



### **1.3 Product Information**

#### **1.3.1 Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC)**

##### **1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

MEROTHER 80/480

(Artemether 80 mg and Lumefantrine 480 mg Dispersible Tablets)

##### **2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

Each uncoated dispersible tablet contains:

Artemether.....80 mg

Lumefantrine USP.....480 mg

Excipients.....q.s.

##### **3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Oral Dosage Form

Uncoated Dispersible Tablet

A yellow colored, round shaped biconvex, uncoated dispersible tablet.

##### **4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

###### **4.1 Therapeutic indications**

Merother 80/480 is indicated for the treatment of malaria, caused by all forms of plasmodium including severe malaria caused by multiple drug resistant strains of *P. Falciparum*.

###### **4.2 Posology and method of administration**

###### **Posology**

###### **Adults and children weighing 35 kg and above**

For patients 12 years of age and above and 35 kg body weight and above, a course of treatment comprises six doses of four tablets i.e. total of 24 tablets, given over a period of 60 hours as follows: the first dose of four tablets, given at the time of initial diagnosis, should be followed by five further doses of four tablets given at 8, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours thereafter.

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Children and infants weighing 5 kg to less than 35 kg

A six-dose regimen is recommended with 1 to 3 tablets per dose, depending on bodyweight:

5 to less than 15 kg bodyweight: the first dose of one tablet, given at the time of initial diagnosis, should be followed by five further doses of one tablet given at 8, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours thereafter.

15 to less than 25 kg bodyweight: the first dose of two tablets, given at the time of initial diagnosis, should be followed by five further doses of two tablets given at 8, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours thereafter.

25 to less than 35 kg bodyweight: the first dose of three tablets, given at the time of initial diagnosis, should be followed by five further doses of three tablets given at 8, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours thereafter.

**Method of administration**

Tablets for oral administration.

To increase absorption, MEROTHER 80/480 should be taken with food or a milky drink (see section 5.2). If patients are unable to tolerate food, MEROTHER 80/480 should be administered with water, but the systemic exposure may be reduced. Patients who vomit within 1 hour of taking the medication should repeat the dose.

For administration to small children and infants, the tablet/s may be crushed.

**4.3 Contraindications:**

MEROTHER 80/480 is contraindicated in:

- patients with known hypersensitivity to the active substances or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- patients with severe malaria according to WHO definition\*.
- patients who are taking any drug which is metabolised by the cytochrome enzyme CYP2D6 (e.g. metoprolol, imipramine, amitriptyline, clomipramine).
- patients with a family history of sudden death or of congenital prolongation of the QTc interval on electrocardiograms, or with any other clinical condition known to prolong the QTc interval.
- patients taking drugs that are known to prolong the QTc interval (proarrhythmic).

These drugs include:

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- antiarrhythmics of classes IA and III,
- neuroleptics, antidepressive agents,
- certain antibiotics including some agents of the following classes: macrolides, fluoroquinolones, imidazole and triazole antifungal agents,
- certain non-sedating antihistamines (terfenadine, astemizole),
- cisapride.
- flecainide
- patients with a history of symptomatic cardiac arrhythmias or with clinically relevant bradycardia or with congestive cardiac failure accompanied by reduced left ventricle ejection fraction.
- patients with disturbances of electrolyte balance e.g. hypokalemia or hypomagnesemia.
- patients taking drugs that are strong inducers of CYP3A4 such as rifampin, carbamazepine, phenytoin, St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).

(\*Presence of one or more of the following clinical or laboratory features:

Clinical manifestation: Prostration; impaired consciousness or unarousable coma; failure to feed; deep breathing, respiratory distress (acidotic breathing); multiple convulsions; circulatory collapse or shock; pulmonary edema (radiological); abnormal bleeding; clinical jaundice; hemoglobinuria

Laboratory test: Severe normocytic anemia; hemoglobuniuria; hypoglycemia; metabolic acidosis; renal impairment; hyperlactatemia; hyperparasitemia)

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

MEROTHER 80/480 is not recommended during the first trimester of pregnancy in situations where other suitable and effective antimalarials are available (see section 4.6).

MEROTHER 80/480 has not been evaluated for the treatment of severe malaria, including cases of cerebral malaria or other severe manifestations such as pulmonary oedema or renal failure.

Due to limited data on safety and efficacy, MEROTHER 80/480 should not be given concurrently with any other antimalarial agent (see section 4.5) unless there is no other treatment option.

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If a patient deteriorates whilst taking MEROTHER 80/480, alternative treatment for malaria should be started without delay. In such cases, monitoring of the ECG is recommended and steps should be taken to correct any electrolyte disturbances.

The long elimination half-life of lumefantrine must be taken into account when administering quinine in patients previously treated with MEROTHER 80/480.

If quinine is given after MEROTHER 80/480, close monitoring of the ECG is advised (see section 4.5).

If MEROTHER 80/480 is given after mefloquine, close monitoring of food intake is advised (see section 4.5).

In patients previously treated with halofantrine, MEROTHER 80/480 should not be administered earlier than one month after the last halofantrine dose.

MEROTHER 80/480 is not indicated and has not been evaluated for prophylaxis of malaria.

MEROTHER 80/480 should be used cautiously in patients on anti-retroviral drugs (ARTs) since decreased artemether, DHA, and/or lumefantrine concentrations may result in a decrease of antimalarial efficacy of MEROTHER 80/480, (see section 4.5).

Like other antimalarials (e.g. halofantrine, quinine and quinidine) MEROTHER 80/480 has the potential to cause QT prolongation (see section 5.1).

Caution is recommended when combining MEROTHER 80/480 with drugs exhibiting variable patterns of inhibition, moderate induction or competition for CYP3A4 as the therapeutic effects of some drugs could be altered. Drugs that have a mixed inhibitory/induction effect on CYP3A4, especially anti-retroviral drugs such as HIV protease inhibitors and non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors should be used with caution in patients taking MEROTHER 80/480 (see sections 4.5 and 5.2).

Caution is recommended when combining MEROTHER 80/480 with hormonal contraceptives. MEROTHER 80/480 may reduce the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives. Therefore, patients using oral, transdermal patch, or other systemic hormonal contraceptives should be advised to use an additional non-hormonal method of birth control for about one month (see sections 4.5).

