



DIAMOND HEALTHCARE LIMITED

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SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS (SmPC)

ASCOCHEW PLUS SYRUP

**(Ascorbic acid B.P. 100mg, Elemental Zinc 15mg, Vitamin A
(Retinol) B.P. 3,500iu Vitamin D₃ 400iu)**

1.0. Name of the Medicinal Product:

Ascochew Plus Syrup

2.0. Qualitative And Quantitative Composition:

Each 10ml contains:

Ascorbic acid B.P.	100mg
Elemental Zinc	15mg
Vitamin A (Retinol) B.P.	3,500iu
Vitamin D ₃	400iu

3.0. Pharmaceutical Form:

Liquid Syrup.

4.0. Clinical particulars:**4.1 Therapeutic indication:**

Treatment of vitamin C and zinc deficiency.

4.2 Posology and method of administration:

The recommended dose for adults and children, 4 years and above is 10ml per day taken as a single dose or in 2 divided doses (e.g. morning and night 5ml each). However, nursing mothers, male and female adults (especially the newly married) as well as adults and children 6 years and above passing through immune system depressed sickness (e.g. viral infections) should take 20mls per day as a single dose or in 2 divided doses.

For children, 1-3 years, the recommended dosage is 5mls per day as a single dose or in 2 divided doses. Children, 6 months to 1 year should take 2.5ml once a day. Below 6 months, please consult your doctor.

4.3 Contraindications:

Ascochew plus is contraindicated in patients known to be hypersensitive to any of its components and in patients with hypervitaminosis.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Patients suffering from renal insufficiency should consult a physician or healthcare professional prior to intake of large doses of ascorbic acid.

Food supplements including Ascochew plus must not be used as a substitute for a balance diet and healthy life style. Pregnant women must stick to the recommended dosage per day except on doctor's advice.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction:

Drug interactions:

Ascorbic Acid:

Desferrioxamine: Vitamin C may enhance tissue iron toxicity, especially in the heart, causing cardiac decompensation.

Cyclosporine: Vitamin C may reduce cyclosporine blood levels.

Warfarin: High doses of vitamin C may interfere with the effectiveness of warfarin

Zinc:

Zinc forms complexes with certain substances (including tetracycline antibiotics, quinolone antibiotics, penicillamine) resulting in decreased absorption of both substances. As these interactions occur in the gastro-intestinal tract, the potential for interaction should be reduced by taking the product separately from other drugs. It is usually sufficient to separate the intake by at least 2 hours before or 4-6 hours after ingestion of the other drug, unless otherwise specified.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation:

Pregnancy and Lactation

The product is generally considered safe during pregnancy and lactation when used as labelled. However, since there are no sufficient controlled human studies assessing the risk of the product during pregnancy or lactation, the product should be administered in pregnancy or lactation only when clinically indicated and considered essential by the physician.

The labelled dose should not be exceeded as chronic overdose might be harmful to the foetus and neonate.

Vitamin C and Zinc are secreted into breast milk. This must be taken into consideration if the infant is receiving any other supplements.

Fertility

To date, there is no evidence suggestive that vitamin C and/or zinc causes adverse reproductive effects in humans.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines:

The product has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines..

4.8 Side effects:

The listed adverse drug reactions have been identified during the post-approval use of the product. As these reactions are reported voluntarily, a reliable estimation of their frequency is not possible.

Diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, gastrointestinal and abdominal pain.

Allergic reaction, anaphylactic reaction, anaphylactic shock.

Hypersensitivity reactions with respective laboratory and clinical manifestations include allergic asthma syndrome, mild to moderate reactions potentially affecting skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract and cardiovascular system, including symptoms such as rash, urticaria, allergic edema and angioedema, pruritus, cardio-respiratory distress, and severe reactions, including anaphylactic shock have been reported.

4.9 Overdose:

There is no evidence that this product can lead to an overdose when used as recommended. Allowance should be made for intake of vitamin C and zinc from all other sources. Clinical signs and symptoms, laboratory findings, and consequences of overdose are highly diverse, dependent on an individual's susceptibility and surrounding circumstances. General manifestations of overdose with vitamin C and/or zinc may include increase of gastrointestinal disturbances including diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. If such symptoms occur, the product should be stopped and a healthcare professional consulted. Specific clinical manifestations may include the following:

Vitamin C:

Acute or chronic overdose of vitamin C may significantly elevate serum and urinary oxalate levels. In some instances, this may lead to hyperoxaluria, calcium oxalate crystalluria, calcium oxalate deposition, kidney stone formation, tubulointerstitial nephropathy, and acute renal failure. Individuals with mild to moderate renal insufficiency may be susceptible to these effects of vitamin C toxicity at lower doses and should consult a health care professional before use of the product.

Overdose of vitamin C may result in oxidative hemolysis or disseminated intravascular coagulation in patients with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency.

Zinc:

Zinc overdose can cause irritation and corrosion of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, acute renal tubular necrosis, interstitial nephritis, copper deficiency, sideroblastic anemia, and myeloneuropathies.

If overdose with the product is suspected, intake should be stopped and a health care professional consulted for treatment of clinical manifestations. Vitamin C is removed by hemodialysis.

