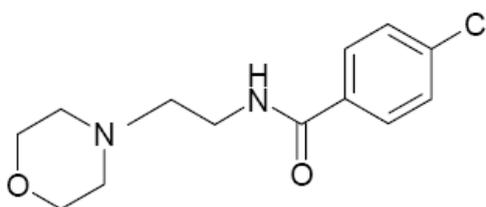

PRODUCT INFORMATION
MOCLOBEMIDE SANDOZ® 150mg and 300mg TABLETS

NAME OF THE MEDICINE

Moclobemide

The chemical name of moclobemide is p-chloro-N-(2-morpholinoethyl) benzamide. Its empirical formula is C₁₃H₁₇O₂N₂Cl with a molecular weight of 268.74.

The structural formula is:



CAS number: 71320-77-9.

DESCRIPTION

Moclobemide is a white to slightly reddish crystalline powder. It contains no crystal water and is not hygroscopic. It is soluble in water at 0.4g/100mL. The pKa is approximately 6.2.

Moclobemide Sandoz 150mg tablets contain moclobemide and the excipients lactose monohydrate, maize starch, microcrystalline cellulose, colloidal anhydrous silica, magnesium stearate, sodium starch glycolate, hypromellose, titanium dioxide, macrogol 4000, copovidone and iron oxide yellow CI77492.

Moclobemide Sandoz 300mg tablets contain moclobemide and the excipients lactose monohydrate, maize starch, microcrystalline cellulose, colloidal anhydrous silica, magnesium stearate, sodium starch glycolate, hypromellose, titanium dioxide, macrogol 4000 and povidone.

PHARMACOLOGY

Pharmacodynamics

Moclobemide is an antidepressant which affects the monoaminergic cerebral neurotransmitter system by means of a reversible inhibition of monoamine oxidase. There are two types of monoamine oxidases, A and B, which vary in their substrate specificity. Moclobemide is relatively selective for type A. At a 300mg dose, the

inhibition of monoamine oxidase A is approximately 80% while that of monoamine oxidase B is approximately 20-30%. The inhibition is short lasting (approximately 24 hours).

The metabolism of dopamine, noradrenaline and serotonin is decreased by this effect, and this leads to increased extracellular concentrations of these neuronal transmitters. As a result of its elevating effect on mood and psychomotor activity, Moclobemide Sandoz relieves symptoms such as dysphoria, exhaustion, lack of drive and poor ability to concentrate. These effects most often appear within the first week of therapy. Although Moclobemide Sandoz has no sedative properties it does increase total sleep time. Moclobemide Sandoz does not impair alertness or reaction time.

Moclobemide Sandoz appears to be suitable for ambulatory treatment as it is not sedating and does not impair vigilance or ability to react.

Moclobemide is well tolerated. Short-term and long-term animal studies indicate low toxicity. Little hepatic or cardiac toxicity has been observed. There is a low incidence of raised liver enzymes.

Pharmacokinetics

Absorption

After oral administration, moclobemide is completely absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract into the portal blood. A hepatic first-pass effect reduces the systemically available dose fraction (bioavailability: F). This reduction is more pronounced after single (F : 60%) than after multiple (F : >80%) doses. Following the administration of a 300mg single dose of moclobemide to fasted healthy subjects, peak plasma concentrations ranged from 1.3 to 4.7 μ g/mL (mean C_{max} : 3.1 μ g/mL) and were reached in 0.5 to 3.0 hours (median T_{max} : 1.2hrs). A study to determine the effects of food on absorption has not been conducted. It has been reported that during the second week of a 100mg t.i.d. dosing regimen in healthy subjects, the steady-state trough concentrations of moclobemide ranged between 114ng/mL and 517ng/mL. An increase in the dose to 150mg t.i.d. resulted in a greater than proportional increase in moclobemide steady-state trough concentrations, namely to concentrations ranging between 346ng/mL and 1,828ng/mL.

