

# Fixol® ODT

Meloxicam

## Presentation:

**Fixol® ODT 7.5:** Each Oral Dispersible Tablet (ODT) contains 7.5mg of Meloxicam in packs of 10 and 30 Tablets.

**Fixol® ODT 15:** Each Oral Dispersible Tablet (ODT) contains 15mg of Meloxicam in packs of 10 and 30 Tablets.

**Excipients:** Mannitol, aspartame, sorbitol, citric acid, yoghurt flavor, forest fruit flavor, Povidone CL, Povidone K30, talc, sodium lauryl sulfate and magnesium stearate.

## Pharmaceutical form:

Oral Dispersible Tablet (ODT)

## Pharmacotherapeutic group:

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, Oxycams. ATC code: M01AC06

## Therapeutic Indications:

**Fixol® ODT** are used for:

- Short-term: symptomatic treatment of exacerbations of osteoarthritis.
- Long-term: symptomatic treatment of rheumatoid arthritis or ankylosing spondylitis.

## Posology and method of administration:

**Fixol® ODT** should be taken as the following:

1. Place the tablet in your mouth on your tongue. Since the **Fixol® ODT** is fragile, it should be taken immediately on opening the blister
2. Allow it to dissolve, slowly for five minutes (it must never be chewed or swallowed undissolved).
3. Swallow with 240 ml of water.
4. If you have a dry mouth, use water to moisten it first.
5. Never take more than the recommended dose.

## Recommended Fixol® ODT dose:

- Exacerbations of osteoarthritis: **Fixol® ODT** 7.5mg once daily.

- Rheumatoid arthritis or ankylosing spondylitis: **Fixol® ODT** 15mg once daily. And maybe reduced to **Fixol® ODT** 7.5mg once daily.

## Contra-indications:

- Third trimester of pregnancy. Children and adolescents aged less than 16 years. Hypersensitivity to meloxicam or to one of the excipients or hypersensitivity to substances with similar action e.g.: NSAIDs, Aspirin. An inherited illness called phenylketonuria, because excipients contain aspartame. Intolerance to some sugars, because excipients contain sorbitol. History of gastrointestinal bleeding or perforation, related to previous NSAIDs therapy. Active or history of recurrent ulcer/ hemorrhage. Severely impaired liver function. Non-dialysed severe renal failure. Gastrointestinal bleeding, history of cerebrovascular bleeding disorder. Severe heart failure.

## Warnings and Precautions for use:

Undesirable effects may be minimized by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms.

- The recommended maximum daily dose (15mg/day) should not be exceeded in case of insufficient therapeutic effect, nor should any additional NSAID be added to the therapy because this may increase the toxicity while therapeutic advantage has not been proven.
- The use of Meloxicam with concomitant NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors should be avoided.

- Meloxicam is not appropriate for the treatment of patients requiring relief from acute pain.
- In the absence of improvement after several days, the clinical benefit of the treatment should be reassessed.
- Any history of esophagitis, gastritis and/or peptic ulcer must be sought in order to insure their total cure before starting treatment with Meloxicam, attention should routinely be paid to the possible onset of a recurrence in patients treated with history of this type.

- Phenylalanine: **Fixol® ODT** contains aspartame, which is a source of phenylalanine, maybe harmful for people with phenylketonuria.

- Mannitol and sorbitol: **Fixol® ODT** contains mannitol and sorbitol.

Undesirable effects may be minimized by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms.

- The concomitant use of Meloxicam with systemic NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors should be avoided due to the absence of any evidence demonstrating synergistic benefits and the potential for additive undesirable effects.

## Gastrointestinal effects:

Gastrointestinal bleeding (hematemesis, melena), ulceration or perforation can be fatal has been reported with all NSAIDs including Meloxicam and may occur at any time during treatment, with or without warning symptoms or a previous history of serious GI events.

## Cardiovascular & cerebrovascular effects:

Appropriate monitoring and advice are required for patients with a history of hypertension and/or mild to moderate congestive heart failure as fluid retention and edema have been reported in association with NSAID therapy including Meloxicam.

## Skin effects:

Serious skin reactions, some of them fatal, including exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis, have been reported very rarely in association with the use of NSAIDs, including Meloxicam. Patients appear to be at the highest risk of these reactions early in the course of therapy, the onset of the reaction occurring in the majority of cases within the first month of treatment. Meloxicam should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash, mucosal lesions or any other signs of hypersensitivity.

