver with glucuronic acid or sulphuric acid.

Codeine and its salts are absorbed rapidly from the gastrointestinal tract with peak plasma levels occurring about one hour after oral administration. Codeine is metabolised in the liver and excreted in the urine mainly as a conjugate of glucuronic acid. Approximately 10% of administered codeine is demethylated to form morphine.

Concurrent administration of both drugs does not interfere with the normal metabolic processes of each agent.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

There are no findings of relevance to the prescriber other than those already mentioned elsewhere in the SPC.

## **6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Microcrystalline Cellulose  
Magnesium Stearate  
Sodium Starch Glycolate  
Povidone

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

Three years.

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

PVC/ aluminium blisters.  
Pack sizes: 4, 30 and 100 tablets.  
Not all of pack sizes may be marketed.

### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

No special requirements.

## **7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Galen Pharma Ireland Limited  
Finnabair Industrial Estate  
Dundalk  
Louth  
A91P9KD  
Ireland

## **8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER**

PA22680/002/001

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

Date of first authorisation: 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010  
Date of last renewal: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

June 2022