Patients who remain averse to food during treatment should be closely monitored as the risk of recrudescence may be greater.

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#### Renal impairment

No specific studies have been carried out in this group of patients. There is no significant renal excretion of lumefantrine, artemether and dihydroartemisinin in studies conducted in healthy volunteers and clinical experience is limited. No dose adjustment for the use of MEROTHER 80/480 in patients with renal impairment is recommended. Caution is advised when administering MEROTHER 80/480 to patients with severe renal impairment. In these patients, ECG and blood potassium monitoring is advised.

#### Hepatic impairment

No specific studies have been carried out in this group of patients. In patients with severe hepatic impairment, a clinically relevant increase of exposure to artemether and lumefantrine and/or their metabolites cannot be ruled out. Therefore, caution should be exercised in dosing patients with severe hepatic impairment (see section 5.2). In these patients, ECG and blood potassium monitoring is advised. No dose adjustment is recommended for patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment.

#### New infections

Data for a limited number of patients in a malaria endemic area show that new infections can be treated with a second course of MEROTHER 80/480. In the absence of carcinogenicity study data, and due to lack of clinical experience, more than two courses of MEROTHER 80/480 cannot be recommended.

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

#### **Pharmacodynamic interactions**

##### Interaction with drugs that are known to prolong the QTc interval

MEROTHER 80/480 is contraindicated with concomitant use of drugs (they may cause prolonged QTc interval and Torsade de Pointes) such as: antiarrhythmics of classes IA and III, neuroleptics and antidepressant agents, certain antibiotics including some agents of the following classes: macrolides, fluoroquinolones, imidazole, and triazole antifungal agents, certain non-sedating antihistaminics (terfenadine, astemizole), cisapride, flecainide (see section 4.3)

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Interaction with drugs metabolized by CYP2D6

Lumefantrine was found to inhibit CYP2D6 in vitro. This may be of particular clinical relevance for compounds with a low therapeutic index. Co-administration of MEROTHER 80/480 with drugs that are metabolised by this iso-enzyme is contraindicated (e.g. neuroleptics, metoprolol, and tricyclic antidepressants such as imipramine, amitriptyline, clomipramine) is contraindicated (see sections 4.3 and 5.2).

Interaction with strong inducers of CYP3A4 such as rifampin

Oral administration of rifampin (600 mg daily), a strong CYP3A4 inducer, with MEROTHER 80/480 (6-dose regimen over 3 days) in six HIV-1 and tuberculosis coinfecting adults without malaria resulted in significant decreases in exposure to artemether (89%), DHA (85%) and lumefantrine (68%) when compared to exposure values after MEROTHER 80/480 alone. Concomitant use of strong inducers of CYP3A4 such as rifampin, carbamazepine, phenytoin, St. John's Wort is contraindicated with MEROTHER 80/480 (see section 4.3).

Inducers should not be administered at least one month after MEROTHER 80/480 administration, unless critical to use as judged by the prescriber.

**Concomitant use not recommended**

Interaction with other antimalarial drugs (see section 4.4)

Data on safety and efficacy are limited, and MEROTHER 80/480 should therefore not be given concurrently with other antimalarials unless there is no other treatment option (see section 4.4).

If MEROTHER 80/480 is given following administration of mefloquine or quinine, close monitoring of food intake (for mefloquine) or of the ECG (for quinine) is advised. The long elimination half-life of lumefantrine must be taken into account when administering quinine in patients previously treated with MEROTHER 80/480. In patients previously treated with halofantrine, MEROTHER 80/480 should not be administered earlier than one month after the last halofantrine dose (see section 4.4).

Mefloquine

A drug interaction study with MEROTHER 80/480 in man involved administration of a 6-dose regimen over 60 hours in healthy volunteers which was commenced at 12 hours after completion of a 3-dose regimen of mefloquine or placebo. Plasma

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mefloquine concentrations from the time of addition of MEROTHER 80/480 were not affected compared with a group which received mefloquine followed by placebo.

Pre-treatment with mefloquine had no effect on plasma concentrations of artemether or the artemether/dihydroartemisinin ratio but there was a significant reduction in plasma levels of lumefantrine, possibly due to lower absorption secondary to a mefloquine-induced decrease in bile production. Patients should be encouraged to eat at dosing times to compensate for the decrease in bioavailability.

#### Quinine

A drug interaction study in healthy male volunteers showed that the plasma concentrations of lumefantrine and quinine were not affected when i.v. quinine (10 mg/kg BW over 2 hours) was given sequentially 2 hours after the last (sixth) dose of MEROTHER 80/480 (so as to produce concurrent plasma peak levels of lumefantrine and quinine). Plasma concentrations of artemether and dihydroartemisinin (DHA) appeared to be lower. In this study, administration of MEROTHER 80/480 to 14 subjects had no effect on QTc interval. Infusion of quinine alone in 14 other subjects caused a transient prolongation of QTc interval, which was consistent with the known cardiotoxicity of quinine. This effect was slightly, but significantly, greater when quinine was infused after MEROTHER 80/480 in 14 additional subjects. It would thus appear that the inherent risk of QTc prolongation associated with i.v. quinine was enhanced by prior administration of MEROTHER 80/480.

#### **Concomitant use requiring caution**

#### **Interactions affecting the use of MEROTHER 80/480**

##### Interaction with CYP3A4 inhibitors

Both artemether and lumefantrine are metabolised predominantly by the cytochrome enzyme CYP3A4, but do not inhibit this enzyme at therapeutic concentrations.

##### Ketoconazole

The concurrent oral administration of ketoconazole with MEROTHER 80/480 led to a modest increase ( $\leq 2$ -fold) in artemether, DHA, and lumefantrine exposure in healthy adult subjects. This increase in exposure to the antimalarial combination was not associated with increased side effects or changes in electrocardiographic parameters. Based on this study, dose adjustment of MEROTHER 80/480 is considered

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unnecessary in falciparum malaria patients when administered in association with ketoconazole or other potent CYP3A4 inhibitors.

MEROTHER 80/480 should be used cautiously with drugs that inhibit CYP3A4 and are contraindicated with drugs which additionally are known to prolong QTc (see Section 4.3 Contraindications), due to potential for increased concentrations of lumefantrine which could lead to QT prolongation.