Distribution

Due to its lipophilic nature, moclobemide is extensively distributed in the body with an apparent volume of distribution (V_{ss}) of about 1.2L/kg. Binding of the drug to plasma proteins, mainly albumin, is relatively low (50%). Peak plasma concentrations of moclobemide increase over the first week of therapy and remain stable thereafter. When the daily dose is increased, there is a more than proportional increase in steady-state concentrations.

Metabolism

Moclobemide is almost entirely metabolised before its elimination from the body. Metabolism occurs largely via oxidative reactions on the morpholine moiety of the molecule. Moclobemide is metabolised in part by the polymorphic isoenzymes

CYP2C19 and CYP2D6. Thus in genetically or drug-induced (via metabolic inhibitors) poor metabolisers, metabolism of the drug may be affected. Approximately 2% of the Caucasian population and 15% of the Asian population can be genetically phenotyped as slow metabolisers with respect to oxidative hepatic metabolism. It was found that the area under the curve (AUC) measurement in slow metaboliser subjects was approximately 1.5 times greater than in extensive metaboliser subjects for the same dose of moclobemide. This increase is within the normal range of variation (up to two-fold) typically seen in patients. Two studies conducted to investigate the magnitude of these effects suggested that, due to the presence of multiple alternative metabolic pathways, they are therapeutically unimportant and should not necessitate dosage modifications.

One metabolite, the N-oxide metabolite, has slight pharmacological activity. This and other degradation products with pharmacological activity *in-vitro* or in animal experiments are present in the systemic circulation in man at very low concentrations only.

Elimination

Moclobemide is rapidly eliminated from the body. Less than 1% of a dose is excreted renally unchanged. The metabolites formed are eliminated renally.

Blood clearance is approximately 20-50L/hr, the average elimination half life is two hours with a slight increase at increased doses.

Multiple dose studies in the elderly and in patients with renal insufficiency suggest no dose adjustment is necessary to achieve plasma levels similar to those in young healthy subjects.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Depression

Moclobemide versus placebo: Clinical efficacy of moclobemide in the treatment of depression has been demonstrated in four randomised, placebo controlled, double-blind trials in a total of 475 patients (180 on moclobemide and 165 on placebo) using moclobemide doses of 200 - 600mg/day. Three of these were multicentre trials performed predominantly in out-patients and one was a single-centre study performed predominantly in in-patients. Two of the studies compared moclobemide with placebo in parallel group design and two compared with placebo on one hand and with a tricyclic antidepressant (TCA) on the other. The duration of treatment was for 4-6 weeks.

The largest of these studies included 334 patients (117 on moclobemide, 110 on placebo). The mean final improvement in depression as assessed by score on the Hamilton Depression Scale (HAMD) was 48.7% for moclobemide and 31.9% for placebo treated patients. A final improvement of $\geq 50\%$ on the HAMD occurred in 58% of moclobemide and 32% of placebo treated patients. The Clinical Global Impression

(CGI) at the end of the 6 week treatment period was very good/good in 64.3% of patients for moclobemide and 32.1% for placebo treated patients. The efficacy of moclobemide versus placebo was statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) on all measured efficacy parameters.

Combining the investigator's global assessment of efficacy for all 4 studies, the efficacy was rated as very good/good in approximately 60% of patients who had received moclobemide and 30% of patients who had received placebo.

Moclobemide versus TCA's: Moclobemide was compared to TCA's in 19 double blind studies including a total of 1070 patients (542 on moclobemide and 528 on TCA). The mean moclobemide dose in these studies was 443 mg/day and score on the HAMD was reduced by $\geq 50\%$ in 56% of patients.

Moclobemide was found to have similar efficacy to the TCA's and the CGI was very good/good in 60.8% of moclobemide patients and 60.1% of patients treated with comparative TCA.

Moclobemide versus Irreversible MAOI's: Moclobemide was compared to the irreversible monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) tranylcypromine in 4 double blind studies with 159 patients (81 on moclobemide and 78 on tranylcypromine) using moclobemide doses of 150 - 350mg/day. The mean final reduction in HAMD score was 63% in the moclobemide group and 59% in the tranylcypromine group. Tolerance was more frequently rated as better in the moclobemide group and the number of patients who prematurely terminated was three times higher in the tranylcypromine group.

