

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

Sildenafil Oral Jelly

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Sildenafil Oral Jelly

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each 5 gm contains:

Sildenafil Citrate BP

Equivalent to Sildenafil 100 mg

Excipients q.s.

Approved colours used

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Oral Jelly

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications:

Sildenafil is indicated in adult men with erectile dysfunction, which is the inability to achieve or maintain a penile erection sufficient for satisfactory sexual performance.

In order for Sildenafil to be effective, sexual stimulation is required.

4.2 Posology and method of administration:

Posology

Use in adults

The recommended dose is 50 mg taken as needed approximately one hour before sexual activity. Based on efficacy and tolerability, the dose may be increased to 100mg or decreased to 25mg. The maximum recommended dose is 100 mg. The maximum recommended dosing frequency is once per day. If Sildenafil is taken with food, the onset of activity may be delayed compared to the fasted state.

Special populations

Elderly

Dosage adjustments are not required in elderly patients (≥ 65 years old).

Renal impairment The dosing recommendations described in "Use in adults" apply to patients with mild to moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance = 30-80 ml/min).

Since sildenafil clearance is reduced in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30 ml/min) a 25mg dose should be considered. Based on efficacy and tolerability, the dose may be increased step-wise to 50mg and 100mg as necessary.

Hepatic impairment since sildenafil clearance is reduced in patients with hepatic impairment (e.g. cirrhosis) a 25mg dose should be considered. Based on efficacy and tolerability, the dose may be increased step-wise to 50mg and 100mg as necessary.

Paediatric population

Sildenafil is not indicated for individuals below 18 years of age.

Use in patients taking other medicinal products With the exception of ritonavir for which co-administration with sildenafil is not advised a starting dose of 25mg should be considered in patients receiving concomitant treatment with CYP3A4 inhibitors.

In order to minimise the potential of developing postural hypotension in patients receiving alpha-blocker treatment, patients should be stabilised on alpha-blocker therapy prior to initiating sildenafil treatment. In addition, initiation of sildenafil at a dose of 25 mg should be considered.

Method of administration: For oral use.

4.3 Contraindication:

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients.

Consistent with its known effects on the nitric oxide/cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) pathway, sildenafil was shown to potentiate the hypotensive effects of nitrates, and its co-administration with nitric oxide donors (such as amyl nitrite) or nitrates in any form is therefore contraindicated.

The co-administration of PDE5 inhibitors, including sildenafil, with guanylate cyclase stimulators, such as riociguat, is contraindicated as it may potentially lead to symptomatic hypotension.

Agents for the treatment of erectile dysfunction, including sildenafil, should not be used in men for whom sexual activity is inadvisable (e.g. patients with severe cardiovascular disorders such as unstable angina or severe cardiac failure).

Sildenafil is contraindicated in patients who have loss of vision in one eye because of non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION), regardless of whether this episode was in connection or not with previous PDE5 inhibitor exposure.

The safety of sildenafil has not been studied in the following sub-groups of patients and its use is therefore contraindicated: severe hepatic impairment, hypotension (blood pressure < 90/50 mmHg), recent history of stroke or myocardial infarction and known hereditary degenerative retinal disorders such as retinitis pigmentosa (a minority of these patients have genetic disorders of retinal phosphodiesterases).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

A medical history and physical examination should be undertaken to diagnose erectile dysfunction and determine potential underlying causes, before pharmacological treatment is considered.

Cardiovascular risk factors

Prior to initiating any treatment for erectile dysfunction, physicians should consider the cardiovascular status of their patients, since there is a degree of cardiac risk associated with sexual activity. Sildenafil has vasodilator properties, resulting in mild and transient decreases in blood pressure. Prior to prescribing sildenafil, physicians should carefully consider whether their patients with certain underlying conditions could be adversely affected by such vasodilatory effects, especially in combination with sexual activity. Patients with increased susceptibility to vasodilators include those with left ventricular outflow obstruction (e.g., aortic stenosis, hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy), or those with the rare syndrome of multiple system atrophy manifesting as severely impaired autonomic control of blood pressure.

Sildenafil potentiates the hypotensive effect of nitrates.

