SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

(SmPC)

Dihydroartemisinin 40 mg and Piperaquine Phosphate 320 mg Tablets

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

VISKART P TABLETS (Dihydroartemisinin 40 mg and Piperaquine Phosphate 320 mg Tablets

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each film coated tablet contains:

Dihydroartemisinin……40 mg

Piperaquine Phosphate…… 320 mg

Excipients…… q.s.

Colour: Approved color used

List of Excipients:

Excipients	Quantity /Tablet (mg)	Uses
SHIFTING/MIXING		
Maize Starch	95.00	Diluent
Cros Carmellose Sodium (Vivasol)	12.00	Disintegrant
Microcrystalline Cellulose (Plain)	100.00	Diluent
Paste Preparation		
Hypromellose (H.P.M.C E 15)	6.00	Binder
Iso Propyl Alcohol*	300.00	Solvent
Methylene Chloride*	90.00	Solvent
Ethyl Cellulose	6.000	Binder
Lubrication		
Colloidal Anhydrous Sillica	7.00	Lubricant
Cros Carmellose Sodium (Vivasol)	10.00	Disintegrant
Magnesium Stearate	9.00	Lubricant
Coating		
Colour coat FC4W-H (IE5260711A) Blue	15.00	Coating Polymer
Purified Water*	q.s	Solvent

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

A blue color round shaped film coated tablet with both side plain.

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Dihydroartemisinin 40 mg and Piperaquine Phosphate 320 mg Tablets indicated for the treatment of uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in adults, children and infants 6 months and over and weighing 5 kg or more.

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

4.2 Posology and method ofadministration

Posology:

Posology

VISKART P should be administered over three consecutive days for a total of three doses taken at the same time each day.

Dosage

Dosing should be based on body weight as shown in the table below.

Body weight (kg)	Daily dose (mg)		Tablet strength and number of tablets per dose
	PQP	DHA	
5 to <7	80	10	½ x 160 mg / 20 mg tablet
7 to <13	160	20	1 x 160 mg / 20 mg tablet
13 to <24	320	40	1 x 320 mg / 40 mg tablet
24 to <36	640	80	2 x 320 mg / 40 mg tablets
36 to <75	960	120	3 x 320 mg / 40 mg tablets
75 to 100	1,280	160	4 x 320 mg / 40 mg tablets
>100	re are no data on which to base a dose recommendation in patients weighing >100 kg.		

If a patient vomits within 30 minutes of taking VISKART P, the whole dose should be re-administered; if a patient vomits within 30-60 minutes, half the dose should be re-administered. Re-dosing with VISKART P should not be attempted more than once. If the second dose is vomited, alternative anti-malarial therapy should be instituted.

If a dose is missed, it should be taken as soon as realized and then the recommended regimen continued until the full course of treatment has been completed.

There is no data on a second course of treatment. No more than two courses of VISKART P may be given within a 12 month period A second course of VISKART P should not be given within 2 months after the first course due to the long elimination half-life of piperaquine

Hepatic and renal impairment

VISKART P has not been evaluated in subjects with moderate or severe renal or hepatic insufficiency. Therefore, caution is advised when administering VISKART P to these patients Elderly Clinical studies of VISKART P tablets did not include patients aged 65 years and over, therefore

no dosing recommendation can be made. Considering the possibility of age-associated decrease in hepatic and renal function, as well as a potential for heart disorders caution should be exercised when administering the product to the elderly.

Paediatric population

See posology table above.

The safety and efficacy of VISKART P in children aged less than 6 months and in children weighing less than 5 kg has not been established. No data are available for these paediatric subsets.

Method of administration

VISKART P should be taken orally with water and without food.

Each dose should be taken no less than 3 hours after the last food intake.

No food should be taken within 3 hours after each dose.

For patients unable to swallow the tablets, such as infants and young children, VISKART P may be crushed and mixed with water. The mixture should be used immediately after preparation.

