

Ropinirole HCl

Requip[®] PD

Prolonged-Release Tablet

Anti-Parkinsonism

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Ropinirole HCl (*Requip[®] PD*) 2 mg Prolonged-release tablet: Pink, capsule-shaped, film-coated tablet marked with "GS" on one side and "3V2" on the other containing 2 mg of Ropinirole HCl free base.

Ropinirole HCl (*Requip[®] PD*) 4 mg Prolonged-release tablet: Light brown, capsule-shaped, film-coated tablet marked with "GS" on one side and "WXG" on the other containing 4 mg of Ropinirole HCl free base.

Ropinirole HCl (*Requip[®] PD*) 8 mg Prolonged-release tablet: Red, capsule-shaped, film-coated tablet marked with "GS" on one side and "5CC" on the other containing 8 mg of Ropinirole HCl free base.

PHARMACOLOGIC PROPERTIES

Mechanism of Action

Ropinirole HCl is a potent, non-ergoline D2/D3 dopamine agonist.

Parkinson's disease is characterised by a marked dopamine deficiency in the nigral striatal system. Ropinirole HCl alleviates this deficiency by stimulating striatal dopamine receptors.

Pharmacodynamic Effects

Ropinirole HCl acts in the hypothalamus and pituitary to inhibit the secretion of prolactin.

Pharmacokinetics

The pharmacokinetics of Ropinirole HCl are consistent between healthy volunteers, Parkinson's disease patients and patients with Restless Legs Syndrome.

Wide inter-individual variability in the pharmacokinetic parameters has been seen. Bioavailability of Ropinirole HCl is approximately 50% (36 to 57%).

Absorption

Following oral administration of Ropinirole HCl PR, plasma concentrations increase slowly, with a median time to C_{max} of 6 hours. In a steady-state study in Parkinson's disease patients receiving 12 mg of Ropinirole HCl PR once daily, a high fat meal increased the systemic exposure to Ropinirole HCl as shown by an average 20% increase in AUC and an average 44% increase in C_{max} . T_{max} was delayed by 3 hours. However, in the studies that established the safety and efficacy of Ropinirole HCl PR, patients were instructed to take study medication without regard to food intake.

Distribution

Plasma protein binding of the drug is low (10 to 40%). Consistent with its high lipophilicity, Ropinirole HCl exhibits a large volume of distribution (approx. 7 L/kg).

Metabolism

Ropinirole HCl is primarily cleared by CYP1A2 metabolism and its metabolites are mainly excreted in the urine. The major metabolite is at least 100 times less potent than Ropinirole HCl in animal models of dopaminergic function.

Elimination

Ropinirole HCl is cleared from the systemic circulation with an average elimination half-life of about 6 hours.

The increase in systemic exposure (C_{max} and AUC) to Ropinirole HCl is approximately proportional over the therapeutic dose range. No change in the oral clearance of Ropinirole HCl is observed following single and repeated oral administration.

Special Patient Populations

Elderly:

Oral clearance of Ropinirole HCl is reduced by approximately 15% in elderly patients (65 years or above) compared to younger patients. Dosing adjustment is not necessary in the elderly.

Renal Impairment:

There was no change observed in the pharmacokinetics of Ropinirole HCl in Parkinson's disease patients with mild to moderate renal impairment.

In patients with end stage renal disease receiving regular dialysis, oral clearance of Ropinirole HCl is reduced by approximately 30%. The recommended maximum dose is limited to 18 mg/day in patients with Parkinson's disease (*see Dosage and Administration, Renal impairment*).

Clinical Studies

A 36-week, double-blind, three-period crossover study conducted in 161 patients compared the efficacy and safety of Ropinirole HCl prolonged-release tablets and Ropinirole HCl immediate release tablets as monotherapy in subjects with early phase Parkinson's disease. The primary endpoint of this non-inferiority study was the treatment difference in change from baseline in the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) motor score (a 3-point non-inferiority margin was defined). Ropinirole HCl prolonged-release was demonstrated to be non-inferior to Ropinirole HCl immediate release on the primary endpoint, the adjusted mean difference between Ropinirole HCl prolonged-release and Ropinirole HCl immediate release at study endpoint was -0.7 points (95% CI: [-1.51, 0.10], $p=0.0842$).

