DGF Drugfield **PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED**

DGF Drugfield **PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED**

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS (SmPC) of Rabcid® (Rabeprazole sodium 20mg) Capsules

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINALPRODUCT

RABCID®- CAPSULES (Rabeprazole sodium 20mg)

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each capsule contains 20mg Rabeprazole sodium respectively.

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solid (Capsule)

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Rabeprazole sodium capsules are indicated in:

Adults

• Treatment of duodenal ulcers

• Prevention of relapse of duodenal ulcers

• Treatment of gastric ulcers

• Prevention of relapse of gastric ulcers

• In combination with appropriate antibiotics, *Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)* eradication in peptic ulcer disease

• Treatment of NSAID-associated gastric and duodenal ulcers

• Prevention of NSAID-associated gastric and duodenal ulcers in patients at risk

• Treatment of reflux oesophagitis

• Long-term management of patients with healed reflux oesophagitis

• Treatment of symptomatic gastro-oesophageal reflux disease

• Treatment of Zollinger-Ellison syndrome

Paediatric population

Children over 1 year of age and ≥ 10 kg

• Treatment of reflux oesophagitis

• Symptomatic treatment of heartburn and acid regurgitation in gastro-oesophageal reflux disease

Adolescents and children over 4 years of age

• In combination with antibiotics in treatment of duodenal ulcer caused by *H. pylori*

Posology and method of administration

Adults /older people

Active Duodenal Ulcer and Active Benign Gastric Ulcer: The recommended oral dose for both active duodenal ulcer and active benign gastric ulcer is 20 mg to be taken once daily in the morning.

Most patients with active duodenal ulcer heal within four weeks. However a few patients may require an additional four weeks of therapy to achieve healing. Most patients with active benign gastric ulcer heal within six weeks. However again a few patients may require an additional six weeks of therapy to achieve healing.

Erosive or Ulcerative Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease (GORD): The recommended oral dose for this condition is 20 mg to be taken once daily for four to eight weeks.

Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease Long-term Management (GORD Maintenance): For long-term management, a maintenance dose of RABCID 20 mg or 10 mg once daily can be used depending upon patient response.

Symptomatic treatment of moderate to very severe gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (symptomatic GORD): 10 mg once daily in patients without oesophagitis. If symptom control has not been achieved during four weeks, the patient should be further investigated. Once symptoms have resolved, subsequent symptom control can be achieved using an on-demand regimen taking 10 mg once daily when needed.

Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome: The recommended adult starting dose is 60 mg once a day. The dose may be titrated upwards to 120 mg/day based on individual patient needs. Single daily doses up to 100 mg/day may be given. 120 mg dose may require divided doses, 60 mg twice daily. Treatment should continue for as long as clinically indicated.

Eradication of H. pylori: Patients with *H. pylori* infection should be treated with eradication therapy. The following combination given for 7 days is recommended.

RABCID 20 mg twice daily + clarithromycin 500 mg twice daily and amoxicillin 1 g twice daily.

For indications requiring once daily treatment RABCID tablets should be taken in the morning, before eating; and although neither the time of day nor food intake was shown to have any effect on rabeprazole sodium activity, this regimen will facilitate treatment compliance.

Renal and hepatic impairment

No dosage adjustment is necessary for patients with renal or hepatic impairment.

See section 4.4 in the treatment of patients with severe hepatic impairment.

Children

RABCID is not recommended for use in children, as there is no experience of its use in this group.

Method of administration

Oral route

Patients should be cautioned that the RABCID tablets should not be chewed or crushed, but should be swallowed whole.

Method of administration

Oral route
It is recommended to take Rabeprazole sodium capsules in the morning, , swallowed whole with half a glass of water. The capsules must not be chewed or crushed.

For patients with swallowing difficulties and for children who can drink or swallow semi-solid food

Patients can open the capsule and swallow the contents with half a glass of water or after mixing the contents in a slightly acidic fluid e.g., fruit juice or applesauce, or in non-carbonated water. Patients should be advised that the dispersion should be taken immediately (or within 30 minutes) and always be stirred just before drinking and rinsed down with half a glass of water.