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to any of the active substances or to any of the excipients.
- Severe malaria according to WHO definition.
- Family history of sudden death or of congenital prolongation of the QTc interval.
- Known congenital prolongation of the QTc-interval or any clinical condition known to prolong the QTc interval.
- History of symptomatic cardiac arrhythmias or with clinically relevant bradycardia.
- Any predisposing cardiac conditions for arrhythmia such as severe hypertension, left ventricular hypertrophy (including hypertrophic cardiomyopathy) or congestive cardiac failure accompanied by reduced left ventricle ejection fraction.
- Electrolyte disturbances, particularly hypokalaemia, hypocalcaemia or hypomagnesaemia.
- Recent treatment with medicinal products known to prolong the QTc interval that may still be circulating at the time that VISKART P is commenced (e.g. mefloquine, halofantrine, lumefantrine, chloroquine, quinine and other antimalarial agents) taking into account their elimination half-life.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

VISKART P should not be used to treat severe falciparum malaria and, due to insufficient data, should not be used to treat malaria due to Plasmodium vivax, Plasmodium malariae orPlasmodium ovale.

The long half-life of piperaquine (about 22 days) should be kept in mind in the event that another anti- malarial agent is started due to treatment failure or a new malaria infection

Piperaquine is an inhibitor of CYP3A4. Caution is recommended when co-administering VISKART P with medicinal products exhibiting variable patterns of inhibition, induction or competition for CYP3A4 as the therapeutic and/or toxic effects of some co-administered medicinal products could be altered

Effects on cardiac repolarization

In clinical trials with VISKART P limited ECGs were obtained during treatment. These showed that QTc prolongation occurred more frequently and to a larger extent in association with VISKART P therapy than with the comparators Analysis of cardiac adverse events in clinical trials showed that these were reported more frequently in VISKART P treated patients than in those treated with comparator antimalarial . Before the third dose of VISKART P, in one of the two Phase III studies 3/767 patients (0.4%) were reported to have a QTcF value of > 500 ms versus none in the comparator group.

The potential for VISKART P to prolong the QTc interval was investigated in parallel groups of healthy volunteers who took each dose with high (~1000 Kcal) or low (~400 Kcal) fat/calorie meals or in fasting conditions. Compared to placebo, the maximum mean increases in QTcF on day 3 of dosing with VISKART P were 45.2, 35.5 and 21.0 msec under respective dosing conditions. The QTcF prolongation observed under fasting conditions lasted between 4 and 11 hours after the last dose was administered on day 3. The mean QTcF prolongation compared to placebo decreased to 11.8 msec at 24 hours and to 7.5 msec at 48 hours. No healthy subject dosed in fasting conditions showed a QTcF greater than 480 msec or an increase over baseline greater than 60 msec. The number of subjects with QTcF greater than 480 msec after dosing with low fat meals was 3/64, while 10/64 had QTcF values over this threshold after dosing with high fat meals. No subject had a QTcF value greater than 500 msec in any of the dosing conditions.

An ECG should be obtained as early as possible during treatment with VISKART P and ECG monitoring should be applied in patients who may have a higher risk of developing arrhythmia in association with QTc prolongation

When clinically appropriate, consideration should be given to obtaining an ECG from all patients before the last of the three daily doses is taken and approximately 4-6 hours after the last dose, since the risk of QTc interval prolongation may be greatest during this period (see section 5.2). QTc intervals of more than 500 ms are associated with a pronounced risk for potentially life-threatening ventricular tachyarrhythmias. Therefore, ECG monitoring during the following 24-48 hours should be applied for patients found to have a prolongation to this extent. These patients should not receive another dose of VISKART P and alternative antimalarial therapy should be instituted.

Compared to adult males, female patients and elderly patients have longer QTc intervals. Therefore, they may be more sensitive to the effects of QTc-prolonging medications such as VISKART P so that special caution is required.

Special precaution is advised in young children when vomiting, as they are likely to develop electrolyte disturbances. These may increase the QTc-prolonging effect of VISKART P Piperaquine is metabolized by and is an inhibitor of CYP3A4. There is a potential for a several-fold increase of piperaquine plasma concentrations when it is co-administered with other CYP3A4 substrates (due to competition) and, especially, with CYP3A4 inhibitors, resulting in an exacerbation of the effect on QTc prolongation. Therefore, particular caution is required if

VISKART P is administered to patients taking such medicinal products, and ECG monitoring is advised due to the risk of higher plasma concentrations of piperaquine

VISKART P has not been evaluated in patients with moderate or severe renal or hepatic insufficiency. Due to the potential for higher plasma concentrations of piperaquine to occur, caution is advised if VISKART P is administered to patients with jaundice and/or with moderate or severe renal or hepatic insufficiency, and ECG and blood potassium monitoring are advised.