Moclobemide single daily versus divided daily dosing: This was a double blind, randomised, multicenter trial conducted in 189 patients for 6 weeks. The trial compared administration of single daily doses of moclobemide 450mg (this could be increased up to 600mg after 2 weeks) with this same daily dose given as three divided doses. The efficacies of the two dosing regimens were not found to be significantly different. Both the dosing regimens were found to be well tolerated although there was a significant increase in dizziness and a tendency for nausea, insomnia and headache in the once daily group.

INDICATIONS

Treatment of major depression.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Known hypersensitivity to the drug.
- Acute confusional states.
- Co-administration of moclobemide with clomipramine should be avoided in clinical practice due to the risks of increased incidence of adverse effects.
- Serotonin Syndrome (see INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES).

- Co-administration of moclobemide with the following drugs is contraindicated:
 - selegiline (L-deprenyl)
 - bupropion
 - triptans
 - pethidine
 - tramadol
 - dextromethorphan
 - linezolid

PRECAUTIONS

Use with caution on the following circumstances:

Bipolar Disorder / Mania

A major depressive episode may be the initial presentation of bipolar disorder. It is generally believed that treating such an episode with an antidepressant alone can increase the likelihood of precipitation of a mixed/manic episode in patients at risk of bipolar disorder. Prior to initiating treatment with an antidepressant, patients should be adequately screened to determine if they are at risk for bipolar disorder; such screening should include a detailed psychiatric history, including a family history of suicide, bipolar disorder and depression.

Patients with Excitation or Agitation as Main Clinical Feature

Treatment of depressed patients with excitation or agitation as the main clinical feature may require addition of benzodiazepines.

Patients with Schizophrenic Symptoms

As is the case with other antidepressants, an exacerbation of schizophrenic symptoms is possible when depressive patients with schizophrenic or schizoaffective psychoses are treated. Therapy with long-term neuroleptics should, if possible, be maintained in such patients.

Dietary Precaution

Treatment with moclobemide does not necessitate dietary restrictions in patients with normal dietary habits. Hypertensive patients are advised to avoid large quantities of tyramine-rich food such as ripe cheese (see INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES).

Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactose deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

St. John's Wort

St. John's wort (*Hypericum*)-containing phytotherapeutic products should be used with care in combination with moclobemide as this may increase the serotonin concentration.

Hypertensive Reactions

There are theoretical pharmacological grounds for supposing that medicines that inhibit monoamine oxidase may provoke hypertensive reactions in patients with thyrotoxicosis or phaeochromocytoma. In the absence of relevant experience with moclobemide, the medicine should be prescribed with caution for patients in these groups.

Hypersensitivity may occur in susceptible individuals. Symptoms may include rash and oedema.

Clinical worsening and suicide risk associated with psychiatric disorders.

Depression is associated with an increased risk of suicidal thoughts, self harm and suicide (suicide-related events). This risk persists until significant remission occurs and must be considered in all depressed patients. It is general clinical experience that the risk of suicide may increase in the early stages of recovery.

Antidepressants increased the risk compared to placebo of suicidality in children, adolescents, and young adults (aged 18-24 years) during initial treatment (generally the first one to two months) in short-term studies of major depression and other psychiatric disorders. Short-term studies did not show an increase in the risk of suicidality with antidepressants compared to placebo in adults over 24 years of age, and there was a reduction in risk with antidepressants compared to placebo in adults 65 years or older.

Patients with depression may experience worsening of their depressive symptoms and/or the emergence of suicidal ideation and behaviours (suicidality) whether or not they are taking antidepressant medications, and this risk may persist until significant remission occurs. As improvement may not occur during the first few weeks or more of treatment, patients should be closely monitored for clinical worsening and suicidality, especially at the beginning of a course of treatment, or at the time of dosage changes, either increases or decreases. Consideration should be given to changing the therapeutic regimen, including possibly discontinuing the medication, in patients whose depression is persistently worse or whose emergent suicidality is severe, abrupt in onset, or was not part of the patient's presenting symptoms. Patients (and caregivers of patients) should be alerted about the need to monitor for any worsening of their condition and/or the emergence of suicidal ideation/behaviour or thoughts of harming themselves and to seek medical advice immediately if these symptoms present. Patients with co-morbid depression associated with other psychiatric disorders being treated with antidepressants should be similarly observed for clinical worsening and suicidality.