Alternatively patients can suck the capsule and swallow the pellets with half a glass of water. The enteric-coated pellets must not be chewed.

Contraindications

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

RABCID is contra-indicated in pregnancy and during breast feeding (see section 4.6)

Special warnings and precautions for use
Symptomatic response to therapy with rabeprazole sodium does not preclude the presence of gastric or oesophageal malignancy, therefore the possibility of malignancy should be excluded prior to commencing treatment with RABCID.

Patients on long-term treatment (particularly those treated for more than a year) should be kept under regular surveillance.

A risk of cross-hypersensitivity reactions with other proton pump inhibitor (PPI) or substituted benzimidazoles cannot be excluded.

Patients should be cautioned that RABCID tablets should not be chewed or crushed, but should be swallowed whole.

RABCID is not recommended for use in children, as there is no experience of its use in this group.

There have been post marketing reports of blood dyscrasias (thrombocytopenia and neutropenia). In the majority of cases where an alternative aetiology cannot be identified, the events were uncomplicated and resolved on discontinuation of rabeprazole.

Hepatic enzyme abnormalities have been seen in clinical trials and have also been reported since market authorisation. In the majority of cases where an alternative aetiology cannot be identified, the events were uncomplicated and resolved on discontinuation of rabeprazole.

No evidence of significant drug related safety problems was seen in a study of patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment versus normal age and sex matched controls. However because there are no clinical data on the use of RABCID in the treatment of patients with severe hepatic dysfunction the prescriber is advised to exercise caution when treatment with RABCID is first initiated in such patients.

Co-administration of atazanavir with RABCID is not recommended (see section 4.5).

Treatment with PPIs, including, RABCID may possibly increase the risk of gastrointestinal infections such as *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Clostridium difficile* (see section 5.1).

PPIs, especially if used in high doses and over long durations (>1 year), may modestly increase the risk of hip, wrist and spine fracture, predominantly in older people or in presence of other

recognised risk factors. Observational studies suggest that PPIs may increase the overall risk of fracture by 10–40%. Some of this increase may be due to other risk factors. Patients at risk of osteoporosis should receive care according to current clinical guidelines and they should have an adequate intake of vitamin D and calcium.

Severe hypomagnesaemia has been reported in patients treated with PPIs like RABCID for at least three months, and in most cases for a year. Serious manifestations of hypomagnesaemia such as fatigue, tetany, delirium, convulsions, dizziness and ventricular arrhythmia can occur but they may begin insidiously and be overlooked. In most affected patients, hypomagnesaemia improved after magnesium replacement and discontinuation of the PPI.

For patients expected to be on prolonged treatment or who take PPIs with digoxin or drugs that may cause hypomagnesaemia (e.g., diuretics), health care professionals should consider measuring magnesium levels before starting PPI treatment and periodically during treatment.

Concomitant use of rabeprazole with methotrexate

Literature suggests that concomitant use of PPIs with methotrexate (primarily at high dose; see methotrexate prescribing information) may elevate and prolong serum levels of methotrexate and/or its metabolite, possibly leading to methotrexate toxicities. In high-dose methotrexate administration, a temporary withdrawal of the PPI may be considered in some patients.

Influence on vitamin B12 absorption

Rabeprazole sodium, as all acid-blocking medicines, may reduce the absorption of vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin) due to hypo- or a- chlorhydria. This should be considered in patients with reduced body stores or risk factors for reduced vitamin B12 absorption on long-term therapy or if respective clinical symptoms are observed.

Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE)

PPIs are associated with very infrequent cases of SCLE. If lesions occur, especially in sun-exposed areas of the skin, and if accompanied by arthralgia, the patient should seek medical help promptly and the health care professional should consider stopping. RABCID, SCLE after previous treatment with a PPI may increase the risk of SCLE with other PPIs.

