

# Levetiracetam

## Keppra<sup>®</sup>

### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Levetiracetam (Keppra<sup>®</sup>) 250 mg Tablet: Each blue, oblong, debossed with code 'ucb' and '250' on one side, film coated tablet contains 250 mg of levetiracetam.

Levetiracetam (Keppra<sup>®</sup>) 500 mg Tablet: Each yellow, oblong, debossed with code 'ucb' and '500' on one side, film coated tablet contains 500 mg of levetiracetam.

Levetiracetam (Keppra<sup>®</sup>) 1 g Tablet: Each white, scored, oblong, debossed with code 'ucb' and '1000' on one side, film coated tablet contains 1g of levetiracetam.

Levetiracetam (Keppra<sup>®</sup>) 100 mg/mL Oral Solution: Each mL of clear liquid oral solution contains 100mg of levetiracetam.

Levetiracetam (Keppra<sup>®</sup>) 500 mg/5 mL concentrate solution for infusion: Each mL contains 100 mg Levetiracetam. The 5 mL vial contains 500 mg of Levetiracetam.

### PHARMACOLOGIC PROPERTIES

#### Pharmacodynamics

##### Mechanism of Action

The active substance, levetiracetam, is a pyrrolidone derivative (S-enantiomer of  $\alpha$ -ethyl-2-oxo-1-pyrrolidine acetamide), chemically unrelated to existing antiepileptic active substances.

The mechanism of action of levetiracetam still remains to be fully elucidated but appears to be different from the mechanisms of current antiepileptic medicinal products. *In vitro* and *in vivo* experiments suggest that levetiracetam does not alter basic cell characteristics and normal neurotransmission.

*In vitro* studies show that levetiracetam affects intraneuronal  $Ca^{2+}$  levels by partial inhibition of N-type  $Ca^{2+}$  currents and by reducing the release of  $Ca^{2+}$  from intraneuronal stores. In addition it partially reverses the reductions in GABA- and glycine-gated currents induced by zinc and  $\beta$ -carbolines. Furthermore, levetiracetam has been shown in *in vitro* studies to bind to a specific site in rodent brain tissue. This binding site is the synaptic vesicle protein 2A, believed to be involved in vesicle fusion and neurotransmitter exocytosis. Levetiracetam and related analogs show a rank order of affinity for binding to the synaptic vesicle protein 2A which correlates with the potency of their anti-seizure protection in the mouse audiogenic model of epilepsy. This finding suggests that the interaction between levetiracetam and the synaptic vesicle protein 2A seems to contribute to the antiepileptic mechanism of action of the medicinal product.

##### Pharmacodynamic effects

Levetiracetam induces seizure protection in a broad range of animal models of partial and primary generalised seizures without having a pro-convulsant effect. The primary metabolite is inactive.

In man, an activity in both partial and generalised epilepsy conditions (epileptiform discharge/photoparoxysmal response) has confirmed the broad spectrum pharmacological profile of levetiracetam.

##### Pharmacokinetics

Levetiracetam is a highly soluble and permeable compound. The pharmacokinetic profile is linear with low intra- and intersubject variability. There is no modification of the clearance after repeated administration. The time independent pharmacokinetic profile of levetiracetam was also confirmed following 1500 mg intravenous infusion for 4 days with twice daily dosing.

There is no evidence for any relevant gender, race or circadian variability. The pharmacokinetic profile is comparable in healthy volunteers and in patients with epilepsy.

Due to its complete and linear absorption, plasma levels can be predicted from the oral dose of levetiracetam expressed as mg/kg bodyweight. Therefore there is no need for plasma level monitoring of levetiracetam.

A significant correlation between saliva and plasma concentrations has been shown in adults and children (ratio of saliva/plasma concentrations ranged from 1 to 1.7 for oral tablet formulation and after 4 hours post-dose for oral solution formulation).

The pharmacokinetic profile has been characterized following oral administration. A single dose of 1500 mg levetiracetam diluted in 100 ml of a compatible diluent and infused intravenously over 15 minutes is bioequivalent to 1500 mg levetiracetam oral intake, given as three 500 mg tablets.

The intravenous administration of doses up to 4000 mg diluted in 100 ml of 0.9 % sodium chloride infused over 15 minutes and doses up to 2500 mg diluted in 100 ml of 0.9 % sodium chloride infused over 5 minutes was evaluated. The pharmacokinetic and safety profiles did not identify any safety concerns.

##### Absorption

Levetiracetam is rapidly absorbed after oral administration. Oral absolute bioavailability is close to 100%.

