

Fexofenadine hydrochloride

22-May-2017

● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

Symptomatic relief of seasonal allergic rhinitis

► BY MOUTH

- Child 6–11 years: 30 mg twice daily
- Child 12–17 years: 120 mg once daily

Symptomatic relief of chronic idiopathic urticaria

► BY MOUTH

- Child 12–17 years: 180 mg once daily

PHARMACOKINETICS

- Fexofenadine is a metabolite of terfenadine.

- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: antihistamines, non-sedating

● SIDE-EFFECTS

- **Common or very common** Dizziness · drowsiness · headache · nausea

- **Uncommon** Fatigue

- **Frequency not known** Diarrhoea · nervousness · palpitations · skin reactions · sleep disorders · tachycardia

SIDE-EFFECTS, FURTHER INFORMATION Non-sedating antihistamines such as fexofenadine cause less sedation and psychomotor impairment than the older antihistamines, but can still occur; sedation is generally minimal. This is because non-sedating antihistamines penetrate the blood brain barrier to a much lesser extent.

- **PREGNANCY** Most manufacturers of antihistamines advise avoiding their use during pregnancy; however, there is no evidence of teratogenicity.

- **BREAST FEEDING** Most antihistamines are present in breast milk in varying amounts; although not known to be harmful, most manufacturers advise avoiding their use in mothers who are breast-feeding.

● PATIENT AND CARER ADVICE

Driving and skilled tasks Although drowsiness is rare, nevertheless patients should be advised that it can occur and may affect performance of skilled tasks (e.g. cycling or driving); alcohol should be avoided.

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: oral suspension, oral solution

Tablet

CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 5

► Fexofenadine hydrochloride (Non-proprietary)

Fexofenadine hydrochloride 120 mg Fexofenadine 120mg tablets | 30 tablet [PoM] £6.23 DT = £1.77

Fexofenadine hydrochloride 180 mg Fexofenadine 180mg tablets | 30 tablet [PoM] £7.89 DT = £2.84

► Telfast (Sanofi)

Fexofenadine hydrochloride 30 mg Telfast 30mg tablets | 60 tablet [PoM] £5.46 DT = £5.46

Fexofenadine hydrochloride 120 mg Telfast 120mg tablets | 30 tablet [PoM] £5.99 DT = £1.77

Fexofenadine hydrochloride 180 mg Telfast 180mg tablets | 30 tablet [PoM] £7.58 DT = £2.84

Levocetirizine hydrochloride

24-May-2017

● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

Symptomatic relief of allergy such as hay fever, urticaria

► BY MOUTH

- Child 2–5 years: 1.25 mg twice daily
- Child 6–17 years: 5 mg once daily

PHARMACOKINETICS

- Levocetirizine is an isomer of cetirizine.

- **UNLICENSED USE** Tablets not licensed for use in children under 6 years.

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** Avoid in Acute porphyrias p. 624

- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: antihistamines, non-sedating

● SIDE-EFFECTS

- **Common or very common** Asthenia · constipation · diarrhoea · drowsiness · dry mouth · sleep disorders

- **Uncommon** Abdominal pain

- **Frequency not known** Aggression · agitation · angioedema · appetite increased · arthralgia · depression · dizziness · dyspnoea · hallucination · hepatitis · myalgia · nausea · oedema · palpitations · paraesthesia · seizure · skin reactions · suicidal ideation · syncope · tachycardia · taste altered · tremor · urinary disorders · vertigo · vision disorders · vomiting · weight increased

SIDE-EFFECTS, FURTHER INFORMATION Non-sedating antihistamines such as levocetirizine cause less sedation and psychomotor impairment than the older antihistamines, but can still occur; sedation is generally minimal. This is because non-sedating antihistamines penetrate the blood brain barrier to a much lesser extent.

- **PREGNANCY** Most manufacturers of antihistamines advise avoiding their use during pregnancy; however, there is no evidence of teratogenicity.

- **BREAST FEEDING** Most antihistamines are present in breast milk in varying amounts; although not known to be harmful, most manufacturers advise avoiding their use in mothers who are breast-feeding.

- **RENAL IMPAIRMENT** Avoid if estimated glomerular filtration rate less than 10 mL/minute/1.73 m².

Dose adjustments Reduce dose frequency to alternate days if estimated glomerular filtration rate 30–50 mL/minute/1.73 m².

Reduce dose frequency to every 3 days if estimated glomerular filtration rate 10–30 mL/minute/1.73 m².

● PATIENT AND CARER ADVICE

Driving and skilled tasks Although drowsiness is rare, nevertheless patients should be advised that it can occur and may affect performance of skilled tasks (e.g. cycling or driving); alcohol should be avoided.

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug.

Oral solution

► Xyzal (UCB Pharma Ltd)

Levocetirizine dihydrochloride 500 microgram per 1 ml Xyzal 0.5mg/ml oral solution sugar-free | 200 ml [PoM] £6.00 DT = £6.00

Tablet

► Levocetirizine hydrochloride (Non-proprietary)

Levocetirizine dihydrochloride 5 mg Levocetirizine 5mg tablets | 30 tablet [PoM] £4.45 DT = £3.05

► Xyzal (UCB Pharma Ltd)

Levocetirizine dihydrochloride 5 mg Xyzal 5mg tablets | 30 tablet [PoM] £4.39 DT = £3.05

Loratadine

22-May-2017

● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

Symptomatic relief of allergy such as hay fever, chronic idiopathic urticaria

► BY MOUTH

- Child 2–11 years (body-weight up to 31 kg): 5 mg once daily
- Child 2–11 years (body-weight 31 kg and above): 10 mg once daily
- Child 12–17 years: 10 mg once daily

- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: antihistamines, non-sedating

● SIDE-EFFECTS

- **Common or very common** Drowsiness · fatigue · headache · nervousness

- **Uncommon** Appetite increased · insomnia