

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

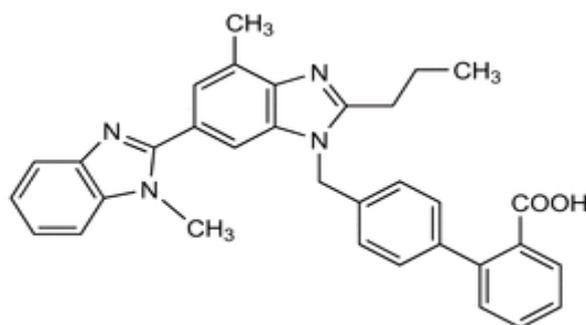
**TELMISARTAN/HCT SANDOZ<sup>®</sup> 40 mg/12.5 mg**  
**TELMISARTAN/HCT SANDOZ<sup>®</sup> 80 mg/12.5 mg**  
**TELMISARTAN/HCT SANDOZ<sup>®</sup> 80 mg/25 mg**  
**FILM-COATED TABLETS**

### NAME OF THE MEDICINE

**Generic name: telmisartan**

Chemical name: 4'-{[4-Methyl-6-(1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)-2-propyl-1-benzimidazolyl]methyl}-2- biphenylcarboxylic acid

Chemical structure:



CAS Number: 144701-48-4.

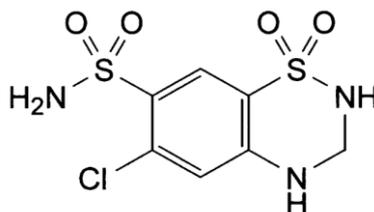
Empirical formula: C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

MW: 514.6

**Generic name: Hydrochlorothiazide**

Chemical name: 6-chloro-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,2,4-benzothiadiazine-7-sulfonamide 1,1-dioxide

Chemical structure:



CAS Number: 58-93-5

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 40 mg/12.5 mg

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Empirical formula: C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>

MW: 297.7

## DESCRIPTION

Each Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 40 mg/12.5 mg tablet contains 40 mg telmisartan and 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide.

Each Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 80 mg/12.5 mg tablet contains 80 mg telmisartan and 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide.

Each Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 80 mg/25 mg tablet contains 80 mg telmisartan and 25 mg hydrochlorothiazide.

Telmisartan is an off-white to yellowish crystalline powder. It is practically insoluble in water, very slightly soluble in ethanol, slightly soluble in methanol and soluble in a mixture of chloroform and methanol (1:1).

Hydrochlorothiazide is a white, or practically white, odourless crystalline powder. It is very slightly soluble in water, and freely soluble in sodium hydroxide solution.

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> tablets contain the inactive ingredients: lactose monohydrate, crospovidone, meglumine, sodium hydroxide, povidone, lactose anhydrous, magnesium stearate, macrogol poly(vinyl alcohol) grafted copolymer, citric acid monohydrate, anhydrous colloidal silica. Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 40 mg/12.5 mg tablet also contains iron oxide yellow, iron oxide red and Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 80 mg/25 mg tablet also contains iron oxide yellow, as colouring agent.

## PHARMACOLOGY

### Pharmacological Actions

Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide is a combination of an angiotensin II receptor antagonist, telmisartan, and a thiazide diuretic, hydrochlorothiazide. The combination of these ingredients has an additive antihypertensive effect, reducing blood pressure to a greater degree than either component alone.

Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide once daily produces effective and smooth reductions in blood pressure across the therapeutic dose range.

Telmisartan displaces angiotensin II with very high affinity from its binding site at the AT<sub>1</sub> receptor subtype, which is responsible for the known actions of angiotensin II. Telmisartan does not exhibit any partial agonist activity at the AT<sub>1</sub> receptor. Telmisartan binds selectively with the AT<sub>1</sub> receptor and does not reveal relevant affinity for other receptors nor does it inhibit human plasma renin or block ion channels. The clinically relevant effect of AT<sub>1</sub> receptor blockade is to lower blood pressure by inhibition of angiotensin II mediated vasoconstriction leading to reduction of systemic vascular resistance. During administration with telmisartan, removal of angiotensin II negative feedback on renin secretion results in increased plasma renin activity, which in turn leads to increases in angiotensin II in plasma. Despite these increases, antihypertensive activity and suppressed aldosterone levels indicate effective angiotensin II receptor blockade. Telmisartan does not inhibit angiotensin converting

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enzyme (kininase II), the enzyme which also degrades bradykinin. Therefore, it is not expected to potentiate bradykinin-mediated adverse effects or cause oedema.

In humans, an 80 mg dose of telmisartan almost completely inhibits the angiotensin II evoked increase in blood pressure. The inhibitory effect is maintained over 24 hours and still measurable up to 48 hours.

After administration of the first dose of Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide, onset of antihypertensive activity occurs gradually within 3 hours. The maximal reduction in blood pressure is generally attained 4-8 weeks after the start of treatment and is sustained during long-term therapy. The antihypertensive effect persists constantly over 24 hours after dosing and includes the last 4 hours before the next dose. With ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and conventional blood pressure measurements, the 24 hour trough to peak ratio for 40-80 mg doses of telmisartan was >80% for both systolic blood pressure (SBP) and diastolic blood pressure (DBP).

In patients with hypertension, telmisartan reduces both systolic and diastolic blood pressure without affecting pulse rate. The antihypertensive efficacy of telmisartan is independent of gender or age, and has been compared to antihypertensive drugs such as amlodipine, atenolol, enalapril, hydrochlorothiazide, lisinopril and valsartan.

Upon abrupt cessation of treatment, blood pressure gradually returns to pre-treatment values over a period of several days without evidence of rebound hypertension.

The incidence of dry cough was significantly lower in patients treated with telmisartan than in those given angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors in clinical trials directly comparing the two antihypertensive treatments.

Hydrochlorothiazide is a thiazide diuretic. The mechanism of the antihypertensive effect of thiazide diuretics is not fully known. Thiazides affect the renal tubular mechanisms of electrolyte reabsorption, directly increasing excretion of sodium and chloride in approximately equivalent amounts. The diuretic action of hydrochlorothiazide reduces plasma volume, increases plasma renin activity, increases aldosterone secretion, with consequent increases in urinary potassium and bicarbonate loss, and decreases in serum potassium. Co-administration with telmisartan tends to reverse the potassium loss associated with these diuretics, presumably through blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system. With hydrochlorothiazide, onset of diuresis occurs in 2 hours, and peak effect occurs at about 4 hours, while the action persists for approximately 6-12 hours.