Peak plasma concentrations ( $C_{max}$ ) are achieved at 1.3 hours after dosing. Steady-state is achieved after two days of a twice daily administration schedule.

Peak concentrations ( $C_{max}$ ) are typically 31 and 43  $\mu$ g/ml following a single 1,000 mg dose and repeated 1,000 mg twice daily dose, respectively.

The extent of absorption is dose-independent and is not altered by food.

##### Distribution

No tissue distribution data are available in humans.

Neither levetiracetam nor its primary metabolite are significantly bound to plasma proteins (< 10%).

The volume of distribution of levetiracetam is approximately 0.5 to 0.7 l/kg, a value close to the total body water volume. Peak plasma concentration ( $C_{max}$ ) observed in 17 subjects following a single intravenous dose of 1500 mg infused over 15 minutes was  $51 \pm 19$   $\mu$ g/mL (arithmetic average  $\pm$  standard deviation).

## Metabolism

Levetiracetam is not extensively metabolised in humans. The major metabolic pathway (24% of the dose) is an enzymatic hydrolysis of the acetamide group. Production of the primary metabolite, ucb L057, is not supported by liver cytochrome P450 isoforms. Hydrolysis of the acetamide group was measurable in a large number of tissues including blood cells. The metabolite ucb L057 is pharmacologically inactive.

Two minor metabolites were also identified. One was obtained by hydroxylation of the pyrrolidone ring (1.6% of the dose) and the other one by opening of the pyrrolidone ring (0.9% of the dose).

Other unidentified components accounted only for 0.6% of the dose.

No enantiomeric interconversion was evidenced *in vivo* for either levetiracetam or its primary metabolite.

*In vitro*, levetiracetam and its primary metabolite have been shown not to inhibit the major human liver cytochrome P450 isoforms (CYP3A4, 2A6, 2C9, 2C19, 2D6, 2E1 and 1A2), glucuronyl transferase (UGT1A1 AND UGT1A6) and epoxide hydroxylase activities. In addition, levetiracetam does not affect the *in vitro* glucuronidation of valproic acid.

In human hepatocytes in culture, levetiracetam had little or no effect on CYP1A2, SULT1E1 or UGT1A1. Levetiracetam caused mild induction of CYP2B6 and CYP3A4. The *in vitro* data and *in vivo* interaction data on oral contraceptives, digoxin and warfarin indicate that no significant enzyme induction is expected *in vivo*. Therefore, the interaction of levetiracetam with other substances, or vice versa, is unlikely.

## Elimination

The plasma half-life in adults was 7±1 hours and did not vary either with dose, route of administration or repeated administration. The mean total body clearance was 0.96 ml/min/kg.

The major route of excretion was via urine, accounting for a mean 95% of the dose (approximately 93% of the dose was excreted within 48 hours). Excretion *via faeces* accounted for only 0.3% of the dose.

The cumulative urinary excretion of levetiracetam and its primary metabolite accounted for 66% and 24% of the dose, respectively during the first 48 hours.

The renal clearance of levetiracetam and ucb L057 is 0.6 and 4.2 ml/min/kg respectively indicating that levetiracetam is excreted by glomerular filtration with subsequent tubular reabsorption and that the primary metabolite is also excreted by active tubular secretion in addition to glomerular filtration. Levetiracetam elimination is correlated to creatinine clearance.

## Special patient populations

### Children

#### Children (4 to 12 years)

Following single oral dose administration (20 mg/kg) to epileptic children (6 to 12 years), the half-life of levetiracetam was 6.0 hours. The apparent body weight adjusted clearance was approximately 30% higher than in epileptic adults.

Following repeated oral dose administration (20 to 60 mg/kg/day) to epileptic children (4 to 12 years), levetiracetam was rapidly absorbed. Peak plasma concentration was observed 0.5 to 1.0 hour after dosing. Linear and dose proportional increases were observed for peak plasma concentrations and area under the curve. The elimination half-life was approximately 5 hours. The apparent body clearance was 1.1 ml/min/kg.

#### Infants and children (1 month to 4 years)

Following single dose administration (20 mg/kg) of a 100 mg/ml oral solution to epileptic children (1 month to 4 years), levetiracetam was rapidly absorbed and peak plasma concentrations were observed approximately 1 hour after dosing. The pharmacokinetic results indicated that half-life was shorter (5.3 h) than for adults (7.2 h) and apparent clearance was faster (1.5 ml/min/kg) than for adults (0.96 ml/min/kg).