#### Interaction with weak to moderate inducers of CYP3A4

When MEROTHER 80/480 is co-administered with moderate inducers of CYP3A4, it may result in decreased concentrations of artemether and/or lumefantrine and loss of antimalarial efficacy (see section 4.4).

#### Interaction with anti-retroviral drugs such as protease inhibitors and non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors

Both artemether and lumefantrine are metabolized by CYP3A4. ARTs, such as protease inhibitors and non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, are known to have variable patterns of inhibition, induction or competition for CYP3A4. MEROTHER 80/480 should be used cautiously in patients on ARTs since decreased artemether, DHA, and/or lumefantrine concentrations may result in a decrease of antimalarial efficacy of MEROTHER 80/480, and increased lumefantrine concentrations may cause QT prolongation (see Section 4.4).

#### Lopinavir/ritonavir

In a clinical study in healthy volunteers, lopinavir/ritonavir decreased the systemic exposures to artemether and DHA by approximately 40% but increased the exposure to lumefantrine by approximately 2.3- fold. Exposures to lopinavir/ritonavir were not significantly affected by concomitant use of MEROTHER 80/480.

#### Nevirapine

In a clinical study in HIV-infected adults, nevirapine significantly reduced the median C<sub>max</sub> and AUC of artemether by approximately 61% and 72%, respectively and reduced the median C<sub>max</sub> and AUC of dihydroartemisinin by approximately 45% and 37%, respectively. Lumefantrine C<sub>max</sub> and AUC were non-significantly reduced by nevirapine. Artemether/lumefantrine reduced the median C<sub>max</sub> and AUC of nevirapine by approximately 43% and 46% respectively.



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Efavirenz

Efavirenz decreased the exposures to artemether, DHA, and lumefantrine by approximately 50%, 45%, and 80%, respectively. Exposures to efavirenz were not significantly affected by concomitant use of MEROTHER 80/480.

**Interactions resulting in effects of MEROTHER 80/480 on other drugs**

Interaction with drugs metabolized by CYP450 enzymes

When MEROTHER 80/480 is co-administered with substrates of CYP3A4 it may result in decreased concentrations of the substrate and potential loss of substrate efficacy. Studies in humans have demonstrated that artemisinins have some capacity to induce CYP3A4 and CYP2C19 and inhibit CYP2D6 and CYP1A2. Although the magnitude of the changes was generally low it is possible that these effects could alter the therapeutic response of drugs that are predominantly metabolised by these enzymes (see sections 4.4 and 5.2).

Interaction with hormonal contraceptives

In vitro, the metabolism of ethinyl estradiol and levonorgestrel was not induced by artemether, DHA, or lumefantrine. However, artemether has been reported to weakly induce, in humans, the activity of CYP2C19, CYP2B6, and CYP3A. Therefore, MEROTHER 80/480 may potentially reduce the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives. Patients using oral, transdermal patch, or other systemic hormonal contraceptives should be advised to use an additional nonhormonal method of birth control for about one month (see sections 4.4 and 4.6).

Drug-food/drink interactions

MEROTHER 80/480 should be taken with food or drinks rich in fat such as milk as the absorption of both artemether and lumefantrine is increased (see Section 4.2).

Grapefruit juice should be used cautiously during MEROTHER 80/480 treatment. Administration of artemether with grapefruit juice in healthy adult subjects resulted in an approximately two fold increase in systemic exposure to the parent drug.

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#### **4.6 Fertility, Pregnancy and lactation**

##### Women of childbearing potential

Women using oral, transdermal patch, or other systemic hormonal contraceptives should be advised to use an additional non-hormonal method of birth control for about one month (see section 4.4).

##### Pregnancy

A meta-analysis of observational studies including over 500 artemether-lumefantrine exposed women in their first trimester of pregnancy assessed adverse pregnancy outcomes. The data showed that compared to quinine, artemisinin treatment, including artemether-lumefantrine, was not associated with an increased risk of miscarriage, stillbirth or congenital anomalies. However, due to the limitations of these studies, the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes for artemether-lumefantrine exposed women in early pregnancy cannot be excluded.

Safety data from pregnancy studies including over 4800 pregnant women who were exposed to artemether-lumefantrine during the second or third trimester did not show an increase in adverse pregnancy outcomes or teratogenic effects over background rates.

Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3).

MEROTHER 80/480 treatment is not recommended during the first trimester of pregnancy in situations where other suitable and effective antimalarials are available (see section 4.4). However, it should not be withheld in life-threatening situations, where no other effective antimalarials are available. During the second and third trimester, MEROTHER 80/480 treatment should be considered if the expected benefit to the mother outweighs the risk to the foetus.

##### Breast-feeding

Animal data suggest excretion into breast milk but no data are available in humans. Women taking MEROTHER 80/480 should not breast-feed during their treatment. Due to the long elimination half-life of lumefantrine (2 to 6 days), it is recommended that breast-feeding should not resume until at least one week after the last dose of MEROTHER 80/480 unless potential benefits to the mother and child outweigh the risks of MEROTHER 80/480 treatment.



Fertility

There is no information on the effects of MEROTHER 80/480 on human fertility (see section 5.3).

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

Patients receiving MEROTHER 80/480 should be warned that dizziness or fatigue/asthenia may occur in which case they should not drive or use machines.

**4.8 Undesirable effects**

The safety of MEROTHER 80/480 has been evaluated in 80 clinical trials with more than 3500 patients. A total of 1810 adults and adolescents above 12 years of age as well as 1788 infants and children of 12 years of age and below have received MEROTHER 80/480 in clinical trials.

Adverse reactions reported from clinical studies and post-marketing experience are listed below according to system organ class.

Adverse reactions are ranked under headings of frequency using the MedDRA frequency convention:

Very common ( $\geq 1/10$ )

Common ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ )

Uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$  to  $< 1/100$ )

Rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$  to  $< 1/1,000$ )

Very rare ( $< 1/10,000$ )

Not known (cannot be estimated from available data).