Epidemiological studies have shown that long-term treatment with hydrochlorothiazide reduces the risk of cardiovascular mortality and morbidity. There are no data regarding the effects of telmisartan and telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide on morbidity and mortality in hypertensive patients.

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## Pharmacokinetics

### *Absorption*

Following oral administration of the fixed dose combination tablets, the  $t_{max}$  values for telmisartan vary from 0.5 to 4 hours. Absolute bioavailability of telmisartan was shown to be dose dependent. The mean absolute bioavailability of 40 mg telmisartan was 40%, whereas the mean absolute bioavailability of the 160 mg dose amounted to about 60%.

The maximum plasma concentration ( $C_{max}$ ) and, to a smaller extent, area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increase disproportionately with dose. In a Phase II clinical trial, 40, 80 and 120 mg of telmisartan were administered (in capsules) for 28 days to hypertensive subjects. Maximum plasma concentrations at steady state,  $C_{max,ss}$ , and  $AUC_{ss}$  were determined in 37–39 subjects per dose group.

In this trial, the mean  $C_{max}$  showed a more-than-proportional increase with dose, increasing 4.4 fold for a two-fold increase in dose from 40 to 80 mg, and increasing 2.4 fold with a 1.5 fold increase in dose from 80 to 120 mg. The mean  $AUC_{ss}$  were nearly proportional with increasing dose, increasing 2.3 fold for a two-fold increase in dose from 40 to 80 mg, and increasing 1.5 fold with a 1.5 fold increase in dose from 80 to 120 mg.

There is no evidence of clinically relevant accumulation of telmisartan taken at the recommended dose.

When telmisartan is taken with food, the reduction in the area under the plasma concentration-time curve ( $AUC_{0-\infty}$ ) of telmisartan varies from approximately 6% (40 mg dose) to approximately 19% (160 mg dose). The small reduction in AUC should not cause a reduction in the therapeutic efficacy. Therefore, Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide may be taken with or without food.

Following oral administration of Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide, peak concentrations of hydrochlorothiazide are reached in approximately 1.0 - 2.5 hours after dosing. The absolute oral bioavailability for hydrochlorothiazide is documented as 50 to 80%.

### *Distribution*

Telmisartan is highly bound to plasma protein (>99.5%), mainly albumin and alpha-1-acid glycoprotein. The mean steady state apparent volume of distribution ( $V_{dss}$ ) is approximately 6.6 L/kg.

Hydrochlorothiazide is 68% protein bound in the plasma and its apparent volume of distribution is 0.83 - 1.14 L/kg.

### *Metabolism*

Telmisartan undergoes substantial first-pass metabolism by conjugation to the acylglucuronide. No pharmacological activity has been shown for the conjugate. Telmisartan is not metabolised by the cytochrome P450 system.

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Hydrochlorothiazide is not metabolised in man.

#### *Excretion*

Telmisartan is characterised by bi-exponential decay pharmacokinetics with a terminal elimination half-life of 18.3-23.0 hours.

After oral (and intravenous) administration telmisartan is nearly exclusively excreted with the faeces, mainly as unchanged compound. Cumulative urinary excretion is <1% of dose. Total plasma clearance ( $CL_{tot}$ ) is high (approximately 1000 mL/min) when compared with hepatic blood flow (about 1500 mL/min).

Hydrochlorothiazide is excreted almost entirely as unchanged drug in urine. At least 61% of the oral dose is eliminated as unchanged drug within 24 hours. Renal clearance is about 250-300 mL/min. The terminal elimination half-life of hydrochlorothiazide is 8-10 hours.

#### Special populations

*Elderly patients:* The pharmacokinetics of telmisartan do not differ between younger and elderly patients (i.e., patients older than 65 years of age).

*Patients with renal impairment:* Renal excretion does not contribute to the clearance of telmisartan. Based on modest experience in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance of 30 - 60 mL/min, mean about 50 mL/min) no dosage adjustment is necessary in patients with decreased renal function. Telmisartan is not removed from blood by haemodialysis. In patients with impaired renal function the rate of hydrochlorothiazide elimination is reduced. In a typical study in patients with a mean creatinine clearance of 60 mL/min the elimination half-life of hydrochlorothiazide was increased. In functionally anephric patients the elimination half-life is about 34 hours.

*Patients with hepatic impairment:* Pharmacokinetic studies of telmisartan in patients with hepatic impairment showed an increase in absolute bioavailability up to nearly 100%. The elimination half-life is not changed in patients with hepatic impairment.

*Gender:* Plasma concentrations of telmisartan are generally 2-3 times higher in females than in males. In clinical trials, however, no clinically significant increases in blood pressure response or incidences of orthostatic hypotension were found in females. No dosage adjustment is necessary. There was a trend towards higher plasma concentrations of hydrochlorothiazide in females than in males. This is not considered to be of clinical relevance.

*Children:* Pharmacokinetic studies of telmisartan have not been investigated in patients less than 18 years of age.

## CLINICAL TRIALS

The antihypertensive effects of telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide were examined in three pivotal 8-week randomised, double-blind clinical trials.

One of the pivotal studies compared telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 40/12.5 mg to telmisartan 40 mg, in patients who failed to respond adequately to treatment with telmisartan 40mg. Following a 4 week run-in period, patients who failed to respond to telmisartan 40 mg monotherapy (DBP $\geq$ 90 mmHg) were randomised to receive either telmisartan 40 mg (167 patients) or telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 40/12.5 mg (160 patients) for 8 weeks. Seated blood pressure was taken 24 hours post-dose at each visit.

Treatment with telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 40/12.5 mg lowered DBP by an additional 3.5 mmHg and SBP by 7.4 mmHg compared to telmisartan 40 mg. Both results were highly statistically significant ( $p<0.01$ ). Most of the additional effect was seen at 4 weeks of treatment. Changes in DBP for telmisartan 40 mg monotherapy were -4.8 mmHg at week 4 and -4.3 mmHg at week 8. Changes in DBP for telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 40/12.5 mg were -6.1 mmHg at week 4 and -7.4 mmHg at week 8.