VISKART P should not be used during pregnancy in situations where other suitable and effective anti-malarials are available

In the absence of carcinogenicity study data, and due to lack of clinical experience with repeated courses of treatment in humans, no more than two courses of VISKART P should be given in a 12-month period

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

VISKART P is contraindicated in patients already taking other medicinal products that are known to prolong the QTc interval due to the risk of a pharmacodynamic interaction leading to an additive effect on the QTc interval Drug-drug pharmacokinetic interaction studies with VISKART P have not been performed. The assessment of the potential for drug-drug interactions to occur is based on in vitro studies.

Effect of VISKART P on co-administered medicinal products

Piperaquine is metabolized by, and is an inhibitor of CYP3A4. Therefore, it has the potential to increase plasma concentrations of other substrates for this enzyme (e.g. HMG CoA reductase inhibitors) with the risk of increased toxicity. Particular attention should be paid when medicinal products that have a narrow therapeutic index (e.g. antiretroviral medicinal products and cyclosporine) are co-administered with VISKART P.

Piperaquine undergoes a low level of metabolism by CYP2C19, and is also an inhibitor of this enzyme. There is the potential for reducing the rate of metabolism of other substrates of this enzyme, such as omeprazole, with consequent increase of their plasma concentration, and therefore, of their toxicity.

Piperaquine has the potential to increase the rate of metabolism for CYP2E1 substrates resulting in a decrease in the plasma concentrations of substrates such as paracetamol or theophylline, and the anaesthetic gases enflurane, halothane and isoflurane. The main consequence of this interaction could be a reduction of efficacy of the co-administered medicinal products.

DHA administration may result in a slight decrease in CYP1A2 activity. Caution is therefore, advised when VISKART P is administered concomitantly with medicinal products metabolized by this enzyme that have a narrow therapeutic index, such as theophylline. Any effects are unlikely to persist beyond 24 hours after the last intake of DHA.

Effect of co-administered medicinal products on VISKART P

Piperaquine is metabolized by CYP3A4 in vitro. The contribution of CYP3A4 to elimination of piperaquine in vivo is unknown. Concomitant treatment with medicinal products which inhibit CYP3A4 may lead to a marked increase of piperaquine plasma concentration resulting in an

exacerbation of the effect on QTc Therefore, particular caution is required if VISKART P is administered to patients taking such medicinal products (e.g. some protease inhibitors [amprenavir, atazanavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir], nefazodone or verapamil), and ECG monitoring should be considered due to the risk of higher plasma concentrations of piperaquine.

All these potential interactions should be kept in mind for patients who require VISKART P treatment and, due to the long half-life of piperaquine, for up to 3 months after the treatment.

Enzyme inducing medicinal products such as rifampicin, carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, St. John's wort (Hypericumperforatum) are likely to lead to reduced piperaquine plasma concentrations. The concentration of DHA may also be reduced. Concomitant treatment with such medicinal products is not recommended.

Food interaction

Absorption of piperaquine is increased in the presence of fatty food which may increase its effect on QTc interval.

4.6 Pregnancy and Lactation

Pregnancy

There are insufficient data on the use of DHA and piperaquine in pregnant women. Based on animal data, VISKART P is suspected to cause serious birth defects when administered during the first trimester of pregnancy. Reproductive studies with artemisinin derivatives have demonstrated teratogenic potential with an increased risk during early gestation Piperaquine was not teratogenic in the rat or rabbit. In perinatal and postnatal studies in rats, piperaquine was associated with delivery complications. However, there was no delay in neonatal development following exposure in utero or via milk.

VISKART P should not be used during pregnancy in situations where other suitable and effective anti- malarials are available

Lactation

Animal data suggest excretion of piperaquine into breast milk but no data are available in humans. Women taking VISKART P should not breast-feed during their treatment.

Fertility

There are no specific data relating to the effects of piperaquine on fertility, however, to date no adverse events have been reported during clinical use. Moreover, data obtained in animal studies show that fertility is unaffected by DHA in both females and males.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Adverse event data collected in clinical trials suggest that VISKART P has no influence on the ability to drive and operate machines once the patient has recovered from the acute infection**.**

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

The safety of VISKART P has been evaluated in two phase III open-label studies involving 1,239 paediatric patients up to 18 years and 566 adult patients >18 years treated with VISKART P.