**Table 1 Frequency of Undesirable effects**

	<b>Adults and adolescents above 12 years of age</b>	<b>Infants and children of 12 years of age and below (incidence estimates)</b>
<b>Immune system disorders</b>		
Hypersensitivity	Not known	Rare
<b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>		
Decreased appetite	Very common	Very common (16.8 %)

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<b>Psychiatric disorders</b>		
Sleep disorders	Very common	Common (6.4 %)
Insomnia	Common	Uncommon
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>		
Headache	Very common	Very common (17.1 %)
Dizziness	Very common	Common (5.5 %)
Paraesthesia	Common	--
Ataxia, hypoaesthesia	Uncommon	--
Somnolence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Clonus	Common	Uncommon
<b>Cardiac disorders</b>		
Palpitations	Very common	Common (1.8 %)
Electrocardiogram prolonged QT	Common	Common (5.3 %)
<b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>		
Cough	Common	Very common (22.7 %)
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>		
Vomiting	Very common	Very common (80.2 %)
Abdominal pain	Very common	Very common (12.1 %)
Nausea	Very common	Common (6.5 %)
Diarrhoea	Common	Common (8.4 %)
<b>Hepatobiliary disorders</b>		
Liver function tests increased	Uncommon	Common (4.1 %)
<b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>		
Rash	Common	Common (2.7 %)
Pruritus	Common	Uncommon
Urticaria	Uncommon	Uncommon

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Angioedema*	Not known	Not known
<b>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</b>		
Arthralgia	Very common	Common (2.1 %)
Myalgia	Very common	Common (2.2 %)
<b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>		
Asthenia	Very common	Common (5.2 %)
Fatigue	Very common	Common (9.2 %)
Gait disturbance	Common	--

\*: These adverse reactions were reported during post-marketing experience. Because these spontaneously reported events are from a population of uncertain size, it is difficult to estimate their frequency.

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.

**4.9 Overdose**

In cases of suspected overdosage symptomatic and supportive therapy should be given as appropriate, which should include ECG and blood potassium monitoring.

**5. Pharmacological properties****5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: antimalarials, blood schizontocide, ATC code: P01 BF01.

Pharmacodynamic effects

MEROTHER 80/480 comprises a fixed ratio of 1:6 parts of artemether and lumefantrine, respectively. The site of antiparasitic action of both components is the food vacuole of the malarial parasite, where they are thought to interfere with the conversion of haem, a toxic intermediate produced during haemoglobin breakdown, to the nontoxic haemozoin, malaria pigment. Lumefantrine is thought to interfere with

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the polymerisation process, while artemether generates reactive metabolites as a result of the interaction between its peroxide bridge and haem iron. Both artemether and lumefantrine have a secondary action involving inhibition of nucleic acid- and protein synthesis within the malarial parasite.

#### Treatment of Acute Uncomplicated *P. falciparum* Malaria

The efficacy of MEROTHER 80/480 was evaluated for the treatment of acute, uncomplicated malaria (defined as symptomatic *P. falciparum* malaria without signs and symptoms of severe malaria or evidence of vital organ dysfunction) in five 6-dose regimen studies and one study comparing the 6-dose regimen with the 4-dose regimen. Baseline parasite density ranged from 500/ $\mu$ L - 800,000/ $\mu$ L (0.01% to 4% parasitemia) in the majority of patients. Studies were conducted in otherwise healthy, partially immune or non-immune adults and children ( $\geq$ 5kg body weight) with uncomplicated malaria in Thailand, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, and South America.

Efficacy endpoints consisted of:

- 28-day cure rate, proportion of patients with clearance of asexual parasites within 7 days without recrudescence by day 28
- parasite clearance time (PCT), defined as time from first dose until first total and continued disappearance of asexual parasite which continues for a further 48 hours
- fever clearance time (FCT), defined as time from first dose until the first time body temperature fell below 37.5°C and remained below 37.5°C for at least a further 48 hours (only for patients with temperature  $>$ 37.5°C at baseline)

The modified intent to treat (mITT) population includes all patients with malaria diagnosis confirmation who received at least one dose of study drug. Evaluable patients generally are all patients who had a day 7 and a day 28 parasitological assessment or experienced treatment failure by day 28. The results are presented in the table below:

**Table 2 Clinical efficacy results**

Study No.	Age	Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-corrected 28-day cure rate <sup>1</sup> n/N (%) in evaluable	Median FCT <sup>2</sup> [25 <sup>th</sup> , 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile]	Median PCT <sup>2</sup> [25 <sup>th</sup> , 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile]	Year/ Study location
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		patients			
A025 <sup>4</sup>	3-62 years	93/96 (96.9)	n <sup>3</sup> =59 35 hours [80, 46]	n=118 44 hours [22, 47]	1996-97 Thailand
A026	2-63 years	130/133 (97.7)	n <sup>3</sup> =87 22 hours [19, 44]	NA	1997-98 Thailand
A028	12-71 years	148/154 (96.1)	n <sup>3</sup> =76 29 hours [8, 51]	n=164 29 hours [18, 40]	1998-99 Thailand
A2401	16-66 years	119/124 (96.0)	n <sup>3</sup> =100 37 hours [18, 44]	n=162 42 hours [34, 63]	8001-05 Europe, Columbia
A2403	2 months-9 years	289/299 (96.7)	n <sup>3</sup> =309 8 hours [8, 24]	n=310 24 hours [24, 36]	8002-03 3 countries in Africa
B2303 <sup>CT</sup>	3 months-12 years	403/419 (96.2)	n <sup>3</sup> =323 8 hours [8, 23]	n=452 35 hours [24, 36]	8006-07 5 countries in Africa
B2303 <sup>DT</sup>	3 months-12 years	394/416 (94.7)	n <sup>3</sup> =311 8 hours [8, 24]	n=446 34 hours [24, 36]	8006-07 5 countries in Africa

<sup>1</sup> Efficacy cure rate based on blood smear microscopy

<sup>2</sup> mITT population

<sup>3</sup> For patients who had a body temperature >37.5°C at baseline only

<sup>4</sup> Only the 6-dose regimen over 60 hours group data is presented

<sup>CT</sup> –MEROTHER 80/480 administered as crushed tablets

<sup>DT</sup> –MEROTHER 80/480 Dispersible tablets

MEROTHER 80/480 is not indicated for, and has not been evaluated in, the treatment of malaria due to *P. vivax*, *P. malariae* or *P. ovale*, although some patients in clinical studies had co-infection with *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* at baseline. MEROTHER 80/480 is active against blood stages of *Plasmodium vivax*, but is not active against hypnozoites.

