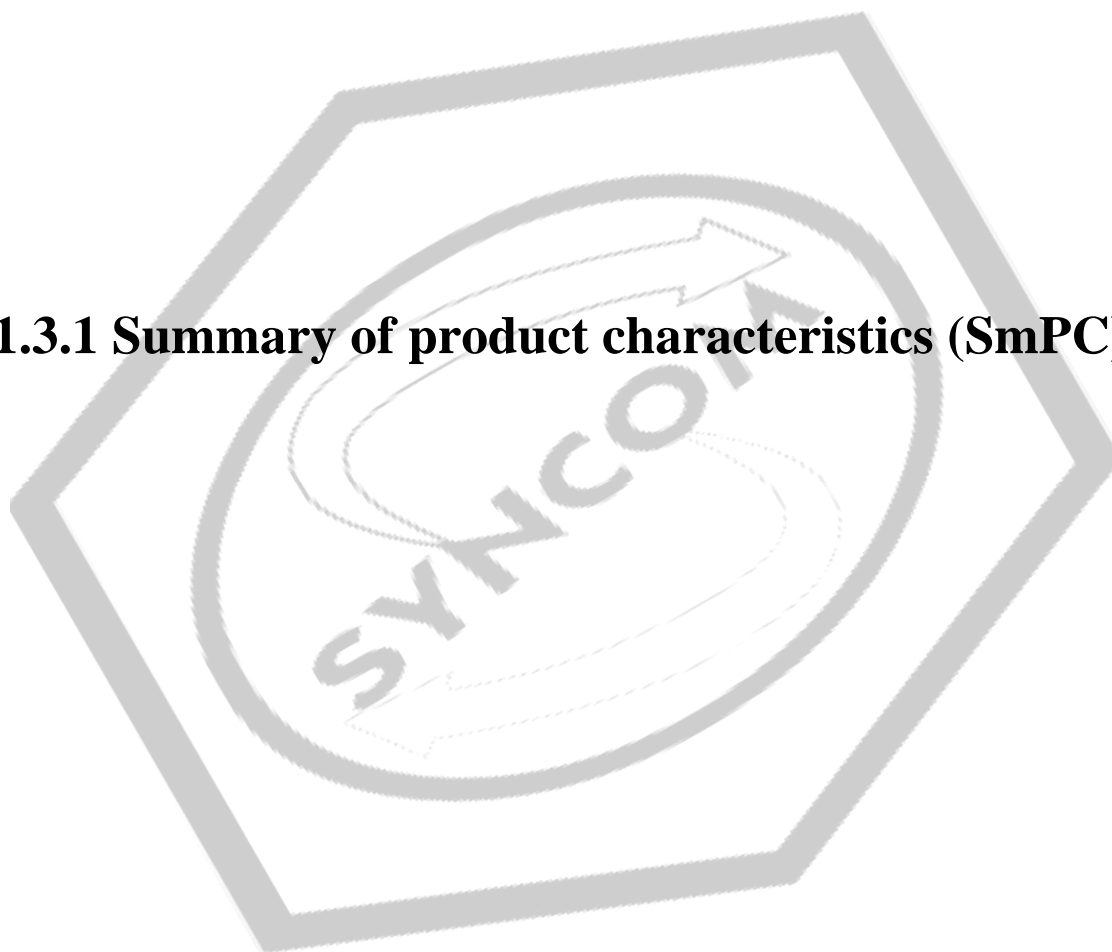




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1.3.1 Summary of product characteristics (SmPC)





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Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

1.3.1 SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Name of the medicinal product

Amlodipine Besylate Tablets USP, 10 mg

2. Composition

Each uncoated tablet contains:

Amlodipine Besylate USP

Eq. to Amlodipine 10 mg

Component and grade	Function	Quantity/Tablet
Amlodipine Besylate equivalent to Amlodipine USP	Active Ingredient	14.00 mg
Calcium Hydrogen Phosphate BP	Diluents	255.90 mg
Maize Starch* BP	Diluents	92.00 mg
Sodium Starch Glycolate BP	Diluents	6.25 mg
Colloidal anhydrous silica (Aerosil-200) BP	Diluents	2.00 mg
Povidone (PVPK-30) BP	Binder	14.00 mg
Methyl paraben BP	Preservatives	1.00 mg
Propyl Paraben BP	Preservatives	0.20 mg
Purified water BP	Vehicle	Q.S.
Purified Talc BP	Glidant/anti foaming agent	2.40 mg
Sodium Starch Glycolate BP	Desintegrant	6.25 mg
Colloidal anhydrous silica (Aerosil-200) BP	Glidant / Disintegrant	2.00 mg
Sodium Lauryl Sulphate BP	Lubricant	2.00 mg
Magnesium stearate	Lubricant	2.00 mg
Subtotal for uncoated	--	400.00 mg
Total	--	400.00 mg



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

3. Pharmaceutical form

Uncoated tablets

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Essential hypertension.

Chronic stable and vasospastic (Prinzmetal's) angina pectoris.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Adults

For treatment of both hypertension and angina pectoris the usual initial dose is 5 mg once daily. If the desired therapeutic effect cannot be achieved within 2-4 weeks this dose may be increased to a maximum dose of 10 mg daily (as single dose) depending on the individual patient's response.

In hypertensive patients, amlodipine has been used in combination with a thiazide diuretic, alpha-blocker, beta-blocker, or an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor. For angina, amlodipine may be used as monotherapy or in combination with other antianginal medicinal products in patients with angina that is refractory to nitrates and/or to adequate doses of beta blockers.

No dose adjustment of amlodipine is required upon concomitant administration of thiazide diuretics, beta-blockers, and angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors.

Paediatric population

Children with hypertension from 6 years to 17 years of age.

The recommended antihypertensive oral dose in pediatric patients ages 6-17 years is 2.5 mg once daily as a starting dose, up-titrated to 5 mg once daily if blood pressure goal is not achieved after 4 weeks. Doses in excess of 5 mg daily have not been studied in pediatric patients.

Children under 6 years old

The effect of amlodipine on blood pressure in patients less than 6 years of age is not known.

The 2.5 mg dose cannot be obtained with Amlodipine tablets 5 mg as these tablets are not manufactured to break into two equal halves



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Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Elderly

Amlodipine used at similar doses in elderly or younger patients is equally well tolerated. Normal dosage regimens are recommended in the elderly, but increase of the dosage should take place with care.

Renal impairment

Changes in amlodipine plasma concentrations are not correlated with degree of renal impairment, therefore the normal dosage is recommended. Amlodipine is not dialysable. Hepatic impairment Dosage recommendations have not been established in patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment; therefore dose selection should be cautious and should start at the lower end of the dosing range. The pharmacokinetics of Amlodipine have not been studied in severe hepatic impairment. Amlodipine should be initiated at the lowest dose and titrated slowly in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

Method of administration

Tablets for oral administration. The tablets should be taken with a glass of water independently from meals.

4.3 Contraindications

Amlodipine is contra-indicated in patients with:

- severe hypotension
- shock (including cardiogenic shock)
- hypersensitivity to amlodipine, dihydropyridine derivatives or any of the excipients listed in section 6.1
- haemodynamically unstable heart failure after acute myocardial infarction (during the first 28 days)
- obstruction of the outflow-tract of the left ventricle (e.g. high grade aortic stenosis)

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

The safety and efficacy of amlodipine in hypertensive crisis has not been established.

Cardiac failure

Patients with heart failure should be treated with caution. In a long-term, placebo controlled study in patients with severe heart failure (NYHA class III and IV) the reported incidence of pulmonary oedema was higher in the amlodipine treated group than in the placebo group, but this was not indicating an aggravation of the heart failure. Calcium channel blockers, including Amlodipine, should be used with caution in patients with congestive heart failure, as they may increase the risk of future cardiovascular events and mortality.