In a randomized trial in which 767 adults and children with uncomplicated P. falciparum malaria were exposed to VISKART P, 25 % of subjects were judged to have experienced an adverse drug reaction (ADR). No single type of ADR occurred at an incidence of ≥ 5%. The most frequent ADRs observed at an incidence ≥1.0% were: Headache (3.9%), Electrocardiogram QTc Prolonged (3.4%), P. falciparum infection (3.0%), Anaemia (2.8%), Eosinophilia (1.7%), Haemoglobin decreased (1.7%), Sinus tachycardia (1.7%), Asthenia (1.6%), Haematocrit [decreased] (1.6%), Pyrexia (1.5%), Red Blood Cell Count decreased (1.4%). A total of 6 (0.8%) subjects had serious ADRs in the study.

In a second randomized trial, 1,038 children, aged between 6 months and 5 years, were exposed to VISKART P and 71% were judged to have experienced an ADR. The following ADRs were observed at an incidence of ≥5.0%: Cough (32%), Pyrexia (22.4%), Influenza (16.0%), P. falciparum infection (14.1%), Diarrhoea (9.4%), Vomiting (5.5%) and Anorexia (5.2%). A total of 15 (1.5%) subjects had serious ADRs in the study.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

In the tables below, ADRs are listed under system organ class (SOC), and ranked by headings of frequency, the most frequent first, using the following convention: Very common (≥ 1/10), common (≥1/100 to < 1/10), uncommon (≥ 1/1,000 to < 1/100), rare (≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000), very rare (<1/10,000), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data). The table in this section is for adult patients only. A corresponding table for paediatric patients is presented in the specific section below.

Frequency of ADRs in adult patients participating in clinical studies with VISKART P **SOC**	**Very Common**	**Common**	**Uncommon**
Infections and infestations		P falciparum infection	Influenza Respiratory tract infection
Blood and lymphatic system disorders		Anaemia	
Metabolism and nutrition disorders			rexia
Nervous system disorders		Headache	Dizziness Convulsion
Cardiac disorders		QTc prolonged Tachycardia	Cardiac conduction disorders Sinus arrhythmias Bradycardia
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders			Cough
Gastrointestinal disorders			Vomiting Abdominal pain Diarrhoea Nausea
Hepatobiliary disorders			Hepatitis Hepatomegaly Abnormal liver function tests

Skin and subcutaneous Tissue disorders			Pruritis
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders			Arthralgia Myalgia
General disorders and administration site conditions		Asthenia Pyrexia	

Description of selected adverse reactions

The ADRs noted for VISKART P were generally mild in severity, and the majority were non-serious. Reactions such as cough, pyrexia, headache, P. falciparum infection, anaemia, asthenia, anorexia and the observed changes in blood cell parameters are consistent with those expected in patients with acute malaria. The effect on prolongation of the QTc interval was observed on Day 2, and had resolved by Day 7 (the next time point at which ECGs were performed).

Paediatric population

A tabular overview of the frequency of the ADRs in paediatric patients is given below. The majority of paediatric experience is derived from African children aged 6 months to 5 years.

Frequency of ADRs in paediatric patients participating in clinical studies with VISKART P:

SOC	Very Common	Common	Uncommon
Infections and infestations	Influenza P. falciparum infection	Respiratory tract infection Ear infection	
Blood and lymphatic system disorders		Anaemia Leuckocytoses NEC Leukopenias/neutropenia Thrombocytopenia	Hypochromasia Lymphadenopathy Splenomegaly Thrombocythaemia
Metabolism and nutrition disorders		Anorexia	
Nervous system disorders			Convulsion Headache
Eye disorders		Conjunctivitis	
Cardiac disorders		Heart rate irregular QT/QTc prolonged	Cardiac murmur Cardiac conduction disorders
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Cough		Epistaxis Rhinorrhoea
Gastrointestinal disorders		Abdominal pain Vomiting Diarrhoea	Nausea Stomatitis
Hepatobiliary disorders			Hepatitis Hepatomegaly Jaundice Abnormal liver function tests
Skin and subcutaneous Tissue disorders		Dermatitis Rash	Pruritis Acanthosis
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders			Arthralgia
General disorders and	Pyrexia	Asthenia	

administration site conditions			

4.9 Overdose

In clinical trials, nine patients received double the cumulative intended dose of VISKART P. The safety profile of these patients did not differ from that of patients receiving the recommended dose, with no patient reporting SAEs. In cases of suspected overdose, symptomatic and supportive therapy should be given as appropriate, including ECG monitoring because of the possibility of QTc interval prolongation