Serious cardiovascular events, including myocardial infarction, unstable angina, sudden cardiac death, ventricular arrhythmia, cerebrovascular haemorrhage, transient ischaemic attack, hypertension and hypotension have been reported post-marketing in temporal association with the use of Sildenafil. Most, but not all, of these patients had pre-existing cardiovascular risk factors. Many events were reported to occur during or shortly after sexual intercourse and a few were reported to occur shortly after the use of Sildenafil without sexual activity. It is not possible to determine whether these events are related directly to these factors or to other factors.

Priapism

Agents for the treatment of erectile dysfunction, including sildenafil, should be used with caution in patients with anatomical deformation of the penis (such as angulation, cavernosal fibrosis or Peyronie's disease), or in patients who have conditions which may predispose them to priapism (such as sickle cell anaemia, multiple myeloma or leukaemia).

Prolonged erections and priapism have been reported with sildenafil in post-marketing experience. In the event of an erection that persists for longer than 4 hours, the patient should seek immediate medical assistance. If priapism is not treated immediately, penile tissue damage and permanent loss of potency could result.

Concomitant use with other PDE5 inhibitors or other treatments for erectile dysfunction The safety and efficacy of combinations of sildenafil with other PDE5 inhibitors, or other pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) treatments containing sildenafil (REVATIO), or other treatments for erectile dysfunction have not been studied. Therefore the use of such combinations is not recommended.

Effects on vision

Cases of visual defects have been reported spontaneously in connection with the intake of sildenafil and other PDE5 inhibitors. Cases of non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy, a rare condition, have been reported spontaneously and in an observational study in connection with the intake of sildenafil and other PDE5 inhibitors. Patients should be advised that in the event of any sudden visual defect, they should stop taking sildenafil and consult a physician immediately.

Concomitant use with ritonavir

Co-administration of sildenafil with ritonavir is not advised.

Concomitant use with alpha-blockers

Caution is advised when sildenafil is administered to patients taking an alpha-blocker, as the coadministration may lead to symptomatic hypotension in a few susceptible individuals. This is most likely to occur within 4 hours post sildenafil dosing. In order to minimise the potential for developing postural hypotension, patients should be hemodynamically stable on alpha-blocker therapy prior to initiating sildenafil treatment. Initiation of sildenafil at a dose of 25 mg should be considered. In addition, physicians should advise patients what to do in the event of postural hypotensive symptoms.

Effect on bleeding

Studies with human platelets indicate that sildenafil potentiates the antiaggregatory effect of sodium nitroprusside *in vitro*. There is no safety information on the administration of sildenafil to patients with bleeding disorders or active peptic ulceration. Therefore sildenafil should be administered to these patients only after careful benefit-risk assessment.

Sildenafil is not indicated for use by women.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

In vitro studies:

Sildenafil metabolism is principally mediated by the cytochrome P450 (CYP) isoforms 3A4 (major route) and 2C9 (minor route). Therefore, inhibitors of these isoenzymes may reduce sildenafil clearance and inducers of these isoenzymes may increase sildenafil clearance.

In vivo studies:

Population pharmacokinetic analysis of clinical trial data indicated a reduction in sildenafil clearance when co-administered with CYP3A4 inhibitors (such as ketoconazole, erythromycin, cimetidine). Although no increased incidence of adverse events was observed in these patients, when sildenafil is administered concomitantly with CYP3A4 inhibitors, a starting dose of 25mg should be considered.

Co-administration of the HIV protease inhibitor ritonavir, which is a highly potent P450 inhibitor, at steady state (500mg twice daily) with sildenafil (100mg single dose) resulted in a 300% (4-fold) increase in sildenafil C_{max} and a 1,000% (11-fold) increase in sildenafil plasma AUC. At 24 hours, the plasma levels of sildenafil were still approximately 200ng/ml, compared to approximately 5ng/ml when sildenafil was administered alone. This is consistent with ritonavir's marked effects on a broad range of P450 substrates. Sildenafil had no effect on ritonavir pharmacokinetics. Based on these pharmacokinetic results co-administration of sildenafil with ritonavir is not advised and in any event the maximum dose of sildenafil should under no circumstances exceed 25mg within 48 hours.