Interference with laboratory tests

Increased Chromogranin A (CgA) level may interfere with investigations for neuroendocrine tumours. To avoid this interference, RABCID treatment should be stopped for at least 5 days before CgA measurements (see section 5.1). If CgA and gastrin levels have not returned to reference range after initial measurement, measurements should be repeated 14 days after cessation of PPI treatment.

Renal impairment

Acute tubulointerstitial nephritis (TIN) has been observed in patients taking rabeprazole and may occur at any point during rabeprazole therapy (see section 4.8). Acute tubulointerstitial nephritis can progress to renal failure.

Rabeprazole should be discontinued in case of suspected TIN, and appropriate treatment should be promptly initiated

Sodium content

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per gastro-resistant tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Rabeprazole sodium produces a profound and long lasting inhibition of gastric acid secretion. An interaction with compounds whose absorption is pH dependent may occur. Co-administration of rabeprazole sodium with ketoconazole or itraconazole may result in a significant decrease in antifungal plasma levels. Therefore individual patients may need to be monitored to determine if a dosage adjustment is necessary when ketoconazole or itraconazole are taken concomitantly with RABCID.

In clinical trials, antacids were used concomitantly with the administration of RABCID and, in a specific drug-drug interaction study, no interaction with liquid antacids was observed.

Co-administration of atazanavir 300 mg/ritonavir 100 mg with omeprazole (40 mg once daily) or atazanavir 400 mg with lansoprazole (60 mg once daily) to healthy volunteers resulted in a substantial reduction in atazanavir exposure. The absorption of atazanavir is pH dependent. Although not studied, similar results are expected with other PPIs. Therefore PPIs, including rabeprazole, should not be co-administered with atazanavir (see section 4.4).

Methotrexate

Case reports, published population pharmacokinetic studies, and retrospective analyses suggest that concomitant administration of PPIs and methotrexate (primarily at high dose; see methotrexate prescribing information) may elevate and prolong serum levels of methotrexate and/or its metabolite hydroxymethotrexate. However, no formal drug interaction studies of methotrexate with PPIs have been conducted.

4.2 Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Ask your doctor, health care provider or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine

- Do not use Rabcid if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant
- Do not use Rabcid if you are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed

4.3 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Occasionally Rabeprazole can cause sleepiness. Therefore, driving and operating machinery should be avoided if you are affected.

4.4 Possible side effects

Like all medicines can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If any of the side effects get serious, or if you notice any side effect not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor, healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

Cough, sore throat (inflammation of the pharynx), runny nose.
Effects on your stomach or gut such as stomach pain, diarrhea, wind (flatulence), feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting) or constipation
Aches, back pains, non-specific pain.
Weakness or loss of strength, flu like symptoms.
Difficulty sleeping.
Headache, dizziness.
Infection.
Benign polyps in the stomach.

4.5 Overdose

Experience to date with deliberate or accidental overdose is limited. The maximum established exposure has not exceeded 60 mg twice daily, or 160 mg once daily. Effects are generally minimal, representative of the known adverse event profile and reversible without further medical intervention. No specific antidote is known. Rabeprazole sodium is extensively protein bound and is, therefore, not dialysable. As in any case of overdose, treatment should be symptomatic and general supportive measures should be utilised.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamics properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Alimentary tract and metabolism, Drugs for peptic ulcer and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD), PPIs, ATC code: A02B C04

Mechanism of action

Rabeprazole sodium belongs to the class of anti-secretory compounds, the substituted benzimidazoles, that do not exhibit anticholinergic or H2 histamine antagonist properties, but suppress gastric acid secretion by the specific inhibition of the H+/K+-ATPase enzyme (the acid or proton pump) The effect is dose-related and leads to inhibition of both basal and stimulated acid secretion irrespective of the stimulus. Animal studies indicate that after administration, rabeprazole sodium rapidly disappears from both the plasma and gastric mucosa. As a weak base, rabeprazole is rapidly absorbed following all doses and is concentrated in the acid environment of the parietal cells. Rabeprazole is converted to the active sulphenamide form through protonation and it subsequently reacts with the available cysteines on the proton pump.