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antiprotozoals, antimalarials, Artemisinin and derivatives, combinations, ATC code: P01BF05

5.1 Pharmacodynamic effects

DHA is able to reach high concentrations within the parasitized erythrocytes. Its endoperoxide bridge is thought to be essential for its antimalarial activity, causing free-radical damage to parasite membrane systems including:

- Inhibition of falciparum sarcoplasmic-endoplasmic reticulum calcium ATPase,
- Interference with mitochondrial electron transport
- Interference with parasite transport proteins
- Disruption of parasite mitochondrial function

The exact mechanism of action of piperaquine is unknown, but it likely mirrors that of chloroquine, a close structural analogue. Chloroquine binds to toxic haeme (derived from the patient's haemoglobin) within the malaria parasite, preventing its detoxification via a polymerisation step.

Piperaquine is a bisquinoline, and this class has shown good antimalarial activity against chloroquine- resistant Plasmodium strains in vitro. The bulky bisquinolone structure may be important for activity against chloroquine- resistant strains, and may act through the following mechanisms:

- Inhibition of the transporters that efflux chloroquine from the parasite food vacuole
- Inhibition of haem-digestion pathway in the parasite food vacuole.

Resistance to piperaquine (when used as monotherapy) has been reported.

The efficacy and safety of VISKART P have been assessed in two large randomised, open-label clinical trials:

Study DM040010 was conducted in Asian adult and paediatric patients with uncomplicated P. falciparum malaria. VISKART P treatment was compared with Artesunate + Mefloquine (AS +

MQ). The primary end-point was the PCR-corrected cure rate at Day 63.

Study DM040011 was conducted in African paediatric patients with uncomplicated P. falciparum malaria. VISKART P treatment was compared with Artemether + Lumefantrine (A + L). The primary end-point was PCR-corrected cure rate at Day 28.

The results for the primary endpoint in the modified intent to treat (m-ITT) populations (defined as all randomized patients who received at least one dose of the study treatment, with the exclusion of those patients lost to follow up for unknown reasons) were as follows:

Study	**PCR-corrected cure rate (m-ITT)**			
	VISKART P	**AS + MQ**	**A + L**	**95 % two-sided CI on the treatment difference (VISKART P - Comparator); p-value**
DM040010 (n=1087)	97.0 %	95.3 %	-	(-0.84, 4.19) %; p=0.161
DM040011 (n=1524)	92.7 %	-	94.8 %	(-4.59, 0.45) %; p=0.128

In each case the results confirmed that VISKART P was not inferior to the comparator medicinal product. In both studies, the true treatment failure rate was below the 5% efficacy threshold set by WHO.

The age-specific PCR-corrected cure rates in the m-ITT populations are tabulated below for the Asian and African studies, respectively:

Study	**PCR-corrected cure rate (m-ITT)**			
	VISKART P	**AS + MQ**	**A + L**	**95% two-sided CI on the treatment difference (VISKART P - Comparator); p-value**
DM04010 (n=1087)	100.0 %	100.0 %	-	-
≤ 5 years	98.2 %	96.5 %	-	(-3.67, 7.09) %; 0.605
>5 to ≤12 years	97.3 %	100.0 %	-	(-6.40, 0.99) %; 1.000
> 12 to ≤ 18 years	96.6 %	94.4 %	-	(-0.98, 5.30) %; 0.146
> 18 to ≤ 64 years				
DM04011 (n=1524)	91.5 %		98.5 %	(-12.66, -1.32) %[1]; 0.064
≤ 1 year	92.6 %		94.6 %	(-6.76, 2.63) %; 0.413
>1 to ≤ 2 years	93.0 %		94.0 %	(-4.41, 2.47) %; 0.590
> 2 to ≤5 years				

(1) This CI is asymptotic because the exact CI could not be computed

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Pharmacokinetic profiles of DHA and piperaquine have been investigated in animal models and in different human populations (healthy volunteers, adult patients and paediatric patients).

Absorption

DHA is very rapidly absorbed, T_{max} being approximately 1-2 hrs after single and multiple dosing. In patients, mean C_{max} (CV %) and AUC_{INF} of DHA (observed after the first dose of VISKART P) were 752 (47 %) ng/ml and 2,002 (45 %) ng/ml*h, respectively.