Following the overnight switch to a similar dose of the alternative tablet formulation, there was no indication of worsened adverse event profile and less than 3% of patients required a dose adjustment (by increasing one dose level).

A 24-week double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group study evaluated the efficacy and safety of Ropinirole HCl PR as adjunctive therapy in patients with Parkinson's disease who were not optimally controlled on L-dopa. Ropinirole HCl PR demonstrated a clinically relevant and statistically significant superiority over placebo on the primary endpoint, change from baseline in awake time "off" (adjusted mean treatment difference -1.7 hours (95% CI: [-2.34, -1.09]), $p<0.0001$).

The odds of Ropinirole HCl PR patients being a responder on the CGI global improvement scale were more than 4 times the odds of a placebo patient (PR 42%: IR 14%) (odds ratio 4.4 (95% CI: [2.63, 7.20]), $p<0.001$). The odds of a Ropinirole HCl PR patient being a responder on the composite endpoint of 20% reduction from baseline in both L-dopa dose and "off" time were also more than 4 times that of a placebo patient (PR 54%: IR 20%) (odds ratio 4.3 (95% CI: [2.73, 6.78]), $p<0.001$) while the

odds of a Ropinirole HCl PR patient requiring reinstatement of L-dopa following a dose reduction were 5 times lower than a placebo patient (PR 7%: IR 28%) (odds ratio 0.2 (95% CI: [0.09, 0.34]), p<0.001).

The results on the primary endpoint were supported by clinically meaningful and statistically significant superiority over placebo on secondary efficacy parameters of total awake time "on" (1.7 hours (95% CI: [1.06, 2.33]), p<0.0001) and total awake time "on" without troublesome dyskinesias (1.5 hours (95% CI: [0.85, 2.13]), p<0.0001). Importantly, there was no indication of an increase from baseline in awake time "on" with troublesome dyskinesias, either from diary card data or from the UPDRS items. At week 24 the mean dose of investigational product was 18.8 mg/day for Ropinirole HCl PR and 20.0 mg/day of placebo equivalent.

Pre-clinical Safety Data

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis

Two-year studies have been conducted in the mouse and rat at dosages up to 50 mg/kg. The mouse study did not reveal any carcinogenic effect. In the rat, the only drug-related lesions were Leydig cell hyperplasia/adenoma in the testis resulting from the hypoprolactinaemic effect of Ropinirole HCl. These lesions are considered to be a species specific phenomenon and do not constitute a hazard with regard to the clinical use of Ropinirole HCl. Genotoxicity was not observed in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests.

Reproductive toxicology

In fertility studies in rats, effects were seen on implantation due to the prolactin-lowering effect of Ropinirole HCl. In humans, chorionic gonadotropin, not prolactin, is essential for implantation in females. No effects were seen on male fertility. Administration of Ropinirole HCl to pregnant rats at maternally toxic doses resulted in decreased foetal body weight at 60 mg/kg, increased foetal death at 90 mg/kg and digit malformations at 150 mg/kg. There was no teratogenic effect in the rat at 120 mg/kg and no indication of an effect on development in the rabbit. There have been no studies of Ropinirole HCl in human pregnancy.

Animal toxicology and/or pharmacology

Ropinirole HCl caused no serious or irreversible toxicity in laboratory animals at 15mg/kg (monkey), 20 mg/kg (mouse) or 50mg/kg (rat). The toxicology profile is principally determined by the pharmacological activity of the drug (behavioural changes, hypoprolactinaemia, and decrease in blood pressure and heart rate, ptosis and salivation).

INDICATIONS

- Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) is indicated for the treatment of Parkinson's disease.
- Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) is effective as early therapy in patients requiring dopaminergic therapy.
- As adjunctive treatment to L-dopa, Ropinirole HCl enhances the efficacy of L-dopa, including control of "on-off" fluctuations and "end of dose" effects associated with chronic L-dopa therapy and permits reduction in daily L-dopa dose.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

When switching treatment from another dopamine agonist to Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD), the manufacturer's guidance on discontinuation should be followed before initiating Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD)

Individual dose titration against efficacy and tolerability is recommended.