Anti-secretory activity

After oral administration of a 20 mg dose of rabeprazole sodium the onset of the anti-secretory effect occurs within one hour, with the maximum effect occurring within two to four hours. Inhibition of basal and food stimulated acid secretion 23 hours after the first dose of rabeprazole sodium are 69% and 82% respectively and the duration of inhibition lasts up to 48 hours. The inhibitory effect of rabeprazole sodium on acid secretion increases slightly with repeated once-daily dosing, achieving steady state inhibition after three days. When the drug is discontinued, secretory activity normalises over 2 to 3 days.

Decreased gastric acidity due to any means, including PPIs such as rabeprazole, increases counts of bacteria normally present in the gastrointestinal tract. Treatment with PPIs may possibly increase the risk of gastrointestinal infections such as *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Clostridium difficile*.

Serum gastrin effects

In clinical studies patients were treated once daily with 10 or 20 mg rabeprazole sodium, for up to 43 months duration. Serum gastrin levels increased during the first 2 to 8 weeks reflecting the inhibitory effects on acid secretion and remained stable while treatment was continued. Gastrin values returned to pre-treatment levels, usually within 1 to 2 weeks after discontinuation of therapy.

Human gastric biopsy specimens from the antrum and the fundus from over 500 patients receiving rabeprazole or comparator treatment for up to 8 weeks have not detected changes in ECL cell histology, degree of gastritis, incidence of atrophic gastritis, intestinal metaplasia or distribution of H. pylori infection. In over 250 patients followed for 36 months of continuous therapy, no significant change in findings present at baseline was observed.

Other effects

Systemic effects of rabeprazole sodium in the CNS, cardiovascular and respiratory systems have not been found to date. Rabeprazole sodium, given in oral doses of 20 mg for 2 weeks, had no effect on thyroid function, carbohydrate metabolism, or circulating levels of parathyroid hormone, cortisol, oestrogen, testosterone, prolactin, cholecystokinin, secretin, glucagon, follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinising hormone (LH), renin, aldosterone or somatotrophic hormone.

Studies in healthy subjects have shown that rabeprazole sodium does not have clinically significant interactions with amoxicillin. Rabeprazole does not adversely influence plasma concentrations of amoxicillin or clarithromycin when co-administered for the purpose of eradicating upper gastrointestinal H. pylori infection.

During treatment with antisecretory medicinal products, serum gastrin increases in response to the decreased acid secretion. Also CgA increases due to decreased gastric acidity. The increased CgA level may interfere with investigations for neuroendocrine tumours.

Available published evidence suggests that PPIs should be discontinued between 5 days and 2 weeks prior to CgA measurements. This is to allow CgA levels that might be spuriously elevated following PPI treatment to return to reference range.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

RABCID is an enteric-coated (gastro-resistant) tablet formulation of rabeprazole sodium. This presentation is necessary because rabeprazole is acid-labile. Absorption of rabeprazole therefore begins only after the tablet leaves the stomach. Absorption is rapid, with peak plasma levels of rabeprazole occurring approximately 3.5 hours after a 20 mg dose. Peak plasma concentrations (C_{max}) of rabeprazole and AUC are linear over the dose range of 10 mg to 40 mg. Absolute bioavailability of an oral 20 mg dose (compared to intravenous administration) is about 52% due in large part to pre-systemic metabolism. Additionally the bioavailability does not appear to increase with repeat administration. In healthy subjects the plasma half-life is approximately one hour (range 0.7 to 1.5 hours), and the total body clearance is estimated to be 283 ± 98 ml/min. There was no clinically relevant interaction with food. Neither food nor the time of day of administration of the treatment affect the absorption of rabeprazole sodium.

Distribution

Rabeprazole is approximately 97% bound to human plasma proteins.