Impaired hepatic function



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Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

The half-life of amlodipine is prolonged and AUC values are higher in patients with impaired liver function; dosage recommendations have not been established. Amlodipine should therefore be initiated at the lower end of the dosing range and caution should be used, both on initial treatment and when increasing the dose. Slow dose titration and careful monitoring may be required in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

Elderly patients

In the elderly, increase of the dosage should take place with care.

Renal failure

Amlodipine may be used in such patients at normal doses. Change in Amlodipine plasma concentrations are not correlated with degree of renal impairment. Amlodipine is not dialyzable.

Paediatric population (under 18 years of age)

Amlodipine should not be given to children due to insufficient clinical experience.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Effects of other medicinal products on amlodipine

CYP3A4 inhibitors: Concomitant use of Amlodipine with strong or moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors (protease inhibitors, azole antifungals, macrolides like erythromycin or clarithromycin, verapamil or diltiazem) may give rise to significant increase in amlodipine exposure. The clinical translation of these PK variations may be more pronounced in the elderly. Clinical monitoring and dose adjustment may thus be required.

Clarithromycin is an inhibitor of CYP3A4. There is an increased risk of hypotension in patients receiving clarithromycin with amlodipine. Close observation of patients is recommended when amlodipine is co administered with clarithromycin.

CYP3A4 inducers

Upon co-administration of known inducers of the CYP3A4, the plasma concentration of amlodipine may vary. Therefore, blood pressure should be monitored and dose regulation considered both during and after concomitant medication particularly with strong CYP3A4 inducers (e.g. rifampicin, hypericum perforatum). Administration of amlodipine with grapefruit or grapefruit juice is not recommended as bioavailability may be increased in some patients resulting in increased blood pressure lowering effects.

Dantrolene (infusion): In animals, lethal ventricular fibrillation and cardiovascular collapse are observed in association with hyperkalemia after administration of verapamil and intravenous dantrolene. Due to risk of



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

hyperkalemia, it is recommended that the coadministration of calcium channel blockers such as amlodipine be avoided in patients susceptible to malignant hyperthermia and in the management of malignant hyperthermia.

Effects of amlodipine on other medicinal products

The blood pressure lowering effects of amlodipine adds to the blood pressure-lowering effects of other antihypertensive agents.

In clinical interaction studies, amlodipine did not affect the pharmacokinetics of atorvastatin, digoxin, warfarin or ciclosporin.

Simvastatin: Co-administration of multiple doses of 10 mg of amlodipine with 80 mg simvastatin resulted in a 77% increase in exposure to simvastatin compared to simvastatin alone. Limit the dose of simvastatin in patients on amlodipine to 20 mg daily.

Trimethoprim and in fixed dose combination with sulfamethoxazole (Co-trimoxazole):

An increased incidence of hyperkalaemia was observed in patients taking ACE Inhibitors and trimethoprim and in fixed dose combination with sulfamethoxazole (Co-trimoxazole).

Tacrolimus

There is a risk of increased tacrolimus blood levels when co-administered with amlodipine but the pharmacokinetic mechanism of this interaction is not fully understood. In order to avoid toxicity of tacrolimus, administration of amlodipine in a patient treated with tacrolimus requires monitoring of tacrolimus blood levels and dose adjustment of tacrolimus when appropriate.

mTOR inhibitors:

An increased risk of angioedema is possible in patients taking concomitant medications such as mTOR inhibitors (e.g. Temsirolimus, Everolimus, Sirolimus). Caution should be used when starting therapy.

Cyclosporin

No drug interaction studies have been conducted with cyclosporin and amlodipine in healthy volunteers or other populations with the exception of renal transplant patients, where variable trough concentration increases (average 0% - 40%) of cyclosporin were observed. Consideration should be given for monitoring cyclosporin levels in renal transplant patients on amlodipine, and cyclosporin dose reductions should be made as necessary.



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

The safety of amlodipine in human pregnancy has not been established. In animal studies, reproductive toxicity was observed at high doses. Use in pregnancy is only recommended when there is no safer alternative and when the disease itself carries greater risk for the mother and foetus.

