SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTIC

1. Name of the medicinal product

PENTOKAR: Pantoprazole for Injection.

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition

Each vial contains:

Pantoprazole Sodium Sesquihydrate eq. to Pantoprazole 40 mg (Lyophilised)

Excipient q.s

3. Pharmaceutical form

Sterile Lyophilised powder for injection

Off white to almost white dry powder

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

- Reflux oesophagitis
- Gastric and duodenal ulcer
- Zollinger-Ellison-Syndrome and other pathological hypersecretory conditions.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Intravenous administration of Pantoprazole is recommended only if oral administration is not appropriate. Data are available on intravenous use for up to 7 days. Therefore, as soon as oral therapy is possible, treatment with Pantoprazole i.v. should be discontinued and 40 mg pantoprazole p.o. should be administered instead.

Recommended dose

Gastric and duodenal ulcer, reflux oesophagitis

The recommended intravenous dose is one vial of Pantoprazole (40 mg pantoprazole) per day.

Zollinger-Ellison-Syndrome and other pathological hypersecretory conditions

For the long-term management of Zollinger-Ellison-Syndrome and other pathological hypersecretory conditions patients should start their treatment with a daily dose of

80 mg Pantoprazole. Thereafter, the dose can be titrated up or down as needed using measurements of gastric acid secretion to guide. With doses above 80 mg daily, the dose should be divided and given twice daily. A temporary increase of the dose above 160 mg pantoprazole is possible but should not be applied longer than required for adequate acid control.

In case a rapid acid control is required, a starting dose of 2 x 80 mg Pantoprazole is sufficient to manage a decrease of acid output into the target range (<10 mEq/h) within one hour in the majority of patients.

Special populations

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of Pantoprazole in children aged under 18 years have not been established. Therefore, Pantoprazole is not recommended for use in patients below 18 years of age.

Currently available data are described in section 5.2 but no recommendation on a posology can be made.

Hepatic Impairment

A daily dose of 20 mg pantoprazole (half a vial of 40 mg pantoprazole) should not be exceeded in patients with severe liver impairment (see section 4.4).

Renal Impairment

No dose adjustment is necessary in patients with impaired renal function.

Elderly

No dose adjustment is necessary in elderly patients.

Method of administration

This medicine should be administered by a healthcare professional and under appropriate medical supervision.

A ready-to-use solution is prepared in 10 ml of sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9 %) solution for injection. For instructions for preparation of the medicinal product before administration, see section 6.6. The prepared solution may be administered directly or may be administered after mixing it with 100 ml sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9 %) solution for injection or glucose 55 mg/ml (5 %) solution for injection.

After preparation the solution must be used within 12 hours.

The medicinal product should be administered intravenously over 2 - 15 minutes.

For instructions on reconstitution and dilution of the medicinal product before administration, see section 6.6.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance, substituted benzimidazoles, or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Gastric malignancy

Symptomatic response to pantoprazole may mask the symptoms of gastric malignancy and may delay diagnosis. In the presence of any alarm symptom (e. g. significant unintentional weight loss, recurrent vomiting, dysphagia, haematemesis, anaemia or melaena) and when gastric ulcer is suspected or present, malignancy should be excluded.

Further investigation is to be considered if symptoms persist despite adequate treatment.

Hepatic impairment

In patients with severe liver impairment, the liver enzymes should be monitored during therapy. In the case of a rise of the liver enzymes, the treatment should be discontinued (see section 4.2).

Co-administration with HIV protease inhibitors

Co-administration of pantoprazole is not recommended with HIV protease inhibitors for which absorption is dependent on acidic intragastric pH such as atazanavir, due to significant reduction in their bioavailability (see section 4.5).

Gastrointestinal infections caused by bacteria

Treatment with Pantoprazole may lead to a slightly increased risk of gastrointestinal infections caused by bacteria such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* or *C. difficile*.

Hypomagnesaemia

Severe hypomagnesaemia has been rarely reported in patients treated with proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) like pantoprazole for at least three months, and in most cases for a year. Serious manifestations of hypomagnesaemia such as fatigue, tetany, delirium, convulsions, dizziness and ventricular arrhythmia can occur but they may begin insidiously and be overlooked. Hypomagnesaemia may lead to hypocalcaemia and/or hypokalaemia (see section 4.8). In most affected patients, hypomagnesaemia (and hypomagnesaemia associated hypocalcaemia and/or hypokalaemia) improved after magnesium replacement and discontinuation of the PPI.