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Paediatric population

Two studies have been conducted

Study A2403 was conducted in Africa in 310 infants and children aged 2 months to 9 years, weighing 5 kg to 25 kg, with an axillary temperature  $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Results of 28-day cure rate (PCR-corrected), median parasite clearance time (PCT), and fever clearance time (FCT) are reported in table 3 below.

Study B2303 was conducted in Africa in 452 infants and children, aged 3 months to 12 years, weighing 5 kg to  $< 35$  kg, with fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  axillary or  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  rectally) or history of fever in the preceding 24 hours. This study compared crushed tablets and dispersible tablets. Results of 28-day cure rate (PCR-corrected), median parasite clearance time (PCT), and fever clearance time (FCT) for crushed tablets are reported in table 3 below.

**Table 3 Clinical efficacy by weight for pediatric studies**

<b>Study No.</b>	<b>Median PCT<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>PCR-corrected 28-day</b>
<b>Weight category</b>	<b>[25<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> percentile]</b>	<b>cure rate<sup>2</sup>n/N (%) in</b>
		<b>evaluable patients</b>
Study A2403		
5 - <10 kg	24 hours [24, 36]	145/149 (97.3)
10 - <15 kg	35 hours [24, 36]	103/107 (96.3)
15 -25 kg	24 hours [24, 36]	41/43 (95.3)
Study B2303 <sup>CT</sup>		
5 - <10 kg	36 hours [24, 36]	65/69 (94.2)
10 - <15 kg	35 hours [24, 36]	174/179 (97.2)
15 -<25 kg	35 hours [24, 36]	134/140 (95.7)
25-35 kg	26 hours [24, 36]	30/31 (96.8)

<sup>1</sup> mITT population

<sup>2</sup> Efficacy cure rate based on blood smear microscopy

<sup>CT</sup> MEROTHER 80/480 administered as crushed tablets

**QT/QTc Prolongation:**

Adults and children with malaria

For information on the risk of QT/QTc prolongation in patients see section 4.4



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#### Healthy adults

In a healthy adult volunteer parallel group study including a placebo and moxifloxacin control group (n=42 per group), the administration of the six dose regimen of MEROTHER 80/480 was associated with prolongation of QTcF. The mean changes from baseline at 68, 72, 96, and 108 hours post first dose were 7.45, 7.29, 6.12 and 6.84 msec, respectively. At 156 and 168 hours after first dose, the changes from baseline for QTcF had no difference from zero. No subject had a >30 msec increase from baseline nor an absolute increase to >500 msec. Moxifloxacin control was associated with a QTcF increase as compared to placebo for 12 hours after the single dose with a maximal change at 1 hour after dose of 14.1 msec.

In the adult/adolescent population included in clinical trials, 8 patients (0.8%) receiving MEROTHER 80/480 experienced a QTcB >500 msec and 3 patients (0.4%) a QTcF >500 msec. Prolongation of QTcF interval >30 msec was observed in 36% of patients.

In clinical trials conducted in children with the 6-dose regimen, no patient had post-baseline QTcF >500 msec whereas 29.4% had QTcF increase from baseline >30 msec and 5.1% >60 msec. In clinical trials conducted in adults and adolescents with the 6-dose regimen, post-baseline QTcF prolongation of >500 msec was reported in 0.2% of patients, whereas QTcF increase from baseline >30 msec was reported in 33.9% and >60 msec in 6.2% of patients.

In the infant/children population included in clinical trials, 3 patients (0.2%) experienced a QTcB >500 msec. No patient had QTcF >500 msec. Prolongation of QTcF intervals >30 msec was observed in 34% of children weighing 5-10 kg, 31% of children weighing 10-15 kg and 24% of children weighing 15-25 kg, and 32% of children weighing 25-35 kg.

#### **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

Pharmacokinetic characterisation of MEROTHER 80/480 is limited by the lack of an intravenous formulation, and the very high inter-and intra-subject variability of artemether and lumefantrine plasma concentrations and derived pharmacokinetic parameters (AUC, C<sub>max</sub>).

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#### **Absorption**

Artemether is absorbed fairly rapidly and dihydroartemisinin, the active metabolite of artemether, appears rapidly in the systemic circulation with peak plasma concentrations of both compounds reached about 2 hours after dosing. Mean C<sub>max</sub> and AUC values of artemether ranged between 60.0-104 ng/mL and 146-338 ng·h/mL, respectively, in fed healthy adults after a single dose of MEROTHER 80/480, 80 mg artemether/480 mg lumefantrine. Mean C<sub>max</sub> and AUC values of dihydroartemisinin ranged between 49.7-104 ng/mL and 169-308 ng·h/mL, respectively. Absorption of lumefantrine, a highly lipophilic compound, starts after a lag-time of up to 2 hours, with peak plasma concentration (mean between 5.10-9.80 µg/mL) about 6-8 hours after dosing. Mean AUC values of lumefantrine ranged between 108 and 243 µg·h/mL. Food enhances the absorption of both artemether and lumefantrine: in healthy volunteers the relative bioavailability of artemether was increased more than two-fold, and that of lumefantrine sixteen-fold compared with fasted conditions when MEROTHER 80/480 was taken after a high-fat meal.

Food has also been shown to increase the absorption of lumefantrine in patients with malaria, although to a lesser extent (approximately two-fold), most probably due to the lower fat content of the food ingested by acutely ill patients. The food interaction data indicate that absorption of lumefantrine under fasted conditions is very poor (assuming 100% absorption after a high-fat meal, the amount absorbed under fasted conditions would be <10% of the dose). Patients should therefore be encouraged to take the medication with a normal diet as soon as food can be tolerated.

#### **Distribution**

Artemether and lumefantrine are both highly bound to human serum proteins *in vitro* (95.4% and 99.7%, respectively). Dihydroartemisinin is also bound to human serum proteins (47-76%).

#### **Biotransformation**

Artemether is rapidly and extensively metabolised (substantial first-pass metabolism) both *in vitro* and in humans. Human liver microsomes metabolise artemether to the biologically active main metabolite dihydroartemisinin (demethylation),

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predominantly through the isoenzyme CYP3A4/5. This metabolite has also been detected in humans *in vivo*.

Dihydroartemisinin is further converted to inactive metabolites.

