

LEVAR®

Levocetirizine

5 mg F/C Tablets

Presentation:

LEVAR®: Each film coated tablet contains 5 mg Levocetirizine dihydrochloride in packs of 10 and 30 tablets.

Excipients: Microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, colloidal anhydrous silica, magnesium stearate, opadry white.

Pharmaceutical form:

F/C Tablets for Oral use.

Pharmacotherapeutic group:

Antiallergic agent, long duration

Therapeutic Indications:

LEVAR® is indicated for adults and children above 6 years for the treatment of the:

- Seasonal allergic rhinitis (including ocular symptoms).
- Perennial allergic rhinitis.
- Chronic urticaria.

Posology and method of administration:

LEVAR® tablet must be taken orally, swallowed whole with liquid and may be taken with or without food.

Adults, adolescents and children aged 6 years and above:

The daily recommended dose is 5 mg (1 **LEVAR®** tablet).

Children aged between 6 and 12 years should distribute the dose among 2 administrations (1/2 **LEVAR®** tablet in the morning and 1/2 **LEVAR®** tablet in the evening).

Patients with impaired renal function: The dosing intervals must be individualized according to renal function. Refer to the following table and adjust the dose as indicated. To use this dosing table, an estimate of the patient's Creatinine clearance (CL_r) in ml/min is needed.

Dosage adjustment for patients with impaired renal function:

Group	Creatinine Clearance (ml/min)	Dosage & frequency
Normal	>80	1 tablet once daily
Mild	50-79	1 tablet once daily
Moderate	30-49	1 tablet once every 2 days
Severe	<30	1 tablet once every 3 days
End-stage renal disease patients undergoing dialysis	<10	Contra-indicated

Patients with hepatic impairment: No dose adjustment is needed in patients with solely hepatic impairment. In patients with hepatic impairment and renal impairment, adjustment of the dose is recommended.

Contra-indications:

- History of hypersensitivity to Levocetirizine or any of the other constituents of the formulation or to any piperazine derivatives.
- Patients with the terminal kidney failure (creatinine clearance 10 ml/min).

Warnings and Precautions for use:

- The use of Levocetirizine is not recommended in children aged less than 6 years.
- Levocetirizine may increase somnolence, in a way that special care is recommended in patients driving cars, having high-risk work or operating machines.
- Precaution is also recommended when Levocetirizine are taken concomitantly with alcohol since Levocetirizine may cause drowsiness.
- Patients with impaired kidney function must have their dose adjusted appropriately.
- **LEVAR®** tablets contain lactose. If you have been told by your doctor that you have intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

Use During pregnancy and lactation:

No adverse event reactions have been observed in animal reproduction

studies. However, as no controlled studies in pregnant women are available, Levocetirizine -like other drugs- should not be used during pregnancy.

In case of accidental intake during pregnancy, no harmful effect on the fetus is anticipated. Treatment should nevertheless be interrupted immediately. As Levocetirizine is expected to be excreted in breast milk, it should not be administered when breastfeeding.

Drug Interactions:

No interaction studies have been performed with Levocetirizine (including no studies with

CYP3A4 inducers); studies with the racemate compound cetirizine demonstrated that there were no clinically relevant adverse interactions with (pseudoephedrine, cimetidine, ketoconazole, erythromycin, azithromycin, glipizide and diazepam).

A small decrease in the clearance of cetirizine (16%) was observed in a multiple dose study with theophylline (400 mg once a day); while the disposition of theophylline was not altered by concomitant cetirizine administration. The extent of absorption of Levocetirizine is not reduced with food, although the rate of absorption is decreased.

Incompatibilities: Not known.

Undesirable effects:

From clinical trials, mainly mild to moderate side effects such as dry mouth, headache, fatigue, somnolence and asthenia have been reported commonly (above 1%).

In addition to the adverse reactions reported during clinical studies and listed above, very rare cases of the following adverse drug reactions have been reported in post marketing experience: anaphylactic reaction, hypersensitivity reaction, angio oedema, anxious states, convulsions, sinus thrombosis, inflammation, angina pectoris, tachycardia, jugular vein thrombosis, increased rhinitis, difficulty in breathing, exanthema, hypotrichosis, pruritus, rash, fissures, urticaria, photosensitivity/toxicity, ineffective medication, interaction, dry mucous membranes, gastrointestinal disorders, nausea, increase of liver enzymes, cross reactivity.

Overdose:

Symptoms: Substantial overdose may result in somnolence.

Management of overdoses: There is no known specific antidote to Levocetirizine.

If overdose occur, symptomatic or supportive treatment is recommended. Gastric lavage should be considered following short-term ingestion (Levocetirizine is not effectively removed by hemodialysis).

Pharmacological Properties:

Pharmacodynamic properties

LEVAR® (Levocetirizine) is an antihistaminic drug with antiallergic properties. It is a potent and selective antagonist of peripheral H₁-receptors, with very poor effect on other receptors and has therefore almost no anticholinergic and antiserotonergic properties.

Levocetirizine is the (R) enantiomer of cetirizine.

Pharmacokinetic properties:

Levocetirizine is rapidly and extensively absorbed following oral administration. Peak plasma concentrations are achieved 0.9 hour after dosing. The extent of absorption is dose-independent and is not altered by food, but the peak concentration is reduced and delayed.

Levocetirizine is 90% bound to plasma proteins. The distribution of Levocetirizine is restrictive, as the volume of distribution is 0.4 l/kg. The extent of metabolism of Levocetirizine in humans is less than 14% of the dose.

The major route of excretion of Levocetirizine and metabolism is via urine, accounting for a mean of 85.4% of the dose. Excretion via faeces accounts for only 12.9% of the dose.

Special precautions for storage:

Store below 30°C.

Do not use after the expiry date stated on the carton box and blister.

Nov, 2014

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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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