For patients expected to be on prolonged treatment or who take PPIs with digoxin or drugs that may cause hypomagnesaemia (e.g., diuretics), health care professionals should consider measuring magnesium levels before starting PPI treatment and periodically during treatment.

Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE)

Proton pump inhibitors are associated with very infrequent cases of SCLE. If lesions occur, especially in sun-exposed areas of the skin, and if accompanied by arthralgia, the patient should seek medical help promptly and the health care professional should consider stopping pantoprazole. SCLE after previous treatment with a proton pump inhibitor may increase the risk of SCLE with other proton pump inhibitors.

Bone fractures

Proton pump inhibitors, especially if used in high doses and over long durations (>1 year), may modestly increase the risk of hip, wrist and spine fracture, predominantly in the elderly or in presence of other recognised risk factors. Observational studies suggest that proton pump inhibitors may increase the overall risk of fracture by 10–40%. Some of this increase may be due to other risk factors. Patients at risk of osteoporosis should receive care according to current clinical guidelines and they should have an adequate intake of vitamin D and calcium.

Interference with laboratory tests

Increased Chromogranin A (CgA) level may interfere with investigations for neuroendocrine tumours. To avoid this interference, pantoprazole treatment should be stopped for at least 5 days before CgA measurements (see section 5.1). If CgA and gastrin levels have not returned to reference range after initial measurement, measurements should be repeated 14 days after cessation of proton pump inhibitor treatment.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per maximum daily dose, that is to say 'sodium- free'.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Medicinal products with pH dependent absorption pharmacokinetics

Because of profound and long lasting inhibition of gastric acid secretion, pantoprazole may interfere with the absorption of medicinal products where gastric pH is an important determinant of oral bioavailability, e.g. some azole antifungals such as ketoconazole, itraconazole, posaconazole and other medicine as erlotinib.

HIV protease inhibitors

Co-administration of pantoprazole is not recommended with HIV protease inhibitors for which absorption is dependent on acidic intragastric pH such as atazanavir due to significant reduction in their bioavailability (see section 4.4).

If the combination of HIV protease inhibitors with a proton pump inhibitor is judged unavoidable, close clinical monitoring (e.g. virus load) is recommended. A pantoprazole dose of 20 mg per day should not be exceeded. Dosage of the HIV protease inhibitor may need to be adjusted.

Coumarin anticoagulants (phenprocoumon or warfarin)

Co-administration of pantoprazole with warfarin or phenprocoumon did not affect the pharmacokinetics of warfarin, phenoprocoumon or INR. However, there have been reports of increased INR and prothrombin time in patients receiving PPIs and warfarin or phenoprocoumon concomitantly. Increases in INR and prothrombin time may lead to abnormal bleeding, and even death. Patients treated with pantoprazole and warfarin or phenprocoumon may need to be monitored for increase in INR and prothrombin time.

Methotrexate

Concomitant use of high dose methotrexate (e.g. 300 mg) and proton pump inhibitors has been reported to increase methotrexate levels in some patients. Therefore in settings where high-dose methotrexate is used, for example cancer and psoriasis, a temporary withdrawal of pantoprazole may need to be considered.

Other interactions studies

Pantoprazole is extensively metabolised in the liver via the cytochrome P450 enzyme system. The main metabolic pathway is demethylation by CYP2C19 and other metabolic pathways include oxidation by CYP3A4.

Interaction studies with medicinal products also metabolized with these pathways, like carbamazepine, diazepam, glibenclamide, nifedipine, and an oral contraceptive containing levonorgestrel and ethinyl oestradiol did not reveal clinically significant interactions.

An interaction of pantoprazole with other medicinal products or compounds, which are metabolized using the same enzyme system, cannot be excluded.

Results from a range of interaction studies demonstrate that pantoprazole does not effect the metabolism of active substances metabolised by CYP1A2 (such as caffeine, theophylline), CYP2C9 (such as piroxicam, diclofenac, naproxen), CYP2D6 (such as metoprolol), CYP2E1 (such as ethanol) or does not interfere with p-glycoprotein related absorption of digoxin.