Patients in the telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 40/12.5 mg arm had a normalised blood pressure response rate (SBP < 140 mmHg and DBP < 90 mmHg) of 51.6% compared to 23.5% for patients in the telmisartan 40 mg monotherapy arm. The DBP response rate (DBP <90 mmHg) was 64.8% for the telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 40/12.5 mg compared to 40.1% in the monotherapy arm. The SBP response rate (reduction in SBP  $\geq$  10 mmHg from start of active treatment) was 63.5% for the telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 40/12.5 mg compared to 42.6% in the monotherapy arm.

In the other pivotal study, telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg was compared to telmisartan 80 mg. Patients received telmisartan 40 mg (open label) for 4 weeks. At the end of 4 weeks, patients who failed to respond adequately to telmisartan 40 mg (DBP  $\geq$  90 mmHg) were titrated to telmisartan 80 mg. At the end of this 4 week period, patients who failed to respond adequately to telmisartan 80 mg (DBP  $\geq$  90mmHg) were randomised to receive either telmisartan 80 mg (245 patients) or telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg (246 patients). Seated blood pressure was recorded 24 hours post-dose at each visit.

Treatment with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg lowered DBP by an additional 3.1 mmHg and SBP by 5.7 mmHg compared to telmisartan 80 mg in this group of non-responders to telmisartan 80mg monotherapy. Both were statistically significant ( $p<0.01$ ). Similar results were seen with standing blood pressure. Most of the additional effect was seen at 4 weeks of treatment. Patients in the telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg arm had a significantly greater blood pressure response rate (SBP < 140 mmHg and DBP < 90 mmHg) of 41.5% compared to 26.1% for patients in the telmisartan 80 mg arm ( $p<0.05$ ).

In the third pivotal study (n=687 patients evaluated for efficacy), telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg was compared to telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg in patients who failed to respond adequately to treatment with telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg. Following a 6 week run-in period, patients who failed to respond to telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg (DBP  $\geq$  90mmHg) were randomised

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to either continue treatment with telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg (347 patients) or to receive telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg (340 patients) for 8 weeks. Seated blood pressure was recorded 24 hours post-dose at each visit.

In this group of non-responders to telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg, treatment with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg demonstrated an incremental blood pressure lowering effect on DBP by an additional 1.6 mmHg and on SBP by 2.7 mmHg compared to continued treatment with telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg (difference in adjusted mean changes from baseline, respectively). Both were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ). Patients in the telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg arm had a significantly greater blood pressure response rate compared to patients in the telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg arm. The DBP response rate (DBP  $< 90$  mmHg or reduction in DBP  $\geq 10$  mmHg from baseline) was 59.7% for telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg compared to 51.9% for telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg and the SBP response rate (SBP  $< 140$  mmHg or reduction in SBP  $\geq 10$  mmHg from baseline) was 65.9% for telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg compared to 57.3% for telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg (both  $p < 0.05$ ).

An open-label follow-up study was conducted at the study end of the telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg pivotal study, where all patients received telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg for 6 months. In this follow-up study, trough seated blood pressure was further decreased by 4.6/3.6 mmHg (SBP/DBP) with telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg treatment, resulting in a total reduction of 11.4/9.7 mmHg (SBP/DBP) from baseline of the preceding study. Overall, the DBP response rate (DBP  $< 90$  mmHg or reduction in DBP  $\geq 10$  mmHg from baseline of the preceding study) was achieved in 74.3% of patients and the SBP response rate (SBP  $< 140$  mmHg or reduction in SBP  $\geq 10$  mmHg from baseline of the preceding study) was achieved in 77.8% of patients at study end.

In a pooled analysis of two similar 8 week double-blind placebo-controlled clinical trials ( $n=2121$  patients evaluated for efficacy) comparing telmisartan 80 mg/ hydrochlorothiazide 25 mg (942 patients) with valsartan 160 mg/hydrochlorothiazide 25 mg (952 patients), a significantly greater blood pressure lowering effect of 2.2/1.2 mmHg (SBP/DBP) was demonstrated (difference in adjusted mean changes from baseline, respectively) in favour of telmisartan 80 mg/ hydrochlorothiazide 25 mg combination. Both were statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ).

No statistical differences were found with regard to gender between the different treatment groups in all three pivotal studies. No differences were observed concerning age in the first pivotal study discussed. However, for the second and third pivotal studies, although there were no age differences between treatment groups for DBP response/lowering effect, a trend was observed for a greater SBP response/lowering effect in the elderly. This in part could be due to the fact that the elderly generally respond well to hydrochlorothiazide.

In summary, the data showed that the benefits of telmisartan and hydrochlorothiazide appear to be additive and the blood pressure reduction of telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide was larger than the blood pressure reduction achieved by either monotherapy component.

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## INDICATIONS

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz® is indicated for the treatment of hypertension. Treatment should not be initiated with these combinations.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product or sulphonamide-derived substances
- Pregnancy
- Lactation
- Cholestasis and biliary obstructive disorders
- Severe hepatic impairment
- Severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30mL/min)
- Refractory hypokalaemia, hypercalcaemia
- Concomitant use of angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) including Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide, or of angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors) with aliskiren in patients with diabetes mellitus or renal impairment (GFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>).

In case of rare hereditary conditions that may be incompatible with an excipient of the product, the use of the product is contraindicated (see PRECAUTIONS).

## PRECAUTIONS

### *Renovascular hypertension*

There is an increased risk of severe hypotension and renal insufficiency when patients with bilateral renal artery stenosis or stenosis of the artery to a single functioning kidney are treated with medicinal products that affect the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system.

### *Renal impairment and kidney transplantation*

Experience with Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide is modest in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment and therefore periodic monitoring of potassium, creatinine and uric acid serum levels is recommended. Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide should not be used in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30 mL/min) (see Contraindications). Thiazide diuretic-associated azotaemia may occur in patients with impaired renal function. There is no experience regarding the administration of Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide in patients with a recent kidney transplant.