Patients with a history of suicide-related events, or those exhibiting a significant degree of suicidal ideation prior to commencement of treatment are known to be at greater risk of suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts, and should receive careful monitoring during treatment.

Pooled analysis of 24 short-term (4 to 16 weeks) placebo-controlled trials of nine antidepressant medicines (SSRIs and others) in 4400 children and adolescents with major depressive disorder (16 trials), obsessive compulsive disorder (4 trials) or other

psychiatric disorders (4 trials) have revealed a greater risk of adverse events representing suicidal behaviour or thinking (suicidality) during the first few months of treatment in those receiving antidepressants. The average risk of such events in patients treated with an antidepressant was 4% compared with 2% of patients given placebo. There was considerable variation in risk among the antidepressants but there was a tendency towards an increase for almost all antidepressants studied. The risk of suicidality was almost consistently observed in the major depressive disorder trials but there were signals of risk arising from trials in other psychiatric indications (obsessive compulsive disorder and social anxiety disorder) as well. No suicides occurred in these trials. It is unknown whether the suicidality risk in children and adolescent patients extends to use beyond several months. The nine antidepressant medicines in the pooled analysis included five SSRIs (citalopram, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, paroxetine, sertraline) and four non-SSRIs (bupropion, mirtazapine, nefazodone, venlafaxine).

Symptoms of anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, insomnia, irritability, hostility (aggressiveness), impulsivity, akathisia (psychomotor restlessness), hypomania and mania, have been reported in adults, adolescents and children being treated with antidepressants for major depressive disorder as well as for other indications, both psychiatric and non-psychiatric. Although a causal link between the emergence of such symptoms and either worsening of depression and/or emergence of suicidal impulses has not been established there is concern that such symptoms may be precursors of emerging suicidality.

Families and caregivers of children and adolescents being treated with antidepressants for major depressive disorder or for any other condition (psychiatric or non psychiatric) should be informed about the need to monitor these patients for the emergence of agitation, irritability, unusual changes in behaviour, and other symptoms described above, as well as the emergence of suicidality, and to report such symptoms immediately to health care providers. It is particularly important that monitoring be undertaken during the initial few months of antidepressant treatment or at times of dose increase or decrease.

Prescriptions for moclobemide should be written for the smallest quantity of tablets consistent with good patient management, in order to reduce the risk of overdose. Insomnia or nervousness or jitteriness at the beginning of treatment with moclobemide can justify a dose reduction or temporary symptomatic treatment. In case of occurrence of mania or hypomania, or the onset of early symptoms of those reactions (grandiosity, hyperactivity, (including increased speech), reckless impulsivity) treatment with moclobemide will be interrupted and alternative treatment will be initiated.

Use in Pregnancy

Australian Pregnancy Category B3 Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed. Studies in animals have shown evidence of an increased occurrence of fetal damage, the significance of which is considered uncertain in humans.

Moclobemide and two of its metabolites were found in the amniotic fluid of pregnant rats 5 hours after dosing. Moclobemide lacked teratogenic activity in rats and rabbits at respective oral doses of 200mg/kg/day (1200mg/m²/day) and 100mg/kg/day (1100mg/m²/day), doses which are 2 to 3 times the maximum recommended human dose calculated on a surface area basis. However, there are no data on safety in human pregnancy and careful evaluation of the potential benefit and hazards to the mother and fetus should precede administration to pregnant women.

Use in Lactation

Although only a small amount of moclobemide passes into breast milk (approximately 1/30th of the adult dose), the benefits of continuing medicine therapy for the breastfeeding mother should be weighed against possible risks to the child.

Paediatric and Adolescents (< 18 years) use

The safety and efficacy of moclobemide for the treatment of depression or other psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents aged less than 18 years has not been satisfactorily established. Moclobemide should not be used in this age group for the treatment of depression or other psychiatric disorders.