Co-administration of the HIV protease inhibitor saquinavir, a CYP3A4 inhibitor, at steady state (1200mg three times a day) with sildenafil (100mg single dose) resulted in a 140% increase in sildenafil C_{max} and a 210% increase in sildenafil AUC. Sildenafil had no effect on saquinavir pharmacokinetics. Stronger CYP3A4 inhibitors such as ketoconazole and itraconazole would be expected to have greater effects.

When a single 100mg dose of sildenafil was administered with erythromycin, a moderate CYP3A4 inhibitor, at steady state (500mg twice daily for 5 days), there was a 182% increase in sildenafil systemic exposure (AUC). In normal healthy male volunteers, there was no evidence of an effect of azithromycin (500mg daily for 3 days) on the AUC, C_{max}, T_{max}, elimination rate constant, or subsequent half-life of sildenafil or its principal circulating metabolite. Cimetidine (800mg), a cytochrome P450 inhibitor and non-specific CYP3A4 inhibitor, caused a 56% increase in plasma sildenafil concentrations when co-administered with sildenafil (50mg) to healthy volunteers.

Grapefruit juice is a weak inhibitor of CYP3A4 gut wall metabolism and may give rise to modest increases in plasma levels of sildenafil.

Single doses of antacid (magnesium hydroxide/aluminium hydroxide) did not affect the bioavailability of sildenafil.

Although specific interaction studies were not conducted for all medicinal products, population pharmacokinetic analysis showed no effect of concomitant medication on sildenafil pharmacokinetics when grouped as CYP2C9 inhibitors (such as tolbutamide, warfarin, phenytoin), CYP2D6 inhibitors (such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants), thiazide and related diuretics, loop and potassium sparing diuretics, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, calcium channel blockers, beta-adrenoreceptor antagonists or inducers of CYP450 metabolism (such as rifampicin, barbiturates). In a study of healthy male volunteers, co-administration of the endothelin antagonist, bosentan, (an inducer of CYP3A4 [moderate], CYP2C9 and possibly of CYP2C19) at steady state (125 mg twice a day) with sildenafil at steady state (80 mg three times a day) resulted in 62.6% and 55.4% decrease in sildenafil AUC and C_{max}, respectively.

Therefore, concomitant administration of strong CYP3A4 inducers, such as rifampin, is expected to cause greater decreases in plasma concentrations of sildenafil.

Nicorandil is a hybrid of potassium channel activator and nitrate. Due to the nitrate component it has the potential to result in a serious interaction with sildenafil.

Effects of sildenafil on other medicinal products

In vitro studies:

Sildenafil is a weak inhibitor of the cytochrome P450 isoforms 1A2, 2C9, 2C19, 2D6, 2E1 and 3A4 (IC₅₀ >150 µM). Given sildenafil peak plasma concentrations of approximately 1 µM after recommended doses, it is unlikely that Sildenafil will alter the clearance of substrates of these isoenzymes.

There are no data on the interaction of sildenafil and non-specific phosphodiesterase inhibitors such as theophylline or dipyridamole.

In vivo studies:

Consistent with its known effects on the nitric oxide/cGMP pathway, sildenafil was shown to potentiate the hypotensive effects of nitrates, and its co-administration with nitric oxide donors or nitrates in any form is therefore contraindicated.

Riociguat: Preclinical studies showed additive systemic blood pressure lowering effect when PDE5 inhibitors were combined with riociguat. In clinical studies, riociguat has been shown to augment the hypotensive effects of PDE5 inhibitors. There was no evidence of favourable clinical effect of the combination in the population studied. Concomitant use of riociguat with PDE5 inhibitors, including sildenafil, is contraindicated.