Patients should be down-titrated if they experience disabling somnolence at any dose level. For other adverse events, down-titration followed by more gradual up-titration has been shown to be beneficial.

Adults

Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) should be taken as a single daily dose and should be taken at a similar time each day. The tablet(s) must be swallowed whole, and must not be chewed, crushed or divided. Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) may be taken with or without food (see *Pharmacokinetics*).

Treatment initiation

The dose should be titrated according to the individual clinical response.

The recommended initial dose is 2 mg once daily for one week. A guide for the titration regimen for the first four weeks of treatment is given in the table below:

| | Week | | | |
|------------------------------|------|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Total daily dose (mg) | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |

Therapeutic regimen

If sufficient symptomatic control is not achieved or maintained after the initial titration period, as described above, the daily dose may then be increased by increments of up to 4 mg once every one to two weeks, as necessary. The dose may be adjusted depending on the therapeutic response. The dose may be increased up to a maximum of 24 mg once daily.

The safety and efficacy of doses above 24 mg/day have not been established.

When Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) is given as adjunct therapy to L-dopa, it may be possible to reduce gradually the L-dopa dose, depending on the clinical response. In clinical trials, the L-dopa dose was reduced gradually by approximately 30% in patients receiving Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) concurrently. In patients with advanced Parkinson's disease receiving Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) in combination with L-dopa, dyskinesias can occur during the initial titration of Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD). In clinical trials it was shown that a reduction of the L-dopa dose may ameliorate dyskinesia (see *Adverse Reactions*).

As with other dopamine agonists, Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) should be discontinued gradually by reducing the daily dose over the period of one week.

If treatment is interrupted for one day or more, re-initiation by dose titration should be considered (see above).

Switching from Ropinirole HCl immediate release tablets to Ropinirole HCl prolonged-release tablets

Patients may be switched overnight from Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]) immediate release (IR) tablets to Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) PR tablets. The dose of Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) PR tablets should be based on the total daily dose of Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]) tablets that the patient was taking.

The table below shows the recommended dose of Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) PR tablets for patients switching from Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]) immediate release tablets:

| Ropinirole HCl (<i>Requip</i> [®]) | Ropinirole HCl (<i>Requip</i> [®] PD) |
|---|---|
|---|---|

| immediate release tablets total daily dose (mg) | prolonged-release tablets total daily dose (mg) |
|---|---|
| 0.75 – 2.25 | 2 |
| 3.0 – 4.5 | 4 |
| 6 | 6 |
| 7.5 – 9 | 8 |
| 12 | 12 |
| 15 – 18 | 16 |
| 21 | 20 |
| 24 | 24 |

After switching to Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) PR tablets, the dose may be adjusted depending on the therapeutic response (see “Treatment initiation” and “Therapeutic regimen” above).

- **Elderly**

The clearance of Ropinirole HCl is decreased in patients aged 65 years or above, but the dose of Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) for elderly patients can be titrated in the normal manner.

- **Children and Adolescents**

The safety and efficacy of Ropinirole HCl have not been established in patients under 18 years of age; therefore Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) is not recommended for use in patients within this age group.

- **Renal impairment**

In patients with mild to moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance 30 – 50mL/min) no change in the clearance of Ropinirole HCl was observed, indicating that no dosage adjustment is necessary in this population.

A study into the use of Ropinirole HCl in patients with end stage renal disease (patients on haemodialysis) has shown that a dose adjustment in these patients is required as follows: The recommended initial dose of Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) is 2 mg once daily. Further dose escalations should be based on tolerability and efficacy. The recommended maximum dose is 18 mg/day in patients receiving regular dialysis. Supplemental doses after dialysis are not required.

The use of Ropinirole HCl in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance less than 30mL/min) without regular dialysis has not been studied.

- **Hepatic impairment**

The use of Ropinirole HCl in patients with hepatic impairment has not been studied. Administration of Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) to such patients is not recommended.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Hypersensitivity to Ropinirole HCl or to any of the excipients.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Due to the pharmacological action of Ropinirole HCl, patients with severe cardiovascular disease should be treated with caution.