5.0. Pharmacological properties:

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties:

Pharmacotherapeutic group:

ATC Code: A11GB

Vitamin C

Ascorbic acid is an important water-soluble vitamin and antioxidant. Due to the low storage capacity of the body for vitamin C, a regular intake of sufficient amounts is essential to humans. Ascorbic acid and its metabolite dehydroascorbic acid form a reversible redox system that is involved in many enzymatic reactions and forms the basis for the spectrum of action of vitamin

C. Ascorbic acid functions as a cofactor in a number of hydroxylation and amidation reactions by transferring electrons to enzymes that provide reducing equivalents. The importance of ascorbic acid to the human body is most clearly evident in clinically manifest vitamin C deficiency, i.e. scurvy.

Ascorbic acid plays a key role in the production of hydroxyproline from proline, which in turn is essential to the development of functionally active collagen. The symptoms seen in scurvy, such as delayed wound healing, disturbances of bone growth, vascular fragility, and disorders of dentine formation, are the result of impaired collagen formation.

Zinc

As with vitamin C, low levels of zinc may also adversely affect the healing rate of wounds, ulcers and decubitus.

Zinc status is of major importance in maintenance of effective immune response, particularly T-cell-mediated response.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties:

Absorption:

Ascorbic acid is absorbed primarily in the upper part of the small intestine via sodium-dependent active transport.

When ascorbic acid is present in high concentrations, uptake occurs by means of passive diffusion. After oral administration of doses of 1-12 g, the proportion of ascorbic acid absorbed falls from approximately 50% to about 15%, though the absolute quantity of substance taken up continues to increase.

Zinc is absorbed all along the small intestine. The absorption of zinc (ionic) administered in solution on an empty stomach ranges from 41-79%, while the zinc present in foods or that given as a supplement with meals is absorbed in the range of 10–40%.

Distribution: The physiological body pool of vitamin C is about 1500 mg. Plasma protein binding of ascorbic acid is approximately 24%. Serum concentrations are normally 10 mg/l (60 $\mu\text{mol/l}$). Concentrations below 6 mg/l (35 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) indicate that the intake of vitamin C is not always adequate, and concentrations below 4 mg/l (20 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) indicate that the intake is actually inadequate. In clinically manifest scurvy, serum concentrations are below 2 mg/l (10 $\mu\text{mol/l}$).

Total body zinc content is controlled in part by regulating the efficiency of intestinal absorption and the excretion from endogenous zinc pools to maintain zinc homeostasis. The adult total body zinc content ranges from about 2.3 mmol (1.5 g) in women to 3.8 mmol (2.5 g) in men. Zinc is present in all organs, tissues, fluids, and secretions of the body. Zinc is primarily an intracellular ion, with well over 95% of the total-body zinc found within cells. Zinc is associated with all organelles of the cell, but about 60 to 80% of the cellular zinc is found in the cytosol.

Metabolism: Ascorbic acid is metabolised partly via dehydroascorbic acid to oxalic acid and other products. When ingested in excessive quantities, however, ascorbic acid is largely excreted in unchanged form in the urine and faeces.

Ascorbic-acid-2-sulphate also appears as a metabolite in the urine.

The total amount of zinc present in the major tissues is much larger than the total in plasma. Thus, relatively small variations in zinc content of tissues, such as the liver, can have dramatic effects on the plasma zinc. All absorbed zinc passes through the plasma to the tissues, and the flux of zinc through the plasma is said to be replaced approximately 130 times per day. There is no specific zinc “store”. Human experimental studies with low-zinc diets 2.6-3.6 mg/day /40-55 mmol/day) have shown that circulating zinc levels and activities of zinc-containing enzymes can be maintained within normal range over several months highlighting the efficiency of the zinc homeostasis mechanism.

Elimination: The physiological body pool of ascorbic acid is about 1500 mg. The elimination half-life of ascorbic acid depends on the route of administration, the quantity administered and the rate of absorption. Following an oral dose of 1 g the half-life is about 13 hours. When 1-3 g vitamin C /day is taken, the main route of excretion is renal. With doses exceeding 3 g, increasing quantities are excreted unchanged in the faeces.

The major route for endogenous zinc excretion is into the gastrointestinal tract with ultimate loss in the faeces. When tracer doses of zinc are given either orally or intravenously, only about 2 to 10% is recovered in the urine; the remainder is lost in the faeces. In humans, endogenous faecal losses may range from <15 µmol/day (1 mg/day) with extremely low intakes to over 80 µmol/day (5 mg/day) with extremely high intakes. Normally, about 6 to 9 µmol (400 to 600 µg) of zinc is excreted daily in the urine.

6.0. Pharmaceutical particulars:

6.1 List of excipients

Carbomer 974P
Disodium Edta
Xanthan Gum
Sucralose
Methyl Paraben
Propyl Paraben
Sodium Benzoate
Sunset Yellow
Orange Flavour (Liquid)
Propylene Glycol
Sodium Citrate
Citric Acid
Deionised Water

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 30°C away from sunlight. Keep all drugs from children.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

The oral syrup are filled capped and packed in 100ml amber pet bottles per pack
Each pack contains a dosage cup.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7.0.Applicant / Manufacturer:

Diamond Healthcare Limited,
No. 5 Forcy Rabi Street,
Ikorodu, Lagos.