Breast-feeding

Amlodipine is excreted in human milk. The proportion of the maternal dose received by the infant has been estimated with an interquartile range of 3-7%, with a maximum of 15%. The effect of amlodipine on infants is unknown. A decision on whether to continue/discontinue breast-feeding or to continue/discontinue therapy with amlodipine should be made taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding to the child and the benefit of amlodipine therapy to the mother.

Fertility

Reversible biochemical changes in the head of spermatozoa have been reported in some patients treated by calcium channel blockers. Clinical data are insufficient regarding the potential effect of amlodipine on fertility. In one rat study, adverse effects were found on male fertility.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Amlodipine can have minor or moderate influence on the ability to drive and use machines. If patients taking amlodipine suffer from dizziness, headache, fatigue or nausea the ability to react may be impaired. Caution is recommended especially at the start of treatment.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The most commonly reported adverse reactions during treatment are somnolence, dizziness, headache, palpitations, flushing, abdominal pain, nausea, ankle swelling, oedema and fatigue.

The following undesirable effects have been observed and reported during treatment with Amlodipine with the following frequencies:

Very common:	$\geq 1/10$
Common:	$\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$
Uncommon:	$\geq 1/1000$ to $\leq 1/100$
Rare:	$\geq 1/10\ 000$ to $\leq 1/1000$



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Very rare:	≤1/10 000
Not known	Frequency cannot be estimated from the available data.

Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

System organ class	Frequency	Adverse reactions
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Very rare	Leukocytopenia, thrombocytopenia
Immune system disorders	Very rare	Allergic reactions
Endocrine disorders	Not Known	Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH)
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Very rare	Hyperglycaemia
Psychiatric disorders	Uncommon	Insomnia, mood changes (including anxiety), depression
	Rare	Confusion
Nervous system disorders	Common	Somnolence, dizziness, headache (especially at the beginning of the treatment)
	Uncommon	Tremor, dysgeusia, syncope, hypoesthesia, paresthesia
	Very rare	Hypertonia, peripheral neuropathy
	Not known	Extrapyramidal disorder
Eye disorders	Common	Visual disturbance (including diplopia)
Ear and labyrinth disorders	Uncommon	Tinnitus
Cardiac disorders	Common	Palpitations
	Uncommon	Arrhythmia (including bradycardia and atrial fibrillation)
	Very rare	Myocardial infarction
Vascular disorders	Common	Flushing
	Uncommon	Hypotension
	Very rare	Vasculitis
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Common	Dyspnoea
	Uncommon	Rhinitis, cough
Gastrointestinal disorders	Common	Abdominal pain, nausea, dyspepsia, altered bowel habits



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

		(including diarrhoea and constipation)
	Uncommon	Vomiting, dry mouth
	Very rare	Pancreatitis, gastritis, gingival hyperplasia
Hepatobiliary disorders	Very rare	Hepatitis, jaundice, hepatic enzymes increased*
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Uncommon	Alopecia, purpura, skin discolouration, hyperhidrosis, pruritus, rash, exanthema, urticaria
	Very rare	Angioedema, erythema multiforme, exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, Quincke oedema, photosensitivity
	Not known	Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Common	Ankle swelling, muscle cramps
	Uncommon	Arthralgia, myalgia, back pain
Renal and urinary disorders	Uncommon	Micturition disorder, nocturia, increased urinary frequency
Reproductive system and breast disorders	Uncommon	Impotence, gynecomastia
General disorders and administration site conditions	Very common	Oedema
	Common	Fatigue, asthenia
	Uncommon	Chest pain, pain, malaise
Investigations	Uncommon	Weight increase, weight decrease

4.9 Overdose

In humans, experience with intentional overdose is limited.

Symptoms

Available data suggest that large over dosage could result in excessive peripheral vasodilatation and possibly reflex tachycardia. Marked and probably prolonged systemic hypotension up to and including shock with fatal outcome have been reported.