In the population pharmacokinetic analysis conducted in patients from 1 month to 16 years of age, body weight was significantly correlated to apparent clearance (clearance increased with an increase in body weight) and apparent volume of distribution. Age also had an influence on both parameters. This effect was pronounced for the younger infants, and subsided as age increased, to become negligible around 4 years of age.

In both population pharmacokinetic analyses, there was about a 20 % increase of apparent clearance of levetiracetam when it was co-administered with an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medicinal product.

### Elderly

In the elderly, the half-life is increased by about 40% (10 to 11 hours). This is related to the decrease in renal function in this population.

### Renal impairment

The apparent body clearance of both levetiracetam and of its primary metabolite is correlated to the creatinine clearance. It is therefore recommended to adjust the maintenance daily dose of levetiracetam, based on creatinine clearance in patients with moderate and severe renal impairment.

In anuric end-stage renal disease adult subjects the half-life was approximately 25 and 3.1 hours during interdialytic and intradialytic periods, respectively.

The fractional removal of levetiracetam was 51% during a typical 4-hour dialysis session.

### Hepatic impairment

In subjects with mild and moderate hepatic impairment, there was no relevant modification of the clearance of levetiracetam. In most subjects with severe hepatic impairment, the clearance of levetiracetam was reduced by more than 50% due to a concomitant renal impairment.

### Clinical Studies

Not relevant for this product.

## NON-CLINICAL INFORMATION

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, genotoxicity and carcinogenicity.

Adverse effects not observed in clinical studies but seen in the rat and to a lesser extent in the mouse at exposure levels similar to human exposure levels and with possible relevance for clinical use were liver changes, indicating an adaptive response such as increased weight and centrilobular hypertrophy, fatty infiltration and increased liver enzymes in plasma. No adverse effects on male or female fertility or reproduction performance were observed in rats at doses up to 1800 mg/kg/day (x 6 the MRHD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> or exposure basis) in parents and F1 generation.

Two embryo-foetal development (EFD) studies were performed in rats at 400, 1200 and 3600 mg/kg/day. At 3600 mg/kg/day, in only one of the 2 EFD studies, there was a slight decrease in foetal weight associated with a marginal increase in skeletal variations/minor anomalies. There was no effect on embryomortality and no increased incidence of malformations. The NOAEL (No Observed Adverse Effect Level) was 3600 mg/kg/day for pregnant female rats (x 12 the MRHD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis) and 1200 mg/kg/day for foetuses.

Four embryo-foetal development studies were performed in rabbits covering doses of 200, 600, 800, 1200 and 1800 mg/kg/day. The dose level of 1800 mg/kg/day induced a marked maternal toxicity and a decrease in foetal weight associated with increased incidence of foetuses with cardiovascular/skeletal anomalies. The NOAEL was <200 mg/kg/day for the dams and 200 mg/kg/day for the foetuses (equal to the MRHD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis).

A peri- and post-natal development study was performed in rats with levetiracetam doses of 70, 350 and 1800 mg/kg/day. The NOAEL was ≥ 1800 mg/kg/day for the F0 females, and for the survival, growth and development of the F1 offspring up to weaning (x 6 the MRHD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis).

Neonatal and juvenile animal studies in rats and dogs demonstrated that there were no adverse effects seen in any of the standard developmental or maturation endpoints at doses up to 1800 mg/kg/day (x 6–17 the MRHD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis).

#### **Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA)**

The use of levetiracetam in accordance with the product information is not likely to result in an unacceptable environmental impact (see *Section Incompatibilities and Use and Handling*).

## **INDICATIONS**

Levetiracetam is indicated as monotherapy in the treatment of:

- partial onset seizures with or without secondary generalisation in adults and adolescents from 16 years of age with newly diagnosed epilepsy.

Levetiracetam is indicated as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of:

- partial onset seizures with or without secondary generalisation in adults, adolescents and children from 4 years of age with epilepsy
- myoclonic seizures in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy,
- primary generalised tonic-clonic seizures in adults and adolescents from 4 years of age with idiopathic generalised epilepsy.

Levetiracetam concentrate is an alternative for patients (adults and children from 4 years of age) when oral administration is temporarily not feasible.

## **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Levetiracetam therapy can be initiated with either intravenous or oral administration. Conversion to or from oral to intravenous administration can be done directly without titration. The total daily dose and frequency of administration should be maintained.

#### *Film-coated tablets*

The film-coated tablets must be taken orally, swallowed with a sufficient quantity of liquid and may be taken with or without food. The daily dose is administered in two equally divided doses.