Effects on the Ability to Drive and Operate Machinery

Impairment of performance in activities requiring complete mental alertness (e.g. driving a motor vehicle) is generally not to be expected with moclobemide. The individual reaction should however be monitored during early treatment.

Carcinogenicity, Mutagenicity, Impairment of Fertility:

There was no evidence of carcinogenic effects following dietary administration of moclobemide to mice for 18 months at 250mg/kg/day (750mg/m²/day) or to rats for 24 months at 225mg/kg/day (1350mg/m²/day), doses which are 2 to 3 times the maximum recommended human dose calculated on a surface area basis.

Moclobemide was not genotoxic in assays for gene mutation, chromosomal damage or DNA damage.

There were no adverse effects on the fertility of rats receiving oral moclobemide 100mg/kg/day (600mg/m²/day), a dose slightly more than the maximum recommended human dose calculated on a surface area basis.

Effects on Laboratory Tests

Moclobemide does not affect laboratory tests.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES

Selegiline

Co-administration of moclobemide with selegiline is contraindicated due to the relative loss of selectivity if both monoamine oxidase A and B are inhibited.

Linezolid

Co-administration of moclobemide with linezolid is contraindicated due to the increased risk of serotonin syndrome and hypertensive crisis in vulnerable individuals.

Tramadol

Co-administration of moclobemide with tramadol is contraindicated.

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCAs), Serotonin Syndrome and Washout Periods

Due to the possibility of development of Serotonin Syndrome, moclobemide should not be administered concomitantly with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants. This possibility increases with increasing dose and fatalities have occurred where one or more of these medicines have been ingested in overdose (see OVERDOSAGE).

There are limited data (i.e. small clinical pharmacology studies and post marketing reports) to support the safety of changing from low to moderate doses of serotonin reuptake inhibitors to moclobemide 300mg/day by ceasing the SSRI on one day and starting moclobemide on the next. In one study, 18 healthy subjects were changed from moclobemide 300mg on day one to fluoxetine 40mg/day for the next 7 days then fluoxetine 20mg/day for a further 7 days. On day 16, subjects were randomised to receive, in addition to fluoxetine 20mg/day, moclobemide in ascending doses from 100mg to 600mg or placebo, for the next 8 days. On day 24, all patients received 300mg moclobemide. There were no differences in the adverse effects reported between the two groups, although the power of the study to detect clinically significant interactions is limited, given the number of subjects and the dose of moclobemide used. Caution is, however, recommended and the dose of moclobemide should be held at 300mg/day for the first week. Particular attention should also be given to the patient's medical history and concomitant therapy with other psychotropic medicines known to interact with or facilitate 5-HT functions.

Similarly, there are limited data to support the safety of changing from low to moderate doses of tricyclic antidepressants, for example 150mg or less of amitriptyline to moclobemide 300mg per day by ceasing the tricyclic antidepressant one day and starting moclobemide the next. The patient should be seen again soon after the changeover and progress monitored appropriately. The dose of moclobemide should be maintained at 300mg/day for the first week.

Tyramine

In animal experiments it has been shown that the pressor effects of tyramine are less with moclobemide than with other inhibitors of monoamine oxidase. Results from studies in man showed that when tyramine is administered I.V. or orally under pharmacological conditions by using a provocative model, moclobemide leads to a slight and short-lasting potentiation of the tyramine pressor effect. The potentiation of the pressor effect was even lower or did not occur when tyramine was mixed with a meal. A high protein or fat content meal further reduced the potentiation. In human studies it was demonstrated that up to 100mg tyramine, corresponding to 1,000g to 2,000g mild or 200g strong cheese, or to 70g Marmite yeast extract, can safely be

ingested during chronic treatment with three times 200mg per day moclobemide post-prandially.

Thus an interaction with tyramine rich foods is of no clinical importance during moclobemide treatment under normal conditions and moclobemide taken at the end of a meal. Neither age nor depression influences the interaction.