There were no interactions with concomitantly administered antacids.

Interaction studies have also been performed administering pantoprazole concomitantly with the respective antibiotics (clarithromycin, metronidazole, amoxicillin). No clinically relevant interactions were found.

Medicinal products that inhibit or induce CYP2C19:

Inhibitors of CYP2C19 such as fluvoxamine could increase the systemic exposure of pantoprazole. A dose reduction may be considered for patients treated long-term with high doses of pantoprazole, or those with hepatic impairment.

Enzyme inducers affecting CYP2C19 and CYP3A4 such as rifampicin and St John´s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) may reduce the plasma concentrations of PPIs that are metabolized through these enzyme systems.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

A moderate amount of data on pregnant women (between 300-1000 pregnancy outcomes) indicate no malformative or feto/ neonatal toxicity of pantoprazole. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). As a precautionary measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of Pantoprazole during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding

Animal studies have shown excretion of pantoprazole in breast milk. There is insufficient information on the excretion into human milk but excretion into human milk has been reported. A risk to the newborn/infant cannot be excluded. Therefore, a decision on whether to continue/discontinue breast-feeding or to continue/discontinue therapy with Pantoprazole should be made taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding to the child and the benefit of Pantoprazole therapy to woman.

Fertility

There was no evidence of impaired fertility following the administration of pantoprazole in animal studies.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Pantoprazole has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

Adverse drug reactions such as dizziness and visual disturbances may occur (see section 4.8). If affected, patients should not drive or operate machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Approximately 5 % of patients can be expected to experience adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

The table below lists adverse reactions reported with pantoprazole, ranked under the following frequency classification:

Very common (≥1/10); common (≥1/100 to <1/10); uncommon (≥1/1,000 to <1/100); rare (≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000); very rare (<1/10,000), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

For all adverse reactions reported from post-marketing experience, it is not possible to apply any Adverse Reaction frequency and therefore they are mentioned with a “not known” frequency.

Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Table 1. Adverse reactions with pantoprazole in clinical trials and post-marketing experience

Frequency System Organ Class	Common	Uncommon	Rare	Very rare	Not known
Blood and lymphatic system disorders			Agranulocytosis	Thrombo-cytopenia; Leukopenia; Pancytopenia	
Immune system disorders			Hypersensitivity (including anaphylactic reactions and anaphylactic shock)		
Metabolism and nutrition disorders			Hyperlipidaemias and lipid increases (triglycerides, cholesterol); Weight changes		Hyponatraemia; Hypomagnesaemia. (see section 4.4) Hypocalcaemia [(1)]; Hypokalaemia[(1)]
Psychiatric disorders		Sleep disorders	Depression (and all aggravations)	Disorientation (and all aggravations)	Hallucination; Confusion (especially in pre-disposed patients, as well as the aggravation of these symptoms in case of pre-existence)
Nervous system disorders		Headache, Dizziness	Taste disorders		Paresthesia
Eye disorders			Disturbances in vision/ blurred		

			vision		
Gastrointestinal disorders	Fundic gland polyps (benign)	Diarrhoea; Nausea / vomiting; Abdominal distension and bloating; Constipation; Dry mouth; Abdominal pain and discomfort			Microscopic colitis
Hepatobiliary disorders		Liver enzymes increased (transaminases, γ-GT)	Bilirubin increased		Hepatocellular injury; Jaundice; Hepatocellular failure
Skin and sub-cutaneous tissue disorders		Rash / exanthema / eruption; Pruritus	Urticaria; Angioedema		Stevens-Johnson syndrome; Lyell syndrome; Erythema multiforme; Photosensitivity; Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (see section 4.4); Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS)
Musculo-skeletal and connective tissue disorders		Fracture of the hip, wrist or spine (see section 4.4)	Arthralgia; Myalgia		Muscle spasm [(2)]
Renal and					Tubulointer

urinary disorders					stitial nephritis (TIN) (with possible progression to renal failure)
Reproductive system and breast disorders			Gynaecomastia		
General disorders and administration site conditions	Injection site thrombo-phlebitis	Asthenia, fatigue and malaise	Body temperature increased; Oedema peripheral		

[1.] Hypocalcaemia and/or hypokalaemia may be related to the occurence of hypomagnesemia (see section 4.4)

[2.] Muscle spasm as a consequence of electrolyte disturbance

4.9 Overdose

There are no known symptoms of overdose in man.