#### *Oral solution*

The oral solution may be diluted in a glass of water or baby's bottle and may be taken with or without food. The daily dose is administered in two equally divided doses.

#### *Concentrate for solution for infusion*

Levetiracetam concentrate is for intravenous use only and the recommended dose must be diluted in at least 100 ml of a compatible diluent and administered intravenously as a 15-minute intravenous infusion (see *Section Incompatibilities and Use and Handling*)

There is no experience with administration of intravenous levetiracetam for longer period than 4 days.

Levetiracetam concentrate is an alternative for patients (adults and children from 4 years of age) when oral administration is temporarily not feasible.

#### **Route of Administration**

*Levetiracetam (Keppra®) 250mg Tablet, 500mg Tablet, 1g Tablet and 100mg/mL Oral solution:*

For oral use.

*Levetiracetam (Keppra®) 500mg/5mL Concentrate for Solution for Infusion:*

For intravenous use.

#### **Adults**

- Monotherapy

#### Adults and adolescents from 16 years of age

The recommended starting dose is 250 mg twice daily which should be increased to an initial therapeutic dose of 500 mg twice daily after two weeks. The dose can be further increased by 250 mg twice daily every two weeks depending upon the clinical response. The maximum dose is 1500 mg twice daily.

- Add-on therapy

#### Adults (≥ 18 years) and adolescents (12 to 17 years) weighing 50 kg or more

The initial therapeutic dose is 500 mg twice daily. This dose can be started on the first day of treatment.

Depending upon the clinical response and tolerability, the daily dose can be increased up to 1500 mg twice daily. Dose changes can be made in 500 mg twice daily increases or decreases every two to four weeks.

#### **Children**

The physician should prescribe the most appropriate pharmaceutical form, presentation and strength according to age, weight and dose.

The tablet formulation is not adapted for use in infants and children under the age of 6 years. In addition, the available dose strengths of the tablets are not appropriate for initial treatment in children weighing less than 25 kg, for patients unable to swallow tablets or for the administration of doses below 250 mg. In all of the above cases levetiracetam oral solution should be used.

The safety and efficacy of levetiracetam concentrate for solution for infusion in infants and children less than 4 years have not been established.

**Monotherapy**

The safety and efficacy of levetiracetam in children and adolescents below 16 years as monotherapy treatment have not been established. There are no data available.

**Add-on therapy for children (4 to 11 years) and adolescents (12 to 17 years) weighing less than 50 kg**

Levetiracetam oral solution is the preferred formulation for use in children 4 years and above.

The initial therapeutic dose is 10 mg/kg twice daily.

Depending upon the clinical response and tolerability, the dose can be increased up to 30 mg/kg twice daily. Dose changes should not exceed increases or decreases of 10 mg/kg twice daily every two weeks.

The lowest effective dose should be used.

Dose in children 50 kg or greater is the same as in adults.

**Dose recommendations for children (4 years and above) and adolescents:**

Weight	Starting dose 10 mg/kg twice daily	Maximum dose 30 mg/kg twice daily
6 kg <sup>(1)</sup>	60 mg (0.6 ml) twice daily	180 mg (1.8 ml) twice daily
10 kg <sup>(1)</sup>	100 mg (1 ml) twice daily	300 mg (3 ml) twice daily
15 kg <sup>(1)</sup>	150 mg (1.5 ml) twice daily	450 mg (4.5 ml) twice daily
20 kg <sup>(1)</sup>	200 mg (2 ml) twice daily	600 mg (6 ml) twice daily
25 kg	250 mg twice daily	750 mg twice daily
From 50 kg <sup>(2)</sup>	500 mg twice daily	1500 mg twice daily

<sup>(1)</sup> Children 25 kg or less should preferably start the treatment with levetiracetam 100 mg/ml oral solution

<sup>(2)</sup> Dose in children and adolescents 50 kg or more is the same as in adults

**Elderly**

Adjustment of the dose is recommended in elderly patients with compromised renal function.

**Renal impairment**

The daily dose must be individualised according to renal function (see Section Warnings and Precautions).