Dextromethorphan

Isolated cases of severe central nervous system adverse reactions have been reported after coadministration of moclobemide and dextromethorphan. Co-administration of moclobemide and dextromethorphan, which may be contained in cough cold medicines, is not recommended and if possible, alternatives not containing dextromethorphan should be given (see PRECAUTIONS).

Dextropropoxyphene

Concomitant use of dextropropoxyphene is not advised as moclobemide may potentiate the effects of dextropropoxyphene.

Opiates

Co-administration of moclobemide and dextromethorphan has occurred extensively in practice with in the vast majority of cases no reports of interaction. There have however been a few reports of possible central nervous system related adverse events such as giddiness, light headedness and agitation with concurrent administration. In animals, moclobemide potentiates the effects of opiates. A dosage adjustment of the following opiate, e.g. morphine, fentanyl and codeine may therefore be necessary.

Serotonin Agonists

Some serotonin agonists are metabolised predominantly by monoamine oxidase A and may need to be avoided or have their dosage reduced if administered concomitantly with moclobemide.

Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (Sibutramine and Venlafaxine)

In patients receiving moclobemide, additional drugs that enhance serotonin, such as venlafaxine should be given with caution. Concomitant use of sibutramine with moclobemide is not recommended.

Pethidine

High dose studies in animals have demonstrated some potentiation of analgesic effect and increased restlessness with concomitant administration of pethidine and moclobemide. Concomitant administration of pethidine and moclobemide is contraindicated because of the increased risk of serotonergic syndrome (confusion, fever, convulsions, ataxia, hyperreflexia, myoclonus, diarrhoea).

Phenprocoumon

Concomitant administration of moclobemide, 200mg three times per day, did not influence the parameters of blood coagulation controlled by phenprocoumon. No data are available regarding warfarin and moclobemide.

Trimipramine and Maprotiline

Care should be taken with concomitant use of trimipramine and maprotiline as the plasma concentration of these non-selective monoamine reuptake inhibitors increases upon concomitant administration with moclobemide.

Digoxin

Concomitant administration of moclobemide to elderly patients under chronic digoxin treatment produced no significant changes in the digoxin plasma levels. There were no additional ECG disturbances, particularly no arrhythmias or conductance disturbances. Vital signs and laboratory parameters were also unaltered.

Antihypertensive treatment

The combination of moclobemide with metoprolol, nifedipine or hydrochlorothiazide, in patients stable on their antihypertensive treatment, was well tolerated and in particular there were no orthostatic effects. The therapeutic benefits of nifedipine and hydrochlorothiazide were not influenced by moclobemide. The combination of moclobemide and metoprolol led to an additional BP reduction of 10 to 15mmHg (systolic) and 5 to 10mmHg (diastolic). The mechanism underlying this effect is not clear. In normotensive subjects moclobemide had no effect on BP.

Sympathomimetic amines

Possible undesired interactions between moclobemide and directly acting sympathomimetic amines were investigated in healthy subjects. Phenylephrine (PE) reactivity was investigated by infusion of increasing PE doses before and after moclobemide (100mg single; 200mg single; 100mg three times per day for one week; 200mg three times per day for three weeks) administration. After the three lowest doses, PE reactivity remained unchanged. After chronic administration of the highest dose there was a slight increase by 1.8 of the sensitivity factor in only four out of the six subjects, in the other two it was unchanged. Thus only after repeated administration of the high therapeutic doses of 200mg three times per day moclobemide could a slight interaction be observed. PE was given intravenously, but in general it will be used as a nasal decongestant. Recommended use in these indications will be unlikely to result in concentrations of PE which cause relevant BP increases.

Cimetidine

A pharmacokinetic interaction (reduced moclobemide clearance) occurred in healthy subjects with combined administration of moclobemide and cimetidine. Thus if moclobemide treatment is initiated in a patient pretreated with cimetidine the lowest dose should be given initially. If cimetidine has to be given after initiation of moclobemide treatment, it may be necessary to lower the moclobemide dose by 50% and to adjust according to clinical requirement.