Increases in serum creatinine have been observed in studies with ACE inhibitors in patients with single or bilateral renal artery stenosis. An effect similar to that observed with ACE inhibitors should be anticipated with Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide.

### *Other conditions with stimulation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system*

In patients whose vascular tone and renal function depend predominantly on the activity of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (e.g. patients with severe congestive heart failure or

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underlying renal disease, including renal artery stenosis), treatment with other medicinal products that affect this system has been associated with acute hypotension, hyperazotaemia, oliguria, or rarely acute renal failure.

### ***Dual blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system***

As a consequence of inhibiting the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, changes in renal function (including acute renal failure) have been reported in susceptible individuals, especially if combining medicinal products that affect this system. Dual blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (e.g. by adding an ACE-inhibitor or the direct renin-inhibitor aliskiren to an angiotensin II receptor antagonist) should therefore be limited to individually defined cases with close monitoring of renal function (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

### ***Combination use of ace inhibitors or angiotensin receptor antagonists, anti-inflammatory drugs and thiazide diuretics***

The use of an ACE-inhibitor or angiotensin receptor antagonist, an anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID or COX-2 inhibitor) and a thiazide diuretic at the same time increases the risk of renal impairment. This includes use in fixed-combination products containing more than one class of drug. Combined use of these medications should be accompanied by increased monitoring of serum creatinine, particularly at the institution of the combination. The combination of drugs from these three classes should be used with caution particularly in elderly patients or those with pre-existing renal impairment.

### ***Primary aldosteronism***

Patients with primary aldosteronism generally will not respond to antihypertensive medicinal products acting through inhibition of the renin-angiotensin system. Therefore, the use of Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide is not recommended.

### ***Diabetes Mellitus***

Exploratory post-hoc analyses of two placebo-controlled telmisartan trials suggested an increased risk of fatal myocardial infarction and unexpected cardiovascular death (death occurring within 24 hours of the onset of symptoms without confirmation of cardiovascular cause, and without clinical or post mortem evidence of other etiology) in patients with diabetes mellitus who have no documented medical history of either coronary heart disease or myocardial infarction. In patients with diabetes mellitus, coronary heart disease may be asymptomatic and can therefore remain undiagnosed. Treatment with the blood pressure lowering agent Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide may further reduce coronary perfusion in these patients. For this reason, patients with diabetes mellitus should undergo specific diagnosis and be treated accordingly before initiating therapy with Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide.

### ***Aortic and mitral valve stenosis, and obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy***

As with other vasodilators, special caution is indicated in patients suffering from aortic or mitral valve stenosis, or obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

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### ***Metabolic and endocrine effects***

Thiazide therapy may impair glucose tolerance, whereas hypoglycaemia may occur in diabetic patients under insulin or antidiabetic therapy and telmisartan treatment. Therefore in these patients blood glucose monitoring should be considered; a dose adjustments of insulin or antidiabetics may be required. Latent diabetes mellitus may become manifest during thiazide therapy.

An increase in cholesterol and triglyceride levels has been associated with thiazide diuretic therapy; however, at the 12.5 mg dose contained in telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide 40/12.5 mg and 80/12.5 mg tablets, minimal or no effects were reported.

Hyperuricaemia may occur or frank gout may be precipitated in some patients receiving thiazide therapy.

In the clinical trials conducted with telmisartan/ hydrochlorothiazide, an increase in uric acid levels and triglyceride levels were observed with increasing dose of hydrochlorothiazide. Consideration should be taken if monitoring of lipids and uric acid levels is needed in patients at risk of metabolic disturbances when titrated to the highest dose of Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide.

### ***Electrolyte imbalance***

As for any patient receiving diuretic therapy, periodic determination of serum electrolytes should be performed at appropriate intervals.

Thiazides, including hydrochlorothiazide, can cause fluid or electrolyte imbalance (hypokalaemia, hyponatraemia, and hypochloraemic alkalosis). Warning signs of fluid or electrolyte imbalance are dryness of mouth, thirst, weakness, lethargy, drowsiness, restlessness, muscle pain or cramps, muscular fatigue, hypotension, oliguria, tachycardia, and gastrointestinal disturbances such as nausea or vomiting.

Although hypokalaemia may develop with the use of thiazide diuretics, concurrent therapy with telmisartan may reduce diuretic-induced hypokalaemia. The risk of hypokalaemia is greatest in patients with liver cirrhosis, in patients experiencing brisk diuresis, in patients who are receiving inadequate oral intake of electrolytes and in patients receiving concomitant therapy with corticosteroids or ACTH. Conversely, due to the antagonism of the AT1 receptors by the telmisartan component of Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide, hyperkalaemia might occur. Although clinically significant hyperkalaemia has not been documented with Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide, risk factors for the development of hyperkalaemia include renal insufficiency and/or heart failure, and diabetes mellitus. Potassium-sparing diuretics, potassium supplements or potassium-containing salt substitutes should be co-administered cautiously with Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide (see INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES).

There is no evidence that Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide would reduce or prevent diuretic-induced hyponatraemia. Chloride deficit is generally mild and usually does not require treatment.

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Thiazides may decrease urinary calcium excretion and cause an intermittent and slight elevation of serum calcium in the absence of known disorders of calcium metabolism. Marked hypercalcaemia may be evidence of hidden hyperparathyroidism. Thiazides should be discontinued before carrying out tests for parathyroid function.

Thiazides have been shown to increase the urinary excretion of magnesium, which may result in hypomagnesaemia.

### ***Hepatic impairment***

The majority of telmisartan is eliminated in the bile. Patients with cholestasis, biliary obstructive disorders or severe hepatic insufficiency can be expected to have reduced clearance. Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide is, therefore, contraindicated for use in these patients.

Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide should only be used with caution in patients with impaired hepatic function or progressive liver disease, since minor alterations of fluid and electrolyte balance may precipitate hepatic coma. There is no clinical experience with Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide in patients with hepatic impairment.

### ***Lactose***

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

### ***Sodium- and/or volume-depleted patients***

Symptomatic hypotension, especially after the first dose, may occur in patients who are volume and/or sodium depleted by vigorous diuretic therapy, dietary salt restriction, diarrhoea or vomiting. Such conditions should be corrected before the administration of Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide.