For adult patients, refer to the following table and adjust the dose as indicated. To use this dosing table, an estimate of the patient's creatinine clearance (CLcr) in ml/min is needed. The CLcr in ml/min may be estimated from serum creatinine (mg/dl) determination, for adults and adolescents weighing 50 kg or more, using the following formula:

$$CLcr \text{ (ml/min)} = \frac{[140 - \text{age (years)}] \times \text{weight (kg)}}{72 \times \text{serum creatinine (mg/dl)}} \quad (\times 0.85 \text{ for women})$$

Then CLcr is adjusted for body surface area (BSA) as follows:

$$CLcr \text{ (ml/min/1.73 m}^2\text{)} = \frac{CLcr \text{ (ml/min)}}{BSA \text{ subject (m}^2\text{)}} \times 1.73$$

**Dosing adjustment for adult and adolescent patients weighing more than 50kg with impaired renal function**

Group	Creatinine clearance (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	Dosage and frequency
Normal	> 80	500 to 1500 mg twice daily
Mild	50-79	500 to 1000 mg twice daily
Moderate	30-49	250 to 750 mg twice daily
Severe	< 30	250 to 500 mg twice daily
End-stage renal disease patients undergoing dialysis <sup>(1)</sup> .	-	500 to 1000 mg once daily <sup>(2)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> A 750 mg loading dose is recommended on the first day of treatment with levetiracetam.

<sup>(2)</sup> Following dialysis, a 250 to 500 mg supplemental dose is recommended.

For children with renal impairment, levetiracetam dose needs to be adjusted based on the renal function as levetiracetam clearance is related to renal function.

This recommendation is based on a study in adult renally impaired patients.

The CLcr in ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> may be estimated from serum creatinine (mg/dl) determination using, for young adolescents and children using the following formula (Schwartz formula):

$$\text{CLcr (ml/min/1.73 m}^2\text{)} = \frac{\text{Height (cm)} \times \text{ks}}{\text{Serum Creatinine (mg/dl)}}$$

ks= 0.55 in Children to less than 13 years and in adolescent female; ks= 0.7 in adolescent male

Dosing adjustment for children and adolescents patients weighing less than 50 kg with impaired renal function

Group	Creatinine clearance (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	Dosage and frequency
		Children and adolescents weighing less than 50 kg
Normal	> 80	10 to 30 mg/kg (0.10 to 0.30 ml/kg) twice daily
Mild	50-79	10 to 20 mg/kg (0.10 to 0.20 ml/kg) twice daily
Moderate	30-49	5 to 15 mg/kg (0.05 to 0.15 ml/kg) twice daily
Severe	< 30	5 to 10 mg/kg (0.05 to 0.10 ml/kg) twice daily
End-stage renal disease patients undergoing dialysis	-	10 to 20 mg/kg (0.10 to 0.20 ml/kg) once daily <sup>(3)(5)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Levetiracetam oral solution should be used for doses under 250 mg and for patients unable to swallow tablets.

<sup>(2)</sup> A 10.5 mg/kg (0.105 ml/kg) loading dose is recommended on the first day of treatment with levetiracetam.

<sup>(3)</sup> A 15 mg/kg (0.15 ml/kg) loading dose is recommended on the first day of treatment with levetiracetam.

<sup>(4)</sup> Following dialysis, a 3.5 to 7 mg/kg (0.035 to 0.07 ml/kg) supplemental dose is recommended.

<sup>(5)</sup> Following dialysis, a 5 to 10 mg/kg (0.05 to 0.10 ml/kg) supplemental dose is recommended.

#### Hepatic impairment

No dose adjustment is needed in patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment. In patients with severe hepatic impairment, the creatinine clearance may underestimate the renal insufficiency. Therefore a 50% reduction of the daily maintenance dose is recommended when the creatinine clearance is < 60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

Levetiracetam is contraindicated in:

- hypersensitivity to the active substance or other pyrrolidone derivatives or to any of the excipients.

## WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

### Discontinuation

In accordance with current clinical practice, if levetiracetam has to be discontinued it is recommended to withdraw it gradually (e.g. in adults and adolescents weighing more than 50kg: 500 mg decreases twice daily every two to four weeks; in children and adolescents weighing less than 50 kg: dose decrease should not exceed 10 mg/kg twice daily every two weeks).

### Renal or hepatic impairment

The administration of levetiracetam to patients with renal impairment may require dose adjustment. In patients with severely impaired hepatic function, assessment of renal function is recommended before dose selection (see Section Dosage and Administration).

### Depression and/or suicidal ideation

Suicide, suicide attempt, suicidal ideation and behaviour have been reported in patients treated with anti-epileptic agents (including levetiracetam). A meta-analysis of randomized placebo-controlled trials of anti-epileptic medicinal products has shown a small increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviour. The mechanism of this risk is not known.

Therefore patients should be monitored for signs of depression and/or suicidal ideation and behaviours and appropriate treatment should be considered. Patients (and caregivers of patients) should be advised to seek medical advice should signs of depression and/or suicidal ideation or behaviour emerge.