Patients with a history or presence of, major psychotic disorders should only be treated with dopamine agonists if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

Impulse control symptoms including compulsive behaviours (including pathological gambling, hypersexuality, compulsive shopping and binge eating) have been reported in patients treated with dopaminergic agents, including Ropinirole HCl (see *Adverse Reactions – Post Marketing Data*). These were generally reversible upon dose reduction or treatment discontinuation. In some Ropinirole HCl cases, other factors were present such as a history of compulsive behaviours or concurrent dopaminergic treatment.

Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines

No data are available on the effect of Ropinirole HCl on the ability to drive or use machinery. Patients should be cautioned about their ability to drive or operate machinery whilst taking Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) because of the possibility of somnolence and of dizziness (including vertigo).

Patients should be informed about very rare cases of sudden onset of sleep without any prior warning or apparent daytime somnolence (see *Adverse Reactions*), which have primarily been observed in patients with Parkinson's disease, and should be cautioned that their safety and that of others is at risk should this happen when driving or operating machinery. If patients develop significant daytime sleepiness or episodes of falling asleep during activities that require active participation, patients should be told not to drive and to avoid other potentially dangerous activities.

Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) tablets are designed to release medication over a 24hr period. If rapid gastrointestinal transit occurs, there may be risk of incomplete release of medication, and of medication residue being passed in the stool.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Neuroleptics and other centrally active dopamine antagonists, such as sulpiride or metoclopramide, may diminish the effectiveness of Ropinirole HCl and, therefore, concomitant use of these drugs with Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) should be avoided.

There is no pharmacokinetic interaction between Ropinirole HCl and L-dopa or domperidone which would necessitate dosage adjustment of these drugs. No interaction has been seen between Ropinirole HCl and other drugs commonly used to treat Parkinson's disease.

In a study in parkinsonian patients receiving concurrent digoxin, no interaction was seen which would require dosage adjustment.

Ropinirole HCl is principally metabolised by the cytochrome P450 enzyme CYP1A2. A pharmacokinetic study in Parkinson's patients revealed that ciprofloxacin increased the Cmax and AUC of Ropinirole HCl by approximately 60% and 84% respectively. Hence, in patients already receiving Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD), the dose of Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) may need to be adjusted when drugs known to inhibit CYP1A2, e.g. ciprofloxacin, enoxacin or fluvoxamine, are introduced or withdrawn.

A pharmacokinetic interaction study in Parkinson's patients between Ropinirole HCl and theophylline, as representative of substrates of CYP1A2, revealed no change in the pharmacokinetics of either Ropinirole HCl or theophylline. Hence, changes in Ropinirole HCl pharmacokinetics following coadministration with other substrates of CYP1A2 are not expected.

Increased plasma concentrations of Ropinirole HCl have been observed in patients treated with high doses of oestrogens. In patients already receiving hormone replacement therapy (HRT), Ropinirole HCl (*Requip[®]PD*) treatment may be initiated in the normal manner. However, if HRT is stopped or introduced during treatment with Ropinirole HCl, dosage adjustment may be required.

No information is available on the potential for interaction between Ropinirole HCl and alcohol. As with other centrally active medications, patients should be cautioned against taking Ropinirole HCl (*Requip PD[™]*) with alcohol.

Smoking is known to induce CYP1A2 metabolism, therefore if patients stop or start smoking during treatment with Ropinirole HCl (*Requip[®]PD*), adjustment of dose may be required.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

It is recommended that Ropinirole HCl (*Requip[®]PD*) is not used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit to the patient outweighs the potential risk to the foetus (see *Non-Clinical Safety Data*).

Ropinirole HCl (*Requip[®]PD*) should not be used in nursing mothers as it may inhibit lactation.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

Adverse reactions are tabulated below according to the indication. The overall safety profile of Ropinirole HCl comprises adverse reactions from all indications from clinical trial data and from post-marketing experience.

Adverse events are listed below by system organ class and frequency. Frequencies are defined as: very common ($\geq 1/10$), common ($\geq 1/100$, $< 1/10$), uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$, $< 1/100$), rare ($\geq 1/10,000$, $< 1/1,000$), very rare ($< 1/10,000$), including isolated reports.