### ***Acute Myopia and Secondary Angle-Closure Glaucoma***

Hydrochlorothiazide, a sulfonamide, can cause an idiosyncratic reaction, resulting in acute transient myopia and acute angle-closure glaucoma. Symptoms include acute onset of decreased visual acuity or ocular pain and typically occur within hours to weeks of drug initiation. Untreated acute angle-closure glaucoma can lead to permanent vision loss. The primary treatment is to discontinue hydrochlorothiazide as rapidly as possible. Prompt medical or surgical treatments may need to be considered if the intraocular pressure remains uncontrolled. Risk factors for developing acute angle-closure glaucoma may include a history of sulfonamide or penicillin allergy.

### ***Other***

As with any antihypertensive agent, excessive reduction of blood pressure in patients with ischaemic cardiopathy or ischaemic cardiovascular disease could result in a myocardial infarction or stroke.

## **General**

Hypersensitivity reactions to hydrochlorothiazide may occur in patients with or without a history of allergy or bronchial asthma, but are more likely in patients with such a history.

Exacerbation or activation of systemic lupus erythematosus has been reported with the use of thiazide diuretics.

### Effects on Fertility

No studies on fertility in humans have been performed. The effects on fertility of telmisartan in combination with hydrochlorothiazide have not been evaluated in animal studies.

Telmisartan: The fertility of male and female rats was unaffected at oral telmisartan doses up to 100mg/kg/day.

Hydrochlorothiazide: No animal fertility studies with hydrochlorothiazide are available for evaluation.

### Use in Pregnancy

Australian Pregnancy Category D: Drugs which have caused, are suspected to have caused or may be expected to cause, an increased incidence of human fetal malformations or irreversible damage. These drugs may also have adverse pharmacological effects.

Angiotensin II receptor antagonists should not be initiated during pregnancy. The use of angiotensin II receptor antagonists is not recommended during the first trimester of pregnancy. When pregnancy is diagnosed, treatment with angiotensin II receptor antagonists should be stopped immediately, and, if appropriate, alternative therapy should be started. The use of angiotensin II receptor antagonists is contraindicated during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy.

Although there is no clinical experience with Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide in pregnant women, in utero exposure to drugs that act directly on the renin-angiotensin system can cause fetal and neonatal morbidity and even death. Several dozen cases have been reported in the world literature in patients who were taking angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors. Therefore, when pregnancy is detected, Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide should be discontinued as soon as possible.

Preclinical studies with telmisartan do not indicate teratogenic effect, but have shown fetotoxicity.

Angiotensin II receptor antagonists exposure during the second and third trimesters is known to induce human fetotoxicity (decreased renal function, oligohydramnios, skull ossification retardation) and neonatal toxicity (renal failure, hypotension, hyperkalaemia). Oligohydramnios reported in this setting, presumably resulting from decreased fetal renal function, has been associated with fetal limb contractures, craniofacial deformation, and hypoplastic lung development. Prematurity, intrauterine growth retardation, and patent ductus

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arteriosus have also been reported, although it is not clear whether these occurrences were due to exposure to the drug.

These adverse effects do not appear to occur when drug exposure has been limited to the first trimester. Mothers whose embryos and fetuses are exposed to an angiotensin II receptor antagonist only during the first trimester should be so informed. Women of child-bearing age should be warned of the potential hazards to their fetus should they become pregnant.

Unless continued angiotensin II receptor antagonist therapy is considered essential, patients planning pregnancy should be changed to alternative antihypertensive treatments which have an established safety profile for use in pregnancy. When pregnancy is diagnosed, treatment with angiotensin II receptor antagonists should be stopped immediately, and if appropriate, alternative therapy should be started.

Should exposure to angiotensin II receptor antagonists have occurred from the second trimester of pregnancy, ultrasound check of renal function and skull is recommended. Infants whose mothers have taken angiotensin II receptor antagonists should be closely observed for hypotension, oliguria and hyperkalaemia.

Telmisartan has been shown to cross the placenta in rats. There were no teratogenic effects when telmisartan alone or telmisartan in combination with hydrochlorothiazide were administered orally to rats and rabbits during the period of organogenesis at doses up to 50 mg/kg/day telmisartan and 15.6 mg/kg hydrochlorothiazide. Telmisartan was not teratogenic in rabbits at oral doses up to 45 mg/kg/day, but fetal resorptions were observed at the highest dose level. Administration of 50 mg/kg/day telmisartan to rats during pregnancy and lactation caused a decrease in birth weight and suppression of postnatal growth and development of the offspring. The no-effect dose level in rabbits was 15 mg/kg/day, and corresponded to a plasma AUC value that was about 9 times higher than that anticipated in women at the highest recommended dose. Plasma AUC values of telmisartan and hydrochlorothiazide in rats at the highest dose were both about 5 times that anticipated in women at the highest recommended dose.

There is limited experience with hydrochlorothiazide during pregnancy, especially during the first trimester.

Hydrochlorothiazide crosses the placenta. Based as on the pharmacological mechanism of action of hydrochlorothiazide its use during second and third trimester may compromise fetoplacental perfusion and may cause fetal and neonatal effects like icterus, disturbance of electrolyte balance and thrombocytopenia.

Hydrochlorothiazide should not be used for gestational oedema, gestational hypertension or preeclampsia due to the risk of decreased plasma volume and placental hypoperfusion, without a beneficial effect on the course of the disease.

Hydrochlorothiazide should not be used for essential hypertension in pregnant women except in rare situations where no other treatment could be used.

### Use in Lactation

Telmisartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide is contraindicated during lactation. It is not known whether telmisartan is excreted in human milk. Animal studies have shown excretion of telmisartan in breast milk. Thiazides appear in human milk and may inhibit lactation. Lactating women should either not be prescribed Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide or should discontinue breastfeeding if Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide is administered.

Telmisartan is excreted in the milk of lactating rats. When administered orally to lactating rats at 50 mg/kg/day, telmisartan suppressed postnatal growth and development of the offspring.

### Paediatric Use

Safety and efficacy of Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide have not been established in children and adolescents up to 18 years.