The pharmacokinetics of artemether in adults is time-dependent. During repeated administration of MEROTHER 80/480, plasma artemether levels decreased significantly, while levels of the active metabolite (dihydroartemisinin) increased, although not to a statistically significant degree. The ratio of day 3/day 1 AUC for artemether was between 0.19 and 0.44, and was between 1.06 and 2.50 for dihydroartemisinin. This suggests that there was induction of the enzyme responsible for the metabolism of artemether. Artemether and dihydroartemisinin were reported to have a mild inducing effect on CYP3A4 activity. The clinical evidence of induction is consistent with the *in vitro* data described in section 4.5

Lumefantrine is N-debutylated, mainly by CYP3A4, in human liver microsomes. *In vivo* in animals (dogs and rats), glucuronidation of lumefantrine takes place directly and after oxidative biotransformation. In humans, the exposure to lumefantrine increases with repeated administration of MEROTHER 80/480 over the 3-day treatment period, consistent with the slow elimination of the compound (see section 5.2 Elimination). Systemic exposure to the metabolite desbutyl-lumefantrine, for which the *in vitro* antiparasitic effect is 5 to 8 fold higher than that for lumefantrine, was less than 1% of the exposure to the parent drug. Desbutyl-lumefantrine data is not available specifically for an African population. *In vitro*, lumefantrine significantly inhibits the activity of CYP2D6 at therapeutic plasma concentrations (see sections 4.3 and 4.5).

#### **Elimination**

Artemether and dihydroartemisinin are rapidly cleared from plasma with a terminal half-life of about 2 hours. Lumefantrine is eliminated very slowly with an elimination half-life of 2 to 6 days. Demographic characteristics such as sex and weight appear to have no clinically relevant effects on the pharmacokinetics of MEROTHER 80/480.

Limited urinary excretion data are available for humans. In 16 healthy volunteers, neither lumefantrine nor artemether was found in urine after administration of MEROTHER 80/480, and only traces of dihydroartemisinin were detected (urinary excretion of dihydroartemisinin amounted to less than 0.01% of the artemether dose).

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In animals (rats and dogs), no unchanged artemether was detected in faeces and urine due to its rapid and extensive first-pass metabolism, but numerous metabolites (partly identified) have been detected in faeces, bile and urine. Lumefantrine was excreted unchanged in faeces and with traces only in urine. Metabolites of lumefantrine were eliminated in bile/faeces.

#### **Dose proportionality**

No specific dose proportionality studies were performed. Limited data suggest a dose-proportional increase of systemic exposure to lumefantrine when doubling the MEROTHER 80/480 dose. No conclusive data is available for artemether.

#### **Bioavailability/bioequivalence studies**

Systemic exposure to lumefantrine, artemether and dihydroartemisinin was similar following administration of MEROTHER 80/480 as dispersible tablets and crushed tablets in healthy adults.

Systemic exposure to lumefantrine was similar following administration of MEROTHER 80/480 dispersible tablets and intact tablets in healthy adults. However, exposure to artemether and dihydroartemisinin was significantly lower (by 80-35%) for the dispersible than for the intact tablet. These findings are not considered to be clinically relevant for the use of the dispersible tablets in the paediatric population since adequate efficacy of MEROTHER 80/480 dispersible tablets was demonstrated in this population. The dispersible tablet is not recommended for use in adults.

#### **Older people**

No specific pharmacokinetic studies have been performed in elderly patients. However, there is no information suggesting that the dosage in patients over 65 years of age should be different than in younger adults.

#### **Paediatric population**

In paediatric malaria patients, mean C<sub>max</sub> (CV%) of artemether (observed after first dose of MEROTHER 80/480) were 223 (139%), 198 (90%) and 174 ng/mL (83%) for body weight groups 5-<15, 15-<25 and 25-<35 kg, respectively, compared to 186 ng/mL (67%) in adult malaria patients. The associated mean C<sub>max</sub> of DHA were 54.7

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(108%), 79.8 (101%) and 65.3 ng/mL (36%), respectively compared to 101 ng/mL (57%) in adult malaria patients. AUC of lumefantrine (population mean, covering the six doses of MEROTHER 80/480) were 577, 699 and 1150  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h}/\text{mL}$  for paediatric malaria patients in body weight groups 5-<15, 15-<25 and 25-<35 kg, respectively, compared to a mean AUC of 758  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h}/\text{mL}$  (87%) in adult malaria patients. The elimination half-lives of artemether and lumefantrine in children are unknown.

#### **Hepatic and Renal impairment**

No specific pharmacokinetic studies have been performed either in patients with hepatic or renal insufficiency or elderly patients. The primary clearance mechanism of both artemether and lumefantrine may be affected in patients with hepatic impairment. In patients with severe hepatic impairment, a clinically significant increase of exposure to artemether and lumefantrine and/or their metabolites cannot be ruled out. Therefore, caution should be exercised in dosing patients with severe hepatic impairment. Based on the pharmacokinetic data in 16 healthy subjects showing no or insignificant renal excretion of lumefantrine, artemether and dihydroartemisinin, no dose adjustment for the use of MEROTHER 80/480 in patients with renal impairment is advised.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

#### **General toxicity**

The main changes observed in repeat-dose toxicity studies were associated with the expected pharmacological action on erythrocytes, accompanied by responsive secondary haematopoiesis.

#### **Neurotoxicity**

Studies in dogs and rats have shown that intramuscular injections of artemether resulted in brain lesions. Changes observed mainly in brainstem nuclei included chromatolysis, eosinophilic cytoplasmic granulation, spheroids, apoptosis and dark neurons. Lesions were observed in rats dosed for at least 7 days and dogs for at least 8 days, but lesions were not observed after shorter intramuscular treatment courses or after oral dosing. The estimated artemether 24 h AUC after 7 days of dosing at the no observed effect level is approximately 7-fold greater or more than the estimated artemether 24 h AUC in humans. The hearing threshold was affected at 80 dB by oral

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artemether administration to dogs at a dose of about 29 times the highest artemether clinical dose (160 mg/day) based on body surface area comparisons. Most nervous system disorder adverse events in the studies of the 6-dose regimen were mild in intensity and resolved by the end of the study.

#### Mutagenicity

Artemether and lumefantrine were not genotoxic/clastogenic based on *in vitro* and *in vivo* testing.

#### Carcinogenicity

Carcinogenicity studies were not conducted.