Concomitant administration of sildenafil to patients taking alpha-blocker therapy may lead to symptomatic hypotension in a few susceptible individuals. This is most likely to occur within 4 hours post sildenafil dosing. In three specific drug-drug interaction studies, the alpha-blocker doxazosin (4 mg and 8 mg) and sildenafil (25 mg, 50 mg, or 100 mg) were administered simultaneously to patients with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) stabilized on doxazosin therapy. In these study populations, mean additional reductions of supine blood pressure of 7/7 mmHg, 9/5 mmHg, and 8/4 mmHg, and mean additional reductions of standing blood pressure of 6/6 mmHg, 11/4 mmHg, and 4/5 mmHg, respectively, were observed. When sildenafil and doxazosin were administered simultaneously to patients stabilized on doxazosin therapy, there were infrequent reports of patients who experienced symptomatic postural hypotension. These reports included dizziness and light-headedness, but not syncope.

No significant interactions were shown when sildenafil (50mg) was co-administered with tolbutamide (250mg) or warfarin (40mg), both of which are metabolised by CYP2C9.

Sildenafil (50mg) did not potentiate the increase in bleeding time caused by acetyl salicylic acid (150mg).

Sildenafil (50mg) did not potentiate the hypotensive effects of alcohol in healthy volunteers with mean maximum blood alcohol levels of 80 mg/dl.

Pooling of the following classes of antihypertensive medication; diuretics, beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin II antagonists, antihypertensive medicinal products (vasodilator and centrally-acting), adrenergic neurone blockers, calcium channel blockers and alpha-adrenoceptor blockers, showed no difference in the side effect profile in patients taking sildenafil compared to placebo treatment. In a specific interaction study, where sildenafil (100mg) was co-administered with amlodipine in hypertensive patients, there was an additional reduction on supine systolic blood pressure of 8 mmHg. The corresponding additional reduction in supine diastolic blood pressure was 7 mmHg. These additional blood pressure reductions were of a similar magnitude to those seen when sildenafil was administered alone to healthy volunteers (see Section 5.1).

Sildenafil (100mg) did not affect the steady state pharmacokinetics of the HIV protease inhibitors, saquinavir and ritonavir, both of which are CYP3A4 substrates.

In healthy male volunteers, sildenafil at steady state (80 mg t.i.d.) resulted in a 49.8% increase in bosentan AUC and a 42% increase in bosentan C_{max} (125 mg b.i.d.).

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation General principles

Sildenafil is not indicated for use by women.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant or breastfeeding women.

There was no effect on sperm motility or morphology after single 100 mg oral doses of sildenafil in healthy volunteers.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Patients should be warned about the potential for dizziness or symptoms of visual impairment whilst receiving linezolid and should be advised not to drive or operate machinery if any of these symptoms occurs.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Infections and infestations: Rhinitis

Blood and the lymphatic system disorders: Anaemia, Leucopenia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, eosinophilia, Pancytopenia

Immune system disorders: Hypersensitivity

Nervous system disorders: Headache, Dizziness, Somnolence, Hypoaesthesia, Cerebrovascular accident, Transient ischaemic attack, Seizure, Seizure recurrence, Syncope

Eye disorders: Visual colour distortions, Visual disturbance, Vision blurred, Lacrimation disorders, Eye pain, Photophobia, Photopsia, Ocular hyperaemia, Visual brightness, Conjunctivitis

Ear and labyrinth disorders: Vertigo, Tinnitus, Deafness

Cardiac disorders: Tachycardia, Palpitations,

Vascular disorders: Flushing, Hot flush, Hypertension, Hypotension

Gastrointestinal disorders: Nausea, Dyspepsia, Gastro oesophageal reflux disease, Vomiting, Abdominal pain upper, Dry mouth

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: Rash

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders: Myalgia, Pain in extremity

Renal and urinary disorders: Haematuria

Reproductive system and breast disorders: Penile haemorrhage, Priapism, Haemospermia, Erection increased

General disorders and administration site conditions: Chest pain, Fatigue, Feeling hot

4.9 Overdose

In single dose volunteer studies of doses up to 800mg, adverse reactions were similar to those seen at lower doses, but the incidence rates and severities were increased. Doses of 200mg did not result in increased efficacy but the incidence of adverse reactions (headache, flushing, dizziness, dyspepsia, nasal congestion, altered vision) was increased.