### Effects on ability to drive and use machines

The effect of Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide on ability to drive and use machines has not been studied. However, when driving or operating machinery it should be taken into account that with antihypertensive therapy, occasionally dizziness or drowsiness may occur.

### Carcinogenicity

The carcinogenic potential of telmisartan in combination with hydrochlorothiazide has not been evaluated in animal studies.

Telmisartan: Two-year studies in mice and rats did not show any increases in tumour incidences when telmisartan was administered in the diet at doses up to 1000 and 100 mg/kg/day, respectively. Plasma AUC values at the highest dose levels were approximately 60 and 15 times greater, respectively, than those anticipated in humans at the maximum recommended dose.

Hydrochlorothiazide: Two-year feeding studies in mice and rats showed no evidence of carcinogenic potential in female mice at doses up to approximately 600 mg/kg/day, or in male and female rats at doses up to approximately 100 mg/kg/day. However, there was equivocal evidence for hepatocarcinogenicity in male mice treated with hydrochlorothiazide alone at approximately 600 mg/kg/day.

### Genotoxicity

The genotoxic potential of telmisartan in combination with hydrochlorothiazide has not been evaluated in animal studies.

Telmisartan: Telmisartan was not genotoxic in a battery of tests for gene mutations and clastogenicity.

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**Hydrochlorothiazide:** Hydrochlorothiazide was not genotoxic in a gene mutation assay in bacterial cells, or in tests for clastogenic activity *in vitro* and *in vivo*. However, hydrochlorothiazide had mutagenic activity in a mammalian cell assay (mouse lymphoma cells) and caused an increase in chromosomal aberrations *in vitro* (Chinese hamster lung cells). Hydrochlorothiazide also had a genotoxic activity in the sister chromatid exchange assay in Chinese hamster ovary cells and a nondisjunction assay in *Aspergillus nidulans*. However, the extensive human experience with hydrochlorothiazide has failed to show an association between its use and an increase in neoplasms.

## INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES

Telmisartan may increase the hypotensive effect of other antihypertensive agents. Other interactions of clinical significance have not been identified. Compounds which have been studied in pharmacokinetic trials include digoxin, warfarin, hydrochlorothiazide, glibenclamide, ibuprofen, paracetamol, simvastatin and amlodipine. For digoxin a 20 % increase in median plasma digoxin trough concentration has been observed (39% in a single case), monitoring of plasma digoxin levels should be considered.

Reversible increases in serum lithium concentrations and toxicity have been reported during concomitant administration of lithium with angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors. Cases have also been reported with angiotensin II receptor antagonists, including telmisartan. Furthermore, renal clearance of lithium is reduced by thiazides so the risk of lithium toxicity could be increased with Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide. Lithium and Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide should be co-administered with caution. Therefore, serum lithium level monitoring is advisable during concomitant use.

The potassium-depleting effect of hydrochlorothiazide is attenuated by the potassium-sparing effect of telmisartan. However, this effect of hydrochlorothiazide on serum potassium would be expected to be potentiated by other drugs associated with potassium loss and hypokalaemia (e.g. other kaliuretic diuretics, laxatives, corticosteroids, ACTH, amphotericin, carbenoxolone, penicillin G sodium, salicylic acid and derivatives). Conversely, based on the experience with the use of other drugs that blunt the renin-angiotensin system, concomitant use of potassium-sparing diuretics, potassium supplements, salt substitutes containing potassium or other drugs that may increase serum potassium levels (e.g. heparin sodium) may lead to increases in serum potassium. If these drugs are to be prescribed with Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide, monitoring of potassium plasma levels is advisable.

Treatment with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) including aspirin at anti-inflammatory dosage regimens, COX-2 inhibitors and non-selective NSAIDs is associated with the potential for acute renal insufficiency in patients who are dehydrated. Compounds acting on the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system like telmisartan may have synergistic effects. Patients receiving NSAIDs and Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide should be adequately hydrated and be monitored for renal function at the beginning of combined treatment. The co-administration of NSAIDs may reduce the diuretic, natriuretic and antihypertensive effects of thiazide diuretics in some patients.

Periodic monitoring of serum potassium is recommended when Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide is administered with drugs affected by serum potassium

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disturbances (e.g. digitalis glycosides, antiarrhythmics and drugs known to induce torsades de pointes).

*Dual blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system with ARBs, ACE inhibitors, or aliskiren*

The concomitant use of ARBs, including Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide, with other agents acting on the RAAS is associated with an increased incidence of hypotension, hyperkalaemia, and changes in renal function compared to monotherapy. It is recommended to monitor blood pressure, renal function and electrolytes in patients on Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide and other agents that affect the RAAS.

The concomitant use of ARBs including Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide, or of ACE inhibitors with aliskiren in patients with diabetes mellitus or renal impairment (GFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>) is contraindicated.

Telmisartan is not metabolised by the cytochrome P450 system and had no effects *in vitro* on cytochrome P450 enzymes, except for some inhibition of CYP2C19. Telmisartan is not expected to interact with drugs that inhibit, or are metabolised by cytochrome P450 enzymes.

The following drugs may interact with thiazide diuretics when administered concurrently:

Alcohol, barbiturates, or narcotics. Potentiation of orthostatic hypotension may occur.

Antidiabetic drugs (oral agents and insulins). Dosage adjustment of the antidiabetic drug may be required (see PRECAUTIONS).

Metformin. There is a risk of lactic acidosis when co-administered with hydrochlorothiazide.

Cholestyramine and colestipol resins. Absorption of hydrochlorothiazide is impaired in the presence of anionic exchange resins.

Corticosteroids, ACTH. Electrolyte depletion, particularly hypokalaemia, may be increased.

Digitalis glycosides. Thiazide-induced hypokalaemia or hypomagnesaemia favour the onset of digitalis-induced cardiac arrhythmias (see PRECAUTIONS).

Pressor amines (e.g. noradrenaline). The effect of pressor amines may be decreased.

Nondepolarizing skeletal muscle relaxants (e.g. tubocurarine). The effect of nondepolarizing skeletal muscle relaxants may be potentiated by hydrochlorothiazide.

Treatment for gout. Dosage adjustment of uricosuric medications may be necessary as hydrochlorothiazide may raise the level of serum uric acid. Increase in dosage of probenecid or sulfinpyrazone may be necessary. Co-administration of thiazide may increase the incidence of hypersensitivity reactions of allopurinol.