#### Reproductive toxicity studies

Embryotoxicity was observed in rat and rabbit reproductive toxicity studies conducted with artemether, a derivative of artemisinin. Artemisinins are known to be embryotoxic. Lumefantrine alone caused no sign of reproductive or development toxicity at doses up to 1,000 mg/kg/day in rats and rabbits, doses which are at least 10 times higher than the daily human dose based on body surface area comparisons.

Reproductive toxicity studies performed with the artemether:lumefantrine combination caused maternal toxicity and increased post-implantation loss in rats and rabbits.

Artemether caused increases in post-implantation loss and teratogenicity (characterised as a low incidence of cardiovascular and skeletal malformations) in rats and rabbits. The embryotoxic artemether dose in the rat yields artemether and dihydroartemisinin exposures similar to those achieved in humans based on AUC.

#### Fertility

Artemether-lumefantrine administration yielded altered sperm motility, abnormal sperm, reduced epididymal sperm count, increased testes weight, and embryotoxicity; other reproductive effects (decreased implants and viable embryos, increased preimplantation loss) were also observed. The no adverse effect level for fertility was 300 mg/kg/day. The relevance to this finding in humans is unknown.

#### Juvenile toxicity studies

A study investigated the neurotoxicity of oral artemether in juvenile rats. Mortality, clinical signs and reductions in body weight parameters occurred most notably in younger rats. Despite the systemic toxicity noted, there were no effects of artemether

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on any of the functional tests performed and there was no evidence of a direct neurotoxic effect in juvenile rats.

Very young animals are more sensitive to the toxic effect of artemether than adult animals. There is no difference in sensitivity in slightly older animals compared to adult animals. Clinical studies have established the safety of artemether and lumefantrine administration in patients weighing 5 kg and above.

#### Cardiovascular Safety Pharmacology

In toxicity studies in dogs at doses  $\geq 600$  mg/kg/day, there was some evidence of prolongation of the QTc interval (safety margin of 1.3-fold to 2.2-fold for artemether using calculated free C<sub>max</sub>), at higher doses than intended for use in man. In vitro hERG assays showed a safety margin of  $>100$  for artemether and dihydroartemisinin. The hERG IC<sub>50</sub> was 8.1  $\mu$ M for lumefantrine and 5.5  $\mu$ M for its desbutyl metabolite.

## **6. Pharmaceutical particulars**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Micro crystalline cellulose

Croscarmellose Sodium

Colloidal anhydrous silica

Crospovidone

Mannitol

Magnesium Stearate

Sodium Lauryl Sulphate

Purified Talc

Citric Acid Monohydrate

Aspartame

Mango dry Flavour

Quinoline Yellow

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

None



### **6.3 Shelf life**

3 years

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

Store below 30° C in a dry place.

Protect from light.

Keep medicines out of the reach of children.

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

Alu-PVC Blisters

1 X 24 Tablets packed in Alu-PVC Blister Packed in carton with insert.

## **7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

### **ESMERO PHARMACEUTICAL LTD.**

Plot No.: 2, Adekola Adedeji Close,

Off Freedom Way, Lekki Phase -1,

Lagos State, Nigeria

## **8. MANUFACTURED BY:**

### **SALUD CARE (I) PRIVATE LIMITED**

Plot No.- 435, Kishanpur, Jamalpur, Roorkee,

Dist. Haridwar, Uttarakhand (India)

## **9. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

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## **10. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION / RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

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## **11. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

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**1.3.2 Labelling (outer & inner labels)**

**Carton**

Enclosed

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**Foil**

Enclosed

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**1.3.3 Package Insert (also known as patient information PIL)**

Enclosed

# Artemether 20 mg & Lumefantrine 120 mg Dispersible Tablets

## Composition:

Each uncoated dispersible tablet contains:

Artemether	20 mg
Lumefantrine USP	120 mg
Excipients	Q.S.

## MECHANISM OF ACTION

Both compounds, artemether and lumefantrine, have their own action site in the malarial parasite. The presence of the endoperoxide bridge in artemether, generating singlet oxygen and free radicals which are very cytotoxic to the plasmodia, appears to be essential for antimalarial activity. Morphological changes of the parasitic membranes induced by artemether have been described as being the result of free-radical action. Lumefantrine interferes more in the polymerisation processes.

Both cause a marked diminution of nucleic acid synthesis. Inhibition of protein synthesis as the basic mechanism of action is suggested in studies which showed morphological changes in ribosome's as well as in the endoplasmic reticulum. Although, Artemether acts essentially as a blood schizonticide.

## INDICATIONS

Artemether & lumefantrine tablets are indicated for the treatment of malaria, caused by all forms of plasmodium including severe malaria caused by multiple drug resistant strains of P. Falciparum.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

Artemether & Lumefantrine Tablets are contraindicated:

In those with hypersensitivity to the active substances or any of the excipients.

In cases of severe malaria.

In the first trimester of pregnancy.

Patients with a family history of Congenital prolongation of the QTc interval or sudden death or with any other clinical condition known to prolong the QTc interval such as patients with a history of symptomatic cardiac arrhythmias, patients with clinically relevant bradycardia or with severe cardiac disease, family history of sudden death, disturbances of electrolyte balance, e.g. hypokalaemia or hypomagnesaemia. Concomitant use of drugs that are known to be metabolised by cytochrome enzyme CYP2D6

(e.g. flecainide, metoprolol, imipramine, amitriptyline, clomipramine).

## DOSEAGE

Route: Oral

### Posology

#### Adults and children weighing 35 kg and above

For patients 12 years of age and above and 35 kg body weight and above, a course of treatment comprises six doses of four tablets i.e. total of 24 tablets, given over a period of 60 hours as follows: the first dose of four tablets, given at the time of initial diagnosis, should be followed by five further doses of four tablets given at 8, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours thereafter.

#### Children and infants weighing 5 kg to less than 35 kg

A six-dose regimen is recommended with 1 to 3 tablets per dose, depending on bodyweight:

5 to less than 15 kg bodyweight: the first dose of one tablet, given at the time of initial diagnosis, should be followed by five further doses of one tablet given at 8, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours thereafter.

15 to less than 25 kg bodyweight: the first dose of two tablets, given at the time of initial diagnosis, should be followed by five further doses of two tablets given at 8, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours thereafter.