### Paediatric population

The tablet formulation is not adapted for use in infants and children under the age of 6 years.

Available data in children did not suggest impact on growth and puberty. However, long term effects on learning, intelligence, growth, endocrine function, puberty and childbearing potential in children remain unknown.

The safety and efficacy of levetiracetam has not been thoroughly assessed in infants with epilepsy aged less than 1 year. Only 35 infants aged less than 1 year with partial onset seizures have been exposed in clinical studies of which only 13 were aged < 6 months.

### Excipients

#### Film-coated tablets

Levetiracetam 750 mg film-coated tablets contain sunset yellow lake (E110) colouring agent which may cause allergic reactions.

#### Oral solution

Levetiracetam 100 mg/ml oral solution includes methyl parahydroxybenzoate (E218) and propyl parahydroxybenzoate (E216) which may cause allergic reactions (possibly delayed).

It also includes maltitol liquid; patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance should not take this medicinal product.

It contains glycerol which may cause headache, stomach upset and diarrhea.

#### Solution for infusion

The medicinal product contains 2.5 mmol (or 57 mg) sodium per maximum single dose (0.83 mmol or 19 mg per vial). It should be taken into consideration by patients on a controlled sodium diet.

### **Ability to perform tasks that require judgement, motor or cognitive skills**

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

Due to possible different individual sensitivity, some patients might experience somnolence or other central nervous system related symptoms, especially at the beginning of treatment or following a dose increase. Therefore, caution is recommended in those patients when performing skilled tasks, e.g. driving vehicles or operating machinery. Patients are advised not to drive or use machines until it is established that their ability to perform such activities is not affected.

### **DRUG INTERACTIONS**

#### *Antiepileptic medicinal products*

Pre-marketing data from clinical studies conducted in adults indicate that levetiracetam did not influence the serum concentrations of existing antiepileptic medicinal products (phenytoin, carbamazepine, valproic acid, phenobarbital, lamotrigine, gabapentin and primidone) and that these antiepileptic medicinal products did not influence the pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam.

As in adults, there is no evidence of clinically significant medicinal product interactions in paediatric patients receiving up to 60 mg/kg/day levetiracetam.

A retrospective assessment of pharmacokinetic interactions in children and adolescents with epilepsy (4 to 17 years) confirmed that adjunctive therapy with orally administered levetiracetam did not influence the steady-state serum concentrations of concomitantly administered carbamazepine and valproate. However, data suggested a 20 % higher levetiracetam clearance in children taking enzyme-inducing antiepileptic medicinal products. Dose adjustment is not required.

#### *Probenecid*

Probenecid (500 mg four times daily), a renal tubular secretion blocking agent, has been shown to inhibit the renal clearance of the primary metabolite but not of levetiracetam. Nevertheless, the concentration of this metabolite remains low. It is expected that other medicinal products excreted by active tubular secretion could also reduce the renal clearance of the metabolite. The effect of levetiracetam on probenecid was not studied and the effect of levetiracetam on other actively secreted medicinal products, e.g. NSAIDs, sulfonamides and methotrexate is unknown.

#### *Oral contraceptives, digoxin and warfarin*

Levetiracetam 1,000 mg daily did not influence the pharmacokinetics of oral contraceptives (ethinyl-estradiol and levonorgestrel); endocrine parameters (luteinizing hormone and progesterone) were not modified.

Levetiracetam 2,000 mg daily did not influence the pharmacokinetics of digoxin and warfarin; prothrombin times were not modified. Co-administration with digoxin, oral contraceptives and warfarin did not influence the pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam.

#### *Antacids*

No data on the influence of antacids on the absorption of levetiracetam are available.

#### *Food and alcohol*

The extent of absorption of levetiracetam was not altered by food, but the rate of absorption was slightly reduced.

No data on the interaction of levetiracetam with alcohol are available.

### **PREGNANCY AND LACTATION**

#### **Fertility**

No impact on fertility was detected in animal studies. No clinical data are available, potential risk for human is unknown.

#### **Pregnancy**

Levetiracetam is not recommended during pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential not using contraception unless clearly necessary.

There are no adequate data available from the use of levetiracetam in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity. The potential risk for human is unknown.

As with other antiepileptic medicinal products, physiological changes during pregnancy may affect levetiracetam concentration. Decrease in levetiracetam plasma concentrations has been observed during pregnancy. This decrease is more pronounced during the third trimester (up to 60% of baseline concentration before pregnancy). Appropriate clinical management of pregnant women treated with levetiracetam should be ensured. Discontinuation of antiepileptic treatments may result in exacerbation of the disease which could be harmful to the mother and the foetus.