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**Calcium salts.** Thiazide diuretics may increase serum calcium levels due to the decreased excretion. If calcium supplements must be prescribed, serum calcium levels should be monitored and calcium dosage adjusted accordingly.

**Other interactions.** The hyperglycaemic effect of beta-blockers and diazoxide may be enhanced by thiazides. Anticholinergic agents (e.g. atropine, biperiden) may increase the bioavailability of thiazide-type diuretics by decreasing gastrointestinal motility and stomach emptying rate. Thiazides may increase the risk of adverse effects caused by amantadine. Thiazides may reduce the renal excretion of cytotoxic drugs (e.g. cyclophosphamide, methotrexate) and potentiate their myelosuppressive effects.

## ADVERSE EFFECTS

Telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide has been evaluated for safety in over 1700 patients, including 716 treated for over six months and 420 for over one year. In clinical trials with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide, no unexpected adverse events have been observed. Adverse experiences have been limited to those that have been previously reported with telmisartan and/or hydrochlorothiazide. The overall incidence of adverse experiences reported with the combination was comparable to placebo. Most adverse experiences were mild in intensity and transient in nature and did not require discontinuation of therapy.

The overall incidence and pattern of adverse events reported with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 80/25 mg was comparable with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 80/12.5 mg. A dose-relationship of undesirable effects was not established and they showed no correlation with gender, age or race of the patients.

Adverse events occurring at an incidence of 2% or more in patients treated with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide and at a greater rate than in patients treated with placebo, irrespective of their causal association, are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Adverse Events Occurring in  $\geq$  2% of Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide Patients\*

	Telm/HCTZ (n=414) (%)	Placebo (n=74) (%)	Telm (n=209) (%)	HCTZ (n=121) (%)
<b>Body as a whole</b>				
Fatigue	3	1	3	3
Influenza-like symptoms	2	1	2	3
<b>Central/peripheral nervous system</b>				
Dizziness	5	1	4	6
<b>Gastrointestinal system</b>				
Diarrhoea	3	0	5	2
Nausea	2	0	1	2
<b>Respiratory system disorder</b>				
Sinusitis	4	3	3	6
Upper respiratory tract infection	8	7	7	10

\* includes all doses of telmisartan (20-160mg), hydrochlorothiazide (6.25-25mg), and combinations thereof.

The following adverse events were reported at a rate of 2% or greater in patients treated with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide, but were as, or more common in the placebo group: pain, headache, cough, urinary tract infection (including cystitis).

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Adverse events occurred at approximately the same rates in men and women, older and younger patients, and black and non-black patients.

The adverse events reported in clinical trials with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide (including the dose strengths 40/12.5 mg, 80/12.5 mg and 80/25 mg) are listed below:

*Cardiac disorders:* cardiac arrhythmias, tachycardia

*Eye disorders:* abnormal vision, transient blurred vision

*Ear and labyrinth disorders:* vertigo

*Gastrointestinal disorders:* diarrhoea, dry mouth, flatulence, abdominal pain, constipation, dyspepsia, vomiting, gastritis

*General disorders and administration site conditions:* chest pain, influenza-like symptoms, pain

*Hepato-biliary disorders:* abnormal hepatic function / liver disorder\*

*Infections and infestations:* bronchitis, pharyngitis, sinusitis

*Investigations:* increase in creatinine, increase in liver enzymes, increase in blood creatine phosphokinase, increase in uric acid

*Metabolism and nutrition disorders:* hypokalaemia, hyponatraemia, hyperuricaemia

*Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders:* back pain, muscle spasm, myalgia, arthralgia, leg pain, cramps in legs

*Nervous system disorders:* syncope / faint, dizziness, paraesthesia, sleep disturbances, insomnia

*Psychiatric disorders:* anxiety, depression

*Reproductive system and breast disorders:* impotence

*Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:* respiratory distress (including pneumonitis and pulmonary oedema), dyspnoea

*Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:* angioedema (with fatal outcome), erythema, pruritus, rash, sweating increased, urticaria

*Vascular disorders:* hypotension (including orthostatic hypotension)

In controlled trials (n=1017), 0.2% of patients treated with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide 40/12.5 mg or 80/12.5 mg discontinued due to orthostatic hypotension, and the incidence of dizziness was 4% and 7%, respectively.

### Telmisartan

Other adverse experiences that have been reported with telmisartan in the indication of hypertension treatment or in patients aged 50 years or older at high risk of developing major cardiovascular events, without regard to causality, are listed below:

*Blood and lymphatic system disorders:* anaemia, eosinophilia, thrombocytopenia

*Cardiac disorders:* palpitation, angina pectoris, abnormal ECG, bradycardia

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*Ear and labyrinth disorders:* tinnitus, earache

*Endocrine disorders:* diabetes mellitus

*Eye disorders:* conjunctivitis

*Gastrointestinal disorders:* haemorrhoids, gastroenteritis, enteritis, gastroesophageal reflux, toothache, non-specific gastrointestinal disorders (e.g. stomach upset)

*General disorders and administration site conditions:* fever, malaise, leg oedema, peripheral oedema, asthenia (weakness)

*Immune system disorders:* allergy, anaphylactic reaction, hypersensitivity

*Infections and infestations:* sepsis including fatal outcome, upper respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections (including cystitis), infection, fungal infection, abscess, otitis media

*Investigations:* decrease in haemoglobin

*Metabolism and nutrition disorders:* gout, hypercholesterolaemia, hyperkalaemia, hypoglycaemia (in diabetic patients)

*Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders:* arthrosis, arthritis, tendon pain (tendinitis like symptoms)

*Nervous system disorders:* somnolence, migraine, hypoaesthesia

*Psychiatric disorders:* nervousness

*Renal and urinary disorders:* micturition frequency, renal impairment including acute renal failure (see Precautions)

*Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:* asthma, rhinitis, epistaxis

*Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:* dermatitis, eczema, drug eruption, toxic skin eruption

*Vascular disorders:* cerebrovascular disorder, flushing, dependent oedema, hypertension

