

## **1. Name of the medicinal product**

Erythrokid 250mg/5ml Powder for Oral Suspension

## **2. Qualitative and quantitative composition**

Each 5 ml of reconstituted suspension contains 250 mg of Erythromycin

## **3. Pharmaceutical form**

Granules for oral suspension

## **4. Clinical particulars**

### **4.1 Therapeutic indications**

Erythromycin is indicated for the treatment / prophylaxis of infections caused by erythromycin-sensitive organisms:-

- Upper and lower respiratory tract infections
- Skin and soft tissue infections
- Bone infections
- Gastro–intestinal infections
- Oral/dental infections
- Eye infections
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Prophylaxis of whooping cough and diphtheria
- As an alternative to penicillin for staphylococcal infections in sensitive patients

Consideration should be given to official guidance on the appropriate use of antimicrobial agents

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

#### **Method of Administration**

For oral administration only

#### **Posology**

Adults, including elderly, and children over 8 years:

250 – 500 mg every six hours, up to 4 g daily for more severe infections.

For acne vulgaris the usual dose is 250 mg three times daily before meals for one to four weeks and then reduced to twice daily until improvement occurs.

Children 2 to 8 years:

250 mg every six hours, doubled for severe infections.

30 mg/kg/day in divided doses. For severe infections up to 50 mg/kg/day in divided doses.

Children up to 2 years:

125 mg every six hours, doubled for severe infections.

30 mg/kg/day in divided doses. For severe infections up to 50 mg/kg/day in divided doses.

#### Renal Impairment

If impairment is severe (GFR < 10 ml/min), the daily dose should not exceed 1.5 g due to risk of ototoxicity.

### **4.3 Contraindications**

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

Erythromycin is contraindicated in patients taking simvastatin, tolterodine, mizolastine, amisulpride, astemizole, terfenadine, domperidone, cisapride or pimozone.

Erythromycin is contraindicated with ergotamine and dihydroergotamine.

Erythromycin should not be given to patients with a history of QT prolongation (congenital or documented acquired QT prolongation) or ventricular cardiac arrhythmia, including torsades de pointes (see section 4.4 and 4.5).

Erythromycin should not be given to patients with electrolyte disturbances (hypokalaemia, hypomagnesaemia due to the risk of prolongation of QT interval).

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

As with other macrolides, rare serious allergic reactions, including acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) have been reported. If an allergic reaction occurs, the drug should be discontinued and appropriate therapy should be instituted. Physicians should be aware that reappearance of the allergic symptoms may occur when symptomatic therapy is discontinued.

Erythromycin is excreted principally by the liver, so caution should be exercised in administering the antibiotic to patients with impaired hepatic function or concomitantly receiving potentially hepatotoxic agents. Hepatic dysfunction including increased liver enzymes and/or cholestatic hepatitis, with or without jaundice, has been infrequently reported with erythromycin.

Pseudomembranous colitis has been reported with nearly all antibacterial agents, including macrolides, and may range in severity from mild to life-threatening (see section 4.8). Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhoea (CDAD) has been reported with use of nearly all antibacterial agents including erythromycin, and may range in severity from mild diarrhoea to fatal colitis. Treatment with antibacterial agents alters the normal flora of the colon, which may lead to overgrowth of C. difficile. CDAD must be considered in all patients who present with diarrhoea following antibiotic use. Careful medical history is necessary since CDAD has been reported to occur over two months after the administration of antibacterial agents.

#### **Cardiovascular Events**

Prolongation of the QT interval, reflecting effects on cardiac repolarisation imparting a risk of developing cardiac arrhythmia and torsades de pointes, have been seen in patients treated with macrolides including erythromycin (see sections 4.3, 4.5 and 4.8). Fatalities have been reported.

Erythromycin should be used with caution in the following;

Patients with coronary artery disease, severe cardiac insufficiency, conduction disturbances or clinically relevant bradycardia.