DHA bioavailability appears to be higher in malaria patients than in healthy volunteers, possibly because malaria per se has an effect on DHA disposition. This may reflect malaria-associated impairment of hepatic function, causing an increase in DHA bioavailability (reduction of first hepatic effect) without affecting its apparent elimination half-life, which is absorption rate limited. In healthy male volunteers under fasting conditions, mean C_{max} and AUC_{INF} of DHA ranged between 180-252 ng/ml and 516-684 ng/ml*h, respectively.

The systemic exposure to DHA was slightly lower following the last dose of VISKART P (lower than after the first dose by up to 15 %). DHA pharmacokinetic parameters were found to be similar in healthy volunteers of Asian and Caucasian origin. DHA systemic exposure on the last day of treatment was higher in females than in males, the difference being within 30 %.

In healthy volunteers, DHA exposure was increased by 43 % when administered with a high fat/high calorie meal.

Piperaquine, a highly lipophilic compound, is slowly absorbed. In humans, piperaquine has a T_{max} of approximately 5 hours following a single and repeated dose. In patients mean (CV %) C_{max} and AUC_{0-24} (observed after the first dose of VISKART P) were 179 (62 %) ng/ml and 1,679 (47 %) ng/ml*h, respectively. Due to its slow elimination, piperaquine accumulates in plasma after multiple doses with an accumulation factor of approximately 3. Piperaquine pharmacokinetic parameters were found to be similar in healthy volunteers of Asian and Caucasian origin. On the other hand, on the last day of Eurtartesim treatment, the piperaquine maximum plasma concentration was higher in female than in male healthy volunteers, the difference being in the order of 30 to 50 %.

In healthy volunteers, piperaquine exposure is increased approximately 3-fold when administered with a high fat/high calorie meal. This pharmacokinetic effect is accompanied by an increased effect on prolongation of the QT interval. Accordingly, VISKART P should be administered with water no less than 3 hours after the last food intake, and no food should be taken within 3 hours after each dose

Distribution

Both piperaquine and DHA are highly bound to human plasma proteins: the protein binding observed in in vitro studies was 44-93 % for DHA and >99 % for piperaquine. Moreover, from in vitro and in vivo data in animals, piperaquine and DHA tend to accumulate in RBC. DHA was observed to have a small volume of distribution in humans (0.8 l/kg; CV 35.5 %). Pharmacokinetic parameters observed for piperaquine in humans indicate that this active substance has a large volume of distribution (730 l/kg; CV % 37.5 %).

Biotransformation

DHA is principally converted to α-DHA-β-glucuronide (α-DHA-G). Studies in human liver

microsomes showed that DHA was metabolised by the UVISKART P-glucuronosyltransferase (UGT1A9 and UGT2B7) to α-DHA-G with no cytochrome P450-mediated metabolism. In vitro drug-drug interaction studies revealed that DHA is an inhibitor of CYP1A2; therefore, there is the potential for DHA to increase plasma concentrations of CYP1A2 substrates (see section 4.5).

The metabolism of piperaquine in humans has not been studied in vivo. In vitro metabolism studies demonstrated that piperaquine is metabolised by human hepatocytes (approximately 85 % of piperaquine remained after 2 hours incubation at 37°C). Piperaquine was mainly metabolised by CYP3A4 and to a lesser extent by CYP2C9 and CYP2C19. Piperaquine was found to be an inhibitor of CYP3A4 (also in a time-dependent way) and to a lesser extent of CYP2C19, while it stimulated the activity of CYP2E1. As a consequence, there is the potential for increasing plasma concentrations of CYP3A4 substrates, and also for the increase of piperaquine plasma concentrations when VISKART P is concomitantly administered with CYP3A4 substrates, and CYP3A4 inhibitors, respectively (see section 4.5).

No effect on the metabolite profile of piperaquine in human hepatocytes was observed when piperaquine was co-incubated with DHA. The piperaquinemajor metabolites were a carboxyl acid cleavage product, and a mono-N-oxidated product.

Elimination

The elimination half-life of DHA is approximately 1 hour. The mean oral clearance for adult patients with malaria was 1.34 l/h/kg. The mean oral clearance was slightly higher for paediatric patients, however the differences were minor in magnitude (<20 %). DHA is eliminated by metabolism (mainly glucuroconjugation). Its clearance was found to be slightly lower in female than in male healthy volunteers. Data regarding DHA excretion in humans are scarce. However, it is reported in the literature that the excretion of unchanged active substance in human urine and faeces is negligible for artemisinin derivatives.