## Liver and renal functions:

NSAIDs rarely may be the cause of interstitial nephritis, glomerulonephritis, renal medullary necrosis or nephritic syndrome. The dose of Meloxicam in patients with end-stage renal failure on hemodialysis should not be higher than 7.5 mg. No dose reduction is required in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment.

## Sodium, potassium and water retention:

Induction of sodium, potassium and water retention and interference with the natriuretic effects of diuretics may occur with NSAIDs.

## Hyperkalemia:

Hyperkalemia can be favored by diabetes or concomitant treatment known to increase kalemia.

## Other warnings and precautions:

Adverse reactions are often less well tolerated in elderly, fragile or weakened individuals, who therefore require careful monitoring.

## Use During pregnancy and lactation:

Meloxicam is contraindicated during pregnancy. Inhibition of prostaglandin-synthesis may adversely affect pregnancy and/or the embryo-fetal development. Data from epidemiological studies suggest an increased risk of miscarriage and of cardiac malformation and gastrochisis after use of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor in early pregnancy. The absolute risk for cardiovascular malformation was increased from less than 1 %, up to approximately 1.5 %. The risk is believed to increase with dose and duration of therapy.

In animals, administration of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor has been shown to result in increased pre- and post-implantation loss and embryo-fetal lethality. In addition, increased incidences of various malformations, including cardiovascular, have been reported in animals given a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor during the organogenetic period.

During the first and second trimesters of pregnancy, **Fixol® ODT** should not be given unless clearly necessary. If **Fixol® ODT** is used by a woman attempting to conceive, or during the first and second trimester of pregnancy, the dose should be kept as low and duration of treatment as short as possible.

During the third trimester of pregnancy all prostaglandin-synthesis inhibitors may expose the foetus to:

- cardiopulmonary toxicity (with premature closure of the ductus arteriosus and pulmonary hypertension).
- renal dysfunction, which may progress to renal failure with oligo-hydramnios

The mother and the neonate, at the end of pregnancy, to:

- possible prolongation of bleeding time, an anti-aggregating effect which may occur even at very low doses.
- inhibition of uterine contractions resulting in delayed or prolonged labor.

While no specific experience exists for **Fixol® ODT**, NSAIDs are known to pass into mother's milk.

Administration should therefore be avoided in women who are breastfeeding.

## Drug Interactions:

Meloxicam interacts with the following drugs:

- Other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and salicylates (acetylsalicylic acid)
- Glucocorticoids increase the risk of gastro-intestinal ulcers and bleeding, via synergistic effect

- Oral anticoagulants, antiplatelet drugs, systemically administered heparin, thrombolytics and Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) increased risk of bleeding, via inhibition of platelet function. If such co-prescribing cannot be avoided, close monitoring of the effects of anticoagulants is required.

- Lithium: NSAIDs have been reported to increase lithium plasma levels (via decreased renal excretion of lithium), which may reach toxic values. The concomitant use of lithium and NSAIDs is not recommended. If this combination appears necessary, lithium plasma concentrations should be monitored carefully during the initiation, adjustment and withdrawal of meloxicam treatment.

- Methotrexate: NSAIDs may reduce the tubular secretion of methotrexate thereby increasing the plasma concentrations of methotrexate. For this reason, for patients on high dosages of methotrexate (more than 15 mg/week) the concomitant use of NSAIDs is not recommended. The risk of an interaction between NSAID preparations and methotrexate, should be considered also in patients on low dosage of methotrexate, especially in patients with impaired renal function. In case combination treatment is necessary, blood cell count and the renal function should be monitored.

- Diuretics: Treatment with NSAIDs is associated with the potential for acute renal insufficiency in patients who are dehydrated. Patients receiving meloxicam and diuretics should be adequately hydrated and be monitored for renal function prior to initiating treatment.

- Antihypertensives (e.g. beta-blockers, ACE-inhibitors, vasodilators, diuretics): A reduced effect of the antihypertensive drug by inhibition of vasodilating prostaglandins has been reported during treatment with NSAIDs.

- NSAIDs and angiotensin-II receptor antagonists as well as ACE inhibitors exert a synergistic effect on the decrease of glomerular filtration. In patients with pre-existing renal impairment this may lead to acute renal failure.

- Calcineurin inhibitors (e.g. cyclosporine, tacrolimus): Nephrotoxicity of calcineurin inhibitors may be by NSAIDs via renal prostaglandin mediated effects.

- Contraception: A decrease of the efficacy of intrauterine devices by NSAIDs has been previously reported but needs further confirmation.