#### **Lactation**

Levetiracetam is excreted in human breast milk. Therefore, breast-feeding is not recommended.

However, if levetiracetam treatment is needed during breastfeeding, the benefit/risk of the treatment should be weighed considering the importance of breastfeeding.

### **ADVERSE EFFECTS**

#### **Clinical Trial Data and Post-Marketing Data**

##### *Summary of the safety profile*

The adverse event profile presented below is based on the analysis of pooled placebo-controlled clinical trials with all indications studied, with a total of 3,416 patients treated with levetiracetam. These data are supplemented with the use of levetiracetam in corresponding open-label extension studies, as well as post-marketing experience. The most frequently reported adverse reactions were nasopharyngitis, somnolence, headache, fatigue and dizziness. The safety profile of levetiracetam is generally similar across age groups (adult and paediatric patients) and across the approved epilepsy indications.

Adverse reactions are ranked under headings of frequency using the following convention:

Very common  $\geq 1/10$

Common  $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$

Uncommon  $\geq 1/1000$  to  $< 1/100$

Rare  $\geq 1/10000$  to  $< 1/1000$

Very rare  $< 1/10000$

Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data)

*Infections and infestations*

*Very Common:* nasopharyngitis

*Rare:* infection

*Blood and lymphatic system disorders*

*Uncommon:* thrombocytopenia, leukopenia

*Rare:* pancytopenia, neutropenia, agranulocytosis

*Immune system disorders*

*Rare:* drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS)

*Metabolism and nutrition disorders*

*Common:* anorexia

*Uncommon:* weight decreased, weight increase

*Rare:* hyponatraemia

*Psychiatric disorders*

*Common:* depression, hostility/aggression, anxiety, insomnia, nervousness/irritability

*Uncommon:* suicide attempt, suicidal ideation, psychotic disorder, abnormal behaviour, hallucination, anger, confusional state, panic attack, affect lability/mood swings, agitation

*Rare:* completed suicide, personality disorder, thinking abnormal

*Nervous system disorders*

*Very common:* somnolence, headache

*Common:* convulsion, balance disorder, dizziness, lethargy, tremor

*Uncommon:* amnesia, memory impairment, coordination abnormal/ataxia, paraesthesia, disturbance in attention

*Rare:* choreoathetosis, dyskinesia, hyperkinesia

*Eye disorders*

*Uncommon:* diplopia, vision blurred

*Ear and labyrinth disorders*

*Common:* vertigo

*Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders*

*Common:* cough

*Gastrointestinal disorders*

*Common:* abdominal pain, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, vomiting, nausea

*Rare:* pancreatitis

*Hepatobiliary disorders*

*Uncommon:* liver function test abnormal

*Rare:* hepatic failure, hepatitis

*Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders*

*Common:* rash

*Uncommon:* alopecia, eczema, pruritus

*Rare:* toxic epidermal necrolysis<sup>1</sup>, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, erythema multiforme

*Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders*

*Uncommon:* muscular weakness, myalgia

*General disorders and administration site conditions*

*Common:* asthenia/fatigue

*Injury, poisoning and procedural complications*

*Uncommon:* injury

*Description of selected adverse reactions*

The risk of anorexia is higher when topiramate is coadministered with levetiracetam.

In several cases of alopecia, recovery was observed when levetiracetam was discontinued.

Bone marrow suppression was identified in some of the cases of pancytopenia.

*Paediatric population*

In patients aged 1 month to less than 4 years, a total of 190 patients have been treated with levetiracetam in placebo controlled and open label extension studies. Sixty of these patients were treated with levetiracetam in placebo-controlled studies. In patients aged 4-16 years, a total of 645 patients have been treated with levetiracetam in placebo-controlled and open label extension studies. 233 of these patients were treated with levetiracetam in placebo-controlled studies. In both these paediatric age ranges, these data are supplemented with the post-marketing experience of the use of levetiracetam.

The adverse event profile of levetiracetam is generally similar across age groups and across the approved epilepsy indications. Safety results in paediatric patients in placebo-controlled clinical studies were consistent with the safety profile of levetiracetam in adults except for behavioural and psychiatric adverse reactions which were more common in children than in adults. In children and adolescents aged 4 to 16 years, vomiting (very common, 11.2%), agitation (common, 3.4%), mood swings (common, 2.1%), affect lability (common, 1.7%), aggression (common, 8.2%), abnormal behaviour (common, 5.6%), and lethargy (common, 3.9%) were reported more frequently than in other age ranges or in the overall safety profile. In infants and children aged 1 month to less than 4 years, irritability (very common, 11.7%) and coordination abnormal (common, 3.3%) were reported more frequently than in other age groups or in the overall safety profile.