25 to less than 35 kg bodyweight: the first dose of three tablets, given at the time of initial diagnosis, should be followed by five further doses of three tablets given at 8, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours thereafter.

Weight in kg	Total Tablets	Dosage Regimen					
		Day-1		Day-2		Day-3	
		0 Hour	8 Hour	24 Hour	36 Hour	48 Hour	60 Hour
5 - 14	6	1	1	1	1	1	1
15 - 24	12	2	2	2	2	2	2
25 - 34	18	3	3	3	3	3	3
35 - and more (ADULTS)	24	4	4	4	4	4	4

## WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

### Warnings:

Artemether and Lumefantrine Tablets should be taken with or after food, if the patient can't tolerate food the tablets should still be taken, but they may be less effective. The tablets can be crushed for small children or infants.

If you are sick within one hour of taking a dose of this medicine you should consult your doctor or pharmacist, as you may need to take another dose.

It is very important that you complete the prescribed course of this medicine, unless otherwise directed by your doctor, as the medicine may not be fully effective if you don't.

Unless your doctor or pharmacist tells you otherwise, you should avoid drinking grape fruit juice while taking this medicine, as it may affect the level of this medicine in your blood.

This medicine may cause fatigue and dizziness. You should take care when performing potentially hazardous activities, such as driving or operating machinery, until you know how this medicine affects you and are sure you can perform such activities safely.

If you have kidney, liver or heart problems you should be regularly monitored while you are taking this medicine, to check the level of potassium in your blood (blood test), and your heart function (ECG).

## Precautions

Use with caution in patients with severe hepatic or renal insufficiency and patients refusing food intake. Patients who remain averse to food during treatment should be closely monitored as the risk of recrudescence may be greater.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines — Driving and use of machinery is not recommended due to risk of dizziness and fatigue/asthenia.

## SIDE-EFFECTS

Artemether and lumefantrine combination is well tolerated by children and adults, with most adverse events being of mild to moderate severity and duration. Many of the reported events are likely to be related to the underlying malaria and/or to an unsatisfactory response to treatment rather than to the combination. Common adverse events reported with artemether and lumefantrine combination included headache, dizziness, sleep disorder, abdominal pain, anorexia, diarrhoea, vomiting, nausea, palpitation, cough, arthralgia, myalgia, pruritus, rash, asthenia and fatigue. Somnolence, involuntary muscle contractions, paraesthesia, hypoaesthesia, abnormal gait, ataxia were other adverse effects reported with artemether and lumefantrine combination. Rare adverse event included hypersensitivity. Unspecified personality disorders have also been reported in children <5 years treated with artemether and lumefantrine combination.

## DRUG INTERACTIONS

The sequential oral administration of mefloquine prior to artemether and lumefantrine combination had no effect on plasma concentrations of artemether or the artemether / dihydroartemisinin (DHA) ratio but there was a significant (around 30-40%) reduction in plasma levels (C<sub>max</sub> and AUC) of lumefantrine, possibly due to lower absorption secondary to a mefloquine-induced decrease in bile production. Such patients should therefore be encouraged to eat at dosing times to compensate for this decrease in bioavailability. Quinine alone caused a transient prolongation of the QTc interval, which was consistent with its known cardiotoxicity.

This effect was slightly but significantly greater when quinine was infused after artemether and lumefantrine combination. Thus, prior administration of artemether and lumefantrine combination appears to enhance the inherent risk of QTc-prolongation from IV quinine.

Hence when artemether and lumefantrine combination is given to patients following administration of mefloquine or quinine, close monitoring of food intake (for mefloquine) or the ECG (for quinine) should be carried out.

In patients previously treated with halofantrine, Artemether and Lumefantrine Tablets should be administered at least one month after the last halofantrine dose.

Due to limited data on safety and efficacy, the combination should not be given concurrently with other antimalarials unless there is no other treatment option. However, if a patient deteriorates while taking the combination, alternative treatments for malaria should be commenced without delay. In such cases, monitoring of the ECG is recommended and steps should be taken to correct electrolyte disturbances.

Whereas in vitro studies with artemether at therapeutic concentrations revealed no significant interactions with cytochrome P450 enzymes, the artemisinins have some capacity to induce the production of the cytochrome enzyme CYP2C19 and perhaps also CYP3A4. It is possible that iso-enzyme induction could alter the therapeutic effects of drugs that are predominantly metabolized by these enzymes.

Lumefantrine was found to inhibit CYP2D6 in vitro. This may be of particular clinical relevance for compounds with a low therapeutic index. Co-administration of Artemether and Lumefantrine Tablets with drugs that are metabolized by this iso-enzyme (e.g. neuroleptics and tricyclic antidepressants) is contraindicated.

## PREGNANCY & LACTATION

### Pregnancy

There is insufficient data from the use of artemether and lumefantrine in pregnant women. Based on animal data, Malarem is suspected to cause serious birth defects when administered during the first trimester of pregnancy. Reproductive studies with

artemether have shown evidence of post-implantation losses and teratogenicity in rats and rabbits. Other artemisinin derivatives have also demonstrated teratogenic potential with an increased risk during early gestation. Malarem treatment must not be used during the first trimester of pregnancy in situations where other suitable and effective antimalarials are available. However, it should not be withheld in life-threatening situations, where no other effective antimalarials are available. During the second and third trimester, treatment should only be considered if the expected benefit to the mother outweighs the risk to the foetus.

### Lactation

Animal data suggest excretion into breast milk but no data are available in humans. Women taking Artemether & Lumefantrine should not breast-feed during their treatment. Due to the long elimination half-life of Lumefantrine (4 to 6 days), it is recommended that breast-feeding should not resume until at least one week after the last dose of Artemether & Lumefantrine unless potential benefits to the mother and child outweigh the risks of Artemether & Lumefantrine treatment.

## OVERDOSAGE

Symptoms of overdose may include: severe dizziness, fainting, slow/irregular heartbeat. In cases of suspected overdose, symptomatic and supportive therapy should be given as appropriate. ECG and blood potassium levels should be monitored may cause cardiac, hepatic, and neurological symptoms.

## STORAGE

Store below 30°C in a dry place,

Protect from light.

KEEP MEDICINES OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

## PRESENTATION

ALU-PVC Blister Pack.