## Undesirable effects:

The most commonly observed undesirable effects are

gastrointestinal in nature.

Peptic ulcers, perforation or GI bleeding that may be fatal particularly in elderly.

Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, flatulence, constipation, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, melena, hematemesis, ulcerative stomatitis, exacerbation of colitis and Crohn's disease have been reported following administration. less frequently, gastritis has been observed.

**Blood and lymphatic system disorders:** Blood count abnormal (including differential white cell count), leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, anemia. Concomitant administration of a potentially myelotoxic drug, in particular methotrexate, appears to be a predisposing factor to the onset of a cytopenia.

**Immune system disorders:** Anaphylactic reaction, anaphylactoid reaction & immediate hypersensitivity.

## Psychiatric disorders

Confusional state, disorientation, mood altered, nervous system disorders, Dizziness, somnolence, headache.

## Eye disorders:

Visual disturbance including vision blurred, conjunctivitis.

**Ear and labyrinth disorders:** Vertigo, tinnitus.

**Cardiac disorders:** Palpitations.

**Vascular disorders:** Blood pressure increased, flushing.

## Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:

Asthma, in individuals allergic to aspirin or other NSAIDs.

**Gastrointestinal disorders:** Gastrointestinal perforation, occult or macroscopic gastrointestinal hemorrhage, gastro duodenal ulcer, colitis, gastritis, esophagitis, stomatitis, abdominal pain, dyspepsia, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, constipation, flatulence, eructation.

Gastrointestinal hemorrhage, ulceration or perforation may potentially be fatal.

**Hepatobiliary disorders:** Hepatitis, liver function test abnormal (e.g. raised transaminases or bilirubin)

**Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** toxic epidermal necrolysis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, angioedema, dermatitis bullous, erythema multiforme, rash, urticaria, photosensitivity reaction, pruritus.

**Renal and urinary disorders:** Renal failure acute, renal function test abnormal (increased serum creatinine and/or serum urea) The use of NSAIDs may be related to micturition disorders, including acute urinary retention.

General disorders and administration site conditions edema

## Overdose:

Symptoms following acute NSAID overdose are usually limited to lethargy, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting and epigastric pain, which are generally reversible with supportive care. Gastrointestinal bleeding can occur.

Severe poisoning may result in hypertension, acute renal failure, hepatic dysfunction, respiratory depression, coma, convulsions, cardiovascular collapse and cardiac arrest. Anaphylactoid reactions have been reported with therapeutic ingestion of NSAIDs and may occur following overdose. Patients should be managed with symptomatic and supportive care following NSAID overdose.

Accelerated removal of meloxicam by 4 g oral dose of cholestyramine given three times a day was demonstrated in a clinical trial.

## Pharmacological Properties:

### Pharmacodynamic properties:

Meloxicam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) of the oxamic family which has shown anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic properties.

### Pharmacokinetic properties:

**Absorption:** Meloxicam is well absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract, which is reflected by high absolute bioavailability of 89% following oral administration.

**Distribution:** Meloxicam is very strongly bound to plasma proteins, essentially albumin (99%). Meloxicam penetrates synovial fluid to give concentrations approximately half of those in plasma.

Volume of distribution is low, on average 11 L. Inter-individual variation is the order of 30-40%.

**Biotransformation:** Meloxicam undergoes extensive hepatic biotransformation. Four different metabolites of Meloxicam were identified in urine, which are all pharmacodynamically inactive.

**Elimination:** Meloxicam is excreted predominantly in the form of metabolites and occurs to equal extents in urine and feces. Less than 5% of the daily dose is excreted unchanged in feces, while only traces of the parent compound are excreted in urine. The mean elimination half-life is about 20 hours. Total plasma clearance amounts on average 8 ml/min.

## Special populations

### Hepatic/renal insufficiency:

Neither hepatic insufficiency, nor mild to moderate renal insufficiency have a substantial effect on meloxicam pharmacokinetics. In terminal renal failure, the increase in the volume of distribution may result in higher free meloxicam concentrations, and a daily dose of 7.5 mg must not be exceeded.

### Elderly:

Mean plasma clearance at steady state in elderly subjects was slightly lower than that reported for younger subjects.

### Children and adolescents:

Meloxicam is contraindicated in children and adolescents aged less than 16 years.

## Special precautions for storage:

Store below 30°C.

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This is a medicament  
• A medicament is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you.  
• Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament.  
• The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks.  
• Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you.  
• Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor  
• Keep medicament out of the reach of children

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