Proton Pump Inhibitors- CYP2C19 (e.g. Omeprazole)

Care should be taken with concomitant use of active substances that are metabolised by CYP2C19 as moclobemide is an inhibitor of this enzyme. The plasma concentration of these active substances (such as proton pump inhibitors (e.g. omeprazole), fluoxetine and fluvoxamine) may be increased when concomitantly used with moclobemide.

Similarly, moclobemide inhibits the metabolism of omeprazole in CYP2C19 extensive metabolisers resulting in a doubling of the omeprazole exposure.

Triptans

Co-administration of moclobemide with triptans is contraindicated. Triptans (eg. sumatriptan, rizatriptan, zolmitriptan, almotriptan) are potent serotonin receptor agonists and are metabolized by monoamine oxidases (MAOs) and various cytochrome P450 enzymes. Co-administration of moclobemide leads to an increase in the plasma concentrations of the triptans. A maximum dose of 5 mg of zolmitriptan is recommended if combined with moclobemide and concomitant treatment is not recommended if moclobemide is administered in higher dose than 150 mg twice daily.

Alcohol

Concomitant moclobemide administration did not further reduce performance in subjects with a blood content of alcohol distinctly reducing performance. Also in elderly subjects there was no additional influence at therapeutic doses.

Oral Contraceptives:

The hormone levels (FSH, LH, oestradiol and progesterone) were not altered when moclobemide was administered concomitantly with combined contraceptives.

St. John's Wort

Concomitant use with St. John's wort (*Hypericum*) is not recommended as this may increase the serotonin concentration in the central nervous system.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

Moclobemide is usually well tolerated. No adverse event occurred with an increased frequency of more than 5% compared to placebo. The following transient effects have been observed: sleep disturbances, dizziness, nausea, and headache. In very rare cases confusional states have been observed, but these rapidly disappeared on discontinuation of therapy. Insomnia, or nervousness/jitteriness at the beginning of treatment with moclobemide can justify a dose reduction or temporary symptomatic treatment.

Table 1. Adverse effects reported in clinical trials at an incidence of >1% where causality is at least possibly related to moclobemide			
Organ System	Adverse Event	Moclobemide (%)	Placebo (%)
Central Nervous System	Insomnia	7.4	4.8
	Dizziness	9.8	8.1
	Anxiety	4.6	2.2
	Restlessness	4.2	2.6
Gastrointestinal	Nausea	9.5	4.8
	Constipation	5.3	3.3
	Diarrhoea	3.2	1.1
Anticholinergic	Dry mouth	13	10.6

Table 2: Within the system organ classes, adverse reactions are listed under headings of frequency (number of patients expected to experience the reaction), using the following categories: Very Common ($\geq 1/10$); Common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$); Uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$); Rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$); Very rare ($< 1/10,000$); Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data)

System Organ Class	Adverse Reaction	Frequency
<i>Metabolism and nutrition disorders:</i>	Decreased appetite* Hyponatraemia*	Rare
<i>Psychiatric disorders:</i>	Sleep disorder	Very common
	Agitation, anxiety, restlessness	Common
	Suicidal ideation Confusional state (these have resolved quickly on, discontinuation of therapy)	Uncommon
	Suicidal behaviors, delusion*	Rare
<i>Nervous system disorders:</i>	Dizziness, headache	Very common
	Paraesthesia	Common
	Dysgeusia	Uncommon
<i>Eye disorders:</i>	Visual impairment	Uncommon
<i>Vascular disorders:</i>	Hypotension	Common
	Flushing	Uncommon
<i>Gastrointestinal disorders:</i>	Dry mouth, nausea	Very common
	Vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation	Common
<i>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:</i>	Rash	Common
	Oedema, pruritus, urticarial	Uncommon
<i>General disorders and administration site conditions:</i>	Irritability	Common
	Asthenia	Uncommon
<i>Investigations:</i>	Serotonin syndrome* (co-administered with drugs that enhance serotonin, such as serotonin re-uptake inhibitors and many other antidepressants) Increased hepatic enzymes (without associated clinical sequelae.)	Rare

* Adverse reactions that were not reported in clinical studies but were only reported in postmarketing surveillance.