Systemic exposure with up to 240 mg administered intravenously over 2 minutes were well tolerated.

Pantoprazole is extensively protein bound, it is not readily dialyzable.

In the case of overdose with clinical signs of intoxication, apart from symptomatic and supportive treatment, no specific therapeutic recommendations can be made.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Proton pump inhibitors, ATC code: A02BC02

Mechanism of action

Pantoprazole is a substituted benzimidazole which inhibits the secretion of gastric acid by specific blockade of the proton pumps of the parietal cells.

Pantoprazole is converted to its active form in the acidic environment in the parietal cells where it inhibits the H^+, K^+-ATPase enzyme, i. e. the final stage in the production of hydrochloric acid in the stomach. The inhibition is dose-dependent and affects both basal and stimulated acid secretion. In most patients, freedom from symptoms is achieved within 2 weeks. As with other proton pump inhibitors and H2 receptor inhibitors, treatment with pantoprazole reduces acidity in the stomach and thereby increases gastrin in proportion to the reduction in acidity. The increase in gastrin is reversible. Since pantoprazole binds to the enzyme distal to

the cell receptor level, it can inhibit hydrochloric acid secretion independently of stimulation by other substances (acetylcholine, histamine, gastrin). The effect is the same whether the product is given orally or intravenously.

Pharmacodynamic effects

Pantoprazole increases gastrin values in fasting patients. On short-term use, in most cases they do not exceed the upper limit of normal. During long-term treatment, gastrin levels double in most cases. An excessive increase, however, occurs only in very rare cases. As a result, a mild to moderate increase in the number of specific endocrine (ECL) cells in the stomach is observed in a minority of cases during long-term treatment (simple to adenomatoid hyperplasia). However, according to the studies conducted so far, the formation of carcinoid precursors (atypical hyperplasia) or gastric carcinoids as were found in animal experiments (see section 5.3) have not been observed in humans.

An influence of a long term treatment with pantoprazole exceeding one year cannot be completely ruled out on endocrine parameters of the thyroid according to results in animal studies.

During treatment with antisecretory medicinal products, serum gastrin increases in response to the decreased acid secretion. Also CgA increases due to decreased gastric acidity. The increased CgA level may interfere with investigations for neuroendocrine tumours.

Available published evidence suggests that proton pump inhibitors should be discontinued between 5 days and 2 weeks prior to CgA measurements. This is to allow CgA levels that might be spuriously elevated following PPI treatment to return to reference range.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

General Pharmacokinetics

Pharmacokinetics do not vary after single or repeated administration. In the dose range of 10 to 80 mg, the plasma kinetics of pantoprazole are linear after both oral and intravenous administration.

Distribution

Pantoprazole's serum protein binding is about 98%. Volume of distribution is about 0.15 l/kg.

Biotransformation

The substance is almost exclusively metabolized in the liver. The main metabolic pathway is demethylation by CYP2C19 with subsequent sulphate conjugation, other metabolic pathway include oxidation by CYP3A4.

Elimination

Terminal half-life is about 1 hour and clearance is about 0.1 l/h/kg. There were a few cases of subjects with delayed elimination. Because of the specific binding of

pantoprazole to the proton pumps of the parietal cell the elimination half-life does not correlate with the much longer duration of action (inhibition of acid secretion).

Renal elimination represents the major route of excretion (about 80%) for the metabolites of pantoprazole, the rest are excreted with the faeces. The main metabolite in both the serum and urine is desmethylpantoprazole which is conjugated with sulphate. The half-life of the main metabolite (about 1.5 hours) is not much longer than that of pantoprazole.

Special populations

Poor metabolisers

Approximately 3 % of the European population lack a functional CYP2C19 enzyme and are called poor metabolisers. In these individuals the metabolism of pantoprazole is probably mainly catalysed by CYP3A4. After a single-dose administration of 40 mg pantoprazole, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve was approximately 6 times higher in poor metabolisers than in subjects having a functional CYP2C19 enzyme (extensive metabolisers). Mean peak plasma concentrations were increased by about 60 %. These findings have no implications for the posology of pantoprazole.