Patients concomitantly taking other medicinal products associated with QT prolongation (see section 4.3 and 4.5)

Elderly patients may be more susceptible to drug-associated effects on the QT interval (see section 4.8).

Epidemiological studies investigating the risk of adverse cardiovascular outcomes with macrolides have shown variable results. Some observational studies have identified a rare short term risk of arrhythmia, myocardial infarction and cardiovascular mortality associated with macrolides including erythromycin. Consideration of these findings should be balanced with treatment benefits when prescribing erythromycin.

There have been reports suggesting erythromycin does not reach the foetus in adequate concentrations to prevent congenital syphilis. Infants born to women treated during pregnancy with oral erythromycin for early syphilis should be treated with an appropriate penicillin regimen.

There have been reports that erythromycin may aggravate the weakness of patients with myasthenia gravis.

Erythromycin interferes with the fluorometric determination of urinary catecholamines.

Rhabdomyolysis with or without renal impairment has been reported in seriously ill patients receiving erythromycin concomitantly with statins.

There have been reports of infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis (IHPS) occurring in infants following erythromycin therapy. Epidemiological studies including data from meta-analyses suggest a 2-3-fold increase in the risk of IHPS following exposure to erythromycin in infancy. This risk is highest following exposure to erythromycin during the first 14 days of life. Available data suggests a risk of 2.6% (95% CI: 1.5 -4.2%) following exposure to erythromycin during this time period. The risk of IHPS in the general population is 0.1-0.2%. Since erythromycin may be used in the treatment of conditions in infants which are associated with significant mortality or morbidity (such as pertussis or chlamydia), the benefit of erythromycin therapy needs to be weighed against the potential risk of developing IHPS. Parents should be informed to contact their physician if vomiting or irritability with feeding occurs.

This medicine contains 1100 mg sorbitol in each 5 ml. Patients with hereditary fructose intolerance (HFI) should not take/be given this medicine.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per 5 ml; that is to say essentially 'sodium free'.

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

Increases in serum concentrations of the following drugs metabolised by the cytochrome P450 system may occur when administered concurrently with erythromycin: acenocoumarol, alfentanil, astemizole, bromocriptine, carbamazepine, cilostazol, cyclosporin, digoxin, dihydroergotamine, disopyramide, ergotamine, hexobarbitone, methylprednisolone, midazolam, omeprazole, phenytoin, quinidine, rifabutin, sildenafil, tacrolimus, terfenadine, theophylline, triazolam, valproate, vinblastine, and antifungals e.g. fluconazole, ketoconazole and itraconazole. Appropriate monitoring should be undertaken and dosage should be adjusted as necessary. Particular care should be taken with medications known to prolong the QTc interval of the electrocardiogram.

Drugs that induce CYP3A4 (such as rifampicin, phenytoin, carbamazepine, phenobarbital, St John's Wort) may induce the metabolism of erythromycin. This may lead to sub-therapeutic levels of erythromycin and a decreased effect. The induction decreases gradually during two weeks after discontinued treatment with CYP3A4 inducers. Erythromycin should not be used during and two weeks after treatment with CYP3A4 inducers.

HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors: erythromycin has been reported to increase concentrations of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (e.g. lovastatin and simvastatin). Rare reports of rhabdomyolysis have been reported in patients taking these drugs concomitantly.

Contraceptives: some antibiotics may in rare cases decrease the effect of contraceptive pills by interfering with the bacterial hydrolysis of steroid conjugates in the intestine and thereby reabsorption of unconjugated steroid. As a result of this plasma levels of active steroid may decrease.

Antihistamine H1 antagonists: care should be taken in the coadministration of erythromycin with H1 antagonists such as terfenadine, astemizole and mizolastine due to the alteration of their metabolism by erythromycin.

Erythromycin significantly alters the metabolism of terfenadine, astemizole and pimozone when taken concomitantly. Rare cases of serious, potentially fatal, cardiovascular events including cardiac arrest, torsade de pointes and other ventricular arrhythmias have been observed (see sections 4.3 and 4.8).