Metabolism and excretion

Rabeprazole sodium, as is the case with other members of the PPI class of compounds, is metabolised through the cytochrome P450 (CYP450) hepatic drug metabolising system. In vitro studies with human liver microsomes indicated that rabeprazole sodium is metabolised by isoenzymes of CYP450 (CYP2C19 and CYP3A4). In these studies, at expected human plasma concentrations rabeprazole neither induces nor inhibits CYP3A4; and although in vitro studies may not always be predictive of in vivo status these findings indicate that no interaction is expected between rabeprazole and cyclosporin. In humans the thioether (M1) and carboxylic acid (M6) are the main plasma metabolites with the sulphone (M2), desmethyl-thioether (M4) and mercapturic acid conjugate (M5) minor metabolites observed at lower levels. Only the desmethyl metabolite (M3) has a small amount of anti-secretory activity, but it is not present in plasma.

Following a single 20 mg ^{14}C labelled oral dose of rabeprazole sodium, no unchanged drug was excreted in the urine. Approximately 90% of the dose was eliminated in urine mainly as the two metabolites: a mercapturic acid conjugate (M5) and a carboxylic acid (M6), plus two unknown metabolites. The remainder of the dose was recovered in faeces.

Gender

Adjusted for body mass and height, there are no significant gender differences in pharmacokinetic parameters following a single 20 mg dose of rabeprazole.

Renal dysfunction

In patients with stable, end-stage, renal failure requiring maintenance haemodialysis (creatinine clearance ≤5ml/min/1.73 m^2), the disposition of rabeprazole was very similar to that in healthy volunteers. The AUC and the C_{max} in these patients was about 35% lower than the corresponding parameters in healthy volunteers. The mean half-life of rabeprazole was 0.82 hours in healthy volunteers, 0.95 hours in patients during haemodialysis and 3.6 hours post dialysis. The clearance of the drug in patients with renal disease requiring maintenance haemodialysis was approximately twice that in healthy volunteers.

Hepatic dysfunction

Following a single 20 mg dose of rabeprazole to patients with chronic mild to moderate hepatic impairment the AUC doubled and there was a 2-3 fold increase in half-life of rabeprazole compared to the healthy volunteers. However, following a 20 mg dose daily for 7 days the AUC had increased to only 1.5-fold and the C_{max} to only 1.2-fold. The half-life of rabeprazole in patients with hepatic impairment was 12.3 hours compared to 2.1 hours in healthy volunteers. The pharmacodynamic response (gastric pH control) in the two groups was clinically comparable.

Older people

Elimination of rabeprazole was somewhat decreased in older people. Following 7 days of daily dosing with 20 mg of rabeprazole sodium, the AUC approximately doubled, the C_{max} increased by 60% and $t_{½}$ increased by approximately 30% as compared to young healthy volunteers. However there was no evidence of rabeprazole accumulation.

CYP2C19 polymorphism

Following a 20 mg daily dose of rabeprazole for 7 days, CYP2C19 slow metabolisers, had AUC and $t_{½}$ which were approximately 1.9 and 1.6 times the corresponding parameters in extensive metabolisers whilst C_{max} had increased by only 40%.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical effects were observed only at exposures sufficiently in excess of the maximum human exposure that make concerns for human safety negligible in respect of animal data.

Studies on mutagenicity gave equivocal results. Tests in mouse lymphoma cell line were positive, but in vivo micronucleus and in vivo and in vitro DNA repair tests were negative. Carcinogenicity studies revealed no special hazard for humans.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

NA

6.2 Incompatibilities

NA

6.3 Shelf life

24 Months

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 30°C in tight container protected from light and moisture.

6.5 Nature and contents of container and special equipment for use, administration or implantation

Rabcid® Capsule is available as 20mg 3 x 10 Capsules.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7. APPLICANT/MANUFACTURER

Drugfield Pharmaceuticals Limited
Lynson Chemical Avenue Km38,
Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway
Sango-Otta, Ogun State, Nigeria
Tel: +2348033513989
Email:Info@drugfieldpharma.com