Renal impairment

No dose reduction is recommended when pantoprazole is administered to patients with impaired renal function (incl. dialysis patients). As with healthy subjects, pantoprazole's half-life is short. Only very small amounts of pantoprazole are dialyzed. Although the main metabolite has a moderately delayed half-life (2 - 3 h), excretion is still rapid and thus accumulation does not occur.

Hepatic impairment

Although for patients with liver cirrhosis (classes A and B according to Child) the half-life time values increased to between 7 and 9 h and the AUC values increased by a factor of 5 - 7, the maximum serum concentration only increased slightly by a factor of 1.5 compared with healthy subjects.

Older people

A slight increase in AUC and C_{max} in elderly volunteers compared with younger counterparts is also not clinically relevant.

Pediatric population

Following administration of single intravenous doses of 0.8 or 1.6 mg/kg pantoprazole to children aged 2 – 16 years there was no significant association between pantoprazole clearance and age or weight. AUC and volume of distribution were in accordance with data from adults.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard to humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity and genotoxicity.

In the two-year carcinogenicity studies in rats neuroendocrine neoplasms were found. In addition, squamous cell papillomas were found in the forestomach of rats. The mechanism leading to the formation of gastric carcinoids by substituted benzimidazoles has been carefully investigated and allows the conclusion that it is a secondary reaction to the massively elevated serum gastrin levels occurring in the rat during chronic high-dose treatment. In the two-year rodent studies an increased number of liver tumors was observed in rats and female mice and was interpreted as being due to pantoprazole's high metabolic rate in the liver.

A slight increase of neoplastic changes of the thyroid was observed in the group of rats receiving the highest dose (200 mg/kg). The occurrence of these neoplasms is associated with the pantoprazole-induced changes in the breakdown of thyroxine in the rat liver. As the therapeutic dose in man is low, no side effects to the thyroid glands are expected.

In a peri-postnatal rat reproduction study designed to assess bone development, signs of offspring toxicity (mortality, lower mean body weight, lower mean body weight gain and reduced bone growth) were observed at exposures (C_{max}) approximately 2x the human clinical exposure. By the end of the recovery phase, bone parameters were similar across groups and body weights were also trending toward reversibility after a drug-free recovery period. The increased mortality has only been reported in pre-weaning rat pups (up to 21 days age) which is estimated to correspond to infants up to the age of 2 years old. The relevance of this finding to the paediatric population is unclear. A previous peri-postnatal study in rats at slightly lower doses found no adverse effects at 3 mg/kg compared with a low dose of 5 mg/kg in this study.

In animal reproduction studies, signs of slight fetotoxicity were observed at doses above 5 mg/kg.

Investigations revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or teratogenic effects.

Penetration of the placenta was investigated in the rat and was found to increase with advanced gestation. As a result, concentration of pantoprazole in the foetus is increased shortly before birth.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 List of excipients

Mannitol

Sodium Hydroxide

Water for Injections

6.2 Incompatibilities

This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products except those mentioned in section 6.6.

6.3 Shelf life

2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 25°C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

10 ml tubular, flat bottom, USP Type I amber glass vial containing off white coloured powder. The vial is packed with the rubber stopper and coloured flip off seal. The packed vial is labeled and packed in carton along with the package insert.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

A ready-to-use solution is prepared by injecting 10 ml of sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9 %) solution for injection into the vial containing the powder. The appearance of the product after reconstitution is a clear colorless solution, practically free from particles. This solution may be administered directly or may be administered after mixing it with 100 ml sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9 %) solution for injection or glucose 55 mg/ml (5 %) solution for injection. Glass or plastic containers should be used for dilution.

Pantoprazole should not be prepared or mixed with solvents other than those stated.

The medicine should be administered intravenously over 2-15 minutes.

The contents of the vial are for single use only. Any product that has remained in the container or the visual appearance of which has changed (e.g. if cloudiness or precipitation is observed) should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7. Marketing authorisation holder

SAKAR Healthcare Limited

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8. Marketing authorisation number(s)

08159/06985/NMR/2018

9. Date of first authorisation/renewal of the authorisation

01/11/2022

10. Date of revision of the text

July 2023