Management

Clinically significant hypotension due to amlodipine overdosage calls for active cardiovascular support including frequent monitoring of cardiac and respiratory function, elevation of extremities, and attention to circulating fluid volume and urine output.



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

A vasoconstrictor may be helpful in restoring vascular tone and blood pressure, provided that there is no contraindication to its use. Intravenous calcium gluconate may be beneficial in reversing the effects of calcium channel blockade. Gastric lavage may be worthwhile in some cases. In healthy volunteers the use of charcoal up to 2 hours after administration of amlodipine 10mg has been shown to reduce the absorption rate of amlodipine. Since amlodipine is highly protein-bound, dialysis is not likely to be of benefit.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Calcium channel blockers, selective calcium channel blockers with mainly vascular effects

ATC code: C08CA01

Mechanism of action

Amlodipine is a calcium ion influx inhibitor of the dihydropyridine group (slow channel blocker or calcium ion antagonist) and inhibits the transmembrane influx of calcium ions into cardiac and vascular smooth muscle.

The mechanism of the antihypertensive action is due to a direct relaxant effect on vascular smooth muscle. The precise mechanism by which amlodipine relieves angina has not been fully determined but Amlodipine reduces total ischaemic burden by the following two actions:

1. Amlodipine dilates peripheral arterioles and thus, reduces the total peripheral resistance (afterload) against which the heart works. Since the heart rate remains stable, this unloading of the heart reduces myocardial energy consumption and oxygen requirements.
2. The mechanism of action of Amlodipine also probably involves dilatation of the main coronary arteries and coronary arterioles, both in normal and ischaemic regions. This dilation increases myocardial oxygen delivery in patients with coronary artery spasm (prinzmetals or variant angina).

Clinical efficacy and safety

In patients with hypertension, once daily dosing provides clinically significant reductions of blood pressure in both supine and standing positions throughout the 24 hour interval. Due to slow onset of action, acute hypotension is not a feature of Amlodipine administration.



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg
Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

In patients with angina, once daily administration of amlodipine increases total exercise time, the delay of occurrence of anginal attack and the delay of the occurrence of a 1-mm ST interval. Amlodipine decreases both angina attack frequency and glyceryl trinitrate tablet consumption.

Amlodipine has not been associated with any adverse metabolic effects or changes in plasma lipids and is suitable for use in patients with asthma, diabetes, and gout.

Coronary artery disease (CAD)

The effectiveness of amlodipine in preventing clinical events in patients with coronary artery disease (CAD) has been evaluated in an independent, multi-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 1997 patients; Comparison of Amlodipine vs. Enalapril to Limit Occurrences of Thrombosis (CAMELOT). Of these patients, 663 were treated with amlodipine 5-10 mg, 673 patients were treated with enalapril 10-20 mg, and 655 patients were treated with placebo, in addition to standard care of statins, beta-blockers, diuretics and aspirin, for 2 years. The key efficacy results are presented in Table 1. The results indicate that amlodipine treatment was associated with fewer hospitalizations for angina and revascularization procedures in patients with CAD.

Table 1. Incidence of significant clinical outcomes for CAMELOT					
Outcomes	Cardiovascular event rates, No. (%)			Amlodipine vs. Placebo	
	Amlodipine	Placebo	Enalapril	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
Primary Endpoint					
Adverse cardiovascular events	110 (16.6)	151 (23.1)	136 (20.2)	0.69 (0.54-0.88)	.003
Individual Components					
Coronary revascularization	78 (11.8)	103 (15.7)	95 (14.1)	0.73 (0.54-0.98)	.03
Hospitalization for angina	51 (7.7)	84 (12.8)	86 (12.8)	0.58 (0.41-0.82)	.002
Nonfatal MI	14 (2.1)	19 (2.9)	11 (1.6)	0.73 (0.37-1.46)	.37
Stroke or TIA	6 (0.9)	12 (1.8)	8 (1.2)	0.50 (0.19-1.32)	.15
Cardiovascular death	5 (0.8)	2 (0.3)	5 (0.7)	2.46 (0.48-12.7)	.27
Hospitalization for CHF	3 (0.5)	5 (0.8)	4 (0.6)	0.59 (0.14-2.47)	.46