Other adverse events with an incidence of $< 1\%$ in clinical studies, or reported in post-marketing surveillance are as follows:

Psychiatric: Difficulties falling asleep, nightmares/dreams, hallucinations, memory disturbances, confusion, disorientation, delusions, increased depression,

excitation/irritability, hypomanic symptoms, aggressive behaviour, apathy, tension. Cases of suicidal ideation and suicidal behaviours have been reported during antidepressant therapy or early after treatment discontinuation (see PRECAUTIONS, Clinical worsening and suicide risk associated with psychiatric disorders) though such cases have not been observed following early discontinuation of moclobemide.

Central and Peripheral Nervous System: Migraine, extrapyramidal effects, tinnitus, paraesthesia, dysarthria.

Gastrointestinal: Heartburn, gastritis, meteorism, indigestion.

Cardiovascular: Hypertension, bradycardia, extrasystoles, angina/chest pain, phlebotic symptoms, flushing.

Dermatological/Mucocutaneous: Exanthema/rash, allergic skin reaction, itching, gingivitis, stomatitis, dry skin, conjunctivitis, pruritus, urticaria.

Genitourinary: Disturbances of micturition (dysuria, polyuria, tenesmus), metrorrhagia, prolonged menstruation.

Miscellaneous: General malaise, skeletal/muscular pain, altered taste sensations, hot flushes/cold sensation, photopsia, dyspnoea, visual disturbances. There appears to be a low incidence of increased hepatic enzymes without associated clinical sequelae.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Major Depression

Adults

Moclobemide Sandoz therapy should be initiated in two divided daily doses. The recommended initial daily dose is 300 or 450mg. The recommended dose range is 300 - 600mg/day. The dose should not be raised until after the first week, as bioavailability increases during this period. Treatment should continue for at least 4-6 weeks in order to assess the efficacy of the drug. Moclobemide Sandoz should be taken after meals.

Use in the elderly

No dosage adjustments are necessary in elderly patients.

Use in patients with renal impairment

Single dose pharmacokinetic data suggest that no dosage adjustment may be required in patients with reduced renal function. However, multiple dose studies with moclobemide have not been performed in patients with renal dysfunction; therefore, moclobemide should be used with caution in this patient population. In normal

volunteers, the absolute bioavailability almost doubles following multiple dosing as compared to a single dose.

Use in patients with hepatic impairment

In patients with severely impaired hepatic metabolism, the daily dose of Moclobemide Sandoz should be reduced to half or one third of the dose to reach the usual plasma level.

OVERDOSAGE

Contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for advice on management of overdose.

Signs and Symptoms

The highest reported overdose with moclobemide is 20.55g. The usual signs of overdose with moclobemide alone are nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, disorientation, slurred speech, amnesia, reduced reflexes, agitation, hypertension and convulsions.

As with other antidepressants, combination overdoses of moclobemide and other antidepressants, alcohol and other medicines can be life threatening. Fatalities have been reported in combination overdoses. Patients should be hospitalised and closely monitored so that appropriate treatment can be given. Serotonin syndrome symptoms (hypertension, spasm, altered consciousness) have been reported with mixed overdoses with clomipramine or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors.

Treatment

Management of overdose should include monitoring of vital signs and consideration of other agents ingested in multiple overdoses.

PRESENTATION AND STORAGE CONDITIONS

Moclobemide Sandoz 150mg Tablets - beige, oblong, film coated, scored.
Available in blister packs of 60 tablets.

Moclobemide Sandoz 300mg Tablets - white, oblong, film coated, scored.
Available in blister packs of 60 tablets.

Store below 25°C. The tablets should not be used after the expiry date imprinted on the blister pack and carton.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SPONSOR

Sandoz Pty Ltd
ABN 60 075 449 553
54 Waterloo Road
Macquarie Park, NSW 2113
Australia
Tel: 1800 634 500

POISON SCHEDULE OF THE MEDICINE

Schedule 4 – Prescription Only Medicine

Date of first inclusion in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (the ARTG): 07/12/2000

Date of most recent amendment: 26/10/2016