Anti-bacterial agents: an *in vitro* antagonism exists between erythromycin and the bactericidal beta-lactam antibiotics (e.g. penicillin, cephalosporin). Erythromycin antagonises the action of clindamycin, lincomycin and chloramphenicol. The same applies for streptomycin, tetracyclines and colistin.

Protease inhibitors: in concomitant administration of erythromycin and protease inhibitors, an inhibition of the decomposition of erythromycin has been observed.

Oral anticoagulants: there have been reports of increased anticoagulant effects when erythromycin and oral anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin, rivaroxaban) are used concomitantly.

Triazolobenzodiazepines (such as triazolam and alprazolam) and related benzodiazepines: erythromycin has been reported to decrease the clearance of triazolam, midazolam, and related benzodiazepines, and thus may increase the pharmacological effect of these benzodiazepines.

Post-marketing reports indicate that co-administration of erythromycin with ergotamine or dihydroergotamine has been associated with acute ergot toxicity characterised by vasospasm and ischaemia of the central nervous system, extremities and other tissues (see section 4.3).

Elevated cisapride levels have been reported in patients receiving erythromycin and cisapride concomitantly. This may result in QTc prolongation and cardiac arrhythmias including ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation and torsades de pointes. Similar effects have been observed with concomitant administration of pimozide and clarithromycin, another macrolide antibiotic.

Erythromycin use in patients who are receiving high doses of theophylline may be associated with an increase in serum theophylline levels and potential theophylline toxicity. In case of theophylline toxicity and/or elevated serum theophylline levels, the dose of theophylline should be reduced while the patient is receiving concomitant erythromycin therapy. There have been published reports suggesting when oral erythromycin is given concurrently with theophylline there is a significant decrease in erythromycin serum concentrations. This decrease could result in sub-therapeutic concentrations of erythromycin.

There have been post-marketing reports of colchicine toxicity with concomitant use of erythromycin and colchicine.

Hypotension, bradyarrhythmias and lactic acidosis have been observed in patients receiving concurrent verapamil, a calcium channel blocker.

Cimetidine may inhibit the metabolism of erythromycin which may lead to an increased plasma concentration.

Erythromycin has been reported to decrease the clearance of zopiclone and thus may increase the pharmacodynamic effects of this drug.

#### **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

##### **Pregnancy**

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. However, observational studies in humans have reported cardiovascular malformations after exposure to medicinal products containing erythromycin during early pregnancy.

Erythromycin has been reported to cross the placental barrier in humans, but foetal plasma levels are generally low.

There have been reports that maternal macrolide antibiotics exposure within 7 weeks of delivery may be associated with a higher risk of infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis (IHPS).

##### **Breastfeeding**

Erythromycin can be excreted into breast-milk. Caution should be exercised when administering erythromycin to lactating mothers due to reports of infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis in breast-fed infants.

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

None known

#### **4.8 Undesirable effects**

##### **Blood and lymphatic system disorders**

Eosinophilia.

##### **Immune system disorders**

Allergic reactions ranging from urticaria and mild skin eruptions to anaphylaxis have occurred.

##### **Psychiatric disorders**

Hallucinations

##### **Nervous system disorders**

There have been isolated reports of transient central nervous system side effects including confusion, seizures and vertigo; however, a cause and effect relationship has not been established.

##### **Eye disorders**

Mitochondrial Optic Neuropathy

### **Ear and labyrinth disorders**

Deafness, tinnitus

There have been isolated reports of reversible hearing loss occurring chiefly in patients with renal insufficiency or taking high doses.

### **Cardiac disorders**

QTc interval prolongation, torsades de pointes, palpitations, and cardiac rhythm disorders including ventricular tachyarrhythmias.

Cardiac arrest, ventricular fibrillation (frequency not known).

