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IRISH MEDICINES BOARD

PUBLIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A MEDICINAL PRODUCT FOR HUMAN USE

Scientific discussion

Zirtek 10 mg /ml Oral drops Solution

CETIRIZINE DIHYDROCHLORIDE

PA 891/8/4

The Public Assessment Report reflects the scientific conclusion reached by the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) at the end of the evaluation process and provides a summary of the grounds for approval of a marketing authorisation for a specific medicinal product for human use. It is made available by the IMB for information to the public, after deletion of commercially sensitive information. The legal basis for its creation and availability is contained in Article 21 of Directive 2001/83/EC, as amended. It is a concise document which highlights the main parts of the documentation submitted by the applicant and the scientific evaluation carried out by the IMB leading to the approval of the medicinal product for marketing in Ireland.

I INTRODUCTION

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Based on the review of the data on quality, safety and efficacy, the IMB has granted a marketing authorisation for Zirtek 10 mg /ml Oral drops Solution from UCB Pharma Ireland Limited on 28th August 2009 for the following indication:

In adults and paediatric patient 2 year and above:
- Cetirizine is indicated for the relief of nasal and ocular symptoms of seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis.
- Cetirizine is indicated for the relief of symptoms of chronic idiopathic urticaria..

The product is a line extension of Zirtek 10 mg tablets and Zirtek Oral Solution 1 mg/ml. Zirtek 10 mg/ml oral drops solution in pack sizes of 10 ml or less can be sold in pharmacies without a prescription; pack sizes in excess of 10 ml are subject to prescription.

II QUALITY ASPECTS

3.1.1 Overview

This application is for Zirtek 10mg/ml Oral Drops, Solution

3.1.2 Drug substance

The active substance is Cetirizine dihydrochloride, an established active substance described in the European Pharmacopoeia, and is manufactured in accordance with the principles of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)

The active substance specification is considered adequate to control the quality and meets current pharmacopoeial requirements. Batch analytical data demonstrating compliance with this specification has been provided.

3.1.3 Medicinal product

P.1 Composition

The oral drops are a clear aqueous solution containing, as excipients, Glycerol, Propylene glycol, Saccharin sodium, Methylparahydroxybenzoate (E 218), Propylparahydroxybenzoate (E 216), Sodium acetate, Glacial acetic acid, Purified water

P.2 Pharmaceutical Development

- The product is an established pharmaceutical form and its development is adequately described in accordance with the relevant European guidelines.

P.3 Manufacture of the Product

- The product is manufactured in accordance with the principles of good manufacturing practice (GMP) at suitably qualified manufacturing sites.
- The manufacturing process has been validated according to relevant European requirements and the process is considered to be sufficiently validated.

P.4 Control of Other Substances (Excipients/*Ancillary Substances)*

- All ingredients comply with the European Pharmacopoeia Ph. Eur. are adequately controlled by the manufacturer's specifications.

P.5 Control of Finished Product

- The Finished Product Specification is based on the pharmacopoeial monograph for oral drops, solution and the tests and control limits are considered appropriate for this type of product.
- The analytical methods used are described in sufficient detail and are supported by validation data.
- Batch analytical data for a number of batches from the proposed production site(s) have been provided, and demonstrate the ability of the manufacturer to produce batches of finished product of consistent quality.

P.6 Packaging material

- The product is presented in an amber glass bottle.
- Evidence has been provided that glass bottle complies with Ph. Eur. requirements.

P.7 Stability of the Finished Product

- Stability data on the finished product in the proposed packaging have been provided in accordance with EU guidelines demonstrating the stability of the product for 5 years when stored at no particular storage conditions

3.1.4 Discussion on Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Biological Aspects

The important quality characteristics of the product are well-defined and controlled. Satisfactory chemical and pharmaceutical documentation has been provided, assuring consistent quality of Zirtek oral drops, solution.

III NON-CLINICAL ASPECTS

3.2 PRE-CLINICAL ASPECTS

3.2.1 Overview

This active substance has been available on the European/Irish market for many years. Preclinical data were provided in the dossier submitted for the tablets and were considered adequate for approval. No new preclinical data have been submitted with this application.

IV CLINICAL ASPECTS

Cetirizine dihydrochloride is a well known active substance with established efficacy and tolerability.

The content of the SPC approved during the national procedure is in accordance with that accepted for Zirtek 10 mg tablets.

A single-dose, randomised, two-sequence, crossover bioequivalence study was carried out. Cetirizine dihydrochloride Oral drops, solution, was compared to the reference product Cetirizine dihydrochloride 10 mg tablets. Based on the pharmacokinetic parameters of active substance, the reference and test products are bioequivalent with extent to the rate and extent of absorption and fulfil the bioequivalence requirements outlined in the relevant CHMP Note for Guidance.

V OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

The MAH has provided written confirmation that systems and services are in place to ensure compliance with their pharmacovigilance obligations.

The IMB, on the basis of the data submitted, considered that Zirtek 10 mg/ml Oral drops, solution demonstrated adequate evidence of efficacy for the approved indications as well as a satisfactory risk/benefit profile and therefore granted a marketing authorisation.