Clinical Trial Data

The tables below list the adverse drug reactions reported at a higher rate with ropinirole than placebo or a higher or comparable rate to comparator in clinical trials.

Adverse Drug Reactions Reported from Patients with Parkinson's Disease

Unless otherwise indicated, the data in the following table was observed with both immediate release and prolonged-release formulations.

| | Use in monotherapy studies | Use in adjunct therapy studies: |
|--|--|--|
| Psychiatric disorders | | |
| Common | Hallucinations | Hallucinations, confusion ¹ |
| Nervous system disorders | | |
| Very common | Somnolence, syncope ¹ | Dyskinesia ³ |
| Common | Dizziness (including vertigo) | Somnolence ² , dizziness (including vertigo) |
| Vascular disorders | | |
| Common | | Postural hypotension ² , hypotension ² |
| Uncommon | Postural hypotension ² , hypotension ² | |
| Gastrointestinal disorders | | |
| Very common | Nausea | |
| Common | Abdominal pain ¹ , vomiting ¹ , dyspepsia ¹ , constipation ² | Nausea, constipation ² |
| General disorders and administrative site conditions | | |
| Common | Oedema peripheral (including leg oedema) | Oedema peripheral ² |
| ¹ Immediate release clinical trials data | | |
| ² Prolonged-release clinical trials data | | |
| ³ In patients with advanced Parkinson's disease, dyskinesias can occur during the initial titration of Ropinirole HCl (<i>Requip[®]</i>). In clinical trials it was shown that a reduction of the L-dopa dose may ameliorate dyskinesia (see Dosage and Administration). | | |

Adverse Drug Reactions Reported During Clinical Trials in Patients with Restless Legs Syndrome

| | |
|---|--|
| Psychiatric disorders | |
| Common | Nervousness |
| Nervous system disorders | |
| Common | Dizziness (including vertigo), somnolence, syncope |
| Gastrointestinal disorders | |
| Very common | Nausea, vomiting |
| Common | Abdominal pain |
| General disorders and administrative site conditions | |
| Common | Fatigue |

Post Marketing Data

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Immune system disorders | |
| Very rare | Hypersensitivity reactions (including urticaria, angioedema, rash, pruritus). |
| Psychiatric disorders | |
| Uncommon | Psychotic reactions (other than hallucinations) including delusion, paranoia, delirium. Impulse control symptoms, increased libido including |

| | |
|---|---|
| | hypersexuality, pathological gambling, compulsive shopping, binge eating (see <i>Warnings and Precautions</i>). Aggression* |
| Nervous system disorders | |
| Very rare | Extreme somnolence, sudden onset of sleep [†] |
| *Aggression has been associated with psychotic reactions as well as compulsive symptoms. [†] As with other dopaminergic therapies, extreme somnolence and sudden onset of sleep have been reported very rarely, primarily in Parkinson's disease, during post-marketing experience. Patients experiencing sudden onset of sleep cannot resist the urge to sleep, and on waking may be unaware of any tiredness prior to the sleep. Where data are available, all cases have recovered after down titration or on withdrawal of the drug. In most cases the patients received concomitant medication with potential sedating properties. | |
| Vascular disorders | |
| Common | Hypotension, postural hypotension** |
| **As with other dopamine agonists, hypotension including postural hypotension has been observed with Ropinirole HCl treatment. | |

OVERDOSAGE AND TREATMENT

The symptoms of Ropinirole HCl overdose are generally related to its dopaminergic activity. These symptoms may be alleviated by appropriate treatment with dopamine antagonists such as neuroleptics or metoclopramide.

STORAGE CONDITIONS

Store at temperatures not exceeding 30°C.

AVAILABILITY

Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) 2 mg Prolonged-release tablet: 4 tablets per Alu/Alu blister pack (Box of 28's)
Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) 4 mg Prolonged-release tablet: 4 tablets per Alu/Alu blister pack (Box of 28's)
Ropinirole HCl (*Requip*[®]PD) 8 mg Prolonged-release tablet: 4 tablets per Alu/Alu blister pack (Box of 28's)

CAUTION

Foods, Drugs and Devices and Cosmetics Act prohibits dispensing without prescription.
Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

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