### **Vascular disorders**

Hypotension.

### **Gastrointestinal disorders**

The most frequent side effects of oral erythromycin preparations are gastrointestinal and are dose-related. The following have been reported:

Upper abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, pancreatitis, anorexia, infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis.

Pseudomembranous colitis has been rarely reported in association with erythromycin therapy (see section 4.4).

### **Hepatobiliary disorders**

Cholestatic hepatitis, jaundice, hepatic dysfunction, hepatomegaly, hepatic failure, hepatocellular hepatitis (see section 4.4).

### **Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders**

Skin eruptions, pruritus, urticaria, exanthema, angioedema, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, erythema multiforme.

Not known: acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP).

### **Renal and urinary disorders**

Interstitial nephritis

### **General disorders and administration site conditions**

Chest pain, fever, malaise.

### **Investigations**

Increased liver enzyme values.

### **Reporting of suspected adverse reactions**

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorization of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Kindly contact [www.fidson.com](http://www.fidson.com) to report adverse reactions

## **4.9 Overdose**

**Symptoms:** hearing loss, severe nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

**Treatment:** gastric lavage, general supportive measures.

Erythromycin is not dialysable.

## **5. Pharmacological properties**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Macrolides, Lincosamides and Streptogramins, Macrolides, ATC code: J01F A01

### Mechanism of action

Erythromycin exerts its antimicrobial action by binding to the 50S ribosomal sub-unit of susceptible microorganisms and suppresses protein synthesis. Erythromycin is usually active against most strains of the following organisms both in vitro and in clinical infections.

Gram positive bacteria - *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* (as an adjunct to antitoxin), *Staphylococci* spp, *Streptococci* spp (including Enterococci).

Gram negative bacteria - *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Legionella pneumophila*, *Moraxella (Branhamella) catarrhalis*, *Bordetella pertussis*, *Campylobacter* spp.

Mycoplasma - *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, *Ureaplasma urealyticum*.

Other organisms - *Treponema pallidum*, *Chlamydia* spp, *Clostridia* spp, L-forms, the agents causing trachoma and lymphogranuloma venereum.

Note: The majority of strains of *Haemophilus influenzae* are susceptible to the concentrations reached after ordinary doses.

### **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

Absorption is facilitated if the stomach is empty.

Peak blood levels normally occur within 1 hour of dosing of erythromycin ethylsuccinate granules. The elimination half-life is approximately 2 hours. Doses may be administered 2, 3 or 4 times a day.

Erythromycin ethylsuccinate is less susceptible than erythromycin to the adverse effect of gastric acid. It is absorbed from the small intestine. It is widely distributed throughout body tissues. Little metabolism occurs and only about 5% is excreted in the urine. It is excreted principally by the liver.

The drug is not removed by either peritoneal dialysis or haemodialysis. It diffuses readily into intracellular fluids and antibacterial activity can be achieved at essentially all sites. There is some retention on liver and spleen. Only low concentrations are achieved in cerebrospinal fluid, unless the meninges are inflamed. Diffusion into the aqueous humour, but not the vitreous humour of the eye is good. A significant proportion is bound to serum proteins.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

There are no preclinical data of relevance to the prescriber, which are additional to that already included in the other sections of the SPC

## **6. Pharmaceutical particulars**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

**Sodium CMC, Aerosil 200, Sodium Benzoate, Sodium Citrate, Sodium starch glycolate, Sodium lauryl sulphate, Sucrose, Erythrosine red, Strawberry flavour, Acesulfame K**

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

None known

### **6.3 Shelf life**

36 months if stored properly

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

Do not store above 30°C

Keep all medicines out of reach and sight of children.

The reconstituted granules have a shelf life of 14 days after initial use. Shake well before administration.

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

Dry powder in 100ml HDPE plastic bottle to be reconstituted placed in an outer carton with insert.

### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling**

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

**7. APPLICANT/MANUFACTURER**

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