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Resuscitated cardiac arrest	0	4 (0.6)	1 (0.1)	NA	.04
New-onset peripheral vascular disease	5 (0.8)	2 (0.3)	8 (1.2)	2.6 (0.50-13.4)	.24

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

After oral administration of therapeutic doses, amlodipine is well absorbed with peak blood levels between 6-12 hours post dose. Absorption of amlodipine is not influenced by concomitant food intake. Absolute bioavailability of the unchanged active substance is estimated to be 64-80%. Peak plasma levels are reached 6-12 hours after administration.

Distribution

The volume of distribution is approximately 21 l/kg. The pKa of amlodipine is 8.6. In vitro studies have shown that amlodipine is bound to plasmatic proteins up to 97.5%.

Biotransformation

Amlodipine is extensively metabolized by the liver to inactive metabolites with 10% of the parent compound.

Elimination

The plasma elimination half-life is about 35-50 hours and is consistent with once daily dosing. 60% of metabolites are excreted in the urine.

Hepatic impairment

Very limited clinical data are available regarding amlodipine administration in patients with hepatic impairment. Patients with hepatic insufficiency have decreased clearance of amlodipine resulting in a longer half-life and an increase in AUC of approximately 40-60%.

Elderly

The time to reach peak plasma concentrations is similar in elderly and younger patients. The clearance tends to be decreased with resulting increases in (AUC) and terminal elimination half-life in elderly patients. Increase in AUC and elimination half-life in patients with congestive heart failure were as expected for the patient age group studied.



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

Paediatric population

A population PK study has been conducted in 74 hypertensive children aged from 1 to 17 years receiving amlodipine between 1.25 and 20 mg given either once or twice daily. In children 6 to 12 years and in adolescents 13-17 years of age the typical oral clearance (CL/F) was 22.5 and 27.4 L/hr respectively in males and 16.4 and 21.3L/hr respectively in females. Large variability in exposure between individuals was observed. Data reported in children below 6 years is limited.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Reproductive toxicology

Reproductive studies in rats and mice have shown delayed date of delivery, prolonged duration of labour and decreased pup survival at dosages approximately 50 times greater than the maximum recommended dosage for humans based on mg/kg.

Impairment of fertility

There was no effect on the fertility of rats treated with amlodipine (males for 64 days and females 14 days prior to mating) at doses up to 10 mg/kg/day (8 times* the maximum recommended human dose of 10 mg on a mg/m² basis). In another rat study in which male rats were treated with amlodipine besilate for 30 days at a dose comparable with the human dose based on mg/kg, decreased plasma follicle-stimulating hormone and testosterone were found as well as decreases in sperm density and in the number of mature spermatids and Sertoli cells.

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis

Rats and mice treated with amlodipine in the diet for two years, at concentrations calculated to provide daily dosage levels of 0.5, 1.25, and 2.5 mg/kg/day showed no evidence of carcinogenicity. The highest dose (for mice, similar to, and for rats twice* the maximum recommended clinical dose of 10 mg on a mg/m² basis) was close to the maximum tolerated dose for mice but not for rats.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 Incompatibilities

Not Applicable



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Product Name : NCI AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg
Generic Name : AMLODIPINE BESYLATE TABLETS USP 10 mg

6.2 Shelf life

36 months.

6.3 Special precautions for storage

Store in a cool, dry place below 30°C. Protect from light.

6.4 Nature and contents of container

Aluminum PVC Blister packing.

6.5 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Not applicable

7. Marketing authorization holder :

NCI Pharmchem Ind. Ltd.

8. Marketing authorization number(s)

Yet to receive

9. Date of first authorization/renewal of the authorization

Not applicable

10. Date of revision of the text

Not applicable