A double-blind, placebo-controlled paediatric safety study with a non-inferiority design has assessed the cognitive and neuropsychological effects of levetiracetam in children 4 to 16 years of age with partial onset seizures. It was concluded that levetiracetam was not different (non inferior) from placebo with regard to the change from baseline of the Leiter-R Attention and Memory, Memory Screen Composite score in the per-protocol population. Results related to behavioural and emotional functioning indicated a worsening in levetiracetam treated patients on aggressive behaviour as measured in a standardised and systematic way using a validated instrument (CBCL – Achenbach Child Behavior Checklist). However subjects, who took levetiracetam in the long-term open label follow-up study, did not experience a worsening, on average, in their behavioural and emotional functioning; in particular measures of aggressive behaviour were not worse than baseline.

## OVERDOSAGE AND TREATMENT

### Symptoms and signs

Somnolence, agitation, aggression, depressed level of consciousness, respiratory depression and coma were observed with levetiracetam overdoses.

### Treatment

After an acute overdose, the stomach may be emptied by induction of emesis. There is no specific antidote for levetiracetam. Treatment of an overdose will be symptomatic and may include haemodialysis. The dialyser extraction efficiency is 60% for levetiracetam and 74% for the primary metabolite.

## STORAGE CONDITIONS

Levetiracetam (*Keppra*<sup>®</sup>) 250 mg tablet: Store below 25°C.

Levetiracetam (*Keppra*<sup>®</sup>) 500 mg and 1g tablet: Store at temperatures not exceeding 30°C.

Levetiracetam (*Keppra*<sup>®</sup>) 100 mg/mL oral solution: Store at temperatures not exceeding 25°C.

Levetiracetam (*Keppra*<sup>®</sup>) 500 mg/5 mL concentrate solution for infusion: Store at temperatures not exceeding 30°C. From a microbiological point of view, the product should be used immediately after dilution. If not used immediately, in-use storage time and conditions prior to use are responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at 2-8°C, unless dilution has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

## INCOMPATIBILITIES, INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE AND HANDLING

*Levetiracetam, 500 mg/5 mL concentrate for solution for infusion*

Table presents the recommended preparation and administration of levetiracetam concentrate to achieve a total daily dose of 500 mg, 1,000 mg, 2,000 mg, or 3,000 mg in two divided doses.

Dose	Withdrawal Volume	Volume of Diluent	Infusion time	Frequency of administration	Total Daily Dose
250 mg	2.5 ml (half 5 ml vial)	100 ml	15 minutes	Twice daily	500 mg/day
500 mg	5 ml (one 5 ml vial)	100 ml	15 minutes	Twice daily	1000 mg/day
1000 mg	10 ml (two 5 ml vials)	100 ml	15 minutes	Twice daily	2000 mg/day
1500 mg	15 ml (three 5 ml vials)	100 ml	15 minutes	Twice daily	3000 mg/day

This medicinal product is for single use only, any unused solution should be discarded.

This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products except those mentioned below. Levetiracetam concentrate was found to be physically compatible and chemically stable when mixed with the following diluents for at least 24 hours and stored in PVC bags at controlled room temperature 15- 25°C.

Diluents:

- Sodium chloride (0.9%) injection
- Lactated Ringer's injection
- Dextrose 5% injection

Medicinal product with particulate matter or discolouration should not be used.

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

## AVAILABILITY

\*Levetiracetam (*Keppra*<sup>®</sup>) 250 mg tablet: 10 tablets per blister (box of 60's)

\*Levetiracetam (*Keppra*<sup>®</sup>) 500 mg tablet: 10 tablets per blister (box of 60's)

\*Levetiracetam (*Keppra*<sup>®</sup>) 1g tablet: 10 tablets per blister (box of 60's)

\*\*Levetiracetam (*Keppra*<sup>®</sup>) 100 mg/mL Oral Solution: Bottle of 300 mL. Once opened, product is considered stable for up to 2 months when stored at the prescribed temperature.

\*\*\*Levetiracetam (*Keppra*<sup>®</sup>) 500 mg/5 mL concentrate solution for infusion: 5 mL vial (Box of 10's)

## CAUTION

Foods, Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Act prohibits dispensing without prescription.

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

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