The elimination half-life of piperaquine is around 22 days for adult patients and around 20 days for paediatric patients. The mean oral clearance for adult patients with malaria was 2.09 l/h/kg, while in paediatric patients was 2.43 l/h/kg. Due to its long elimination half-life, piperaquine accumulates after multiple dosing.

Animal studies showed that radiolabelledpiperaquine is excreted by the biliary route, while urinary excretion is negligible.

Pharmacokinetics in special patient populations

No specific pharmacokinetic studies have been performed in patients with hepatic or renal insufficiency, or in elderly patients.

In a paediatric pharmacokinetic study, and based on very limited sampling, minor differences were observed for DHA pharmacokinetics between the paediatric and adult populations. The mean clearance (1.45 l/h/kg) was slightly faster in the paediatric patients than in the adult patients (1.34 l/h/kg), while the mean volume of distribution in the paediatric patients (0.705 l/kg) was lower than in the adults (0.801 l/kg).

The same comparison showed that piperaquine absorption rate constant and terminal half-life in

children were predominantly similar to those seen in adults. However, the apparent clearance was faster (1.30 versus 1.14 l/h/kg) and the apparent total volume of distribution was lower in the paediatric population (623 versus 730 l/kg).

5.3 Preclinical safety data

General toxicity

Literature data concerning chronic toxicity of piperaquine in dogs and monkeys indicate some hepatotoxicity and mild reversible depression of total white cell and neutrophil counts.

The most important nonclinical safety findings after repeated dosing were the infiltration of macrophages with intracytoplasmic basophilic granular material consistent with phospholipidosis and degenerative lesions in numerous organs and tissues. These adverse reactions were seen in animals at exposure levels similar to clinical exposure levels, and with possible relevance to clinical use. It is not known whether these toxic effects are reversible.

DHA and piperaquine were not genotoxic/clastogenic based on in vitro and in vivo testing.

No carcinogenicity studies have been performed.

DHA causes embryolethality and teratogenicity in rats and rabbits.

Piperaquine did not induce malformation in rats and rabbits. In a perinatal and postnatal development study (segment III) in female rats treated with 80 mg/kg, some animals had a delay of delivery inducing mortality of the neonates. In females delivering normally the development, behaviour and growth of the surviving progeny was normal following exposure in utero or via milk.

No reproduction toxicity studies have been performed with the combination of DHA and piperaquine.

Central nervous system (CNS) toxicity

There is potential for neurotoxicity of artemisinin derivatives in man and animals, which is strongly related to the dose, route and formulations of the different DHA pro-drugs. In humans, the potential neurotoxicity of orally administered DHA can be considered highly unlikely, given the rapid clearance of DHA, and its short exposure (3 days of treatment for malaria patients). There was no evidence of DHA-induced lesions in the specific nuclei in rats or dogs, even at lethal dose.

Cardiovascular toxicity

Effects on blood pressure and on PR and QRS duration were observed at high piperaquine doses. The most important potential cardiac effect was related to cardiac conduction.

In the hERG test, the IC_{50} was 0.15 µmol for piperaquine and 7.7 µmol for DHA. The association of DHA and piperaquine does not produce hERG inhibition greater than that of the single compounds.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Maize starch
Cross Carmellose Sodium (Vivasol)

Microcrystalline Cellulose (Plain)
Hypromellose (H.P.M.C E 15)
Iso Propyl Alcohol*
Methylene Chloride*
Ethyl Cellulose
Colloidal Anhydrous Sillica
Cros Carmellose Sodium (Vivasol)
Magnesium Stearate
Colour coat FC4W-H (IE5260711A) Blue
Purified Water

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

36 months from the date of manufacture

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store in a cool and dry place, protected from light

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

9 tablets packed in one Alu-PVC blister. Such 1 Alu-PVC blister packed in unit printed duplex board carton along with its package insert. Such cartons packed in export worthy shipper.

Note: All pack style may not be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements.

7. MARKETED BY

VISKO PHARMACY
LIMITED

9/26, UDI ROAD, ASATA,
ENUGU STATE NIGERIA

Manufacturer
YANZHOU XIER KANGTAI PHARMACEUTICAL CO.,LTD, PRIVATE ECONOMY GARDEN, XINYAN TOWN, YANZHOU CITY, SHANDONG PR CHINA