#### Hydrochlorothiazide

Other adverse experiences that have been reported with hydrochlorothiazide, without regard to causality, are listed below:

*Blood and the lymphatic system disorders:* anaemia (including aplastic anaemia, haemolytic anaemia), agranulocytosis, bone marrow depression, neutropenia / leukopenia, thrombocytopenia

*Eye disorders:* xanthopsia, acute myopia, acute angle-closure glaucoma

*Endocrine disorders:* loss of diabetic control

*Gastrointestinal disorders:* pancreatitis, stomach upset, cramping, gastric irritation

*General disorders and administration site conditions:* fever

*Hepato-biliary disorders:* jaundice (hepatocellular or cholestatic jaundice)

*Immune system disorders:* anaphylactic reactions, allergy

*Infections and infestations:* sialadenitis

*Investigations:* increase in triglycerides

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*Metabolism and nutrition disorders:* hyperglycaemia, cause or exacerbate volume depletion, electrolyte imbalance, hypercholesterolaemia, anorexia, loss of appetite

*Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders:* weakness

*Nervous system disorders:* light-headedness

*Psychiatric disorders:* restlessness

*Renal and urinary disorders:* renal failure, renal dysfunction, interstitial nephritis, glycosuria

*Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:* cutaneous lupus erythematosus-like reactions, reactivation of cutaneous lupus erythematosus, erythema multiforme including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, exfoliative dermatitis including toxic epidermal necrolysis, purpura, photosensitivity reactions, cutaneous vasculitis

*Vascular disorders:* necrotizing angiitis (vasculitis)

### Clinical Laboratory Findings

In controlled trials, clinically relevant changes in standard laboratory test parameters were rarely associated with administration of telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablets.

**Haemoglobin and Haematocrit:** Decreases in haemoglobin ( $\geq 2$  g/dL) and haematocrit ( $\geq 9\%$ ) were observed in 1.2% and 0.6% of telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide patients, respectively, in controlled trials. Changes in haemoglobin and haematocrit were not considered clinically significant and there were no discontinuations due to anaemia.

**Creatinine, Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN):** Increases in BUN ( $\geq 11.2$  mg/dL) and serum creatinine ( $\geq 0.5$  mg/dL) were observed in 2.8% and 1.4%, respectively, of patients with hypertension treated with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide in controlled trials. No patient discontinued treatment with telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide due to an increase in BUN or creatinine.

**Liver Function Tests:** Occasional elevations of liver enzymes and/or serum bilirubin have occurred. No telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide treated patients discontinued therapy due to abnormal hepatic function.

**Electrolyte Imbalance:** SEE PRECAUTIONS.

### Post-Marketing Experience

In addition, the following have also been reported based on post-marketing experience:

*Immune system disorders:* exacerbation or activation of systemic lupus erythematosus

\* Most cases of hepatic function / liver disorder from post-marketing experience with telmisartan occurred in patients in Japan, who are more likely to experience these adverse reactions.

## DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

*Adults:* The recommended dose is one tablet once daily.

The dose of telmisartan can be increased before switching to Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup>. Direct change from monotherapy to the fixed combinations may be considered.

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 40/12.5 mg may be administered in patients whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled by telmisartan 40 mg or hydrochlorothiazide.

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 80/12.5 mg may be administered in patients whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled by Telmisartan 80mg or by Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 40/12.5 mg.

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 80/25 mg may be administered in patients whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled by Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 80/12.5 mg or in patients who have been previously stabilised on telmisartan and hydrochlorothiazide given separately.

The maximum antihypertensive effect with Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> is generally attained 4-8 weeks after the start of treatment.

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> may be administered with or without food.

*Elderly:* No dosing adjustment is necessary.

*Renal impairment:* Due to the hydrochlorothiazide component, Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> should not be used by patients with severe renal dysfunction (creatinine clearance < 30 mL/min, see CONTRAINDICATIONS). Loop diuretics are preferred to thiazides in this population. Experience in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment has not suggested adverse renal effects and dose adjustment is not considered necessary. Periodic monitoring of renal function is advised (see PRECAUTIONS).

*Hepatic impairment:* In patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment, the dosage should not exceed Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 40/12.5 mg once daily. Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> is not indicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment (see PRECAUTIONS).

## OVERDOSAGE

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

Limited information is available for Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide with regard to overdose in humans.

The most prominent manifestations of telmisartan overdose were hypotension and tachycardia; bradycardia also occurred.

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Overdose with hydrochlorothiazide is associated with electrolyte depletion (hypokalaemia, hypochloraemia) and dehydration resulting from excessive diuresis. The most common signs and symptoms of overdose are nausea and somnolence. Hypokalaemia may result in muscle spasm and/or accentuate cardiac arrhythmias associated with the concomitant use of digitalis glycosides or certain anti-arrhythmic drugs.

No specific information is available on the treatment of overdose with Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide. The patient should be closely monitored, and the treatment should be symptomatic and supportive depending on the time since ingestion and the severity of the symptoms. Serum electrolytes and creatinine should be monitored frequently. If hypotension occurs, the patient should be placed in a supine position, with salt and volume replacements given quickly.

Telmisartan is not removed by haemodialysis. The degree to which hydrochlorothiazide is removed by haemodialysis has not been established.

## **PRESENTATION AND STORAGE CONDITIONS**

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 40 mg/12.5 mg tablet - red, oval, biconvex film-coated tablet debossed with 40 on one side and with 12.5 on the other side

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 80 mg/12.5 mg tablet - white to white off, oval, biconvex film-coated tablet debossed with 80 on one side and with 12.5 on the other side

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> 80 mg/25 mg tablet - yellow, oval, biconvex film-coated tablet debossed with 80 on one side and with 25 on the other side.

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> tablets are available in blister packs of 7\*, 14\*, 28, 56\* and 98\* tablets.

\* Not currently marketed in Australia

Store below 25°C. Protect from moisture.

Telmisartan/HCT Sandoz<sup>®</sup> tablets should not be removed from their foil pack until required for administration.

## **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

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## **POISON SCHEDULE OF THE MEDICINE**

Schedule 4 – Prescription Only Medicine

**Date of first inclusion in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (the ARTG):**

31/01/2014

**Date of most recent amendment:** 21/01/2016