In cases of overdose, standard supportive measures should be adopted as required. Renal dialysis is not expected to accelerate clearance as sildenafil is highly bound to plasma proteins and not eliminated in the urine.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties:

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Urologics; Drugs used in erectile dysfunction.

ATC code: G04B E03.

Sildenafil is an oral therapy for erectile dysfunction. In the natural setting, i.e. with sexual stimulation, it restores impaired erectile function by increasing blood flow to the penis.

The physiological mechanism responsible for erection of the penis involves the release of nitric oxide (NO) in the corpus cavernosum during sexual stimulation. Nitric oxide then activates the enzyme guanylate cyclase, which results in increased levels of cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP), producing smooth muscle relaxation in the corpus cavernosum and allowing inflow of blood.

Sildenafil is a potent and selective inhibitor of cGMP specific phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) in the corpus cavernosum, where PDE5 is responsible for degradation of cGMP. Sildenafil has a peripheral site of action on erections. Sildenafil has no direct relaxant effect on isolated human corpus cavernosum but potently enhances the relaxant effect of NO on this tissue. When the NO/cGMP pathway is activated, as occurs with sexual stimulation, inhibition of PDE5 by sildenafil results in increased corpus cavernosum levels of cGMP. Therefore sexual stimulation is required in order for sildenafil to produce its intended beneficial pharmacological effects.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties:

Absorption

Sildenafil is rapidly absorbed. Maximum observed plasma concentrations are reached within 30 to 120 minutes (median 60 minutes) of oral dosing in the fasted state. The mean absolute oral bioavailability is 41% (range 25-63%). After oral dosing of sildenafil AUC and C_{max} increase in proportion with dose over the recommended dose range (25-100mg).

When sildenafil is taken with food, the rate of absorption is reduced with a mean delay in Tmax of 60 minutes and a mean reduction in Cmax of 29%

Distribution

The mean steady state volume of distribution (Vd) for sildenafil is 105 l, indicating distribution into the tissues. After a single oral dose of 100 mg, the mean maximum total plasma concentration of sildenafil is approximately 440 ng/ml (CV 40%). Since sildenafil (and its major circulating N-desmethyl metabolite) is 96% bound to plasma proteins, this results in the mean maximum free plasma concentration for sildenafil of 18 ng/ml (38 nM). Protein binding is independent of total drug concentrations.

In healthy volunteers receiving sildenafil (100mg single dose), less than 0.0002% (average 188ng) of the administered dose was present in ejaculate 90 minutes after dosing.

Biotransformation

Sildenafil is cleared predominantly by the CYP3A4 (major route) and CYP2C9 (minor route) hepatic microsomal isoenzymes. The major circulating metabolite results from N-demethylation of sildenafil. This metabolite has a phosphodiesterase selectivity profile similar to sildenafil and an in vitro potency for PDE5 approximately 50% that of the parent drug. Plasma concentrations of this metabolite are approximately 40% of those seen for sildenafil. The N-desmethyl metabolite is further metabolised, with a terminal half life of approximately 4 h.

Elimination

The total body clearance of sildenafil is 41 l/h with a resultant terminal phase half life of 3-5 h. After either oral or intravenous administration, sildenafil is excreted as metabolites predominantly in the faeces (approximately 80% of administered oral dose) and to a lesser extent in the urine (approximately 13% of administered oral dose).

5.3 Preclinical safety data:

Non-clinical data revealed no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential, and toxicity to reproduction and development.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients:

Kyron T-134 (Polacrillin Potassium) USP-NF, Sorbitol Solution (70%) BP, Carbomer – 934 USP, Methyl Hydroxy Benzoate BP, Propyl Hydroxy Benzoate BP, Saccharin Sodium BP, Glycerin BP, Sodium Hydroxide BP, Colour: Tartrazine Yellow Supra IHS, Flavour : Mango IHS, Purified water BP,

6.2 Incompatibilities: NONE

6.3 Shelf life:

36 months from the date of manufacture.

6.4 Special precautions for storage:

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

6.5 Nature and contents of container:

5 gm jelly

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling:

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7. MARKETING AUTHORIZATION HOLDER AND MANUFACTURING SITE ADDRESSES